

# Legacy Projects Supported By The UNTD Association Of Canada

## HMCS Sackville



HMCS Sackville is Canada's oldest warship. This Naval Memorial and National Historic Site was a combat veteran of the Second World War. She is the last of Canada's 123 corvettes, one of many convoy escort vessels built in Canada and the United Kingdom during the war. She played a pivotal role in winning the Battle of the Atlantic and holds a special place in Canadian naval history and heritage.



Sackville has been restored to her war time configuration and is home to exhibits and artefacts dedicated to the legacy of those who served at sea during the Battle of the Atlantic. Visit the web site [here](#).

In March 2018, the UNTDA held a mess dinner at the RCMC in Toronto and raised \$3,000 for a donation to HMCS Sackville.

Left: VAdm McFadden presents rum decanter to HCapt Hugh Segal, guest speaker.

Right: Cdr. Wendell Brown, CO, Sackville, receives cheque from Graham Scott, UNTDA VP.



# Homecoming Statue

One of Victoria's most moving statues is the Homecoming Statue located on the Inner Harbour Causeway in downtown Victoria BC. Unveiled in 2010, the sculpture commemorates the centennial of the Canadian Navy. Crafted by Nathan Scott, it depicts a young girl running to the outstretched arms of her father, who was returning home from deployment. Beyond them is the ideal setting of the Inner Harbour, where the masts of sailboats and tall



ships rise up beyond the bronze figures. The base of the sculpture pays homage to the ships in the Canadian Navy's Pacific Fleet, depicting the crests of each of the ships. The humbling plaque next to the sculpture is well worth the read. On a nearby bench, a bronze veteran naval captain, representing John Mason, looks on at the heartwarming scene.

The Homecoming" by sculptor Nathan Scott captures that magical and special moment when a sailor returns home to family and community. Each memorial brick celebrates our gratitude for the tens of thousands of Canadians who answered both the call of their country and of the sea through the first century of Canada's Naval Service. For more information, please email Tourism Victoria's Visitor Centre at [info@tourismvictoria.com](mailto:info@tourismvictoria.com), or phone 250-953-2033 or toll-free 800-663-3883.

The UNTDA contributed \$1,500 to the project and the UNTD badge appears second on the second row.



# Shipbuilding Monument

Over the years, UNTD's have had a deep involvement with the [Vancouver Maritime Museum](#) and Bob McIlwaine (Discovery '59) is one example. Bob heads up the [Shipbuilding Monument project](#), which is co-sponsored by the Vancouver Naval Museum & Heritage Society and the [Naval Officers' Association of British Columbia](#). The UNTD Association of Canada was pleased to contribute \$3,000 in April, 2020.

Since the earliest European contact, shipbuilding has been a part of British Columbia's economic and social history, with the busiest and most record-setting activity occurring during the Second World War.

Some 250 Victory ships and 50 naval vessels were built in BC shipyards from 1939 to 1945, with more than 14,000 workers employed at the Burrard Dry Dock alone. With neighbouring North Van Ship Repairs, the waterfront became the centre of shipbuilding in BC.

With women hired to fill the gap while men went to war, Burrard was the first in Canada to employ them in shipbuilding. They were not just relegated to office and menial custodial jobs, but excelled in the precision detail work of the electrical, sheet metal and machine shops. The women also pulled their weight alongside the men in the pipe, plate and blacksmith shops as shipwrights and reamer's helpers, welders, burners and bolters.

After the war, destroyer escorts, ferries, icebreakers, tugs, barges, fishing and other vessels were constructed, adding value to BC's growing economy, and continues today.

There has been little recognition for the thousands of BC workers who made such a huge contribution to the war. The Shipbuilding Monument, saluting this great effort, will consist of three bronze statues,



symbolic of British Columbia's robust shipbuilding activity during the Second World War. The statues will depict a male shipyard worker using a torch to bend pipes, a female worker taking a break and a naval petty officer unrolling a drawing. Designed to engage people, the sculptures will be at ground level on the waterfront walkway, site of the original shipyards. Their positioning will allow visitors to take photographs of the monument and themselves with the life-size statues. The sculptor of The Shipbuilding Monument is Norm Williams. He created the Roger Neilson and Pat Quinn statues at Rogers Arena in Vancouver, and the Vancouver Fire Fighter Burn Unit Statue, and the monument to BC's fishing industry workers outside the Gulf of Georgia Cannery National Historic Site in Richmond, BC.

(To be updated when the monument is dedicated)