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FOUNDED
HALIFAX, N.S.
1981

15 December 2007 FOUNDED MEMBERS

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Terry Havik
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DIPPERS DIGEST #67/07

SOCIAL

Our member, Maurice 'Mickey' Hardy of Niagara Falls, Ontario was but a youth of 19 when he signed on in the Royal Canadian Navy (great name, that) for the Second World War. This was a gutsy move for a young man who to this day still can't swim! After New Entry Training at HMCS NADEN in Esquimalt, B.C. the RCN drafted him to the Destroyer HMCS OTTAWA in Saint John, New Brunswick with an immediate sailing to be part of the wartime North Atlantic Convoys, delivering much needed supplies to war ravaged England.

Despite knowing that deadly German Submarines prowled the vital sealanes, Mickey still remembers his feelings of invulnerability at the time - that normally comes with lads who consider that death always happens to others! That he survived is a tale of chance events, including a woman's death, a young man's refusing to accept an order, a missed Ferry boat and a quick-witted Diving Instructor with cat-like reflexes.

Mickey was granted shore leave in England when the ship docked for some minor repairs. During that time, his Aunt had passed away over there and, even though he had been ordered to return to the ship, he went ahead and attended her funeral. When returning to the ship, he missed the bum boat in the Dockyard, and watched with trepidation as HMCS OTTAWA sailed away without him. He knew being AWOL would get him some severe punishment, perhaps time in the brig, when he would finally catch up and return aboard her. However, two days later, after turning himself in to the Shore Patrol, the bad news broke that she had been hit by two torpedoes (after the War it was found to be from the U-boat U-91) which took her to the bottom of the frigid North Atlantic. Of the 170 Crew members, only 50 survived - "and I was supposed to be on her, you feel really sick," he said. "These guys who ate with you, and slept in the same Mess for more than a year left me heartsick - it meant losing a lot of my buddies. It's something you never lose thought of - how close you came to visiting Davy Jones Locker - it's there all the time."

He was then drafted to the Corvette HMCS ARVIDA, which was then on Coastal Convoy Escort Duty. This much smaller ship bobbed like a cork in rough seas as they were built to the design of peace time fishing boats! "It was just like a yo-yo" Mickey recalls "it went up & down, back & forth and yawing like a corkscrew - it would keep you awake when you needed some sleep, even in your hammock". Unlike some of his matelot buddies though, luckily he was immune to the gut-wrenching misery of sea sickness, which could easily be compounded by the greasy sardines served with potatoes every day. Mickey wouldn't allow a can of sardines ever in his house after the War!!

Eventually a shore draft in Halifax came along, and it was at this time he was assigned to become a Deep Sea Diver to effect war damaged ship repairs. Once more he defied the odds during a training project. Standing on the harbour bottom in his diving rig, he dropped one of his tools and broke one of the cardinal rules - he bent over to pick it up. Instantly the surface supplied air ballooned the suit, propelling Mickey to the surface like a rocket. The Diving Instructor immediately jumped in the water to right him, releasing the air pressure allowing him to return to the bottom. Needless to say, he learned the lesson the hard way, and his Instructor had some words to say after he was safely returned to the surface the normal way.

Towards the end of the War, Mickey met his future wife, Bruna when he was on leave at home. They were married and moved to Halifax to live until Wars end whereupon they moved back to live in Niagara Falls with a growing family of six children. He went to work for the long

gone Cyanamid Company as a civilian once more. His loving wife, Bruna passed away in 2003 and Mickey keeps a loving memorial to his one and only true love to this day, which he can still visualize, even though he is legally blind.

The above information was given to me by his daughter, Mrs. S. Boone in response to our request for data about our retired Naval Divers. You too have stories yet to be related for publication, and I will be most pleased to write them up for inclusion in the DIPPERS DIGEST when you send them along to me. Editor.



Maurice 'Micky' Hardy with some of the letters he received from his nephews during the Second World War.

GROWING OLD GRACEFULLY

A lady goes to the bar on a cruise ship and orders a Scotch with two drops of water.

As the bartender gives her the drink she says, "I'm on this cruise to celebrate my 80th birthday, and it's today."

The bartender says, "Well, since it's your birthday, I'll buy you a drink. In fact, this one is on me."

As the woman finishes her drink, the woman to her right says, "I would like to buy you a drink, too."

The old woman says, "Thank you. Bartender, I want a Scotch with two drops of water."

"Coming up," says the bartender.

As she finishes that drink, the man to her left says, "I would like to buy you one, too."

