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FOUNDED  
HALIFAX, N.S.  
1981

15 September 2009

FOUNDING MEMBERS

Glenn Adams P. Eng  
André Desrochers  
Leo Goneau  
Terry Havlik  
Michael Walsh

First President  
Stanley F. Watts

## DIPPERS DIGEST #74/09

### SOCIAL

Jim "Bomber" Balmforth and his better half, Margaret, residing in the beautiful Okanagan Valley at Westbank, BC find that retirement living is what is good for them, together with the travels they find quite enjoyable, now that he has turned 75 years young. Jim joined the Royal Canadian Navy at the age of 17 as an -E rating, but going to HMCS CORNWALLIS Base for New Entry Training before being drafted (they now call it 'Posted', shades of the Army and Air Force influence!) back to HMCS NADEN Base in Esquimalt, BC. He served aboard the following ships:

HMCS CRUSADER  
HMCS KOOTENAY

HMCS ATHABASKAN  
HMCS ONTARIO

HMCS TERRA NOVA  
HMCS CAPE SCOTT

He was aboard the Destroyers when they were fighting in the Korean Theatre of War in 1952 & 1953, which entitles him to wear the Korean Medal, Volunteer Medal (Korea) and the United Nations (Korea) Peacekeeping Medal. Jim also has the Canadian 125th Medal, Canadian Forces Decoration and one Clasp and the Flag Officer (Atlantic) Commendation (1961). He served at FDU(P) and FDU(A)-the old HMCS GRANBY; as well as on most of the Diving Tenders on both East and West Coasts. He was on the first Clearance Diver Course when the Diving trade became an official Branch in the Royal Canadian Navy in 1954. *Editors Note: It would be nice to be supplied with who all were on this Course so that their names can be published in the next DIPPERS DIGEST!!* Jim states "Although this was to be the first Clearance Diver Course in the RCN, we did not get the CD designation until 1956. The reason given to us was that the CDBA (Clearance Diver Breathing Apparatus) was not available until 1956. We held the DV(3) trade classification over this interim period, but as far as I'm concerned, my start as a Clearance Diver in the new Branch was 1954!" Upon retiring from the Navy in 1975, he took a position with the RCMP EDU (Bomb Squad) as a Special Constable in Vancouver, BC until 1980. This was followed by working in the Occupational Safety Office in the Workman Compensation Board of British Columbia, specializing in Blasting & Diving Regulations and general Site Safety for 16 more years, until retiring for good in 1996. *It's great to be able to hear what some of our mature leaders did in the early days of the actual formation of the Diving Branch. Editor.*

Dave Pilot was born and raised in Montreal, Quebec and joined the Royal Canadian Navy as an -H Rating in 1949. He served in the Korean Theatre of War to be awarded the Korean Medal, UN (Korea) Peacekeeping Medal, Volunteer Service Medal (Korea) and was awarded the CD1. Dave retired after 25 years (the old 25 years and out plan) in the RCN, mostly served at FDU(A) - he was a C1CD4 (Chief Petty Officer First Class, Clearance Diver, Trade Group 4) at that time. He became the civilian Postmaster at the Shearwater Post Office, followed by a move to the Kaslo, British Columbia Post Office for a number of years, before returning to Dartmouth, Nova Scotia in his retirement years. Sadly, Dave crossed over the bar on 16 August 2008

Gordon & Pamela Benjamin now living in Kaleden, British Columbia inform us that he joined the Royal Canadian Navy in May 1954, the day after his 17th birthday, was drafted to the Sonar School at HMCS NADEN, retiring in August 1988, some 34 years later, as a C2CD4 on the West Coast. He served aboard HMCS CAYUGA from 1955 to 1957, then on HMCS OSHAWA conducting Science Survey work, HMCS BEACON HILL & HMCS SAGUENAY

before entering the Naval Divers world in January 1963. Thereafter he went to OCDU2, RCNDE(W), CDE(W) and FDU(P) until retiring in August 1988. For all his undetected crime he was awarded the Candian Forces Decoration including 3 clasps. In retirement he worked for Ingersol Rand for 5 years building compressors before the Company moved to Vancouver, BC. He decided to become his own boss by opening his welding and fabrication business, where he invented a hydraulic net winder for tractors to instal and remove nets on grape vines(*one might wonder if he could have accepted a little vino on the side as part payment - do you think?*). When he reached the age of retirement, he also closed out his trucking business, to enjoy the good life to be had in beautiful British Columbia.

