



12 September 2015

1. Call to Order - 0900 hrs
2. Approval of Previous Minutes
3. Correspondence - In
 - Out
4. Reports - President- See Appendix "A"
 - Vice President-
 - Public Relations Director
 - Membership Director
 - Secretary - See Appendix "B"
 - Treasurer - See Appendix "B"
 - Directors
5. Old Business(A) DIPPERS DIGEST(Number of Pages & Disclaimer)
 (B) Navydiver.ca Webmaster(Constitution on Website)
 (C) National Membership Numbers
 (D) Reunion Report
 (E)
 (F)
 (G)
 (H)
6. New Business(A) Future of CNDA
 (B) Sesquicentennial Medals in 2017
 (C) RCN Diving Branch History from Members
 (D) National Treasurer
 (E) Appoint National Secretary & Election of Officers
 (F) Request for West Coast Information
7. Next Meeting
8. Adjournment



FOUNDED
HALIFAX, N.S.
1981

FOUNDING MEMBERS

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

First President
Stanley F. Watts

**MINUTES OF THE 11th CNDA BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING
12 SEPTEMBER 2015**

1. The meeting was called to order at 0900 hrs by the National Chairman, Wally Green at the Langford Legion in Victoria, British Columbia. Representatives attending were:
Wally Green(CNDA National Chairman) Andre Desrochers(Eastern Chapter)
Chuck Rolfe(CNDA Secretary/Treasurer) Gary Schonekess(Ottawa Chapter)
Tim Flath(Webmaster/DIPPERS DIGEST) Tom Essery(Western Chapter)
Also attending as on-lookers were:
Walter Dubeau, Doug Hinchliffe and Art Beaumont
2. The Minutes of the 10th Board of Directors Meeting held on 13 September 2012 at the Super 8 Hotel in Dartmouth, Nova Scotia was Motioned for acceptance by Andre Desrochers, Seconded by Gary Schonekess – Carried.
3. CORRESPONDENCE: The Secretary handled all incoming and outgoing correspondence to the National Office, forwarding those that were important to all Directors, as required, for their input. A proposal was made to have all communications retained on file(archived), however the Secretary stated that this would be far too time consuming and onerous a task for him to conduct. It was proposed that only those communications which entailed important aspects of the Association's policy or business be retained, which was accepted.
4. REPORTS: President's – See Appendix "A"
Secretary's – See Appendix "B"
Treasurer's – See Appendix "B" Motioned by Tom Essery, Seconded by Andre Desrochers that the Financial Report be accepted as presented – Carried.
Director's – See Appendix "A" for Ottawa Chapter Report.
Director's – For Western Chapter Report, Tom Essery and Tim Flath, Co-Directors stated their President, Dave Finlay(XO of FDU{P})was appointed to DRDC in Toronto, and they had taken over his responsibilities on an interim basis until the resolution of Item 6 (A) Future of CNDA is discussed.
5. OLD BUSINESS: (A) Tim Flath, Editor of the DIPPERS DIGEST proposed that the present restriction of limiting the DIGEST to 5 sheets of paper(10 pages of information) be lifted, since most Members should now be receiving it by email. Andy Desrochers informed all that he still sends 24 hard copies in the mail to Eastern Members who do not have the use of a computer. Ottawa only sends 4 hard copies to Members. It was therefore resolved to continue limiting the DIGEST to 5 sheets of paper. It was also agreed that Tim Flath would include a disclaimer statement in the DIGEST to the effect that all stories published are the words of the person writing the story, and are not the responsibility of CNDA.

(B) The navydiver.ca Webmaster, Tim Flath states that the present website is quite cumbersome in conducting our operations, therefore he is currently looking at up-grading it to a new system, such as WIX, or wyzzy wyg – what you see is what you get. This will allow for an alternate operator to use it when required, in case the webmaster is unavailable for whatever reason. All Directors agreed that Tim continue investigating, and up-grade the system as he finds appropriate. Tim states the current cost for us to use the present system is around \$122.00 annually, and that a new system may cost more. It was further agreed that our Minutes of Meetings be installed on the website where it is available for reading by the public, rather than it be limited to reading by the Association's Executive only.

(C) Membership numbers are 117, with 4 Life Members in the Eastern Chapter, 48 in the Western Chapter(1 Life Member) and 34(1 Life) in the Ottawa Chapter. Ottawa Chapter put forth Norm Herd and Tom Essery for induction into CNDA for Life Membership, Western Chapter put forth Surgeon Captain Derek Kidd for Life Membership and Eastern Chapter put forth Alan Sagar for Life Membership, and there was unanimous approval for all four new Life Members.

