



CFB ESQUIMALT NAVAL & MILITARY MUSEUM NEWSLETTER

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*CFB Esquimalt Naval & Military Museum is located at Naden on Canadian Forces Base Esquimalt, in the city of Victoria, which is situated on the southern tip of Vancouver Island, province of British Columbia, Canada.*

*The museum's goal is to collect, preserve, interpret and display the history and heritage of the naval presence on Canada's West Coast and of the military on Southern Vancouver Island.*

[www.navalandmilitarymuseum.org](http://www.navalandmilitarymuseum.org)

## 30 years and going strong

This year marks the 30th anniversary of CFB Esquimalt Naval and Military museum.

On Saturday 04 July, the museum is celebrating with an Open House in the Museum Square at Naden, 10 a.m.-5 p.m.

The all-day event will feature an encampment and presentations by the Victoria-Esquimalt Military Re-enactors Association, special exhibits and displays from the Princess Patricia's Canadian Light Infantry (PPCLI) Association, the British Columbia Aviation Museum, The Alberni Project HMCS ALBERNI museum and memorial, and a range of other groups and organizations. Other Open House attractions will include a dress-up station

and fun activities for children and adults, the official opening of a new museum gallery, and cake.

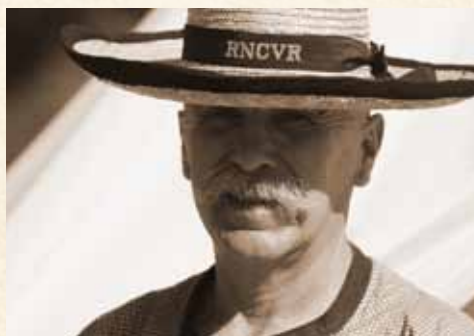
In setting up this event, we feel very fortunate to have the assistance of Christine Farrington, Special Events Coordinator for Canadian Forces Morale and Welfare Services (CFMWS) Personnel Support Programs Division.

Admission is free, and we invite members of the public and friends of the museum to come "sea us" and help us celebrate this significant milestone for CFB Esquimalt Naval and Military Museum.

### The collection begins

The museum at Canadian Forces Base Esquimalt had its official opening on May 5 1985, to coincide with the 75th Anniversary of the Navy.

But the museum was still very much in need of artifacts in order to create meaningful exhibits. The work of assembling such a collection continued, and the museum, then located in Building 20 at Naden, finally opened to the public in 1987, later expanding into Naden Buildings 37 and 39, where it can be found today.



VEMRA re-enactor Don Thomas goes Navy. Photo courtesy of Tony Austin.

#### HOLIDAY CLOSURES:

- Good Friday, April 3
- Easter Monday, April 6
- Victoria Day Monday, May 18

#### UPCOMING EVENTS:

- Museum Open House event Saturday, July 4 Museum Squ. Naden 10 a.m. – 5 p.m.
- Volunteer Appreciation Dinner Chief and POs Mess Thursday, April 16

# THE MUSEUM *Team*

## Museum Team



Debbie Towell – Curator  
 Joseph Lenarcik – Assistant Curator  
 Clare Sharpe – Exhibit Designer/  
 Administrative Assistant/Webmaster/  
 Volunteer Coordinator  
 Rob Nichol – Archival Assistant  
 Tatiana Robinson – Archival Assistant

## Our Active Volunteers

Cecil Baker	Angus MacKenzie
Don Bendall	Brian McGregor-Foxcroft
Valerie Chatten	Stephanie Mann
Jeremy Clunn	Robert Matthews
Teresa Cooper	Paul O'Reilly
Marilyn Cunningham	Tom Pound
Joseph Cunningham	Zoila B. Proud
Janet Kay Curley	Greg Sharpe
Dave Freeman	Don Ramsfield
Meng Xi Guo	Don Thomas
Michael Harrison	Karen Toole
Bob Hewitt	Norm Truswell

**Visit the **NEW** museum online**  
[www.navalandmilitarymuseum.org](http://www.navalandmilitarymuseum.org)  
 Daily interesting historical facts, updates on exhibits,  
 West Coast lore and characters of CFB Esquimalt's past

## To Our Readers

IS YOUR *Headway* SUBSCRIPTION DUE?  
 PLEASE FILL IN THE FORM OPPOSITE.

Your annual subscription fee is only \$30.00, which is inclusive of GST. You will receive issues of *Headway* in colour, plus information on special events being held throughout the year. Your subscription helps us bring you this newsletter.

