



THE NEWSLETTER

Of The UNTD Association of Canada



UNT / NOAC REUNION EDITION

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Hamilton, home of Canada's most famous warship, HMCS Haida, and the only flying Lancaster bomber in North America, played host to the 60th Annual Naval Officers Association of Canada National Reunion / AGM / Conference.

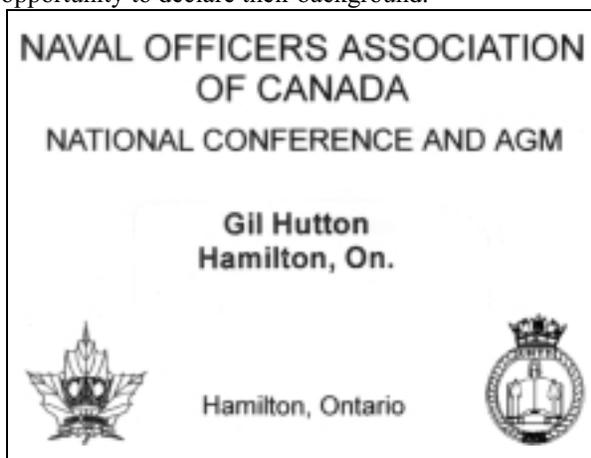
UNTDs PROMINENT
At 60th Annual NOAC Reunion/AGM

The 60th Reunion, Annual General Meeting and Conference of the NOAC was held for the first time in Hamilton, Ontario, June 9 -12, 2005, hosted by the Hamilton Area Group of the Toronto Branch.

The Naval Officers' Association of Canada was formally registered on March 1, 1946 and held its first national conference. Within a few years it had nearly 10,000 members and twenty-one branches across Canada. A large majority of members had held commissions in the RCNVR, RCNR and RCN during World War II, plus officers from Commonwealth navies who had immigrated to Canada. In more recent years, membership demographics have shown an increasing number of former UNTDs.

At last year's UNTD Reunion in Halifax, Mike Cooper, NOAC National President and a former UNTD graduate, emphasized the reunion theme and invited all former UNTDs to join in with the 60th Annual NOAC Conference in Hamilton in 2005. It was no surprise therefore, to find that 40 % of male attendees at the conference were former UNTD cadets.

The organizing committee created two styles of conference name badges. One had the NOAC crest along with the city of Hamilton logo. A second badge had the NOAC and UNTD crests emblazoned on it. The demand for the latter upon registration proved that a very large number of NOAC participants were former UNTD graduates but had never before had an opportunity to declare their background.



Name badge for NOAC / UNTD conference delegate.

Prior to the Conference Formal Dinner attended by 130 members and guests, it was planned to have a reception for ex-UNTDs, separate from the NOAC reception. However, so many NOAC members joined the UNTD reception that two lively receptions ensued and by common consent, the UNTD version was the liveliest and most fun!

It should also be noted that four NOAC Medallions for service were awarded to former UNTDs. Three Silver Medallions recognizing exemplary achievement in service to NOAC and Canada were awarded to Richard Baker, Reg Kowalchuk and Bob Williamson. A Bronze Medallion was awarded to Ralph Swartz for his work at the branch level.

Seldom has NOAC identified the presence of former UNTDs in its association. This year at the Hamilton convention, there was no denying it. The National Executive Director of NOAC, Rob Nixon, is a former UNTD as is Al Squires, NOAC National Treasurer. At the AGM, outgoing National President, Mike Cooper, ex-UNTD, turned over "the Watch" to Ron Harrison, also a former UNTD.

UNTDs were well represented at the local level as well. Seven of the nine committee members from the Hamilton Area Group who organized the conference were ex-UNTD or UNTD associated. The Ex-UNTDs were: Gil Hutton (Chairman), Bob Williamson (Entertainment, Tours, Lectures, Tattoo), Dave Jackson (Planning and Cost Sheets) and Bob Willson (Publicity - Tickets). UNTD associated members included; Eileen Williamson, Bob's wife (Accommodation), Jetta Thomas, wife of UNTD Association's Rev. Canon Bill Thomas (Registration) and Sam Huntington, former UNTD Term Lieutenant (Hospitality).