The old woman says, "Thank you. Bartender, I want another Scotch with two drops of water."

"Coming right up," the bartender says.

As he gives her the drink, he says, "Ma'am, I'm dying of curiosity. Why the Scotch with only two drops of water?"

The old woman replies, "Sonny, when you're my age, you've learned how to hold your liquor."

Holding your water, however, is a whole other issue."

W.H. Bill Lee, CNDA Member was awarded the Minister of Veterans Affairs Commendation in 2006, having been nominated by two different groups. He joined the Militia in 1968 at his then home town of Kirkland Lake, Ontario however he saw the right way to go in 1969 when he joined the Royal Canadian Navy(great name, that!) for the Weapons Underwater trade. He qualified as a Diver from 1973 at HMCS GRANBY, however was released from the mob under Medical 3A status in 1975 and was registered with the Canadian National Institute for the Blind in 1977(currently 5% in one eye and 0% in the other). Undeterred by this disability, Bill attended University to graduate with a B.A. in Psychology and with Honours B.A. in Social Work. To top this off- he even ran for Member of Parliament in the Sudbury region for the 1997 Federal Election, as that is where he now lives the good life as a retiree. He became the President of the RCNA Manitoulin Northshore Branch, and was appointed by his comrades to Chair the Veterans Committee with the City of Sudbury's Memorial Park Memory Wall Project. This project is a 43 Ft long black African granite wall inscribed with the names of more than 620 Sudbury area Veterans who paid the supreme sacrifice for freedom.

Bill said he ambled along to a combined City of Sudbury & Veterans group meeting to see what this long delayed project was all about. The next thing he knew, he was voted to be the Chairman! "I thought all these grey beards had lost their minds, and I protested that I'd done nothing even similar to this in my friggin' life," Bill said. "You'll get used to it, lad" stated a sage old Veteran Air Gunner from the 1939/45 War. "I've heard it stated that sailors, with their built-in sense of good order & discipline, should be running the world, and this is what I thought the Old Timers had in mind. "Alas, this was not the case - Bill, you are the youngest and have the biggest mouth, so---you're it!"

As an aside to the Editor:- Do not fret Old Son, I've adapted well and life is good. You'll be glad to know I haven't driven a car since 1974! Enclosed are a couple of photo's of the Memorial Wall and my Divers' graduation Class from HMCS GRANBY. As you can see, Dusty Miller and Connie Constantine were in my Class - two guys I have fond memories of. When I received the call from Veterans Affairs, I asked the lady on the other end of the line "Is this about the claim I filed?" but she laughed and said "No, congratulations upon being awarded the Minister of Veterans Affairs Commendation," which took me a minute or two to realize what she was saying. "No s--t!" says I, "God's truth - you were even nominated twice," she says, and I was on a high for the remainder of 2006. It also gave me an uneasy feeling that I was in somebody's sights/crosshairs, but I got over it. I send out greetings to all my diving pals.

Drew Bremner, now living in St. Thomas, Virgin Islands with his family, received the last copy of the DIPPERS DIGEST from one of his buddies recently. Having read all the information it imparts, specially those about people he knew, ie Norm Herd, John McEwen, et al, Drew decided he wished to become a member of our Fraternal Organization, and phoned Chuck Rolfe to apply for it. Drew said he built his sailboat when he was at the Experimental Diving Unit in DCIEM, Toronto and, upon retiring from the Navy in 1988, he launched his boat in Lake Ontario to sail down to the Caribbean where he, his wife Eunice and their 4 children now reside. He is the Service Administrator for the Company(Parts and Power)in St. Thomas for the past 7 years, and he states they are all very partial to the life down there. The old homestead farm near Russell, Ontario is still there with lots of Bremner kin living in the region. He comes from a long line of nautical forebears as his Father was in the Royal Canadian Navy(great name, that!)before him.

Drew followed up with a letter to the Editor:- Hi Chuck, it was great talking to you on the phone, and enclosed are funds for a 4 year membership - thanks for the Membership Card, DIPPERS DIGESTS and information concerning CNDA. It is great to read about the guys I served with during that time of my life. CPO Roy Theile of FDU(P), who is now in the Naval Reserves, married my Wife's sister, Georgina so whenever we get up that way for a visit, we get to see as many friends as we can. Last time, Roy's birthday coincided, so Connie Constantine, Des and all the others were around for a really fun BBQ. A great time was had by all. On another note, while I was there, the new Class of Divers was graduating. The Diving Unit tries to get retired Divers to present their Dolphins, so Roy arranged it for me to present one. What a kick it was for me. You know how you always remember the day you got yours? Well, being asked to present an up-and-coming Clearance Diver with his Dolphins was certainly my proudest day as well. Contact me at drew@partsandpower.com should anyone want get in touch.

