

For Immediate Press Release

(February 15, 2010)

Sackville, New Brunswick, Canada

Sackville NB Celebrates The 2010 Canadian Navy Centennial

On Saturday, May 15th, the Town of Sackville, New Brunswick is planning a number of activities that will recognize the national celebration of the 100th Anniversary of the Canadian Navy. Sackville is a small community in size but very big in heart. And that big heart holds a very soft spot for the Canadian Navy.

The romance really began on May 15th, 1941. The corvette HMCS Sackville was launched from her birth in the Saint John Shipbuilding and Drydock Company. The whole Sackville Town Council of the day had travelled the roughly 150 miles to stand in a nasty, driving rain as the ship was christened and slipped into the Courtenay Bay. Although she was not completely ready for war, she was needed for immediate action. Dr. Marc Milner writes of this event in the first pages of his book: HMCS Sackville 1941-1985.

As it turns out and "with a lot of water under the bridge", the HMCS Sackville is now the only remaining corvette and is carefully maintained by the Canadian Naval Memorial Trust in Halifax.

On May 15, 2010, a new memorial garden, including interpretation on the special relationship between the ship and the community of Sackville, NB, will be unveiled. This new garden is located in Memorial Park at the centre of this university town where 5361 people live near the highest tides in the world, on the Bay of Fundy nestled along the great Tantramar Marsh. (There is a long history of shipbuilding and ship-related commerce here. It is also the neighbourhood of Fort Beausejour and Fort Lawrence where the Acadians were taken away by ships in the tragic

Grand Derangement/ The Expulsion. We own a colourful past that is closely related to the sea.)

**2 pm (May 15th in Sackville NB) at Memorial Park:
Unveiling of new HMCS Sackville garden.**

The public is invited to participate in the unveiling of this new garden and the proceedings. WWII Wrens will do a ceremonial planting of the new Navy Lady rose that has been specially developed by the Wren Association of Toronto for this Centennial Year of the Canadian Navy. 40 of the Navy Lady roses will be incorporated into the new garden and other areas of the Park. The Navy Lady rose is dedicated by Wren Associations across Canada as "a tribute to our Shipmates, all the gallant men and women who served at sea and ashore in the Canadian navy, past, present and future." The rose is named in honour of the thousands of Canadian women who served in the Women's Royal Canadian Naval Service (WRCNS), known as Wrens, and to the women who continue to serve as members of the Canadian Navy.

During the ceremony, a picture of the HMCS Sackville will be presented to the Town by a representative of the Canadian Navy Centennial. A group from the HMCS Sackville National Naval Memorial Trust will also participate and will give several artifacts to the Town. A supportive relationship has been forged between the Town and the Trust.

2:30 – 4 pm (May 15th in Sackville NB) at the Sackville Branch of the Legion: Maritime Tea and Talk by Dr. Marc Milner; "The Town, The Ship and The War: Sackville, her warship and the Town's War Effort, 1939-1945."

After the ceremony at Memorial Park, everyone is invited to move just down the street to the Sackville Branch of the Legion for "Maritime Tea" and a special talk about the HMCS Sackville by Dr. Marc Milner: "The Town, The Ship and The War: Sackville, her warship and the Town's War Effort, 1939-1945."

**6 pm (May 15th in Sackville NB) at Live Bait Theatre:
Tantramar Heritage Trust "Taste of History" Dinner
and Talk by Dr. Marc Milner; "New Brunswick and
the Navy: The First Four Hundred Years".**

There will be a "Taste of History" dinner put on by the Tantramar Heritage Trust at the Live Bait Theatre at 6 pm. We will have another opportunity to hear Dr. Milner speak. The tickets are \$50 each including a \$25 tax receipt and may be purchased by contacting the Tantramar Heritage Trust at 536-2541 or tantramarheritage@nb.aibn.com

As a tribute to the 2010 Centennial of The Canadian Navy, The Tantramar Heritage Trust has invited Dr. Marc Milner to delve into the rich history of our province (and our area) to examine relation(ships) between our beloved coastal land, our people and the Navy. As part of the Trust's annual fundraising dinner, Dr. Milner will speak on "New Brunswick and the Navy: The First Four Hundred Years". Other evening festivities include music, a trivia game featuring short skits from popular "sea-themed" materials (plays, movies, books etc.), and other fun.

Marc Milner, is Director of the Brigadier Milton F Gregg VC Centre for the Study of War and Society at the University of New Brunswick. A native of Sackville, NB, Dr Milner attended the University of New Brunswick and from 1983 to 1986 Milner was an historian with the Directorate of History, Department of National Defence, Ottawa, where he wrote portions of the RCAF's official and the first narrative of the new official history of the Royal Canadian Navy. Milner joined the History Department at UNB in 1986. Since then he has served as Director of UNB's Military and Strategic Studies Programme, and Chair of UNB's History Department for six years. Milner is best known for his work on naval history. His dissertation was published by University of Toronto Press in 1985 as *North Atlantic Run: The Royal*

Canadian Navy and the Battle for the Convoys. Since then he has published *The U-Boat Hunters: The Royal Canadian Navy and the Offensive against Germany's Submarines* (1995), *Corvettes of the Royal Canadian Navy* (co-authored with Ken Macpherson in 1993), a novel *Incident at North Point* (1998), a popular history *HMCS Sackville 1940-1985* (1998) for the Canadian Naval Memorial Trust, *Battle of the Atlantic* (2003, which won the Charles P. Stacey Prize for the best book in military history in Canada for 2003-4), *D-Day to Carpiquet: the North Shore Regiment and the Liberation of Europe*, (2007) and *Canada's Navy: the First Century* (1999). He has also edited *Canadian Military History: Selected Readings* (1993), co-edited, *Military History and the Military Profession* (1992), and several volumes in the NB Military Heritage Series. His articles have appeared in numerous journals and scholarly publications. Dr Milner writes a regular column on Canadian naval history for *Legion Magazine*, and the second (updated) edition of *Canada's Navy: The First Century* was published just in time for the naval centennial.

For further information about the May 15th events in Sackville NB, please contact 506-536-4906 or w.maddox@sackville.com

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