Yes, UNTDs were there in abundance at the 60th Annual NOAC Reunion / Conference in Hamilton where 63 years ago the first University Naval Training Division was formed at Ontario Agricultural College and McMaster University.

Editor

HIGHLIGHTS
Of The UNTD Reunion / NOAC Conference

Meet & Greet

UNTDs who attended this reunion in association with the NOAC Conference in Hamilton had an opportunity to visit Canada's premier collection of vintage flying aircraft at Hamilton's Warplane heritage Museum. About ninety guests assembled for the Meet and Greet in the spacious reception area surrounded by pristine heritage aircraft. Guides were available to walk enthusiasts through the museum and its world renowned restoration facilities. The real aficionados could climb into the cockpit of a WW II trainer or a CF 100 jet fighter.

The awe-inspiring centrepiece of the museum is the RCAF Lancaster, probably the most famous Allied bomber of WWIL. 7,300 Lancasters were produced during the war. The museum's Lanc is one of 400 built at Victory Aircraft in Malton and is one of only two still flying in the world.

Many of the aircraft in the museum are from WW II because the site was one of the largest stations in the Commonwealth Air Training Plan and trained 10,000 air crew and technicians for the Commonwealth air forces.

Seminars

Local marine and naval history made up the topics of the seminars held on Friday June 10th in the magnificently restored CNR railway station built in 1928. It is a stunning location with excellent food and lecture facilities. A highlight of the seminar was the revelation of the contents of the log of HMS Wolfe, flagship of the Royal Navy on Lake Ontario in 1813. This log had been missing for over 150 years and recently came to light in the United States Navy Archives in Washington DC. Explaining how the log got there and how it was discovered made an amazing story. But most fascinating were the secrets hidden in its pages that led to the discovery of the Canadian archaeological find of the century – two 1812 ships sitting at the bottom of Lake Ontario just east of Hamilton. The log also gave a very different view of naval events on Lake Ontario in 1813. Roger Elms, ex-UNTD, from Vancouver said that the lecture was worth the airfare from Vancouver alone.

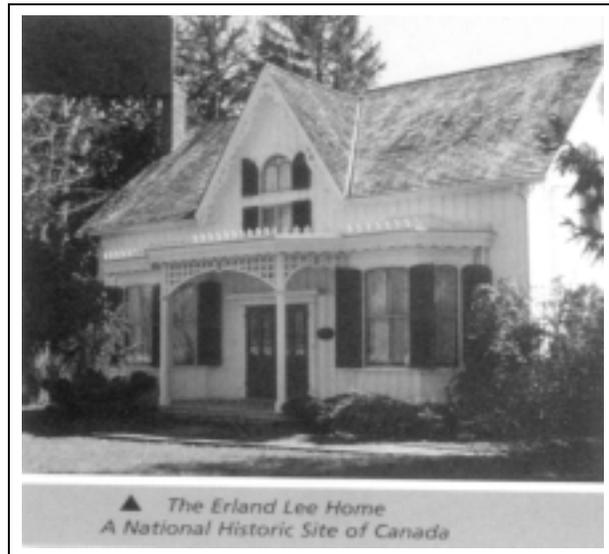
Waterfront Night

One of the marvelous features of Hamilton is that it has a wonderful harbour and many square miles of waterfront. It also has one of the few Naval Reserve Divisions in Canada that possesses a large protected basin with a fully serviced dock for naval vessels. Add to that a municipal plan for harbour beautification and you have a winning combination. The new Federal Government Marine Discovery Centre with HMCS Haida, a National Historic Site and HMCS Star's wardroom, provide a convenient waterfront package. With an excellent hot and cold buffet provided by the navy reserve cooks, it was the perfect setting for a Waterfront Night.

