



Royal United Services Institute of Nova Scotia

Established 1928

P.O. Box 33100 Quinpool RPO, Halifax, NS, B3L 4T6

Dispatches

May, 2007 1/07

Web site: <http://www.rusi.ca/ns>

President's Corner

It has been a while since we last published Dispatches to our membership. This year has been most successful with our "Hear the Commanders" theme. Outside this theme, on Wednesday, April 25th, we were hosted by "H" Division, RCMP, for an evening event kicking off the St. Roch project.

For those of you who are not up to speed on this one, the Chair of our Heritage Committee, Mike Kelly proposed that the historic crossings of the Northwest Passage by the RCMP vessel St. Roch should be recognized in the city of Halifax. To this end, Inspector (Retired) Dan Tanner, Chair of the Security Affairs Committee (SAC) agreed that to commemorate the 70th year since the last voyage took place, RUSI Nova Scotia, in conjunction with the RCMP, undertake a project to place an historic stone on the Halifax waterfront to recognize this tremendous feat of seamanship. During the April 25th presentation, BGen (Retired) Colin Curleigh, CMM, CD played a leading role in describing the voyages which the St. Roch carried out in 1942 and 1944. On hand were three of the crew which took part in the epic voyage and the evening kicked off a fund raising campaign to raise \$10,000 so that a carved stone could be purchased with the dedication to take place on the 70th anniversary which is 11 October 2007. Suffice it to say, our hats go off to Mike and Dan for bringing this idea to fruition. In the

months ahead you will be hearing more of this project.

We have a couple of more major events this "year" (I put the word in quotes as the RUSI year is from September to June) which I am sure you will be most interested in. On June 6th, Dr. Heather McKinnon will be showcasing an evening at RA Park on our returning veterans. RUSI is most concerned about the welfare and care afforded CF personnel returning from combat operations in Afghanistan and most importantly, their medical care after they return to their units or homes in Nova Scotia – we are specifically focusing in on the Reservists who serve Canada on active duty. Come on out and hear an interesting evening on this most important subject. On a lighter note, we wind up the year with our annual dinner at Ashburn Golf Club on June 19th and those of you who have been there before know this is a tremendous and popular evening. So, I will close on that note and look forward to seeing you in the very near future.

Murray Lee, Colonel (Retired)
President, RUSI Nova Scotia

Annual General Meeting - 2007

The 79th RUSI/NS AGM was held 20 February 2007 at the Stadacona Wardroom with 20 members in attendance. A modest budget was passed for the year and the

Board will need to find a new auditor. President Murray Lee presented his report in which he noted the good work of his officers, directors and committee chairs during the past year. Challenges remain in the areas of FMUSIC, constitution, membership and audit. He praised the work of the VP Tom Birchall in rejuvenating the RUSI NS program and in particular the success of the Loonie luncheons. Murray mentioned the fine work being done by Dan Tanner and the Security Affaires committee noting the projects underway on Arctic Sovereignty, returning soldiers from Afghanistan and the St Roch.

A new slate of officers was elected and the Board of Directors is now comprised of the following:

President: Colonel Murray Lee (2008)
Vice-President: Lieutenant Thomas Birchall (2008)
Immediate Past President: Lieutenant (N) Paul Phillips
Secretary: Colonel Thomas J Pile
Treasurer: Mr. J. Bruce MacDonald
Directors (2007-2008): Lieutenant-Commander Heather MacKinnon, Major Tim Dunne, Major Peter Dawson
Directors (2007/2009): John Boileau, Ms Tanya Sieliakus-Borne, Mr Michael Kelly.
Note: Tim Dunne has since resigned due a conflict of interest with his new job.

Other appointments are:

Committee Chairmen:
Mr. Richard McNair, CD - Webmaster
Inspector Dan Tanner - Security Affairs Committee
Maj. John Harrison, CD - Honours and Awards

Service Representatives:
Navy: Cdr. Colin Darlington, CD
Army: Col. Roch Lacroix, CD
Air Force: Maj. Brad Baker, CD
RCMP: unfilled.

FMUSIC Regional Vice Chair Atlantic:

LT(N) Paul Phillips, CD

The BOD put forth two motions for minor amendments to the constitution. One amendment asked for authority to hold the AGM prior to end March of each year vice holding it only in the month of March. The other amendment asked for authority to propose amendments to the constitution at the AGM and any Special General Meeting (SGM). Both motions to amend were seconded and carried.

January 2007 Meeting & Guest Speaker

On the evening of 17 January RUSI/NS members and guests met at RA Park Officers' Mess for an educational and entertaining presentation by, one of RUSI/NS's own, Alex Morrison on his views of the conflict in Afghanistan.

