



# DIPPERS DIGEST

Canadian Naval Divers  
Association

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## CNDA

FOUNDED  
HALIFAX, NS 1981

### FOUNDING MEMBERS

Glenn Adams P. Eng  
André Desrochers  
Leo Goneau  
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Michael Walsh

First President  
Stanley F. Watts

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Woman dies

## CNDA members awarded Queen's Jubilee Medal

L/R:

Milt Skaalrud  
Gord Benjamin  
Moe Coulombe  
Don Moriarty  
Daryl Skaalrud  
Edgar (Bill) Cryd-  
erman  
Lorne Pittman  
Al McRae



The Queen's Golden Jubilee medal will be presented to 10 CNDA members. Bill Cryderman received his medal outside his home in Kelowna on the 6th Dec.

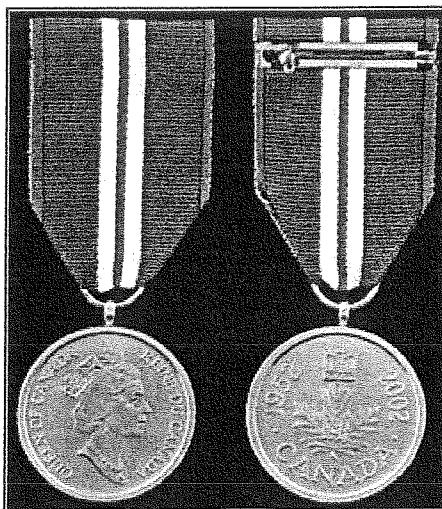
Stan Stephenson also was honoured at his home in White Rock. The other recipients cannot be named until the medal is presented. I hope to have all the names and even more pictures for the next edition.

Congratulations to you all and we thank you for your commitment to diving and the CNDA.

Commemorative medals are struck from time to time to mark important anniversaries and other great occasions. In keeping with this tradition, the Golden Jubilee Medal of Queen Elizabeth II commemorates the fiftieth anniversary of Her Majesty's reign as Queen of Canada. The Medal will be awarded to Canadians who have made a significant contribution to their fellow citizens, their community or to Canada.

In order to have a list of recipients that is representative of all regions of Canada, various organizations are invited to propose the

names of candidates for the Medal: the federal, provincial and territorial levels of government, national professional, educational and cultural organizations, military and the Royal Canadian Mounted Police, veterans' groups, sports associations, and philanthropic and charitable bodies. Approximately forty-six thousand medals will be distributed.



other recipients are: Moe Coulombe, Al McRae, Andy Desrochers, Fred Watts, Gary Reddy, Patrick Warner, Norm Herd & Chuck Rolfe. Congratulations to all of you.

## 7<sup>th</sup> Annual Deep Divex 2002

Another Deep Divex was underway when I met the diving tenders Sooke and YDT 11 in Brentwood Bay. They were in week two of the 2-week exercise that ran from Sept. 16 to 27. In the first week, the dive teams had already completed detached MCM dives to 52 metres (170 fsw) in the Esquimalt area. The teams target depth for this exercise is 75 metres (246 fsw) detached MCM dives deploying the mine lifting bag.

Canada, FDU (P) hosted the international exercise this year. Nations that use the CUMA, SIVA+, and Viper dive sets take part in this exercise. This year Canada, Sweden, Norway, Holland and Portugal participated in the diving. Finland was also present as observers. They are currently in a procurement program for a new rebreather. Carlton Life Support Ltd were present to provide technical assistance.

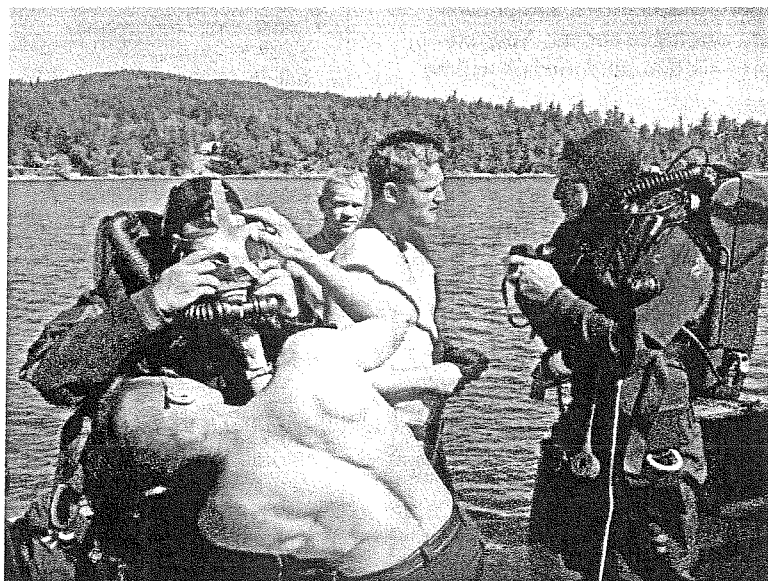
The exercise was a great success, the teams observe how other nations dive as well as compare problems and solutions.

