



# Royal United Services Institute of Nova Scotia

Established 1928  
P.O. Box 33100 Quinpool RPO, Halifax, NS B3L 4T6

## Dispatches

September, 2006 4/06

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

### Message from the President

Now that summer is drawing to a close, it would appear to be appropriate for me to send out a message to you as to the state of the Institute. Over the past few months, we have seen some upheaval with respect to members of our Board of Directors. With the appointment of Alex Morrison as FMUSIC (the name is about to change I believe), Vice Chair Atlantic Region, a large gap was left in the organization and I have appointed Tom Birchall to be my Vice until elections are held at the next AGM early in 2007. Alex will of course remain with us as a Director. With that change, Dan Tanner will become the Chair of the Security Affairs Committee (SAC). Dan has recently retired from the RCMP and is now the head of security at Halifax International Airport but remains a dedicated RUSI member. The new RCMP representative to the Board is Inspector Tom Jones – welcome aboard Tom. Our secretary has listed your complete board in this edition of Dispatches.

Moving on to the activity front, the turnout to the annual Ashburn Dinner was tremendous. I encourage all of you to participate in this annual event as it is a fun event. Tom Birchall organized a wonderful luncheon for Her Honour, Myra Freeman, prior to her departure as Lieutenant Governor of Nova Scotia and our Patron on

August 8<sup>th</sup>. We did attempt to hold a couple of more events in August but the interest just wasn't there. We plan a full fall calendar for your which is published in this edition. I encourage you to come out and join us whether it be a lunch at RA Park or one of our evening general meetings. Our first meeting of the fall season will feature the new commander Joint Task Force Atlantic Commander, RAdm Dean McFadden as our guest speaker.

Remember, if you have comments or suggestions on our program, you can always contact our secretary, Tom Pile or Tom Birchall (the master organizer of these events) and let them know your views.

We have a few new members and I am happy to see that our numbers are remaining constant (although it would be nice to grow a bit!). If you have a friend or know someone who is interested in our program, you can always bring them out to one of our functions. Also remember that partners are welcome at all our events except the member's Remembrance Day mess dinner.

Hope you had a safe and enjoyable summer and I look forward to seeing you soon.

Murray Lee  
President

## **2006-2007 RUSI (NS) Board of Directors**

Col (ret'd) Murray Lee - President  
LCol (ret'd) Alex Morrison - Vice President  
(until 13 Sep 06 – remains as a Director)  
Lt (ret'd) Tom Birchall – Vice President (Eff  
13 Sep 06)  
Col (ret'd) Tom Pile, Secretary  
Bruce MacDonald, Treasurer  
Cdr (ret'd) Len Canfield  
Maj Peter Dawson  
Maj Tim Dunne  
Maj (ret'd) John Harrison  
LCdr Heather MacKinnon  
Richard McNair  
Insp Dan Tanner  
Michael Kelly  
Col (ret'd) Ian Macintyre, Cape Breton  
representative to the Board.

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### **Service representatives on the Board**

Cdr Colin Darlington, MARLANT;  
Col Roch Lacroix, LFAA  
Col Alan Blair, Commander 12 Wing  
Shearwater  
Insp Tom Jones, 'H' Division RCMP

### **Committee Chairs**

**Security Affairs:** Dan Tanner, tel: 426-5783  
**Membership:** Tom Pile, tel: 889-9216  
**Program:** Tom Birchall, tel: 435-4545  
**Public Affairs:** Tim Dunne, tel: 461-1842  
**Webmaster:** Richard McNair, tel: 443-3971  
**Medical/Veterans Affairs:** Dr Heather  
MacKinnon, tel: (902) 275-2358  
**Constitution:** Tom Birchall, tel: 435-4545  
**Heritage & Special Events:**

### **Board Meetings:**

13 Sep RA Park 1600 hrs  
18 Oct RA Park 1600 hrs  
22 Nov RA Park 1600 hrs  
13 Dec RA Park 1600 hrs

### **SAC Meetings:**

13 Sep RA Park 1500 hrs  
22 Nov RA Park 1500 hrs

## **RUSI (NS) 2006-2007 Schedule**

**06 Sep 06**, 0730 – 1630 , Day sail aboard  
HMCS Fredericton, max 20 pers,

**13 Sep 06**, 1200 – 1330, Loonie Luncheon –  
RA Park (Air Force Room) Speaker TBA

**20 Sep 06**, 1900 – 2130, Monthly Meeting  
RA Park (Air Force Room) – Speaker  
RAdm D McFadden, Comd JTFA

**18 Oct 06**, 1200 – 1330, Loonie Luncheon –  
RA Park (Air Force Room), Speaker TBA

**26 Oct 06**, 1900 – 2130, Monthly Meeting –  
Wardroom (Nova Scotia Room) Scotch  
Tasting, Cost TBD

**09 Nov 06**, 1800 – 2230, Remembrance Day  
Dinner (RA Park MDR) **Members only**  
Max Seating 50, Cost TBD

**07 Dec 06**, 1130 – 1400, Christmas  
Luncheon – Wardroom (MDR), No Speaker,  
Cost as per menu.

**17 Jan 07**, 1900- 2130, Monthly Meeting –  
RA Park (Air Force Room)

**20 Feb 07**, 1900 – 2130, Annual General  
Meeting, (Oberon Room)

**21 Mar 07**, 1800 – 2200, Dining-In Night –  
PA Park (MDR), Reserve forces Night, Max  
Seating 70, Cost TBD.

**\*25 Apr 07**, 1900 – 2130, Monthly Meeting  
– RCMP Mess.

**30 May 07**, 1900 – 2130, Monthly Meeting  
– Wardroom (Oberon Room)

**20 Jun 07**, Annual Bar-B-Q for Members  
and Spouses, Old Ashburn Golf & Country  
Club, Max seating 90, Cost TBD.

*\* denotes location to be confirmed*

It is our intention to have at least one luncheon a month (Loonie lunch) in RA Park, Air Force Room wherein we will arrange a special speaker to talk informally about some area of interest to the membership. More info to follow.

