

## Canadian Coast Guard Association

### Summer 2009 Newsletter



Surf's up at Cox Bay for Lifeboat based in Tofino. More photos from this day are posted on the CCGA website [www.ccgawest.ca](http://www.ccgawest.ca)

Contributions to our Newsletter are welcomed and encouraged. Many thanks to all who contributed material for this edition. Please pass all input to: Phil Dauphinee, Editor, 3621 Crestview Road Victoria BC V8P 5C5 250-595-2335 E-mail: [pdauphinee@shaw.ca](mailto:pdauphinee@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 should bookmark the Coast Guard Association website at [www.ccgawest.ca](http://www.ccgawest.ca) 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 [www.ccgalumnimaritimes.com](http://www.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."

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### 1. Greetings from the President.

Here we are again a year later, spring is here and we are looking forward to that warmer summer weather. I hope everyone is doing well and planning on attending our June luncheon.

When I look at our organization I see an amazing diverse group of individuals that made the Canadian Coast guard what it is today. For us to continue, and grow we need to bring in more new members and look at activities that would bring us together more often throughout the year. A good start would be if we could get our lower mainland members to have a luncheon over there this year.

I would encourage you to bring your suggestions, and a new member, retired, or still active in CCG to the next meeting.

Looking forward to seeing you all at the June luncheon.

Terry Weber

## 2. Membership Dues and Updates

Treasurer, **Bill McKechnie**, wishes to remind of members that 2009 membership dues may be paid at the Summer Luncheon. Annual dues will remain at \$5.00 for the year 2009. 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](mailto:fstatham@telus.net) or **Bob Manning** at [rlert@telus.net](mailto: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 organization 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 2009 Luncheon - Royal Victoria Yacht Club.

**WHEN:** Thursday June 4 11:30 -mingle; 12:00 luncheon starts at the Royal Victoria Yacht Club, 3475 Ripon Road Victoria

**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 Guarders are most welcome!

**COST:** \$26.00 per person, including gratuity. There will be the usual "No Host" Bar. On the menu for this luncheon are Pork Loin Dijon, Wild Salmon, Red Potato Salad, Greek Salad, Asian Beef Salad and Assorted Deserts.

**To facilitate catering, we need to give the Yacht Club staff firm numbers not later than Monday, June 1 and we are liable for the numbers reserved. To avoid disappointment, please reserve your place(s)**

**Island:** Bill Dancer 721-5273 [w.dancer@telus.net](mailto:w.dancer@telus.net) or Terry Weber [terrytw@shaw.ca](mailto:terrytw@shaw.ca) 250-383-6626

**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 Terry  
Weber [terrytw@shaw.ca](mailto:terrytw@shaw.ca) Terry will co-ordinate with the Yacht Club regarding  
number of reservations. Thanks!)

**Mark 11:30 Thursday June 4 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 1. 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 4th  
please contact Terry Weber [terrytw@shaw.ca](mailto:terrytw@shaw.ca) 250-383-6626*)

#### **4. Planning for our Winter 2009 Luncheon**

Date and location for the Winter 2009 luncheon - **December 3, 2009** at the Royal  
Victoria Yacht Club (RVYC), 3475 Ripon Road, Victoria.

#### **5. Remembering**

Some of these tributes should have been in the Winter 2008 Newsletter. I  
apologize for any tributes I have missed.

**Captain Don Hardy** passed away onboard CCGS Gordon Reid December 10, 2008.  
Don's long and illustrious seagoing career spanned time in both the Fisheries and  
Oceans and Coast Guard Fleets, many of those years as a Marine Enforcement  
Officer.

**John Reid** passed away suddenly on December 1, 2008 at Chilliwack, B.C. at age 71  
years. John had 35 years of federal government service including the Canadian  
Navy and Canadian Air Force in his youth with service at various Canadian bases  
and at sea. Following his armed service, John spent the rest of his career with the  
Canadian Coast Guard Search and Rescue unit primarily at Kitsilano base in  
Vancouver, BC, along with postings to Bull Harbour, BC. During his career with the  
Coast Guard John was promoted to Coxswain of the Kitsilano base and was a  
pioneer in modern boating safety practices. Upon retiring from the Coast Guard,

John and Christina spent a lot of their time traveling, golfing or enjoying their cabin (a home away from home) with family and friends.

The Coast Guard life boat Osprey carried John's remains to his final resting place at sea.

**Norm Hyer** passed away November 25, 2008, at the age of 55. Norm was a long time Chief Engineer, who graduated from the CCG College and who sailed many years in Hay River on CCGS Nahidik. He also sailed on CCGS Sir Wilfrid Laurier but many will remember him for the time he spent on CCGS Bartlett and CCGS John P Tully. Norm resigned from the Coast Guard 3 years ago after the unexpected passing of his wife Victoria, to permanently be at the side of their son Sam. His plan was to return again when he was able. He spent much of his time involved in his interests; fencing, classical music and canoeing.

**Bill Robertson** passed away in Nanaimo Hospital on November 5th. He was 83. Bill was a retired cox'n, who served many years in Tofino.