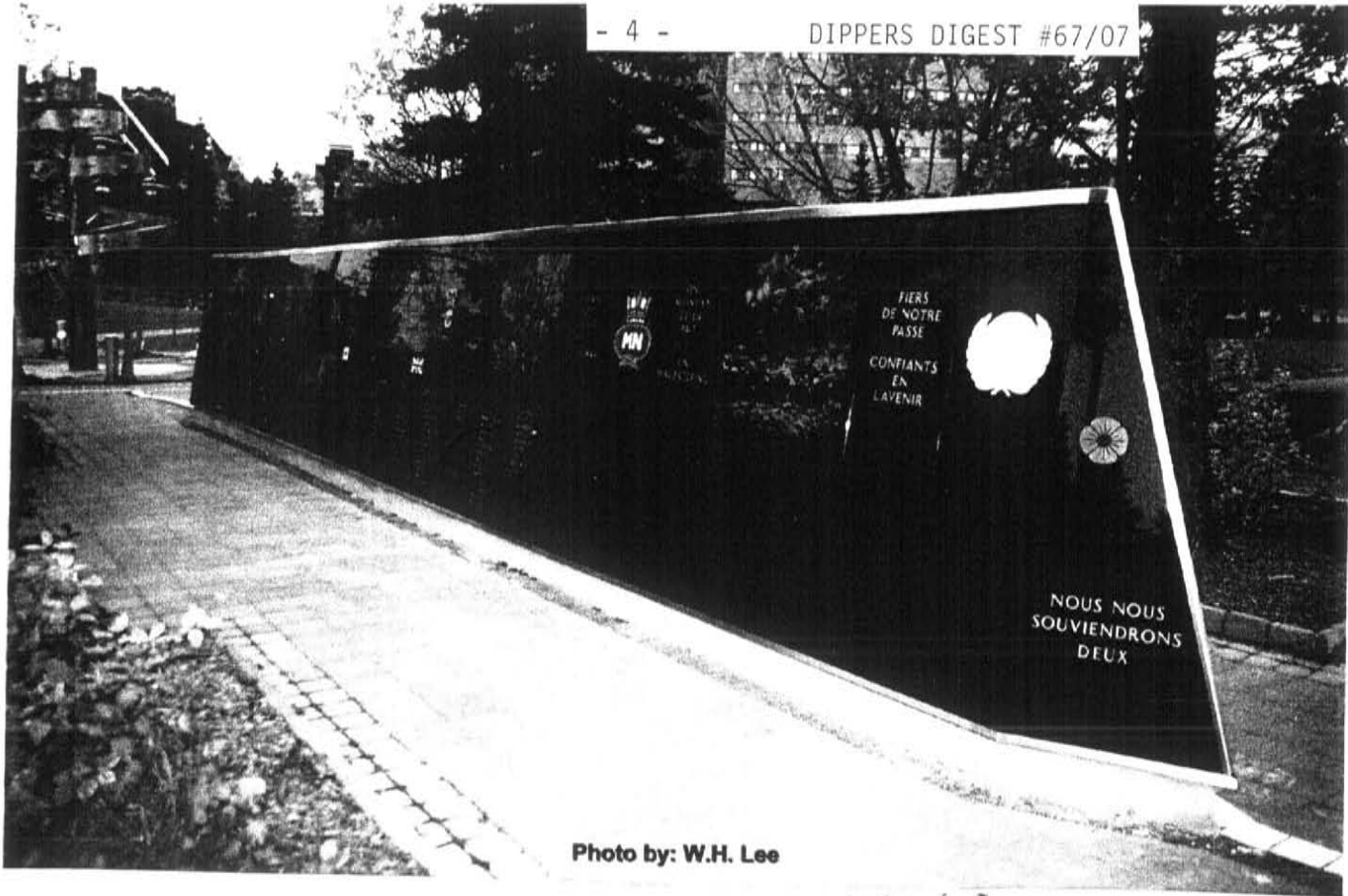


Photo by: W.H. Lee

Bill Lee

ME
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LEO GONEAU

Leo Goneau was born and raised in Midland, Ontario where he was educated in Sacred Heart School and the Midland High School. At a young age he went to work in the Midland Shipyards, where Corvettes were being constructed for the Navy. In 1947 he left the Shipyards to become employed at the Midland Foundry and Machine Company for a period of 2 years, at which time he joined the Royal Canadian Navy as an Ordinary Seaman in the Steward Branch. When he found what the Steward trade was, he decided it was not for him and applied for the Seaman trade. It took just 4 hours for Leo to switch from Steward to Seaman! His New Entry training was conducted at HMCS NADEN in Esquimalt, B.C. after which he was drafted to HMCS STADACONA in Halifax, N.S. His Naval career there had it's beginning at the North Drill Shed as a sweeper(*most new recruits, it would appear, started their careers sweeping some part of a Naval establishment - it was probably an excellent grounding for the rest of their time in the Navy!*). Leo had close connections with Ira Johnson, Sam Short, Reg Winters, Fred Stiner and George Cole at that time, which would have ensured that his Naval future would be in the Gunnery Branch. However, in 1950 a dastardly trick was played on him, as he was drafted to the East Coast Diving Unit under LCDR A.H. Baker. It seemed that LCDR Baker required a Seaman/Steward in his crew; a Steward to serve him his breakfast, dinner and supper, and that the same person be available to work Seaman's duties from 0900 - 1200 & 1300 - 1600. With Leo's previous trade as a Steward, followed by a quick 4 hour change to a Seaman, it appeared that he definitely fit the billet, therefore for approximately 2 years he was at the Diving Unit at the North end of the Dockyard, right under the Return Stores. In that era, the Diving Unit on the East Coast consisted of:

LCDR A.H. Baker	OIC	LS(DV) Patrick O'Neil	Diver
CPO(DV) John Brown	2OIC	LS(DV) Gordon LeBlanc	Diver
PO 1(DV) Peter Nicholson	Instructor	LS(DV) Raymond Brunelle	Diver
PO 2(DV) Norman Mitts	Instructor & Clerical	LS(DV) Keith Power	Diver
		LS(DV) Tug Wilson	Diver

The job of Cook, Electrician and Stoker at the Unit was a rotating draft of two years duration, and rounding it all out was Leo as the Seaman/steward - so the total number of personnel held on strength was a superstitious 13.