In his presentation Alex addressed constitutional issues of having Canadian troops in Afghanistan, government-military relations, feedback from our troops in the field gathered from his trip to Afghanistan in October 2006, including a few comments about casualties, and in closing speculation about the future of the mission. A very active Q&A period followed Alex's formal presentation.

The evening was deemed a tremendous success – a good turnout of members, a very interesting topic, a superb presentation, a lively question session and then further discussion over a few drinks at the bar.

RUSI (NS) 2007 Schedule

Monday, May 14th, 2007

We are having our next "Loonie Luncheon" in the Shearwater Officers' Mess commencing 1200 to be followed at 1300 with a presentation and tour of the Shearwater Aviation Museum. No lunch speaker.

Wednesday, Jun 06, 2007

Evening program at RA Park commencing at 1830 for 1900 featuring a presentation and panel discussion of the new Veterans' Charter. Panel members will include some representatives from Veteran Affairs, Legal specialists and chaired by Dr H MacKinnon. This event is open to all members and their spouses/significant others.

Wednesday, Jun 13, 2007

Regular Loonie Luncheon at RA Park commencing at 1200 with a light lunch "through the bread line" followed by guest speaker Cmdre R.A. Davidson who will speak to us on the topic "Manning the Fleet in a Joint Task Force environment" from the Commander's perspective.

Tuesday, Jun 19, 2007

Our last event of the year will be the Annual bar-b-cue at Old Ashburn Golf Club, 1830 for 1900hrs. This is our final event of the year and is usually sold out. Cost for a hip-o-beef buffet with all the trimmings will be \$35.00 each per member and spouse. For this event, guests may be invited depending on availability at a price of \$40.00. Members may pre-pay by cheque to RUSI(NS) to be left at RA Park to attention Tom Birchall. We will be inviting all our guest speakers from the past year along with their spouses so this should be a great evening to wind up the year. Guest speakers for this event are: RUSI member Ken Rowe, CEO IMP Group, who will give us an industry leader's perspective on government policy as it pertains to defence capital procurement and follow on in-service support, and VAdm Duncan Miller who will speak to the challenges of "Twining the City" and "Raising the Sackville".

We have also arranged to have limited golf available on the old course the afternoon of the dinner (cost \$65 per person, cart for two \$30 – dress code). Tee offs planned for around 1300 hours. Please indicate to Tom Birchall, by phone or email [tom.birchall@ns.sympatico.ca] your desire

to play golf in the afternoon.

Fall Program

The Fall Program is already in process and will continue our evening sessions along with the ever popular Loonie Luncheons. The theme for next year will be "Disaster or Emergency: Are Nova Scotians really prepared?" Other tentatively planned events including a Brewery tour, visit to Greenwood and a day at Debert to see the Air Cadet Gliding Program are just some of the outings planned.

As usual, I would be pleased to entertain any suggestions for our fall program.

Tom Birchall, LT (Retired)

Vice President RUSI Nova Scotia

Book Reviews

In last the last edition of Dispatches I inserted a book review from a RUSI newsletter from the west coast. I asked members to consider reviewing a book they had recently read and send it to me for future editions. Bruce MacDonald has produced the following review on a book he quite enjoyed. The challenge is still out there for others to send me a review. Good reading! Thanks Bruce.

Honour Among Men

by Barbara Fradkin, RendezVous Crime, Trade Paperback \$15.95

Barbara Fradkin has been getting a good reputation as a mystery novelist with her Inspector Green series. This is the fifth in the series and the first I have read: it won't be the last. Green is an officer with the Ottawa police, and the setting in Canada is Ottawa, Halifax, and Petawawa. The crime is the murder in Ottawa of a down-on-her-luck woman from Halifax...

The precipitating reasons for the story go back ten years earlier to a peace-keeping mission in Croatia, and a parallel story is told of events there. It all stems from a traumatic experience of a young reservist on

the mission, and the lack of any psychological support for him when he returns to civilian life. It is thus very timely as we may well have the same problems with our troops coming home from Afghanistan.

The novel is well-told, moves briskly, and holds the reader's attention. I particularly liked the co-operation between the Ottawa and Halifax police, and the Surete de Quebec. The local colour in both Nova Scotia and the Ottawa regions is excellent. The story is so well told that only at the end do you realize there are a number of unanswered questions.

Why were the two colonels in Halifax at all? I have trouble believing that their watering hole of choice would have been *The Lighthouse*. I suspect it was chosen because it is no longer in existence. It's a bit hard to believe that a rational killer would think an investigation would be anything but intensified because of a murderous attack on an investigating detective. I found the characterization of Constable Weiss rather strange: when introduced, he appeared to be an inexperienced officer, but it turns out he'd been on the force for twenty years.

