The Crow’s Nest Celebrates Its 73rd Anniversary

On Saturday, January 24th, the Club celebrated its seventy-third anniversary in grand style. OS Ashley Bradley and Officer Cadet Jessica Power, representing HMCS Cabot, are seen here cutting the anniversary cake. Later, they took the opportunity to continue the tradition of “cluttering the bar.” It’s always a pleasure to welcome young people from our naval units to the Club.

Of course, Club members were out in force to celebrate as well, as Helen Goodridge, Sharon Outerbridge, Arthur Barrett, Kay Hope and Ellen Good demonstrate here. Thanks to Ernie Reid for these pictures.
President’s Report
by Margaret Morris

I have thoroughly enjoyed my first year as president. Throughout the year, I've started to take better notes about what goes on in our Club. As I stated at the AGM, it surprised me when I discovered that there were more Club tours than Club dinners in the past twelve months! Cadet corps, school groups, visiting conferences, an author or two, a few journalists and some private requests—all have asked not only to view our collection but to also hear the stories. We are always happy to oblige.

These tours currently take 60-90 minutes. We usually tell a brief history of the Club, select a gunshield or two for additional stories and then have an opportunity for Q&A before letting the visiting group wander the room for a closer look at the memorabilia. With the number of gunshields and various artifacts in our Club, there are enough stories to let us make dozens of presentations of this length without repeating ourselves.

Several items have stories that could easily be made into feature-length movies!

Engaging young military personnel in various Club events is as important as our tours. It was great fun having the Deck Department from HMCS Cabot re-install the ropework by the bar. This was another project that brought the Club a little closer to its WWII look and feel. It was also enjoyable to host representatives from the Army Reserve at our Remembrance Day dinner and members of the Air Reserve at our Battle of the Atlantic dinner. The photos from these occasions demonstrate how the generations are drawn together in preserving the past at the Crow’s Nest.

It has been a very successful year. I'd like to thank Jim Austin, Catherine Street and Jack Strong for their fine contribution to the Board during their terms as directors. I would like to welcome Rob Shea, Peter Fisher and Donna Lee French to the 2015/16 Board.

I am confident that another successful year lies ahead.

Remember that the Club's Friday lunches continue through the summer months as does Weepers. Our dinner program will resume in late September. Enjoy your summer, whatever your plans may be. I hope to see you at the Crow's Nest soon.

As a result of our AGM on Wednesday 27, May, our 2015/16 Board is as follows:

**Officers:** President Margaret Morris, Vice President Gary Walsh, Secretary Wayne Ludlow and **Treasurer:** Mary Grouchy.

**Directors:** Lionel Clarke, Patricia Mercer, Ian Wheeler, Jon Summers, Donna Lee French, Peter Fisher, Rob Shea, David Moores, Glen Eagleson.

**Ex Officio:** Immediate Past President Tony Dearness, CNMAA President Bruce Bennett.

At the Corvette Wake Mess Dinner, February 2, left to right, OS Kimberly Andrews, CNMAA President Bruce Bennett, Club President Margaret Morris and Club member Jon Summers admire art work donated by the family of Joseph Marston who served on the ill-fated corvette Spikenard. Away from his ship for a navigation course in early 1942, he was not on board when his ship was torpedoed.

Thanks to Lionel Clarke for the photo.
Members' News

Congratulations to Jean-Pierre Andrieux on being appointed as a Member of the Order of Canada on November 20, 2014. This award recognizes his contributions as an author and collector dedicated to preserving the maritime history of Newfoundland and Labrador.

Bravo Zulu to Chief Petty Officer 2nd Class Richard Bungay on recently being awarded the MARLANT coin from RAdm John Newton. Chief Bungay has served in the Naval Reserve for over 25 years. In that time, he chalked up a remarkable 2,000 days underway! He holds the record for having the most time in as a Chief Engineer in the RCN. Yes, he likes being at sea and says he doesn't count the days.

In addition to a promotion and posting to National Defence HQ as the Director General, Commodore Luc Cassivi has also been appointed to the Order of Military Merit (officer level).

Congratulations to St. John's film maker Barbara Doran on receiving her honorary Doctorate of Laws degree from the Grenfell Campus of Memorial University of Newfoundland. In addition to her work in film, Barbara is also a founder of the Women's Centre and The Transition House in St John's.

