

**UNTD ASSOCIATION
OF
UPPER CANADA**

29 Park Road, Toronto, Ontario. M4W 2N2

NEWSLETTER

April, 1989

DEAR MEMBER:

Enclosed you will find:

- o a complete roster of our members
- o a membership renewal form for May 1, 1989 to May 1, 1990
- o a notice for the joint Weepers with HMCS "York" on Friday, April 28, 1989.

UNTD REUNION WEEPERS, OCTOBER 28, 1988

Our second "UNTD REUNION WEEPERS" took place in HMCS "Haida" at Ontario Place. It was entitled a "Save Nelson" Weepers, although nothing was said about the illustrious Admiral once we got there. The Government of Canada and in particular Maritime Command have decreed that the Battle of the Atlantic, in which Canada played so important a part, should henceforth be emphasized in annual celebrations by Naval establishments in Canada. In a spirit of mild rebellion, and with the date only a week after Trafalgar Day, we decided to remember Nelson. We thought that being in "Haida" would be an extra attraction. We hope most of you who came had a good time. We know it was a bit chilly. That was the only date "Haida" was available to us. After welcoming everyone and some remarks about the UNTD Association, then-President Richard Baker recognized Bob Grosskurth, UNTD '45, as having come the farthest - from India! (Bob was visiting his daughter in Toronto. He lives in India.)

While the "official" reunion weepers was going on in the two forward upper messes, more and more of our stalwart members gathered in the (much warmer) Wardroom aft. Eventually, at about 2100 we packed up forward, and a "second" party then in full swing in the Wardroom continued until after 2300, with some 30 to 40 warm and convivial souls apparently enjoying themselves thoroughly.

We had debated having a second Weepers following the first one in April. We went ahead for two reasons - "Haida" was available and we thought it would be a vehicle for further recruiting. Ninety members attended the Weepers, one hundred in all joined as a result of the mailout which announced it.

MEMBERSHIP

Our membership recruitment has been approximately as follows. Ninety joined at the first Weepers in HMCS "York" in April, 1988. A letter in June to the attendees who didn't join at the Weepers produced 60 more. The mailout in September to our then 150 members and some 700 other ex-UNTD's resulted in 50 more in September and 50 more either at the Weepers in October or by mail in November and December. A few have come in singly since. We now have 257 Members.

ROSTER

As promised, enclosed is a complete Roster of our members, including names, home addresses except where otherwise indicated, telephone numbers (home first, business second), years in UNTD and in a few cases subsequent Active Reserve or Permanent Force Service, original Division while in UNTD and University attended. We hope you'll find it interesting and useful in a number of ways. In addition to finding out where "good old Joe" lives, call him and arrange to attend the next UNTD Association function together. Call other members in your vicinity and form a car pool. And if you know an ex-UNTD who isn't in the Roster encourage him to join.

The Roster was a lot of work to compile, correct and produce. It cost about \$500 to print 300 copies. We'll send out addenda and changes from time to time. Obviously complete updates will not be frequent.

MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL

Membership renewal forms are enclosed. Our members joined between April and December. All had received both mailings including the notices, Newsletter and the Roster of Charter Members. The mailings to members alone have cost nearly \$10 per member. We need to start on future events. We want to do something with the list of some 600 ex-UNTD's in the area who haven't joined. Accordingly, we have set our membership year henceforth as beginning May 1st with an annual fee of \$15. Please renew promptly so we can plan effectively for the future. Make cheques payable to the UNTD Association of Upper Canada and mail to the address at the top of this Newsletter. Help by reminding your friends to do the same.

EVENTS

On the original Membership Application Forms we asked you what kind of events you wanted and how many. Counting those who said "one or two" and those who said "two or three" the vast majority said "two" per year. We gave a choice of Weepers, Mess Dinners, Dine the Ladies/Gentlemen, Dinner Dance, Reunion Weekend and Other. Again a large majority indicated a preference for Weepers and Mess Dinners.

We didn't have the resources or the time to arrange a major new event this Spring. Plans for a really top-notch Mess Dinner and reunion on a Saturday in the Fall are already underway. It will feature ample time to visit and reminisce beforehand, a tempting menu, surprise visitors, possibly an appropriate speaker, and most important, lots of fun and good cheer in the spirit of summers long ago - or in some cases not so long ago.