Despite these caveats, I recommend the book strongly, and I intend to get some of the earlier novels. The message of needed support for our returning troops should reach a wide audience.

Bruce MacDonald

RCMP Priorities Outlined at 9 March Luncheon

Deputy Commissioner Harper Boucher, commander RCMP Atlantic Region addressed the March luncheon of RUSI/NS and explained that policing has become extremely complex in the post 9/11 environment.

During his presentation at RA Park Officers Mess, he reviewed the range of services provided by the Force. These include federal policing services (including security), policing services provided under contract to

eight provinces, three territories and more than 200 municipalities, aboriginal communities and a number of airports.

Approximately 3000 members of the Force and civilian staff are located throughout the Atlantic region. The Deputy Commissioner outlined the RCMP's main priorities, including organized crime, terrorism, youth and aboriginal issues.

Another class presentation from one of our RUSI/NS member. Thanks Commissioner!

Plans for St. Roch Commemorative Stone Unveiled 25 April 2007

At a well attended general meeting held April 25 at RCMP "H" Division HQ, Halifax the Royal United Services Institute of NS unveiled plans to erect a commemorative stone on the Halifax waterfront to recognize the three epic voyages of the RCMP Arctic patrol vessel St. Roch.

The 104-foot St. Roch was the first ship to transit the Northwest Passage West to East, arriving in Halifax Oct. 11, 1942. She made the return trip to Vancouver in 1944, again through the Northwest Passage, but this time using an untried and more northerly route, making her the first ship to transit the Passage in both directions. In 1950 she arrived in Halifax from Vancouver via the Panama Canal thus becoming the first vessel to circumnavigate North America.

"We have begun fund-raising to place a commemorative stone on the waterfront on the date of her arrival in Halifax 65 years ago," Col. Murray Lee, President of RUSI told the gathering.

"Many of our members are serving or retired RCMP officers and we feel it is fitting that we mark the significant contributions of St. Roch in the history of the Force." This year also marks the 75th anniversary of the RCMP in Nova Scotia.

The commemorative stone will be 32" x 60" made of Scotian granite and will contain the words "Maintaining Canadian Sovereignty in the Arctic" along with a map of the

Northwest Passage, a sketch of the vessel and the RCMP and RUSI crests.

Michael Nash Kelly, Chairman of RUSI's Heritage Committee, explains that between 1928 and 1949, St. Roch maintained Canadian sovereignty in the Arctic and helped broaden government control and services in the northern territories.

A number of special guests attended the meeting including Stan McKenzie. Mr McKenzie, 88, of Yarmouth was a member of the RCMP crew as the St. Roch made the East to West transit through the Northwest Passage in 1944. His recall of different events during the 1944 voyage was a highlight of the evening.

Guest speaker for the St Roch presentation was longtime RUSI member BGen Colin Curleigh whose father served in the Arctic and later as CO of "H" Division. He outlined RCMP activities in the Arctic and the significance of St Roch. Colin did a superb job of reminiscing with Stan McKenzie to the delight and laughter of the assembled guests. BZ Colin.

Launched as a schooner at North Vancouver in 1928, St. Roch served from 1928-1939 as a floating RCMP detachment in the western Arctic. In 1940, St. Roch, under command of Sergeant (later Supt) Henry Larsen, departed Vancouver on her historic voyage through the Northwest Passage. The vessel, forced to overwinter in Pasley Bay, Boothia Peninsula, arrived in Halifax Oct. 11, 1942 to become the first vessel to transit the Passage West to East. In 1950, St Roch was retired and in 1954 returned to Vancouver. The ship is now a permanent exhibit of Vancouver Maritime Museum.

The idea to commemorate St Roch was first brought forward several years ago by director Mike Kelly. In 2006 RUSI's Security Affairs Committee, under chair Dan Tanner, decided to take on the St Roch commemorative as a project and a St Roch Commemorative Planning Committee was set up. In addition to Dan Tanner and Mike Kelly, other members include Hon Alan Abraham and Hon James Kinley,



BGen Colin Curleigh (Ret'd), guest speaker for the St Roch presentation reminisces with Stan McKenzie who served as a crew member during St Roch's 1944 voyage east to west through the Northwest Passage.



Murray Lee, left, welcomes Hon. Murray Scott, Minister Responsible for Military Relations to the special St Roch



Stan McKenzie enjoys a drink during a break in activities at the St Roch Night at the RCMP Headquarters. Note the ribbon on the far right of Stan's medals. It is pure white; the medal is aptly named "The Polar Medal". It is indeed a rare medal, the first seen by many in attendance. Stan wears it so proudly and rightly so.

