Volume 12, Issue 3

Fall 2015



Inside

New exhibit3
Museum open house 4-5
Visitor comments6
Concert in the Park7
Museum backdrop for documentary
Volunteers say10
Book Review11
HMCS Sioux flag11



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

30 years celebrated! THEN





Above: RAdm. J.C. Hibbard and RAdm Bob Yanow cutting the ribbon at the grand opening of the museum, May 5, 1985.

Right: Capt(N) Steve Waddell cuts the ribbon with RAdm (retired) Bob Yanow and museum staff on July 4, marking the museum's 30th birthday.





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 Sarah Taylor – Museum Guide

Active Volunteers

Cecil Baker Don Bendall Valerie Chatten Jeremy Clunn Marilyn Cunningham Joseph Cunningham Janet Kay Curley Dave Freeman Michael Harrison Bob Hewitt Angus MacKenzie Stephanie Mann Robert Matthews Brian McGregor-Foxcroft Florence McGregor-Foxcroft Paul O'Reilly A/SLt Brent Podesta Tom Pound Zoila B. Proud Don Ramsfield Greg Sharpe Don Thomas Norm Truswell



Visit the NEW museum online www.navalandmilitarymuseum.org

Daily interesting historical facts, updates on exhibits, West Coast lore andcharacters of CFB Esquimalt's past

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2 • Fall 2015

CFB Esquimalt Naval and Military Museum celebrates its 30th anniversary with new display

Rachel Lallouz Lookout Newspaper

"The roots of our navy here on the West Coast are what we're celebrating with this room," says Clare Sharpe, Museum Exhibit Designer for CFB Esquimalt's Naval and Military Museum.

Sharpe and museum volunteer Norman Truswell have been working for over a year on the new display unveiled at the museum's 30th Anniversary Open House on Saturday, July 4.

"We've interwoven multiple strands of history which tell the story of how Esquimalt Harbour came into being as we know it, and the transition from the Royal Navy to the Canadian Navy," says Sharpe.

Both she and Truswell agreed that because visitors do not generally approach museums and galleries in a linear way, their main goal would be to simply situate observers in the heart of the museum's history. Unfolding around the visitors as they enter the gallery to the left are displays arranged in chronological order.

"We pulled together the story by carefully placing artefacts throughout the room that touched on stories like the building's first use as a hospital, then its transition to HMCS Naden, and finally, what we know it to be today."

The display encompasses one of the larger, windowed rooms at the museum. Text panels mounted on the walls and windows include French translations of the information, so that French speakers can access the meticulously researched material as well. Notable artefacts include a carefully preserved sea chest originally belonging to Rear-Admiral Victor Brodeur, and a model of the base's dry dock. Also present is a detailed coaling display, harkening to Vancouver Island's historic production of this resource, and the navy's reliance on it to power its ships.

What's most special, says Sharpe, is the fact that the gallery spans a time period beginning when the First Nations were situated in the Esquimalt Harbour area.

"I do love seeing the First Nations represented here. They are part of every story," says Sharpe. "My other favorite aspect of the gallery would be the Cole Island banner – because the island is part of the historic district which also includes the museum buildings, and people can't travel to Cole Island very easily, we wanted to bring that story here."

Most recently, Sharpe says, the museum has been working to partner with groups like the military police, the submariners, and the diving unit to showcase the individual histories of these organizations.

"As far as the museum's future holds, we're just so happy to be celebrating our history with the base community, and the surrounding Victoria communities," says Sharpe. "Even if we are behind the gate, the stories our displays tell are always a part of the bigger world."







Clockwise from top left: Branko Diklitch [Victoria Volunteers]; Sybil Kangas, Martina Diklitch [Great War Nursing sisters] and Roxanna Diklitch [Great War Mother]; Al Horner (left) in jeep provided by Lieutenant-General E.C. Ashton Museum; Don Thomas [WW2 Canadian Merchant Navy]; and Tony Austin [WW2 RCN Naval Officer].

Photos courtesy of Kara Tibbel, Kara Photography.

4 • Fall 2015



open house success

Sarah Taylor Museum Staff

Hundreds of visitors braved the summer heat to celebrate the CFB Esquimalt Naval and Military Museum's 30th anniversary during an open house Saturday, July 4.

The celebration began when Capt(N) Steve Waddell, Base Commander, and retired Rear Admiral Bob Yanow addressed the guests and welcomed them to the museum.

With the assistance of museum staff and the Base Commander, RAdm Yanow cut the ribbon to open the museum's newest gallery.

