

The Royal Canadian Naval Association

Admiral Hose Branch

DECEMBER 2011

ACTIVITIES, UPDATES AND GENERAL SCUTTLEBUTT

A special THANK YOU to S/M **Henry Chartier** for sponsoring this month's newsletter

November has been a very busy month for us and a BRAVO ZULU to all members that attended the various events. It showed that when we put our minds to it we can clearly show our community of Windsor that the RCNA in this town is alive and kicking.

To recap our membership's activities in November:

Nov. 2 & 3: Shipmates, **Marty Barnes, Gary Fairthorne, Steve Willar, Glen Clark and Rita Eidukas** spent 2 days at the Heritage Village working with MP Joe Comartin's "Passing the Torch Committee" that put on displays of Women at War During WWII, serving on the home front as well as overseas. The school children that attended the event were attentive and asked many questions.

Nov. 4: Many of our Members attended HMCS Hunter C&PO's Remembrance Dinner. The mess did an excellent job on the dinner and the Remembrance Ceremony. The guest speaker was MCPL M. Akpata CD.

Nov. 5: Our Colour Guard, along with some of our members marched in the parade and attended the Memorial Service put on by RCL Br. 255. We laid a wreath on behalf of the RCNA.

Nov. 6: The Colour Guard and our Members attended a Church Parade at Church Of Ascension. The Remembrance Service was well done and we thank our **Padre, Archdeacon Ron Matthewman** for a moving sermon. Later that day we formed up on HMCS Hunter drill deck to march with the HMCS Hunter Ship's Company to the Cenotaph for the Remembrance Service. **Ruth Lavoie** laid a wreath on behalf of the WRENS and Howard **Porter** laid one on behalf of the RCNA.

Nov. 11: Members and Our Colour Guard attended Memorial Service at RCL Br. 201 in Essex. Amy Pugh laid a wreath on behalf of her late husband Bob, who was retired from the RCN and was a member of the RCNA. Shipmate **Brian Guthrie** has done REST ON YOUR ARMS REVERSE at the Essex Cenotaph for 20 years. He has done it in memory of his father **Bob Guthrie** who was one of the founding Members of the RCNA Windsor, Brian was recognized and thanked for his service of 20 years by the Essex Br 201 Legion and was awarded a pin to mark the occasion. After completion of that service we proceeded to Cottam for another Remembrance Ceremony. After doing that we returned to Windsor and many Members attended a Remembrance Dinner at RCL Br. 12. You can see that Nov. 11, 2011 was a very busy and active day for our members.

The Poppy Campaign ran from Oct. 28 to Nov.11. The following shipmates did a bang up job of getting the Poppies out. **Rick and Barb Simons, Rick Kirkness, Jack Soulliere, Dennis Batson, Chico Batson, Dave and Susan Cassivi, Steve Willar, Russ Rivard, and Gary and Judy Fairthorne.**

Of the 14 day campaign we had 2 shipmates, **Nadine Murphy** and **Margo Barnett**, spent 12 days in uniform at one of our local hospitals selling poppies for 4-5 hours each day. In addition to that shipmate **Ruth Lavoie** spent 8 days standing in the lobby of the CIBC Building. Our President **Gary Fairthorne** went to Dougall Ave. School and spoke to the students explaining what the Poppy signifies, and of course his focus was on what the our Sailors did during the war.

Howard Porter and Ray Crough (Senior and long serving RCNA Members) spent an afternoon at one of our local banks (in RCNA Uniform) talking to various customers and answering questions about their service in the RCNVR during WWII. The bank in turn made a generous donation to the Poppy Fund. Someone has to count the money!!! That job fell on **Amy Pugh, Heidi Arnason, Ed Prentice and Steve Willar.**

The amount collected at time of printing is \$5270.07; in addition to that we are waiting for word from the Windsor Poppy Fund on how much was sent in by our Members from the Poppy Appeal letters. Last year those letters generated \$750.00 from our Members. Thanks to our Poppy Chairman **Amy Pugh** for a successful campaign.

