

James Gillespie MacLeod 1938-2013



74, Halifax, passed away February 7, 2013, in the Halifax Infirmary. Born in Sydney, he was a son of the late Albert and Margaret (Gillespie) MacLeod. After graduating from Mount Allison University with a BEd, Jim assumed his first position, teaching history, at Harrison Trimbull High School in Moncton, NB. Having served as a UNTD Naval Reservist throughout university, he opted to join the Royal Canadian Navy as an Instructor Officer at HMCS STADACONA's Electrical School in 1965. In 1971, he transitioned to the Naval Reserve and to teaching high school again full time. Over his 30 year teaching career, he taught physics, chemistry and oceanography at Sackville and Sir John A. MacDonald High Schools. As a Naval Reservist, he served as HMCS SCOTIAN's Commanding Officer, and he retired at the rank of Captain (Navy). Jim was a force to be reckoned with, both in his family's lives, and in the lives of his friends. He had a highly curious nature, fiercely held beliefs, and an inscrutable memory: he was a tenacious intellect. He will be sadly missed by his wife Suzanne (Archambault); daughters, Jeanne-Marie MacLeod, Gatineau, QC; Katherine MacLeod, Naples, Italy; son, Albert MacLeod, Victoria, BC; brothers, Charles, Halifax; Tom; sister, Joan-Nanette MacLeod, both of Baddeck; grandchildren Gabriel MacLeod-Bertrand, Jocelyn Ross, Tayte and Nyomi MacLeod, as well as many nieces and nephews. Jim was predeceased by his beloved brother George. Arrangements are under the care of J. Albert Walker Funeral Home (2005) Ltd. (477-5601). There will be no visitation or service by request. A memorial service will take place at a later date. In lieu of flowers, donations in memory may be made to a charity of one's choice. Words of comfort may be sent to the family by visiting www.walkerfh.com.

Condolences

I was saddened when I heard about the death of Jim, your husband, father and grandfather. I will remember Jim as a dedicated science teacher. My thoughts are with you and Jim's sister and brothers. May his soul rest in peace. From a former Sackville High colleague,
Peggy Ludlow

— *Peggy Ludlow*

Dear Mrs. MacLeod. I was deeply saddened to read of Jim's passing. I remember Jim as a highly respected teacher at Sackville High, where he taught our sons and one daughter-in-

law. I remember Jim as a member of the Clan MacLeod Society of Halifax where I always looked forward to chatting with him and his speaking of his family with great pride and joy; his boat "Hold Fast" and of his life experiences as a teacher and Naval Officer. I look forward to attending his memorial service in due course. Sincerely, Donald R. MacLeod, 239 Chandler Drive., Lr. Sackville, N.S. B4C 1Y4

— *Donald R. MacLeod*

I was shocked and saddened to read of Jim's passing. As a new and very naive teacher at the old Sidney Stephen High School (which became Sackville High the next year), Jim became my mentor. He provided the support and advice that I desperately needed that first year and was a very good friend to me. Please accept my sincere condolences to all the family who I am sure will miss the captain of the family ship.

— *Suzanne Bailly*

Dear Suzanne and Family; Please accept our deepest sympathy for your loss. As he crosses the bar; we hope the wonderful memories that you and Jim have made together will help you through this difficult time. Our thoughts and prayers are with you all.

— *Atlantic Chief & Petty Officers Association*

I was very sorry to hear of Jim's passing. I have known him since I was posted to Halifax in 1975 and I respected him very much. My condolences to his family.

— *Fred G. Donaldson (LCol Retd)*

Sorry to hear of Jim's passing. We had the privilege of knowing Jim in Baddeck. Our thoughts and prayers are with you and all the family. R.I.P

— *Walter and Judy Ross*

I will retain the memory of a truly decent, classy individual. A true pleasure to work for and with; I will miss him. Toutes mes sympathies et condoléances.

— *Hugues Létourneau*

Sorry to hear of Jim's passing. I last had a great visit with him, Suzanne and my mother at St Vincent's Guest Home. I remember he had some "fiercely held beliefs and an inscrutable memory". I also remember a glint in his eye that could be only from Cape Breton.

