



Scuttlebutt

Crow's Nest Officers' Club



President Dave Paddon

On May 6th, 1943 Surgeon Lieutenant-Commander Anthony Paddon joined the crew of HMCS Kitchener as ship's doctor. He would spend the next 10 months on the Newfy-Derry run and it's safe to say things weren't very...safe. It's also reasonable to assume that he spent some time at the Crow's Nest when Kitchener was on this side of the pond.

One day in August 1943 he was on the other side of said pond in either Derry/Londonderry or Moville. The ship would have been replenishing for the return to Newfoundland and no doubt there was frantic activity in evidence, what with the loading and stowing of everything from cocoa to depth charges. At some point Paddon heard the traditional tune "Road to the Isles" on a radio and the wheels started to turn. With a little help from a colleague named Dan Hannington he came up with "The Barber Pole Song".

The barber pole in question was of course the red and white striped pattern that adorned the funnels of Escort Group 5 and which had earned the group the name Barber Pole Squadron or Barber Pole Brigade. Apparently a couple of officers of the 3rd Escort group came up with the idea while at the Crow's Nest. The 3rd EG eventually became the 5th EG and the barber pole stuck. It can still be seen on the funnels of Canada's east coast Navy vessels and one sympathizes with the west coast types who have no such adornment (I think).

The song was sung at some mess parties and got spread around to other ships as well as shore installations. Paddon was very surprised to hear it issuing from the loudhailers of another naval group as they passed by one day going in the opposite direction. It faded into a degree of obscurity after the war but could still be heard from time to time at mess dinners and other occasions.

About two years ago a couple of Paddon's sons (one of whom is writing this) got the idea that a recording of the song was past due. A search of the internet didn't turn up any others after all. Club member and former Great Big Sea lead Alan Doyle agreed to sing and local musical wizards Billy Sutton and Jason Whelan

did the mixing and mastering. One of the last steps was to record a chorus at the club.

A half dozen members showed up recently and were joined by Andrew James O'Brien of the group Fortunate Ones to add a little polish. At one point Alan said "don't try and sound too good, you're supposed to be ship's crew." This requirement was easily met.

Alan performed the musical equivalent of herding cats, Billy and Jason worked their magic, et voila! The Barber Pole Song lives. Written by Anthony Paddon and performed by Alan Doyle and the Worthy Caws, the song lives on, 80 years after it was written.

The song can be downloaded or streamed from the internet. (There are no plans for CDs, cassettes, records or wax cylinders. Too expensive for one song.) You can also hear it on YouTube at this link. <https://youtu.be/BWVLaq16Et8>

Your president would like to thank all involved and promises he won't attempt to sing the song any more now that there is a real version.

Photos on Page 4

Welcome Aboard New Members

In Town:

Marnie Sinnott
Cdr Al Brown
Debbie Morris
Lt(N) Stephenie Murray
Don Noftall
David Mitchell
Jason Whelan
Robert Salsman
Lee Hedd

Maj (Ret'd) Wanda Stack
Bev Escott
Stan Cook
Major Michael Pretty
Brian Marler
Billy Sutton
Robert Dornan
Richard Luscombe



Out of Town:

Ian Baird, Fredericton, NB
Joe Power, Osgoode, ON
Andrew Hastie, Whitby, ON
Courtney Mills, Corner Brook, NL
CPO1 (Ret'd) Dennis Oliphant, Victoria, BC
Nathalie Lafleche, Moose Creek, ON
Brian Speer, Whitby, ON
Kyle Schilke, Mississauga, ON
James Roseborough, Toronto, ON
Sgt Jennifer Garford, Toronto, ON
John Holditch, Burlington, ON
Gordon Macrae, Christchurch, Barbados

Ella Heneghan, Upper Amherst Cove, NL
Joachim Power, Mortier, NL
Cdr Len Tucker, Ottawa, ON
Lew Osmond, Come-By-Chance, NL
Patricia Loder, Humber Valley, NL
Capt(N) Tim O'Leary, Toronto, ON
John Crawford, Palm Springs, CA
Joseph Martin, Victoria, BC

Life:

Cmdre (Ret'd) Rich Feltham, Halifax, NS
LCol (Ret'd) Stephen Delaney, Delta, BC
Hans Bathija, Toronto, ON

Crow's Nest Social Media

Members and non-members can keep up with club events by following the Crow's Nest on Twitter [@crowsnestnl](#). Or, follow the Crow's Nest on Facebook at **Crow's Nest Officers' Club** [@crowsnestnl](#) and on Instagram [@crowsnestnl1](#) for the latest news and photos from the Crow's Nest Officers' Club.