Watching the Norway team dive I

couldn't help feel pride in the fact that they were using Canadian equipment and procedures to get the tasks done. They of course like all divers have their own set of signals but they speak a different language too. This is not a barrier though and it is very obvious to all attending that the dive teams are capable of interoperability.

While Sooke is the main MCM platform, YDT 11 was also used. The crew of YDT 11 was on standby for the chamber and also working up their own equipment. They had the remotely operated vehicle (ROV) in the water learning all about the sonar, cameras, and navigation system and how to link it all together.

The visiting divers found the equipment and location excellent for the Divex but they like other sailors were very impressed with Victorian night-life and how the local girls just loved their accents.



Above: Divers are buddied up and are ready to descend.

Left: Divers have a final check out and brief before entering water.

## Britain's ship comes in

Ottawa Citizen 2 Nov 2002

Salvagers and the British government stand to recover more than \$3.6 billion as they raise the world's richest shipwreck. Adam Lusher reports.

In September 2001, an unremarkable looking package arrived at the British Disposal Services Agency, an offshoot of the Ministry of Defence seemingly so obscure that even its officials joke about its "glamorous" title.

Packed with dry, archaeological analysis, the 90-page report from Odyssey Marine Exploration, a private company based in Tampa, Florida, contained a bombshell: The company said it had found the HMS Sussex, an 80-gunship that sank off the coast of Gibraltar in 1694.

The Sussex was not just any ship: On a top-secret mission, it was carrying gold coins worth more than \$3.6 billion in today's money when a ferocious storm overtook the ship, according to a series of recently unearthed spy reports and court documents.

The flagship of the Royal Navy, the Sussex was at the head of a mighty fleet of 166 merchant vessels and more than 40 men-of-war that set off from Portsmouth on Dec. 27, 1693 to destroy the forces of Britain's enemy, Louis XIV.

Somewhere in the bowels of the ship were iron chests packed with nine tonnes of gold coin, worth a million pounds in the 17th century, and much, much more now: Some estimates range as high as almost \$6.3 billion.

The chests were to be secretly delivered by Adm. Sir Francis Wheeler to the Duke of Savoy as a bribe on behalf of William III. The duke would then have allowed English troops to attack from the south, a gambit that would have given England the upper hand in its Nine Years' War against France, which broke out in 1689.

But the gold never reached the duke. A day out of Gibraltar, the Sussex was caught in a "Levanter," the notorious wind that has long been the scourge of the Mediterranean. The gale grew to an unprecedented ferocity, the kind seen only once in 100 years.

In the early-morning gloom on Feb. 19, 1694, as the log of the HMS Carlisle recorded: The Sussex "was foundered and not a soul saved but Turks." Two "Moors" were picked up by a British ship later that day.

Some historians speculate that if the Sussex really did contain a bribe for the Duke of Savoy, her wreck altered the course of history. The duke went over to the side of Louis XIV and the Nine Years' War petered out into stalemate.

The admiral's body was found on the eastern shore of Gibraltar, washed up, so legend has it, in his nightshirt. The secret of the buried gold died with him, and the Sussex was left beneath the waves, forgotten for 300 years.

Odyssey Marine had been searching for the ship since 1994, when an anonymous researcher appeared in the company's offices clutching a copy of a 17th-century document. It was a letter from a French spy in

Livorno, Italy, to his paymasters.

"The Admiral's ship of England was lost in the storm," wrote the spy. On board, he said, was a vast quantity of gold coins destined for the Duke of Savoy.

The more the team scoured the archives of England, Spain and the U.S., the more evidence they uncovered that the French spy had got it right. Hints of the secret plan had entered the British court records. "A great sum of money is sending hence for Savoy," said one entry in November 1693. Days before the Sussex left, the royal proceedings of Dec. 12, 1693 recorded that the king had ordered the exchequer to issue "a million pounds in money for the use of the Fleet."

The Odyssey team narrowed down the warship's possible location, and by

1998 they were ready to risk millions of dollars to scour the sea bottom. The search took three years.

