

Canadian Coast Guard Association

Summer 2008 Newsletter



Bamfield Lifeboat – photograph by Mike Mitchell. (See: "Lifeboat Centenary" on Page3 – Ed.)

Contributions to our Newsletter are welcomed and encouraged. Many thanks to all who contributed material for this edition. Please pass all input to: Alec Provan, Editor, 2656 Bukin Drive E., RR #7, Victoria, B. C., V9E 1H4 Telephone: (250) 479-9132; E-mail: aprovan@shaw.ca The number of photographs printed in the Newsletter has been kept to a minimum, in order to avoid unnecessary printing costs. Members with access to the internet can view additional photographs on the Editor's website <http://members.shaw.ca/aprovan/>, by clicking on the photo gallery and CCGA pages. Members are encouraged to forward pictures to the Editor for publication on the website. The Newsletter is also available on the Coast Guard Alumni website at <http://ccgalumnimaritimes.com/>.

Short history of the Canadian Coast Guard Association

“An informal group of 12 Retired Coast Guard Officers met for a Christmas Lunch at the Princess Mary in 1988 and the number increased to 96 by 1995, due largely to the dedication and hard work of Migs Turner. A Canadian Coast Guard Retired Officer's Association Steering Committee was formed in March 1995 to determine the future of the Association. It was agreed that Art Mountain would chair a small working group to look into incorporating under the Societies Act of B.C. On June 20, 1996, Art was elected President of the newly formed Canadian Coast Guard Association and began the process of incorporation which was completed on July 17, 1996. We now have over 150 members.”

Contents of Summer 2008 Newsletter

1. Greetings from President
 2. Membership Dues and Updates
 3. Our Summer 2008 Luncheon and Annual Meeting on Thursday, June 5th at the Royal Victoria Yacht Club.
 4. Agenda for the Annual Meeting on June 5, 2008.
 5. Planning for Christmas 2008 Luncheon.
 6. "Bamfield Lifeboat Centenary", by Clay Evans.
 7. Obituaries.
 8. "Dots and Dashes", by Ted Severud
- Appendix – Membership Application Form.

1. Greetings from the President.



The June Luncheon will see me joining the ranks of distinguished Past Presidents, gentlemen and scholars all. I will continue to work for the Association, subject to your approval at the AGM as one of Visitors to those who are hospitalised or sick. For me my term as President has been most enjoyable and I have become pretty slick at phone tag particularly close to luncheon dates. Most of all I have been blessed with an Executive which in all of its iterations has been a wonderful team to work with and be a part of. There has also been a willing crew that have helped out at luncheons, you have met them at the door, been driven to and from ferries or venues or been sent a card or visited when the situation required. To all these I would say a heartfelt THANKYOU for jobs well done. This Newsletter will record a number of members who have crossed the bar. I know they will be looking down and joining in the general hubbub of our June luncheon and equally they will remain in our memories. In conclusion I would wish Terry Weber (assuming you will vote him in) all the best as President and hope like me that he finds that CCGA is made up of a whole lot of wonderful characters that make life very pleasant. Bill Dancer

2. Membership Dues and Updates

Treasurer, **Bill McKechnie**, wishes to remind those who have not yet paid their 2008 membership dues that, for the convenience of members, these may be paid at the Summer Luncheon. Annual dues will remain at \$5.00 for the year 2008. If you are unable to attend the Summer luncheon you can mail your dues to Captain W. McKechnie, 2010 Corniche Place, Victoria, BC V8N 6C1. Please note that the spouses of deceased members are most welcome to continue as associate members of the CCGA (annual dues remain at \$5.00 per year to cover costs.)

Secretary **Bob Manning** reminds members to keep us informed of any changes to telephone numbers, mailing addresses and/or email addresses. Changes should be emailed to **Frank Statham** fstatham@telus.net or **Bob Manning** at rlert@telus.net , or by regular mail to Robert Manning, 580 Palisade Drive, North Vancouver, BC V7R 2J1.