Ken "Wit"or"Kung" Whitney contacts us from time to time to let everyone know he is still around and kicking, albeit at a much slower pace than what he used to do. He joined the RCN in 1951 at the age of 19 yrs at HMCS YORK in Toronto, Ontario. After 3 months New Entry Training at HMCS CORNWALLIS in the Annapolis Valley, he was drafted to the Halifax Base, HMCS STADACONA to become a Radio/Visual Communicator, then promoted to LSTD1 in Underwater Weapons, followed to become an LSPR2 in the Physical & Recreational Training(P&RT)Trade. Whilst in the Far East aboard HMCS IROQUOIS, a call for "Volunteers" to conduct a dive in Okinawa attracted Ken and, without any prior practical training in the use of the aqua lung, he made a dive in 80 ft of water, thereby qualifying as a Naval Diver in 1958. He switched over to the Clearance Diving Branch in 1960, serving aboard HMCS GRANBY - he also spent some time on the Aircraft Carrier HMCS MAGNIFICENT before his diving time. At FDU(A) he enjoyed his time aboard the Diving Tenders YMT's 6, 7, 8, 11 & 12 and at the Defence & Civil Institute of Environmental Medicine(DCIEM) in Toronto for Dive Trials. He served in the Korean conflict on patrols, with NATO, on various Arctic Northern Diving Teams & Operations, at CFS ALERT, with UDT BRAVO(1959) and the sinking of the bow section of the vessel KURDISTAN, for all of which he was awarded the CD & Clasp, Korean Peace Medal, NATO Medal, Chief of the Defence Staff Commendation and an Admiral's BRAVO ZULU. Ken served for 31 years in the Regular Force, retiring as a C2CD4, and 3 years with the Naval Reserves, retiring as a C1CD4(R) - a total of 34 good years serving Canada. Upon leaving the Naval Reserves in 1985, he worked as the Manager of the Eastern Shore Community Center for a futher 16 years, retiring for good in 2001. Over the years, Ken has been inducted into the Canadian Military Sports Hall of Fame & the Nova Scotia Sports Hall of Fame, both as a member of the championship 1958 Shearwater Flyers Football Team and a builder of Judo in Canada, Nova Scotia and the Military. He was Sport Nova Scotia's Executive of the Year in 1984, and part of the Judo Coaching Canadian Team officiating in the 1976 Montreal Olympics. Ken is still involved with coaching Judo in Sheet Harbour, NS and has received many other awards for his volunteer activities by the Halifax Regional Municipality and the Nova Scotia Provincial Government. *(It's now about time, at age 75, to rest on your laurels do you think, Ken? EDITOR)*

*The ashes of our mate, Al Blancher were committed to the deep off Halifax Harbour approaches as requested by his daughter, Trish and her family, with 20 members and their guests in attendance, on 19 July 2009. Our member, Reverend Alan Sagar presided over this moving ceremony and commital service. Upon returning ashore, all gathered in the FDU(A) Lounge, where many aspects of Al's time in the Royal Canadian Navy's Diving Branch were discussed, with a commemorative toast was given in his memory. One of our Eastern Chapter members, who was for many years in the RCN's Photography Branch and a Naval Diver, Eric Carlson took a multitude of photographs which he will put on a CD which Andy Desrochers will print some for inclusion in the Chapter's Photo Album. We wish to thank all who took part in this solemn ceremony to a great guy, Al Blancher.*

We hear by the grapevine that Russ Connelly has fully recuperated and was thinking of driving out to the September Reunion in Victoria, BC.

After attending all the previous CNDA Reunions, we hear that Dougie Hughesis presently confined to a wheelchair and may be unable to make it to the next one. *I am sure that everyone wishes you well and that you will be able to make the one after that - Editor* Since writing this, we have been informed that Doug is in failing health and that anyone wishing to talk to him should do so as soon as possible - Editor

André "Andy" or "Doc" Desrochers and his good wife, Marie are living the good life of retirees, having finished work life in 1995 and remain in Dartmouth, Nova Scotia. Andy was born and raised in Shawinigan, Quebec and joined the Royal Canadian Navy in 1958 at age 18, as an OSS(Ordinary Seaman Standard - this was the normal recruiting rank for most new entries at that time), after which he was drafted to HMCS D'IBERVILLE in Quebec City for English language training prior to being drafted to HMCS CORNWALLIS for his New Entry Training. Upon finding that he was an excellent hockey player, he was waived the English training, and played for their hockey team - many of us know how some sailors with gifted athletic skills were authorized to leave their Trade jobs and seconded to compete for the Navy back in those days! Therefore when he was drafted to HMCS CORNWALLIS, he was extremely limited with the English language requirements, however he did get through the New Entry Training and was drafted to the Halifax Naval Base, HMCS STADACONA for Trade selection. He was shown the various Trade classifications and asked his preference but, not fully understanding English very well, he didn't know what each one was - excepting that for Medical Assistant since it was designated in both languages, so that is how Andy became a Med A! In his Trade, Andy served in Shore Bases at HMCS STADACONA, HMCS NADEN, HMCS SHEARWATER & HMCS GRANBY; and sea-going aboard ships HMCS SWANSEA, HMCS SKEENA, HMCS BONAVENTURE & HMCS SAGUENAY. He first qualified as a Ships Diver in 1962, and when the previous Med A(Jules Fortin) at HMCS GRANBY was drafted to DCIEM's Experimental Diving Unit in Toronto, Andy took his position at the GRANBY after attending and passing the US Navy's Diving & Medicine Course in the USA - he was the only Canadian on it and qualifying as a Hyperbaric Medical Technician as well. He attended all the Diving Ops as he was seconded to them in his capacity of being the resident Med A. The one he really had a great time at was EXPO 67 in Montreal, where his bilingual capabilities were fully utilized. When Andy retired in August 1973 as a P1MA4, he was the Owner and Manager of the Aqua Dive Scuba Shop and of the Canadian Scuba Diving Schools in Dartmouth, NS who have trained over 10,000 civilian Divers. As the President of the Dartmouth Dolphins Diving Club, he supported the Provincial Nova Scotia Underwater Council in all their activities and events. It is noteworthy that he joined Freddy Watts for lunch in a local Tavern in 1981, and proposed that a fraternal organization be started for serving and retired Canadian Naval Trained Divers - which soon developed into the Canadian Naval Divers Association - CNDA. Now you know how we became a group serving you - over a beer, in a Pub! CNDA was originally only operating as a Chapter on the East Coast, however Ottawa soon came into being, followed by the West Coast Chapter. Andy has been instrumental in conducting all the Reunions on the East Coast, attended each and every CNDA Reunion from the start, and represented the Eastern Chapter at all the CNDA Directors Meetings. It is obvious he is the go-to guy for anything to do with the Eastern Chapter, and for direction with the National Association's policies! Andy was awarded the Queens Silver Jubilee Medal, Queens Golden Jubilee Medal and the Canadian Forces Decoration. He and Marie are the proud parents of 3 boys, and Grandparents to their 3 boys and 1 girl. Andy has fully recuperated from his left hip joint(man, it seems like a lot of us have this affliction, don't we) replacement in 2008, and is back to wine making, gardening and travelling to their hearts content. *May all our members be this fortunate - Editor.*