There was only one wreck with cannon in the search area. In the summer of 2001, using a submersible robot, the team recovered a metre-long section of cannon, all but rusted away. Everything pointed to the wreck being the Sussex.

The report was dispatched to London. Then came the tense part: how to divide the booty. John Crockford and Geoff Reakes, project managers on the recovery of the Sussex for the British, along with a British Treasury official, met with the Odyssey team in May. "That was when I started smoking 50 cigarettes a day," jokes Mr. Reakes.

The first \$70 million of the treasure, if it is recovered, will be split 80-20 in favour of Odyssey. Anything between \$70 million and \$780 million will be split 50-50, and anything above \$500 million will be shared 60-40 in favour of the British government.

A full archaeological investigation is planned for next summer.

Are British officials excited at the prospect of recouping billions from the world's richest shipwreck?

"I am a civil servant," Mr. Reakes says. "I am not allowed to get excited. I use the words 'intellectual fascination.'"

Then he leans forward, his eyes sparkling, as he says: "Adm. Wheeler had his sealed orders to deliver this sum of money. I feel that I have got my sealed orders to go and get it back."

"The sea robbed us of our national wealth. For the best interests of the British taxpayers, I want it back."

London — The Sunday Telegraph

## Social Page

**Gerry Mailloux** had a severe Angina attack on Oct. 11th. He then had an Angiogram done on Oct. 22nd. It showed three arteries with blockages of 100%, 90%, 40% and one with 85% thus ruling out any use of the angioplasty balloon. Gerry said "The immediate goal is to get to the by-pass before any damage is done to the heart. It has been determined by the Halifax Cardiologist that, due to my active lifestyle, I somehow managed to avoid a heart attack despite the 100% blockage. Additional capillary arteries had grown over the area not getting blood so it was protected.

Needless to say, our life is going to be altered during this next phase. Fortunately I am content to do needle-point, read, watch TV, & play video games but I certainly miss my yard work, stained glass, etc. Ruth is now the Official Driver/ Task Master (She who must be obeyed!!!) for the medical appt. but she was told NOT to try to drive me to the hospital if I need to go."

Gerry's by-pass operation was December 10th, in Halifax. I understand all went well. Your friends at the CNDA wish you a speedy recovery. You can reach Gerry by email: [suncatcher@eastlink.ca](mailto:suncatcher@eastlink.ca) or snail mail: 25 Wile Crest Ave, RR#6 Truro, Nova Scotia B2N 5B4 (902) 893-7169

**Scott D'Arcy** wrote Chuck Rolfe 19 Oct 02: Just a few lines to say hello and hope this finds you and yours in good health. It's been a busy year for us. Wife had me remodel kitchen and then we took a short holiday to Dartmouth NS to visit with grandchildren. Got to pop into FDU (A) and see a few of the boys and of course drink a few freebies at Change of Command BBQ.

Hope to get to reunion next year but will have to wait and see. Take care and hope to see everyone then. (That is if God willing and the creek don't rise). You can reach Scott at: 36 Airey Ave., St Thomas ON, N5R 1C9 (519) 633-3321

**Stan and Joan Stephenson** have been in and out of the hospital in the last little while, however they have been getting better lately and are at home. Stan says to have a good Christmas season to all his guys on the East Coast.

**Dan Normandin** wrote 25 Nov 02: Hello George, Just got back home from a 7 months EOD trip from Calgary (4 months) to London Ont. (3 months) and happy to sit in front of the computer (still have a family too). I have had problems retrieving email so have changed server, my new address is [dannormandin19@videotron.ca](mailto:dannormandin19@videotron.ca) Someone at home did not follow up with Norton Symantec on a weekly basis and you can guess the rest. (A virus Dan?) I've returned to the hospi-

tal for part time. The rest will be UI.

**Darby Matthews** has seen some improvement from his stroke Oct 2001. He is working hard at physiotherapy and making some progress.

**Andy Desrochers** wrote 26 Nov 02, we have today 90 members, 5 life members, 7 associate members and 78 paid members. Before I took over, very few records were kept, I found a letter to C. Rolfe dating Nov. 26, 1996 and it states that we had 89 members at that time.

**Moe Coloumbe** wrote 19 Nov 02: Three weeks is not very long to dig up some dirt for the Dipper's Digest. Will try to keep you posted. We have a new "Hippie" on the Island as **Don Deane's wife Marilyn** has a new hip and can keep up with the old fart now. **The Balmforths** are off to the sunny south again after helping me break my boat motor. Never caught any fish either. I wish these so called fishermen would come when the fish are biting. They are Grandparents again. Had a good week of golfing with them and the **McRae's** this fall but didn't learn to hit the ball on the first try yet.

