



DISPATCHES

THE ROYAL UNITED SERVICES INSTITUTE OF NOVA SCOTIA

Spring Edition 2013

RUSI (NS) PROGRAM

Day, Date	Time	Location	Remarks
Wed Apr 17	1830	The new RCMP Headquarters in Burnside Industrial Park.	This annual RCMP evening will feature a special tour of the new HQ. Supt. John Ferguson will host.
Wed May 15	1200 - 1400	RA Park Officers' Mess Air Force Room Or Cambridge Military Library – To be confirmed	Distinguished Speaker Series – <i>Mr. Angus McDonald</i> on the Merchant Navy and WWII North Atlantic operations.
Wed Jun 19	1800 for 1830	Annual Mixed Dining-In at the Ashburn Golf and Country Club.	Annual buffet dinner. Guests welcome. Our annual tribute will be to one of our long time RCAF veterans - TBA
July/August			No meetings scheduled

A REVIEW OF OUR ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

The 85th Annual General Meeting was held at RA Park the evening of Wednesday, 20 February. In attendance were 22 members of the Institute. A tribute was held for those who passed away since the last meeting followed by approval of the 84th AGM minutes, the annual budget, reports from the various committees, and presentation of the slate of officers and board for 2013. Minutes will be promulgated at a later date. Here is the composition of the Board as a result of the meeting:

Officers:

President - Inspector Dan Tanner (Ret'd)
Immediate Past President – Lt. Tom Birchall (Ret'd)
Vice- President – Major John Harrison (Ret'd)
Secretary – Colonel Murray Lee (Ret'd)
Acting Treasurer – Lieutenant Tom Birchall (Ret'd) (until a replacement can be found)

Directors:

Commander Colin Darlington (Ret'd)
Major Peter Dawson
Colonel Dick Jamer (Ret'd)
Colonel John Alward (Ret'd)

Special Appointments: (expire annually)

Medical Officer – LCdr Heather MacKinnon (Ret'd)
Chief Information Officer – Mr. Richard McNair
Historian – Mr. Michael Nash Kelly
Chaplain – Major John O'Donnell

Service Representatives:

RCN – Cdr George Forward
Cdn Army – LCol Dale Warner
RCAF – LCol Claude Desgagne
RCMP – Supt John Ferguson



Colonel John Boileau – our resident historian speaks on the War of 1812-1814

On Wednesday, March 26th (the weather delay day for our 20th of March Distinguished Speaker luncheon) Colonel John Boileau spoke to some 30 members of the Institute on the War of 1812-14 and in particular the Battles of Castine and Hamden (Maine) which are little known to most Canadians. His stimulating talk generated a number of questions and certainly held the attention of the audience. If you are interested in this particular facet of Canadian history, look to purchase John's book on the subject entitled "Half Hearted Enemies – the War of 1812-14". For further info, email John at johnboileau@eastlink.ca.

THE ANNUAL ASHBURN MIXED DINNER EVENING IS CONFIRMED

Arrangements have been confirmed with the Ashburn Golf and Country Club to once again hold our annual mixed dining-in on the evening of **Wednesday, June 19th** so mark your calendars. *Reservations will be necessary* and payment will be made in advance by sending your cheques to our RUSI address at Stadacona. Again, our address is: **RUSI Nova Scotia, Suite #151, PO Box 99000 Stn Forces, Halifax NS B3K 5X5**. The cost for this buffet dinner will be \$50.00 per person.

The plan is to meet in the lounge at 1800 then move into the dining room to start the meal at 1830 hrs. Dress for the evening will be tie and jacket for the men with appropriate dress for the ladies. As in the past, guests are most welcome. Should you have any food allergies, please contact the secretary so that special arrangements can be made for you (murray.lee@ns.sympatico.ca). We will once again be hosting a guest of honour as we have done in previous years – the name to be confirmed in the next edition of Dispatches. Menu details are as follows:

Salads: Romaine hearts with Caesar vinaigrette, bacon and parmesan cheese
Spinach salad with goat cheese, oven-dried tomatoes, spiced walnuts and sweet garlic honey vinaigrette.

Side Dishes: Fresh green beans and baby carrots
Herb-spun mashed potatoes

Entrees: Poached side of Atlantic salmon with ginger-scallion cream and curry-braised onion
Grilled breast of chicken with field mushroom and caramelized soubise ragout

Desserts: Baked fresh apple crisp
Strawberry and lemon curd shortcake

Rolls, coffee and tea are also included.