Welcome Aboard

In Town:
Anderson Noel
Ashley Bradley
Ann Chafe
John Gow
Wade Sppurrell
Dana Aitken
Phillip Hadfield
Michael J. Maguire
Patrick MacDonald
Mervin Andrews
Charlie O'Keefe
Arthur Barrett
John Wyper
Tom Cromwell
David Crosbie
Arthur Clausnitzer, Jr.
Emily Wolf
Tonya Kearley-Russell
Nicholas Herder
Gail Wideman

Out of Town:
Scott Nelson, Victoria, BC
William Fletcher,
Hearts Delight, NL
Steve Martin, Saint John, NB
Hon Capt (N) Myra Freeman, Halifax, NS
Lt(N) Stephen Normore,
Ottawa, ON
Lcdr (Ret'd) Roy Busby,
Red Deer, AB
Frank Davis, Toronto, ON
Lt Joseph Jenkins USN, Greenville, SC, USA
Terry Saltsman, Toronto, ON
Sean Driscoll, Lethbridge, AB
Trond Spande, Stavanger, Norway
Daniel O'Keefe, Edmonton, AB

Thanks to Bill Graham for presenting a Crow's Nest plaque to Royal Artillery Park at their recent mess dinner. This presentation marks the very close ties between the Crow's Nest and RA Park. Many members of RA Park are also members of the Crow's Nest.

At the same mess dinner, Bill also presented a set of wings from "The Ninety-Nines, Inc." to fellow Crow's Nest member LCdr (ret'd) Sherry Richardson. The Ninety-Nines was established in 1929 by 99 women pilots and their first president was none other than Amelia Earhart. This international organization promotes the advancement of women's aviation through education, scholarships and mutual support while sharing their history and passion for flight. To complete pilot training at the age of 78, Sherry certainly exemplifies the highest standard of excellence and she is a model for all young aviators. (See photo, next page.)

Colonel Peter Williams was awarded the Meritorious Service Medal (Military Division) in October 2014 for his service while deployed to the Kabul Military Training Centre from June 2012 to June 2013. His citation noted that his "leadership and ingenuity were integral to the Centre's operational effectiveness, and brought great credit to the Canadian Armed Forces."
Benjamin S. Haas, IC Cadet in Naval Architecture at SUNY Maritime College in Throgs Neck, NY, placed first in the Maritime Academy Competition, of the Connecticut Maritime Association in March 2013. He presented his paper, "Strategies For Success Of Nuclear Powered Shipping," to an audience of his peers and members of the industry. Benjamin, with his student team at SUNY, took third place in the SNAME Dr. James Lisnyk Student Ship Design Competition for their preliminary ship design on "Nuclear-Powered US-Flagged Container Ship For Foreign Trade" in October.

Bill Graham and LCdr (ret'd) Sherry Richardson at the recent Royal Artillery Park mess dinner where Sherry received her wings from "The Ninety-Nines, Inc."

In Memoriam

Amelia Harnum (1925-2014) by Gary Green

Amelia (Millie) Harnum was the last known hostess of “The Seagoing Officers' Club,” the Crow's Nest's official name during WWII. When the Club's rules were relaxed to allow women in one night a week, Millie and several other young women became hostesses, serving up food and hospitality. By day she was employed by the Royal Canadian Navy in HMCS Avalon. Initially she was assigned to the top secret convoy operations group located on the Southside where she was privy to information about convoy activity and all ship status reports. She and just a few others had access to a room where the information was displayed on a large tracking board with a locking wooden cover.

