



CFB ESQUIMALT NAVAL & MILITARY MUSEUM NEWSLETTER

Inside

THIS ISSUE

- The Brodeur Family.....1
- Be A Tourist In Your Own Hometown2
- HMCS ASBESTOS Photo a Happy Find5
- Crew Photo Archive5
- Vimy Ridge 100th Anniversary Flight6
- Your Man is Here, Sir!.....8
- Photo Therapy.....9
- Fabric of the Community9
- Birthday Surprise for Crusader Veteran 10



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

A Prominent Canadian Family Donation

THE BRODEUR FAMILY



SHORT while ago, the museum received an important donation from Vice-Admiral (Ret'd) Nigel Brodeur. The Brodeur family played such an important role in development of Canada and the Royal Canadian Navy, that the 3 boxes of archival material are a true gift in every sense of the word.

Contained in the donation are copies of papers and correspondence from Louis-Phillipe Brodeur – a former Member of Parliament who served from 1891 through 1911. In 1896, he was elected Deputy Speaker of the House and then became Speaker of the House in 1900. He served in the Speaker capacity until 1904 when he entered Prime Minister Laurier's cabinet as Minister of Inland Revenue.



Beard, Rousseau, Self (Victor Brodeur) aboard HMCS Niobe.

Continued on page 3

HOLIDAY CLOSURES

- Good Friday - Friday 14 April 2017
- Easter Monday - Monday 17 April 2017
- Victoria Day - Monday 22 May 2017



THE MUSEUM *Team*

Museum Team

Debbie Towell – Curator

Joseph Lenarcik – Assistant Curator

Clare Sharpe – Museum Exhibit Designer/
Webmaster/Volunteer Coordinator

Tatiana Robinson – Archival Assistant

Mike Baran – Workshop staff

Sean Hadley-O'Shaughnessy – Workshop staff

Selena Gillespie – Special Projects



Be a Tourist in Your Own Hometown

This year, “Be A Tourist in Your Own Hometown” ran from Thursday February 23 to Sunday February 28. We were one of over fifty locations that participated.

Besides offering free admission to “Be A Tourist VIP Card” holders we added Saturday and Sunday museum openings. This gave visitors and local residents, who couldn't visit our museum during our regular weekday business hours, an additional opportunity to view our exhibits.

Over the four days of the event we had 158 visitors; of whom 112 were “Be A Tourist VIP Card” holders. Although it was billed as a local event, we had visitors from as far as Regina, Saskatchewan.

We wish to thank everyone who helped make this event a success; especially museum volunteers: Clarence Lockyer, David Churchill, Zoila B. Proud, Tom Pound and Brian McGregor-Foxcroft, who greeted our visitors and answered their questions.

~ Joseph Lenarcik
Assistant Curator

Our Active Volunteers

| | |
|------------------|----------------------------|
| Cecil Baker | Brian McGregor-Foxcroft |
| Don Bendall | Florence McGregor-Foxcroft |
| Valerie Chatten | Paul O'Reilly |
| Dave Churchill | Tom Pound |
| Jeremy Clunn | Zoila B. Proud |
| Janet Kay Curley | Greg Sharpe |
| Dave Freeman | Starr Sinton |
| Michael Harrison | Sarah Taylor |
| Bob Hewitt | Don Thomas |
| Gerry Kennedy | Norm Truswell |
| Clarence Lockyer | Ed Widenmaier |

To Our Readers

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Merçi!

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THE BRODEUR FAMILY



Captain and friends, 1910 – aboard HMCS Canada.



Self (Cadet) Victor Brodeur, 1909 – HMCS Canada.

Continued from page 1

By 1906 he was serving as Minister of Marine and Fisheries until 1911 when he was appointed judge of the Supreme Court of Canada. Later in his career he would be appointed Lieutenant-Governor of Quebec. It goes without saying that Louis-Phillipe Brodeur played a significant role in Canadian politics and history.

There are also copies of papers and correspondence of Rear-Admiral Victor Gabriel Brodeur. Victor Brodeur began his naval career in 1909 when he joined the Canadian government ship Canada in anticipation of the formation of the Canadian Navy. For the next 37 years, he served the Royal Navy and Royal Canadian Navy – on land and at

sea. He would later command HMCS SKEENA and HMCS CHAMPLAIN and was Officer Commanding Pacific Coast from 1938 to 1940 and again from 1943 until his retirement from active service in 1946.