Medium-to-Heavy Lift Helicopter Project: Status Report

As part of its commitment under the *Canada First* Defence Strategy, the Government of Canada is purchasing 15 medium-to-heavy lift Chinook F-model helicopters (also known as CH-147F) to fulfill Canada's transport requirements in this area. This acquisition will strengthen Canada's multi-role, combat-capable defence force by providing the Canadian Forces (CF) with the right equipment they need to perform their missions through fair, open and transparent procurement practices. It will also allow the CF to increase their mobility, flexibility and ability to operate in remote and isolated areas, and increase their capacity to respond to disasters both at home and abroad.

As part of the Medium-to-Heavy Lift Helicopter Acquisition Program, Boeing has committed to providing Industrial and Regional Benefits equal to \$1.25 billion, which will ensure that Canadian industry benefits from this procurement. Boeing is currently on track to meet its commitments.

This project is currently on budget and on schedule.

Projected Costing

- The total estimated cost for the Medium-to-Heavy Lift Helicopter Program is approximately \$5 billion. The breakdown is as follows:
 - The total project acquisition cost is estimated at approximately \$2.3 billion, which includes the 15 helicopters; in-service support set-up, equipment procured directly through a Foreign Military Sales agreement with the United States (U.S.) government such as engines, electronic warfare equipment, along with radios, navigations and other electronic equipment; new infrastructure in Petawawa; project management costs; and a complete maintenance and aircrew training program, including simulation devices and courseware.
- The 20-year in-service support program for the helicopters, the training systems, and equipment procured directly through a Foreign Military Sales¹ agreement with the U.S. government, excluding personnel and operating costs, has an estimated value of \$2.7 billion.

Chronology of Events

- **Current status:** On budget and on schedule
- **June 2006:** The Government of Canada announced its plan to acquire a new fleet of medium-to-heavy lift Chinook F-model helicopters to meet the CF rotary-wing transport requirements for the next 20 years. To ensure a fair, open, and transparent process, an Advance Contract Award Notice was published on Government Electronic Tenders Service (MERX) to give notice to supplier community of the intent to award a contract to the Boeing Company. Boeing was assessed as being the only compliant supplier.
- **Of Note:**
 - **December 2008:** Separate from the Medium-to-Heavy Lift Helicopter Program, Canada acquired six used Chinook D-model helicopters (CH-147D) in order to meet an urgent need for a medium-lift capability in Afghanistan. The acquisition of these helicopters was processed through a Foreign Military Sales agreement with the U.S. government. This capability lasted until the end of the mission in 2011.
 - Two of the original six Chinook D-model helicopters were damaged beyond economical repair while in operation in Afghanistan. The Department of National Defence (DND) is pursuing disposal options for the remaining four Chinook D-model helicopters.
- **August 2009:** The Government of Canada announced a contract award, valued at US\$1.2 billion, to the Boeing Company to build the helicopters and initial in-service support set-up for Canada's Medium-to-Heavy Lift Helicopter Program.
- **December 2009:** The Government of Canada announced Canada's new fleet of 15 Chinook F-model helicopters will be based at Canadian Forces Base Petawawa, Ontario. The new helicopter squadron will be designated 450 Tactical Helicopter Squadron.
- **March 2010:** The Government of Canada announced Montréal-based CAE would be the single operational training systems provider for the Chinook F-model helicopter fleet. CAE was awarded a contract valued at approximately \$250 million to establish and maintain a comprehensive aircrew training solution.
- **October 2010:** The Government of Canada awarded Ellis Don Company a contract valued at \$134.8 million to construct first-and second-line maintenance bays; CAE and Boeing training schools; a back shop and warehouse; a DND command suite; and a fenced-in parking lot.
- **June 24, 2012:** Canada's first Chinook F-model helicopter successfully completed its maiden test flight at a Boeing test facility, kicking off the year-long Test and Evaluation phase of the program which is comprised of both ground and flight-test activities.
- **September 24, 2012:** A second Canadian Chinook F-model helicopter began the Test and Evaluation phase of the program and completed its first test flight.

- **February 5, 2013:** Boeing-led training began for aircraft technicians, loadmasters and flight engineers at a training site near Philadelphia. It is anticipated that approximately 45 graduates will be available to support the arrival of the first Chinook helicopter in the summer of 2013.