Leo applied, and was approved for, a Quarter's Rate(QR) 3's Course, which commenced in January 1952 and was held over a duration of 40 working days. Nearing the end of the course, he went back to the Diving Unit to visit one of his friends, Paul Gauthier, the Cook. As he was about to leave, LCDR Baker hailed Leo into his Office saying, "I hear there was a question you wished to ask me before you left here". Hesitantly, Leo stated "Yes Sir, but--well--I'm in the Fleet now, so-- well, I guess you might as well forget it". LCDR Baker replied, "No, no. You put in a Request Form to take the Divers Course and I'll have you down here next week", which Leo did and, true to his word, was drafted back to the Diving Unit all prepared to take the next course starting in April, 1952. This was only the third Divers Course to take place since the end of WWII and those who took it(besides Leo) were Yvon Gingras, Robert Barclay, Lloyd Burke, John Newton and Bruce Robinson. They trained in the Standard Dress and qualified as DV3's. In 1955, all Divers were consolidated into their own Branch, which required those trained as hardhat Divers to take a conversion course in SCUBA gear, and the SCUBA Divers in the Underwater Training Unit(U.T.U.) to take a conversion course in Standard Dress, in order for all the Divers to qualify as the new Clearance Diver(CD) trade designation. The new RCN Clearance Diver would now be capable of operating with any diving equipment!

Leo has conducted his Naval diving tasks in many varied places in the world, such as Puerto Rico, the Arctic, Newfoundland, Bermuda, Halifax, Vancouver and Victoria to name but a few. The majority of his diving career was at the East Coast Diving Unit, although he also spent some time as a Diver aboard HMCS MAGNIFICENT, HMCS HAIDA, HMCS COLUMBIA and HMCS CAPE SCOTT - there was such a time when single trade Divers were carried on board ships in the Fleet!

Leo Goneau, as President of the Association, states, "As one of the Founders of the Canadian Naval Divers Association, I feel honoured and privileged to serve as your President at this time, although it passed to me due to the great loss of our dear friend and diving buddy, Vernon Melanson. I would like to acknowledge, as well, the timely uniting of our branches in Ottawa, Victoria and Halifax. I expect these Chapters of our Naval Divers Association will prove to have a long and productive association with, and for, all the Naval Divers right across Canada".