The scene was reminiscent of the opening of the museum 30 years ago. Guests were treated to cake after the ribbon cutting, and explored the museum and its newest permanent gallery, which deals with early naval interest in Esquimalt Harbour, and the museum buildings' role as a hospital during the First World War.



Members of the Victoria Esquimalt Military Re-Enactors Association, in their period uniforms, were a popular attraction as they interacted with visitors throughout the museum exhibits and provided a heritage tea service.

Guests also viewed temporary displays from the Military Police and the Defence Aboriginal Advisory group, spoke to serving submariners and retirees from the Submariners' Association of Canada (West), and connected with members of the Princess Patricia's Canadian Light Infantry and Queen's Own Rifles (QOR) Associations, including Ed Widenmaier, who delighted visitors with his knowledge and energy, while wearing the same QOR uniform he was married in.

Outside, young visitors enjoyed a variety of children's games, lunch was available from local food trucks, and fascinating displays were provided by the B.C. Aviation Museum, Vancouver Island Military Museum, the Alberni Project, and the Korea Veterans Association, plus military vehicles from the Lt Gen. E.C. Ashton Armoury and Museum.

Anyone interested in visiting the new gallery can stop by during regular museum hours, Monday to Friday, 10 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. except for statutory holidays.

WHAT VISITORS SAID ABOUT OUR JULY 4TH EVENT:

"Ex-navy stationed in Halifax. Great exhibit." - Sandy and Nancy Goldstien (Seguin, WA)

"Excellent displays, enjoyable open day."*Robert Brett (Victoria, BC)*

"Great time for a visit." - David and Nancy Cole (Severn, MD, USA)

"Loved all the reenactors, made the

museum come alive!" - Marion Freeman (Victoria, B.C.)

"Great museum, my 9 year old is fascinated!" - Bernard and Qinqin Turner (Singapore)

"Fabulous museum and very interesting to hear about life as a submariner." - Lesley Cliff Pococh (Laleham, England) "Original board member." - Sherri Robinson (Esquimalt, B.C.)

"First board member." - Darwin Robinson (Esquimalt, B.C.)

"Came with my 92-yearold dad, so he could show us where he signed up."

- Doreen Fehr (Victoria, B.C.)

"Came to see where I joined up in 1940." - Harold Gollenson (Victoria, B.C.)

"Everything looks fabulous - congrat!s!" - Janet Curley (Duncan, B.C.) "A wonderful displaywell worth a visit." - Anne Marshall (Brentwood Bay, B.C.)

"Very nice collection, amazing models and displays." - J.F. Masson

(Victoria, B.C.)

"Really well kept and presented. Thank you so much!"

- A. Lee and C. Leung (Richmond, B.C.)

"Lots of progress since i visited two years ago, BZ!!" - B.Robinson (Colwood, B.C.) and much more

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

THERE ARE SO MANY REASONS TO VISIT US!

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information about the history

and development of what is now

Canadian Forces Base Esquimalt;

• plans for historic buildings at Work

· official seamanship and naval trades

Point and CFB Esquimalt;

Canadian Navy;

· maps and charts;

training manuals;

historical documents;

· diaries and personal journals.

ship plans;

• 17,000+ digitized images in the museum database;

 key publications, including the Naval List, and the first Crowsnest 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





THE MUSEUM IS LOOKING FOR VOLUNTEERS!

You just might be the perfect fit!

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

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

6 • Fall 2015



CFB Esquimalt

Naval & Military Museum

Musée Militaire & Navai de la BFC Esquimalt

Sarah Taylor Museum Staff

On the evening of Tuesday, June 23rd, the CFB Esquimalt Naval and Military Museum was offered the opportunity to promote its upcoming 30th anniversary open house at the kick off concert for Memorial Park Music Fest in Esquimalt.

The Naden Band, also celebrating a significant anniversary this year (their 75th), was the main event for the evening with wonderful opening numbers by band students from Rockheights Elementary, Shoreline Middle School and Esquimalt High.

Although the museum did not have a travelling promotional display on hand, the chance to introduce the museum to Esquimalt residents was too good an opportunity to pass up, and a display was put together from historical photos and promotional material, including a series of trivia questions related to the CFB Esquimalt Naval and Military Museum.

The music was the main attraction, as well as the free birthday cake provided, but a variety of attendees also visited the museum's table, including museum volunteers, past CFB Esquimalt employees, and residents who had never visited the museum, but were now excited to do so for the 30th anniversary event.

Overall, it was an enjoyable evening with warm weather and cool tunes that helped to introduce even more people to the CFB Esquimalt Naval and Military Museum and its upcoming open house.