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Club Activities



St. Patrick's Day at the Crow's Nest

The club celebrated St. Patrick's Day with an Irish Buffet on March 18th/23. The Club opened at 3pm, with the buffet served at 3:30. Following a delicious meal prepared by Quid Vidi Catering, members were entertained by Kelly Russell & his daughter, Tamsyn, at 5pm.



(Top Left) Past President Jon Summers directs members to the buffet. (Top Right) Members are seated in anticipation of the upcoming meal (Bottom Right) Some of the St. Patrick's Day fare offered by Quidi Vidi Catering.

Chair of the Ukrainian World Congress' Strategic Advisory Council & Former Canadian Chief of the Defence Staff, General Rick Hillier visits the Crow's Nest Officers' Club



General Rick Hillier visited the Crow's Nest May 9/23. St. Bonaventure's College (SBC) sponsored the General to speak at the schools' Military Tribute dinner. All proceeds were donated to the SBC bursary fund to support local and Ukrainian students. *(Top Left: General Hillier addresses members) (Top Right: General Hillier accepts a Crow's Nest Tie from SBC Alumnus and Crow's Nest board member Gary Walsh.*

Recording “The Barber Pole” Song



NL musician **Alan Doyle** released his rendition of the historic "**Barber Pole**" song capturing essence of World War II's longest battle. The song, originally penned by Surgeon Lieutenant Commander Anthony Paddon, reflects his wartime experiences. Doyle's rendition honours the bravery and sacrifices of WWII veterans, connecting generations through music. Listen to "The Barber Pole Song" on Crow's Nest Facebook page and on YouTube: <https://youtu.be/BWVLaq16Et8>. Pictured above are CNOC members recording the song at the CNOC

Update from the Crow's Nest Military Artifacts Association (CNMAA)

By Margaret Morris

We have had a busy winter! Among new acquisitions is a pewter mug from Cdr Al Brown. This mug belonged to his father who served in the post-war RCN in HMCS VICTORIAVILLE (1 of 2 ships that took the surrender of the U190). The mug is now in the cabinet in our "German corner" behind the periscope. We have also received a WWII sextant from HMS Pakenham and two bur-

gees – one from the Royal Newfoundland Yacht Club and one from HMSTC Discoverer (the sail training vessel from the British military's Joint Services Sail Training Centre).

It has been a busy time for mounting past contributions. A priority has been HMCS ORIOLE's badge. This was presented to the Club on July 21st, 2021 by LCdr Robert Pelton during their 100th anniversary cruise. It marked the first visit to St. John's

by ORIOLE and the back of the badge is signed by the crew. We have also cycled the RCN's 100th anniversary flag out of the companionway and into storage. It has been replaced by some WWII gunshields that have been out of sight for too long.

Our work parties are now suspended for the summer months but we already have a "to do" list for the fall.

Battle of the Atlantic Mess Dinner



(L) Retired Vice Admiral Mark Norman, seen here with Past President Jon Summers, who was the host for the evening. The two gentlemen pose in front of the lectern with its newly embossed emblem, graciously created by Lew Osmond. (R) It was followed by a rousing expression of appreciation by Retired Vice Admiral Norman upon receiving his gift of the a bottle of the limited edition Fifty-Nine Steps to the Crow's Nest 80th Anniversary spiced rum.

By Linda Goodyear

The Battle of the Atlantic annual Mess Dinner was hosted by the Crow's Nest Officers' Club in May.

This event is held each year to commemorate the Battle of the Atlantic, widely recognized as the longest campaign during the Second World War, marking the end of the war in early May, 1945. The dinner takes place on the evening before the first Sunday of each May.

This year, the Crow's Nest Officer's Club had the honor of welcoming Retired Vice Admiral Mark Norman as the guest speaker. The event was hosted by Past President Jon Summers.

The evening commenced with a heartfelt expression of gratitude from Retired Vice Admiral Norman as he received a bottle of the Crow's Nest limited edition 80th Anniversary

Fifty-Nine Steps to the Crow's Nest spiced rum, a special gift presented to him.

Retired Vice Admiral Norman's comments resonated with the spirit of camaraderie and appreciation for those who served during the Battle of the Atlantic.

The significance of the evening was further enhanced by a toast to the newly crowned King Charles III, aligning with the day of his coronation. The attendees raised their glasses in honor of the King, adding a touch of regality to the occasion.

The evening was enjoyed by all as members and guests gathered to honor the courage and selflessness displayed by those who served in the Battle of the Atlantic.

The CNOC extends sincere gratitude to Retired Vice Admiral Norman, Past President Summers, and all the

members and guests who made this year's Mess Dinner a resounding success.

The Crow's Nest continues to commemorate the remarkable history of the Battle of the Atlantic and honours those who fought for freedom during that pivotal time in our shared history.



Uncovering the Story of Lieutenant Eric Riordon and HMCS Kenora

My name is David Emmerson, and I am reaching out to you in search of assistance with a unique project I am currently undertaking. Allow me to share the intriguing story behind my quest.