Also, contained in this collection, is a laser copy of a photo album. This album has some amazing images, complete

Continued on page 4



THE BRODEUR FAMILY



Continued from page 3

with captions, and showcases the careers and lives of the Brodeurs. We have had the images from the album digitized – included with this article are just a few examples of what you can expect to see in the collection.

This is just a very small sampling of the photos in the collection. The Brodeur papers fill 3 bankers' boxes and are a true treasure trove. The donation is a copy only – the original collection resides at Library and Archives Canada in Ottawa – but it is an important addition to the museum's archives and one which will be in constant use by staff and researchers alike.

~ By Debbie Towell,
Museum Curator



French Canadians, Beard, Rousseau, Self (Victor Brodeur).



Boat deck (HMCS Niobe) in winter, 1911.

“ This album has some amazing images, complete with captions, and showcases the careers and lives of the Brodeurs.





HMCS ASBESTOS Photo a Happy Find

CFB ESQUIMALT Naval and Military Museum's collection includes a large number of crew photos. We're very conscious of what an important resource these photos are, and we want to share them.

So when Mr. Clark Robinson of Lethbridge, Alberta, got in contact in January 2017 to find out if we had any 1945 crew pictures from HMCS ASBESTOS, the ship his late father served in, it was good to be able to report that yes, we could certainly help him. Mr. Clark explained that due to a loss, he no longer has many precious family photos, including photos of his Dad in his naval uniform and with his wartime shipmates and friends.

As luck would have it, Mr. Robinson's enquiry was especially timely. In Fall 2016, the museum received a contribution

from a donor here in Victoria of just such a crew photo, taken in Ireland, the first for this particular ship that we've ever received. When I called Clark Robinson to tell him the good news, he was quite overcome. He told me the ASBESTOS crew picture had had pride of place in his childhood home, and recovering this important image from his past was very meaningful to him.

Crew pictures tend to be very long, longer than will fit in the average desktop

scanner. So it was necessary to take the original off-site to be scanned by a contractor before being able to put it onto a compact disk in different formats to share with Clark. The time and effort involved was well worthwhile, and a joyful phone call from the recipient in Lethbridge served as strong confirmation that these photos do matter, and merit careful care and preservation.

~ Clare Sharpe
Museum Exhibit Designer / Webmaster/
Volunteer Coordinator

“The ASBESTOS crew picture had had pride of place in his childhood home, and recovering this important image from his past was very meaningful to him.”

CREW PHOTO ARCHIVE OPEN TO ALL

CFB Esquimalt Naval & Military Museum has undertaken an extensive project to scan ships' crew photos. The goal is to make these photos widely available.

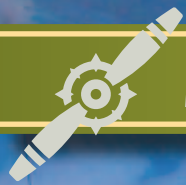
Perhaps one of your family members appears in these pictures. You may be researching your family's history and don't have a photo of a family member

who served in Her (or His) Majesty's Canadian ships.

Or you may be seeking photos from your own career in the Navy, photos of yourself and crewmates that will bring back many memories.

To see a list of photos of group and crew pictures available, please visit the museum website at:

<http://www.navalandmilitarymuseum.org/archives/projects/crew-photos>



BATTLE OF VIMY RIDGE 100TH ANNIVERSARY

REPLICA WAR PLANES Take Flight

AT THE MOMENT when five replica First World War planes make a symbolic pass over Vimy Ridge Memorial April 9, Major (Retired) Paul O'Reilly, Museum volunteer, says he will be choking back tears.

The fly over is part of the Veterans Affairs Canada-led ceremony to mark

the 100th anniversary of the Battle of Vimy Ridge, and retired military pilots and one from the Royal Canadian Air Force (RCAF) will be in the cockpit.

Two Sopwith Pups, four Nieuport 11s, and one SE5 were placed into a CC-177 Globemaster III and flown to France March 15. The Sopwith Pup replicas, built by Canadian Museum of

Flight volunteers along with air cadets from 746 Lightening Hawk Squadron at Langley, British Columbia, will be used for static displays.

