



# NEWS

Canadian Naval Technical History Association

## Captain James Guthrie DEAN, CD, RCN (Ret.)

CNTHA News

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**T**he CNTHA lost a valued team member with the passing of Captain James Guthrie Dean, CD, RCN (Ret.) on January 3 at the age of 77.

Jim had an interesting and fulfilling career that began as an Electrical Branch cadet at the Royal Military College of Canada in 1955. He graduated as a General List sub-lieutenant as the officer structure changed in 1960, and later attended the United States Navy Postgraduate School at Monterey, California where he demonstrated his substantial intellectual capacity. Upon his return to Ottawa he was posted to the electronic warfare section of the Directorate of Maritime Combat Systems (DMCS).

As a lieutenant-commander Jim attended Canadian Forces Staff College in Toronto, following which he was designated as the commissioning combat systems engineer in HMCS *Iroquois*, the first of the new Canadian tribal-class destroyers. As a commander Jim would go on to leadership positions as DMCS 3 (underwater systems) and as head of the Combined Support Division in Halifax. His promotion to the rank of captain in 1982 saw him appointed as DMCS, and later – in his final position – as deputy program manager in the Canadian Patrol Frigate project.

That's the bare bones of his career, but what of the person and his character? I first met Jim when he arrived at RMC. I was in senior year and was one of the few naval types in the Stone Frigate, so I think he tended to pick on me with questions to satisfy his interest and curiosity on a myriad of subjects.

We did not cross paths again until he arrived in Monterey (as I was leaving). The next time we met, Jim was preparing to join HMCS *Iroquois* and, on hearing that I was posted to Staff College, was most helpful in giving me a comprehensive brief on what to expect in Toronto. We connected again in the late 1970s when we were both



section heads in DMCS and it was there as a section head and later as director that he demonstrated a knack for leading a mixed team of uniform and civilian staff.

Of his last posting to the CPF project, the program manager, now-retired RAdm Mike Saker, has commented that Jim was the ideal deputy to meld and add credence to a team that was having trouble coordinating with the National Defence Headquarters line organizations. Add in Jim's obvious technical competence and his ability to draft complex briefs and I think you have the measure of the man.

As a final note, I must mention his other contributions. As a lifelong amateur radio buff, he represented that community locally, national and internationally. He was also a valued member of our CNTHA team, always ready with a story to add colour and detail as we worked to piece together the jigsaw puzzle of Canada's naval technical heritage. He will be sorely missed.

RIP, colleague.

– Cdr Pat D.C. Barnhouse,  
OMM, CD, RCN (Ret.),  
Chairman, CNTHA





## CNTHA recognized during “Issue No. 75” launch celebration

Royal Canadian Navy commander Vice-Admiral Mark Norman recognized the unique contribution of the Canadian Naval Technical History Association in preserving Canada’s naval technical heritage during a special ceremony to celebrate the launch of the 75<sup>th</sup> issue of the combined *Maritime Engineering Journal* and *CNTHA News* on Nov. 26, 2014.

*CNTHA News* has been an integral part of this combined navy technical publication since 1998, one year after the CNTHA launched its own newsletter.

VAdm Norman presented CNTHA Chairman Pat Barnhouse with an RCN coin “to commemorate the important and ongoing work being done by this dedicated group of volunteers to record and preserve Canadian naval technical heritage,” and offered his congratulations to the entire CNTHA team for an important job well done in capturing oral histories and other materials to complete the story of Canada’s naval technical past.



Photo by Cpl Heather Tiffney, CFSU(O) Imaging Services

RCN Commander VAdm Mark Norman congratulates CNTHA Chairman Pat Barnhouse on a job well done.

Visit [www.cntha.ca](http://www.cntha.ca) for more photos and details of this special event.



Photo by Cpl Heather Tiffney, CFSU(O) Imaging Services

The CNTHA was well represented during the special celebration. The contingent flanking the uniformed Cmdre Marcel Hallé includes (L-R): Brian McCullough, James Carruthers, Colin Brown, Pat Barnhouse, Tony Thatcher, Don Wilson and Ken Bowering.