

## Mess and RUSI Vancouver Members News Feb 8, 2011

### Wednesday Lunches

Tomorrow (Feb 9<sup>th</sup>), Peter Duffey will be here to talk about his experiences flying BOAC's post-war airliners, including the Comet 1, the world's first jetliner. He will talk mainly about his time as a pilot of the Concorde. His talk will start at 1330hrs in the Lecture Room adjacent to the Mess.

On Feb 23<sup>rd</sup>, The Navy brings in the 'big gun' as our NOABC comrades present Canada's Senior Naval Reserve Officer for a post lunch presentation.

### **COMMODORE DW CRAIG CD, COMMANDER, NAVAL RESERVE HEADQUARTERS**

Commodore Craig joined the Naval Reserve in 1974 at HMCS DISCOVERY as a naval cadet while attending the University of British Columbia. He has served in numerous staff and training positions at four Naval Reserve Divisions in his career, including HMC Ships DISCOVERY, CARLETON, CHIPPAWA and MALAHAT. He completed his Minor Warship Command qualification in 1984 and subsequently has commanded various classes of vessels on both coasts as well as on the Great Lakes. Promoted Commander in January 1988, he was appointed the Executive Officer of HMCS MALAHAT and subsequently served as the Commanding Officer 1992 to 1995. His post-command appointments have included service as Directing Staff in STAR II at the Canadian Forces College and PSU 4 Commander in MARPAC. He was promoted Capt(N) in 1998 and attended the Advanced Military Studies Course. Following promotion, he became the Western Region Coordinator for British Columbia, Alberta and Saskatchewan and continued in that capacity for the next six years. In July 2004 he assumed the responsibilities of the Director of the Joint Command and Staff Course (Reserves) at the Canadian Forces College in Toronto until 2007. His most recent responsibilities included his appointment as Director Naval Reserve Strategic Planning as well as the Regional Advisor for the Pacific Region. In January 2011, he was promoted Commodore and appointed as the Commander Naval Reserve.



Commodore Craig has a Bachelor's of Applied Science in Engineering Physics from the University of British Columbia with a specialty in oceanography. Following graduation he carried out research in underwater acoustics with the Ocean Acoustics Group in the Defence Research Establishment Pacific. As part of his research interests, he has completed a Master of Engineering Degree from Carleton University as well as a doctorate in Computer Engineering

in real-time networking and has been registered as a Professional Engineer in both British Columbia and Ontario. His civilian career has included a posting as an Operational Research scientist with Air Command in Winnipeg, as well as Section Head of the Command, Control and Computer Section in Maritime Forces Pacific. He recently retired from the Public Service after 33 years of service, most recently serving as the Quality Management Engineer for the extended docking work period for the west coast submarine HMCS VICTORIA.

## **Vancouver's Bessborough Armoury**

A book by LCol R Victor Stevenson, who passed away a few months ago, called 'Vancouver's Bessborough Armoury', published this month, interweaves the architectural history of the armoury, built in 1932-33, with the story of the 15th Field Artillery Regiment, as well as sister and predecessor units, that have occupied this armoury. The armoury's architect, Lt Col Richard Perry, departed from the customary castle-like façade for an armoury to create a modern, Art Deco military building that is unique in Canada. This 112-page, generously illustrated book is being sold by the Regimental Museum Society for \$25.

There will be a 'lunch launch' of the book at lunch tomorrow (9 Feb).

## **Maj Ken Whitney elected President of Rotary Club**

At a Rotary Club of Richmond meeting on January 19, 2011, **Ken Whitney** was elected President for 2011-2012. Congratulations Ken.

## **HMS Ambush evacuated after fire on board**

*North-West Evening Mail, 22 January 2011*

*Looks like we are not the only ones with 'flaming' submarines. Mind you, we bought ours from the RN*

A Royal Navy (RN) *Astute*-class nuclear-powered attack sub has suffered yet another problem, this time a fire onboard that forced the evacuation of the entire crew over the weekend. *HMS Ambush*, the second boat of the *Astute*-class, suffered a small fire on a piece of equipment in the rear of the sub on Friday due to an "electrical fault"; the sub's fire alarm was sounded, and the entire crew evacuated safely. The incident was the latest in a series of embarrassing mishaps for the new subs, including the grounding of *HMS Astute* in December, its collision with the tug that freed her from the grounding which caused damage to her starboard foreplane, and issues with *Astute*'s steam plant that forced her to return to port after repairs to the foreplane. *Ambush* is no-less accident prone, as this was the third fire reported onboard since 2009, though the two previous fires occurred while she was being completed at the Devonshire Dock Hall.

## **A New Artillery Association**

A few months ago I started a campaign to recruit members into the 15 Field Artillery Regimental Society. After some discussion with the board, the Society directors decided that they wanted to restrict the society to a small working board of directors. The plan now is to

create a new Artillery Association, open to all former Gunners and friends of the Gunner family. This new Association will work to support the 15 Field Regiment, the Regimental Society and the Regimental Museum and Archives Society. The new Association will take over the Society's role as a member of the Royal Canadian Artillery Association and members of the new Association will automatically be members of the RCAA.