Radio Officer **Gerry Jameson** passed away on Friday November 14th. Gerry had a long career with the Coast Guard including service on the old weathership CCGS Stonetown and at Victoria Coast Guard Radio Station. Gerry was an active volunteer with the Sooke Fire Service for many years

## 6. Bob Mellis letter to Frank Statham



Hi Frank

It was great hearing from you and thanks for the news about yourself. Yes, I agree wholeheartedly, I too wonder where the time went. It seems like just a short while back that we were sailing on the weatherships and involved in the G.A.T.E. program. We were both fit and full of enthusiasm, ready to change the world at that time. Now I spend a lot of my time on my motorcycle although the accident I had eight years ago really slowed me down as the leg was broken in 14 places - my doctor described it as "mangled". Anyhow, I am still using it but I do have a few problems and this January I put my back out and now have sciatica down my bad leg. But I know I am lucky that it is the extent of my health problems (touch wood). I have a new lady in my life and last year we purchased a nice home together on Sumas Mountain in Abbotsford. It has a fantastic view of the Fraser

Valley, extending right over to the Gulf Islands. I keep planning to get over to a one of the CCG retirees luncheons and one of these fine days I will make it. I'm enclosing a couple of photos, one taken in Lunenburg and one taken at Seaside Oregon after I rode from the "mile zero" marker in Beacon Hill Park, Victoria to the "mile zero" marker in St. Johns, Newfoundland. I came back west via New York City across the northern states, stopping at Sturgess along the way. The whole trip took 28 days, which included a 7 day stay in Quebec City where I broke down due to a faulty electronic ignition module. I'm throwing in a couple of photos of our home and view as well.

Best regards

Bob

## **7. Victoria Coast Guard Auxiliary New Rescue Boat - Tolonen**

**by Phil Dauphinee**

The Coast Guard Auxiliary rescue boat 'Tolonen' has gone into service out of Ogden Point - Victoria. The boat is a 12 metre Titan 400 rigid hull inflatable built by Titan Inflatables Limited in Sidney B.C. The main structure of the vessel is aluminum with the hull surrounded by an inflatable collar. Power comes from two Yanmar 440 HP diesels and is transmitted through twin Hamilton water jets giving speeds in excess of 30 knots. The crew of four will be protected from the elements within the enclosed cabin. The safety of the crew is further enhanced by the vessel's self-righting capability. The design of the vessel will give the rescue crews the ability to respond over a larger area being not only very fast but also extremely stable and maneuverable. Once on scene up to 50 survivors can be brought aboard. A big advantage of the inflatable collar is that the stability it provides gives an excellent platform to perform first aid. With this new craft, Unit 35 will also have a much greater capacity to deal with incidents involving fire fighting.

Unit 35's new boat is appropriately named 'Tolonen' after the late and greatly missed Rick Tolonen who for years ran the Canadian Coast Guard's Pacific Region rigid hull inflatable unit and was the Coast Guard's main liaison and ambassador to Coast Guard Auxiliary



Photo of Tolonen provided by Titan Inflatables Ltd.

- For more photos of this vessel and to find out more about Coast Guard Auxiliary Unit 35, check their website at

<http://www.unit35.org/index.asp>

- To find out more about the vessel's builder you can visit their website at

<http://www.titanboats.com/index.html>

## **8. Letter from Australia**

I am writing to you from Australia where I have lived for the past 38 years. I am an ex-Canuck from Victoria that has a few fond memories of the Estevan.

I spotted your Canadian Coast Guard 2003 Christmas Newsletter on the internet with extensive references to the crew of the Estevan. I sailed on her (assistant steward) for a summer back in 1961 (approximately) somewhere between high school (Oak Bay High) and Victoria College (then). I have a couple of photos of the ship (somewhere) taken off Port Alice when the boat came to the assistance of the Port Alice light house keeper whose wife was in advanced pregnancy. She was ferried by one of the Estevan life boats from the lighthouse and back on to the Estevan. I have a photo of the ship steaming near Port Hardy also.

I recall that the skipper (whose name I forget) was a patient of my father, Dr Sam Ruskin (office on Hillside near the corner of Hillside and Quadra). I recall the bosun a bearded Maltese whose name also escapes me but who had sailed on the Estevan for many years. Also the steward was a diminutive fellow who went by the name "Shorty" (unsurprisingly). Of course I remember the Estevan berthed under the Johnson Street Bridge. Back then I also recall that there was a fleet of small boats under the bridge (quite decrepit fishing boats) which housed some

very independent old pensioners who lived on the water. The Princess Mary restaurant I also recall very well.

I spotted on the internet an RCMP launch I remembered at Esquimalt. That was back in about 1958. Of course the Princess Patricia and Princess Marguerite were part of the scenery at the CPR dock. (I do not know if you are a long time resident of Victoria or even old enough to remember some of my recollections). On nautical matters I saw John Guzzwell's 19 foot sailboat in Victoria inner harbour a couple of years ago (vintage boat display). I recall her sailing into Victoria on Guzzwell's round the world voyage in the 50s.

I have recollections of the RCN on exercises in the Strait of Juan de Fuca inadvertently firing shells during an exercise (bad aim) that landed in Port Angeles. Maritime reflections extend to watching the old icons, Marilyn Bell and Ben Loghran, greasing up in layers of animal fat and oil for a cold swim across the strait, setting new records.

About 1965 I sailed on a Swedish ship (Michael Salmon) from San Francisco to Honolulu to Powell River. The ship did this circle run carrying pulp from the mills.

And finally on briny matters, my father had a partner, Dr John Anderson (both he and my father now long gone) who had invested in a ship, the Prince George. She was refitted for the Inside Passage tourist run to Alaska I believe and she foundered when her boilers blew up. Some years ago I was intrigued to come across her burned and gutted hulk tied to and listing from a wharf in Britannia Beach.

Finally (this time finally for real) the name Captain Pratt comes to mind. He skippered an RCN destroyer in the 50s. He was a neighbour in Oak Bay at the time.

Anyway, your newsletter triggered some latent memories - all thanks to the internet. No need for me to travel anymore. I have the world at my keyboard.

Happy New Year

Jim Ruskin

## 9. Weathership Vancouver



*The Weathership Vancouver a few years ago at the breakers in China [photo from the Tim Bowles archives]*