



# Scuttlebutt

*Crow's Nest Officers' Club*

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July 2018

## President's Report

by Gary Walsh

The 2018 annual general meeting was held on May 30<sup>th</sup> and was well attended with lively discussions on a variety of issues. As with all AGMs a new slate of officers and board members were elected and the upcoming year looks to be a busy one. I want to thank outgoing secretary Wayne Ludlow and outgoing treasurer Mary Grouchy for their many years of dedicated service and also outgoing board members Ian Wheeler and Rob Shea for their most valued contributions. I would also like to thank the existing board members and Bruce Bennett with the Crow's Nest Military Artifacts Association who have all kindly offered to serve another term. I can attest to their many efforts and valued expertise over the past year. It is greatly appreciated. It was a privilege to serve as president for the last twelve months and I wish to express my gratitude to the membership for giving me the opportunity to serve a second year.

I am delighted to welcome Stephanie O'Brien as our new club secretary and to welcome Margaret Morris back for a second stint as treasurer. Our new board members are Bruce Dyke, Andrew Collins and Leroy Murphy, I admire their great interest in Board participation. Board members and executive for the 2018/19 year are listed on page 3 and I look forward to serving with them.

A main initiative for our 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary celebrations was the creation of the Crow's Nest Officers' Club Scholarship tenable at Memorial University. I am delighted to confirm that Mr. Daniel Browne, a music major, has been awarded the very first scholarship. His high academic achievements combined with his volunteer work meets our criteria for awards and he is a most worthy recipient. Daniel will visit the Club later this year and we look forward to meeting him.

Honorary life time member Rosemary Barron recently passed away and her fondness for the Crow's Nest was exemplified with a donation to the Club from her estate. This was a very considerate gesture and we have contacted the executor offering thanks. We also received a donation from Mr. Manfred Heinrichs, who is a German citizen and visited the Club in 2017 during his sailing voyage from Nova Scotia to British Columbia via the Arctic

Ocean. He was most interested in the history of the Crow's Nest and artifacts and appreciated the hospitality he was shown. Manfred is now a life time member and we wish to thank him for his generosity.

The funds will be directed where the individual wishes to see them used or, if no specific request is made, be used toward the preservation of the artifacts, building upgrades, the scholarship fund or other Club initiatives.

The annual lobster dinner was held on June 2<sup>nd</sup> and next scheduled Club dinner will be in September, but pub lunches will be served on Fridays throughout the summer months. Summer means longer daylight, vacations and warmer weather (we hope) and it is also the time when renovations are typically done at the Club. This upcoming summer is no different. The Canadian Navy is scheduled to send a technical team to inspect the periscope in late June and modifications to the exterior main stairs are planned.

I conclude by wishing a happy summer to all and please practice safety in all your travelling and endeavours. I hope to see you at the Club and please make sure to bring visitors to the Crow's Nest. We encourage guests to drop in and experience our unique history and hospitality that is second to none.



Mr. Manfred Heinrichs presenting a donation to the Crow's Nest during his visit last year.

# The Crow's Nest Commemorative Coin

By Margaret Morris

A special coin has been struck to celebrate the 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Crow's Nest.

This coin is a tribute to the sea-going officers of the Allied and merchant navies who served during the Battle of the Atlantic and to those who serve today. The rope pattern on each side recognizes the Club's sea-going origins and the blue symbolizes the cold waters of the North Atlantic. The naval crown honours all the ships of His/Her Majesty's navies.

The crow is set upon the crow's nest. The red and white mast alludes to the RCN-led Barber Pole brigade which had its home port in St. John's and whose officers were among the charter members of the Club. Taken together, the images on the coin represents the membership comfortably perched in their Club in the safety of their harbour. A single black spike commemorates the captain and wardroom of HMCS *Spikenard*, the first RCN members of the Club to be lost in the Battle of the Atlantic.

The reverse image is from the painting "The Crow's Nest" by Tom Wood. It depicts the Club during the war years



when it was a sanctuary for sea-going officers to relax with a hot meal and a favourite beverage. It was a "safe haven" for officers to converse with their peers, mourn their losses and celebrate their victories. The two red maple leaves represent the east and west coast fleets of today's Royal Canadian Navy and the Club's commitment to preserve their history and heritage.