TEST YOUR KNOWLEDGE

MUSIC Fes

1) What year did the CFB Esquimalt Naval and Military Museum open?

2) What two regiments, once stationed in Victoria (but at different times), share an exhibit room in the museum?

3) What is the oldest commissioned ship in the Royal Canadian Navy?

4) What purpose did the buildings that now house the CFB Esquimalt Naval and Military Museum serve during World War I?

5) In what year was the current Canadian flag adopted?

ANSWERS

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German film-maker focuses documentary on THE GREAT IMPOSTER

Rachel Lallouz Lookout Newspaper

German filmmaker Judith Voelker spent three days in June at CFB Esquimalt filming a segment for her latest documentary called The Great Impostor.

With the help of a local Victoria film crew from Gamut Productions, she researched Ferdinand Waldo Demara at the CFB Esqumalt Naval and Military Museum, filmed scenic shots around the base, and interviewed Retired Commander Peter Chance, who met the impostor during the Korean War.

Demara masqueraded as many people over his life, but his most infamous was as a ship's surgeon on board HMCS Cayuga. After meeting a young doctor named Joseph C. Cyr in Maine, he took his identity and boarded the Royal Canadian Navy destroyer.

Peter Chance's first encounter with

the "Medical Officer" was in 1951 when he needed his infected toe looked at before shipping out in Cayuga.

"I went down to the ship, and met this affable, round-faced and beaming man who took a look at my foot and assured me that he would take care of it," says Cdr Chance, 94.

Rather than treat the toe right away, Demara requested the small operation take place the next morning. Unbeknownst to Cdr Chance, Demara spent the night pouring over medical textbooks.

"The next day he injected my foot with freezing medicine, cleared up the infection, wrapped my foot up, and sent me on my way with crutches," says Cdr Chance. "He knew exactly what he was doing, and he didn't hesitate or falter at all. It healed perfectly."

Cayuga deployed shortly after, taking Demara and Cdr Chance with

it. Bound for west of the Yalu River, Cayuga was sent as part of a United Nations Task force of commonwealth naval allies poised to fight in the Korean War.

"Joe, as we called him, continued to get along well with all the men on board. He was bright and totally trustworthy," says Cdr Chance. "His credibility rose enormously when our Captain, Cdr James Plomer, developed a swollen jaw as a result of an infected back molar, and Joe was called on to treat it."

Cdr Chance says that, after examining the infected tooth, Demara requested the operation take place the next morning.

"He told the Captain that he hadn't gotten a lot of dentistry training in medical school, but that he would go ahead with the operation anyways."

Sure enough, Cdr Chance recalls,

Demara had Cdr Plomer's room prepared like an operating theatre the following day.

"Our Captain was lying there when Joe appeared in his scrubs. He went in with the numbing needle, froze the jaw, and then used a pair of pliers to pry out the offending molar. When everything was done, Joe sutured him up."

Similar to Cdr Chance's experience, Cdr Plomer's jaw healed well.

His most notable surgical practices were performed on some 16 Korean combat casualties who were loaded onto the Cayuga.

"At that point, everyone on board agreed that Joe was due for a recommendation. We sent a message to naval headquarters, and the story went to press."

Meanwhile in New Brunswick, Dr Joseph Cyr's mother caught sight of his name in the papers. Her son was quick to contact the Canadian Naval Service Headquarters (NSHQ) with the complaint that his identity had been stolen.

During a night bombardment east of the Yalu River in Korea, Capt(N) Plomer received a surprising message from NSHQ: "Captain's eyes only. Have reason to believe your Medical Officer is imposter. Investigate and report."

The message was received with shock and disbelief by the ship's crew.

"We sent for Joe, and he blew up at us," says Cdr Chance. "We tried to reassure him ourselves, but he was very angry."

The phony Medical Officer was turned over to HMCS Ceylon, which transported him back to Esquimalt.

"We eventually found out that this man was a great artist – a con artist. He was a warden of a prison in Texas, taught philosophy at Duke University, and was an Anglican Priest on the San Juan Islands," says Cdr Chance.

After searching Demara's old room on board Cayuga, the crew found a duffle bag full of ecclesiastical garments, the costume for Demara's next persona after departing from the ship.

"The whole crew was saddened about being deceived, of course," says Cdr Chance. "But we weren't about to nail him to the cross because he had been such a wonderful member of our ship's company."

When Demara landed in Esquimalt, his true American identity led him to be escorted to the U.S. border, where Canadian officials dropped him off.

"There were a lot of red faces in the Canadian medical world," says Cdr Chance. "No charges were laid because they just wanted to put the matter to rest right away."

