

SPECIAL POINTS OF INTEREST:

- Retirements
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- Reunion
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Retirements



CO FDU(A) LCDR Rollie Leyte (Left) Presents CDR Garry Reddy with a Retirement Gift
Photo compliments of Captain Anne Marie Keigan



Outgoing CO FDU(P) CDR Bob Klein Presents CPO2 Mark Oliver with a Retirement Plaque

National Updates by Chuck Rolfe

Maurice “Mickey” Hardy, a long time member of the CNDA Ottawa Chapter, passed away in Niagara Falls, Ontario on 12 January 2012 and his daughter, Sherry Boone writes us that his heart was simply worn out. He had less than 20% of his heart operational for the past few years but, being a very strong and determined Irishman, that didn’t keep him down. Although he was legally blind, he continued to sew, which was a passion with him- perhaps he got this skill from his days in the Royal Canadian Navy! His stitches weren’t as straight as they used to be, but they worked. He would also paint a room, which then always needed a touch-up. When I would remind him of his lack of vision in painting, he would respond with ‘well I knew you would be here to show me where I missed’. And true to his thoughts, I did just that. Although he wasn’t fond of cats, in the last 7 years he began to feed the local feral cats. Soon many boarded at his home, but without paying their way. My Dad didn’t mind paying for their food & housing. He named a few, and gave a few to other caring people, who came back to say what a great pet the cat had made.

Mickey attended the Niagara Falls Legion Branch 479 meetings in his full dress uniform, and was always proud to have been in the Royal Canadian Navy. My Dad was one of their first members, enjoying all his meetings and time spent there. At one time he worked at the Bar, and the few bucks he got as tips were put to good use – purchasing and installing new windows in his home. All the Legion members were in full dress at his funeral. Most of my Dad’s best memories were those from his Naval years. He also signed up for the Korean War in the early 1950’s, when I was but a child, however with three kids at home, and another on the way, my Mother vetoed his re-enlistment with a letter to the Admiral, which put a quick stop to that! Mickey’s father, John Carswell Hardy was an Irishman whose family relocated to England, because of the constant fighting occurring in Ireland.

Of my Dad’s 4 sons, a daughter who passed away very early in life, and myself, everyone knew I was his favourite because I was the fighter and knew to never quit – he truly loved my spunk, which most likely came from him. It has been most trying for me for the past few months; I lost my husband of 47 years last October in a vehicle accident, and now my Dad in January. Those were the two men in my life who I knew loved me forever and always. I want to thank you, his Navy family, for keeping my Dad abreast of all the happenings with friends from his days when he was a Diver in the Navy during the war years. It certainly did keep his interest up when he received his copies of your DIPPERS DIGEST’s.

Chuck Rolfe writes that he was always happy to receive the many letters that Mickey sent to him over the years as the Editor of the DIPPERS DIGEST, and the Secretary of the CNDA Ottawa Chapter. We now are losing many of the valiant Divers from the World War Two era, never to hear their tales again, and we share the sorrow of their loved ones.

John Cole(1938 – 2012) passed away in Ottawa, Ontario on 15 February 2012. Chuck Rolfe had talked to John's wife, Patricia Cole about obtaining some information we would like to include in the next DIPPERS DIGEST, just a couple of weeks before John passed on. It is now my sad duty to write a different report. John became the Staff Officer of HMCS CARLETON, Ottawa's Naval Reserve Unit when I was serving as the Chief Diver and Cox'n for the Unit, and we got along famously, as I was always aware that he was very wise in the ways of sailors. The Ottawa CNDA Chapter members would hold their summer meetings and banyan at John's home, during which Patricia was the consummate hostess to us and our better halves. We will deeply miss all their great camaraderie.

Andre Desrochers states that my memories of John Cole are from the "Old Granby" down at the French Cable Wharf in Dartmouth NS, and John was the finest Officer of that time, along with Alan Sagar. He never pushed himself around on anyone, just went on doing his job. You could never say a bad word of John's work with the "Gang of Bandits", and I don't think anything derogatory has ever been said about him. We will all miss this True Gentleman, farewell my dear friend.