The coin is not available for purchase but Members with ten consecutive years of membership are eligible for a coin. If you feel you meet this criterion, please write or email the Club. Once your length of membership is confirmed, a coin will be sent to you. Coins may also be presented to individuals who have made an extraordinary contribution to the Club whether they are a member or not, awarded at the discretion of the Club president in consultation with the Board of Directors.



Gary Walsh presents Club member Arthur Barrett with the first commemorative coin at our anniversary dinner on January 27<sup>th</sup>.

# Crossed the Bar

## Rosemary Barron

by Edgar Williams

Rosemary has a special place in the history of the Crow's Nest as she was the first female to apply for membership. After being encouraged to do so by fellow male officers during a visit to St. John's by the NATO Fleet in the mid-1960s, she submitted an application as SLt. R. Barron. It was initially accepted until the Club realized that R. Barron was a Wren officer and the membership was withdrawn. In 2002, on the Club's 60th anniversary, Rosemary was presented with an honorary life membership.

Rosemary was a founding member of Newfoundland and Labrador Branch of the Naval Association of Canada (NAC) and remained active with that organization throughout her life. In October 2017 she was invited to sit at the head table of the Naval Association of Canada mess dinner held at CFS St. John's in conjunction with the NAC's national annual general meeting and the Club's 75th anniversary. She thoroughly enjoyed the evening. This event was to be her last with her naval friends after more than 60 years of service and camaraderie.

In addition to her long and successful career with Memorial University of Newfoundland, Rosemary was a pioneer in the Naval Reserve and the Naval Association of Canada. Her consistently upbeat spirit and positive attitude will be deeply missed in the Club and in the naval community.

## Philip Daniel

by John Moyes

Philip Daniel passed away on January 22nd, 2018 at 73 years of age, leaving to mourn his wife Anne, family, many friends, and his brother, Paul, in London, England.

Philip was a man of many parts. Born in London, England, and graduating from university in Edinburgh, Philip was already an accomplished performer when he decided to move to Toronto. In the mid 1980s, Philip transferred to St. John's to play a leading role at CBC radio and, as his colleagues Cathy White and John Murphy both say, he was a terrific News Editor and mentor, and a compassionate and knowledgeable leader of the CBC news team.

In 1986, the St. John's Players theatre group were in trouble since the lead actor in our Festival play, "Strider", dropped out with only 3 weeks to go before 'curtain up'. Luckily, as play director, I had previously seen Philip play Tevye in "Fiddler on The Roof" at the Arts and Culture Centre in which he was terrific. So keeping my fingers crossed, since I had not met him, I phoned to ask Philip if he would be willing to step into the part. Even with a demanding full-time day job, Philip took on the role learning the part quickly, which demanded singing, dancing and acting. He gave an

unforgettable performance for which we are forever grateful. The show went on to represent Newfoundland at the Canadian National Festival in Winnipeg to huge acclaim by the adjudicator and the audience. For the next 25 years, Philip was invaluable to the St. John's Players. He was sound technician, lighting designer, actor, director and producer. Using his skill as a master of the English language, Philip encouraged a new generation of theatre people in Newfoundland.

As a girl, Philip's wife Anne lived at the Crow's Nest, in what is now the dining room, with her parents and siblings. For 25 years or so, Anne's mother and father, Hilda and Harold Hiscock, were the amazing stewards of our Crow's Nest.

Given that connection, I persuaded Philip to come onto the Board, and he quickly made an impression with his independent way of looking at the day to day tasks and, as he had always done, worked hard to make each day run smoothly.

I will close by quoting John Coombs, who was technical director at the Arts and Culture Centre, "Philip was always the definitive professional and was the friend who helped make the stressful times seem less overwhelming."

Your family, friends, the Crow's Nest, and community theatre will miss you, Philip. Rest in Peace.

