

UNTDA – President’s Report 12 June 2018

While there have been a number of initiatives in the last 3 months, they are reported on elsewhere. Many thanks to all those involved and volunteering their valuable time.

My major undertaking has been the development of a position paper for the AGM agenda item – “Future Directions of the UNTDA”. I took the approach of providing a short overview of where we are as an Association of volunteers, drawing some conclusions on our viability and suggesting that given our substantial accomplishments we can and should continue. The paper concludes with an overview in very general terms of what we will likely be doing over the next 5 to 10 years. My sincere thanks to Bill Clearihue and Ross Connell for providing key information and for their insights.

Position Paper on the Current and Future State of the UNTD Association of Canada

The Current State of the UNTDA

Assets

1. People

a. Active Contact List

- i. Total of 947 active contacts all receiving *The Newsletter*
725/947 = 76.5% - UNTD
166/947 = 17.5% - ROU+P+
056/947 = 05.9% - Other

ii. Historical Perspective

1. 30 years ago, the UNTDA of Upper Canada (Ontario) had contact information on about 750 people.
2. Notwithstanding that 1,000 have died since 1990, our contact list now contains 948 folks.
3. The Membership Committee, through a variety of means, continue to actively pursue contacts, locating the whereabouts of known Cadets as well as those not yet known to us, with particular emphasis on post-Unification Cadets within the last 5 years.

b. Active National Board

- i. 2 from BC; 1 from Alberta; 1 from Manitoba; 9 from; 1 from NS; 1 from NB, 1 from Newfoundland
- ii. Bill Clearihue, Russ Cape and Greg McKenzie have been very active in locating and updating contacts
- iii. Bill Thomas, Bob Jenkins, Michael Mace, Greg McKenzie, Roger Elmes have organized national UNTDA events
- iv. Russ Cape has organized a series of BC events, Ross Connell organized an Ontario Mess Dinner

- v. Bill Clearihue has built on the newsletter edited for many years by Bob Williamson
- vi. Bill Clearihue and Ross Connell have re-engineered the UNTDA website with a modern face, a searchable version of the Nominal List, on-line regalia ordering, and augmented the extensive archives begun by Bob Williamson and Bill Thomas.

c. Membership

- i. "Active" Membership is 224 and growing
 - 1. with 50 additional members being less than 1 year in arrears and
 - 2. a further 49 in arrears in excess of 1 year.
- ii. The membership renewal process has been revamped to present a more professional look that is producing better feedback for updating the Nominal List.

d. Camaraderie

- i. The various UNTD associations across the country grew out the social and other activities of the 75th Anniversary of the RCN in 1985.
- ii. Maintaining and making new friendships among fellow participants in the UNTD and successor naval reserve officer training programs. Celebrating the camaraderie flowing from them has been and continues to be a major focus of our national and regional activities.
- iii. Past Board members have organized national events: Brooke Campbell in BC; Andy Shaw – the UK Cruise in 2011; as have others like Ron Paquin in 2012, and Bill Rompkey/Bob Duncombe/Peter Milsom who ran major events in Ottawa from 2005 to 2012.
- iv. As we grow in wisdom, experience and admittedly age the camaraderie becomes very important to many of us.
- v. The UNTDA continues to support this through its activities, website and publications. Its financial support of regional and national events is an example of this.

2. Archives

- a. Originally started by Bob Williamson the archives have been built up through the unstinting efforts of Bill Clearihue
- b. Major portions of the archives are digitized and available at www.unttd.org
 - i. Interactive Nominal/In Memoriam list of 8,863 entries
 - 1. 7,335 are Cadets from the original UNTD Program (1943 - 1968)
 - 2. 1,329 are Cadets from the post-Unification programs (1969 to present)
 - 3. 199 are "other" (Honoraries, Founders, Staff, Associates)
 - 4. Overall 1,140 are logged in as known deceased (1,030 UNTDs, 14 ROUPT+, 96 other)
 - ii. Interactive VIP list
 - 1. Currently has 1,409 citations on 536 Cadets. (Only UNTD and other NavRes Cadets appear on this List)
 - iii. Biographical Information