— *Fred Macdonald*

I was deeply saddened by the news that Captain (RCN) MacLeod passed away. As my first Executive Officer when I joined the navy, Jim was an incredibly kind and patient officer who welcomed everyone into SCOTIAN. He was an impeccable example of a professional citizen sailor. Jim supported me through nearly three decades of service and in particular when I took my turn at the helm of SCOTIAN. I used to joke with Jim that everytime I walked by the wall of Commanding Officer photographs, all the eyes seemed to follow me as if making sure I was doing the right thing. He used to laugh pretty hard as I think he knew there was truth that the reputation of SCOTIAN was built by many but could be damaged by just one.

Good and timeless advice, which he always seemed to be full of. My sincerest condolences to the family. He will be missed very much. Fair winds and following seas Sir.

— *Mark Cameron*

Mr. MacLeod was an inspiration to myself and my classmates during our days at SHS. I especially appreciated the way he would sign off on especially good results on tests/projects/exams with a "Bravo Zulu!" - a phrase I use myself now once in awhile! I remember he loved Volvos and his BMW Bavaria (something my dad and he would chat for too long about during Parent-Teacher nights!) He made his classes seem so relevant to the world around us. He was wildly proud of his students when we returned from March Break and found an actual Volvo sitting in his classroom! Bravo Zulo to you, Sir!

— *Brian Jarvis (Sackville High '83)*

Dear Suzanne and children We were shocked to hear of Jim's passing. We always look forwards to his Christmas letter so we can keep up with the family. He was proud of all of you. Our thoughts are with you at this time. We will miss him. John and Anne Marie Patterson

— *John Patterson*

Sincere condolences to family and friends on behalf of the Canadian MacLeod Family. A MacLeod lost, but never forgotten. Jim MacLeod President, Clan MacLeod Societies of Canada

— *Jim MacLeod*

Lori and I were so sorrow to hear of your loss. Your Father will be greatly missed. I will raise a dram in his honour.

— *Jeff Watkins*

"Here was a Caesar. When comes such another?" This was the first thing that came to mind when I heard the sad news that Jim had died. Jim was very influential in my naval career, and helped keep me off the rocks on a few occasions, but not without a stern glance and "learn from this, and don't let it happen again". I learned a lot from him about leadership, and appreciate the openness, warmth and candor with which Jim and Suzee allowed me to partake as a second ring family member. We haven't seen much of each other lately, but you are in my thoughts and prayers. We'll hoist a glass, or in my case, a cup of tea, to Jim and wish him God speed on his next journey. Your friend Hugh Williamson, Shirley and family

— *Hugh Williamson*

Just wanted to say I was sorry to hear that your Dad passed away. He was always a nice man to talk to and I enjoyed seeing him on the street. My wife often saw Jim at Sobey's and they always struck up a conversation. My wife and I are thinking of you guys during this time. Our Condolences, Geoff and Violante McGinn

— *Geoff McGinn*

Please accept my sincere heartfelt sympathy for the loss of your father. My prayers are with you.

— *Cdr Doug MacKeen*

To the whole MacLeod family, it was with the utmost sadness that I learned of the recent passing of your father, sibling or husband. I had the very distinct pleasure of meeting Jim on a number of occasions, and each time it was to my great benefit as I always came away feeling more informed, better prepared or just simply well entertained. I know he will be deeply missed by all who knew him. My prayers and thoughts go out to all of you and hope that in your own ways, you can find peace with the loss of a wonderful man. Yours Aye,
Chris Mitchell

— *Chris Mitchell, Capt(N), Ret`d*

Our condolences to Suzanne and family on Jim's passing. He was truly Twice the Citizen for service to the community as a teacher and as a much respected senior officer of the Naval Reserve. Len & Mary Canfield

— *Len Canfield*

I am so sorry to each of you for your huge loss. Jim was on everyone's 'Favourites' list ... as a co-worker, as a teacher, as a friend. I shall miss his intelligence, quick wit, easy laugh, fascinating tales, and his signature greeting 'slainte mhath'. He was very special to many, many people. I hope there is comfort in knowing that, and in knowing that he will be sorely missed and always remembered. with deep sympathy, Grayce Rogers former colleague ~
Sir John A. Macdonald High School

— *Grayce Rogers*

My sincere condolences to all of Jim's family. I got to know him while he was CO at Scotian and I was in the same role at Malahat. He was a true friend and a great mentor. It is my privilege to have served with him.