Dusty Millar says that John Cole was my boss on SDL-1 in the early to mid 1970's. He was a real gentleman.

Roy Busby writes us that this is sad news indeed. John's path and mine crossed many times during our RCN careers in the "Diving Navy", and beyond. I think the first time was when I was on exchange duty with the USN at the Explosive Ordnance Depot (EOD) Facility in Indian Head, Maryland USA and John came through to take the Long EOD Course(6 months) at the School there. The next time was at Camp Bouchard, St. Therese, Quebec when I was the Chief Instructor on the first Specialist EOD/IED Courses being conducted there. John was among the first Canadian forces personnel to become qualified as such, and was issued with the coveted "Green Card". Following our careers in Diving/EOD, our next contact was when John was on Staff at Director of Naval Reserves (DNR) at South Street in Halifax, and then when I was the Staff Officer at HMCS CARLETON. We had many meetings and long telephone calls, which weren't always about Naval Reserve business!!! And then, lo and behold, when it was my time to depart HMCS CARLETON, who should arrive to relieve me but John! I went on to serve at NDHQ(DGRC) as Staff Officer, Naval Reserves. So, once again we were in close contact. During John's time in CARLETON, my wife Shirley and I had two daughters who became young Officers in the Unit, so we spent many happy years attending functions at CARLETON in company with John & Patricia. Following our time in the Navy, we met again at a couple of CNDA Reunions, one in Halifax in 1994, and again in Ottawa in 2006. John will be sadly missed by all of us.

Some further comments from John Cole's many friends are as follows:

"John was a man of many talents, and we fondly remember him sitting in the corner of the pool, holding court, while discussing the topics of the day".

"John was a gentleman, and a gentle man, beloved by all of us!".

"John was a great friend to all who were privileged to know him".

"I recall meeting John for the first time, shortly after arriving in Ottawa, and I saw a man of such quiet dignity. It was always my pleasure to see him over the years".

"We will miss his friendly greetings, and always remember John as the Canadian Club President".

"Patricia, you have lost a wonderful, loving and kind husband, father and grandfather – we have lost a dear friend of long standing – adieu dear pal".

National Updates by Chuck Rolfe - Continued

We have lost one of our driving forces and the President of the CNDA Western Chapter, Moe Coulombe, who passed away on 5 April 2012 in Victoria BC. Moe was instrumental in forming, and operating the Western group of retired Naval Divers. The CNDA National Secretary has many great memories of the discussions with Moe regarding setting up the Western Chapter, and talking to him at all the memorable Reunions we have held over the years. At the last Reunion in Victoria, Moe had invited my lady and I to visit him at his place at Black Creek, and to go for a sail with him which, unfortunately, time constraints did not allow us to do. Sadly, we will not get the chance to sail with him again.

Brent Hobson stated "That is an extremely sad bit of news. It was Moe who, after giving me a Diving Locker Inspection onboard HMCS ALGONQUIN, convinced me (over a few pints!) to apply for the next Clearance Diver Preliminary Course, and thus was responsible for the best 10 years of my career. I will definitely miss him".

Al McRae emailed "I regret to inform everyone that my good friend and buddy, Moe Coulombe passed away at approximately 1300 local time on 5 April 2012".

Moe Muise emailed "My condolences to the family".

Austin Baird emailed "5 Bells, Moe".

Scotty Hayward writes "Sorry to see Moe's passing. When I was on my initial CLD Course, Christmas came and I had to get to the airport around 0600 in the morning, and it was Moe who volunteered to get up and drive me out there. Moe, Ron Girard and I went on the NATO HL Course in Kington, UK around the summer of 1985. Being there during the July 1st long holiday weekend, we arranged with the Canadian Embassy in London to get a few cases of beer, and when we went on the Exercises out in Melton Mulberry, we broke open the beer and celebrated our Canadian July 1st festivities with all the other guys from different countries on Course with us. Ron, can you handle left hand driving yet? We had a good 3 to 4 weeks there, with the parties at the "Folly", and when they closed the doors at the end of the night, we still partied on. Moe was always stationed on the West Coast it seemed, so we didn't get to see much of him after that. Do the perimeter search, Moe. As Austin said "5 Bells, we'll all meet again some day".

