



News

CANADIAN NAVAL TECHNICAL HISTORY ASSOCIATION

Small association showing huge results

Since its informal beginnings 15 years ago, the Canadian Naval Technical History Association under the chairmanship of RAdm (ret.) Mike Saker has been actively fulfilling its aim of preserving a record of Canada's naval technical history. The association may be few in number, but it is a labour of love for our dedicated group of volunteers. One of the CNTHA's founders, **Captain Rolfe Monteith, RCN (ret.)**, continues to take an active role in guiding our efforts from his home in the UK. Over the years Rolfe has obtained several important historical contributions from retired naval officers, including an especially interesting perspective on the *St. Laurent*-class steam propulsion system.

Some years ago the CNTHA established a subcommittee to cover the industrial aspects of naval ship construction and equipment development. So far, the Canadian Naval Defence Industrial Base (CANDIB) project has received vital written histories, memorabilia and oral interviews from many people who worked on naval programs while serving with industry, government or the navy. Capturing people's recollections on tape and documenting their relevant papers has provided unique insight on the interaction within naval headquarters, the procurement arms of government and in industry during the course of various ship and equipment programs.

Many of the industrial aspects of such construction programs as the *St. Laurent*-class destroyer, the *Bras d'Or* hydrofoil, the General Purpose Frigate, the DDH-280-class destroyer, the Canadian Patrol Frigate

and the Maritime Coastal Defence Vessel have now been collected. The CANDIB team has documented the history of these programs in ship design houses, and is anticipating obtaining more insight into the shipyards that were involved. The R&D component of the various navy/industry programs also continues to be a major focus of our documentary effort. We are pleased to report that submissions have been received on various naval equipment research and development programs that contributed significantly to Canadian industry's capability in command and control, sonar and sonobuoys.

The best part of all this activity is that everything we have collected or produced is available to researchers. Every one of the documents and taped interviews we collect is turned over to DND's Directorate of History and Heritage for archiving and storage. DHH has been a strong supporter of our all-volunteer organization from the outset, and we are encouraged by their professional assistance in preserving the CNTHA collection.

We are always looking for new volunteers who would like to help us. Some of the people who were involved in the naval industrial programs are getting elderly and we are looking for immediate help in obtaining their recollections for the archives. Anyone wishing to help or contribute should contact Tony Thatcher at (613) 567-7004 (ext. 227), or tthatcher@snclavalinprofac.com. Visit us at our website: <http://www.cntha.ca>.



Canada

CNTHA News

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Insight from 50 years ago...

UK-based CNTHA founding member Rolfe Monteith continues his project to obtain historical input from Royal Navy personnel who served with the Canadian Navy. In his latest effort, Rolfe forwards us the following letter and photo received from **Rear Admiral Phillip Edwards** of the Royal Navy. The letter, abridged here, concerns the admiral's period of exchange duty with the RCN's Mechanical Training Establishment at HMCS *Stadacona* (Halifax) exactly fifty years ago.

Dear Rolfe,

Many thanks for your letter...

Enclosed is a 1958 photograph of the officers of the Mechanical Training Establishment at HMCS *Stadacona*, Halifax, taken before Ken Lewis was appointed to Ottawa and relieved by Cdr Dan Fairney. Norm Lee also departed for sea soon after, and I took over as Senior Engi-

neer for the last year of my exchange with the RCN.

My brief when I joined the MTE was to review the whole examinations system for the Marine Engineering branch, ashore and afloat, and model it more on USN lines with a strong bias for multiple choice examination papers rather than the more traditional essay type question and answer. It was an interest-

ing project as it gave me an insight into training practices in the USN which I could compare with those of both the RN and RCN. A further bonus came in the way of extended travel to other RCN and RCNR establishments in Canada, as well as in the US.

I kept in touch with Bill Leach for many years, as well as Ken and several others. I met up with Frank Moxam and another former MTE officer, Keith Fiddy, when HMS *Britannia* was in BC for their centennial back in 1971. They had both retired to the West Coast and took me out for some unforgettable salmon fishing.

At the time of my exchange the RCN was heavily dependent on a core of experienced officers promoted from the lower deck and by some excellent senior rates. I enjoyed my time there immensely as I was given every opportunity to develop and introduce my own ideas, with firm support from both Ken and Dan.

Keep at it, Rolfe. We need people like you to guard our heritage.

Yours ever,

Phillip



Mechanical Training Establishment (MTE) HMCS *Stadacona* 1958



Back Row (left to right): S/Lt Frank Moxam (Painter), Lt. Bob Detwiler, Lt. Cy Shelton, Lt. Mel Moulton (Workshops Officer), Lt. Tom Kenny, Lt. Gordon Hannah. **Front Row:** Lt.Cdr. Phillip Edwards (RN Exchange, Examinations Officer), Lt.Cdr. Norm Lee (Senior Engineer), Cdr Ken Lewis (OIC), Shipwright-Lt.Cdr. Bill Leach, and Instructor-Lt.Cdr. Bill McGowan.

2007 Naval Technical Officer Awards

The NTO awards recognize the dedication, hard work and technical excellence of NTOs in obtaining their training milestones during the previous year. Regardless of who wins any particular award, it is a significant accomplishment even to be considered a candidate. The 2007 awards were presented at the Naval Technical Officer Mess Dinner on March 27, 2008 at the CFB Halifax Wardroom.

Naval Officers Association of Canada (NOAC) Award



The NOAC Award is presented annually to the candidate with the best academic performance and officer-like qualities on completion of the Naval Engineering Indoctrination Course.

Cmdre (ret.) Mike Cooper, NOAC, presented the award shield and the book, *The Ships of Canada's Naval Forces 1910-1985*, to **A/SLt Stephen Normore**.

Mexican Navy Award



The Mexican Navy Award is presented annually to the candidate with the best academic standing and officer-like qualities on the NCS Eng Applications Course. Mexican Naval Attaché Captain Miguel Amezaga presented the award plaque and Mexican naval sword to **SLt Michael Bathurst**.

MacDonald Dettwiler Award



The MacDonald Dettwiler Award is presented annually to the best overall naval technical officer who achieved the Head of Department qualification. Simon Jacques of MacDonald Dettwiler, presented the award plaque and naval sword to **Lt(N) Bruce Day**. Runners-up were Lt(N) Lance Mooney, Lt(N) Luc St-Pierre and Lt(N) Kevin Cyr.

L-3 MAPPS Saunders Memorial Award



The L-3 MAPPS Saunders Memorial Award is named in memory of Lt(N) Chris Saunders. It is presented to the candidate with the best academic standing and officer-like qualities on the MS Eng Applications Course.

Gwen Manderville (Saunders) joined Wendy Allerton of L-3 MAPPS to present the award plaque and the *Modern Marine Engineer's Manual* to **SLt Jimmy Lau**.

Weir Canada Award



The Weir Canada Award is presented annually to the best overall Phase VI candidate who achieves the MS Eng qualification. Serge Lamirande, Weir Canada Inc., presented the award plaque and naval sword to **Lt(N) Richard Slade**.

Runners-up were Lt(N) Mark Rossignol, Lt(N) Brian Michalchuk and SLt Jetske Goslinga.

Lockheed Martin Canada Award



The Lockheed Martin Canada Award is presented annually to the best overall Phase VI candidate who achieves the NCS Eng qualification. Steve Marsden from Lockheed Martin Canada presented the award plaque and naval sword to **SLt Alan Brown**. Runners-up were Lt(N) Brian Mury, Lt(N) Alain Dion and SLt Ian Rector.