In 1974 Leo retired from the Navy and he presently works at the Nova Scotia College of Art & Design in Halifax, N.S. He and his gracious wife live at 122 Rosedale Ave, Halifax, N.S. B3N 2J7 Phone (902)443-7081. *Leo died on 21 November 2007 at Halifax, Nova Scotia.*

I wrote this Bio back on 22 October 1990 for inclusion in DIPPERS DIGEST 3 when Leo and I got together to put his story in writing. It gives a good indication of his time in the RCN. Editor

Naval officer National Post 1 October 2007 founded U.K. HARRY WARDLE diving outfit

Lieutenant-Commander Harry Wardle, who has died aged 88, devoted five years after retiring from the British Royal Navy to finding and plugging a leak in a mile-long underwater tin mine on the seabed off Cornwall, U.K..

A hole 500 feet from the cliffs of Land's End and 50 feet below the surface developed in the Levant mine in 1961 after its miners had followed a lode of ore too close to the seabed. A fluorescent dye was released into the mine, which had become tidal. This enabled Wardle, in a small boat on the surface, to trace the tell-tale plume of dye to its source.

Working with a small number of companions, Wardle excavated by hand the sand and shingle to a depth of about four feet, made a Plasticine model of what he found and planned his campaign.

Over the plume of dye, Wardle found himself alternately sucked down or rolled along the seabed. Huge basking sharks watched him work. He knew that they were harmless, but this was no comfort when they swam close by and he could see that a diver could fit inside their open mouths.

When he had at last capped the breach with bags of cement and tons of rock, Wardle entered the mine itself to inspect his work from under the seabed. It was, he wrote in a scientific journal, "obviously hazardous." He could hear the waves breaking on the cliffs overhead and had to force his way along a shaft upwards to the seabed, wriggling through spoil from old workings, until he reached a gallery unaffected by the flooding.

Harry Wardle was born on Oct. 26, 1918, the son of a West Bromwich Albion soccer player who later became a docker in Liverpool, U.K. Harry did well at Linacre council school, but when he was offered a place at Bootle technical college, his family could not afford to send him. Instead, he started work at 14 as an errand boy, but was made redundant on his 16th birthday, when he would have cost more to employ.

Inspired by reading school-boy stories of Evans of the Broke and by his Uncle Harry's stories of HMS Warspite's 15-inch shells flying overhead at the Battle of Gallipoli in Turkey, he joined the Royal Navy as a boy (second class) in 1935.

Wardle served as a junior rating on the battleship Rodney, the cruiser Leander, the destroyer Witch and the mine-layer Adventure. This took him to the Irish Free State, to Spain during the civil war and to Shanghai when the city was bombed by the Japanese. In 1939, he was a candidate for rating pilot in the Fleet Air Arm, but this scheme was cancelled as war loomed. Instead, he qualified as a torpedoman, one of the Navy's electrical specialists.

During the Second World War, Wardle served, from 1939 to 1942, on the destroyer HMS Griffin. On April 25, 1940, he

witnessed the capture of the disguised German trawler Polares when Torpedo Gunner "Florrie" Foord dove into icy Norwegian waters to rescue a bag of confidential books that had been thrown overboard; this was one of the first captures of Enigma, the code system used by the Nazis.

The Griffin rescued Queen Wilhelmina and the Dutch royal family from Rotterdam, and brought back French and Polish troops from St. Nazaire. Later, the Griffin and Wardle took part in the battle of Tarento, the siege of Tobruk and the evacuation of Greece.

With the Gallant and the Hotspur, she sank the Italian submarine Lafole, north of Melilla. Off Matapan, Wardle heard the "chug-chug" noise of a 15-inch shell overhead, just as his uncle had described.

Wardle recalled that the German Luftwaffe flew uninterrupted, and Britain's Royal Air Force was nowhere to be seen. His action station was below decks, but he used to lock the switchboard in the "on" position and mount his personal Lewis gun, which he acquired in Malta, on the bridge wing. By mid-1942, six ships of the Griffin's squadron of eight had been lost in action.

Promoted to warrant officer as a Gunner (Torpedo) in 1943, Wardle joined the destroyer Inconstant as the junior watch-keeping officer.

Wardle began his career as a diver in 1945 in the luxury of the old royal yacht Victoria and Albert. His natural aptitude was rewarded by appointment as officer in charge of the diving school at Devonport in 1946. Two years later, he was senior diving officer of the deep-diving vessel Reclaim when Petty Officer Wilfred Bolard set a new world diving record of 535 feet in Loch Fyne, a record that stood for 10 years.

