Remembrance Day at the Nest
By Gary Green

Heavy rains and high winds—some of the worst weather in years—could not dampen the spirits at the Crow’s Nest on Remembrance Day. The room was filled to capacity as Club members, veterans of several wars and serving members of the Canadian Armed Forces took time to mingle, dry off and warm themselves with a bowl of hot beef soup. The air was filled with laughter and music as Gloria Thistle and WWII veteran Bob Innes played the old wartime standards, as is the Club tradition.

This year the airways were filled as well as CBC St. John’s “Radio Noon” broadcast live from the Nest. Folks sang along to the music as the CBC team interviewed Club members to learn about the history of the Club, the artifacts and WWII St. John's. They also had the chance to interview WWII veteran Bob Innes and a visiting Afghanistan veteran about their wartime experiences; a naval officer about to be deployed to Afghanistan; Gary Browne of the Legion about the Royal Newfoundland Regiment; and Chief David Broom about his 30+ year career in the Royal Navy, the Royal Canadian Navy and the naval training program at Memorial University’s Marine Institute. People stayed on well into the afternoon renewing acquaintances, meeting new people, chatting, singing and dancing. All in all, it was a great day to be in the warm and dry Nest.

Editor’s Note:
To listen to whole the broadcast from the Crow’s Nest, go to http://www.cbc.ca/player/Radio/Local+Shows/Newfoundland/Radio+Noon+(NL)/ID/2417234500/

If this link seems confusing, Google CBC Radio NL November 11, 2013, Crow’s Nest.

You may also download the podcast free from ITunes.
Search for November 11, 2013, Radio Noon in Newfoundland and Labrador in the ITunes Store.

John Furlong interviews CFNES Detachment Chief, David Broom about his 30+ years in naval service and RCN programs at MUN’s Marine Institute.

WWII army veteran, Bob Innes plays songs of the era while being filmed and recorded by CBC Radio Noon staff on Remembrance Day.
President’s Message
by Tony Dearnness

In previous president's letters, I've observed that the Crow's Nest is a touchstone for those in the navy or in the merchant marine, past or present, and for their families. For our members, as shown by annual membership renewals, and by applications of new members, the Club is a significant element of the identity of the city's and the province's maritime history.

Increasingly, members are becoming actively involved in presenting aspects of that history. We now have a committee of the Crow's Nest Board focussed on socials, dinners and events. They have enriched our usual dinner schedule with themes for the dinners, some of them naval, and others more broadly historic. Elsewhere in this issue of the Scuttlebutt, you will see descriptions both of Newfoundlanders in the Battle of Trafalgar and of themes in the coming season, including the Anniversary Dinner, Women in the Navy, and the Newfoundland Sealing Disaster.

Dinners often have menus of the era and we are often fortunate to have speakers, club members or guests, who provide enlightening descriptions of the event being commemorated. This year, among others, we celebrated life on HMY Britannia and the Atlantic Charter, commemorated Murmansk convoy, Remembrance Day Dinner, and the 100th anniversary of the SS Kyle.

All this brings special meaning for the Club and its membership. While we take pride in all aspects of the Club and its artifacts, there is an opportunity for members to share their creativity and passion for naval and Newfoundland history. Your enthusiasm and talent can enhance the experience of the Club for all.

Where Has Your Crow’s Nest Tie (Or Related Item) Been?

In the last issue, we invited members to send us pictures of people wearing Crow’s Nest ties in exotic settings. The most interesting photo will win a prize. But never fear, non-necktie-wearing members, you may use any of your fabulous Crow’s Nest apparel to enter, as board member Catherine Street demonstrates below.

Catherine Street in her Crow’s Nest cap on the roof on the House of Parliament, London. How did she get there?

Gary Reddy sports his Crow’s Nest tie at Magher's Beach, Halifax Harbour while in bound to the Fleet Diving Unit (Atlantic).
Margaret Retires

Lieutenant Commander Margaret Morris, long-time Club treasurer, has retired from The Royal Canadian Navy. After forty-plus years of dedicated service to the country, Margaret, former Officer In Charge of HMCS Standoff (PB 199) and former Commanding Officer of HMCS Cabot, has hung her hat behind the bar, the first female officer to do so. Margaret is known for her quick and efficient handling of whatever comes her way—a most competent woman. However, her retirement/birthday was a protracted affair lasting several weeks with a series of dinners, ceremonies and events attended by Canadian Armed Forces personnel including Rear Admiral J. Newton, commander of Maritime Forces Atlantic, friends and family. They all spoke very highly of her dedication to the Royal Canadian Navy, her leadership, her guidance and mentoring of young sailors and her valued friendship.

