

Canadian Coast Guard Association

Winter 2010 Newsletter



CCGS Sir Wilfrid Laurier was part of the fleet review last summer honouring the 100th anniversary of the Royal Canadian Navy

Contributions to our Newsletter are welcomed and encouraged. Please pass all input to: Phil Dauphinee, Editor, 3621 Crestview Road, Victoria B.C. V8P-5C5; 250-595-2335; E-mail: pdauphinee@shaw.ca Members with access to the Internet should bookmark the Coast Guard Association website at 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 <http://www.coastguardalumni.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

As summer ends and as fall and winter approach, we can see the scenery around us changing from green to the beautiful colours of fall.

The weather slowly begins to cool and the rains commence, reminding us of those working days. The good weather projects were coming to an end on shore for the Coast Guard crews. The rough seas were more frequent for the Coast Guard vessels on the coast, and of course the Coast Guard Icebreaker would be chased south out of the Arctic.

- Retirement is looking better all the time!

Anyway, greetings to all the CGA membership. I hope to see you at the December 3rd luncheon. Don't miss it, as it is a great opportunity to visit with old friends and get updated on their activities. I would also remind you that it would be a good time to bring your spouse, partner or friend or even better...a new member for our association!

If you haven't already visited the website at WWW.coastguardalumani.com you will find some interesting Coast Guard information. Those of you with pictures or stories of your Coast Guard days, that you would consider sharing with us, can be sent to pdauphinee@shaw.ca

I wish all of you and your families a very Merry Christmas and a Happy Healthy New Year.

" COME ONE, COME ALL, LET'S FILL THE HALL"

- Terry Weber

2. Membership Dues and Updates

Annual dues will remain at \$5.00 for the year 2012. Please note that the spouses of deceased members are most welcome to continue as associate members of the CCGA.

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 Bob 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 **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. Joan Scharf can be reached at 250-477-1390 and Bill Dancer at 250-721-5273.

3. Winter 2010 Luncheon - Royal Victoria Yacht Club.

WHEN: Thursday December 3 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 Guardsers are most welcome!

COST: \$32.00 per person, including HST & gratuity. There will be the usual "No Host" Bar.

Salad Table

House Caesar - crisp romaine, butter croutons, fresh Parmesan

Shrimp and Avocado - spring greens, remoulade sauce

Asian Spinach - snow pea, red pepper, wonton crisps, sesame soy vinaigrette

Chaffer Station

Pork Loin - tender medallions in a creamy apple and leek sauce

Steak and Guinness Pie - mushrooms, steak with puff pastry

**Warm Rolls and Butter
Assorted Christmas Cookies and Sweets
Coffee and Tea**

To facilitate catering, we need to give the Yacht Club staff firm numbers not later than Monday, November 30 and we are liable for the numbers reserved. To avoid disappointment, please reserve your place(s)

Island: Bill Dancer 250-721-5273 w.dancer@telus.net or

Terry Weber terrytw@shaw.ca 250-383-6626

Mainland: Bob Manning 604-986-4638 Herb Adrian (Surrey) 604-596-9355

Cec Rempel (Chilliwack) 604-858-1983 Diana Miskell 604-319-8142.

(Herb. Please co-ordinate with Bob, Cec and Diana and pass information to Terry Weber terrytw@shaw.ca Terry will co-ordinate with the Yacht Club regarding number of reservations. Thanks!)

Mark 11:30 December 3 on your calendar and make your RESERVATIONS NOW!

For Vancouver/Mainland attendees: Usual ferry arrangements prevail. Please let Herb, Cec or Diana know by Monday November 30. 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 Gerry Dixon for being available as our "ferry pick up driver" for our last luncheon. *(Would anyone prepared to help out on December 3 please contact Terry Weber terrytw@shaw.ca 250-383-6626*

4. Planning for our Summer 2011 Luncheon

If there continues to be a desire to bring the price of the luncheon down, the Yacht club has offered a soup and salad/sandwich meal at a cost of \$15.75 - HST and gratuity included for our 02 June 2011 luncheon. Otherwise we can try to find someplace else less expensive for the summer luncheon, which may also require a different date for the Summer 2011 luncheon.