## Crow's Nest Officers' Club Board of Directors for 2018-2019

### Officers

President: Gary Walsh  
Vice President: Jon Summers  
Secretary: Stephanie O'Brien  
Treasurer: Margaret Morris

### Directors

Andrew Collins  
Bruce Dyke  
Peter Fisher  
Cletus Flaherty  
Hazel Gladney  
Ex Officio

James Goodwin  
Marilyn Mullins  
Leroy Murphy  
Tom Paddon  
Dave Paddon  
Bruce Bennett

## Members' News

### David Allison

Club member Dr. David Allison recently retired as Chief Medical Officer of Health for the province and will be heading to Ethiopia for 6 months to volunteer with CUSO International, as part of the *Midwives Save Lives* project. His role will be as a public health administration adviser, which may encompass problem solving, teaching and working with local faculty and staff of Madawalabu University, based in Robe, Bale Zone, about 460 km south of Addis Ababa. David advises that additional information can be found through the following links: <https://www.canwach.ca/article/stories-and-commentary/midwives-brought-together-africa-and-canada-midwives-save-lives> or other links to CUSO International. Club members wishing to support this are invited to visit David's fundraising page ( <http://bit.ly/2HhxP9V> ).

### Kathy LeGrow

Congratulations to Kathy LeGrow on being recognized at the 11th investiture of the Order of Newfoundland and Labrador in January 2018. In addition to being a long-time member of the Crow's Nest, Kathy is well known for her many community activities and charitable endeavours.

### Richard Rogers

Congratulations also to Richard Rogers on being recognized on March 9th with the honorary title of Queen's Counsel for his exceptional merit and contribution to the legal profession.



On May 18<sup>th</sup>, Alan Doyle, Mark Critch and Allan Hawco visited the Club, enjoyed the hospitality: and are now new members.

## Welcome Aboard

### In Town

Gerry Puddister  
Dr. Margo Wilson  
Brian O'Connell  
Christopher Hollett  
Nicholas deVerteuil  
Scott Sandlin  
Daniel Browne  
Terry Loder  
Wendy Zdebiak  
Mervin McIntyre  
Aidan Duff  
Noel O'Dea  
Peter Moore  
Allan Hawco  
Mark Critch  
Alan Doyle  
Jeremy Charles  
Stephen Lee  
Jamie Korab  
Maria Miskell  
Felicity Roberts  
William R. Parsons

### Out of Town

Walt Dermott,  
Oakville, ON  
Robert Buchanan,  
Londonderry, Northern  
Ireland  
John Hearn,  
Ottawa, ON  
Bruce Jarvis,  
Lake Loon, NS  
Graeme Mew,  
Kingston, ON  
Zach Nugent,  
Red Deer, AB  
Donald MacKay,  
Ottawa, ON  
Dr. Adam Sherrard,  
Dawson City, Yukon



The Crow's Nest Officers' Club  
PO Box 23161  
Churchill Square  
St. John's, NL  
Canada, A1B 4J9

Telephone (709) 753-6927  
Email: [crowsnoc@nf.aibn.com](mailto:crowsnoc@nf.aibn.com)  
Website: [www.crowsnestnl.ca](http://www.crowsnestnl.ca)

Editor: Janet McNaughton  
Proof Reader: Germaine Fisher  
Layout: Peter Fisher

# Syrian Refugee Update

Just as this issue was being assembled, we learned that the Ghanam family will be leaving Amman, Jordan on July 11<sup>th</sup>, and arriving in St. John's the evening of the next day. Members of our sponsorship group, which is made up of the Crow's Nest Group for Syrian Refugees, the Torbay-based group, Room for One, and Following Seas, a group of friends and relatives headed by Richard Ly, himself a former Vietnamese refugee, are now busily organizing into committees and planning a new life for the eight people in our sponsored family.

We sincerely thank the many Club members and friends who so generously helped to make this possible.

If you are downsizing, we still need a few items of furniture, especially dressers for clothing. Many hands make light work so, if anyone feels inclined to help out, even if only to offer occasional driving services, we would be grateful for your time. It's going to be an intense, rewarding year. Please contact Margaret Morris through the Club (contact info on page 4) if you wish to be involved in any way.