When asked about her fondest memories, she replied watching the young men and women coming into the navy as raw recruits and developing into competent leaders. The response was typical of her unselfish and supportive ways—always encouraging others to step forward and lead while she avoided the spotlight and cheered them on from the back lines. Their success was, and is, her success. One of her last events while still in uniform was to be the President of the Club's 2013 Remembrance Dinner, a task she undertook with fine style. The Club wishes her every success in her new ventures. Bravo Zulu!

Welcome Aboard

In Town:

Patrick Dunne
Robert Strong
Terry Paddon
Jonathan Cook
Frank Whelan
Colin Moore
Lt. April Murphy
Lt. Col (ret'd) Nathan Burnham
Cpl. Stephen Hickey
Brian Murphy
Heather Pumphrey
Dr. Stephen Lucas

Our own Margaret Morris adds her hat to the bar, the first female officer to do so. Congratulations, Margaret!
Crossed the Bar

The Honourable Rear Admiral Fred J. Mifflin 1938 - 2013
Rear Admiral (Ret’d) Mifflin entered the Royal Canadian Navy at 16 and, over a 33-year career, he commanded both at sea and ashore. From 1985 to 1987 he was the Deputy Commander of the Royal Canadian Navy. He was elected the Member of Parliament for Bonavista/Trinity/Conception from 1988 to 1999. While in the opposition, he served as Defence, Energy, and Veterans Affairs critic. As a member of government, he was appointed Parliamentary Secretary for National Defence and Veterans Affairs, Minister of Fisheries and Oceans, Minister of Veterans Affairs and Minister for the Atlantic Canada Opportunities Agency. Since 1996 he served as Honourary National Chairman of the Navy League of Canada. In 2011 he was awarded the Robert Hendy Award for his national and international contribution to Maritime Affairs. In 2012 he was invested into the Order of St. George as a Knight Commander.

The Honourable Dr. Maxwell House 1926-2013
For many years, Dr. House was the only neurologist in the province. He practiced Neurology in St. John's for four decades and throughout his career, held a number of senior appointments at the General Hospital. Dr. House was a leader in the establishment of Memorial's medical school where he spent 30 years as a neurology professor and administrator. The founder of the Telemedicine program at Memorial, he became a leader in the development of telemedicine internationally. In 1997, he was appointed as Newfoundland and Labrador's 10th Lieutenant Governor and served in this role until 2002. Dr. House served on many provincial and national organizations and committees and was involved in research projects throughout his career. He also served in the Naval Reserve and was a long time member of the Naval Officers' Association of Canada, NL Branch. Dr. House received numerous awards and recognitions including the Order of Canada and Officer of the Order of Newfoundland and Labrador.

Richard Beaton 1945-2013
Richard Beaton was a much admired broadcaster with CBC and VOWR. In his career with CBC Radio, Richard read newscasts, hosted the St. John's Morning Show and Musicraft as well as contributing frequently to Weekend AM and other programs. On CBC TV, he hosted Dialogue, a program that focussed on religion, spirituality and the humanities. Richard retired in 1997 and began a volunteer career with VOWR, where he hosted a Thursday morning program. Among his varied volunteer activities he was a tour guide at Government House in St. John's. In May 2013 he fulfilled a lifelong dream by finishing a Bachelor of Arts degree at Memorial University.

Salty Dips, Volume 10
By Richard Guitar, RCN LCdr (Ret’d)

The Salty Dips Committee is planning for Volume 10 of Salty Dips that I have tentatively named “We Dive Deeper Than You Do.” The current committee members are: Chairman – Richard Guitar
Editor-in-Chief – Michael Young
Fred Herrndorf
Pat Barnhouse
Paul Roquet
Ken Lait

Bruce Hayes
The intent is to publish in time for the 100th anniversary of Canadian Submariners and Submarines in 2014. We want five sections for Vol. 10:

a. The early years – WWI and interwar years
b. WW II
c. 1945–1965
d. Oberons, Grilse and Rainbow
e. Victoria Class.