One of those Nieuports belongs to O'Reilly. The single seat French fighter plane is affectionately nicknamed Béb  by French pilots, but re-dubbed Pokey by O'Reilly. With careful precision the planes were loaded into the belly of the massive transport aircraft as proud owners closely watched.

"My wife Nancy could see I was really getting choked up because it was like seeing a dream come to fruition and realizing this was actually happening. Attending the ceremony will be a far more emotional moment for me," says O'Reilly.

The 69-year-old Brentwood Bay resident enjoyed a 34-year military career as a Sea King pilot with the RCAF, and later as a flight instructor. He also worked at CFB Esquimalt from 1995 to 1999 in an administrative position with the Maritime Air Group Detachment (Pacific).

"After I retired from the military I mistakenly thought that was it for my flying career and aviation, it was done for good, over and out," he says.

But he didn't stay away long. While driving by the Victoria International Airport a few years back he noticed two Nieuports landing. He went to the



It's like a jigsaw puzzle. The Vimy Flight Association's aircraft are safely stowed in the CC-177 Globemaster III.

Photo by Major Holly-Anne Brown

1917 - 2017

Captain Brent Handy, an RCAF pilot from 15 Wing Moose Jaw, Saskatchewan, will fly Bill O'Reilly's Nieuport IIs in the historic flypast during the main ceremony at Vimy Ridge next month.

Photo by Major Dave Wood



airport to investigate and discovered one was piloted by a former member of his Squadron, Allan Snowie.

This re-acquaintance led them on a two-year journey to rebuild a replica Nieuport near Snowie's home in Bellingham, Wash.

"While he had a flyable Nieuport he had another that was still in pieces when I first saw it," says O'Reilly.

The finished plane has some design differences such as a more reliable and efficient Volkswagen engine, which also eliminates the nasty early aviation reality of oil-soaked exhaust spraying back into the pilot's face. Plus a more durable and lighter aluminum frame instead of wood, and a flame-resistant Ceconite, polyester interior. The plane was also built to a scale of roughly seven-eighths of its original size.

O'Reilly was hoping to fly the plane at the Vimy Ridge event, but just two months ago his doctor grounded him because of a medical condition. Climbing into the cockpit of the Nieuport will be Captain Brent Handy, 15 Wing Moose Jaw, Saskatchewan, a former Snowbirds and CF-188 Hornet pilot who, outside his military duties, also flies a Pitts Special aerobatic biplane on the North American airshow circuit.

Capt Handy is bringing his wife

Rebecca, and son Evan, 9, and daughter Grace, 6, to Vimy to witness the flight.

"It will be a defining moment for them to learn about the sacrifices made by soldiers and airmen at Vimy," says Capt Handy. "I feel like I have won the lottery because these honourable gentlemen are entrusting me with their airplane and I'm completely stoked and honoured to be representing the RCAF with this flight."

Each of the five planes will honour a First World War aviation hero. O'Reilly's plane will fly in honour of flying ace and Air Commodore Alan Duncan Bell-Irving, who was credited with seven aerial victories while serving with the Royal Flying Corps.

O'Reilly will also take part in the "A Nation Soars" project

that involves a cross-Canada tour of interactive events, flights and appearances by pilots over the summer months. A Nation Soars includes a series of documentaries narrated by Canadian actor Dan Aykroyd in English, and in French by Canadian explorer and mountaineer Bernard Voyer.

More information on Vimy Flight can be found at www.vimyflight.ca/home.html

— Peter Mallett, Lookout Newspaper



Canadian Armed Forces helicopter pilot, Major Paul O'Reilly before retirement.

Your Man is Here, Sir!

Artist Larry Mofford's cartoon captures the humour of an amusing incident from the history of HMCS TRILLIUM.



Let Skinny Hayes, RCN, and A/SLt Larry Mofford, RCNVR, found themselves serving together in HMCS TRILLIUM during 1941/42. Their ship was then sailing between Halifax and Greenock, Scotland.

For those who had the pleasure of knowing him, Skinny Hayes - later Captain, RCN - could rattle off a good story. Below is one of his stories – somewhat abridged – that I found in the ship's file for TRILLIUM at the Directorate of History and Heritage in Ottawa. Along with the typewritten story was a copy of a painting done by Skinny Hayes' winger, Larry Mofford, who in civilian life was a commercial artist.