Remember to keep our Service Committee informed about how our members are doing. Anyone knowing of a member (or member's spouse) who is ill, or who has suffered a family bereavement or problem and/or who may need a little help, comfort or recognition, please give **Sandy Kelley, Joan Scharf or Bill Dancer** a call. We will be pleased to see if there is any way our organisation can be of assistance, and to let fellow members who may be concerned know of the situation. Sandy can be reached at 382-2706. Joan Scharf can be reached at 477-1390 and Bill Dancer at 721-5273.

3. Summer 2008 lunch and Annual Meeting – Royal Victoria Yacht Club.

WHEN: Thursday, June 5th, 2008. 11:30: - Mingle; 12:00: - Luncheon starts.

AIM: To relax, yarn, enjoy the Luncheon Buffet and celebrate the coming Holiday Season with friends and colleagues in the dining room of the Royal Victoria Yacht Club (RVYC), 3475 Ripon Road, Victoria.

WHO: Coast Guard Association members, Coast Guard Retirees, their Spouses and Guests and serving Coast Guards are most welcome!

COST: \$20.00 per person, including gratuity. There will be the usual "No Host" Bar.

To facilitate catering, we need to give the Yacht Club staff firm numbers not later than Monday, June 2 and we are liable for the numbers reserved. To avoid disappointment, please reserve your place(s) with one of the following as soon as possible (or reserve by email to Bill Dancer w.dancer@telus.net)

Island: Migs Turner 592-1198 Bill Dancer 721-5273 Bob Baird (answering machine) 477-3605

Mainland: Bob Manning 604-986-4638 Herb Adrian (Surrey) 604-596-9355 Cec Rempel (Chilliwack) 858-1983 Diana Miskell 319-8142.

(Herb. Please co-ordinate with Bob, Cec and Diana and pass information to Bill Dancer

w.dancer@telus.net Bill will co-ordinate with the Yacht Club re number of reservations. Thanks!)

Mark 11:30 Thursday, June 5th on your calendar and make your RESERVATIONS NOW!

For Vancouver/Mainland attendees: Usual ferry arrangements prevail. Please let Herb, Cec or Diana know by June 2. As usual, if you catch the 9 a.m. BC Ferry as a foot passenger from TSAWWASSEN (free if you are a senior) we will meet you in SWARTZ BAY. After lunch, we will aim to get you back to SWARTZ BAY in time for the 3 p.m. ferry.

Volunteer Drivers: We thank John Adams for being available as our "ferry pick up driver" for our last luncheon. (***Would anyone prepared to help out on June 5th please phone Bill Dancer 721-5273.***)

4. Agenda For the Annual General Meeting June 5, 2008.

1. Call to Order.
2. Approval of the Minutes of the June 7, 2007, Annual General Meeting (the Minutes were contained in the Christmas, 2007 Newsletter – copies will be available at the meeting.)
3. Approval of actions taken by the Executive on behalf of the CCGA since the last meeting.
4. Reports a) General Report to Members b) The Treasurer's Report
5. Elections (*See President's Greetings – Ed*)
6. New Business
7. Adjournment Bill Dancer, President Bob Manning, Secretary Bill McKechnie, Treasurer

5. Planning for our Christmas 2008 Luncheon

Date and location for the Christmas 2008 luncheon – December 4, 2008 at the Royal Victoria Yacht Club (RVYC), 3475 Ripon Road, Victoria.

6. "Bamfield Lifeboat Centenary", by Clay Evans

The community of Bamfield, BC, and the crew of the Canadian Coast Guard's Bamfield Lifeboat Station invite you to celebrate a century of saving those in peril on the sea. 2008 will mark the 100th anniversary of the establishment of the Lifeboat Station and the arrival at Bamfield of the world's first purpose-built coastal "motorized" lifeboat (MLB), designed by the United States Life-Saving Service and built by the Electric Boat Company in Bayonne, New Jersey, USA.

