



NEWS

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With a little help...

By Tony Thatcher



Since 1992, the CNTHA has been going strong as a volunteer organization of mainly retirees working in support of the Directorate of History and Heritage (DHH) in Canada's Department of National Defence. DHH has an ongoing project to capture and preserve our country's naval technical history, and the CNTHA is pleased to be able to contribute to this in a meaningful way through our ongoing Oral History Project.

Over the years we have captured many amazing "behind-the-scenes" insights from people who in their day worked the front lines of some of the Royal Canadian Navy's most interesting technical achievements over the past 60 or more years. For the most part, the detailed information we have been able to capture about the circumstances and decision-making associated with the RCN's ship and equipment programs, and the defence industrial base supporting them, might well have been lost.

What's interesting is that our sailors at sea today are working with equipment and systems that have in many cases evolved directly from the work done by the Canadian men and women who blazed new inroads in all areas of naval technology in decades past. These talented people didn't simply embrace innovation, they made it their own in everything they did. And so it continues with the military and civilian members of Canada's defence team today.

The CNTHA has been very fortunate in documenting and preserving many aspects of the RCN's technical history for DHH and the benefit of future researchers. It's one of the best ways we know of celebrating this country's significant achievements in the naval technical arts, and we enjoy being able to share this information through our website. Today, more than 25 years into our effort, we are pleased to say that we enjoy an extraordinary level of support from the office of the Director General Maritime Equipment Program Management.

Where we could use a little help from all of our friends now is in ensuring that the volunteer work we do on behalf of all Canadians can continue. To this end, we are seeking a couple of new members – deputies, in fact – who could soon take over the reins of the CNTHA's Oral History Project and the maintenance of our website. These tasks require a fair degree of attention, no question, but the work is rewarding in that the important oral and written lessons of Canada's naval technical programs will continue to be preserved for generations to come.

We look forward to hearing from you.



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