5. MINUTES of 2010 ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Call To Order. The Annual General meeting was called to order at 1321 June 3, 2010.

Acceptance of the 2009 A.G.M. MINUTES. It was proposed Ossie Gronow, seconded by Monty Montgomery and passed by a show of hands.

PRESIDENTS REPORT. The President, Terry Weber thanked the Executive Team for all their efforts during the past year. Included in the thanks were Phil Dauphinee for our excellent newsletter and the team who that distributes. Special thanks go to Frank Statham for our outstanding web page and up to date mailing list. A note that members should contact our secretary Bob Manning to update their addresses as needed. Thanks to Bill McKechnie for financial duties as well as Bob Manning for his secretarial work. Thanks goes to the Catering staff for an excellent meal and great service

TREASURER'S REPORT. Our Treasurer, Bill McKechnie, listed the assets of the Association as follows in chequeing \$516.50 Term deposits at last statement \$1,72.50 & 1,665.54.

ELECTION OF THE EXECUTIVE. Bill Dancer indicated the known applicants willing to stand for another term for the Executive positions and made 3 calls for other nominations for each position. There being no other nominations, the following members were approved to serve as the 2009 Executive.

President. - Terry Weber. Agreed to remain in the position of President pending personal developments. The proposal was put to the floor three times without dissention and proposed by George Pinder, seconded by Ossie Gronow and approved by a show of hands.

Secretary. - Bob Manning agreed to stand for another term. This was put to the floor x3 with no dissention. It was proposed, by Gerry Dixon and seconded by Frank Statham. Confirmed by a show of hands.

Treasurer. - Bill McKechnie agreed to stand for another term. This was put to the floor x3 with no dissention and approved by Alex Provan, seconded by Dave Johns. Confirmed by a show of hands.

Other support positions within the association would continued to be filled by **Webmaster** and E. Mailing. Frank Statham.

News Letter. Phil Dauphinee.

Sick Member visitations. Bill Dancer.

Letters and cards to sick and bereaved. Joan Scharf.

Transportation. Gerry Dixon.

NEW BUSINESS.

It was noted that Bob Follows is on the sick list. Numerous phone calls have not been answered.

A discussion took place to try and find a new place to hold our bi yearly luncheons. A list of other locations was circulated amongst those present - see attached.

After many opinions, and no unanimous agreement a motion was presented to have our December luncheon at the Royal Victoria Yacht Club with a more effort placed on finding a less expensive location for the spring 2011 luncheon.

A Motion by Migs Turner and a show of hands approved the decision to hold our December luncheon at the Victoria Yacht Club. Approval for holding the 2010 Christmas Luncheon at the Royal Victoria Yacht Club. Seconded by Reg Gunn and approval by a show of hands.

With a show of hands the AGM meeting was adjourned at 1354.

Terry Weber
President

Bob Manning
Secretary

6. Remembering

Those who have crossed the bar since the last edition.

Captain John Bumpus was known as 'Bumpy' to those who knew him well. John joined DFO on the Laurier in 1967 and then sailed on the Howie, Tanu, Atlin, Sinclair, RB Young, Tsekoa. Arrow Post and Chilco Post. John retired in 2002.

Peter Willms, a long time meteorological technician on the weather ships, has passed away. He was a member of the CCGA.

Herb Buchanan was the head of the CG in the Pacific region back in the 1970's. He represented Canada on a few maritime conferences, one being the Safety of Life at Sea (SOLAS). He was 89 when he passed away.

Derek Randell was one of the Victoria base's helicopter engineers for many years. Derek often attended CCGA luncheons.