Partner and Member Tours

Unlike most run-of-the-mill city tours, the partner and member tours were unique. Committee member, Bob Williamson, a member of the Hamilton Historical Board designed the conference tours to meet the specific interest of the groups. The partner tour focused on famous Hamilton women and historic sites relevant to women's interests. It included the site of Canada's first birth control clinic and a visit to the Erland Lee Home, site of the first Women's Institute, a worldwide organization. Ex-UNTD and retiring National President of NOAC, Mike Cooper, wrote after the conference that his wife Elizabeth was still talking about the guided bus tour, which emphasized the importance of Hamilton women.

The member tour featured military history and related industry. Sites visited ranged from the fortifications and battlefields of the War of 1812 to the impressive



Dieppe Memorial of the Royal Hamilton Light Infantry Association. A comprehensive display on Lake Ontario's shoreline, it replicates the Beach at Dieppe and is a "must see" Canadian monument.

However, the one location that took everyone by surprise was the grave of Canada's first casualty of WW II. Ten year old Margaret Hayworth died a few days after the beginning of the war when Nazi Captain Lemp in U 30, started the Battle of the Atlantic by sinking the passenger liner, Athenia that was carrying Margaret home to safety. Ironically, in May 1941, Lemp contributed to the German defeat in the Atlantic when his attempts to scuttle his badly damaged submarine failed. A British boarding party captured his enigma machine.

Tattoo

The last highlight of the UNTD reunion was the Hamilton International Tattoo. Sixty members of the conference were treated to a VIP reception with the guest of honour, former Lt. Governor, Lincoln Alexander. A personable old gentleman, he chatted up everyone in the room. Leaders of the Dutch community were also present. The Royal Dutch Air Force Band was featured at the tattoo marking the 60th anniversary of the liberation of Holland by Canadian troops.

As always, the finale of the tattoo was spectacular and very emotional, especially with this being the year of the veteran. Guests of Honour, Lincoln Alexander and Regimental Sergeant Major Jack McFarland of the Royal Hamilton Light Infantry, both veterans, were invited to march off with the Guard. Supported by their canes, both men stepped off proudly as the tattoo retired. There wasn't a dry eye in the house and cadenced cheers thrilled the audience as the pipes and drums played the "Black Bear". Everyone went away very impressed and that was a good way to end the reunion.

Gil Hutton & Bob Williamson

UNTD ANNUAL DINNER & DINE THE LADIES

Time & Place: November 19, 1830 for 1930 at HMCS YORK

*Dress: Black tie with miniatures, mess kit,
Business suit or old uniform*

Price: Estimated @ \$60.00 per person

Speaker: Fraser McKee

*Subject: Armed Yachts in Two Wars
Typically Canadian!*

Fraser is well known around Toronto as a lively speaker. He joined the navy in 1943 and served on armed yachts. The former editor of Starshells, he has published five books on nautical themes.

Mark Your Calendar Now

CANADIAN NAVAL MEMORIAL TRUST

Some 65 years ago, Canada began her magnificent struggle to keep the North Atlantic “lifeline” open. From a handful of ships and less than 3,000 sailors, the Canadian Navy rose to the challenge and took a major role – an achievement that Winston Churchill claimed was essential to the Allied victory in WW II.

The Canadian symbol of that magnificent accomplishment is HMCS SACKVILLE – the last corvette. It is fitting that this humble warship, manned during the war by mainly civilian volunteers, is now the Canadian Naval Memorial to all those who have served in Canada’s Navy during its almost 100 years. The Canadian Naval Memorial Trust is dedicated to preserving this memorial and to illuminating the struggle for the Atlantic – a monumental national feat.