Each Section will have a brief introduction to set the context for the era. In addition there will be short one to two paragraph dips placed throughout the volume at the bottom of pages. We may include other non-submarine dips, and would put them in a separate section. There are some specific kinds of stories we would like to look for to go along with straight submarine experience:
Salty Dips, Volume 10, con’t

them in a separate section. There are some specific kinds of stories we would like to look for to go along with straight submarine experience:
a. Submarine–Aircraft interaction
b. Submarine – Skimmer interaction
c. Non-Submariners who worked closely with them i.e. Submarine Squadron Supply Officers.

The Committee is looking for two things:
a. Stories about 6,000 to 12,000 words long about some event related to submarines. It's not officially researched history, but personal witness (or victim) of an event.
b. Short one or two paragraph
dips about life on the boats.

I would appreciate anything you would like to pass on, or any recommendations for sources of stories and the committee looks forward to your contributions and purchases. We would like to hear about your proposals ASAP.

Nelson and the Crow's Nest
By Gary Green

Every few years the Club, like many historical and naval-related clubs and societies in the Commonwealth, hosts a Trafalgar Dinner to commemorate the Royal Navy's victory over the combined French and Spanish fleets off Cape Trafalgar, and the death of Admiral Lord Nelson on October 21, 1805. What may not be known to some Club members is that Nelson spent some time in The Ship, a tavern or public house, once located on the site now occupied by the Crow’s Nest. The building, like many others, was probably destroyed in one of the great fires which started in the general area in 1816 and 1817.

In the late 1700s, The Ship was a favourite recreational establishment for naval officers on the Newfoundland Station. They would gather there to pass the time by telling stories, playing cards and other games while likely having a swally or two. Among the more famous personages who were known to visit the tavern were Post Captain Horatio Nelson, map maker James Cook, U.S. Revolutionary War's Benedict Arnold and William Bligh of HMS Bounty's mutiny fame. A copy of a portrait of Nelson painted shortly before he arrived in St. John's hangs above the Nest's fireplace.

In May 1782, Nelson, a young captain in his first command, HMS Albermarle, was escorting a convoy of merchant ships from England to Quebec when he became separated from part of the convoy in a fog off the coast of Newfoundland. On May 27th he entered St. John's harbour with the four ships he was still escorting to see if other convoy ships were there. They were not. Forced to stay in port by unfavourable winds, it is said that he spent some time ashore in a rooming house perhaps to seek some relief from the seasickness to which he was prone or perhaps to be closer to The Ship and the camaraderie of fellow officers.

Nelson was not at all impressed with St. John's and in a letter written to his friend, William Locker, stated that he had “arrived this disagreeable place” and was awaiting a favourable wind to return to sea at the earliest opportunity.

Having heard that the rest of the convoy had made port a few leagues to leeward, he sailed out The Narrows on June 3rd to meet up with it and to continue on to Quebec. Though he did not stay long, Nelson is forever linked with the Crow's Nest site.

Few places on this side of the Atlantic can boast such a connection and consequently a Trafalgar Dinner with all its traditions held in the Crow's Nest is a special event indeed.

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This year, Club member Lorne Wheeler, in giving the background to his "Toast to the Immortal Memory" (Lord Nelson and those who fell with him), made it all the more special by telling us about a number of Newfoundlanders who served in several vessels engaged in the battle. Part One of Lorne’s article follows. The conclusion will appear in the next issue.
Newfoundlanders Who Fought At the Battle of Trafalgar

By Lorne Wheeler (Part One)

At least 24 of the 18,000 sailors who fought with Nelson in the celebrated Battle of Trafalgar on October 21st, 1805 were Newfoundlanders. A couple of them were pressed into the fleet, some volunteered, and others were experienced seamen who had transferred to Nelson’s command for the opportunity to serve with the already famous vice-admiral, and for a share of the prize money. ¹

The names of those who fought with Nelson at Trafalgar are listed in a searchable database on a website created by the British National Archives to commemorate the bi-centennial of the battle. Twenty veterans are native-born Newfoundlanders, but hometowns are known for only two of them, John Allis and Thomas Newman. I suggest possible hometowns for some of the others based on the distribution of their family names in Newfoundland at the time. We know the hometowns of John Moore, from St. John’s, and Thomas Mudge, from Torbay, but we don’t know their country of origin, which could be England, the West Indies, or Newfoundland. I think they are Newfoundlanders, considering the prevalence of their family names on the Island at the time and the fairly uncommon use of an apostrophe in the spelling St. John’s. Two others veterans, James Pearl and Thomas Rossetter, were born elsewhere but settled in Newfoundland after the war. ²

A century-old admiralty law assured every man and boy at Trafalgar a fair share of the market value of any captured enemy ships. The effect of the law was to encourage sailors to capture enemy ships by dismantling, boarding, and hand-to-hand combat, long after naval ordnance was able to sink ships from afar. At Trafalgar, the incentive for the officers and men of the Royal Navy to take enemy ships for the prize money was huge. If they captured the entire Franco-Spanish Fleet, even the humblest of them would be wealthy. But between them and potential fortune stood a bloody battle, a great storm and the mortal danger of death.