— *Stewart Churlish*

Dear Suzanne, Brenda and I were so shocked to learn of Jim's death. Our hearts hurt for you and your extended family. Jim was a good shipmate and we were very privileged to know him.

— *Don & Brenda Gillis*

What a terrible shock to read the obit. Sally (nee Peters) has lost a cousin. I have lost a dear Naval companion. Take your rest my friend the watch has been turned over and you have earned it. Commander Mike Hodgson RCN/CAF

— *Michael and Sally Hodgson*

Captain MacLeod always did HMCS Scotian proud - he will be missed by many in the wider naval community...

— *Michael Marshall*

I was shocked and saddened when I read Jim's obituary this morning. We first met in 1971 and almost immediately I knew I had met a man wiser than his years. Jim was fiercely proud of his Scottish and Cape Breton roots. Due to my Army background Jim and I maintained a friendly rivalry about the "Senior Service". I feel honoured to have been his friend. Jim was a true gentleman who always occupied space gracefully. He will be dearly missed.

— *Ken Dacey*

Doug and I were so sorry to hear about Jim when we opened the paper today. I know he had health issues from his Xmas letter. My sister Norma who we are going to see in Portugal tomorrow, sends her condolences as well. Jim certainly loved his family and was so proud of all his grandchildren. Please give Suzanne a hug from us and I will be in touch Joan-Nanette when we get back the end of the month. Love to all Barbara and Doug

— *Barbara Arnold*

Dear Jeanne, Kathy and Albert I am sorry to hear of your dad's passing. He was a wonderful man and always had a smile and wave for me. I will miss seeing him on my trips home. Please pass on my condolences to your mother. You are all in my thoughts, Nancy (McGinn)

— *Nancy Swan*

Dear Suzanne, Jeanne, Kathy and Albert, I am so saddened by the news of Jim's sudden passing. While I know of his very successful teaching career, I experienced the fine gentleman, naval officer, mentor, former SCOTIAN Commanding Officer (my first CO) and a very good friend. He always embodied SCOTIAN's motto of "Self Reliance Through Service" and introduced many generations of thankful sailors to this life code. I will miss much, particularly his great stories and his unfailing support to SCOTIAN and myself in all endeavours.

— *Derek Vallis*

Dear Joanie: We know how fond you were of Jim. We were shocked and saddened to read the news. Please give our condolences to your family. Our sincere sympathy, Bob & Jean

— *Bob & Jean Skinner*

My condolences to Jim's family. Jim and I met and worked together several times in the Navy. Fair winds and following seas Jim.

— *Ken McCaw*

My condolences to the family. I lost my father last year, so I know this time is not easy. James and I met in 1979 when he did attendance in his physics class that morning. When he got to the end of roll call and came to my name, he told the class that he went to the guidance office and asked why they enrolled him in his own class...James G. Macleod...so when he called my name he asked if my middle name was Gillespie? I assured him that it

wasn't. Needless to say we had a good time with it for the next couple of years. I thought of him often anytime something school related came up. He will be missed.

— *James Gregory Macleod*

Mr. Macleod was easily my favourite teacher in the late 70's at Sackville High School. He actually made learning fun! In no small part that was due to the fact he was obviously enjoying the class too. I learned quickly not to be late for his physics class after receiving a carefully placed "shock" from my stool ! ;-) I had the pleasure of running into him a mess dinner years later and he still possessed that same wit and love for life that he demonstrated so often at school... He will be missed, and I don't imagine we'll see another like him. He was one of a kind and everyone who knew was the better for it.