*Thank You!*  
*Merci!*

## SUBSCRIPTION FORM

To: CFB Esquimalt Naval & Military Museum  
 PO Box 17000 Stn. Forces  
 Victoria BC V9A 7N2

**Enclosed please find my cheque in the amount of \$30.00 (inclusive of GST) payable to CFB Esquimalt Naval & Military Museum for "*Headway*".**

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Postal Code: \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone: \_\_\_\_\_ Fax: \_\_\_\_\_

Email Address (if available): \_\_\_\_\_



# Web redesign through Q College Partnership

Welcome to CFB Esquimalt's redesigned website. It features new content, new resources for researchers, and a brand new look and feel. The site is now thoroughly accessible for laptops, smart phones and tablets, as well as personal computers - a major step forward in sharing our museum and archives with a wider online community.

## New projects include –

- online access to Navy List publications;
- a comprehensive list of ship's company and group photos available for sale;
- an expanded, searchable database of names and christening dates engraved on our ship's bells;
- digitized, detailed versions of ship plans from the museum collection for purchase by model builders.

The website was totally revamped in

a cooperative project with Q College in Victoria. Having read about, and seen the results his students achieved for organizations in need of a website overhaul and update, I first contacted Denis Eve, the College's Practical Skills Web Development Program Work Experience Director, in July 2013. With experience of working as the Museum's webmaster for more than a decade, I was very conscious that our site's design could use a thorough shake-up, and was also keen to expand its reach and range of online projects. Normally, comprehensive redesigns of this nature are very costly, into many thousands or even tens of thousands of dollars. And so we jumped at the chance to get such significant outside help and expertise at no cost.

Q College allowed us to have free access to the valuable web development talents of graduate student Joseph

Kotopski. Kotopski based his theme for the site on an original layout by designer Alan Graves for our "Creature Comforts" mascot display, and we think you'll agree that the result is elegant as well as functional.

It took many months of behind the scenes work to follow-up on Kotopski's initial design, adapt existing content and add in new projects, ideas and articles. I received training in the Drupal content management system to administer and implement the revised site, and have been fortunate enough to have the ongoing guidance and help of Web Developer Stephanie Mann.

We hope you will visit the improved site regularly and return to find updates and added resources. Screen shots can be seen in the advertisement to the left.

By Clare Sharpe, Museum Webmaster

## Model makers' resource

To the right is a letter we received recently from a model ship builder who appreciates the feature that makes detailed plans available on our new web site.



Find the plans on this page of the new web site. <http://www.navalandmilitarymuseum.org/archives/projects/ship-plans>

To the staff at CFB Esquimalt Naval and Military Museum,

I recently discovered your new website and was absolutely thrilled to explore it. There are really good features but for me the most important one was the ship plans list.

I have been a ship modeler for some time and am always looking for plans but finding plans for HMC Ships has been a challenge. The new website has a complete listing of almost all classes of HMC Ships, all available in PDF format. You can scan the listing, view some samples and then request copies of the plans you need. The staff will burn them to a disk at a modest cost and then you are good to go to get them printed.

This plans service is long overdue and will permit modellers, historians and ship fans access to vessels of interest in the RCN, past and present. Well done to the staff who created this excellent resource! May it continue to grow!

Thanks,  
Doug

Captain (N) Doug Young

## Face(book) time with the museum

Have you "Liked" us on Facebook yet?



The Crew from HMS Shearwater while in Esquimalt, circa 1910



Performing ice removal aboard HMCS LABRADOR while in the Arctic

If you haven't liked us on Facebook then you don't know what you're missing. In case you didn't know, the museum has had an active Facebook page since August 2013 and, like our new and improved website, provides an opportunity to stay connected to this museum. It is your vehicle to express opinions, to learn about what the museum is up to, or to give you the opportunity to become involved with the museum without ever having to set foot in it (we would still love to see you in person). We understand though that not everyone can get here or even lives in close proximity to us.

So back to the opening sentence: you don't know what you're missing – like what for instance? Well, on our Facebook page we announced our new website which can be found at [www.navalandmilitarymuseum.org](http://www.navalandmilitarymuseum.org). You can read more about the new site in another article in this newsletter. We also announced our 30th Anniversary of the museum set for July 4th – mark that date in your calendars. If you want to keep yourself informed about this event make sure you "Like" us – trust us, you don't want to miss it.