Demara, it was found, had entered the real Dr Cyr's office, taken his medical certificate off of the wall, and had it copied. He returned it to the office without Dr. Cyr ever knowing it had been stolen.

Understanding that the navy was desperately seeking doctors for Korean war deployments, Demara secured himself a position at the Royal Canadian Naval Hospital in Halifax using Dr. Cyr's credentials.

"He fooled everybody so well," says Cdr Chance. "Everybody believed him."

Demara's father had ran a chain of movie houses while Demara was growing up. LCdr Chance speculates that the young boy was so impressed with the characters he watched that he chose to live his fantasies out in reality.

Even after deceiving the crew, Demara made an appearance at the ship's reunion in the summer of 1969.

"He turned up as the Reverend Waldo Demara, a Baptist minister from Anaheim, California. He was wearing a big bronze cross, and was adorned in pastoral attire. He was beaming."

The crew's fond memories of Demara led him to be embraced by everyone at the reunion, before he went on his way. He died 13 years later in 1982.

Cdr Chance's 32 year military career came to end in 1969, but he says he's been asked to tell the story of his brush with the great imposter time after time again.

"You can't deny that it's a captivating story," he says. "Demara obviously enjoyed impersonating, but apart from that, he had mastered it as an art."

The documentary is scheduled to air in Germany as part of a series about imposters in the Fall.

Judith Voelker lives in Cologne, Germany

- With files from Clare Sharpe, Museum Exhibit Designer and Webmaster, CFB Esquimalt Naval and Military Museum.



Volunteers add to Museum success Sarah Taylor, Museum Staff

One thing I learned very quickly after starting my summer work term at the CFB Esquimalt Naval and Military Museum is how invaluable museum volunteers are to the continued success of the museum. Each volunteer brings their own wisdom and experiences to the role they play at the museum.

In preparation for the 30th anniversary open house on July 4, I conducted brief interviews with two long time museum volunteers to obtain their perspective on the museum over the decades and to learn about their individual histories as well. I hope that you will enjoy reading it as much as I enjoyed speaking with Cecil Baker and Paul O'Reilly.

Captain (Navy) Ret'd Cecil Baker, a volunteer for over twenty years, first became involved with the museum when he joined the base historical society while posted to CFB Esquimalt as a Base Technical Services Officer from 1978-81. After his initial involvement with the museum historical society, Capt(N) Baker was posted away from Victoria, but returned to the city when he retired in 1991 and began volunteering with the museum helping with research and working as a tour guide.

When asked to describe the changes he has seen over the years, Cecil Baker is quick to point out how much the museum has expanded since it first opened in Naden 20, and how the exhibits have changed over the years. He recalls one of the most popular early attractions being a torpedo that was cut open so visitors could see what it looked like on the inside with some visitors returning multiple times to view the display. The torpedo is now housed at Rocky Point.

Another museum volunteer, Paul O'Reilly has the distinction of being the second man to join the Canadian Forces as he enlisted on February 1st, 1968, in Nova Scotia (the first man enlisted in Newfoundland).

Although stationed at MARPAC Headquarters in the mid-90s he was initially unaware of the museum, and became involved as a volunteer in 2002 as a way to keep busy during his retirement. O'Reilly jokes that he is bilingual tour guide as he is fluent in both Air Force and Navy.

He also helped to digitize the museum's extensive photo archives collection of some 17,000 photos, scanning over 1,500 his first year on the project.

One of O'Reilly's favourite photos is possibly the last photo ever taken of HMS HOOD. The photo was taken in April 1941 and the HOOD was sunk the following month.

Tour groups of all ages are welcome at the museum, but when asked to name their favourite group they've toured over the years both volunteers indicate that they enjoy giving tours for youth.

Cecil Baker enjoys touring young people, because "kids are very inquisitive" and they are the age group that likes to ask all the questions. They also tend to see small details overlooked by others, as he recalls that a ten year old boy was the only visitor to notice the eyeliner on the mannequin in the diver's exhibit.

Paul O'Reilly especially enjoys giving tours for new recruits. Like Cecil Baker, he also enjoys touring young people and making the history relatable to them, explaining to high school students how at age thirteen they could be in the navy, as boy sailors served up until the start of World War II.

The 30th anniversary event had a variety of activities for visitors of all ages. When asked prior to the event what they were most looking forward to, Paul O'Reilly mentioned the displays that will be provided by the Victoria Scale Modellers Club, which he belongs to.

He was also instrumental in making the museum's vast collection of ship plans available to modellers and interested parties.