Around three years ago, I had the privilege of acquiring a pair of small oil paintings at an auction. These captivating artworks depict scenes from a convoy run during World War II.

Intrigued by their historical significance, I embarked on a journey of research to unveil their origins and their place in Canadian history.

My investigations revealed that these paintings were part of a larger set of 34 convoy pictures that toured Canada between 1950 and 1952 as part of an exhibition titled "North Atlantic Convoy."

The exhibition sought to portray the progress of a typical convoy run, commencing from St. John's and converging with the main fleet at WESTOMP, then progressing to Lough Foyle and Londonderry. It beautifully captured the valiant efforts of the escort groups, the challenges posed by submarines and weather, and the courageous fight for victory.

The talented artist behind these remarkable paintings was Eric Riordon, a renowned pre-war landscape artist from Montreal. In June 1940, he joined the Royal Canadian Naval Volunteer Reserve (RCNVR) and served in various capacities throughout the war. Notably, Riordon served on the minesweepers HMCS Fundy and HMCS Kenora, experiencing firsthand the trials and triumphs of the "Triangle Run" during his six-month tenure with HMCS Kenora.

St. John's became a familiar destination for refueling, resupplying, and occasional longer stays for repairs and recuperation. Additionally, Riordon served as a Staff Officer - Rehabilitation at HMCS Avalon from late October 1944 until the end of the war.

Through extensive research, I discovered that some of the scenes depicted in the art exhibition were based on Riordon's personal experiences as the first lieutenant on board HMCS Kenora.

The ship's log and signals record, spanning from its commissioning in August 1942 until Riordon's departure for a posting at NSHQ in March 1943, provided valuable insights into his journey.

Motivated by this rich history, I am currently working on a website dedicated to telling the story of the "North Atlantic Convoy" exhibition, its cross-Canada tour, and the extraordinary naval and artistic career of Eric Riordon.

I have gathered significant information from news stories and visits to esteemed archives such as the AGO, Canadian War Museum, National Art Gallery, and Library and Archives Canada. I have also reached out to various Canadian naval and military museums in my quest.

Thus far, I have successfully located 21 of the 34 paintings and obtained

images of 27 of them. However, my goal is to gather as many of the remaining pieces as possible, unearthing them from obscurity and ensuring their rightful place in history.

With this in mind, I am reaching out to the Crow's Nest in the hope that you may possess records pertaining to HMCS Kenora, such as the ship's badge, documentation, or other artifacts that could shed further light on Lieutenant Eric Riordon's journey.

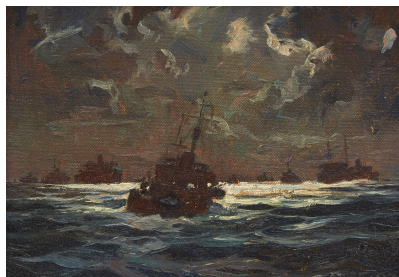
Additionally, I would greatly appreciate any guidance or direction you could provide in terms of resources for obtaining information or images. Thank you for taking the time to read my email.

Your support and assistance in this endeavor would be invaluable, helping to preserve the legacy of Lieutenant Eric Riordon, HMCS Kenora, and the heroic individuals who played a significant role in the North Atlantic convoys.

I eagerly await your response and remain filled with enthusiasm as I continue this remarkable journey.

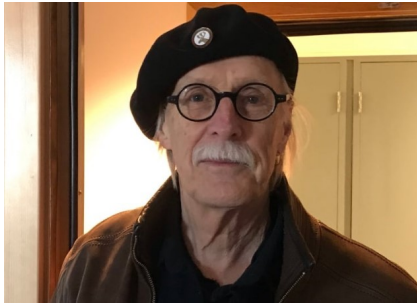
Editor's Note: If can provide any information regarding Eric Riordon's paintings, contact

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Toronto
416-654-1762
[mailto: nearctic@rogers.com](mailto:nearctic@rogers.com)



A Tribute to Chris Brookes

By Gary Greene



**Christopher R. Brookes
(1943-2023)**

Chris Brookes was born in London during the Blitz and came home to Newfoundland at war's end with his parents, army Captain Lewis Brookes and war bride Phyllis Elmer. With this background, it is little wonder that Chris found himself at home in the Crow's Nest.

For years Chris could be found at the Club regularly telling stories as part of a storytelling circle which met monthly or hosting an occasional evening of listening to and discussing classic radio programs.

Chris had a lifelong fascination with narrative. Doing it over and over again, he said, because he hoped one day to get it right.

Whether he felt he got it right or not, others did. Over his lifetime

of working in theatre and radio he collected more than 40 awards from around the world including some of the most prestigious such as the Peabody, Prix Italia and Prix Marulic.