There are several events planned, including a Friday night reception at the Rix Centre for Ocean Studies, a historical symposium focusing on lifeboats and lifesaving on the Saturday and Sunday mornings and a Centennial Dinner and Concert planned for the Saturday evening with a performance by well-known local folk musician, Valdy. Finally, on Sunday there will be a community BBQ, sponsored by the Canadian Coast Guard and to top it off, there will be several visiting boats, including HMCS Oriole, a USCG 47' motor lifeboat from the National Motor Lifeboat School at Cape Disappointment, Wa., the ex-missionary boat Messenger III and the ex- Tofino Lifeboat, Dixie IV.

A good time should be had by all, tickets are \$100 all-inclusive and can be ordered through the registrar@bamfieldlifeboat100.ca. If you are considering coming, it is highly recommended that you arrange accommodations in advance. For more details, check out the Centenary website at www.bamfieldlifeboat100.ca

7. Obituaries.

Richard L. “Rick” Craven, June 11, 1954 - November 19, 2007 .

Rick passed away peacefully after a brief illness. Rick spent 33 years working for the Canadian Coast Guard and spent his career taking care of the West Coast light stations. He was a carpenter by trade and was often flying to remote locations on the coast by helicopter to maintain the lighthouses. His many friends and co-workers will remember Rick as a happy guy who had life throw some challenges at him.

(Extract from Times-Colonist Obituary- Ed.)



Hugh MacDonald, 1925-2008. Survived by his wife, partner, and love of his life, Joan Scharf, and his five children: Eric (Linda), Ian, Doug, Heather (Paul), and Robb, four stepchildren: Diane (David), Cathy (Michael), Rick (Adele), Michael, and seven grandchildren: Shawn, Kyle, Zachary, Garrett, Yanik, Brianne, and Christopher. Predeceased (with fond memories) by his first wife, Norma, the mother of his five children. Born in Toronto, March 26, 1925, brought up mostly in Ottawa, but moved more than 50 times (excluding war service), from Halifax to Prince Rupert and Victoria, and several points in between! Served as a staff pilot in the RCAF, 1942-

1945. Graduated from the University of Toronto, Victoria College, and the Society of Industrial Accountants of BC (RIA). Worked for the Royal Bank (Ottawa, Montreal and Moncton), Industrial Acceptance Corp., Alberta Treasury Branch, Husky Oil, Lewis Stationery Co., and the federal Govt. (Transport Canada and, the final 20 years, to 1985, the Canadian Coast Guard). Extract from Obituary in the Victoria Times-Colonist on 3/11/2008.

Beverly Doreen Graham (Botrakoff). Born December 29, 1936 Edson, Alberta, died November 21, 2007 Victoria, BC. After a long and courageous battle with lung cancer she was called home. Predeceased by her loving husband George Graham, June 2005. Leaving to mourn her loss are sons Jim, Keith (Jean); daughters Marjorie, Muriel (Eric); grandchildren Christopher (Alexandra), Adina (Ray), Andrew, Kelsea; and great granddaughter Abigail. Also leaving numerous nieces and nephews and two sisters Janet (Bob) Richmond of Kelowna and Bell Quick of Prince George. Mom and Dad fly free with the angels you will be forever loved and missed. In lieu of flowers please donate to either Victoria Cancer Clinic or the Victoria Heart and Stroke Foundation. Celebration of Remembrance to be held at the family home, 1319 Chan Place, Victoria BC. on Saturday November 24, 2007 from 1pm 4pm. Fly with the angels together again forever. Published in the Victoria Times-Colonist from 11/23/2007 - 11/24/2007.