I have laid out the basic groundwork to form this new Association but, since it is to be a democratic Association, I need 4 or 5 volunteers to discuss and approve a Constitution and Bylaws and help staff the process of incorporation under BC's Societies Act. I expect that we will have to meet a couple of times in the next few months but much of the work can probably be done by email and phone. Any one willing to help out is asked to email me ASAP.

### **Machinist needed.**

I have another project on them go that requires the services of a professional machinist. Do we have anyone in our group that can help out?? Again, please email me if you or someone you know can help.

### **RUSI Vancouver AGM**

**The Royal United Services Institute - Vancouver**  
*will hold its*

## **Annual General Meeting**

*in the Lt Col Perry lecture Room at Bessborough Armoury*

*on*

**Wednesday, March 9<sup>th</sup> 2011 at 1330 hours.**

Members who are excused attendance are counted towards the quorum so, if you cannot make the meeting, please inform me by email as soon as possible.

### **Band Concert**

Join the **Band of the 15th Field Regiment** for a concert featuring diversity, versatility and virtuosity in the newly renovated Old Auditorium at UBC.

Concert starts at 1930hrs, Saturday, February 19, 2011. **Saxophone Virtuoso, Dr. Timothy Roberts**, Senior Chief and principal saxophone of the United States Navy Band will be featured. Tickets are \$20 with a reduction to \$15 for students and seniors and will be available at the door.

## Historic Hockey: Gunner's Help Celebrate The Origin Of The Game

*Lieutenant Jordan Beatty, E Bty, 2 RCHA*

Every year the gunners of Petawawa travel to Kingston to recreate the oldest recorded hockey game in Canadian history. The tournament consists of a 3 team round robin with teams competing from Queens University, the Royal Military College of Canada, and the Second Regiment Royal Canadian Horse Artillery. The tournament has been held annually since 1969 in celebration of the first organized hockey game ever played on the ice of the Kingston harbour in



1886. Although the game has been moved from the harbour to the Market Square, the tournament is played in accordance with the rules of the game as it was played in 1886. The

players were challenged by the differences between the rules of the tournament and the rules of hockey as they know it today. Many were penalized for forward passes or playing the square puck with their hands.

In addition to fielding a hockey team for the event, the gunners of 2RCHA brought a 9 pounder



gun down to fire in celebration of each goal scored by the teams during the tournament. The gun was manned by a detachment in period dress adding to the historical setting of the tournament. The gunners suffered two losses against the Queens, and RMC teams leading to RMC taking the title this year. However the weekend wasn't a total loss for the gunners who gathered at the RCHA Brigade Association club the evening prior to the tournament and enjoyed live entertainment along with drinks



among fellow gunners from the area. Major General Howard, Colonel Brian McPherson (Director of Artillery), Colonel Peter Williams (Regimental Colonel) and the Colonel Commandant BGen Retd Ernest Beno enjoyed the opportunity to mix with the 2RCHA team and join in the events, as did many of the local Kingston Gunners. Overall, the event created greater cohesion between Gunners and the City of Kingston as well as a tribute to Canada's favourite game.

### **The Ladies Dining In Night**

The Mess will be holding their Ladies' Dining-In on 19 Feb 11 in the Officers' Mess. The theme will be "**Greek Night**" and our resident 'Zorba' (George Lenis) will be cooking. Timing : **1830 for 1900hrs**. Dress: **Mess Kit/Black Tie**

RSVP to Conway Hui at [conwayhui.consulting@gmail.com](mailto:conwayhui.consulting@gmail.com) by **9 Feb**.

### **Sick List - LCol Vic Coroy**

Vic has been moved to Kingston General Hospital where he is in serious but stable condition. I found out from his daughter that he suffered kidney failure last week but no further details on how or why, although it probably had something to do with the 'bug' he picked up on his cruise.

The family have asked that people not visit for the time being. That has little bearing on us of course but they also ask that people refrain from calling his home. I will keep sending out information as I get it. Anyone wishing to send a card can send it to his home address and his family will get it to him. His address is: **22 Claramount Court, Wellington ON K0K3L0** Also, Kingston General has a "email postcard" program that you can use to send him greetings etc. Go to: <http://www.kgh.on.ca/en/patientsandvisitors/Pages/Email-a-patient.aspx>

To send him a message on this site you must use his full name:- Augustine Victor Coroy

### **From the 'Punitentary'**

A marine biologist developed a race of genetically engineered dolphins that could live forever if they were fed a steady diet of seagulls. One day, his supply of the birds ran out so he had to go out and trap some more. On the way back, he spied two lions asleep on the road. Afraid to wake them, he gingerly stepped over them. Immediately, he was arrested and charged with -- transporting gulls across sedate lions for immortal porpoises.

### **Murphy's Rules of Combat Operations.**

- Friendly fire - isn't. Recoilless rifles - aren't. Suppressive fire - won't.
- The quartermaster has only two sizes, too large and too small.
- If it's stupid but it works, it isn't stupid.
- Try to look unimportant; the enemy may be low on ammo and not want to waste a bullet on you.