



Canadian Coast Guard Alumni Association Maritimes Region Newsletter



www.coastguardalumni.com

September 2010 Alumni Luncheon

**Thursday
September 16, 2010
CFB Shearwater**

1100 - Meet & Greet
1200 - Lunch
1310 - Draw for Door prizes
1330 - Close

MENU

Marinated Vegetable Salad
Caesar Salad
Baked Lasagna
Rolls & Butter
Coffee & Tea
Dessert Buffet

**Well, we are finally back in the CFB Shearwater
Officers' Mess, in the Bonaventure Room. Hope to
see you all there.**

The luncheon will be \$23 per person. EXACT CHANGE IS APPRECIATED.

Please contact **Eric Bent** by phone **866-0490** or e-mail **rock305mu@eastlink.ca** by
Monday, September 6, 2010 to reserve your place.

PLEASE CALL BEFORE THE CUT-OFF DATE. If you are unable to attend and the cut-off date has passed,
we would ask you to please honour your commitment.

Spouses, guests, and all Coast Guard Retirees are always welcome at our luncheons. Our association
is also open to retirees of former Coast Guard units or groups affiliated with CG while we were part
of Transport Canada.

“From the President”

September 2010

I hope that everyone has enjoyed the summer and I look forward to welcoming you all back to the CFB Shearwater Officers' Mess. It will, I'm sure, feel like a homecoming. During the interim construction project, Eric has done a great job of finding us alternative places to meet and my thanks go out to him for his efforts.

The Coast Guards' newsletter "ECHO" has been an information source for the last number of years following on the tradition of the old "DOT" magazine which I always looked forward to since it usually had a picture of a CCG ship on the back page. I have been informed that this is the last print version of ECHO and that it will be only available in electronic format from now on. If you wish to receive the electronic version, please send an e-mail to Martin Beaupre at martin.beaupre@dfo-mpo.gc.ca to request that. I will have some printed copies of the last issue at our September luncheon for those that want them.

Capt. Bill MacQuarrie has done another great job of documenting some of the Coast Guards' history in this issue of the newsletter. In this case, it is a few stories about CCGS Labrador on which many of us have sailed. I'd like to have some stories and old photographs from other members of our Association as well. I'm sure that there are things that have taken place in other parts of the Coast Guard that our members may be interested in hearing about. Speaking of which, you can read about our Pacific Region counterparts on the website www.coastguardalumni.com as well.

Don't forget that "The Larry Liebrock Memorial Golf Tournament will be held on Thursday September 9, 2010 at River Oaks Golf Course, Meagher's Grant." Thanks again to John Major for organizing this annual event. You can contact John Major, majorjjg@yahoo.com for more information.

And finally, if you are interested in taking on a leadership role in the Coast Guard Alumni Association, please be prepared to volunteer at our September Luncheon and Annual General Meeting. The President and Secretary have been on the Executive for 5 years, the Vice President for 3 years, and the Treasurer and Membership Chair for 2 years.

Jim Calvesbert, President



CCGS LABRADOR

A few photos of the 'Lab'

"Yes, men have died onboard – but she never killed anyone. I loved to sail in her – maybe just so I could say I didn't want to – but I never convinced anyone of that!"

W. A. MacQuarrie.

Her badge – which we kept from her RCN days. "An arm of gold reaching for the North Star between ice flows."



Labrador was honoured with a stamp in 1978, one of four featuring 'Ice Vessels', today's value \$2.



In 1957 the RCN took her to Jamaica, she rolled and pitched the same way when we had her – its always best to stay in the ice! In the photo the seas don't appear to be that bad – I guess she couldn't help herself – she just had to do it!



Stopped in the ice. Summers were long during the '60's and 70's, no crew changes then – Go on, Stay on! But with 24 hour daylight there was always somebody on the upper bridge making sure the Captain or mates didn't make a mistake! Look, there's two now! – and another on the stern below the flight deck.



1978, Radio Officer Rick Falvey copying traffic for CGGM. “*Request you proceed and assist Irving Ours Polaire/CYML reported beset 4816N 6032W inbound Charlottetown. Acknowledge. Ice Operations Dartmouth.*”



Assisting the British cable ship ALERT off St. John's in the spring of 1970. The 'Lab' appears to be very low on fuel. Suggestion: “Stay in the ice!”



1983: ‘Backing and filling’ in a large flow, or maybe it is shore fast ice – maybe a frozen over bay. The technical name for the patten in the snow is *sastrugi*. It is caused by wind blowing from steady direction over time. Photo by Emory Kristoff, NGS.



First Officer W.A. MacQuarrie – ‘in his glory’ – backing down on an escort off Red Island, Nfld., ca. 1975. Albert Piercey was Captain that winter.



Backing away from Sandy Pt. wharf, Gaspé. Note her bridge wings are enclosed in this photo. Michel Tremblay photo.



On a sunny day off Summerside Captain Steve Gomes took the ‘stick’ (steered) while Chief Officer MacQuarrie took this picture. Minutes later #6 engine lower crankshaft broke and a crankcase explosion occurred. Luckily no serious injuries resulted but there was a fire and black smoke pouring out through the hangar delayed the helicopter from landing. (The same thing had happened a year before with the same engine! The first fire had been more serious than the second – but our crew rallied, fought bravely and won! Two men who were burned were flown to Stephenville. Our pilot took off in very high headwinds which made for a long flight.)

CG Alumni Association Executive 2009 - 2010

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Jim Calvesbert *jim@calvesbert.ca*

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Eric Bent *rock305mu@eastlink.ca*

After Bill's article about the CCGS Labrador, it makes you wonder what stories the proposed CCGS John G. Diefenbaker will be able to tell in 50 years.