“While anchored in Hvalfjördur, Iceland, over Christmas, 1941... we were told to send an Officer over to the Depot Ship, HMS FORTH, to pick up some Confidential Books. A/SLt Larry Mofford, as the Junior Officer in the ship, had the awful job of Confidential Book Officer – so he had to go. I was the Navigator....

The ship had just been issued with our first, new-fangled outboard motor – the first anyone had ever seen. So, I volunteered to try it out on our little ‘jolly boat’, and take A/SLt Mofford over to FORTH.

All went well and Larry disappeared up

the ladder into the bowels of this large ship and I was waved away from the gangway to wait [his return]. I was afraid to stop the motor in case it wouldn't start again so I steamed around in circles. After a considerable wait in the cold and windy weather, I was waved alongside to pick up my passenger, who arrived down in the boat killing himself with laughter.

I was cold and wet and not in a laughing mood. When I asked him what was so funny he told me that when I got my boat alongside to pick him up, the English Quartermaster at the gangway saluted smartly and informed him that ‘Your Man is here, Sir!’

That amused Mofford so much, bearing in mind our relative seniority, experience and jobs, that he produced a cartoon after I had thawed out aboard TRILLIUM.”

In January 1942, Larry Mofford saw the design for the unofficial badge for WETASKIWIN as it was about to be installed on a bulkhead in the Crow's Nest Club in St. John's. He then rapidly produced his own design for TRILLIUM, and painted it on a piece of plywood. It featured Disney's Donald Duck. A few month's later, he painted the same design on the ship's gun shield but signed the image “Hayes”. This story is related in my book *Designs of Distinction – Unofficial Insignia of the RCN 1910-1948*.

By Dave Freeman © 2017



Photo Therapy



According to psychologist Judy Weiser, “photo-interactive activities are used to increase people’s own self-knowledge, awareness, and well-being, improve their relationships with family and others, activate positive social change, reduce social exclusion, assist rehabilitation, strengthen communities, deepen intercultural relations, lessen conflict, bring attention to issues of social injustice, sharpen visual literacy skills, enhance education, ex-

pand qualitative research and prevention methodologies, and produce other kinds of photo-based personal/emotional healing and learning”. I always thought museums had a role to play in educating and entertaining society but it appears they may also have a therapeutic role as well.

Last year, I received a request from Katherine Stewart, an intern at Sunnybrook Health Sciences Centre, in Toronto. She was part of the Creative Arts

Therapies team, specializing in photo therapy and she requested ship photos on behalf of a resident who served in the navy. I sent her several images on a cd and later heard that they had made a banner from them. Above is a photo of Richard Ratcliffe, alongside the banner created to chronologically showcase the ships he was proudly a member of.

– J. Lenarick
Assistant Curator

The Fabric of Community

To celebrate the milestone of its 50th anniversary, the Capital Regional District (CRD) has created a legacy project that includes CFB Esquimalt Naval and Military Museum as part of a unique collaborative effort.

To showcase the collaborative spirit that has built the region, and highlight its connections and diversity, the CRD worked with 36 members from quilting groups to design a regional quilt. The quilters, all accomplished and enthusiastic textile artists, represented three guilds, the Fibre Art Network, and First Nations artists.

The quilt they created comprises 28 unique blocks, with one block representing each of the 13 municipalities

plus three electoral areas that make up the CRD. The project also features three designs specially made by Tsawout First Nation artists, and to tie the whole thing together, additional blocks represent iconic images and locations in the region. Together the 28 blocks weave a tapestry of the capital region’s landscapes, and showcase a community of communities.

The Esquimalt quilt block displays a number of notable landmarks within the municipality that are important and recognizable to local residents. These landmarks include Macaulay Point, Saxe Point, a pirate ship to represent Buccaneer Days, the Naval base at CFB Esquimalt and the CFB



This colourful quilt block featuring notable Esquimalt landmarks – including the heritage building that houses CFB Esquimalt Naval and Military Museum’s archives and offices in Naden 20 – is part of a larger project to mark the Capital Regional District’s 50th year in operation.