Later she was assigned to Logistics under Commander Rowe and moved to the complex located at the present Buckmaster's Circle. At war's end, she relocated to HQ for the decommissioning of HMCS Avalon. Post war, she went to work with Neil and Soper until she married Robert. Together they raised a family and owned a business in Chamberlains. She later came back to the Club as a member. Millie was intensely proud of her association with the Nest and was very sad when she could no longer climb the 59 steps. Just before her passing, she was in a St. Clare's Hospital room which overlooked her wartime workplace. She regaled all visitors and hospital staff with tales of both HMCS Avalon and the SGOC/Crow's Nest. We have
In Memoriam (con’t)

Vice Admiral Ralph L. Hennessy, DSC, CD, RCN, BA
by Margaret Morris

A founding member and strong supporter of the Crow's Nest, VAdm Ralph Hennessy died in Ottawa on June 13, 2014 at the age of 95. Despite a long family tradition of Army service, VAdm Hennessy chose to join the RCN as an Officer Cadet in 1936. This decision led to a long and illustrious career both at sea and ashore. He participated in 80 convoy escort duties during WWII and was second-in-command of HMCS ASSINIBOINE when it engaged U-210. He was awarded the Distinguished Service Cross for his actions in that battle. After the war, VAdm Hennessy remained with the RCN and became Canada's senior naval officer during the difficult and challenging integration of the three services. After retiring from the Navy, VAdm Hennessy also had an impressive civilian career. He was appointed the founding Executive Director of the Standards Council of Canada and also served as the Vice President of the International Organization for Standardization (ISO, Geneva), the first Canadian to hold the position. A believer in life-long learning, he earned a degree in history from the University of Waterloo when he was in his mid 70s. Although he was living in Ottawa, he followed Club activities closely. He will be missed.

Pamela Karasek
by Ed Williams

Pamela Karasek passed away on March 21, 2015 at the age of 80. She was predeceased by her husband Colin Karasek and leaves to mourn two sons, two daughters, twelve grand-children and nine great-grandchildren. Pam was born in Maidstone, England and as a young girl, experienced the struggles of World War II. Pam and Colin first came to live in Newfoundland in 1963 and quickly adapted to the St. John’s community. There was an instant allure of the traditions of the Crow's Nest, which was a basis for many of Pam and Colin's enduring friendships. Colin was a founding member of the Naval Officers Association of NL and Pam volunteered to help with Local Organizing Committee for the 1992 and 1997 national meetings. Pam had a love for writing, reading, poetry, gardening, cooking, music, wine tasting, and traveling. Following her work with MUN Extension Service, she was a founding member and editor of the "What's Happening” magazine which helped develop the tourism and cultural community. She led several key cultural events for the province including the Humphrey Gilbert 400th Anniversary Celebrations, the Sir Wilfred Grenfell Centenary and the Citizens' Forum on Canada's Future. She became Executive Director of the Quidi Vidi Rennies River Foundation in the latter part of her career and brought the benefits of the river and the natural environment to so many. Her contribution to her adopted community will not go unnoticed.

Crossed the Bar

Patrick Griffiths
Pamela Karasek
Daniel Pavia
Melvin Woodward

Scuttlebutt

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Then and Now

(Above, left) At the Club’s second anniversary, in the midst of the Battle of the Atlantic, officers of the HMCS Restigouche sang a rousing rendition of the ship’s song, “We’ll All Go Back to the Rusty Guts.”

Seventy-two years later, in more peaceful circumstances, members of today's military gathered at our commemorative dinner. Pictured from left to right are: Cpl. Noel Butler, Cdr Alex Grant, PO2 Allison Tilley, Aviator David Greene, CPO2 David Broom, CPO1 Jon Summers, Capt. Glen Eagleson and Lcdr Gerry Parsons. Today's Club is enthusiastically tri-service, all ranks and mixed gender. Our civilian membership is equally interesting and diverse.

A Tribute to Robert Wilson Innes
By Lionel Clarke

At the Club’s Remembrance Day Dinner on November 8, 2014, Lionel delivered this very fitting tribute to one of our most active World War II veteran members. Learn more about Bob’s wartime service through the Memory Project website: http://www.thememoryproject.com/stories/1235:robert-wilson-bob-innes/

Robert Wilson Innes, known to all of us as Bob, was born in St. John's August 10, 1921. The son of Scottish parents, he attended Holloway School and PWC, and then was packed off to boarding school at Fettes College in Edinburgh. After returning to Newfoundland, he went to work for the Bank of Montreal in Grand Falls.

I'm told that one of his jobs was to periodically carry cash, sometimes as much as $200,000 on the train to Buchans where it was delivered to the mining company for payroll. The thing was, the workers typically were in debt to the stores, so as soon as they got paid, the money ended up in the shop-keepers hands, after which it got deposited back at the local bank. Since it was so much cash, Bob would end up taking it back to Grand Falls again on the next train! Can you imagine a bank employee doing that today?