Rick Bowers wrote "Moe Coulombe and I first got paired up on our Diving Prelim in the Spring of 1972, and then ended up as dive partners for the next year at our CLDO Course. I was really fortunate getting Moe as my dive partner – not only did he have a lot more experience than I did, but he also never sweated the small stuff, and really knew how to have a good time. Luckily, for me, he dragged me along with him. I think I actually learned more from Moe than I did from our Instructors (with respect to Guy Fenn and Norm Herd who I think the world of). For the 4 month EOD Phase in Indian Head, Maryland, Moe and I roomed together in a 3 bedroom BOQ. We had a Yank in with us for the first couple of weeks, but he studied too hard and never wanted to party, so Moe arranged for him to move out! I'm not sure to this day just how he did that. With the extra room we then became "party central". When we finished our CLDO Course, Moe got posted to FDU(A), and I ended up back at sea.

A year later when I finally got back to the Unit, it was Moe who was there with encouragement and advice, helping me get my feet wet as a young and very junior Boat's Officer. I was fortunate to serve with Moe several more times over the ensuing years, both at FDU(A) and in HMCS CORMORANT. He was a great shipmate. During our later years "IN", our paths diverged somewhat, with me spending more time at sea, and Moe heading out west, but he always remained a true, good friend. I'm embarrassed to say that I didn't know how seriously ill Moe was. In his last email to me from Rincon de Guayabitos, two months ago, he mentioned that he had to have some tests on his lungs when he returned home, but he sounded nonchalant, so I didn't think anything of it. I really regret not taking the time to call him over the last month. Moe worked hard, he played hard, and he always squeezed as much as he could out of life. Wherever you are buddy, I hope you're sitting there with Guy Fenn and Andy Perusse, having a wet and puffing on a cigarillo".

Alan Sagar emailed "Sad to lose someone of his calibre. Condolences to Moe's family and "Cheers".

David Finlay writes "Please keep us posted on Moe's funeral arrangements. I was lucky enough to meet Moe at FDU(P) when I first got to the West Coast in 1988, and he was full of encouragement for a young want-to-be CLDO. Like all of us, I have my own memories of Moe, including Portland Rose Festival, but I was lucky enough to see him again last summer, when I was at FDU(P). He talked about his Catalina 30 sailboat, and all the trips he planned on doing. The first time I am out sailing on Shediac Bay, New Brunswick this summer, the first Rum will be for Moe – Cheers and farewell my pal".

Moe's son, David Coulombe writes to inform us that "Just to keep everyone in the loop, a "Celebration of Life" for Moe Coulombe will be held in the Comox BC area on 18 August 2012. His family will then spread his ashes on Roscoe Bay, in Desolation Sound BC, in accordance with his wishes. I'll ensure that the exact location and time is passed on via the internet, and other means, to everyone".

Ottawa member, Steve Willar writes that a "hairy" diving experience he had occurred on 7 May 1964 when HMCS CHAUDIERE was acting as Plane Guard for HMCS BONAVENTURE during flying exercises in the North Atlantic. He was the duty Diver, dressed & closed-up when they were informed that an aircraft had gone off the forward end of the Carrier's flight deck and went into the water. We were ordered to lower the whaler, proceed to the crash site and assist in recovering the downed flying personnel, but the whaler capsized while lowering into the water, and you can guess the problems that caused! When everyone was back on board, we had to go over the side again to clear a lifeline which was sucked into the starboard circulating pump. The ship's Commanding Officer, and Commander, Fifth Canadian Escort Squadron, RCN Captain D.L. MacKnight wrote "ABBN1 Steve Willar 49810-H I wish to commend you for your voluntary efforts on the night of 7 May 1964 in assisting in the salvage of HMCS CHAUDIERE's whaler, which had capsized during rescue operations of flying personnel from aircraft CS2F No. 1553. Your further efforts in assisting the senior Diver in clearing the intake of the starboard main circulating pump of the ship, at night in a heavily rolling swell, were also in the highest tradition of the Royal Canadian Navy." Kudo's for showing that we Diver's do everything required of them, as we were trained to do.