Esquimalt Naval and Military Museum.

We are happy to have been a part of this interesting project, and enjoyed working with such creative energetic people to provide them with

a scanned version of the museum’s logo that was used as a basis for the finished product.

– Clare Sharpe
Museum Exhibit Designer /
Webmaster / Volunteer Coordinator



Birthday Surprise for Crusader Veteran

At the museum, we're often reminded powerfully of the personal significance our archival photos have for individuals who served in the RCN, and for their family members. A recent photo quest on behalf of veteran Doug Willox and his son Rob is one example of this profound sense of connection certain photos represent, and

the memories and happiness they can bring.

Late Last November, I received an email from Rob Willox, who lives in New York and who contacted us after reading an article in the Canadian Naval Review titled "The Long Reach: The RCN and the Korean War" by Michael Whitby.

The article included a picture of HMCS CRUSADER returning to her home port of Esquimalt. Rob wrote:

"I was very pleased to find this article as well as the picture. My father, Doug Willox was a crew member of CRUSADER and talked a number of times about the ship's 'Train Busters' club record. [Editor's note: HMCS CRUSADER successfully destroyed a record total of 4 enemy supply trains on the east coast of the Korean Peninsula during the Korean War.]

"I was looking to do something unique for my father's 88th birthday. I had found and purchased a picture of the CRUSADER through the Royal Navy archives that I gave to him two years ago. He, however, noticed that the hull number was from her RN and not her RCN service. I came across the

“Time seemed to be of the essence in fulfilling this request – after all, no-one wants to deny an about-to-be 88-year-old veteran his heart's desire, especially just before Christmas.



article last night and was very excited to find the photography of her in her RCN livery credited to your museum.

My request is to acquire a digital copy of the picture of the CRUSADER and I would have that mounted and framed and give it to my father. Please let me know what is possible. Dad's birthday is Dec 21."

Time seemed to be of the essence in fulfilling this request – after all, no-one wants to deny an about-to-be 88-year-old veteran his heart's desire, especially just before Christmas. So right away I checked the museum archives database for the CAYUGA homecoming photo referenced by Rob Willox. It turned out we definitely had the original picture, numbered as VR2006.9.65 in the collection. But it wasn't scanned into the data-

base at a high resolution, and so needed to be pulled from storage and rescanned. The original print was also quite damaged and took some editing in Photoshop to yield a large and clear enough image for a top-quality print. For good measure I also included for Doug Willox some CRUSADER crew photos from the Korean War era and other images that looked like they could be of interest – for example a photo of HMCS ONTARIO resupplying CRUSADER at sea.

Because there wasn't enough time available to put the pictures on a disk or memory stick and mail them out to the Willox family, they were sent via our Museum Dropbox account, a program that enables transfer of large images, files and folders.

To say the Willoxes were delighted with

the result would be an understatement. Rob Willox was soon in touch to let us know his mission was accomplished:

"Thank you so much for your help with the pictures. Dad was so appreciative. I made a photo album of all the photos that you kindly sent (amazing what you can do at a drugstore kiosk these days!) He loved it. He appreciated the picture of their [CRUSADER's] homecoming to Esquimalt. He also appreciated the picture of Ontario resupplying CRUSADER, as he also spent time on her before transferring to Crusader (I didn't know this!)."

You made an old sailor very happy."

~ By Clare Sharpe
Museum Exhibit Designer/Webmaster/
Volunteer Coordinator

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

NAVAL & MILITARY MUSEUM

Statutory holiday closures

Good Friday -
Friday 14 April 2017
Easter Monday -
Monday 17 April 2017
Victoria Day -
Monday 22 May 2017

HOURS OF OPERATION

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

SUGGESTED DONATION

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

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Call (250) 363-4312 or 5655
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VISIT US ON THE WEB AT
www.navalandmilitarymuseum.org



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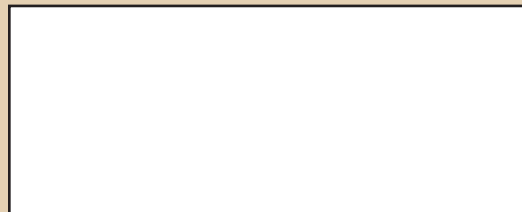
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