The WVMSC and RCNA did a Memorial Service on November 17, 2011 for past RCNA Member, **Hank Domarchuk** RCNA #114 N (Life), who passed away on November 12, 2011. He was a long time member and according to S/M **Howard Porter** he was our Colour Guards first Commander. Although he was not a current member, I'm sure some of our senior shipmates will remember him.

Speaking of past members, On Nov. 11, 2011 while attending Remembrance Ceremonies in Essex and Cottam we were joined by an old Windsor RCNA Member, **Ernie Benson** RCNA #860N. He was dressed in the old Square Rig which brought back lots of memories for Members that were in the Navy prior to the Canadian Forces unification. The anchor that is on top of our Naval Memorial in Dieppe Gardens was sand blasted and prepared for painting by Ernie, he worked closely with **Ed Clough** to put our Naval Monument together. He is currently a member of RCNA North Bay.

Just a reminder that DUES should be paid by the end of the month, there is still time to win the early bird draw. The winner for the October draw was S/M **Gail Noah.**

Our Treasurer **Nancy Kirkness** has opened her own business called "No. 1 TAX DEPOT" at 5160 Tecumseh Rd. E. Windsor, Phone 519-974-9818. Nancy has many years experience in preparing taxes and offering bookkeeping services. Please give her your support. On behalf of RCNA Windsor we wish you much luck and success in your new business.

Three of our Members that are still serving in the Navy Reserves, **Dave Ducharme, Kevin Ghanam and Chantale Trahan,** have been taking various courses to update their skills. Dave and Kevin took MESO QL3 Delta course (Marine Engineering Systems Operator) and

Chantale has taken PLQ course (Professional Leadership Qualifications). Congratulations!! Keep up the good work; we look to you for future leadership within our Association.

DATES TO REMEMBER

- Friday December 2, 2011..... Euchre, C& POs, HMCS Hunter, mess opens at 1900 hrs. All RCNA members are encouraged to visit the mess and play a game or two.
- Saturday December 3, 2011..... Darts at C&PO's Mess at 1300 hrs, meat draw at approx 1400Hrs. Mess opens at 1230 hrs.
- Wednesday, December 7, 2011. Seniors Dinner, RCL Br. 12, Turkey, stuffing, potatoes, veg, roll & butter, soup & salad, tea or coffee. Hrs: 1600hrs to 1830hrs. Price \$5.00.

Please get there early as this dinner usually sells out very quickly.

- Saturday December 10, 2011..... Darts at C&PO's Mess at 1300 hrs, meat draw at approx. 1400 hrs Mess opens at 1230 hrs.
- Sunday December 11, 2011..... Kids Christmas Party, at RCL Br. 12. 1400 hrs to 1600 hrs, ages 2 to 12. Sign up sheet at RCL Br.12 or C&PO's Mess. Please register by December 4, 2011.
- Friday, December 16, 2011.....Christmas Bingo at C&PO's mess; open at 2000 hrs.
- Saturday, December 17, 2011.....Darts at C&PO's mess at 1300 hrs, meat draw at 1400 hrs. Mess opens at 1230 hrs.
- Sunday, December 18, 2011.....GENERAL MEETING, C&PO's Mess, 1400 hrs, mess opens at 1300 hrs. Please do your best to attend and vote for the shipmate you would like to see on the new Executive.
- Sunday, December 25, 2011.....Christmas Day. Merry Christmas to all Members.
- Sunday, January 1, 2012.....New Years LEVEE, Toasts are as follows:

- Warrant Officers & Sergeants Mess at Windsor Armouries. 1100hrs.
- Junior Ranks Mess at Windsor Armouries.....1130 hrs
- Officers Mess, Windsor Armouries.....1200 hrs
- Admiral Hose Grave site**, Heavenly Rest Cemetery....1230 hrs
- C&POs Mess HMCS Hunter.....1400 hrs
- RCNA** at RCL Br. 12.....1600 hrs

The dress of the day is Uniform, Blues and Greys or Business Suit with Tie.