1. The Interactive lists link to some level of additional biographical information on 1,000 people
2. This element will continue to grow in quantity and quality as a major part of the "Archives" activity
- iv. Historical perspective on Numbers
 1. 30 years ago, the UNTDA-UC had information on about 750 people. Notwithstanding that 1,000 have died since 1990, our contact list now contains 948 folks. The Membership Committee, through a variety of means, continue to actively pursue contacts, locating the whereabouts of known Cadets as well as those not yet known to us, with particular emphasis on post-Unification Cadets.
- v. Photo Galleries
 1. 2010, 2011, 2013, 2014, 2017
 2. 2004, 2005, 2006, 2007, 2008, 2009
 3. 1961, 1962
 4. 1957
- vi. Newsletters 1988 to 2018 excepting 1990
- vii. Yearbooks
 1. *The White Twist Yearbook* 1950 to 1968 (none published 1955, 1958, 1959).
 2. Post-UNTDA Yearbooks
 - a. ROUTH Yearbooks 1972-1975
 - b. NROC yearbooks 1976-1984 with a few gaps
 - c. UNTDA Version 2 1985-1987
- viii. Several Articles and books
- ix. Bob Williamson's *UNTIDY Tales* available for sale in Print or DVD
- x. Other Archival Materials
 1. Pictures, documents, articles, events, links etc will continue to appear on the website as they are obtained and digitized.
- xi. Regalia
 1. A variety of regalia, including UNTDA plaques, are available for on-line purchase through the website.

3. *The Newsletter of the UNTDA Association of Canada*

- i. Free, published quarterly and distributed electronically to all 947 subscribers.
- ii. Electronic distribution has allowed it to grow to an average of 8 pages
- iii. It is lodged in the Public Archives and Library of Canada under ISSN 1709 – 3406
- iv. It is available at www.untda.org

4. Financial

- a. The UNTDA is in good financial shape.
- b. Total Financial Assets - See Treasurer's Report

Future Directions

1. Vision

Celebrating the Military and Civilian Contributions of Participants of

Canadian Naval Reserve Officer Training Programs

2. Mission

Our mission is to identify, preserve, and promote, the history and values of the UNTD program, and its successors, with their emphasis on leadership, honesty, commitment, service, and personal discipline.

3. Crossing the Bar

- a. Inevitably mortality catches up with us.
- b. Since we started keeping tabs on such things in early 2011 we have had 451 folks (that we know of) cross the bar.
 - i. 419 UNTD
 - ii. 007 ROUTH+
 - iii. 025 Other
- c. Prior to 2011 there were an additional 687 deaths noted. That number is understated by at least a factor of 2 and probably closer to 3
- d. Thus, we estimate that we have lost up to 2500 former “shipmates” who joined the UNTD or a successor program – since 1943
- e. The majority of those on our nominal list are still with us – over 5600.
- f. Despite the number who have crossed the bar our list of active contacts is larger than it has ever been – at 947 - with growth in the number of former UNTDs and ROUTH+
- g. Current paid-up membership is XXXXXXXXXX and growing/static????
- h. The UNTDA will continue to annually review its number of active contacts and members

4. Financial Viability

- a. The UNTDA is currently financially viable
- b. With growing membership numbers, it is projected to be financially viable for at least the next decade
- c. Provisions will be made for future disposal of any financial assets and reviewed annually

5. *The Newsletter and Archives*

- a. *The Newsletter* is thriving, always interesting and informative articles about the activities, past and present of former UNTDs and ROUTH+. Keeping it in the digital format will ensure continued wide distribution and significant savings in postal costs
- b. The largely digitized archives will remain readily available
- c. The digital nature of the archives and *The Newsletter* will allow their continued hosting by the UNTDA for the foreseeable future.
- d. Over the next 5 years the UNTDA will explore repositories that demonstrate a sincere interest and the capacity to successfully host and maintain the digital archives and website (untd.org) into the indefinite future, if and when this becomes necessary.

6. The Board

- a. The Board has successfully maintained its numbers despite the loss of some members and grown with the addition of regional members – including a ROUDP from Quebec.
- b. It will continue to renew itself with new members and new ideas.

Conclusion

The UNTDA Board believes the UNTDA is a vibrant organization that serves a valuable purpose to its active members, and to all participants of Canadian Naval Reserve Officer Training Programs, and is viable into the foreseeable future