## The Diver's Dictionary

**Boyle's Law** - always leave them laughing  
**Convulsions** - a large meeting of divers  
**Cascade System** - Watergate cover-up  
**Crab** - an unhappy diver  
**Current** - a small berry  
**Dive** - a crummy joint  
**Hookah** - Xaviera's profession  
**Narcosis** - liking one's self

**Ditch & Don** - folk singers  
**Regulator** - a good guy  
**Safety Vest** - safer than in the east  
**Stonefish** - what is goldfish plus gin  
**Tanks** - your welcome

*Taken from Fins Below*



*"JUST HOW, PRAY TELL, DID YOU OPEN THE BEANS?"*

Friends from medical school used to ask navy doctor David Carpenter when he was going stop playing, leave the service, and get a real job.

He answered them recently at his retirement party, as he wrapped up a 40-year career with the Royal Canadian Navy, ending with the rank of commander and head of the environmental health section. In effect, he was a MOH (medical officer of health) for Canada's armed forces.

Twenty-five years ago three Canadian destroyers were plowing through rough weather in the Tasman Sea between Australia and New Zealand. A doctor was needed for an emergency on one of the ships, and to get there he had to make the transfer by rope (jackstay transfer), dangling and bouncing wildly above a raging sea.

On another occasion, it was too rough to use that method, and he made the transfer by boat. The trick then was when he reached the other ship, he had to perfectly time his departure from the heavy whaler. At exactly the top limit of a wave, he had to leap for the scrambling net on the side of the destroyer. Make the leap too early, and he would be crushed by the still rising whaler.

He grinned at the crowd at the army officer's mess on Somerset Street. "That's what we in the navy call making a house call. You expected me to give up that kind of excitement?"

A week later at his office at the National Defence Medical Centre at Alta Vista Drive and Smyth Road (the retirement party was a little premature), he filled in more details about his career. He sounded like a one-man-recruiting drive. Would he choose the same career if he had it to do over?

"Without hesitation. And I wish I could."

He wears the badge of a navy diver. The navy doesn't hand them out to people who learn from books. He was 34 when he decided to add hyperbaric medicine to his list of specialties. He went to diving school in Esquimalt, B.C. The waters of the North Pacific are bitterly cold and every day at diving school started with a swim

of about a kilometre. They wore wetsuits and if any man failed to finish the course in 20 minutes, everybody had to work in the cold water without gloves for the rest of the day.

Dr. Carpenter decided he would never be the reason for his much younger classmates losing their gloves, and he kept that promise to himself. There was a high failure rate in the demanding seven-week course, and he had the added problem of being the only officer, and at the mercy of instructors of lower ranks.

His worst memory: "Being under a huge ship, at night, no light, searching for mines by feel. Or maybe searching the harbour bottom by feel, at night, without gloves. You have to learn to fight your own imagination."

Diving is a risky occupation and prone to injuries. When an injured diver saw the doctor approaching, and saw the diver's badge, there was visible confidence: "That's when it was worth the extra effort."

Born and raised in Ottawa, in a family with a long history of military service, The doctor/commander went to sea as a teenager. He worked as a deckhand on a Norwegian freighter. He learned to speak the language. That ability would make a connection to an event that haunts him.