After qualifying as a clearance diver, he was senior diving officer of the Royal Navy's principal diving school at HMS Vernon, Portsmouth, from 1951 to 1954; he was then fleet clearance diving officer in the Far East, before serving his last uniformed appointment as deputy superintendent of diving.

Wardle took a "golden bowl" in 1958 to work with civil engineering contractors Reed & Malec, where he founded the diving division, which evolved into Strongwork Diving (International). Its motto was "anything underwater anywhere," and, under Wardle's direction, its activities ranged from work on the foundations of 14th-century stone bridges built by monks to underwater pipelines and oil rigs.

To his workforce, almost all ex-Navy, he promised "hard work, long hours, the need to turn your hand to anything and be prepared to work away from home." Strongwork became the largest British diving company, with an arm in Saudi Arabia.

In 1979, Wardle formed a new diving company, Fathomline, which won a \$142-million contract to design and build a multi-functional service vessel for Shell and Esso's operations in the new North Sea oilfields.

Wardle published two memoirs, *Forecastle to Quarterdeck* (1994) and *Dive Navy* (2002); a third volume about his civil diving was in preparation when he died on Sept. 1. He was an active member of the Minewarfare & Clearance Diving Officers' Association and enjoyed a drink with friends and a round of golf at his local club on Hayling Island, off the southern coast of England.

The Daily Telegraph

“He witnessed
the capture of
German trawler
Polares

Merry Christmas
and a
Happy New Year

PS unions lose \$30B pension fight

THE OTTAWA CITIZEN

Judge rules workers aren't entitled
to surplus; decision sets stage for battle
with government over control of plans

NOVEMBER 21, 2007

BY KATHRYN MAY

An Ontario Supreme Court judge ruled yesterday that 700,000 public servants, military and RCMP personnel aren't entitled to any of the \$30-billion surplus in their pension plans that has been at the centre of a historic legal battle for more than a decade.

Justice de Loebe Panet dealt a devastating blow to the 18 unions and pensioners' groups that had accused the government of "stealing" their pension surplus and turned to the courts to force it to put it back into their accounts.

In a 102-page ruling, the judge rejected their claims and largely accepted the government's argument that the \$30 billion at the centre of the dispute is not a real "surplus" of cash or assets, but rather an accounting device to record or monitor the government's liabilities. The years the surplus exploded showed the government had over-recorded the liabilities it would have to pay in future pensions.

The ruling comes at a time when pensions are top of mind for thousands of baby boomers who are retiring from the public service in record numbers over the next decade. Some predict

the ruling, which suggests the government can do whatever it likes with the pension plan, will prompt a campaign among workers to gain more control over their pension plans.

Judge Panet concluded that the pension accounts weren't "funded" with real assets and the unions failed to prove the accounts had the key characteristics of a trust fund. With no trust fund, the government couldn't have breached its "fiduciary" obligations, as the unions argued, when it amortized the surplus and used it to offset the deficit between 1990 and 2000.

Even if the unions and pensioners had an interest in the surplus, Judge Panet said the government had the legal authority to take it all when it passed Bill C-78, the legislation that allowed the government in 1999 to claim the surplus and book it against the debt. The bill also created a new pension fund that is now invested in the market. The unions had argued that Parliament didn't intend for the government to take the whole surplus, but Judge Panet said Parliament's intent was "clear and unambiguous."

Pension: 'Harsh ruling'

Continued from PAGE A1

The ruling also dismissed the unions' claims that the provisions of the bill that allowed the government to take the surplus violated the Charter.

The unions and pensioners had long argued they were entitled to at least a portion of the surplus, which was partly built out of their contributions and the interest paid on those premiums.

The government had countered that the pension accounts were simply "ledger sheets" and that the contributions and interest that went into them were merely bookkeeping entries to keep Parliament informed of the cost of providing pensions to workers. It argued there were no investments, bonds, real estate or other assets in the accounts and all the government owed was its "promise" to pay pensions to all retirees.

"I have found that members of three superannuation plans ... have no equitable interest in the accounts," the judge wrote. "The claims for breach of trust, for breach of fiduciary duty, and that the (government) breached its obligations to members under the three acts by amortizing the surplus are dismissed."

The case, which went to trial last February, was one of the biggest the government has faced and the stakes were huge. If the unions were successful, Canadians could have faced billions of dollars added to the country's national debt.