Next Steps

- Following the conclusion of a year-long flight test program led by Boeing, the first F-model Chinook is scheduled to arrive on schedule at a new facility located at Canadian Forces Base Petawawa, Ontario, in June 2013.
- Aircraft will be delivered at a rate of approximately one aircraft per month, with all aircraft being delivered over a 12-month period. The helicopters are expected to reach Initial Operational Capability, as planned, in 2014.
- A contract amendment to provide 20 years of in-service support for the helicopters is currently being developed with the Boeing Company. The negotiations are expected to conclude in May 2013. A contract amendment to provide 20 years of in-service support for the helicopters is currently being developed with the Boeing Company. The negotiations are expected to conclude in May 2013.
- Boeing will also provide Industrial and Regional Benefits equal to the value of the 20 year in-service support amendment. In addition, Boeing will be required to provide Direct Industrial and Regional Benefits work equal to 75 per cent of the value of the in-service support amendment, which is subject to the Government's Global Value Chain policy enhancement. More information on the Global Value Chain policy enhancement can be found at Industry Canada's Industrial and Regional Benefits website at www.ic.gc.ca/irb

THE CANADIAN ARMED FORCES ARE BACK!

OTTAWA – Having already re-inserted “royal” into the names of the Canadian air force and navy, the Harper government has made another change to Canada's military identity. It is now quietly working to remind Canadians that their soldiers carry guns by doing away with the Chretien-era “Canadian Forces” to describe the military, and instead returning to former moniker “**Canadian Armed Forces**.” Unlike the great fanfare that accompanied the Harper government's decision to reinstate the Royal Canadian Navy and Royal Canadian Air Force, this most recent change is much more subtle.

Analysts say it is notable as part of a continuing trend of various Canadian governments rebranding the military in images more to their liking. “I'm guessing the government wants to re-establish the image that the Canadian Forces is not Boy Scouts, as (former prime minister Jean) Chretien called them,” said Douglas Bland, a retired Lieutenant-Colonel and now chair of defence management studies at Queen's University.

A spokeswoman for Defence Minister Peter MacKay said the terms Canadian Forces and Canadian Armed Forces are interchangeable, according to the National Defence Act. The term, the Canadian Armed Forces is now being used consistently by the prime minister and Minister MacKay. See the latest DND news releases on the DND web site for example.

Bland said Canadian Armed Forces was the definitive name of Canada's military after the navy, army and air force were “unified” into one common force in 1968, but the Chretien government quietly removed “armed” from the name as it was instigating deep budget cuts in the 1990s, he said, because it was keen on “softening” the military's image — which helped “deflect any criticism about not buying military equipment.” “Almost without notice it was changed by the Chretien government to the Canadian Forces,” said Bland, who at the time opposed the decision. “Changing it was a political move.”

While Bland believed the Harper government's decision to change the name back is also politically motivated, he nonetheless approved because “it does, in our small circle within the armed forces and those who are around it, give a sense of what we're actually about.”

It's not the first time the Harper government has pushed the rewind button when it comes to naming the Canadian military; in August 2011 here in Halifax, the Harper government reinstated to the “royal” designation to the names of the Canadian navy and air force after they were abolished in 1968. The move was praised as a salute to the country's

history, but also decried as a throwback to colonial times as well as part of an attempt by the Harper government to tie the military and other national institutions and images to the Conservative brand.

Perhaps ironically, the change back to Canadian Armed Forces comes as the Defence Department faces billions of dollars in budget cuts, which has prompted concerns from some military commanders about the impact on training, reserve units and long-term planning.

IN MEMORIAM — This is an excerpt from the Chronicle Herald of March 12th, 2013.

Flight Lieutenant Wilfred "Biff" Bennett, 90, of Halifax, passed away peacefully in Camp Hill Veterans Memorial Building, QEII on March 9, 2013. Born in Halifax, he was a son of the late Manuel Joseph and Jean (Vallance) Bennett.

During the Second World War he served with the Royal Canadian Air Force, based in England, where he flew with the Royal Air Force No. 49 Bomber Squadron. During his tour overseas, between 1942 and 1945, he completed 30 missions as an aircrew member on Lancaster bombers. While stationed in England he married Brenda Margaret Stanton on June 16, 1945.