**His worst dive school memory: 'Being under a huge ship, at night, no light, searching for mines by feel. ... You have to learn to fight your own imagination.'**

During United Nations service in the Golan Heights, he was seconded to a three-week tour of duty at a Norwegian field hospital in Lebanon. A family drove for days to get a three-year-old boy to medical care. "There were endless checkpoints set up by several militias and at each they had to pay bribes. By the time they got to the field hospital, they were exhausted, broke, had a severely sick child in great pain and with a severely swollen belly. Advanced kid-

# Navy doctor's career filled with leaps and daring dives

ney cancer.

"The Norwegians had a pediatrician on staff, and together we agreed we couldn't save the child. We had to let him go." The parents knew if medicine to alleviate the pain was administered, the child would sleep and not wake up. They had to approve that step.

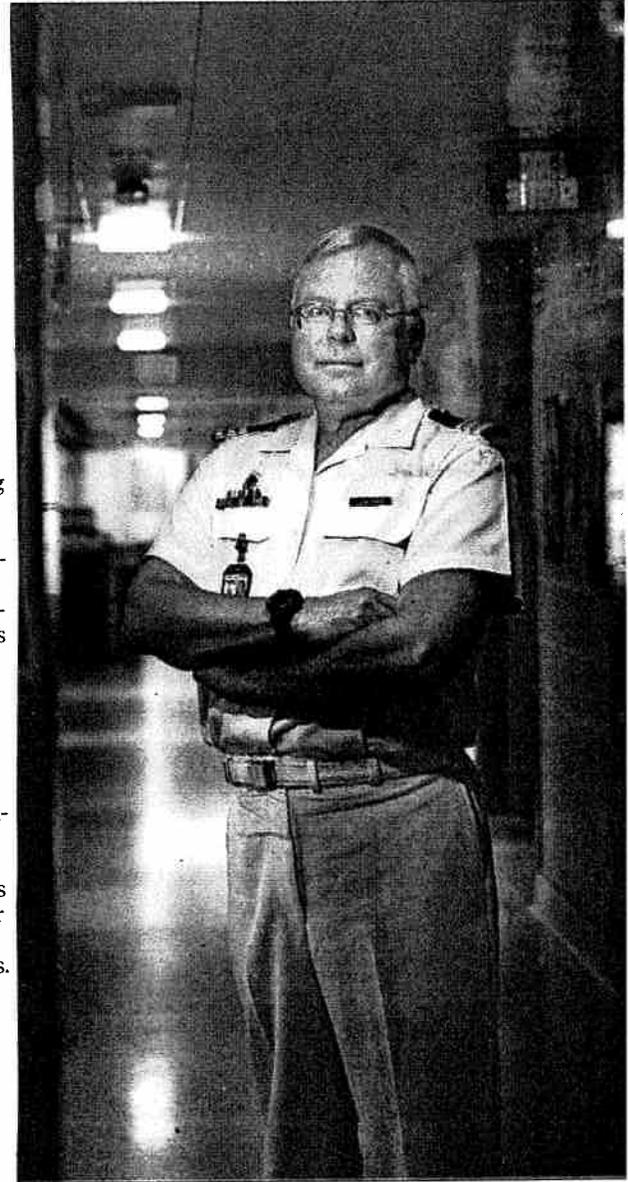
Recalling the event created a visible reaction. The memory hurts. "At the time, my firstborn son, Adrian, was the same age."

Adrian was at the retirement, in uniform, and made the formal toast to the retiree. He was wearing an air force uniform. He's attending medical school.

Another of the doctor/commander's specialties is tropical diseases. In 1999 he was sent to East Timor as part of a United Nations force trying to stop mass killings as a long civil war dragged to a close. Dengue fever was a problem for Canadian troops. The heat and humidity were unbearable for humans, and a breeding bonanza for mosquitoes.

There was a contingent of Norwegians and when it was noticed the Canadian doctor spoke the language, he was invited to their headquarters. "It was a war zone and all windows had been broken. The Norwegians had sealed their building with plastic, and they had air-conditioning. What they didn't have was a single case of dengue fever." Other groups with screens on their windows were also free of the disease. Dr. Carpenter wanted to know why the Canadians weren't similarly protected.

"A request for screening had been made, but turned down by somebody in the chain of command who thought the troops just had to toughen up." With the added clout of a medical specialist, the screening was quickly delivered.



JULIE OLIVER, THE OTTAWA CITIZEN

**Cmdr. David Carpenter, photographed in a mirror, is a navy doctor and diver who specializes in tropical diseases and speaks several languages. After 40 years' worth of stories of excitement, rescue and tragedy, he is retiring.**

Dr. Carpenter plays down his language skills. Postings around the world have left him with the ability to communicate in English, French, German and Spanish. He says other languages need upgrading because he gets little opportunity to use them. They include Norwegian, Arabic and Hebrew.