(D) Tim Flath and Tom Essery stated that those registering and paying to attend the 2015 Reunion was very slow in the first half of the year, but picked up considerably as it neared the actual Reunion date, which the Reunion Committee were most pleased to see – 78 was the final figure for those who attended. The arrangement of hotel accommodations for 10 rooms at the preferred rate of \$129.00 could have been increased somewhat, however most attendees made arrangements for their rooms with the Four Points by Sheraton Victoria Gateway Hotel at a slightly higher rate anyway. The Meet and Greet on Friday evening in the FDU(P) Mess was most enjoyable with great food, busy bar service and more salty tales told by the swinging lamp! The Reunion official photographer, Les Andrews took an early photo of all the Divers in one picture, then another of all the ladies and Divers together at the Meet & Greet, since some of those present may not be taking in the Dinner/Dance, at which he would be taking the Official Reunion photograph. All photos taken will be put on our website by Tim Flath. With the new security aspects now in effect, we see how the terrorists have affected our gaining access to FDU(P) – not easy anymore. On Saturday afternoon some 30 people boarded the Dive Tender for a tour of Esquimalt Harbour and a quite pleasant transit to Albert Head, where many of our buddies ashes have been buried at sea. The Dinner/Dance on Saturday evening took place at the Langford Legion with a large gathering of the clan enjoying the meal and dancing to the great DJ music. We had a most important and honoured guest, RCN(ret)Surgeon Captain Derek J. Kidd(92 years young)and his wife, Patricia at the head table. Red Larsen gave us Dr. Kidd's biography and accomplishments, the most important of which was the development of the Canadian Pneumatic Analogue Decompression Computer which allows the Diver to read his diving profile of gas release while surfacing from deep dives. Sunday morning was time for brunch before everyone dispersed for home. All the saleable goods were available for purchase at the Meet & Greet, just before the Boat Tour and at the Sunday Brunch, with all the proceeds being deposited in the National Bank Account. Funds from the National Bank Account are for the benefit of all our Members.

6. **NEW BUSINESS:** (A) The Western Chapter proposed that they amalgamate with the Ottawa Chapter as of 1 January 2016, with the Provinces of Ontario out to British Columbia to be named the CNDA Western Chapter, and the Provinces of Quebec to Newfoundland to be named CNDA Eastern Chapter. Their reasoning behind this is that their Chapter's President, RCN LCdr Dave Finlay(XO of FDU{P}) was appointed to the Defence Research and Development Canada – Toronto(DRDC, the old DCIEM), and their Chapters Treasurer/Membership Director retiring, there were no volunteers coming forward to fill these positions. This has been an on-going problem for a number of years lately. The Ottawa Chapter then stated they would accept this amalgamation, with the proviso that there be a Representative from

the West Coast as a position on the new CNDA Western Chapter Executive. The Eastern Chapter stated they were initially not in agreement to this new entity, but would prefer the total country become one entity, with that then being solely called CNDA! However, upon further reflection, they now believe the two proposed Chapters would be the better solution. There was much discussion concerning the avenues to follow to bring this to a positive conclusion. The National Sec/Treas. stated that he had already considered, and documented, some of the details of how best to proceed, so he will prepare a document as to how amalgamation is to be accomplished, and forward it to the Chapters and Directors to review before proceeding further. Tim Flath proposed that Walter Dubeau be the West Coast interim Representative until a final resolution is agreed upon, thereafter becoming the permanent Representative, which was unanimously approved by the Directors. Tim Flath Moved that the Ottawa and Western Chapters amalgamate as of 1 January 2016, and that the necessary details be worked out between the two Chapters, Seconded by Andre Desrochers – Carried unanimously. Tim Flath Moved that the Ottawa and Western Chapters financial resources be pooled by agreement of both Chapters, Seconded by Tom Essery – Approved unanimously.

(B) The Secretary/Treasurer, who had been appointed as the Co-ordinator for the Queen Elizabeth II Diamond Jubilee Medal in 2012, stated how our Association had not been acknowledged as a "Partner Organization", who were authorized to get up to 80 medals to issue to their own members, by the Governor General's Chancellery selection Committee. Therefore we must plan to have a letter sent to the Chancellery, at the latest by early in 2016, to the effect that we be authorized as a Partner Organization for the proposed 2017 Sesquicentennial Medal. Both the Submariner's Association and the Merchant Marine Association were each given 80 Diamond Jubilee Medals in 2012, and they both had memberships under 400 people! It is proposed for each Chapter to have bio's ready of at least 10 Members to show they deserve being authorized to receive the 2017 medal.

(C) The Sec/Treas. reported that both he and the President had been in contact with RCN Lt. Jason Delaney, Historian in DND's Directorate of History and Heritage, who provided us with some early documentation showing how the Diving organization was operated in the 1940's, 50's & 60's, which gave us a better perspective of how we became an actual Diving Branch within the RCN. Before the date of 1954, diving was under the aegis mainly of the Gunnery Branch. Lt. Delaney wanted our Association to go to our Members to document their history and provide these taped interviews to him. We requested volunteers to do these interviews, but no volunteers came forth! Since Chuck Rolfe had previously been writing stories from some WW II Divers for the older DIPPERS DIGESTs back in the 1990's, he decided to write stories from current members times and include them in a format called the **RCN DIVING BRANCH HISTORY – Part ____** for histories sake, before they are gone. It was fortunate in that he had some very knowledgeable Divers(both Men and Officers) who have provided thorough data and information to be included, such as Red Larsen, Roy Busby, Ken Whitney, Tom Essery, Jim Balmforth and many others. There are all kinds of important stories/data/information in each one of us, but this will all be lost when we cross over the bar. You are all urged to at least put it down on paper, send it off to Chuck Rolfe who will take care of having it produced, after which it will be provided to DND's Directorate of History and Heritage to be retained for inclusion in a future official book. Your story will also be used in the DIPPERS DIGEST and/or on the website for posterities sake.

