

TELEGRAPH



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WINTER 2019/2020

From the Bridge



President's Report
Fall /Winter 2019-2020

Since the last printing of the Telegraph in July, a number of events have gone on in the Club. In August we had our usual Banyan with about 45 hungry members and guests showing up. Most were in pirate rig, some with very loud shirts, as is appropriate! Shipmates Luke and MaryAnn Cain took it one step further and came dressed as pirates with swords and eye patches, adding a bit of humour to the afternoon.



September brought our annual BBQ and Corn Boil with about 50 members and guests in attendance. The food was great (if I do say so myself)! The burgers and dogs, and let's not forget the corn, were cooked to optimum doneness and buttered to perfection as well. A good time was had by all! If there are any master grillers out there, please come forward as we can always use the help. It will also give Dave and me a chance to go inside and mingle.



The month of October was a cool one, but we did have an Oktoberfest dinner. There were 31 diners (fewer than the last one) who feasted on Oktoberfest sausage, sauerkraut, spuds, cabbage, carrots, gravy and dessert! No one should have left the table hungry but, if they did, it was their own fault! To say the least, it was a convivial evening. There was also a Euchre tournament held in the Club with about 50 members and guests taking part. From all reports it was a great afternoon. On October 27th, a Blue card meeting was held in the Club to update the Club By-law. This was carried out with no yelling and screaming and, best of all, with no blood loss! The meeting took less than an hour and a

half. Thank you to all who attended. There was also some nice social time afterwards.

November was a busy month for the Club. It started with S/M Phil Walke's Departure with Dignity (DWD) from the Regular Navy (retirement party). Phil has been posted to CFB BORDEN for the last couple of years. On Saturday the 9th of November, we had cleaning stations in the Club to get ready for Remembrance Day. The twelve members that showed up did a great job, and the Club was shipshape for the occasion - decks done, dusted, vacuumed heads, wash places scrubbed and the bar rail polished. The Club looked tiddley! Many thanks go to (in no particular order) shipmates Alex Kerr, Bill Middleton, Carolyn Kilgour, Ken Kilgour, Evelyn Ferens, Debra Shepherdson, Robert Orpin, Julia Sakki, Ron Sakki, Ron's friend, and Jojo. Jojo also kept everyone happy with burgers and beer. Thank you all again!



Remembrance Day was a snowy, blowy day, but everyone toughed it out. Laying wreaths on behalf of the Club were S/M Joe Duffy (at City Hall) and S/M Jack MacQuarrie (at Queen's Park). Both members are WWII Veterans and willing to participate at the various venues around the city to represent the Club. Thank you, Shipmates!

The Colour Party participated in the parade at City Hall and from all reports did a great job! Aside from looking good, they didn't freeze anything off! The ceremony at the Club went well with the Padre doing a great job as usual. The music provided by S/M Martin Gladstone and Frank Caruso added to the ceremony, helping us along with the hymns and O Canada. Also taking part in the ceremony were the TSCAA Colour Party, S/M Susan McLennan (scripture reading), S/M John Anderson (Departed shipmates), S/M Julia Sakki (Roll call of lost ships), L/M Alan Simpson (ringing the slow eight), and MWO Darrin Hicks (Last Post and Reveille). We also had the local MP, MPP and City Councillor join us, along with representatives from HMCS YORK. Jojo and Beth were amazing, keeping everyone happy from behind the bar, and Jojo did a great job of taking care of the buffet. Although the weather was bad, we still had about 75 members and guests make it down. We had our Annual General Meeting with elections in November and had a couple of changes. S/M David Shepherdson was elected as 1st Vice President and S/M Julia Sakki was elected as 2nd Vice President. Congratulations to both, and welcome to the executive, Julia!

December was a quiet month. The Club Christmas Party on the 7th saw about 50 members and guests throughout the afternoon. There were some really ugly Christmas sweaters, a couple of pretty Christmas dresses (and they looked good on those who wore them), and one Christmas jacket that Don Cherry would be proud to wear! All looked good. Everyone enjoyed Christmas cake and each other's company. It was a good start to the Christmas season! We also had two private functions, one with about 50 people in attendance, and a larger one with about 125 in attendance.



January started with the Levee on the first. Many members and guests visited the Club throughout the afternoon. We had Up Spirits at about 1430 to ring in the New Year and enough groceries and munchies to get us through the day. (Jojo came in early to get everything started.) Sue and I had to leave early as we had a flight to catch in the early morning. I was told upon my return that the crowd picked up again around 1700, finished off the barrel, and stayed till Jojo got them out at about 2000. Thanks for your patience Jojo! We had about twenty-five members attend our January General Meeting. It was a quiet meeting! No real discussion took place - just reports read and the year-end financial statement.