John "Dinger" Bell writes to us from his home in Westbank, BC that great little community on the shores of the Okanagan Lake that he retired to after serving 30 years in the Royal Canadian Navy. He was an -H Rating when joining, and was selected as an Air Weapons Trade matelot originally, qualifying in 1960 as a Ships Diver, and in 1963 as a Clearance Diving Officer. Some Ops he was involved with were the DEW Line (Distant Early Warning Radar Bases) Supply in 1965 in the High Arctic and three months at EXPO 67 in Montreal, Quebec. Dinger was selected as the Canadian Navy Exchange Officer to the USN's EOD Facility in Indian Head, Maryland USA from 1968 to 1970 as the OIC of the Diving Department. He served at HMCS STADACONA, HMCS NADEN; HMCS SHEARWATER, HMS YEOVIL in England, in Aircraft Carriers HMCS BONAVENTURE & HMCS MAGNIFICENT and at the Diving Unit HMCS GRANBY tied up at the French Cable Wharf in Dartmouth, NS. Diving was conducted from YMT-6, 8 & 11 when he was operating from the old GRANBY. He was awarded the Volunteer Service Medal, War Medal, 1939-45 Medal and the Canadian Forces Decoration with one Clasp. He moved to the Okanagan Valley after his Military Service was over, thereafter working in Sales for Memorial Gardens Canada, retiring for good in 1985. *I couldn't think of a nicer place to enjoy a good retirement than this beautiful Okanagan Valley - Editor.*

Ian "Buck" Buckingham & his lovely wife, Carolina send along greetings to their many Navy and Diver friends from that Garden of the Gulf - Victoria, BC. Ian joined the Service when it was still called the Royal Canadian Navy, in 1967 as a Medical Doctor 55A & B4, retiring as a Commander in 1991, when it had then become the Canadian Forces (Maritime). He served at Defence & Civil Institute of Environmental Medicine, at the USN's Navy Experimental Diving Unit, aboard ships HMCS COLUMBIA, HMCS PROVIDER, HMCS RAINBOW, HMCS PROTECTEUR and at CFB ESQUIMALT during his career in the Navy. He was awarded the Order of St. John, Canadian Forces Decoration and the Member of Military Merit. Ian was a qualified Navy Diver from 1968, the year after joining the RCN. Upon retiring in 1991, he was appointed as the Coroner for the Province of British Columbia, also becoming the Veterans Affairs Senior District Medical Officer, thereafter retiring for good in 2006. *A long life serving the Navy and all citizens of Canada - now having a well deserved time to enjoy their life - Editor.*

Milt "Skully" Skaalrud (One of those great Skaalrud boys!) tells us that he spent 22 marvellous years in the Navy and doesn't regret any part of this glorious time. He joined the RCN on the West Coast as an -E Rating in 1962, went for New Entry Training to HMCS CORNWALLIS before returning to HMCS NADEN for training as a Sonar Tech. He qualified Ships Diver in 1964, followed one year later to become a Clearance Diver. Some dated & places he served are:

- |   |  |
|---|--|
| 1963 - HMCS CORNWALLIS & HMCS NADEN     | 1977 - Nav School EOD at Indian Head, Maryland USA |
| 1964 - HMCS NADEN then HMCS NEW GLASGOW | 1978 - USN 1st Class Diving School, Washington DC  |
| 1965 - HMCS SUSSEXVALE then RCNDE       | 1980 - DCIEM at CFB TORONTO                        |
| 1969 - HMCS GRANBY                      | 1989 - FDU(P) for Class 'B' Service                |

The following data indicates Ships and Diving Tenders Milt served aboard:

HMCS NEW GLASGOW, HMCS SUSSEXVALE, YDT-2, YDT-9 and YDT-10 (Diving Training Vessel HEADABOAR). It was noteworthy that in 2005, Milt was invited aboard HMCS WINNIPEG for a 7 day voyage from Hawaii to Esquimalt, and that his son, Petty Officer 1st Class Dan Skaalrud was in the Ships Company, Milt stated that 40 years earlier, when he served aboard HMCS Sussexvale, they changed from the White Ensign to the new Canadian Flag.

- Some Ops he was involved with were: 32-? SABEX with CDBA, O<sub>2</sub>
- DEW Line beach clearance & resupply in the High Arctic
  - Montreal 1967 Olympics, served as Mobile on East Coast with Joe Lodge, Dirk Van Ek, Andy Oullette & Roy Gabriel. Accommodations on 9 Mess HMCS GRANBY (a separate story!)
  - Kingston Olympics aboard HMCS NIPIGON
  - POTLATCH, Amphibious Landing on North end of Vancouver Island
  - Comox for CF-101 Voodoo aircraft recovery with CPO Red Larsen, Dirk Van Ek, Les Rourke and me at my first job as a new P2.
  - 1973-1974 on 6 week Alert Operation "KIMONO"
  - Watson Lake UXO 500 lb GP Bomb and 5000 rounds 20mm HEAPT SD Ammo with Lt. Gene Boone, Me as a P1, John McEwen & Pat Connelly

- MINEX's Brothers Island, James Island, Colbert Spit & Comox
- 0 to 2000 small Ops which completed my time as a Clearance Diver - all GOOD!!!