Shearwater diver to be honoured for bravery

A navy diver from Shearwater will receive the Medal of Bravery from the Governor General of Canada in Ottawa on Friday. Leading Seaman David Denman was part of a two-man dive team that fished an undetonated grenade from a murky pond in Stewiacke in September 2009.

He will receive the honour with Lieut. Andre Bard of Esquimalt, B.C., who was also diving that day.

The citation says the divers were called in after a number of grenades had been thrown into a large pond, including an unexploded one buried deep in mud.

Using a metal detector, the pair found the grenade and got it to shore. It was carried away and detonated.

Denman and Bard also retrieved other weapon fragments.

Gov. Gen. David Johnston will hand out 43 Medals of Bravery and three Medals of Courage at the ceremony to be held at Rideau Hall.

For those RCN Divers who worked for 41 days in Feb, Mar & Apr 1970 recovering oil from the wrecked Tanker ARROW (see the complete story in DIPPERS DIGEST #15, 15 Sep 1993) that went aground on Cerebus Rock in Chedabucto Bay, enroute from Venezuela to Port Hawksbury on 4 February 1970, you may be interested in the latest happening of the IRVING WHALE oil recovery barge from this operation. After the barge was towed to Halifax, it was being towed back through the Gulf of St. Lawrence to Consolidated-Bathurst pulp mill in Bathurst NB, but sank in 67 metres of water between PEI and Iles-de-la-Madeleine with 4200 long tons of Bunker C oil and 6800 Litres of PCB's on board on 5 September 1970. The IRVING WHALE was eventually raised to the surface (paid for by the Federal Government!) in 1996, and taken over by the Irving Group, who were then ordered by the Court to pay \$5 million to the Government for the recovery costs. To date, the IRVING WHALE has been refurbished, and rechristened first, as a less evocative ATL 2701, and recently, rekindling its animal flair, as the ATLANTIC SEA LION, according to Transport Canada records. It now serves the Irving fleet as a wood chip barge!

From: [harold nuquist](#)

To: [Andy Desrochers](#)

Sent: Wednesday, February 22, 2012

Subject: Re: FDU(A) Diver

Dear Andy: Could not help but think back to my 1st FLQ car-bomb we took care of back in Oct/Nov 1968. We were requested to render safe this car that was located somewhere in Halifax or Dartmouth, with cases of explosive packed into the front seat, back seat as well as the trunk. There were no wires seen going to or from the car nor explosives. The EOD Team consisted of LT. Bud Nuquist (OIC) , CWO Ike Eisner, Chief Cripps and RCMP Bob Coty. RSP was fast and methodical. Three men poured a 5 gal container of Acetone onto the front, back & boot each and put squib igniters into each box and hooked up to the cable strung out by the 4th man. We retreated to length of the wire (600 feet plus) and cranked it off..!! It burned so hot, we saw no flame, just heat extortion. In less than 30 minutes, all that was left was shiny metal and a big puddle of what looked like blood on the ground around the car. It turned out to be the red wax that was the binder to the explosives. With no wick, it all melted into a big puddle under the car..!! We had two such FLQ car bombs within months of years end of 1968. The second Car-bomb in the area was treated the same way, using the EOD Team of OIC Bud Nuquist, CPO Stan Stephenson, LSN Charlie Hamm, plus another (name failed be due to ..???) Our IED's seem to never have control sources like phones nor garage openers. (could be that they were not invented yet..??) My how some of these items have changed over the years..!! I just received the training course schedule for the new EOD courses. Sincerely;
 Bud Nuquist (da Yank)
 FDU A (1968-1971)

Special Event Notice

14-16 September 2012 - The CNDA 2012 Reunion is soon upon us. The Reunion this year will be held at FDU(A) in Shearwater. Start making your travel plans and hope to see most of you there.