At home, he was honoured with an honorary doctorate from Memorial University, an Order of Canada, and numerous national broadcast industry awards.

An inquisitive and caring person, he was always looking for a story to tell be that about the effects of electricity on the creation of music, the lives of writers and musicians, the evolution of storytelling or our ever changing province and country.

These stories, broadcast around the world on radio networks such as RTE, CBC and Radio Netherlands, earned him a large following and he was invited to present at a number of international conferences.

Though he played on the world stage, Chris was always involved locally. His role in the creation of the Mummers Troupe, the Resource Foundation for the Arts, and his own production company, Battery Radio; the revival of the mummers' play; and the conver-

sion of the LSPU Hall into a vibrant performance space has had a significant lasting impact on the provincial performing arts scene.

His GPS-based mobile phone apps have greatly enhanced landscape documentaries, narrative and journalism here and abroad. Then, of course, there were his performances at live events where he captivated audiences with Jack tales and humorous recitations.

Always a friend to fellow storytellers and audio artists, he was willing to share his knowledge and encourage others.

Over the years, he has mentored numerous people including Mary Walsh, Robert Joy and Ron Hynes. He was always excited by their success.

Chris will be long remembered and missed at the Club. However, none will miss him as much as his loving wife, Christina Smith, to whom we extend our deepest sympathies.



Crossed the Bar



Roderick "Rod" Mackay
SEPTEMBER 12, 1948
MARCH 14, 2023

Passed away peacefully, with his wife and daughter by his side, at the Perley and Rideau Veterans' Health Centre, on 14 March 2023, following complications from Parkinson's disease. Predeceased by his parents (William and Jean Mackay), his younger brother (Terrance Mackay), his mother and father in law (Wesley and Olive LeGrow), and sister in law (Maxine Howard).

Rod was born in Perth, UK, in 1948. He spent time in Scotland and Wales before emigrating to Canada as a teenager and settling in St John's, Newfoundland. In 1968, he joined the Canadian Armed Forces as an Infantry Officer, beginning a very distinguished military career that spanned 40 years - 35 years with the regular force and 5 years with the reserve force. After retiring from the military, he continued to serve the Department of National Defence as a civilian for an additional 5 years.

While stationed in CFB Gagetown in 1970, he met Joyce (LeGrow), who became his wife a mere few months later. Their marriage would last for over half a century, through ups, downs, laughter, tears, and everything in between. Their only child, Brooke, was the apple of her father's eye. In marrying Joyce, Rod joined the lively LeGrow family, gaining three sisters and a brother, all of whom thought the world of him.

Rod served all over the world in his military career, including in Cyprus, Somalia, the United States of America, the Caribbean, and various African countries. His passion for the military rubbed off on all those he came into contact with, particularly those with whom he worked as part of various training programs he commanded in Jamaica, Mali and elsewhere. He was awarded the United Nations Forces in Cyprus (UNFICYP) medal twice, the Canadian Forces' Decoration, the Somalia Medal and the Queen's Jubilee Medal. In 1991, he was awarded the Meritorious Service Medal for services to FORSCOM HQ in Atlanta, Georgia, USA.

There was never a more kind, loving, gracious gentleman than Rod. He was a shining example of integrity, honour, and selflessness. He will be forever missed by his wife, Joyce, and his daughter, Brooke, as well as his son in law, Thomas Carr, and his wider family: brothers and sisters in law, Lloyd and Margy Legrow, Beverly and Wolfgang Wolf, and Catherine and Darald Haley, as well as nieces and nephews, Kira, Scott and Steven Howard, Ezekiel and Zachary Legrow, and Alexander and Olivia Haley.

Rod also leaves behind to mourn his passing a large circle of friends and extended family across Canada, the UK and even farther afield.



Charles F. King
March 22, 1965 April 30, 2023

Charles F. King Passed suddenly but peacefully away in Portsmouth, U.K. on April 30, 2023. Charles was born in St. John's on March 22, 1965 to Ralston (Ross) King of Newfoundland and Joan Cotton of England. He grew up in Mount Pearl but spent mostly every summer in the U.K. visiting family, especially Grandparents.

He completed a commercial diving course in California and worked in that field in various locations around Newfoundland and England before returning to MUN to complete an honours degree in biochemistry, then a Masters in Aquaculture from Simon Fraser University in British Columbia. In May, 1990, he met Andrea Whiffen and they went on to enjoy 33 adventurous years together with a shared love of sailing (a hobby well suited to his adopted home of Bermuda), running (completing the London Marathon in 2004) and travelling, while Charles also fervently pursued windsurfing and recreational diving.

Following a visit to St. John's in 2007, Charles became aware of the Crow's Nest Officers' Club and immediately sought membership. He remained a staunch supporter until his untimely death.