To achieve this goal the Trust needs your support. You, as former serving officers, are invited to become a Trustee. A Trustee is a voting member of the Trust, may visit SACKVILLE free of charge, is a member of the Mess and receives the Trust’s Newsletter, “Action Stations”. If you prefer not to become a trustee but wish to support the Trust’s work, you would be welcome as a Member of the Ship’s Company and as a result, have free access to SACKVILLE. Whichever of these categories you chose, your annual contribution will support the work of the Trust and will result in a receipt being sent to you for income tax purposes. To make a contribution please visit the Trust’s web-site: <http://www.canadiannavalmemorial.org/>

If you wish to use mail, please complete the information requested here and use either a credit card or send a cheque made out to the Canadian Naval Memorial Trust. **The mailing address is: Canadian Naval Memorial Trust, HMCS SACKVILLE, PO Box 99000 Station Forces, Halifax, NS. B3K 5X5. Include your name, address and phone number.**

Select either:

- A. Trustee’s Donation - \$75.00 or
- B. Member of the Ship’s Company Donation - \$25.00

IN MEMORIAM

Conyers (Conn) Collington Massy **Baker**

Age 73 of leukemia in Toronto 27/03/05

Raised in Ottawa, Conn Baker, with his handsome features and wavy fair hair, was an irrepressible, flamboyant character, imparting an air of good humour and wit wherever he went. He was famous for his legendary escapades in school, which eminently qualified him for entrance into the UNTD program at Queen's University 1950 - 1954.

As a university student, Conn was an entrepreneur and musician with unbounded energy. He not only sang but played the accordion and piano. At Queens he formed a band which enjoyed financial success and he rented rooms to other students to pay for his education. As a member of the St. George's Cathedral Choir, he performed across Canada.

Conn became famous as the UNTD cadet who married the admiral's daughter. His eulogy would not be complete without the telling of that story. It was while playing the piano and singing in the wardroom at HMCS CATARAQUI that Conn came to the attention of the inspecting officer, Captain (later Rear Admiral) Desmond Piers. The following summer while under training in Halifax, Conn met Captain Piers and his daughter, Anne, while playing tennis and again at a naval sports meet. Piers, who had been a noted runner at Royal Military College and with the Royal Navy during WW II, was representing his ship, HMCS QUEBEC in a long distance race. Near the finish, Piers was leading with Conn a close second, when the Captain pitched to the ground with a badly damaged Achilles tendon. Conn went on to win the race but in the spirit of good sportsmanship, visited Piers in hospital. Anne was visiting her father at the same time, and the rest is history. Captain Piers was promoted to Commodore and appointed Commandant of Royal Military College in Kingston, where Conn and Anne were married in a naval wedding.

Conn served as a lieutenant in CATARAQUI until his career with Dow Corning and Electrolyzer Corporation took him elsewhere. As Vice President and International Marketing Manager of Electrolyzer, he traveled the world.

In 1989, Conn joined the UNTD Association in Toronto, eventually becoming a member of the Board of Directors. For the UNTD National Reunion in Halifax, he arranged the excursion to Chester as well as the luncheon speaker, his father-in-law, Debby Piers. Everyone retired to the Pier's home in Chester afterwards. Conn and Anne played an active role in the UNTD National Reunion in Victoria in 2000. He was also part of the planning committee for the Halifax Reunion in 2004 but by that summer he was already too ill to attend.



Conn and Anne Baker as they appeared at a UNTD Dinner in November 1997 at HMCS YORK
File Photo

Conn Baker was the epitome of a UNTD archetype. He was a talented, creative thinker with a college boy flamboyance and a "why not" irrepressibility with a daring irreverence for the establishment.

Edited from Gil Hutton's original submission to BUMPH

AWARDS

Former UNTDs Receive NOAC Service Medallions

Three NOAC Silver Medallions and a Bronze were awarded to former UNTDs at this year's National Conference in Hamilton. The Silver Medallion recognizes exemplary service to the NOAC and to Canada.