There will also be day outings that occur from time to time with details of these to be provided as they occur. Generally these outings will be at a nominal cost and restricted in number of attendees.

Please advise Tom Birchall ([tom.birchall@ns.sympatico.ca](mailto:tom.birchall@ns.sympatico.ca)) with any suggestions you might have for outings or guest speakers.

The secretary will send out reminders of the above noted activities approximately 15 days in advance.

### **Three Months in Afghanistan - A Perspective from Your RUSI Secretary**

On 3 May RUSI Secretary, Colonel (Ret'd) Tom Pile, was the guest speaker at our Loonie Luncheon at RA Park. Tom recently completed a three month tour of NATO duty in Kabul, Afghanistan. Tom's duties comprised providing Air Traffic Control (ATC) services in the control tower at Kabul International Airport as well as training young Afghan ATC aspirants to eventually take over air traffic control responsibilities from NATO military controllers.

His presentation compared the ATC facility at Halifax International Airport with the Kabul Airport as both facilities have approximately the same amount of traffic. It was evident from his talk that Kabul ATC facilities were still in the dark ages and in dire need of upgrading. The 6000 foot elevation of the airport and surrounding 15,000 foot mountains made for onerous approach and departure procedures.

Tom used pictures to highlight a cross section of ex-Warsaw Pact and current NATO aircraft used in the Afghan theatre of operations. To the history buffs the sight of a 1950s RAF Canberra PR 9, still in use, was received with great interest.

Tom finished up by showing photos of the carnage left by the Russians around the Kabul area after their 1989 unceremonious departure. Thousands of unexploded mines and destroyed Russian vehicles still litter the airfield surrounds and the local countryside.

Tom returned to Canada end March 2006.



**Tom on the Kabul Tower catwalk – March 2006**



**George's Island Tour – 30 August 2006**

**Thirteen RUSI members enjoyed an outing to George's Island in Halifax Harbour 30 August. Webmaster Richard McNair is pictured above viewing the island's fortifications. A good day was had by all thanks in part to perfect weather and Tom Birchall's excellent organization.**

## Lieutenant Governor Farewell Luncheon



**Her Honour Myra Freeman shown with the RUSI Board Directors at Her farewell Luncheon, Stadacona Wardroom, 8 August 2006**

Her Honour Myra Freeman, The Lieutenant Governor of Nova Scotia enjoyed a superb lunch with RUSI NS board members in the Admiral's Dining Room at the Stadacona Wardroom 8 August 2006 joined by His Honour and the new Commander Joint Task Force Atlantic Rear Admiral McFadden. President Murray Lee thanked Her Honour for her tremendous support to RUSI as our Patron during her appointment as Lieutenant Governor and presented her with a mounted and framed RUSI crest. Her Honour in response thanked RUSI for the role they play in addressing defence and security issues provincially and nationally. Kudos to Tom Birchall for a well planned and executed event.

## Annual RUSI(NS) Dinner at Ashburn Golf & Country Club 29 June 2006



**Ken Rowe enlightens fellow RUSI members during the annual dinner at Ashburn G&C Club**

Sixty – five members and guests enjoyed each others company and a wonderful meal at the Ashburn G&C Club the end of June. Guest speaker, Colonel Bill MacDonald, Comd 36 Bde, addressed the attendees on the ongoing preparations the Army Reserve is pursuing for the February 2007 rotation to Kandahar, Afghanistan. Atlantic area reservists will be well trained and ready for duty in Afghanistan he stressed.

## RUSI (NS) Visits Aldershot



**RUSI VP Alex Morrison talks with training staff at Aldershot during a visit 29 May. The twelve RUSI visitors got a first hand look at some of the pre-deployment training Atlantic area reservists are receiving prior to a tour of duty in Afghanistan commencing February 2007.**

## **RUSI Member Joins Local Newspaper Staff**

Col (Ret'd) John Boileau scribes a weekly column on Defence & Security issues that is published every Wednesday in the Halifax Daily News. John would appreciate any ideas from RUSI members for his column. He can be contacted via e-mail at: johnboileau@eastlink.ca or by telephone: (902)823-2922.

## **Welcome New Members**

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

**Tanya Sieliakus-Bourne, Bedford**  
**Kenneth Ross Turriff, Bridgewater**  
**Keith Sherwood, Bedford**

## ***Activities of Interest***

**Calling All Golfers:** Paul Phillips, immediate Past President of RUSI advises that the Atlantic Chief and Petty Officers Association has scheduled a "best ball/scramble/four ball" tournament at the Hartlen Point Golf Course for 1300 Monday, 18 September. He says "it will be a shotgun start and we would like to get participation from other service support organizations. There is room for at least two four-person teams. Golfing skills are not mandatory, good humor is." For more info, contact Paul at (902) 443-6632.

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## **Are We Communicating?**

The RUSI membership of 200 + is comprised of approximately 150 members with email and the remaining 50 without. Although the secretary mails out copies of "Dispatches" to those without email, it is financially and practically impossible to

mail out last minute reminders and pop-up notices to non-emailers. It is requested that those members with email, who receive "last minute reminders and pop-up notices", pass them on by phone or other means to a member they know who does not have email. Your assistance is greatly appreciated.

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### ***Last Reminder...***

**Members who have not paid their 2006 dues are requested to mail a cheque for \$35 to Treasurer RUSI/NS, PO Box 33100 Quinpool RPO, Halifax NS B3L 4T6.**