Cecil Baker was looking forward to seeing the military reenactors in naval uniforms. The re-enactors were stationed throughout the museum's exhibits to bring the history to life in a new way for visitors.

The 30th anniversary event on July 4th was an excellent opportunity for members of the military and public alike to explore the vast history contained in the CFB Esquimalt Naval and Military Museum, which volunteers like Cecil Baker and Paul O'Reilly have been sharing with visitors for thirty years.

Possibly the last photo ever taken of HMS HOOD. The photo was taken in April 1941 and the HOOD was sunk the following month.

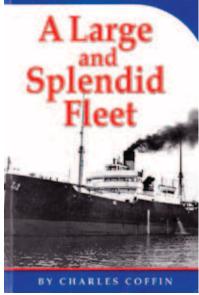


BOOK REVIEW

A Large and Splendid Fleet – The Canadian Government Merchant Marine

Charles Coffin Veteran's Publications P.O. Box 223 Kemptville, ON Canada, K0G 1J0 ISBN 978-0-9784037-8-2

THE CANADIAN GOVERNMENT MERCHANT MARINE



Reviewed by Paul O'Reilly

This book is about the development and operation of the Canadian Government Merchant Marine (CGMM), the first wholly-Canadian merchant marine service, from its formulation at the closing days of the Great War in 1918 to the service's demise in 1936.

The book is divided into two parts – the first describes the formation of the service to provide replacements for ships lost during the war and to situate Canada favourably in what was expected to be a decade of economic boom. It ends with the demise of the service due to economic failure in 1936. The second part describes the service history of each of the vessels. Of interest was the fact that the service sent ships to every continent on the globe and that many of the runs were from British Columbia to far away ports such as Halifax, Nova Scotia, Great Britain and Europe!

While the service was an economic failure in the long run, it was due primarily to government intransigence and meddling.

The ships were not modified to take advantage of newer technologies and competing Canadian shipping companies were allowed to take some of the more lucrative routes so the end result did not come as a great surprise. However, the service did provide Canada with a cadre of experienced merchant sailors to man the ships in the convoys during the Second World War.

Normally I wouldn't mention the Foreword or Introduction in a review but this book has a story within a story.

The author, Charles Coffin served for 21 years in the Canadian Navy, retiring 1986. He set to work on this book gathering information and conducting research as needed.

Tragically he was struck down by cancer before he could get his book published. His wife, Antoinette finished his book and, with the help of the publisher had the book sent to print thus bringing his dream to reality.

United Nations flag - HMCS Sioux - by Rob Nichol, Archival Assistant

As we continue to catalogue the Museum's collection in the warehouse at Dockyard 83, we encounter no shortage of interesting items. Recently, I've been documenting a wide variety of flags, pennants and banners. Among the white and red ensigns, signal and senior officers' flags, each with their own unique histories, I picked one to share with readers. It is United Nations flag donated by George Mannix.

Documentation within the donor file states that then Yeoman Mannix hand-made this flag while serving on HMCS Sioux.

At the time of construction, the CFB Esquimalt-based Sioux was on her way to support the United Nations' effort to defend the Republic of Korean from a North Korean invasion. It was apparently first flown in the summer of 1950 while entering Kwajalein, an atoll in the Marshall Islands that served as a US Navy communications, supply and refuelling station.

Sioux's first task was to escort ships between Sasebo, Japan and Pusan, which was then witnessing a veritable 'last stand' of ROK and UN troops against the North Koreans. It was then transferred to the west coast of Korea to provide support to the Inchon landings that relieved Pusan and allowed UN forces to push north.

A few months later, after the Chinese entered the war, Sioux covered the withdrawal of UN troops from Chinnampo and then from Incheon.

HMCS Sioux departed for home in January of 1951, but served two more tours around the Korean peninsula and was the final Canadian vessel to depart those waters after cessation of hostilities.

Yeoman Mannix can be forgiven the crude construction of this flag given that North Korea crossed the 39th Parallel on 25 June, 1950 and Sioux was en route to assist, with Athabaskan and Cayuga, on 5 July.

As an artifact, it's the kind of thing that tells a deeper story than a generic mass-produced nylon flag. The white bunting map and olive branches still show the black marker cut lines and though it's difficult to see in this photograph, the flag itself is made of navy blue bunting.

I guess, normally, there wasn't ever a need for sky blue on board a Canadian warship? I'm happy to say, for a 65-year-old, delicate and unique artifact, it's still holding up really well.

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

CFB Esquimalt

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- Labour Day, Sept 7
- Thanksgiving Oct 12

HOURS OF OPERATION

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