Light winds were the problem as dawned on October 21, 1805. It took six hours to close the ten miles to the Combined French and Spanish fleets off Cape Trafalgar, and persistently light winds limited maneuverability during the battle. Nelson chose to attack the single line of 33 enemy ships at right angles using two columns of British ships. He led the windward column in HMS Victory. His deputy, Vice-Admiral Collingwood, led the leeward column in HMS Royal Sovereign. The highly risky plan of attack, labelled “Nelson’s touch,” left the British ships unable to respond to ferocious incoming fire as they approached the Franco-Spanish battle line. But once the British columns had broken up the enemy line, they were able to rake the enemy’s ships from stem to stern, dismantling many of them and knocking them out of the battle.

Most Newfoundlanders served on ships assigned to Nelson’s column. Twenty-two-year-old Ordinary Seaman Joseph Harrison, probably from Placentia, was on HMS Agamemnon, captained by Sir Edward Berry, a bold, some said reckless, commander. As Nelson watched Berry maneuver the Agamemnon into the windward column, he said, "Here comes that damned fool Berry! Now we shall have a battle!"

The battle began at noon and lasted five and three-quarter hours. It was a fierce battle. Sixty ships (27 British) and 50,000 men manoeuvred in a small sea space within sight of Cape Trafalgar, armed with more than 4,000 cannon and thousands of rifles. The opposing sides battered each other from close range (100 feet or less) with a constant barrage of 12-42 pound cannon balls, volleys of grapeshot and musket-balls fired by marine snipers perched in the ships’ riggings. Opposing warships closed gun-wale to gunwale, sometimes becoming entangled, their crews locked in hand to hand combat with pistols, bayonets, cutlasses, spikes and gaffs, deafened by the perpetual noise, choking on smoke, seared by flames, and slipping in pools of blood.

At 13:15 Nelson was hit by a musket ball fired by a sniper on the French ship Redoutable and was carried to the Orlop deep in the Victory’s lower decks to be tended by the ship’s surgeon.

In Nelson’s windward column, the crew of HMS Ajax, including 31-year-old Ordinary Seaman J B J Allis (or Ellis) from St. Peters, the English name for St. Pierre, and 24-year-old Ordinary Seaman James Wilmott, probably from Fortune Bay, were in the thick of the battle, boarding the larger French Ship Intrepide and forcing her to surrender.

(This article will be concluded in the next issue.)
Themed dinners for January - June 2014
by Gary Green and Lionel Clarke

Every dinner this season has a theme. To get you out of the holiday rut we will start off the winter schedule with a “Thank Goodness It’s Not Turkey!” Curry Buffet on January 11th, a little something to revive your turkey-saturated tastebuds. Then, on January 25th, the Club’s 72nd Anniversary will be celebrated in a mess dinner style, so get the mess kit, tux and dresses back from the cleaners!

On February 8th we will mark the first loss of Crow’s Nest members, in the sinking of HMCS Spikenard, with our annual Corvette Wake mess dinner. This year we hope to have family members of one of the ship’s company in attendance.

Note: this year we are trying something a little different. Normally bookings open 30 days in advance of each dinner. Because the mess dinners are so popular, we want to give more people an opportunity to participate. Therefore on December 27th 2013, we will open bookings for the Anniversary dinner and the Corvette Wake, and we will allow people to reserve seats at one or the other, but not both. However, you may place your name on the wait list for the other dinner. Starting five (5) days before each dinner, any openings or subsequent cancellations will be filled by members on the wait list with priority being given to members who have not yet been accepted for either dinner.

The Artifacts dinner on February 22nd will offer a unique twist: you will have the chance to eat an artifact – sort of! The menu will be authentic recipe items selected from a recently donated WWII Admiralty cookbook.

Women made and continue to make a significant contribution to the RCN. Our WRCNS dinner on March 8th (not coincidentally, International Women’s Day) will pay tribute to the early pioneers, and with any luck we will have some former Wrens in attendance.