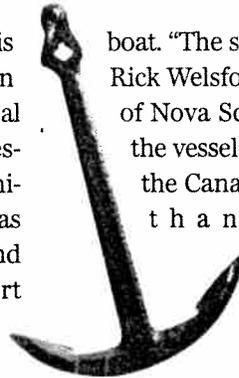
Milt retired from the Navy on 28 November 1984, after which he took a position as the Environmental Co-ordinator for Defence Construction Canada, followed by final retirement with he and his beautiful wife, Margit now living in Armstrong, BC.

## ANCHORS AWEIGH

# Historic Canadian ship that was first to have mixed-gender crew up for sale

NATIONAL POST, WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 5, 2009

**A historically significant** former Canadian naval vessel is up for auction, and according to a Nova Scotia organization with a stake in the ship, it could be seaworthy with minimal work. The purchaser of the ship gets the 2,350 tonne vessel, and everything on board, including a five-person mini-submarine. HMCS Cormorant, a diving support vessel, was the first Canadian ship to house a mixed-gender crew, and is being put up for sale after the Canadian federal court ruled creditors could auction off the decommissioned



boat. "The ship is in remarkably clean condition," said Rick Welsford, chairman of the Artificial Reef Society of Nova Scotia, and one of the various creditors of the vessel. The Cormorant was bought from Italy by the Canadian navy in 1975, and operated for more than two decades. The Texas-based owner of the ship owes hundreds of thousands of dollars in unpaid wharf fees, said Mr. Welsford. *Canwest News Service*

Matthew "Spazz" McBride and his wife, Caroline contacted us from Richmond, BC to inform us that he was in the Canadian Forces, Maritime for a short period (1977 to 1981) and had qualified as a Ships Diver in 1980, and was on the Clearance Diver Preliminary Course when a Diving accident ended his Naval career. He served aboard HMCS PROVIDER; HMCS GATINEAU and HMCS TERRA NOVA and enjoyed his time at sea with them. Having great entrepreneur qualities, he went into the field of communications media to fulfill one of his driving ambitions. His successful endeavours find him the current President of MCM1(Radio Company) and he owns CHMZ Tofino, CIMMUcluelet, CFPV Pemberton and CKPM in Port Moody. *All-in-all, one could say Spazz is one very accomplished guy - you would have made an excellent Navy Diver in my estimation - Editor.*

John & Esveldo Newton send greetings from Halifax and lets us know that he served in the Royal Canadian Navy from 1950 to 1975. However, before that, he was in the Canadian Merchant Marine service aboard EXon/Imperial Oil oilers as a Quartermaster for 4 years (1946 - 1949). He joined as an -H Boatswain Rating, immediately qualifying as a Navy Diver by completing the DVI Course in Halifax, serving from 1951 to 1955 aboard 5 Boat, previously known as Bagsy Baker & his Forty Thieves Dive Boat, using Seibe Gorman, Sãlvus, USN Mk V gear, etc. John was involved in many Operations on both East & West Coasts, recovering crashed aircraft, drowning victims, HDH Loop and SERVEX's. After retirement from the Navy in 1975 as a CP01, he became the foreman for Nova Scotia Building Supply Service, followed by RV Coachman Industries in the USA, spent 15 years driving for Thompson Freight Company and was a Ski Instructor in the Wentworth Valley of Nova Scotia. John retired for good in 2004. *I would say John had a life well-spent and deserves having a happy time from here on in - Editor.*

Most of you know that our Member, John Cole had a serious stroke on 22 August in 2008, and that he had recovered enough to return home as of 20 November 2008, 3 months later. It was nice to hear that his good friends Bob Coren and Paul Legallais have kept in touch with his wife, Patricia for up-dates on his condition - we all need support in trying times. John & Patricia went down to Florida for 40 days this past Winter, returning home mid April, then to their cottage in Peterborough, Ontario this Summer for a short time. His recuperation is on a long, slow up-swing and we certainly hope that John gets all his facilities back in order.

