

THE ADMIRAL'S VIEW

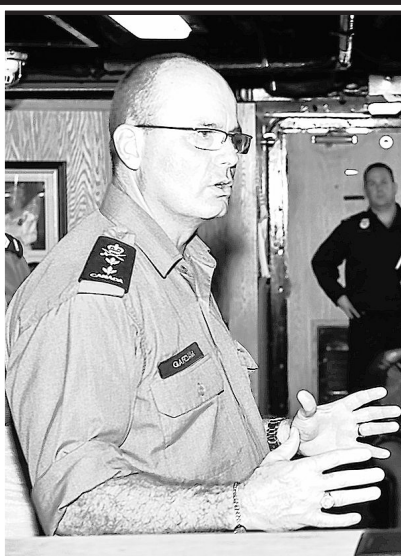
**Rear Admiral Dave Gardam
Commander
Joint Task Force Atlantic
and Maritime Forces Atlantic**



During the past week, I have had the unique opportunity to participate in numerous events, including the recognition of our Royal Canadian Navy sailors at Fleet Week in New York City, the Maple Grove Memorial Club recognizing veterans at the Grand Parade downtown, meeting families of the fallen from the war in Afghanistan, and attending the combined Canada/U.S. event at Deadman's Island on May 28, the United States' Memorial Day. What I have found striking throughout all of these activities is the enthusiasm to recognize those who served their country and the honour bestowed upon our veterans and the fallen. A common theme expressed throughout these events was the desire to ensure that the fallen would never be forgotten. There is no glory in death, but there is great honour in remembering those who have paid the ultimate sacrifice.

This is why on May 28, 2012, a ceremony was held to commemorate those buried on Deadman's Island, near the Armdale Yacht Club. Participants from the United States Navy, United States Coast Guard, and the Canadian Forces, paid respects to the U.S. prisoners of war from the War of 1812 who died in Melville Island Prison, and were buried on Deadman's Island. It is a special story of our Halifax heritage.

Another aspect of the War of 1812's history that may not be well known is the Stadacona cemetery in CFB Halifax, where sailors from HMS *Shannon* and from the U.S.S. *Chesapeake* are buried side by side, after the fierce battle that was fought between these two ships on June 1, 1813 off the coast of Boston. During the battle both ships sustained significant casualties in a matter of minutes, and in the end, the *Shannon* took the *Chesapeake* and brought her back to Halifax, with some 200 prisoners to be interned on Melville Island. The British



buried the brave captain of the *Chesapeake*, Captain James Lawrence, in Halifax with full military honours, as six senior British naval officers served as pall bearers.

This year marks the beginning of various War of 1812 commemorations, both in the U.S. and Canada, that will cause us to reflect on many exceptional aspects of our heritage. Out of the ashes of this war, an enduring peace was formed between Canada and the U.S. Our alliance with the U.S. has remained steadfast through two World Wars, the Korean Conflict, the Cold War, and the numerous peacekeeping operations and conflicts which have ensued since the fall of the Berlin Wall.

In addition, this week will see the commemoration of the 68th anniversary of D-Day, which was June 6, 1944. In few places has this common sacrifice to uphold our beliefs been so realized as on the beaches of Normandy in 1944. What was true in that crisis, in that moment in time, remains true today: that the preservation of our freedom and prosperity is of vital interest to our two nations.

Our partnership and shared heritage commenced after the War of 1812, and this is worthy of recognition, as the Canadian – U.S. relationship is a symbol of peace to the globe.

In the words of John F. Kennedy, "Geography has made us neighbors. History has made us friends. Economics has made us partners. And necessity has made us allies. Those whom nature hath so joined together, let no man put asunder. What unites us is far greater than what divides us."