In the meantime, the Joint UNTD Association/HMCS "York" Officers Weepers to be held on Friday, April 28, 1989, in HMCS "York" will be a chance to keep in touch, meet new friends, meet the officers now serving in the Active Reserve in HMCS "York" and many from HMCS "Star" (many of them ex-ROUTP, NROC or UNTD), enjoy a hot buffet supper (the cost will be between \$10 and \$12) and Wardroom bar prices. As before, closing time, within reason, will depend on how late people want to stay. Please phone and tell us if you are coming. With a hot buffet supper being served we need a better idea of numbers than when we just had sandwiches. We now have a Sub Lieutenant from HMCS "Star" on our Board of Directors and a concerted effort is being made to have as many ex-UNTD, etc., officers from "Star" attend as possible. The Junior Officers in "York" will be the "York" sponsors. Pre-1968 UNTD's are

reminded that the UNTD was re-established in 1985. Competent and enthusiastic young men and women are receiving excellent training and we hope are having the same memorable fun that the rest of us had between 1943 and 1968, and for that matter those in ROUTP, NROC, etc. post-1968. They may be young enough to be sons and daughters or grandsons and granddaughters of the "original" UNTD's, but they are competent Naval Officers in today's new Navy, a lot of fun to meet and talk to, and we can all learn a lot from each other. See you in HMCS "York" on Friday, April 28, 1989.

Finally, we don't have to do the same things every year. Harbour cruises, ship's visits, and other special activities are definite possibilities for future years. For those who suggested speakers' programs, acting as advocates for a strong Navy in the community, etc., we hope some of this will be a by-product of keeping ex-UNTD's in touch and giving them an opportunity to meet regularly. However, we feel that there is no point in duplicating what the Naval Officers' Association of Canada (NOAC) already does - provide a varied naval-oriented social program and a voice in support of a strong Navy for Canada. We have become aware that some ex-UNTD's think that NOAC is for "Professional Naval Officers". Nothing could be further from the truth. While many NOAC members are ex-World War II RCNVR's, many were post-war RCN(R), and many of these are ex-UNTD. Richard Baker, Past President of the UNTD Association, is the incoming President of the Toronto Branch of NOAC; Mark Llewellyn, our new President will be joining the NOAC Board of Directors this Spring; Reg Kowalchuk, Gil Hutton and Aubrey Millard, all members of your UNTD Association Executive or Board, are also members of the Board of Directors of the Toronto Branch of NOAC. Richard and the rest of us felt that a UNTD Association would serve a different, important, and related purpose - the one at the top of the Membership Registration Form, "To organize activities that help maintain camaraderie among ex-UNTD members in Southern Ontario".

MEMBERSHIP PROFILES

The UNTD seems to have been a remarkable training ground for future success, especially considering what an irresponsible and immoral bunch we were, if the truth were known. Across Canada there are a surprising number of ex-UNTD's in Parliament, Provincial Legislatures, on the bench as magistrates and judges, on the staffs of major hospitals and in private practice as family physicians and specialists, executives and even owners of many companies, and indeed making a contribution in almost every field of endeavour.

In the Roster we didn't, with few exceptions, list ranks. One exception was to indicate that we are proud of our two Commodores, Ross Bennett and Ernie Ball. "Buck" Bennett, UNTD '51, a provincial court judge, became Commanding Officer of HMCS "Star", an advisor to the Commanding Officer Naval Divisions (COND) and Senior Naval Reserve Officer in his area. Another exception was the listing of serving officers with their present rank.

A few members, namely Don Bethune, Noel Langham, Bob McRae, Harry Ross and Andy Wedd, who are listed as RCN or RCN(R) (Ref'd) were not in the UNTD but trained many hundred of us. Don was XO of the UNTD in HMCS "Star", held several training appointments involving Cadets and UNTD's, and while commanding four different ships continued his lifelong interest in encouraging UNTD's, Cadets, and Junior Officers. Noel was Staff Officer UNTD to COND for eight years. Bob McRae was the CO of the UNTD in HMCS "York", as was Harry Ross. Andy Wedd was the XO of the UNTD in "York". There will be longer profiles of their careers in subsequent newsletters.

IN MEMORIAM

Ernest C. Ball, Commodore, CF(Ret'd).