Razan Al Masri with her youngest daughters, Jana and Haya Ghanam

# Brazil family presents historic Ensign to the Crow's Nest

In May of 1945, the U-190 surrendered off the coast of Newfoundland was directed to Bay Bulls. The tugboat that assisted in the U-boat's transit into the harbour was under the command of Skipper Stan Brazil, RCNR. The naval ensign that flew from the stern of the tug that day was kept by Skipper Brazil. On Friday 1st June 2018, 27 members of the Brazil family of

Bay Bulls gathered at the Crow's Nest for lunch. At the conclusion of the meal, the ensign was presented to the Crow's Nest by Stan Brazil, Jr. It was received by Bruce Bennett of our Military Artifacts Association. The intent is to eventually get this new addition framed and displayed behind the periscope of the U-190. Also, in attendance on June 1st was the nine-year old great-grandson of the late Skipper Brazil, Rhys

Brothers, a grade four student at East Point Elementary School. Rhys recently won a school Heritage Fair with a display of his great-grandfather's life. He also competed at the regional level with the same presentation and won HMCS *Cabot's* Captain's Prize for the most original research project on a maritime or a naval subject. He proudly shared the story of his great-grandfather's life and his story-telling was enjoyed by all.



Rhys Brothers' winning Project



Brazil family presents historic ensign to the Crow's Nest

## Old Salts Are Ready To Serve Again



Club member Lou Howard had a visit from fellow veteran Liam Dwyer over the Battle of the Atlantic weekend. They are the last two veterans of the 78 men who served in HMCS *Sarnia* when they picked up survivors from HMCS *Esquimalt*, the last RCN ship lost in WWII. In addition to remembering that day in April 1945, Lou tells us that a lot of memories were re-awakened as they talked about convoys taken here and there, chipping ice, humorous events on board and ashore, and mostly, fellow shipmates now departed.

To add to the visit, a wind storm knocked out the electricity in Lou's neighbourhood and Liam had to shave in the dark for two days. Peter Holmes joined Lou and Liam and took this photo. There was no cooking without power so they ate at a noisy restaurant. Lou tells us that it was a memorable weekend and advises that the RCNVR is still vibrant and ready to serve again.

## Leonard and Dorothy Outerbridge and the Origins of the Crow's Nest Officers' Club

by David Winter

This address was delivered at the Crow's Nest Officers' Club Mess Dinner January 27, 2018

It is a great privilege and honour to have been asked to speak to you this evening at the annual Mess Dinner of The Crows Nest Officers Club. Opened on this very date January 27 in 1942, this Club has held a special place in my heart for my entire life. My father told me that on the day that I was born he came here to raise a glass with some friends to celebrate my arrival. He also reminded me that there were times when my questionable behaviour forced him to come to the club to curse the day of my arrival as well. I remember that on many Saturdays my father would participate in a very serious lunch time game of darts here at the Club. When father got home my mother would insist that my sisters and I be very quiet, allowing my father the necessary time for rest and recuperation. Later, in my teenage years, and when I started driving, I would sometimes be asked to pick my father up from the Club following a Friday evening seal and/or moose dinner and yet another game of darts.

As the Club developed I became one of the first of the new, what was then called, Associate members. It was then that I began to see the true significance of the game of darts and the necessity for rest and recuperation and even the odd drive home. For the past 30 years many of my longtime friends and I gather here for drinks and dinner to celebrate our former skills on the hockey rink and of late our prowess on the golf course.

This past December, at our latest gathering, I was chatting with Ian Wheeler. As we talked, I knew that I had met Ian somewhere before. We chatted on about the reasons for my being in the Club that night, and to be perfectly frank I was really not listening to all that he was saying as I was racking my brain trying to figure out where I had met him before. It was when I heard him mention his wife's name that it all fell in place. Ian's wife Rene and I were aides de camp to former Lt. Governor of Newfoundland

and Labrador, the Hon. John Crosbie. Ian and I had met on several occasions at dinners and other functions at Government House.