Maurice "Moe" Coulombe joined the Royal Canadian Navy in 1958 as an -H Rating and qualified as a Naval Diver in 1961, followed thereafter to become a Clearance Diving Officer in 1973. A few further qualifications included: EOD at Indian Head, Maryland USA in 1973; Salvage Officer at Washington Navy Yard 1973; Qualified Mine Warfare in Portland, England 1976; EOD at Chattenden, England 1976; Deep Access Remote Television Operator 1980; SDL - 1 Pilot 1985; Etc. When appointed as XO FDU(P), Moe co-ordinated the successful recovery of the 'Black Box' from a crashed CF-18 fighter aircraft, from a depth of 4600 ft off Brooks Peninsula, Vancouver Island. During the recovery, he operated with the USN Underwater Recovery Vessel from Nanoose Range, with PISCES I, CCGS JOHN P. TULLEY and HMCS CORMORANT. Moe served aboard many ships and Bases and with many appointments over his 36 years in the Navy, including: HMCS STADACONA, HMCS NADEN, HMCS DISCOVERY & MARCOM; Exchange Officer with the USN at Panama City, Florida USA & DCIEM in Toronto; HMCS FORT Erie, HMCS HURON, HMCS ASSINIBOINE, HMCS TERRA NOVA, HMCS NIPIGON, HMCS CORMORANT, HMCS PRESERVER, HMCS GRANBY, YDT-6, YDT-11, YDT-12, at FDU(A) and FDU(P). He was qualified as a MARS 71D Officer. Some Ops he was involved with were the Cuban Blockade, EASTLANT & MARLANTS, Etc, Etc, and was awarded the Maritime Commanders Commendation, 125th Anniversary Medal and the Canadian Forces Decoration with 3 Clasps. When retiring in 1994, he became the Naval Reserve Skipper of "Comox", Instructor with the International Sailing Power Association, was involved with the Oyster River Enhancement Society and, most importantly, was the Founding Member to bring the Western Chapter of the Canadian Naval Divers Association into being in 1990. He still works as a Charter Boat Skipper on the Pacific Coast from time-to-time, and has his own 30 ft Catalina Sailing vessel which he operates out of his home port at Black Creek, B.C.

Arthur 'Art' Beaumont says that, upon joining the Royal Canadian Navy in February 1954, the Navy decided he was to be a TAS(Torpedo Anti Submarine)Rating, however shortly after he became a Clearance Diver in 1955, which he continued as until his Release as an ABCD1 five years later in February 1959(*in those days, sailors signed on for five year increments, after which they could re-sign for a further five years - or retire in good standing. Editor*). Art joined at HMCS DONACONNA, went to HMCS CORNWALLIS for 3 months New Entry Training, then to HMCS STADACONA for TAS Trade training, and on to HMCS QUEBEC. As a Diver, he was aboard HMCS LABRADOR to conduct SEALIFT Ops in 1956 for the DEW Line(Distant Early Warning Radar Bases) and on HMCS GRANBY, YDT-6, 7 & 8 and on Greenwood. The sailors who took the May 1955 first Clearance Diver Course on the East Coast with Art were: Bill Stevenson, Vince Patcheson, Nelson 'Ike' Eisner, Wally Green, Stan Stephenson & Bill Allen, with PICD4 Pat O'Neil the Course Director and Lt. CDO Alan Sagar as the Course Officer. Upon Discharge from the RCN, Art worked as a Brakeman for Canadian National Railway for a couple of years, went off to New Zealand in 1962 to work as a Diver for the Auckland City Harbour Board, as a Fireman with the Auckland Fire Brigade, then to the Auckland International Airport as the Crash Fire Officer, returning to Canada in 1968 to work as a Quartermaster for Transport Canada Hydrographic ships and, finally for Seaspan International as a Ship's Officer. Having finally retired in 2001, Art did some travels across Canada and to Australia, was with the Sooke, B.C. Salmon Enhancement Society, seconded to the Citizens Assembly for Electoral Reform for B.C.(*a failed attempt to change the way we elect our politicians in that Province; it also failed in Ontario later on. Editor*) after which he got involved with the group Citizens on Patrol. He now resides at his home in Sooke with his very nice wife, Alice and takes things very easy watching Television and some reading.

Retired Canadian Forces Members ID Cards can be obtained if you have damaged or lost your old cards. Send details of Service and dates(if possible) with your SIN # to: DACM 4-2-2-4, NDHQ, 101 Col By Drive, Ottawa ON K1A 0K2 Phone: 1-866-240-6726

John McEwen tells us he joined the Navy in March 1973, becoming a Ships Diver 1 year later, and a Clearance Diver in 1977. He served at CFB HALIFAX, FDU(P) & FDU(A) and at NDHQ in Ottawa as well as on board HMCS ATHABASKAN, HMCS OTTAWA, HMCS CORMORANT and on YDT's 6, 8, 9 & 11. He was awarded the MMM, 125th Anniversary Medal, Queens Golden Jubilee Medal and Canadian Forces Decoration with two Clasps. John retired in 2008, having served his country for 35 years.

### Case of the Parboiled Diver

At 37, Yoshio Oyama was a skilled veteran in deep-sea diving. For 20 years he had flirted, unscathed, with underwater hazards, of which the deadliest is the invisible "bends"—nitrogen coming out of solution in the blood and forming bubbles that cause excruciating pain or paralysis. A fortnight ago, Veteran Diver Oyama met the bends.

From the dinky little salvage vessel *Daiei Maru* (a misnomer, for it means Great Prosperity), Oyama plunged into Nagasaki Bay in hopes of salvaging enough scrap iron to make it worth the effort and risk. Four times he went down 192 ft. with nothing untoward. Raised to the *Daiei Maru's* deck after his fifth, hour-long descent, he collapsed in pain. His shipmates, unversed in medicine but with a well-grounded fear of the bends, slapped Oyama's helmet back on him, stuffed his diving suit with lead weights, and dumped him back over the side—down to 150 ft.—planning a slow decompression.