We also "like" to showcase some of the wonderful

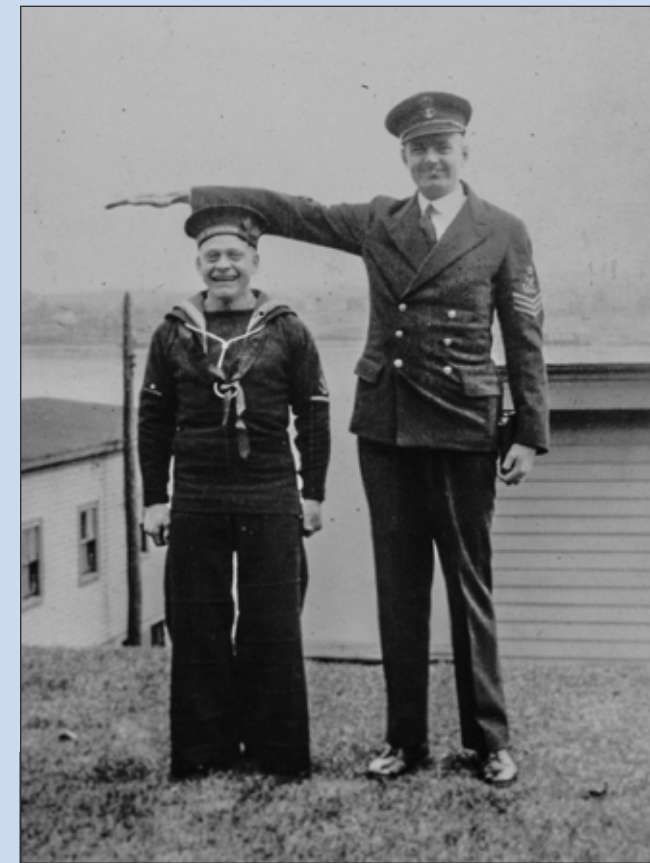
photographs from our archives: from ships' companies to humorous shots, our posts are sure to inform and delight.

Remember, we learn a lot from your conversations to our posts too. We have been corrected when we misidentify (we're not perfect, we do get things wrong sometimes), or when someone let's us know that the person in a photograph is a friend they served with or even a relative. These are all things that keep us better informed.

So how do you find us in Facebook? Well, first you have to join Facebook. Once there, type in CFB Esquimalt Naval and

Military Museum in the search bar at the top of any Facebook page and it will take you right to us. Click on "Like" and you're done. Stay informed and help us spread the word about this museum. Tell your friends or hopefully they will see that you have joined our family in their "newsfeed". Remember, we depend on all visitors whether they see us in person or via the Internet.

By Debbie Towell,  
Museum Curator



A little humour, "Who's taller here?"

## Navy insignia in print

Museum Volunteer Dave Freeman is about to visit a printer to produce his second book, titled *Designs of Distinction, Unofficial Insignia of the RCN, 1910 - 1948*.

Official RCN ship badges were first introduced in November 1948, and Dave documents all the interesting, varied and colourful predecessors of the current badges. His work is the result of 15 years of research, which has taken him across Canada on many occasions to visit museums, archives and Legions and interview naval veterans about their memories of how the unofficial badges were designed and displayed. This will be a companion volume to his first book, *Canadian Warship Names*, which came out in 2000.

*Designs of Distinction* is to be printed in full colour on 8.5 X 11 inch acid free paper, 624 pages, soft cover, bound and containing roughly 1,000 images.

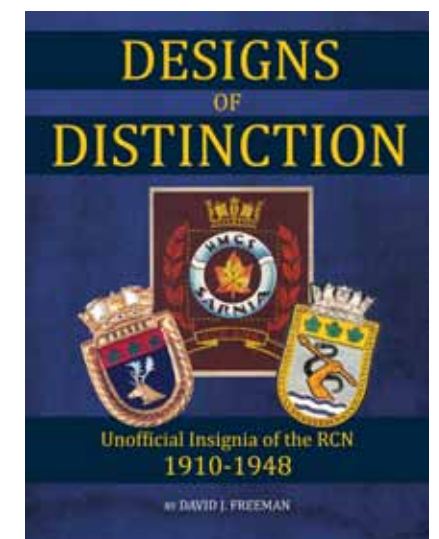
The first eight chapters cover the introduction of insignia into the navy, the different types of such insignia, some background in heraldry and how it influenced some designs, the early days up to 1939, the war years, funnel markings for various escort groups, and some downstream effects seen on present day ships. Then, each ship, establishment or unit gets half a page illustrating their image, plus a plain English description of that image, date produced, name of designer and producer, and notes on the provenance of the insignia.

Dave Freeman's book also contains several interesting Appendices, three Indexes, and a Bibliography.

This book will be of interest to both current and retired naval personnel as well as model makers and descendants of those who served in particular ships, establishments or units.

The book will retail for \$50.00 and copies should be available in some time early in April 2015.