Sent and received an email to and from **Bud Sherlock** in Thunder Bay. He seems to be enjoying himself.

I am off to Seattle and Port Orchard Washington to bring back a 34 foot CHB Trawler for a former skipper student of mine from Jasper Alberta. He purchased it there and will put it in the fleet of rentals with Desolation Yacht Charters in Comox. Am praying for good weather and a minimum time away from my winter curling season.

**Paul LeGallais** is looking for a condo to rent at Mt Washington for a week of cross country skiing. We should all arrive to join him when he gets there to help him drink that good old rye. **Rocky Verscheres** and **Charlie Greengrass** are doing fine but don't get out for a beer with them that often as I got kicked out of the Legion last time. Have to behave myself next time! That's all the gossip from up Island so use whatever you want George. Keep tabs. You are doing a fine job. We are planning our trip east for next Sept so if anyone hears of cheap air rates then let us know.

**Jack Kristensen** wrote 19 Nov 02: **Andreas Kothleithner** has been promoted to a QC Manager, big move for a Canadian and first one. **Gordie Jones** is now the Demo Area Supervisor another big move. **Austin Baird** got Gordie's old job. Rest of us are still peons. Only 1 year left on the project so its a downhill slide. **Connie Constantine** is doing very well and he sounds like he is out of here by Jan. **Andy and Sharon Ouellette** are doing okay. Sharon is still going for treatments. Everyone else is fine. **Chad Naefkin** is coming here in the new year (for a visit). I will probably stay here in Maui on completion to continue my Golf with the PGA program. The head pro will sponsor me here.

**Congratulations - The FDU (P) Maritime EOD team** consist-



## Social Page (con't)

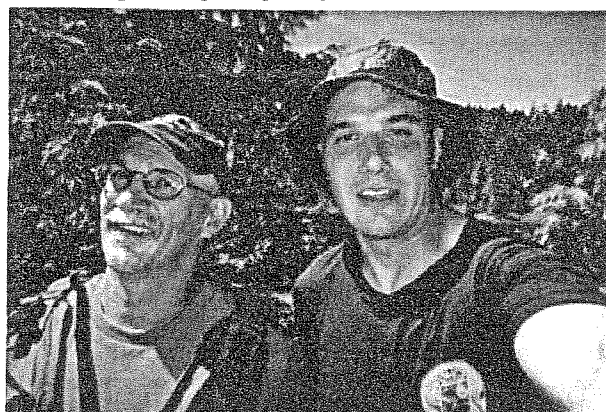
ing of Bernie Perron, Walter Dubeau, Daryl Colwell, Ken Ramsay and Warren Fulton have arrived home safely from their tour in the Middle East. The team were part of a security force responsible for the Fleet. Congratulations on a job well done.

A FDU (A) team is now deployed and we wish them a safe tour.

**Paul Luhowy** wrote 20 Nov 02 Hi George: The pics were taken along the Sayward Forest Canoe route. We covered about 65 km of paddling and portage in two and a

half days. I carried the canoe most of the way and Ron helped eat the food. He was good morale support though. It's an absolutely beautiful spot. We only encountered one other canoe and they were not even on the water. We'll probably do it again. I realize they aren't diving photos but thought you might be interested.

I'm doing well in the new career. (Saanich Police) It's quite exciting and also nice not to have to travel all over God's creation at a whim. (re: the Gulf).



Left: Ron McMillan and Paul Luhowy (using the long arm of the law for this photo)



## Photos bring underwater world to the surface

By Lynn Welbum The Star May 25, 2002

If you'd like a peep at the underwater world, you don't need to don a wet suit or scuba gear.

Just catch the art show on now at the Chemainus Theatre and see all the bright colours and wild critters that populate the West Coast's waters as captured by the underwater lens of Nanaimo diver and photographer, Mike Wetklo.

The show, which runs to the end of the theatre's production of *On Golden Pond*, features 18 photos of underwater invertebrates and some fish, many done with a macro lens offering some stunning close-ups of the marine life.

Wetklo, who works in the genetics laboratory of the Pacific Biological Station, has been diving since 1995 and got into underwater photography a couple of years later.

"I was fortunate enough to know someone with a camera, someone who'd been an instructor, a photographer, who had done it all," Wetklo says. "He had a camera I could use and pretty much from the first time I got my hands on it, I couldn't put it down. It was really addictive seeing things through the lens."

"Now I think of diving without the camera as an opportunity missed," says Wetklo, who will also show a collection of his photos at the University of Victoria from August 27 to Sept. 27.