Some argue the decision could set the stage for a protracted battle between the government and its unions over the future of its pension plan. One of the largest federal unions has already threatened to take the government to court over the right to negotiate pensions at the bargaining table. The Professional Institute of the Public Service of Canada, one of the unions involved in the lawsuit, is prepared to challenge the constitutionality of laws that for 40 years have forbidden public servants from bargaining pensions.

The government does not allow unions to bargain pensions, staffing or job classifications on behalf of their members. The federal pension plan, among the biggest in the world, is managed by the government, which determines benefits.

PIPSC president Michele Demers said the decision hardens the union's resolve to get pensions on the bargaining table. She said the union is reviewing Judge Panet's decision and is consulting with other unions and pensioners' groups about whether to appeal. Unions have long been braced for this battle to end up in the Supreme Court.

"The federal government is the only jurisdiction where unilaterally taking the surplus is legally possible, but so morally and ethically wrong," said Ms. Demers.

Ms. Demers said a recent Supreme Court decision that ruled collective bargaining is a right protected by the Charter has paved the way for a challenge to the Public Service Labour Relations Act, which forbids the bargaining of pensions.

Many have predicted that the ruling could change the face of labour relations in the public sector.

In a case that pitted health unions against British Columbia's labour legislation, the high court threw out sections of a law that essentially allowed the government to tear up union contracts and lay off 8,000 health workers. The province also later imposed a pay cut on other workers.

"Our members should not be robbed of their pension. We will make sure this never happens again," Ms. Demers added. "The Supreme Court in the B.C. health services decision opened the door to include pensions in the collective bargaining process. We are taking this issue to the bargaining table to make sure our members' rights are never trampled on again," said Ms. Demers.

John Gordon, president of the giant Public Service Alliance of Canada, said he was profoundly disappointed by such a "harsh ruling," but he's not sure his union is ready to follow PIPSC's lead to try to negotiate a new pension deal.

"I'm not sure we're on side with that at this point," said Mr. Gordon. "The issue of pensions and dealing with the public service superannuation act is very complex and trying to get that on the table could be difficult."

NOTE: The Ontario Supreme Court Judge has ruled against us! He stated the Pension Accounts weren't funded with "real assets"- what bull! That means the real money we put in (6% annually) just disappeared it would seem. If my hard earned money wasn't real assets, I would want it back then. Additionally, now we have proof that Paul Martin, Minister of Finance used our \$30 billion to pay down the countrys' debt - so much for him being hailed as the best Minister of Finance we've had!!

The wife of Tom Cowan, Pat Richards informed us in early September that he was in Intensive Care in the local Hospital at Ingersoll, Ontario. She then informed us that Tom had died on 29 Sep 07, too late to put in the last DIPPERS DIGEST.

Leo Goneau passed away 29 September 2007 and Andy Desrochers forwarded his Obituary - see story on pg 5 of this edition.

Rick Shaw crossed over the bar on the West Coast suddenly 19 October 2007 as per the Obituary sent by Al McRae to Norm Herd - see to right.

The annual Summer/Fall BBQ for the Eastern Chapter was not held at the FDU(A) this year due to some conflicting regulations at the now functioning (legal Mess) the 'Cormorant Lounge'. The past functions held at the Unit have always been a great success. The photo albums and all the other memorabilia always bring up the good, the bad and the 'don't tell my wife' storys. Due to this glitch, the party was hosted by Jim & Margi Larder on beautiful Lake Echo. The day was sunny but very windy and somewhat cool - it was in the hands of the Sea Gods. everyone had a great time in spite of the August chill, however by imbibing varied libations we managed to ward off the chill. Most went for a good sight-seeing trip around the lake on-board a couple of 20 ft pontoon boats, coolers and snacks in hand. The crowd consisted of our gracious hosts Jim & Margi, Andy & Marie Desrochers, Joe & Joyce Paquin, John & Debbie McEwen, Tony & Helen Dubois, Dale & Val Silvester, Jim & Lesle Gordon, Mike Middleton and Bernadette, Doug Hughes and Glenn Adams #2. The fare of the day was barbequed steak, chicken, pepperoni, sausage veggies and assorted salads. The food was great, as always, and as usual Andy & Marie did most of the shopping and prep work. We had hoped for a larger turnout but, as Andy said "more wine for the rest of us. Judging by all the empties, a good time was had by all. We hope next year to see more faces, as every year of late our crowd seems to be dwindling.