Ian and I continued to chat as he was decorating the Club for Christmas season. I mentioned my interest in some artifacts that our family had donated to the Club in memory of my grandparents Sir Leonard and Lady Outerbridge. He suggested I could provide some anecdotal tales about my grandparents and their involvement with the origins of the Club at the upcoming 2018 Mess Dinner. Needless to say, following a wonderful dinner that night, with no darts to follow, but definite need to be driven home to rest and recuperate, my conversation with Ian slipped my mind completely until recently he called to remind me of the January 27/18 commitment that I had made on that December night.

To me as a young boy, Sir Leonard and Lady Dorothy Outerbridge were just my

grandparents. They both had a great sense of humour and were very loving and giving. Every Sunday our family would go to the grandparents for roast beef dinner, sit around the big long dining room table in what I thought was their great big house, which actually was the dining room in their temporary home, that being Government House. Like any other grandfather, he would carve the roast and then before sitting down himself he would toss the Yorkshire puddings up the table for me and my sisters to catch. Then one of us kids would have to say "the Grace" and we could then enjoy the meal. At 5 years old I was too young to know the difference and I just thought that this was where my grandparents lived.

As I grew up and my grandparents moved from Government House into their new house, which coincidentally is now my home, I began to realize that my grandparents were more than just ordinary grandparents. I realized that they were a very close team, made that way because of the love, devotion and respect they held for one and other. They had worked together tirelessly to give as much back to the community and the people of Newfoundland as they had received from that very same community. During the early to mid 20th century the man of the family who often received the honours and recognition while his wife stood dutifully behind.

At home and, when with his family, my grandfather always gave equal credit to my grandmother for the accomplishments for which he had received recognition. To help understand their involvement in the Crow's Nest Officers' Club, you really need to know some of their background.

Sir Leonard was born in 1888 in North Carolina. As a family we never knew why he was actually born there given

that his parents moved to St. John's from Bermuda in 1863. I can recall Grandfather telling me that his first real memory in St. John's was that of seeing the orange skies over the City during the Great Fire of 1892 as he watched from his bedroom window on the top floor of their home on Kings Bridge Road. He would have been about 4 years of age then. He was educated at Bishop Field College on Bond Street, not Topsail Road. He then went to Toronto, where in 1914 he received his law degree from Osgoode Hall. While attending U. of T. he met Dorothy Strathy of Barrie Ontario who was living in Toronto at the time. Born in 1892 she was the daughter of John and Agnes Strathy. Her father was a former manager of the Bank of Toronto in Barrie and was actually murdered on his front door step in the summer of 1896 when my grandmother was just 4 years old. They were married in Toronto in January of 1915 a few weeks before grandfather went off to fight in WWI.

Grandfather served with the First Canadian Infantry Brigade during WWI rising to the rank of Captain and was awarded the DSO for his services. Meanwhile in St. John's his father, Sir Joseph Outerbridge, had been actively involved in financial affairs and fundraising for the Newfoundland Regiment in preparation for its role in WWI. My grandfather's two brothers served with the 1st Battalion of the Newfoundland Regiment. His brother Herbert suffered a head injury at the western front and had been forced to return to Nfld. in 1916, while his eldest brother Norman died at the battle of Monchy-le-Preux in 1917.

Following the war my grandfather and grandmother moved back to St. John's, where he practised law for a few years, before joining Harvey and Company Limited in the early 1920s. He became very involved with the community serving as President Nfld. Board of

Trade, Director of The International Grenfell Association, St. John Ambulance, Church Lads Brigade and other organizations as well as joining the Royal Newfoundland Regiment lastly serving as Honorary Colonel of the Regiment.

He served as Honorary Private Secretary to successive Governors of Newfoundland from 1931 to 1944 (Governors Middleton, Anderson and Walwyn) and as well during WWII he was the Director of the Civil Defence for Newfoundland.

In June of 1946 King George VI conferred the Honour of Knight Bachelor to grandfather for his services to King and Country. In 1949 grandfather was again honoured having been appointed the second Lt. Governor of the Province of Newfoundland. He was named as Companion of the Order of Canada in 1967, the first year that Order of Canada was established. Upon his death in 1986 at the age of 98 he was given a full Military Honours Funeral, something that is seldom given to a private citizen.