Bob tried to enlist at the beginning of the war, but he got turned down three times because of his eyesight. However, he was playing piano in a 5-piece band at Saturday night dances, which were well attended by troops from the Canadian Army and Air Force from Gander and Botwood and he was discovered by an officer who badly needed, not a piano player, but an accountant. No doubt Bob would have been rejected again, except that this time they accidentally let him read the eye chart without removing his glasses! So he was in, and he was assigned to the Canadian

(Con’t page 7)
A Tribute to Robert Wilson Innes (Continued)

Army Service Corps in Botwood. Bob has lots of stories about his wartime experiences, which it is not my place to tell. He spent four years with the Service Corps, which was the logistics unit that fed, clothed and supplied all of the Canadian Forces personnel in Newfoundland. By the end of the war he was a Company Sergeant Major.

At the end of the war Bob got sent to Halifax for discharge, as the Army generally didn't discharge people "overseas" - which of course Newfoundland was at that time. The bank had a job waiting for him in Toronto, however, so after getting processed through Canadian immigration, he was off to Toronto.

He wasn't there long though. Bob got married, and returned to Newfoundland. He settled in St. John's, raising a son, Bruce and a daughter, Gail, while working at the family-owned downtown retail business, until the 1970's. Most of us can remember shopping at Bon Marche!

Among other accomplishments, Bob has been the Chairman of the St. John's Port Authority; he has been a Director of the National Harbours Board; he was founding President of the St. John's Board of Trade. He has been involved in other community organizations, including the Rotary Club, the Royal Newfoundland Yacht Club, and of course our own Crow's Nest.

Bob's first love has always been music. As most everyone knows, he plays a wicked stride piano. After the war he played at home, playing solo and in small groups such as the "Rotary Combo" - at all sorts of events. If you needed some music, you just called Bob! Gail says one of her fondest childhood memories is drifting off to sleep to the sound of Dad's piano downstairs. Today Bob can often be found at the Crow's Nest keyboard upstairs perhaps after a Saturday night dinner.

Robert Wilson Innes: we want to thank you for your service to your country during wartime; we thank you for your service to your community; we thank you for your support of the Crow's Nest Officers Club, and we thank you for the music, for the stories, and for your graciousness and good humour.

The piano is yours whenever you want it!
Thanks to Staff and Management of Red Oak Catering  
For Fifteen Years of Service

This June marks fifteen years since Red Oak Catering became the exclusive caterer for the Crow’s Nest. It has been a very successful arrangement and we would like to thank owners John Rogers and David Kannenberg for their great support to the Club. Also, we’d like to acknowledge their catering manager, Alexandria Dwyer and all Club staff, past and present. Pictured are staff members Joy Griffin, Ian McFadyen and Steve Ryan. Missing are Nicole Tiller, Angie Finn and Melanie Fornoff. Often on the scene but seldom seen, we also want to thank the kitchen staff: Christian Houle and Bobby Tilley. The fine service of all is a big factor in the Club’s continued success and growth.

Air Element of the Battle of the Atlantic

We often overlook the contribution of the Air Force in the Battle of the Atlantic. That was not the case with this year’s anniversary dinner. Cpl Noel Butler and Aviator David Greene from Air Reserve Augmentation Flight (ARAF) Torbay chat with WWII veteran Arthur Barrett at our May 2 dinner. Arthur served in the RCAF during the war and shared his memories of VE Day in England on May 8, 1945.

We would also like to thank Arthur for his donation of naval artifacts in the form of a sash, a sword and a silver snuff box, which belonged to his ancestor, Captain Alexander Dingwall Fordyce.

Born in 1800, Fordyce joined the Royal Navy at the age of twelve. His many campaigns included the Bombardment of Algiers and the artifacts that now grace the Club were presented to him in commemoration of that event.

Eventually achieving the ranks of captain, commander and post captain. After retiring from the navy, Fordyce was returned to parliament by the City of Aberdeen in 1847. This generous donation is now on display in a special case at the Crow’s Nest.