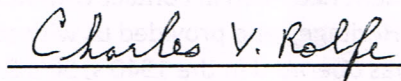
(D) The Association's President emailed a request for a volunteer to take over the National Treasurers position from Chuck Rolfe, as he is now 81 years old and wishes to step down, but no volunteer came forward – an on-going search continues(also see Treasurer's Report).

(E) Nominations for the position of all National Officers of CNDA were opened. There being no nominations, all the present Officers stated they will continue in office for the next three years.

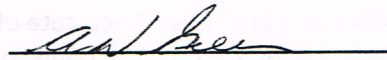
President – Wally Green
Vice President – Andre Desrochers
Treasurer – Charles Rolfe
Appointed Secretary – Charles Rolfe
Webmaster – Tim Flath
DIPPERS DIGEST Editor – Tim Flath

(F) The Eastern Chapter requested that a person on the West Coast send information concerning what events or other items of interest, such as meetings, Banyans, BBQs, retirements, deaths, socials, etc. etc. be forwarded to them, as they rarely hear about what is happening with their West Coast buddies. Walter Dubeau said he will help as much as possible with this situation.

7. THE 2018 REUNION is scheduled to be held on the East Coast, with an approximate date being September 2018, at which time the 12th Board of Directors will convene for a meeting.
8. There being no further business, it was Moved by Gary Schonekess, Seconded by Andre Desrochers that the meeting be adjourned at 1032 hrs – Carried.



Secretary



President

2015 Minutes, Appendix "A"

2015 Presidents Report

During this term I have represented CNDA at the annual meetings of the National Council of Veteran Associations every year. As a participating Member of NCVA, CNDA is informed of all work being undertaken on behalf of Veterans. All information received is circulated to our members by the CNDA Secretary. In 2014 I received a phone call from Lt. Jason Delaney, Historian with DND Directorate of History and Heritage, asking if he could interview me on the early days of the Clearance Diver Branch, and about the 1956 DEW Line trip. As part of his duties, Lt. Delaney was going to write a paper on the history of diving in the RCN, and he had questions regarding the equipment we used at that time(1955), and the type of explosives we used for demolition work. At one of our meetings, Lt. Delaney produced an old and much faded wall chart with a heading of **EAST COAST** that he had found in the archives. He did not know what it was, but thought it might be connected with diving, and asked if it was of any interest to me. Upon closer examination, it turned out to be a list of all the DV Divers on the East Coast, listing 34 DV's, all of whom would be required to take a conversion course to become qualified as Clearance Divers(CD's). Lt. Delaney allowed me to borrow the chart, which I turned over to the CNDA Secretary, Chuck Rolfe in order to have it reproduced on photographic paper in a clear concise manner. A copy was then sent off to the FDU's on East and West Coasts. There were a number of questions that came up during the interview that needed clarification, so I prepared a paper on the first CD Course on the East Coast and sent it to Lt. Delaney. In accordance with the wish of the West Coast CNDA Chapter, I also authorized the purchase of saleable goods, for sale at the 2015 Reunion by the National Secretary.

CNDA Ottawa Chapter Report

The Ottawa Chapter has been quite busy over the past 3 years responding to many queries about our Naval Divers Association. We have provided assistance to some of our members who wished to get information from Veterans Affairs Canada(VAC) about their VIP(Veterans Independence Program) Benefits, in which we referred them to contact the Legion's Service Officers, whose job it is to assist them to make the application. In addition, for one member in particular who was having problems because VAC was reducing some of his VIP benefits, we sought further assistance from the National Council of Veteran Associations, who is now looking into his case with VAC. We also received some requests by relatives of deceased Diver, to ask if we had any photographs or historical data of their fathers. We have offered to write up short biographical stories about two of their father's time in the RCN Diving Branch. The Ottawa Chapter is currently preparing write-ups of some members for making applications for the medals which will be presented in 2017 for the 150th (Sesquicentennial Medal) Anniversary of Canada. We don't want to be caught short like what happened with the QE II Diamond Jubilee Medal, when some Veteran Organizations were authorized to award up to 80 medals, but we weren't!! Chuck Rolfe, Ottawa Sec/Treas. Is currently doing a long term project of writing up an ad hoc version of the **RCN DIVING BRANCH HISTORY** in various **Parts**. Our Chapter has been offered the volunteer services of a legal advisor, Sara Collins, to advise us should we require her services, which we have accepted. Because she is involved with many other organizations, she also has priority access to agencies who provide sporting wear, and has already saved us over \$500.00 when we purchased Polo shirts, T-shirts & Ball Caps for the 2015 Reunion. Sara is very computer literate, and advises us with any problems that come up in this aspect, as well.