Dave plans to produce only 100 books so if you wish reserve a copy, let him know at [djfreeman@shaw.ca](mailto:djfreeman@shaw.ca).



Early April 2015 is the expected arrival date and the book will retail for \$50.00. You can reserve your copy in advance by emailing [djfreeman@shaw.ca](mailto:djfreeman@shaw.ca).



# Local authors utilize museum archives

One of the main reasons researchers come to our archives is to find photographs to illustrate articles and books. If you look at the Spring 2015 issue of *British Columbia History*, you will find an article by Gisele Samson describing the career of Vice-Admiral Victor G. Brodeur. She used one of our photos in the article to highlight a sign, with Victor Brodeur's name on it, which hung above the entrance to the French language school, when it was located in what is now our Museum Administration Building.

Professor David Zimmerman of the University of Victoria also recently requested photos from us for use in his upcoming book, *Maritime Command Pacific: The Royal Canadian Navy's West Coast Fleet in the Early Cold War*, which is to be published by UBC Press in 2015. Professor Zimmerman kindly provided

me with the following synopsis of his book.

"Yacht Club" was a derogatory term used by Royal Canadian Navy sailors on the Atlantic coast to refer to the illusionary easy life enjoyed by their Pacific coast counterparts. In reality, during the Cold War the Maritime Command Pacific's warships were every bit as active as their counterparts in the Atlantic. For the first time the history of the defence of Canada's west coast in the early Cold War is told.

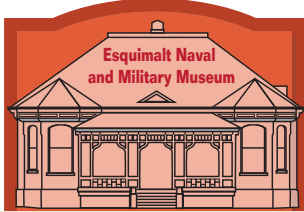
The book begins in 1945, exploring the painful postwar downsizing, including the work stoppages that rocked the service to its very roots. The gradual rebuilding of the postwar navy and its rapid expansion as the Cold War heated up after the Korean War is told in detail. A major theme is the evolution of planning for the defence of the west coast, including the

development of the joint US-Canadian ALCANUS accord. MARPAC's ships engaged in extensive training exercises, often working as integral components of the United States Navy's Pacific Fleet. Always in the background was the threat to North American security posed by the increasingly powerful submarines of the Soviet Navy. Included is first account of MARPAC's experience the Cuban Missile Crisis. The book concludes with the rapid downsizing of the RCN which by 1965 once again left Canada without an effective naval presence in the Pacific.

We take great pride in being able to assist local authors with their research. It is our hope that the public will be spurred on by reading these publications to visit our museum and perhaps do some research of their own.

By Joseph Lenarcik, Assistant Curator

WRITERS • RESEARCHERS  
HISTORY BUFFS • STUDENTS  
MODEL SHIP BUILDERS  
VETERANS AND MORE



**ARCHIVES**  
Resources for researchers and the general public

**THERE ARE SO MANY REASONS TO VISIT US!**

- 17,000+ digitized images in the museum database;
- key publications, including the Naval List, and the first Crow's Nest and Crow's Nest magazines;
- the Women's Royal Canadian Naval Service wartime newsletter *The Tiddley Times*;
- files on Canadian naval vessels;
- news cuttings and official ship histories;
- biographies of leading figures in the

- Canadian Navy;
- information about the history and development of what is now Canadian Forces Base Esquimalt;
- maps and charts;
- ship plans;
- plans for historic buildings at Work Point and CFB Esquimalt;
- official seamanship and naval trades training manuals;
- historical documents;
- diaries and personal journals.

[www.navalandmilitarymuseum.org](http://www.navalandmilitarymuseum.org)

**WANTED**



**VOLUNTEER**

HISTORY EXPLORERS

Volunteer Appreciation Dinner  
Chief and POs Mess  
Thursday, April 16

**THE MUSEUM IS LOOKING FOR VOLUNTEERS!**

**You just might be the perfect fit!**

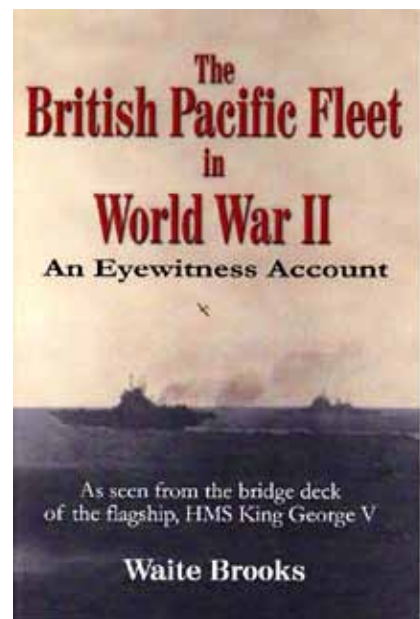
- Do you like to build new skills?
- Enjoy being part of a successful team?
- Interested in history?
- Love to learn and share your knowledge with others?
- Need to develop your resume?