The following is the Reunion 2012 List of Events:

The 2012 tri annual CNDA REUNION will be hosted by the CNDA Eastern Chapter. All events will take place in the Halifax area starting Sept. 14 and conclude on Sept. 16.

Events are as follows:

FRIDAY SEPT. 14, 1200-1800 MEET and GREET in FDU(A) Y hangar. Consists of Welcome Party and late registration. Unveiling of our Memorial Plaque and a "Toast" to our departed Members. Food, drinks and souvenirs will be available.

COST: Members and one guest \$20.00 each. All others \$25.00 each.

SATURDAY Sept. 15, 0800-1000 CNDA National Directors meeting. (subject to change)

1000-1100 Tour of Halifax Harbour.

1100-1300 Tour of HMCS Sackville "the last corvette" and Tot issue.

COST: Members and one Guest \$7.00 each. All others \$7.00 each.

1300-1500 Tour the Museum of the Atlantic with special presentation for the TITANIC Exhibits.

COST to the interested individuals \$7.00

DINNER/DANCE at the Dartmouth Senior Service Center.

1800-1900 Cocktails

1900-2400 Dinner/dance, music by "The Tide" with 50's, 60's, and 70's music.

Dinner choice of Lobster or Chicken with all the trimmings, salad, wine, tea coffee and deserts. A cash bar will be available.

COST: Members and one Guest \$55.00 each. All others \$60.00 each.

SUNDAY Sept. 16, 1100 FAREWELL BRUNCH at the Dartmouth Senior Service Center.

Steak and Eggs with home fries, bacon, sausages, toast, or Muffins.

COST: Members and one Guest \$20.00 each. All others \$25.00

"NOTES"

DINNER AND BRUNCH REGISTRATION AND CHOICES MUST BE MADE BY SEPT. 1"

COST: ALL INCLUSIVE for paid Members and one Guest \$90.00 each All others \$105.

Andre" Andy" Desrochers

The following is the Hotel that will be catering to our Members requiring lodging. Just mention that you are with CNDA for the reunion. The price is \$89. per night plus tax. They will provide a "Hospitality Suite" for your convenience. This is the same Hotel as last Reunion.

Super 8 Hotel Dartmouth
65 Kings St. Dartmouth N.S. B2Y 4C2
1-888-789-5558 or 902-463-9520
res@super8dartmouth.com

NEWS WORTHY

Lieutenant (Navy) Mark Simonsen, M.M.M., C.D. Sometimes it takes a little while for news to get around to the *Assault Route* desk. During a recent visit to the Canadian Forces Fleet School (Quebec) (CFFS[Q]) in Quebec City, the editor learned that Chief Petty Officer 1st Class M. (Mark) Simonsen has been promoted and remains at the Fleet Diving Unit (Atlantic) in Halifax as a newly-commissioned naval lieutenant. Prior to that and while still a Chief



Petty Officer 2nd Class, then-Chief Simonsen was invested into the Order of Military Merit as a Member, which “recognizes exceptional service or performance of duty.”³ The investiture took place at Rideau Hall on 24 February, 2009. Lt(N) Simonsen came into the amphibious orbit

during the Standing Contingency Force (SCF) initiative, 2005-2007, when he was one of the founding members of the Amphibious Reconnaissance & Clearance Squadron (ARCS) of the Maritime Amphibious Unit (MAU). The ARCS had been designated as the rapid-development demonstrator element for the SCF, charged not only with developing an enhanced conventional forces reconnaissance, pathfinding and clearance capability for the new force, but to achieve early operational capability in order to demonstrate the viability of the SCF as a force-builder and its ability to move from paper to reality in short order. Lt(N)

Simonsen was a key player in the ARCS and its impressive success. Since then, Lt(N) Simonsen has kept in touch with the amphibian community and referred persons seeking amphibious information or advice to other members of the amphibian community when appropriate. This networking effort is much appreciated and sets a very good example at a time when a new amphibious initiative in support of humanitarian operations is at hand.