We also had our annual (9th, I think) Burns's Supper. This was attended by 47 members and guests. The evening was fun with a lot of diner participation. Participants were chosen once they arrived, and there was one volunteer. Only three knew they would be performing beforehand; me as the M/C, Greg Laing as the piper, and Sue McLennan who gave the address to the Haggis. The rest of the Haggis party consisted of Sandy Drysdale, the Haggis bearer (the ladies liked the swagger in his kilt!), Peter Baker, guardian of the ceremonial dirk to cut the haggis (we used a naval dirk that I have had since I was a Sea Cadet), and last, but not least, Ken Kilgour was the whisky bearer (a most important duty)! After Sue gave the address, we toasted the Haggis, and the Haggis party marched off (Ken with an empty tray). Gil Darnley said the Selkirk Grace. While we were working up our appetites for the salad, Molly Orpin gave a very good reading of Burns's "A Vision". After entertainment a toast is required, so one of our guests, Colin Kurosky, gave a toast to the immortal memory of Robbie Burns. After the Caesar salad bowls were cleared and before the main course, Ken Kilgour

pulled double duty and recited "Mary Morison", another of Burns's poems. Peter Baker also performed double duty and gave the toast to the Lassies. The main course was served, and it was good! Steak pies, haggis, tatties and neeps, peas and carrots - how can you go wrong with that for a Burns's Supper? I would like to thank the Toronto Black Watch (RHR) Association for donating a bottle of Drambuie to our dinner. It was put out on the tables so everyone could try it with the Haggis. After the plates were cleared, Saul Glass gave us the last reading of the evening. He recited "My Love is like a Red, Red Rose". We had a delicious dessert of bread and butter pudding and then Victoria Drysdale gave the reply to the toast to the Lassies. She did this with great flair which made it all the better. After dinner there were lessons given on dancing the Gay Gordon in which a fair number of people took part. I believe even more guests joined in when Greg started with the pipes again. I am sure everyone had a good time. Thank you to all who participated in making the dinner fun!



I would be remiss if I didn't say thank you to several people. First, I would like to thank Lt(N) Scott Thomas, Commanding Officer of RCSCC HARWOOD, for giving his kind permission for his cadets to act as servers for our dinner. We had Lt(N) Anderson Mendonca and civilian instructor Michel Lee, CPO1 Spencer Holmes, PO1 Abbie Hood, and PO1 Sabrina Holmes serving us. I think that they did a great job in helping the evening along. For their help, the Club donated \$400.00 to the Corps and the cadets got to write off some of their high school community hours. The meal would not have come together if not for L/M Alan Simpson (Chef AI)! He had a long day on Saturday, starting at 1330 to get things

going. His hard work cooking, making the gravy, coordinating the servers and timing in the galley made the evening work. He also made the dessert from an old family recipe. Thank you, Chef Al! Thanks to Jojo who gave a hand in and out of the galley, but most of all for keeping us happy from behind the bar. A good evening!



The Club's 85th Birthday party went well, with about 50 people visiting throughout the afternoon. Chili and buns were the fare for the function and were delicious! S/M Joe Duffy entered the spirit of cutting the birthday cake with glee!



I normally like to end my reports with a bit of humour or on a high note but... I have noticed over the last couple of years that events that we hold in the Club seem to be hit and miss. One year an event will be very well attended and the next we barely cover the cost or lose on it. The executive has tried to vary the events but that doesn't seem to matter. We have asked at different meetings for input, ideas for different

functions to hold but, to no avail. Shipmates we cannot continue to function as a Club with property without your support. The business part of the Club is losing money every month, some months more than others. The bleeding has slowed, but we are still losing. Your involvement in Club activities and use of the Club is critical to our survival as a Club. Come for lunch, watch a game on the tube, or drop in for a cool one, but do it. See you around the Club.

Gord McLennan
President

Second Vice-President' Report

Shipmates

Welcome to Winter (hurry up Spring)!

I am sad to say we had 9 members Cross the Bar in 2019.

They are Naval members: Gord Casey, Frank Galloway, Lloyd Mackay, Nora Pape, Bill Powell, Bill Spencer, Werner Hirschmann.

Social members: Keith Edwards, George Moad.

Our membership at the end of 2019 was:

Life - 4
Naval - 60
Honorary Life - 6
Associate - 14
Social (voting) - 24
Social (non-voting) - 21
Total = 129

The 2020 membership cards are ready and at the bar. Feel free to drop into the Club and see Jo-Jo or Beth to pay your dues and maybe have a wet.

As-per the General By-Law of the Naval Club of Toronto, Article VI section C 1 states that: "Annual Dues are to be paid by or before the 1st of January of each year."

Yours,

David Shepherdson
(Previous) 2nd Vice President



TREASURER'S CHEST

And the Treasurer was nestled all snug in his bed, while visions of dollars danced in his head!

Well not really!

The year has come to an end and again this year there is nothing but GOOD NEWS from the Treasurer!

Eight years ago, we had been hitting losses at hundreds of thousands of dollars. With spending out of control and no relief in sight, the Bermuda Triangle was getting our watery grave ready. Now I am very happy to report that we have passed through that part of our voyage and once again are sailing on an even keel.