He admits that by focusing on the photos, he might miss some of the other sensations that divers love, but says "It's an equal trade off. When I see something special and can photograph it, that makes up for anything else I might miss."

The show at Chemainus Theatre focuses on marine life from Vancouver Island to the Queen Charlottes and shows just how colourful an undersea world surrounds us, he says, something that's not fully appreciated by many people.

"The waters in the tropics are beautiful and you can't match the visibility of the waters there," he says, "but there is a lot of colour in the waters here too."

He uses a macro lens and many of the creatures he snaps are less than four inches across.

"There are corals, hermit crabs, some fish and you have to have a good light on your camera to really get the colour," says Wetklo. "Coral is not well known around here, but it's typical on high current areas and the waters around Port Hardy have some great coral areas."

The colours run from pink to red so they really contrast with the whites and yellows that you see in a lot of the other marine life."

You can see some of Wetklo's work on his website: [www.mwetklo.com](http://www.mwetklo.com)

Editor's Note: The next two articles are of particular importance to serving divers. The SISIP program works well as an income security plan but be aware it is not an insurance policy. All serving members should review their own insurance coverage, outside SISIP.

As stated in the articles, there are many organizations, such as the Royal Canadian Legion, and War Amps to help ensure soldiers get benefits they are due. Another organization hard at work is the National Council of Veteran Associations (NCVA). CNDA is a member in this association.



**Peter  
WORTHINGTON**

*'While there are many positive aspects of SISIP, the lack of compensation for loss of body parts is a glaring weakness....'*

## A hole in the safety net

The Ottawa Sun, Monday, July 29, 2002  
*Canada's service insurance program should consider giving soldiers who lose a limb or eye a lump sum – the current system doesn't do enough to compensate for such severe injuries*

The most damning indictment of our government's handling of the military is not equipment and weaponry that's older than most soldiers, but the treatment of those critically injured in the service of their country.

When Maj. Bruce Henwood lost both legs to an anti-tank mine while peacekeeping in Croatia in 1995 with the Lord Strathconas, he was shocked to learn the insurance plan he and all members of the Armed Forces must pay into is not insurance against injury, but a guaranteed income plan.

Unlike the British military's insurance plan, Canada's mandatory, low-cost Service Income Security Insurance Plan (SISIP) awards no compensation for critical injuries, but guarantees a wounded soldier 75% of his pay - providing pension and medical disability payments from the Department of Veterans Affairs don't add up to that percentage.

In Henwood's case, 23 years in the army meant a pension equalling 46% of his pay. When medical disability payments were added, the total was more than 75%, so his SISIP "insurance" meant nothing for his career ending, life-altering injury.

Sgt. Lorne Ford of the Princess Pats, who lost an eye when an American bomb was accidentally dropped on his regiment in Afghanistan, is waiting to see if the shattered nerves in his foot reconnect, or if it will have to be amputated.

He doesn't know what SISIP will do for him.

"I want to talk to them about my options, but so far I've heard nothing," he said by phone from Edmonton. With 13 years service, he'd like to stay in the army - "infantry

if possible, but I'll see what happens."

Sgt. Ford should know within a month whether his foot can be saved, but it's safe to say the Armed Forces won't want him now that he's lost an eye - and certainly won't if he loses his foot. His 13 years of service will result in 26% pension, plus whatever medical disability he can wrangle from DVA, which traditionally offers the minimum to injured soldiers, and gives increases only if the soldier appeals.

SISIP will give Ford no compensation for his lost eye or foot if it's amputated -- just a guarantee to make up the difference in his income to meet the 75% limit if disability payments don't reach that mark.

Maj. Henwood now has a good job with General Dynamics in Calgary.

He remains appalled that the DND insurance plan offers no compensation for loss of limbs or eyesight, as the British system does.

He's filed a grievance in hopes of having our system changed, but nothing seems to be happening. The Canadian Forces Grievance Board no longer answers Henwood's complaint, filed four years ago, and the board has in effect told the military ombudsman to butt out and mind his own business.

Again, the grievance board leisurely deals with individual cases, not systemic flaws that perpetrate injustice.

"My situation is better than many injured soldiers who can't or won't complain," says Henwood. "Someone has to speak for them. The system can't go on the way it is. There's no reason why we can't adopt aspects of the British army's insurance plan."

While there are many positive aspects of SISIP, the lack of compensation for loss of body parts is a glaring weakness, and one would think the board of directors that oversees SISIP would insist on correcting it. The board is chaired by the chief of defence staff and includes the vice-chief and deputy chief

## A hole in the safety net (con't)

and assorted defence officials.