— *Joe Bonvie*

Patty and I taught with Jim for years at Sackville High. He was truly loved, admired and respected by his students. As a testament to this how many teachers could have their students take their March Break and re-assemble a Volvo in Jim's physics lab. This required great dedication as well as the help of the principal, George Doucet, at the time. This is part of legend in Sackville High history. This was a man who was truly respected.

— *Stephen and Patricia Whalen*

Sorry to hear of Jim's passing. He was a great teacher and a real gentleman. Loved our tals at SJA. Heart of Oak.

— *Kevin McNair*

I was shocked and saddened to hear of Jim's untimely death. I had the pleasure of working with Jim at Sackville High School. He was a great teacher, a fine person, and a true gentleman. My sympathy goes out to you all as you deal with this great loss. With sympathy at this sad time, Holly (Turner) Gunn

— *Holly (Turner) Gunn*

Dear Suzanne, Jeanne, Kathy and Albert, My deepest sympathies to all of you. Jim was my very first CO and his influence over SCOTIAN when I joined made being in the Navy fun. It's also because of him that I was selected to be an officer cadet, and have always felt indebted to him for providing me such an outstanding opportunity. He was always a pleasure to chat with in the mess and I always appreciated the way he took the time to engage with people around him. He will be sorrily missed by many and please know my thoughts are with you.

— *Greg Gillis*

I was truly saddened to hear of Uncle Jim's passing. He was a member of the family and he will truly be missed by all of the Stuart's. I send my warmest thoughts and prayers your way. Mary

— *Mary Stuart*

So sorry to hear of Jim's passing; I had the great pleasure of being a UNTD with Jim, and then a fellow Instructor Officer at the 'L Div' at Stadacona. Jim was a good mate, and no one was more caring of his students. Jim was also a fine Naval Officer who cared deeply about the Navy, and those he served with, and commanded at HMCS SCOTIAN.. My condolences to Suzanne and the family.

— *Thomas Brown*

My deepest sympathy to all the family. Only this past week I was reading over Jim's xmas letter and he was telling me about his trip to europe AS he updated me each year, I remarked how much his family meant to him and how I enjoyed his letters.He was a great family man anda loving husband, I will remember him fondly, for his kindnes and generosity and of coarse his stories. May god bless you all and I hope we will see you allin person next summer. Love charlotte

— *charlotte fraser*

I can't tell you how sad I am about Jim's death. He was such a great fellow. As you said in his obituary, he had a great sense of humour and he really enjoyed a discussion, especially if he could be the "devil's advocate. I remember him giving my husband, Mike, and several other teachers, the benefit of his opinion about Union membership! He was one of the backbones of any Scotian gathering, as was Suzanne. They knew everyone and had a good word for all. However, his first love was Suzanne and their family. God bless all of you and give you the peace of your many happy memories of Jim. Sincerely, Maureen

— *Maureen Brownlow*

We have just learned about the death of James. We are saddened by his passing and send our thoughts and prayers to his wife, family, and friends.

— *John N. MacLeod, Pres. Clan MacLeod USA*

My Prayers & Thoughts go out to you,Jim was a long time friend, best man at my wedding, he will be missed

— *John Palmer*

Dear Sue,I cannot imagine how Jim's death will change your life, he was your Rock-your Dear Jim. May he Rest in Peace & you be comforted by loving memories of your Jim, until you meet again

— *Arline Palmer*

Kathy and Jen, Very saddened to hear of the news of the passing of your Dad. I of fond memories of both of you bringing him to the Officer's Mess at different times. I could tell in meeting him that he was very proud that you have both followed his footsteps into the Royal Canadian Navy. I wish there was something that I could say or do to ease the burden on your family during this period of grieving. Cherish the memories of your Dad and continue to make him proud with the professional, compassionate and humanitarian nature of your service. At these times we are a small family, and I want both of you to know that your extended family across the Naval Logistician is grieving with you, and we are here for

whatever you may need. God's speed to your grieving over this period as you reflect on your Dad's life - a life well lived. Your friend, Lin

— *Lin Paddock*

Kathy, I was just leaving Halifax on TD when I heard the news that you were flying home to be with your family. My most heartfelt sympathy on the loss of your father. I am glad you were able to come back from Europe to be there with those you love during this difficult time. May you find peace in the knowledge and the memories of your love for each other. Take care of yourself and your family as you heal and grieve together. I look forward to seeing you under better circumstances this summer when you report to the Comptroller division. We are truly looking forward to having you as one of our team. Take care Kathy and God bless, Sincerely Catherine Corrigan.