Income is not up as much as we would like it to be and we are all working on ways to turn that around. At the same time, we are spending wisely and saving projects that can wait until we have the resources to fulfil them. We are not poking holes in the hull unnecessarily! Like the old wise man said, "A penny saved is a penny earned".

Eight years ago, the yearly loss was \$xxx. Since then we have steadily kicked that down to something that is workable and show a real decline of losses. Three years ago, our year end was about -\$xxxx. Last year it was down to -\$xxxxx. This year end prediction is around only -\$xxxxx.

Yes! All of this was done because many have worked hard to cut the wasteful spending so we could put the money where it was needed (like into the new galley, new walk-in fridge and the new roof).

The Capital Fund made some smart moves this year so that our investments could be moved around by our Money Growth Manager. That allowed us to take advantage of the markets' fast-moving pace and protect

ourselves from the downturns of the national stocks. As of the time of this report we have profited approximately \$xxxx.

All and all, we have had another good year even though we are in the minus line on the books. We are in much better financial shape today than we were just a few years ago.

From the finance department, we would like to wish one and all a Happy New Year and look forward to seeing everyone at upcoming events at the Club.

Bill Middleton
Club Treasurer

Sports and Entertainment Report

A happy new year to all of you!

It is hard to believe that we are twenty years into the twenty-first century, still sailing along with fair winds at our back, on course into the future. As for entertainment, we have carried on with the standards that we know you and your mates enjoy: Canada Day, BBQs, corn roast, suppers, Whiskers, Remembrance Day, Levee Day and, of course, the ever-popular Burns's Supper, just to name a few.

During this time the executive has discussed various ideas to enhance your enjoyment of the club. Frankly it's a hard slog trying to come up with something new. That pesky money thing always seems to get in the way! Well, as luck would have it, times have changed a little bit. We have had some new members join the club. They enjoy playing euchre and have been at the club several times on Saturdays for friendly tournaments with their friends. This, of course, is for all ages and has added a wee bit of life and fun on the weekend. The organiser has said all are welcome to join in. Dates and details will be forthcoming so keep a weather eye open. For those non-card players, it is still a fine time to come on down to the club. Converse with your mates and sling back a cold one. The bar steward will be glad to see you! As always, we appreciate your ideas and suggestions as to anything that may enhance your enjoyment of your club. I am looking forward to seeing

you from time to time this year. I hope that you will find the time to see your mates also. You never know who you may bump into. Out fenders, come alongside, double up, and go on a run.

As always, I look forward to enjoying your company.

Cheers mates!

Charles Ross
Sports and Entertainment



Last Post

The following shipmates recently crossed the bar ...

Naval

William (Bill) Powell – July 30, 2019
Douglas Lloyd McKay – August 18, 2019
Frank Galloway – September 12, 2019
Werner Hirschmann – November 7, 2019

Social

George Moad – October 30, 2019

Details are published on our website.

*For though from out our bourn of time and place,
The flood may bear me far,
I hope to see my Pilot face to face
When I have crossed the bar.*



Alfred, Lord Tennyson

NAVAL COMMUNITY NEWS

HMCS YORK ASSOCIATION UP AND RUNNING

The long-awaited YORK Association has been established and has its own website. For those former YORKERS, please visit and sign up at www.yorkassociation.ca. There is a minimal cost to belong to the association which goes to the planning and the achieving of YORK's history for all to see and learn about our proud past.

The "Johnny Bower Arms"

It was an unseasonably warm first of October 2019 when thirteen Naval Club members attended a special ceremony at the Sunnybrook Veterans' Centre. We assembled for the rededication of the veterans' pub. With the push from the Sunnybrook Veterans' Council, led by S/M Richard Ratcliffe the pub was renamed "The Johnny Bower Arms" in honour of the Toronto Maple Leafs' goalie.

Johnny Bower was, himself, a veteran of WW II. He kept a close relationship with the veterans at Sunnybrook and introduced many Maple Leafs players to them.

We assembled in the main lounge and were welcomed by the Hospital's administration. The programme then was turned over to "the voice" of the Leafs, play-by-play announcer, Joe Bowen. The Maple Leafs Alumni presented a photo montage of Joe Bowen: a picture of a very young Joe in his Army uniform; making an announcement on the ice; wearing combat gear with General Rick Hiller; and with an airman at a Forces Appreciation night.





S/M Richard Ratcliffe spoke briefly about how he and his daughter had worked hard to make the rededication of the Veterans' Pub happen, then the new pub sign was unveiled by Johnny Bower II and S/M Donna Murakami (in her role as a member of the Fort York Legion who runs the pub).



We then retired below to the pub itself, where Richard said a few words to christen it, presented flowers to Nancy, Johnny's wife of over 70 years, and then we did what one does in a pub – we visited with friends!

It was a lovely afternoon honouring a special man!

Sue McLennan
Secretary



From your Editor



As this is the seventy fifth anniversary of the Battle of the Atlantic, we will have a special addition coming out with information on this event and the story behind the longest battle of the 2nd world war.



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Anderson(Sparker John)

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Naval Club Website: www.navalcluboftoronto.com