Kindly contributed by:
Assault Route Vol. 5 No.1 NDHQ 4 March

Thor's wedding picture? Now that's Class!!!!!!



For that special evening on an Italian Cruise!



The Navy Cure for Snoring

By the time the sailor pulled into a little town, every hotel room was taken. "You've got to have a room somewhere," he pleaded. "Or just a bed, I don't care where."

"Well, I do have a double room with one occupant - an Air Force guy," admitted the manager, "and he might be glad to split the cost. But to tell you the truth, he snores so loudly that people in adjoining rooms have complained in the past. I'm not sure it'd be worth it to you."

"No problem," the tired Navy man assured him. "I'll take it."

The next morning, the sailor came down to breakfast bright-eyed and bushy tailed. "How'd you sleep?" asked the manager. "Never better!"

The manager was impressed. "No problem with the other guy snoring?"

"Nope. I shut him up in no time," said the Navy guy.

"How'd you manage that?" asked the manager.

"He was already in bed, snoring away, when I came in the room," the sailor explained. "I went over, gave him a kiss on the cheek, and said, 'Good night, beautiful,' and he sat up all night watching me."

Joe asked Willard . . . "Do you remember that stuff they used to put in our tea during the war, to make us forget about women?"

"I think you mean saltpeter!"

"Yeap, that's the stuff. . . I think it's beginning to work!"





CNDA

Founded

HALIFAX, N.S.

1981

President: Norm Herd

FOUNDING MEMBERS

Glenn Adams

André Desrochers

Leo Goneau

Terry Havlik

Michael Walsh

First President: Stanley F. Watts

The mission of the Canadian Naval Divers Association (CNDA) is to keep Naval Divers, both Serving and Retired, informed and aware of what is happening within CNDA and other matters pertaining to Service Diving in Canada. It is also intended to keep everyone in touch with others of the diving community who may have been friends and diving team members from those tremendous days of service in our past.

Contact Information

Tim Flath

Editor

E-mail: navydiver@bigfoot.com

We're on the Web!
www.navydiver.ca

Editor's 10 Foot Stop

This issue marks the first issue I have been late on a deadline. I apologize for that and will try harder to stay on track for future issues. I also regret missing the FDU(P) Change of Command with my good friend CDR Bob Klein who has now turned over to LCDR Todd Bacon so I apologize that I was not able to capture the still and moving imagery that I usually post on our web site following such events. That being said, I am told the changeover went without a hitch and I have absolutely no doubt FDU(P) is in good hands under Todd's leadership for the coming years.

Now for other more pressing matters. A while back I sent out a notice to the Western Chapter regarding the need to elect a new President and Vice-President in light of the tragic and unfortunate passing of our fearless leader and friend, Moe Coulombe. So far no one in the region has stepped up to the plate and we are in real danger of losing out on our status as a separate Chapter within the association. For those western members reading this I urge you to consider taking a turn at the helm for either of these two positions. With myself (Secretary) and Tom Essery (Treasurer) as part of the executive team, we could use a little hand managing the Chapter.

Lastly, I would like to pass on my congratulations and best wishes to two prominent divers in the community who retired this month. Both CDR Garry Reddy and CPO2 Mark Oliver have left an indelible mark (excuse the pun Mark) on the diving branch that will not soon fade away given their great contributions throughout their long and successful careers. Here we have two gentlemen whom I have long respected as pillars of the diving branch as they take their place amongst the retired Iron Men! Fair winds and following seas Garry and Mark!