If SISIP considers a soldier's eye, arm or leg is worth nothing, how about the British plan, called PAX? Regardless of rank, every member is entitled to buy up to 15 units of insurance. Each unit costs roughly \$4 a month - double that for family coverage - and each unit pays up to \$25,000 for loss of an eye or limb.

The maximum 15 units insurance, (costing about \$60 a month) pays a \$375,000 lump sum on death or loss of limb. The benefits are the same for all ranks. The family plan covers kids and spouses, and applies regardless of whether injuries occur in war, peace, on vacation or at home. (Only self-inflicted injuries or suicides are excluded.)

SISIP costs \$20 a month, or a maximum \$40 for increased coverage. Individual contributions are matched by the government.

SISIP rolls in money, collecting about \$50 million per year. A possibility for the board to consider would be, say,

a lump sum \$300,000 to soldiers who lose a limb or the eyesight. This might amount to roughly one soldier a year, or \$9 million over the last 3 years - a puny amount, considering the cash that flows in.

## Aren't aware

The sorry thing is that most soldiers aren't aware they aren't insured; those needing the most protection have the least coverage.

I'd argue that for military people in peacetime who suffer the sort of injuries Henwood, Ford and former Warrant Officer Matt Stopford endured, the government should assume they intended to serve a full 35 years and grant a full pension, plus disability benefits, plus a lump sum payment from SISIP.

When politicians say "Nothing is too good for our boys," too often that's exactly what the critically wounded get from SISIP. Nothing.

Worthington is the Sun's editor emeritus

## Shattered bodies and hollow words

Praise, but no compensation for Canadian soldiers maimed in the line of duty

Peter Worthington, The Toronto Sun, 14 July 2002

When four Canadian soldiers were killed by an American bomb in Afghanistan and eight others wounded, the whole of Canada reacted in a way unseen since World War II. And maybe not even then.

The Governor General, PM, politicians, the media and ordinary Canadians competed in paying tribute to their sacrifice: sympathy to families of the fallen; praise for the courage of soldiers; pride in the military. Rhetoric flowed. Nothing was too good for our troops.

For the moment.

One of those wounded was Sgt. Lorne Ford, 33, of Brampton, who lost an eye and was badly wounded in the leg. Admirably, his injuries didn't dampen his zeal for the army. He said he'd return to active duty "in a heartbeat."

Sadly, Sgt. Ford may be in for a shock greater, in its way, than the American bomb accidentally dropped on the Princess Pats. That is, his mandatory military insurance will pay him zilch for his eye, and his days as a soldier may be numbered, although at the moment he is on sick leave and hopes to be back by the time his unit returns from Afghanistan later this summer.

At the very least, Sgt. Ford would be wise to talk to Maj. Bruce Henwood, a career soldier (23 years in the army) who in 1995 had both his legs blown off by a Russian-made mine while peacekeeping in Croatia.

## Hollow words

Glowing words from our political leaders about soldiers killed or wounded in the service of their country ring hollow when one examines what happened to Henwood and other injured soldiers - and Henwood is one of the luckier ones.

Every soldier is required to pay into the military's low cost Service Income Security Insurance Plan (SISIP, which provides various benefits and services to members and their families.

Soldiers can purchase additional term life insurance (in Canada or overseas) but nothing extra for disability. SISIP is run by a private insurer, through the Department of National Defence, and appears on the DND Web site. Like most soldiers, Henwood thought he was covered by SISIP for his life-changing, career-ending injuries.

Henwood learned the hard way that SISIP is not an insurance plan for injuries, but an income security plan that guarantees soldiers (or family survivors) 75% of their income, including whatever service pension or medical pensions are paid through the Department of Veterans Affairs (DVA).

In Henwood's case, his pension and medical disability exceeds 75% of his pay, so he gets nothing for the loss of his legs. Added costs due to his disability are his worry, not SISIP's or the army's or the government's.

Henwood was shocked to learn this.

SISIP is hard to understand, and benefits can't be accurately estimated in advance. Henwood claims even SISIP officials briefed him incorrectly on benefits he might receive.

His outrage has since shifted from himself to the plight of other soldiers crippled or injured overseas, who are unwilling or less able to speak out.

## Shattered bodies and hollow words (con't)

In 1998, he told a startled standing committee on national defence and veterans affairs; "I have received and I will receive absolutely no benefits from SISIP whatsoever." (To me, he added; "My lost legs amounted to zero, worth nothing.")

He told the standing committee: "For years I was saying to my wife, 'If am hurt or killed, don't worry, SISIP will look after us.' It was only after I was injured that I found out that SISIP has failed me completely."