Scott D'Arcy writes to thank all of us for the great part we play in this valuable group of Military Divers Association. He always enjoys reading and hearing about what is happening now and, of course, what was doing way back when. He and his brother have been discussing going to Nova Scotia next Summer to enjoy some recreational diving around the Digby and the Eastern Shore areas. Either way, they have all this Winter & Spring to make preparations.

EDITOR

For those members of CNDA who did not receive DIPPERS DIGESTs #65/07 & 66/07 for whatever reasons, contact the Editor who will forward same to you immediately.

The National Council of Veterans Associations requested that our Chairman or Sec/Treasurer represent Canadian Veterans on the 90th Anniversary of the Battle of Passchendaele over in Belgium in November 2007. Norm Herd was touring somewhere in Cape Breton and Chuck Rolfe was having Doctor analysis of some health problems at the time, so we were unavailable.

GONEAU, Leo Arthur (Petty Officer, ret'd)

— 77, Halifax, passed away peacefully November 21, 2007, in the Halifax Infirmary, QEII. Born in

Midland, Ont., he was a son of the late Arthur and Katherine (Fitzgerald) Goneau.

At a young age, he went to work in the Midland Shipyards. In 1947, he joined the Royal Canadian Navy as an ordinary seaman in the Steward Branch. In 1950, he was drafted to the Coast Diving Unit where he conducted his naval diving tasks in many various places throughout the world, including Puerto Rico, the Arctic and Bermuda, to name a few. Leo served aboard HMCS Magnificent, Haida, Columbia and Cape Scott, and he was also one of the founding members and a past president of the Canadian Naval Divers Association. After retirement from the navy in 1974, he worked at NSCAD as well as owned his own cleaning business, retiring in the mid 1990s. Leo spent many happy hours with his family, especially his grandchildren, as well as his four-legged "pal", Miss Chloe. Surviving are his daughters, Nancy (Everett) Cleversey, Sydney; Jackie (Terry) Burke and Connie (Roger) Keefe, both of Lower Sackville; son, Michael, Halifax; grandchildren, Leah, Randy, Matthew, Sara, Erin, Evan, as well as seven great-grandchildren, numerous nieces and nephews, and companion, Ann Drake; brothers, Neil and Bernard (Elva), both of Midland, Ont.; sisters, Beryl Girard, Audrey Head, and sister-in-law, Verna Goneau, all of Midland, Ont. He was predeceased by his wife of 30 years, Bernice (Richards); brothers, Donald and William; sisters, Florence, Eileen, Helen. Cremation has taken place under the direction of Atlantic Funeral Home, 6552 Bayers Rd., Halifax, where the family will receive visitors 7-9 p.m. Friday. Memorial mass will be held 10 a.m. Saturday in St. Plus X Roman Catholic Church, 165 Coronation Ave., Father Mark Cherry officiating. A reception will follow in the church hall. Burial will take place in Oakridge Memory Gardens. Family flowers, a donation in Leo's memory may be made to a charity of choice. Leo will be sadly missed by his many diving buddies whom he considered family. On-line condolences may be sent to the family by visiting: www.atlanticfuneralhomes.com



SHAW, Richard (Dick) Glen

Born in Carnduff, Saskatchewan February 17, 1943, passed away suddenly on October 19, 2007. Predeceased by his father, Walter Gordon Shaw. Survived by his mother, Bernice Elizabeth Shaw (nee Pack), devoted wife JoAnne, son Cory (Janet), daughter Karen; brothers Russell (Janice), Dean, sisters Sandra (Bill), Eileen (Steve), Janice (Wal), Lois (John), Margy (Jim), Lorna (Dave), Linda (Alan) and a large extended family. Dick served in the Canadian Navy from 1962 to 1980, specializing in underwater explosive ordnance. He joined WCB (WorkSafeBC) in 1980 as an Occupational Safety Officer and was the Blasting and Diving Coordinator in Certification Services at the time of his death. Dick enjoyed his life outside of work in a variety of activities including: garage sales, long walks, "linkering" with electronics and cars, traveling, a spring month in Arizona, summers at Christina Lake boating and learning to flyfish. Most of all, his family came first and foremost before work or play. He will be extraordinarily missed.

A celebration of Dick's life will be held at Victory Memorial Park Funeral Centre, 14831 28th Ave., Surrey, BC at 11am on Friday October 26, 2007. In lieu of flowers, donations to the Heart and Stroke Foundation, the SPCA or charity or foundation of your choice would be greatly appreciated. Messages or expressions of condolence may be forwarded to email: rshaw4344@yahoo.ca

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