— *Cathy Corrigan*

Thinking of you during this difficult time. Know you are in our thoughts and prayers. Brian, Emily, Terry, Barry Stockall

— *Terry Stockall*

Dear cousins, When I arrived to see Suzanne, I was pleasantly met by all of you in your grief, not knowing then that Jim had left us, just that he was very ill. He was such a kind man, and a true gentleman. I always thought Jim was such a class act, and admired his naval bearing. He always had a smile and honoured my mother and father with visits many times over the years. That's how I knew him, as a devoted father and husband. God bless you all. Because he was a believer, he is healthy and well in Heaven this very minute, and (hopefully) we'll get there to see him again. love, Ernie

— *Ernie Robinson*

This message is from Jim's daughter, Kathy. We had intended to meet together this summer for a family reunion at my place in Indian Harbour, but alas, that was not to be. We will instead use the house as a place to hold a memorial service in his honour. Over the course of the last two days, we have been struck by the wonderful sentiments that have been offered, and the allusions to stories he has regaled us with many times. Our father was exactly as you have all described him, and your stories ring very true. He was our father, our mentor, our Commanding Officer at SCOTIAN, our dearest friend, my mother's caregiver, and to me personally, my own personal "all knowing all seeing being". Whether he was fixing a broken appliance, tapping into his exhaustive knowledge of history, explaining his views on the monarchy, or rallying for the return of the "R" in RCN. My father felt things, everything, fiercely: a very daunting man to have as your father, and a very significant ally in your corner when you needed him. From your condolences he has obviously left his mark on you all, as he has made his indelible one on us. We will miss his friendship, his unmatched integrity, and his humanity for the rest of our lives. Slante Mathe Jim, HOLD FAST forever.

— *Kathy MacLeod*

The obituary says it all, Jim was a fine man, a true friend and a great shipmate for over 40 years. Our children all refer to him with the honorary title of "Uncle Jim". He will certainly be missed by many.

— *John & Doris Stuart*

My thoughts are with you on the passing of Captian Jim. From the man who recruited me to to being one of my mentors, I truly respected him and will miss him at the various events we used to see each other at after we both stepped down from SCOTIAN. Fair winds and a following sea Jim.

— *Cdr Mike Edwards*

My sincere condolences to Jim's family. It was my honour to sail with Jim who personified the concept of Being an "Officer and a Gentleman" he touched many during his life and will be truly missed. My thoughts and prayers are with you as you mourn Jim's passing. Ray

— *Ray Zuliani*

My heartfelt sympathy to all the MacLeod family in the loss of Jim. He was an exceptional person in so many ways. He was one of the finest officers in the navy. He taught so much to so many of us! He will be sadly missed by all who knew him. Fond memories of Jim will always remain.

— *Laraine Orthlieb*

"MacLEOD, James Gillespie (Jim) [UNTD BRUNSWICKER/SCOTIAN (Mt A) '58 U-615] (1938 - 2013) ..." Rec'd word today, from Hugues Letourneau, of the passing of Jim MacLeod, in Halifax, Feb 7th, age: 74 He was CO SCOTIAN '85-'88, and reached the rank of CAPT(N).

I'd only met him the once, in Ottawa in Oct '10 at an Old Oars Dine-the-Ladies, introduced by Glen Power. I recall we went out to have a smoke with his LT(N) daughter, in front of the main entrance to the Senate. He was CO SCOTIAN at the same time that Bob Williamson was CO STAR.

Bill C.