Besides supporting her husband's business, philanthropic and volunteer activities, grandmother, Lady Outerbridge was active in NONIA, the IODE, Canadian Red Cross and many other organizations and she found time to be a mother and a grandmother as well.

The family story around the establishment of the Crows Nest in 1942 is only a little different that the official version which has been published and acknowledged over the past 76 years. The true facts may never come to the surface as to how this Club came into being. That being said, the club is still here and those who founded the club can only listen and hopefully chuckle at today's renditions on how they created this most revered site.

The story I have always believed goes like this:

During the early days of WWII St. John's was a very important strategic port to the allies in helping to provide a staging area for men and supplies to be used in the war effort. Ships loaded with men and materials would come to our harbour on their way to and from ports in England. Men were crowded on to the ships and whenever there was a chance to set their feet on firm ground they took full advantage of the situation. There were many bars and taverns and other such places where sea going men could go and relax and forget the war, even if only for a few hours.

In 1941 Captain Edmund Rollo Mainguy was the Commodore of the Royal Canadian Navy destroyers in St. John's. His duties as such made him have to deal with the Governor of Newfoundland at the time. Grandfather, as the Governor's Private Secretary, and the Director of the Civil Defense for Newfoundland often officially met with Captain Mainguy and they also became close personal friends.

The story goes that Captain Mainguy and my Grandmother were walking on Water Street following a church service on a lovely Sunday morning in the summer of 1941. The Captain mentioned in passing that he wished that there was a place close to the harbour where just sea going officers of allied countries could meet and relax over a pint or two. That night, my grandmother said to grandfather something like this "Len, you know that old vacant company warehouse across the street from your office that is empty, how about you letting it be used as a club for naval officers while their ships are in St. John's?" As grandfather told the story he had little choice but to say yes (not much has changed over the years on that front)

as grandmother was well aware that the warehouse had been idle for quite some time. She passed the good news on to Captain Mainguy but prior to accepting the offer he felt it was necessary to inspect the warehouse. The story goes that he and grandmother walked down the east stairway from Duckworth Street by the War Memorial and looked into the lane way and saw the rickety steps going up to where the Club was to be located. He went no further. Seeing the 59 steps, he realized that this location was ideal. It was quaint, somewhat off the beaten trail, very close to the harbour and the officers' ships and more than anything else it had its own self policing system. The policing system was indeed, the 59 steps. The Officers would have to navigate up the steps to get into the club, and more importantly they would have to be able to navigate down over the steps to get back to their ships. After some delicate negotiations and arm twisting, Captain Mainguy, with some assistance from my grandmother, successfully obtained the rights to the space for a nominal annual fee and following some minor renovations the "Crow's Nest Officers' Club" was officially opened 76 years ago on January 27, 1942.

At first the Club was strictly for men. There were special occasions when women were permitted into the Club, but only when escorted by a male Club member. There was however one exception made. In honour of her contribution to the Club's formation, Lady Outerbridge was made an Honorary Member of the Club. On the 30th Anniversary of the Club in recognition of her service to the Club, members presented her with the table cloth which is now upstairs on the coffee table in front of the fireplace. On the cloth are the woven signatures of the members of the day including those of grandfather and Captain Mainguy. It was shortly after she received this very fine gift that she

passed away. Grandfather and his family, all knew where she would want this cloth to go upon her death. Grandfather was also very committed to the Crows Nest. Obviously from donating this space in the beginning to supporting the Club until his death in 1986. As with grandmother, our family just knew where grandfather would want to have his military awards to go upon his death. The Crows Nest Officers Club has hosted many extraordinary people over its 76 years. Some of these would include members of the British Royal Family, ambassadors and other foreign dignitaries, Canadian and Provincial dignitaries, movie stars, news media and sports personalities just to name a few.

My grandparents were pretty special people and this is a pretty special place. I would like to propose a toast to Leonard and Dorothy Outerbridge and to all past and present members of this most distinguished "Crow's Nest Officers' Club".



Sir Leonard Outerbridge, CC, CBE, DSO, CD  
Lieutenant Governor of  
Newfoundland and Labrador  
1949 - 1967