We know that not all our Members can visit all the Messes for the toasts but we encourage you to make the RCNA toast being held at Royal Canadian Legion Br. 12. Toasts at 1600 hrs.

There will be meat and cheese trays and baked beans etc. for those that are hungry.

The RCNA Membership Board has been completed and is looking sharp. On your next visit to

RCL Br.12 check it out and see your name on the board; many thanks to Rick Simons and Margo Barnet for a job well done. Words of thanks to Mardee Gagnon and Dave Crockett from RCL Br.12 for helping Margo engrave all the names on the name plates and to Branch 12 for letting us use their engraving machine.

The HMCS Hunter C&PO's Mess has offered us a display case in the Mess for us to display some of our Memorabilia

The display case has been finished in a dark blue background and we are in the process of putting our most valuable items in the display case. Please check it out the next time you are in the Mess.

As a point of interest, at RCL Br.12 you will find on the bulkheads our Membership Board, Past Presidents Pictures, Members Memorial Boards and the Ladies Auxiliary Memorial Board as well as our plaque showing all past Colour Guard Members and the glassed in Kisby ring saying Royal Canadian Naval Association.

Our Sailor "Kenny" will be transferred from RCL to the C&PO's Mess.

You may not be aware of it but RCL Br.12 has published RCNA PRESIDENTS REPORT in their bi-monthly Newsletter. Below is the 11th report that was published and seeing as some of our members do not get to RCL Br.12, you may want to read it.

RCNA PRESIDENTS REPORT: GARY FAIRTHORNE

Ahoy, Shipmates and Comrades,

How time flies. We have just completed one of our busiest times of the year, Remembrance Parades, Dinners, Ceremonial Functions and Public Education. Many of our members participated in at least one or more of these important functions, and we thank you for your sincere involvement, our members are acknowledging that our RCNA "GRASS ROOTS" agenda really identifies who we are and what the RCNA are all about. Attendance has improved and our lines of communication are working much better and committees are doing a great job!

RCNA National has even noticed and expressed interest in being on our mailing list.

Further more, a few of our Members are part of "Passing the Torch" committee which play an important role in informing/educating students and the public on our military history.

This letter is sort of my "swan song" as elections are coming up, and I have considered it an honour and privilege to be your President and certainly appreciate the support, the help, and the advise that you have offered during my tenure and I extend my total support to our new President and Executive.

To the membership: We have an obligation to our predecessors to keep the RCNA Admiral Hose Branch viable, and with your continued support this is a reality.

To the President, Executive and Members of RCL Br.12, who have been so accommodating and cooperative, and for allowing for this RCNA PRESIDENTS REPORT be printed in your RCL BR.12 bi-monthly Newsletter, I thank you and look forward to your continued support.

To the Commanding Officer and the C&PO`s Mess of HMCS Hunter we thank you for helping us to be part of the Naval Family in Windsor.

On behalf of myself and my wife Judy, along with the RCNA Executive, we wish all of you a Merry Christmas and a healthy and happy New Year.

Cheers and smooth sailing,

Gary Fairthorne

Monthly Interesting Fact.

On July 1, 1980: "Oh Canada" was proclaimed the official National Anthem of Canada. It was first sung in 1880 and the official English lyrics version was written in 1908 by Robert Stanley Weir, the music was composed by Claxa Lavalee.

Nadine's Joke of the month

Everyone has a motto in life, mine is "Leave 'em laughing:

An office group decided to have a Christmas gathering that included their respective families so they could get to know one another personally.

All during the sit-down dinner one co-worker's four-year-old girl stared at the man sitting across from her. The girl could hardly eat her food for staring.

The man checked his tie, felt his face for food, patted his hair in place but nothing stopped her from staring at him.

Everyone at the table became quiet as they noticed her behaviour.

He tried his best to just ignore her but finally it was too much for him.

He asked her "Why are you staring at me?"

The little girl said "I just want to see how you drink like a fish."

Motto: Little pictures have big ears