In three hours they raised him only 60 ft. Then the wind changed and freshened: the *Daiei Maru* had to seek more sheltered waters. And so began one of the most amazing treatments in the history of medicine. Oyama was hoisted up, the ship moved to calmer waters, and he was promptly dunked again in 72 ft. After twelve hours of sitting there on an iron bar, Oyama signaled frantically to be raised: he was chilled to the marrow and had lost the use of his legs. His shipmates took him ashore, put him in a trough used for boiling seaweed, and lit a fire under him. But the air in his suit inflated with the boiling and he bobbed out. So they took him out of the suit, wrapped him in straw, and poured boiling water over him.

Taken back aboard ship, Oyama was dunked again, but an accident made him shoot to the surface like a balloon. A diver on a passing boat recommended taking Oyama ashore and stretching him out,

head down, on a steep slope. This too was done. In the next 60 hours Oyama was alternately parboiled and marinated in the brine of Nagasaki Bay.

By good luck, U.S. Navy radiomen had picked up a message about Oyama's plight. The Navy's headquarters at Yokosuka ordered the nearest submarine rescue ship, the *Coucal*, to Oyama's aid. The *Coucal* clipped four hours off her estimated time on a flank-speed, 500-mile run to Nagasaki. It took the sorely tried Oyama aboard, and doctors went with him into the sub's decompression chamber. He spent 38 hours there and breathed



Mainichi Shimbun  
DIVER OYAMA UNDER TREATMENT  
Also basted and marinated.

a mixture of helium and oxygen to help flush out the nitrogen. At the end, Oyama could stand shakily on one leg, though the other was still paralyzed. Said Oyama: "If I get well I shall go back to diving because it is the only thing I know. But I will only go into shallow water—no more deep diving for me."

TIME, NOVEMBER 26, 1956

From the Archives - Editor

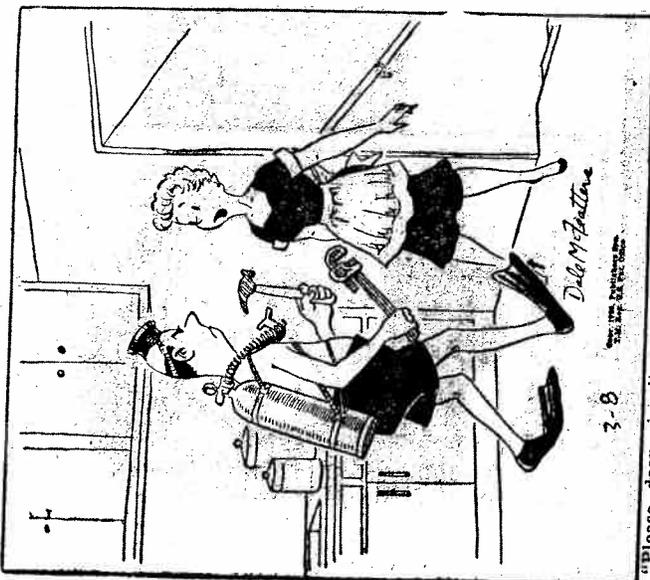
### POCKET CARTOON

By OSBERT LANCASTER

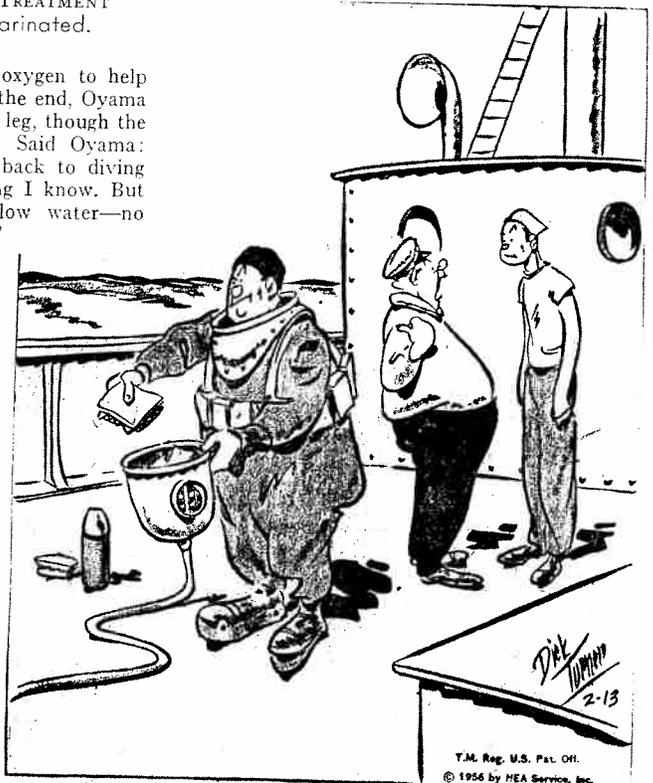


"Philippa darling, you know I love you, but I'm terribly short of oxygen!"

STRICTLY BUSINESS



"Please, dear, give it up and let me call the plumber!"



"Sandwiches! Ever since he read about that diver being stranded for nine hours, he's taking no chances!"