He and Brenda returned to Halifax in 1948 where he obtained employment with Maritime Telegraph & Telephone Co. Ltd. (M.T. & T.), until his retirement in 1983, after 35 years. He also continued his service in the R.C.A.F. in Halifax, from 1953 to 1961, as Chief Instructor and Fighter Controller for the No. 2405 A.C. & W Reserve Squadron. Although much of his career with M.T. & T. was spent in Halifax, promotions saw him transferred to Bridgewater as Local Manager (1961 to 1963) and to New Glasgow as District Commercial Supervisor (1967 to 1974). He was very active within these communities and served as a Director of the Bridgewater Golf Club, Chairman of the Board of Stewarts of Bridgewater United Church, President of the Home and School Association and a member of the Kinsman Club.

He pursued his love for sports such as golf and curling while in Bridgewater and also found time to coach Little League Baseball and was involved in Junior Golf Development. Some of Biff's fondest memories of Bridgewater stem from the lasting friendship he and Brenda formed with their dear friends David and Brenda Hopkins. In New Glasgow he continued in his community involvement through the Rotary Club and was a member and director of both the Bluenose Curling Club and the Abercrombie Golf and Country Club. While in New Glasgow he continued his involvement in youth sport as coach of the New Glasgow High School Men's Curling Team and as a member of the Nova Scotia Junior Golf Development Program. Upon his return to Halifax in 1974 he remained active in his favorite leisure activities as a member of the Ashburn Golf Club and Mayflower Curling Club.

During much of his retirement years he was a proud member, Director and Past President of the Royal United Services Institute, Nova Scotia (RUSI). Biff is survived by his son, Alan; daughter-in-law, Linda (Harris) of Dartmouth; granddaughter, Amanda Bennett of Victoria, B.C.; brother, Albert (Joan) of Halifax and sister, Gertrude (Russell) of Florida as well as several nieces and nephews. He was predeceased by his loving wife of 67 years, Brenda (Stanton); brothers, George, Harold and sisters, Jean, Barbara (Spafford) and Dorothy (Pellow). For all the happy memories, selfless gestures and humorous anecdotes, those whose lives you have touched will never forget you.

HMCS Toronto makes history with massive narcotics haul

OTTAWA (DND Press Release)- Her Majesty's Canadian Ship (HMCS) *Toronto* successfully disrupted a massive narcotics shipment in the Indian Ocean as part of counter-terrorism operations with Combined Task Force 150.

On Friday March 29, 2013, HMCS *Toronto*'s naval boarding party searched a suspect vessel as part of ongoing maritime security operations. During this inspection, the boarding team recovered approximately 500 kilograms of heroin with an estimated street value of more than \$100 million. The narcotics were confiscated without incident and will be destroyed.

"HMCS *Toronto* has recovered one of the largest heroin seizures on the high seas," said the Honourable Peter MacKay. "This massive narcotics seizure is one example of how our Canadian Armed Forces members deployed in Canada and

around the world are making a difference in international security and stability by denying criminals, and possibly terrorists, their source of funding."

"The actions of HMCS *Toronto* and her crew demonstrate that Canada is playing an instrumental role in keeping illicit drugs off Canadian streets," said the Honorable Vic Toews, Minister of Public Safety. "We continue to strengthen ties with allies, confront transnational organized crime, and keep drugs away from Canadian shores."

"This is the largest maritime interception of narcotics in the Combined Maritime Forces area of operations and one of the largest heroin seizures in the maritime environment." HMCS *Toronto*'s Commanding Officer, Commander David Patchell, stressed the impact this find will have on the international community. "This seizure will have a sweeping impact on these organizations at all levels and demonstrates Canada's commitment to our allies and to ensuring the seas are used for legitimate purposes. It keeps the drugs off the streets and out of the hands of criminals, but it also has a massive impact on the finances of international terrorist organizations."

As one of sixteen Canadian Armed Forces missions currently deployed around the world, HMCS *Toronto* is deployed on Operation Artemis, Canada's contribution to Combined Task Force 150, combating terrorism in the Arabian Sea and Indian Ocean. The crew of the ship is among more than 1,500 soldiers, sailors, airmen, and airwomen making a difference on missions both at home and abroad over this Easter long weekend at sea, in the air, and on land.

The next Edition of Dispatches will be published at the beginning of May.