Thank goodness other organizations, such as the Royal Canadian Legion and War Amps, help navigate the DVA bureaucracy to ensure soldiers get benefits that are their due.

While Henwood campaigns to help others, it seems incredible that Canada would allow those maimed while serving their country not to be compensated for these serious and often life-changing wounds.

SISIP and DND remain impervious to the idea that a soldier blinded or dismembered overseas should get any compensation for loss, other than a guarantee 75% of income.

"In my case, my life changed completely when I lost my legs and my career," Henwood recalls. "So did the lives of my wife and three kids."

Henwood wanted to stay in the army, and felt he could still contribute from behind a desk. No way, said DND: he was medically unfit. (Apparently DND has never heard of Adm. Horatio Nelson, Field Marshal Archibald Wavell, one-legged Gen. John Hood, who fought through the U.S. Civil War strapped atop his horse or, more recently, Gen. Fred Franks of the U.S. Army, who lost a leg in Vietnam yet continued to serve.)

Henwood now works for General Dynamics in Calgary, but continues to fight for changes in SISIP so soldiers injured as he was, don't have to struggle to get fair and equitable compensation for their loss.

The need is vital. When former Princess Pat Warrant Officer Matt Stopford became blind in one eye and wracked with mysterious internal ailments from Croatia (where he was decorated for leadership under fire) his appeals for an increased medical pension were ignored until the media got involved. When his minimum disability pension was boosted, SISIP, incredibly, demanded he pay back some \$37,000 because his income now exceeded 75% of his former pay.

### Tip of the Iceberg

This is only the tip of the iceberg. Bizarre as it sounds, once the 75% pension income is exceeded, all other benefits are scrutinized. Because Henwood had a BA in history, he was disqualified from post-injury training, such as getting a teacher's certificate. The 75% is a cutoff for other support an individual might need.

It gets worse. If a soldier has less than 10 years service

and gets a career-ending wound, he gets no pension. If he's served over 10 years, he gets 2% of his pay for every year served. In other words, 11 years in the army would mean 22% of his pay as pension, but nine years' service would be worth nothing, with possibly a lump sum repayment of his pension contributions.

Henwood, with 23 years in the army, is entitled to 46% of his pay as pension (his income is supplemented by a veteran's disability pension).

Career soldiers retire at age 55 on full pension. If a soldier (or sailor or airman) gets a career-ending wound on active duty in peacetime, why can't the nation be generous and award a full pension, based on what it would be at age 55?

Why not 100% pension for Maj. Henwood instead of 46%? (Maximum pension is 70% -2% for 35 years). Clearly, his legs are more valuable than any pension, and he lost them in the service of his country.

Inflated rhetoric about pride, gratitude, honour to our troops in Afghanistan, the Balkans, wherever, seems empty when one examines how our wounded are treated. At the very least, there should be fair compensation for loss of sight or limb.

Henwood says the Royal Bank pays severely injured employees a lump sum of six times annual salary as compensation, in addition to disability and medical benefits. He says such an accident to a member of Parliament entails a lump sum payment of \$250,000.

For a soldier- nothing.

### Turf war

Henwood has appealed to the Military Grievance Board - which won't even answer his calls. He's gone to the military ombudsman, who was also ignored by the grievance board. A turf war ensues.

The chief of defence staff, vice chief, deputy chief, a bunch of deputy ministers and senior NCOs, totaling at least 16, comprise the board which is responsible for all non-public activities inside the military "family." How in conscience can those officers who oversee SISIP tolerate "insurance" that isn't actually insurance but a guaranteed income plan?

If the board won't act, why not get Parliament involved? If the public raised hell, believe me, there'd be changes. Clearly something is wrong.

If Canada is grateful to those who serve in Canada's name, as our PM, G-G and others insist, perhaps we should, look at how those irreparably damaged in Canada's name are treated. There should be equitable compensation based on actual loss, not on meeting some pension income criteria.

### November 30, 1933 WW I

Remembrance Day brought to mind a number of incidents in connection with the Great War, which we will do well always to remember.

Of the 69,636 men who enlisted in the Canadian Expeditionary Force, 62 received the prized distinction of the Victoria Cross, 2,886 were awarded the Military Medal; 1,354 the Meritorious Service Medal; and 12,041 the Military Medal. Truly a splendid record for Canada.