You can brace yourself for the Sheila’s Brush, traditionally the last winter storm, with a Paddy’s Day Irish Buffet on March 22nd. This year marks the 100th anniversary of the Great Sealing Disaster, and at our flipper dinner on April 5th we will remember those who lost their lives on the ice. Right after that, you can usher in spring with our annual Lamb Dinner on April 12th.

The Battle of the Atlantic victory will be celebrated with the third mess dinner of the year, on May 3rd.

The ever-popular Mothers’ Day Brunch, on Sunday, May 11th, is a chance for members to bring their families together to honour moms and have for a great meal.

We will celebrate May 24th with a Trouters’ Special costume dinner. Many of you will remember the famed Trouter’s Special train (and rum). Come along in your best rubber boots and troutin’ gear. The main course, of course, is …..trout!

The season ends, as always, with the Churchill Lobster dinner, this year on June 7th.

You will remember that the last Scuttlebutt (September 2013) led off with a historical account by Paul Collins of “Captain (D)’s Cocktail Party,” a regular Saturday afternoon event established by Capt. Rollo Mainguay to cement relations between sea-going officers, shore staff and local citizens. In response to Paul’s challenge to reinstate the event, we are kicking off our 21st century version of Captain (D)’s Cocktail Party on February 15, 2014. Like Weepers, this is a drop-in event, no reservations required. Further details will be kept a closely guarded secret until later!

As always, the last Friday of each month is “Weepers,” at which we ease everyone into their weekend with live music and hot finger foods. These are noted in the Schedule.

The Events Committee is always looking for suggestions for dinners and other special events. Send your suggestions to the Club’s e-mail address with Events Committee in the subject line.

See you at the Nest!
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>&quot;Thank Goodness It's Not Turkey&quot;</td>
<td>WRCNS Dinner</td>
<td>Battle of the Atlantic Mess Dinner</td>
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<tr>
<td>Curry Buffet</td>
<td>Market Garden Salad</td>
<td>Roasted Squash and Apple Soup</td>
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<td>*</td>
<td>Chicken with a Sundried Tomato Sauce</td>
<td>Carved Roast Beef</td>
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<td>$ 26.95 per person</td>
<td>Strawberries and ice cream</td>
<td>Pear Strudel with homemade Hazelnut Ice Cream</td>
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<tr>
<td>Club Anniversary Mess Dinner</td>
<td>Paddy's Day Irish Buffett</td>
<td>Mothers Day Brunch</td>
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<tr>
<td>Spinach Salad</td>
<td>An Assortment of Irish Traditional Recipes served buffet style</td>
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<tr>
<td>Shaved Striploin</td>
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<td>$26.95 per person</td>
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<td>(Salmon Alternate)</td>
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<tr>
<td>New York Cheesecake with Blueberry Sauce</td>
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<th>Friday January 31st, 2014</th>
<th>Friday March 28th, 2014</th>
<th>Saturday May 24th, 2014</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Weepers</td>
<td>Weepers - Complimentary Hors d'oeuvres</td>
<td>Trouters’ Special Costume Dinner</td>
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<tr>
<td>Complimentary Hors d'oeuvres</td>
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<td>Garden Salad</td>
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<tr>
<td>Corvette Wake Mess Dinner</td>
<td>Sweet Tomato Salad</td>
<td>Spinach Salad</td>
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<td>Tiger Shrimp Cocktail</td>
<td>Flipper Dinner</td>
<td>Lobster Dinner</td>
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<td>Roast Beef (Salmon Alternate)</td>
<td>Creme Brule</td>
<td>Fresh Fruit Salad</td>
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<td>Apple Dumpling, Bailey's Custard</td>
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<tr>
<td>Captain (D's) Cocktail Party</td>
<td>Smoked Salmon Mousse</td>
<td>Weepers</td>
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<td>Spring Lamb Dinner</td>
<td>Complimentary Hors d'oeuvres</td>
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<td>slowly roasted in Rosemary served with homemade mint sauce (Salmon Alternate) Bavarian Cream</td>
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<th>Saturday February 22nd, 2014</th>
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<tr>
<td>Artifacts Dinner</td>
<td>Weepers</td>
<td>Weepers</td>
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<tr>
<td>Tomato and Juniper Berry Soup</td>
<td>Complimentary Hors d'oeuvres</td>
<td>Complimentary Hors d'oeuvres</td>
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<td>Pork Tenderloin with Newman's Port Demi Glaze (Chicken Alt) Orange and Chocolate Parfait</td>
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