George Livesey (1931-2007)

George passed away in Royal Jubilee Hospital, Victoria on November 5th, 2007. He was born in 1931 in Windsor, Ontario and raised in nearby Kingsville. After completing his school education in Ontario, George trained to be an upper-air technician with the Canadian Meteorological Service. His initial posting was to Clyde River on Baffin Island. In 1961, an offer of a position onboard the old weather ship CCGS Stonetown enabled him to move to the west coast. In all, he was to spend 19 years at Ocean Station Papa, both onboard the Stonetown and later on the new weather ship, CCGS Quadra, when it began service in 1967. George was twice the

OIC onboard the Quadra – in 1974 when the vessel participated in the GATE experiment off West Africa, and later in 1979-1981 before the vessel was decommissioned. After leaving the Quadra, following the closure of Station Papa in 1981, George and Andree moved to Prince George where he became the Officer-in-Charge of the Upper Air Station. Later, when that program was terminated, he became a presentation technician at Prince George airport. He retired in the late 1990s and soon afterwards moved to Victoria where he and Andree enjoyed many years of happy retirement. He will be sadly missed by Andree, numerous family members, many friends, his ex-shipmates and by his two cats.

(Written by Chris Hyde, Nov 11th 2007)



Muriel Janet Guy passed away gently at Hospice on February 15, 2008. Mom lived all of her 80 young years in Victoria and filled them with chapters that entertained and inspired her family. Predeceased by her husband David, (*former Senior Helicopter Pilot – Ed.*) she leaves to cherish her memory daughters Jan (Stew) and Donna (Brian); grandchildren Scott (Laia), Sarah (Nathan) and Erica; great grandson Raja, and beloved four legged companion, My-Toy. She will be missed by her much-loved big sister, Eve, and family. A talented dancer, Mom loved her years on the stage of the Royal Theatre, and was particularly proud of appearing in "Commandos Strike at Dawn" in 1942. Extract from obituary in the Victoria Times-Colonist on 2/16/2008.

Bill Stewart – Pay and Benefits Supervisor

I was sorry to see that Bill passed away on January 21st. As soon as I saw his picture in the paper, a smile came to my lips. Now that may seem to some to be disrespectful, but it was not. It was a happy fun-filled memory that came to me. A story I have told many times and still, it makes me laugh. I was a Pay and Benefits Clerk. I worked with Sandy Kelley, Joyce Camsusa and Donna Steinicke and we jokingly referred to ourselves as "Bill's Girls". Bill was the Supervisor. In 1976 we were very busy filling out forms by hand to keep paycheques rolling. Every little change meant another form or two to be completed. Forms were sent to DSS (Department of Supply and Services) every day, and this information was entered into a computer by Data Processing Clerks. Heaven help us if we sent incorrect information. As we all know, computers are unforgiving and mistakes take forever to correct. Bill had a sharp eye and not too many errors went through his hands.

The Princess Mary Restaurant was famous for its strawberry pie. One day we were discussing this and decided we would all go to the Princess Mary at lunch time and treat ourselves to strawberry pie. We were located at the Toronto Dominion Bank Building on Douglas Street at that time. Bill brought his car to work the next day and parked it in the small parking lot behind the bank. He backed into his parking spot to make it easier to get out at lunch time.

Twelve o'clock on the dot we raced out the door down to the car. Bill maneuvered the car skillfully out of the small parking lot, and we were soon on our way. The traffic was heavy as usual at lunch hour, and Bill carefully navigated his way over the Johnson Street Bridge to the parking lot of the Princess Mary. We hurried inside to find a seat. Luckily, there were five seats available at the large lunch bar and so we were able to sit right down and order the famous strawberry pie. It didn't take long to finish the pie and a cup of coffee. It was time to get back to work.

We rushed back to the parking lot, got in the car, and Bill took off again. The traffic was even heavier. As we drove along, some cars passed us in the other lane and they were honking their horns and smiling. We smiled back politely. Other people were waving. We waved back.