If you answered 'yes' to any of these questions, then you could be a great addition to the museum's volunteer group. If you're interested please call:  
**Clare Sharpe, Volunteer Coordinator (250) 363-4312**

While there are many published accounts of the naval war in the Pacific, there are very few about the operations of the British Pacific Fleet, and even fewer with any Canadian content. I stumbled on this book in a local bookstore and picked it up not because of the title – there are others with a similar moniker – but the cover photograph was one taken by a Canadian aboard HMCS UGANDA. It depicted the final moments of a diving Kamikaze aircraft just before it struck the British carrier HMS Formidable. In the background is the battleship HMS King George V, aboard which was the author of this book. An instant sale!

Waite Brooks joined the RCN from Sault Ste. Marie in the Fall of 1942. No sooner had he signed up than he was whisked off to the newly opened Royal Roads university in Victoria. This book is his story through Royal Roads and

onto operational training with the Royal Navy, initially serving aboard cruisers and thence onto battleships. The author used his notes taken during his training and fleet assignments as the basis for his observations, so his memory of dates, details and events should be reliable. The book is presented in chronological sequence, so does not jump around as some historical tomes tend to do. It is most interesting to see how the events of the world were interpreted by those on the scene at the time of occurrence. This is particularly true of the news of the atomic bombs, as those on the front lines tried to understand the scope of these new weapons. Also of interest was the reaction in the British fleet when UGANDA left the theatre of operations when it was determined she “voted” herself out of the war. A fascinating read.



The British Pacific Fleet In World War II.

Reviewed by Paul O'Reilly, Museum Volunteer



## Letter to the Editor

Regarding the excellent article about Diana Priestly, I knew her well in the 1969/76 time when I was the Executive Officer to the then Dean Gerald LeDain and she was the Assistant to Balfour Halevy the Librarian at Osgoode Hall Law School relocated to the recently opened campus of York University. When Bill Nielson became the Dean Elect to the new Law School at the University of Victoria in 1974, she accepted his request to join him as the Faculty Librarian. The rest is history.

Peter Chance

## Craftsmanship to stand behind

The museum workshop recently received a nice acknowledgement for help provided to the Base in restoring a lectern/podium used for special events:

The letter came from Base Regulating Chief CPO Paul Parent, and reads:

“I would formally like to thank the Base museum workshop’s assistance and Mr. Angus MacKenzie for the exemplary work and craftsmanship that has been performed on refurbishing the lectern. The craftsmanship and the attention to detail has greatly increased the visual appeal of this lectern that is visible on most parades that occur outside of the base, and has changed it from an eyesore to a commendable resource to be proud to stand behind during ceremonial occasions.”

Here at the museum, we’re always happy to ‘stand behind’ the Base and its activities.



Museum workshop volunteer Angus MacKenzie shows off the podium he refinished for Base use

## Write us...

We welcome your questions and comments with regard to any of the articles we have featured in this or past issues of *Headway*.

Please write to the museum at:

**CFB Esquimalt Naval & Military Museum**  
**P.O. Box 17000 Stn. Forces**  
**Victoria B.C. V9A 7N2**

Or email:

[curator@navalandmilitarymuseum.org](mailto:curator@navalandmilitarymuseum.org)

## CFB Esquimalt

NAVAL & MILITARY MUSEUM

### HOLIDAY CLOSURES:

- Good Friday, April 3
- Easter Monday, April 6
- Victoria Day Monday, May 18

### HOUR OF OPERATION

Monday to Friday  
10.00am - 3.30pm  
(Closed weekends and statutory holidays)

### SUGGESTED DONATION

Adults	\$2
Family of Four:	\$5
Children, Youth & Seniors	\$1

### FOR INFORMATION

Call (250) 363-4312  
or (250) 363-5655  
Fax (250) 363-4252

VISIT US ON THE WEB AT  
[www.navalandmilitarymuseum.org](http://www.navalandmilitarymuseum.org)



# DONATION FORM

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**Victoria BC V9A 7N2**

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Email address (if available): \_\_\_\_\_

*CFB Esquimalt Naval & Military Museum issues tax receipts under Section 118.1 of the Income Tax Act. A tax receipt received as part of a donation to Her Majesty can be claimed as an income tax deduction to a maximum of 100 per cent of the donor's net income. An official receipt for tax purposes will be issued automatically for all gifts of \$10.00 and over.*



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