Ernie joined the UNTD in HMCS "York" in 1951. It was obvious from the start that he was an outstanding young officer. He won the Best Cadet award at the Coast in the summer of 1952. He joined the Reserve Officers' Training Plan (ROTP) in 1953 and was commissioned as Ordnance Sub Lieutenant in the RCN a year later. Early in his career he helped rectify a complex series of problems with the then newly introduced 3"70 gun system and make it into what it became in the hands of the RCN - the best gun system of the kind in any navy. Ernie retired from the Canadian Forces as a Commodore. His last appointment was Director General of Maritime Engineering and Maintenance. He subsequently became a successful consultant in his chosen field. He had a fine family and was an asset to every community in which he lived. Ernie Ball died this week after a short illness. He was a fine Naval Officer and a good friend. We will miss him.

Andrew A. Wedd, DSC, LCDR, RCN(R)(Ret'd).

Andy joined the RCNVR early in World War II. At Dieppe in 1942, as a Sub Lieutenant, he commanded a small supply boat. It had a crew of three: Andy, an Ordinary Seaman and a Stoker. The Ordinary Seaman was 16. Under heavy fire Andy was seriously wounded. He calmly continued to carry out his assigned functions, eventually helping to evacuate the survivors from the beach. He was awarded the Distinguished Service Cross. He subsequently commanded Landing Ships in North Africa, Sicily, Italy and Normandy, an almost unparalleled record. In Andy's own words, always accompanied by a wide grin, "the reward for success each time was a bigger ship - further back!" He served as the XO of the UNTD in HMCS "York" in the late 1940's and early 1950's. He was a marvelous example to the young officers he helped train - competent, efficient, friendly and always good humoured. Andy was an active member of NOAC, and a charter member of the UNTD Association. He attended our reunion in "York" last April but couldn't manage the one in "Haida" in October. Andy Wedd died early this year. He too was a fine Naval Officer, a good friend and an inspiration to all who knew him. We will miss him.

EXECUTIVE AND BOARD OF DIRECTORS

We now have an executive which will meet as necessary to conduct the affairs of the Association. They and others will form a Board of Directors who will meet regularly to set policy and advise the executive. Other members will serve on committees. Due to pressure of personal commitments Richard Baker, our first President and in many ways founder, has had to resign. As Past President, he will continue to be active whenever possible.

EXECUTIVE

PRESIDENT: Mark Llewellyn 920-8030 (O)
41 Fairview Blvd., Toronto M4K 1L8 466-1999 (H)
UNTD 1964-66, University of Toronto. HMCS "York".

PAST PRESIDENT: Richard Baker 656-3303 (O)
26 Northcliffe Blvd., Toronto M6H 3H1 651-4257 (H)
UNTD 1961-64, University of Toronto. HMCS "York".

VICE PRESIDENT & MEMBERSHIP CHAIRMAN: Gil Hutton 634-3720 (H)
415 Belvenia Road, Burlington L7L 2G7
UNTD 1946-50, McMaster University. HMCS "Star".

SECRETARY: Doug Broad 862-1370 (O)
55 Ashburnham Road, Toronto M6H 2K4 651-3291 (H)
UNTD 1964-67, McMaster University. HMCS "Star".

TREASURER: Reg Kowalchuk 866-6095 (O)
1594 Calverton Ct., Mississauga L5G 2W3 274-6314 (H)
UNTD 1959-62, University of Manitoba. HMCS "Chippawa"

Other Board Members:

Jim Houston 475-7714 (O)
43 Shaughnessy Blvd., Willowdale M2J 1H7 494-8389 (H)
UNTD 1946-50, McMaster University. HMCS "Star".

SLT Derek Jackson 385-4985 (H)
65 Sarasota Ave., Hamilton L9C 3X1
UNTD 84-87, McMaster University. HMCS "Star".

Aubrey Millard (HMCS "York" Liaison) 625-7331 (O)
177 Kenilworth Avenue, Toronto M4L 3S7 698-4660 (H)
UNTD 1956-60. McMaster University. HMCS "Star"/"York"

Alex Wright 362-7526 (O)
20 Paulson Road, Toronto M6M 2H3 656-2917 (H)
UNTD 1965-68. University of Toronto. HMCS "York".

Please contact any of the above if you have any suggestions or are willing to help.

The following have agreed to help in some capacity: Doug Butler, Bill Farrow, Dave Fry, Hank Krech, Edward Lansdown, Jeff Munn, Frank Rocchi, Hal Wilkinson. Frank Rocchi and Hal Wilkinson have already agreed to be members of the committee arranging the Mess Dinner in the Fall.