## Report - NCVA Annual Meeting

### NATIONAL COUNCIL OF VETERANS ASSOCIATIONS (NCVA)

Norm Herd (CNDA President) and Chuck Rolfe attended the NCVA Annual Meeting in Toronto, Ontario on 5 Nov 2002 representing Canadian Naval Divers. Some items of interest are:

1. Cliff Chadderton, NCVA Chairman commented that we do not have any of our 46 Member Organizations willing to be absorbed into the Canadian Legion (as they proposed) and that we wish to continue to be the prime Veterans representative group.
2. Two new Veterans organizations (Metropolitan Toronto Police War Veterans Assn & the Ontario Metis Veterans Assn) became NCVA members this year. Four others requested membership (Queens Own Rifles of Canada Assn, Canadian Scottish Regimental Assn, Black Watch Assn & Naval WRENS Assn) who were verbally accepted also. It is noted that all member organizations consist of 100% ex Military memberships, whereas the Legion is now 53% civilians and only 47% Veterans.
3. We note that whenever Cliff Chadderton has discussions with Public or Government officials concerning the varied NCVA members, he usually mentions 4 or 5 specific ones and, more often than not, our Association (NAVAL DIVERS) is one of them, which of course makes us better known.
4. Brian Forbes (NCVA Secretary General and a Lawyer) stated that the Veterans Affairs Canada/CF Advisory Council on which he and Cliff are members, have said they "Were going to reallocate budgetary items (read somebody is going to be a financial loser) Cliff & Brian are there on our behalf to ensure that Veterans are not the loser!
5. The 16 VALIANT HEROES STATUES PROJECT was reported to have been can-

celled by senior un-elected Government bureaucrats. As the Prime Minister and the majority of Canadians had approved this project previously, we were curious as to what caused an un-elected bureaucrat to cancel it. Evidently it was stated that because Canada is a Peace-loving country, we should, not be focusing attention on our War Heroes. Perhaps if everyone wrote a letter of protest to Sheila Copps, Minister Canadian Heritage, Leger Building 12th Floor, 15 Eddy St, Hull QC K1A 0M5 indicating our disgust at this action and how deeply affronted we are as Naval Veterans to write off our history, they may reinstitute it again. There are two sea-going people included with these valiant figures. Incidentally, Heritage Canada has \$22,000,000.00 being spent on Remembrance/Commemorative projects!

6. NCVA has put forward proposals to the Federal Government to award the PACIFIC STAR medal to members of the FIRST SPECIAL SERVICE FORCE who served in the Aleutians. Also special medals be struck and awarded for: POW's; Battle of Normandy and Red Cross Overseas Corps & other civilians.

7. It is recommended that Special Duty Areas for our Armed Forces include:
- Domestic emergencies i.e. Manitoba flood, 1998 Ice Storm, etc.
  - Exceptional exposure to hostile forces i.e. Oka aboriginal crisis
  - Service in hazardous domestic environments i.e. ALERT Base in the High Arctic
  - Special missions i.e. hostage rescues.

Charles V. Rolfe  
8 Nov 2002

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## Editor's Corner

Another year has come and gone with still more amazing events to shake us up. Our world may seem to tighten around us but as we celebrate Christmas - Christ's birth, I hope that you can all find a measure of Peace. My hope is that this peace will carry forward with you into the New Year.

With 2003 just days away I trust all or most of you will be able to make it to Halifax in September for our reunion. Our president, Norm Herd has discussed with chapter executives in regards to having a Clearance Diving Jubilee Celebration during our reunion. The official date is in February 2004. Please forward your ideas on what you would like to see to commemorate this occasion, i.e. coin, plate, beer mug etc.

By the time you folks receive this newsletter the CNDA website will be updated. In the next year there will be more information posted on the site about the reunion and hopefully more archive photos of our past. I would like to include a history section. If you are storing photos and stories from the past, please forward them to be included.

Most divers that I know have a treasure trove of photos that are only significant to themselves and other divers. Please consider sharing them with the diving community rather than be a burden to your spouse and family. I can also make copies if you would like them back..

## Woman dies in bid to break freediving record

THE OTTAWA CITIZEN Oct 13, 2002  
DOMINICAN REPUBLIC

A Frenchwoman attempting to break the world freediving record died yesterday shortly after plunging into the sea near La Romana.

Audrey Mestre, attached to a pulley and weighted sled, was pulled up by divers nine minutes after she sunk below the surface without oxygen.

Medics tried to resuscitate her at a beach hotel, but she was declared dead shortly after the effort.

Ms. Mestre was trying to break the world record of 531.5 feet set by her husband, Cuban Francisco "Pipin" Ferreras, also in La Romana. Ms. Mestre set the female world record last year, plunging to a depth of 426.5 feet off the coast of Fort Lauderdale, Florida.