Richard Baker joined the UNTD at HMCS YORK in 1961. He was President of the Toronto Branch, NOAC, 1989-90m and founding President of the UNTD Association in 1988. He has been a member of the Board of Directors, NOAC Toronto Branch Scholarship Fund since 1988 and chairman since 1995. During his tenure as chairman, the fund had gone from \$40,000 to \$100,000. The scholarships are presented to students of six navy-related training programs in the province. The medallion recognizes his contribution to the fund's success.

Reg Kowalchuk joined the UNTD in 1959 at HMCS CHIPPAWA. He was the Treasurer of the Toronto Branch NOAC from 1987 to 1991. A founding member of the UNTD Association, he served as Treasurer from 1987 - 1991. Like Richard Baker he has served on the Board of Directors of the NOAC Toronto Branch Scholarship Fund. As Treasurer and Investment Coordinator he played an important role in the fund's financial success and was a worthy recipient of the Silver Medallion.

Continued on page 6.

Robert Williamson was awarded the Silver Medallion last year but chose to receive it at the Hamilton Convention this year. He joined the UNTD in 1957 at HMCS STAR, retiring from the position of Commanding Officer in 1988. He has been a member of NOAC since 1985 and was a founding member of the Hamilton Area Group within the Toronto Branch of NOAC in 1987. His contribution to the promotion of Canadian naval history is significant. He has published the history of HMCS STAR in 1991 and the history of the UNTD in 1993. He has several articles about the Canadian navy, and the naval war of 1812 published in the Maritime Warfare Bulletin, Canadian Military History Magazine and Starshells. He has been editor of the UNTD Association Newsletter since 1993 and has 24 issues to his credit. The newsletter has been widely praised and is distributed across Canada and the United States.

He is a popular speaker on history and naval topics and has given over 600 lectures nationally and internationally, including conferences in Halifax, Ottawa, Buffalo, and Plattsburgh. He has spoken twice at RCMI, the Royal Niagara Military Institute and the Royal Hamilton Military Institute.

For the recognition he has brought to NOAC and the Canadian Navy at the national and international level, he was awarded the Silver Medallion.



Mike Cooper, National President of NOAC presents a NOAC Silver Medallion to Bob Williamson at the NOAC Conference in Hamilton.

The NOAC Bronze Medallion is presented for outstanding contribution to NOAC at the Branch level. Ralph Swartz joined the UNTD in 1946 at HMCS YORK. He was the Program Chairman, NOAC Toronto Branch from 1990 to 1995. During that time he arranged informative programs with many distinguished speakers. His efforts were recognized with a Bronze Medallion.

Gil Hutton

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

March 24, 2005

Dear Editor,

I always enjoy reading the newsletter and appreciate all your work in getting it out. I especially enjoyed the front-page photo (Spring Edition, February 2005) starring Bill Graham whom I first met at the University of Toronto in the fifties. The unidentified term lieutenant in the front row intrigued me. Would his name by any chance be Cleverdon? He looks very much like a (Dave?) Cleverdon that I knew when we were cadets at Naden in 1957.

Terence Grier,
twgrier@sympatico.ca

February 26, 2004

Dear Editor

I stumbled across this photo while reviewing slides of my time at Great Lakes Training Centre in Hamilton. The ship is HMCS DIGBY, Bangor class small escort, participating in new entry summer training on Lake Ontario in 1954. The CO was Lt. Peter Cornell who was my UNTD Divisional Officer at "Stad" in the late '40s. This unusual evolution of rigging a foresail and mainsail was conducted by the XO, Lt. Bill Copeland who had RCYC experience. I believe this photo could be classified under the heading of "Only in Canada" and is the kind of thing that might be appreciated by your UNTD readers.



Photo by Lt. John Sheppard RN®

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The UNTD Association of Canada publishes this newsletter twice a year. Send letters, anecdotes, or suggestions to Newsletter Editor: CDR Robert Williamson, 1 Clonmore Ave., Hamilton, Ontario. L9A 4R2; Phone (905) 383-6084 or e-mail cdrbob@worldchat.com

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