7. Workin' the Workboats by Captain Reg Gunn

The following is just a small extract from a much longer and very exciting story of getting the keepers off Carmanah Point Lighthouse in very rough conditions so they would not miss their flight to England. The rest of the story can be found at

http://coldwell.smithersbc.net:5910/john/lightkeeper/Adult_Memories.html#TripByWorkboat

It can be very enjoyable running workboats when you have the necessary skills and confidence in yourself and the crew to achieve full potential of their operation. It takes many years of learning and training in every conceivable

condition to reach this high standard. This combination, when faced with extreme conditions, allows the accomplishment of seemingly impossible tasks in the eyes of the less trained.

As those in my generation started our training years earlier with Bill Exley, it follows then, that he was the dominant senior of our group. As such, he had great influence over our situation for quite a few years. You either joined in and enjoyed or you gave up and quit.

I was fortunate in that I not only liked my job, I enjoyed life with Bill as well. My learning curve was continuous as well as being exciting. I feel that my generation of Coast Guardsers took their learning to the limits, resulting in a great number of changes and improvements. We did things that no one had done before and our successes became the standards for the future. I witnessed many great changes ranging from rowed workboats, powered workboats and barges and into the helicopter period. It was quite an experience and for this farm kid life was great.

The bosun would be positioning the derrick over the boat and when he brought down the whip hook the crew would hook on the bridle. Bob would then tighten it.

They would release the load binders that tighten the chains that hold the boat firm to the deck. Various lines attached to the boat would steady it during the launch procedure.

8. Retired Coast Guard ship goes to University



At a CCGA Luncheon a couple of years ago Captain Paul Frost asked your editor if he would be interested in providing some engineering input into a project involving University of Victoria Marine Scientists trying to acquire a research vessel. This group of scientists believe they could not depend on the Coast Guard to provide enough ship-time to satisfy the ever-increasing ocean research especially with the

Neptune and Venus projects coming on-line. I was very impressed with these scientists. They are very organized and quick studies. What they needed from us was the information they needed to put in a winning proposal to get grant money. It was decided that the best strategy would be to convert an existing vessel so that would require satisfying regulatory by having a vessel reconfigured by a marine engineering firm. Paul and I set them on the correct course by arranging meetings with Ships Safety and BMT Fleet Technology. Shortly after our last involvement with the UVic scientists the 2008 recession started. Since then I have wondered how this project had progressed. Recently I found out that UVic is going to be given the Tsekoa II, which at one time serviced government wharfs up and down the coast and more recently performed search and rescue patrols. The engines were overhauled in 2005 and the ship has basically been tied up at Pat Bay since. The ship will be going into a shipyard for a complete refit and reconfiguration. The biggest change will be a lengthening of 7 meters ahead of the engine room. Two local marine technology firms will be involved with the project. Tactical Marine Solutions will be doing the refit and BMT Fleet Technology will be doing the design work on the lengthening and reconfiguration.

9. Getting from Point A to Point B by Gerry Dixon

Many of us had to travel frequently to the more or less isolated areas in the course of our duties. Unlike many of my predecessors, I didn't have to climb over slippery rocks disembarking from the tender, workboat or zodiac. Travel for we techs in the 60's and 70's was becoming more comfortable via "CG Airlines" augmented by land/sea transport where practical (translation - cost effective). So I thought I would share one story with our group.