Welcome New Members

In the last four months, RUSI/NS has welcomed new members:

Lieutenant Colonel Ed Grimm, Sydney
Colonel Dick Jamer, Halifax
Mr Gerald Saunders, Halifax
Mr Brian Flemming, Dartmouth

*****Membership Dues 2007*****

In this same column in the last edition of Dispatches I asked each member to make a point of paying his/her dues in January. Many of you have done just that.

Out of 200 members there are still 37 members who have not paid their 2007 dues.

As a personal plea from the secretary I would ask that each overdue member, when reading this edition of "Dispatches", make a commitment to send their dues to the Treasurer this week. Here is the address – make cheque payable to RUSI/NS:

Treasurer
RUSI/NS
PO Box 33100, Quinpool RPO
Halifax, NS
B3L 4T6

Please note that there is a form on the last page of this edition of Dispatches which has the address of the treasurer. If you wish to change any personal information such as your address etc. or request a receipt please, print out the form and send it in with your dues.

Lastly on the question of membership cards; while it has been past practice to renew membership cards each year, the BOD has decided to issue this year a RUSI membership card to every member. The card will not have an expiry date and will thus negate the requirement to re-issue membership cards every year.

My records show a membership card sent to every member this year. If you have not received one please call or email me and I will send another one to you.

902-889-9216 or tompile@eastlink.ca

Are We Communicating?

Over the past year RUSI(NS) has had a very active program requiring, at times, last minute changes to accommodate our guest, our speakers and our members. With these changes comes the challenge of communicating with our membership. Certainly e-mail helps, certainly Dispatches help and certainly the web site helps; but we are experiencing some problems and we need your assistance.

While it is frustrating when we have to cancel an event on short notice, there is nothing more frustrating than our inability to inform ALL members of these changes. While it may be “nice” to travel to RA Park for a pint with your colleagues, it is frustrating to arrive at RA Park only to find an event has been cancelled. If you have e-mail this is generally NOT a problem; however, if you rely on Dispatches or a colleague’s phone call, it may be problematic.

We have identified the problem and WE HAVE A SOLUTION! The solution is actually in three parts:

1. If you are NOT receiving e-mail communications and you or someone in your family HAS e-mail, let us know your e-mail address and we will add you to the list. [Rest assured, no-one has access to our list other than your RUSI(NS) executive and our web master (Richard McNair)].
2. If you are within local phone dialing of RA Park, we can set you up on a “voice mail” group list. This works by us placing a secure message on a group telephone list and the message is “sent/dialed” to you. Essentially your phone will ring and when answered or re-directed to your voice mail will start the recording with the words “RUSI Message” followed by either “URGENT” (change of date/time or cancellation of upcoming event) or “ROUTINE” (new information of interest to membership) with the text/details following.
3. Posting on a bulletin board at RA Park (on the basis that the staff at RA Park are amenable).

Obviously, our preferred mechanism for communicating events and changes is e-mail and anyone currently on our e-mail list will

continue to receive RUSI information via this medium.

Anyone not on e-mail, who has no e-mail access and is within the local dialing range of RA Park should forward their consent/phone details to me as soon as possible (we cannot add you to the telephone auto message system until you give us permission to do so).

We will still have the problem of contact with our members OUTSIDE the local dialing area and who have no access to e-mail; however, with this change we expect to have about 90% coverage of our membership. Naturally, Dispatches will continue to be published as has historically been the case.

With this simple change we will be able to eliminate you showing up for an event cancelled at the last moment. The flip-side is when we have a last minute opportunity to participate in an event we can get the information to everyone not just our e-mail membership! Please sign up.

Tom Birchall
tom.birchall@ns.sympatico.ca
(902) 435-4545

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ROYAL UNITED SERVICES INSTITUTE OF NOVA SCOTIA
2007 DUES - RENEWAL

The Board of Directors has set the 2007 dues at \$37.00. You are requested to make your cheque for **\$37.00** payable to: **RUSI Nova Scotia** and post it to the Treasurer. You are not required to fill out this form unless you have address information changes or wish to receive a receipt, but do send your cheque please.

NAME _____

RANK (IF USED) _____

ADDRESS (if Changed) _____

POSTAL CODE (if Changed) _____

TELEPHONE (if Changed) _____

E-MAIL(if Changed) _____

RECEIPT REQUIRED YES _____ NO _____

COMMENTS

MAIL CHEQUES TO:

Treasurer
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