"I wonder what these people are honking and waving about. I noticed it on the way to the Restaurant too," said Bill. "I'm driving okay, at least I think I am. Maybe it's because I have four women in the car." "Yeah," someone replied. "They must be jealous." This prompted a round of laughter and giggles from all of us. The honking and waving continued all the way back to the parking lot at the Toronto Dominion Bank Bldg. After Bill backed the car back into his parking space, one of the "girls" went to the back of the car and started laughing. "Come and have a look at this, Bill," she said. We all went to have a look. There, on the back of the car, was a sign that read "Just Married."

It was hard to get down to serious work after that and, of course, no one ever confessed to putting that sign on the car. Bill was a good sport and enjoyed a great laugh that afternoon, and I have a good memory as a Pay and Benefits Clerk, one of "Bill's Girls".

Contributed by Joan Scharf.



HEWETT, Norma Shirley Garnett (*Shirley was elected an Honorary Life Member of CCGA in recognition of her literary support of Coast Guard and the Marine Industry in general – Ed.*) A Wonderful Woman, Shirley Hewett, has won the race, spinnaker full, crossing the Finish Line with a fine following breeze. Shirley died peacefully 4 Feb. 2008, leaving her daughter (Kari), sons (Geoffrey/Karen and Hal), grandsons (Lister and Zeke) and an expanding family circle of friends to celebrate her life and remarkable achievements. Norma Shirley Garnett Hewett (nee Smith) of Victoria, BC, was born 22 Feb. 1933 in Vancouver, BC. Her mother was Norma Kenney of Clark's Harbour, NS; her father William Smith of London, ON. The diversity of Shirley/Charlotte's interests and activities reached out to touch so many. She was a noted journalist and writer, especially of marine and nautical issues, an editor, photographer, marine historian, school teacher, sailor, wonderful mother, trusted friend and gentle custodian of her patch of ground on Sea View Rd. where the camas, crocus and camellia radiate the sublime peace of our planet. She was well known for her involvement in: the Swiftsure International Yacht Race, and for many years she was the CFX radio voice of Swiftsure. Shirley also wrote the "Around our Shores" column in the Victoria Times for many years. She was welcome aboard the CCGS Narwhal, HMCS Oriole, Messenger III and in the kitchens of West coast Lighthouses. Her loved ones and friends picture her on a wooden boat, pulling up to a moorage in that great sea beyond. Extract from Obituary in the Victoria Times-Colonist on 2/21/2008.



HICKING, Anthony George. With sadness we announce the passing of Anthony George Hicking in his 79th year on April 15th. Tony has left behind his wife, Mollie of 52 years and family, Brian (Louise), Bruce (Pam), Allison (Alphonsus) and grandkids he loved and was so proud of, Trevor, Lyndsey, Marissa and always remembered, Chantel. Tony was born at The Vickerage, Wychbold, Worcs. in England and came to Canada in 1955. His career started at 16 as an officer cadet with British India Steamships and culminated with stints on Coastguard weathership, Vancouver; the CPR ship, Princess Marguerite and finally, finishing his career with the BC Ferries. After retirement Tony and Mollie embarked on their "Cruising Career ", which he was quite proud of boasting to his kids that he was up to number 12 and counting, sailing to various parts of the world as we back home bumbled through with day to day life, thinking to ourselves, "retirement is looking pretty good ". Sadly, in the last few years his health deteriorated, but he fought hard and to our surprise on more than one occasion he rallied back, emulating that rabbit on tv that just keeps on going and going and going. But, alas, the power ran out this past Tuesday. You fooled us all, Dad, and kept your driver's license and stayed in your home to the end. Good on you. Sail on Dad. XXXOOO. They that go down to the ships, that do business in great waters; These see the works of the Lord, and his wonders in the deep. Extract from Obituary in the Victoria Times-Colonist. 4/18/2008

8. "Dots and Dashes", by Ted Severud

**Sparks, a key master was I
Dots and dashes from times gone by
Somewhere in space they still fly**