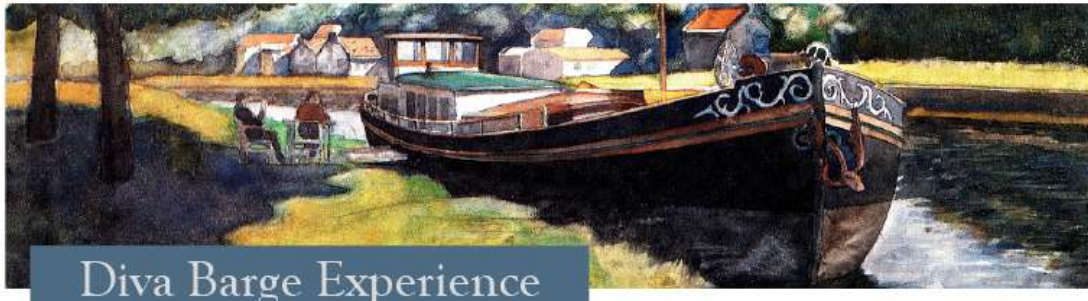
I had been dropped off at a VHF radio repeater site near Port Eliza via the 212 (CG302?). In the 1980's era with a warning from the pilot to do whatever fast as the weather was closing in. When the pilot again appeared in the doorway and announced he was leaving now - with or without me and I was still not finished my measurements. I explained I could get a bunk and good food at Behan's logging camp a couple of miles down the road. So off he went!

The next day was still questionable weather - so time for plan B. This turned out to be a water-taxi chartered by some of Behan's loggers, which I could share to Tahsis. From Tahsis I was able to hitch up with a fixed wing (Beaver probably) to Tofino. Now how to get from Tofino to Victoria? Thanks to Peter Matley (of the Marine/Aeradio Station at the time), I was introduced to the driver of the airport fuel tanker truck from Nanaimo/Victoria. I don't think he was supposed to carry a passenger but probably appreciated the company on the trip out - so no names!! I

do remember his warning though - we are traveling empty now and this is the most dangerous for an avgas tanker just full of fumes.

It was an interesting return trip and I was only one day late back to the office.

10. Diva Barge Experience - exploring the French Waterways



Marc Pakenham and his wife Mary have started offering trips on their 75-foot canal barge along the French waterways. Marc retired from the Coast Guard a few years ago after 35 years involved in search and rescue and marine environmental work.

Here is the opening quote from their excellent website <http://www.divabarge.com/>

"There's a special and unique rhythm to journeying by barge, and it involves not having to be anywhere or do anything. Our barge, "Nooit Volmaakt", is an owner-operated traditional Dutch Steilsteven, or sailing barge. Each season, from April to October, guest crews join us as we cruise the French canals and waterways. As your hosts, we strive to provide the perfection that is impossible to attain but pleasant to pursue - offering enthusiasm, flexibility and informality."

CANADIAN COAST GUARD ASSOCIATION MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION/ RENEWAL

THE PURPOSES of the Canadian Coast Guard Association (incorporated in July, 1996, under the B.C. Society Act) are:

- 1) To continue our Canadian Coast Guard camaraderie into retirement.
- 2) To support our Membership and their families, when and as appropriate.
- 3) To support those currently serving in the Canadian Coast Guard and other maritime interests, when and as appropriate.
- 4) To undertake or support other activities approved by the Membership.

MEMBERSHIP - A person who has retired from, or is serving in the Canadian Coast Guard, with at least five years of Federal public service, who is willing to accept the purposes and objectives of the Society and pay the annual membership dues, may apply to the Directors for membership in the Society and on acceptance by the Directors, shall be a member.

The Commissioner of the Canadian Coast Guard has fully endorsed the Association and its purposes, with the understanding that serving CCG personnel would not become directly involved in controversial issues through their membership in the Association or serve on the executive.

APPLICATION FOR MEMBERSHIP may be made by completing the information below and forwarding the signed application, along with one year's membership dues to

**W. McKechnie, Treasurer, Canadian Coast Guard Association,
2010 Corniche Place, Victoria, B.C. V8N 6C1**

(Current Annual Dues \$5 - covers Newsletter mailing and administrative costs).

FOR MEMBERSHIP RENEWALS, complete name and address sections, check "Renewal", enclose one year's current membership dues, sign and mail as above. Thanks!

Name: Tel. No. **RENEWAL?**

Address:
Email address:

Canadian Coast Guard Service:

Retired (Date): Still Serving?

Started career as:
On (Date):

Other areas of work/location in Coast Guard:
Retired or left as:
On (Date):

Other Canadian Federal Service:
From: To:

Signature _____ Date _____