

the Signal THE NEWSLETTER OF THE VENTURE ASSOCIATION

September 2008

ith only 300-odd days to go to Reunion 2009, we expect that members will be focusing on travel plans for the "Big Event". Herewith are a few details, as we have them at this moment, to answer any questions you may have. As you all appreciate, Class representatives on the Reunion Planning Group have been working hard to make Reunion 2009 a memorable affair. From canvassing of respective classes, it would seem that, if intentions are fulfilled, we will have a grand turnout, with total numbers in the 400 to 500 range.

The Navy will have just commenced its centennial celebrations in August, so our gathering will be one of the first official events. We have met RAdm Paul Maddison, the Marlant Commander to brief him on our program and enlist his support. He has responded enthusiastically and made his desires known down the chain. We have thus been offered full support at all levels of the Command.

The Program of Events is taking shape as follows:

Countdown REUNION 2009 - HALIFAX

By Ted Kelly, Chair, Reunion Committee

REGISTRATION DAY: Sep 23 Wed daytime—(1030—1530) RA Park – This will be the usual opportunity for initial sightings of all the old farts you hope to encounter. It is expected that registrations will have been completed in advance. Nevertheless, Sieg Deleu will be there with a supporting cast to issue Registration Packages and confirm details. Beer and sandwiches will be available for a nominal fee

Sep 23 Wed evening- (1830-2030) **Stadacona Wardroom** - **Reception.** This event will be open to non members as an opportunity for touching base with old mates who reside in the Halifax area.

<u>NAVY DAY</u>: Sep 24 Thurs daytime- (TBD) Trip to Sea HMCS "_____" The Navy has committed to provide a ship for members to clock a little sea time, contingent on a ship being available. The fleet is heavily deployed these days, but the Admiral has promised to do his best.

Sep 24 Thurs daytime – (TBD) **TOUR Alternate to "Trip to Sea"** For those who want o stay ashore, there will be tours of facilities at Stadacona,/ Dockyard and Shearwater. There have been considerable changes in recent years and these tours will provide a glimpse of the shore side of the modern Navy Transportation will be provided by the Navy.(Doug Thomas 66 & Lee Myrhaugen 64 coordinators)

<u>Sep 24 Thurs evening- (TBD)</u> **MEET & GREET HMCS "_____"** An evening aboard one of her **Majesty's** finest. The particular ship will be determined by the numbers, an AOR if required, otherwise a frigate or destroyer. (Gordon Davis 63 –coordinator)

PERSONAL CHOICE DAY: <u>Sep 25 Fri daytime - 0900-1500</u> **GOLF –Hartlen Point Golf Club.** The venue for the traditional golf outing. Gord Gray (58) is putting together the format for the day. The event is open to both members and spouses/partners (we leave it to the official scorer to deal with any potentially embarrassing results).

<u>Sep 25 Fri daytime – 0900-1500</u> - **Alternate to GOLF Tour & Lunch**. For those who are more culturally inclined, we are offering a tour of the Art Gallery of Nova Scotia & the Halifax Citadel, combined with Lunch at the Citadel

<u>Sep 25 Fri evening – TBA -</u> **Individual Class Events.** Most classes have made arrangements in place for this evening. Details will be communicated by class Leaders.

[continued on page 8]

<u>Published twice a year by the Venture Association.</u> Send Letters to the Editor and Pay Dues (by cheque) to the Venture Association, c/o Gordon Longmuir, 903-168 Chadwick Crt, North Vancouver, BC V7M 3L4; e-mail: thesignal@shaw.ca.

Changes of address and other personal information should be sent to your Class Rep (see p 6) who will forward them to the Regis-

Changes of address and other personal information should be sent to your Class Rep (see p 6) who will forward them to the Registerar. AND: go to the Venture Website for breaking news: http://www.hmcsventure.com The webmaster is Harley Kieran, e-mail: kieranh@ns.sympatico.ca Download back copies of The Signal as a .pdf attachment (Acrobat Reader is free at

http://www.adobe.com/products/acrobat/readstep2.html). If you want to be informed of each new issue, send your e-mail address to thesignal@shaw.ca . And , finally, please let us know if you no longer wish to receive the print version of this newsletter, thus saving printing and mailing costs.





Letters to the Editor

From Ottawa, ON

always look forward to receiving [the Signal] to catch up on the news of classmates, other friends and upcoming events. Lorraine and I ... get together with several Ventures during the year, both here in Ottawa and during our annual visit to Arichat, NS for the month of August. For the last few years, I have arranged some golf for a few of us at some of the best-known Cape Breton courses. This year, David Henley, JJ Lehmann, Jacques Laquerre and I will play Ingonish Highlands, Bell Bay and Dundee courses (tee times already arranged), while our wives support the economies of the local areas. While in Arichat, we always get together with Jack and Peggy Ouellette, Jav and Carol Stevenson (either in CB or Darmouth) and usually see Bernie and Clarise Derible. We encounter others during our visits as well. Looking back, Venture was truly a great experience, that not only influenced the rest of our lives, but established tremendous life-long friendships. We are very fortunate. We are looking forward to the Reunion in '09.

Yours aye,

Jim Cantlie, Class of '58

From Nowra North, NSW, Australia

ud'daye,

From down under I am very happy to see [the Signat] come in regularly. Another Beaut day and it's early Fall, but the beaches are still busy with swimmers, snorkelers and, of course, surfers.

For myself, I am still busy in my capacity as the Historian of the Australian Fleet Air Arm Museum which is just outside the main gate of HMAS *Albatross*, the home of the RAN Fleet Air Arm. The Sea Kings of 817 are due to be replaced shortly with MRH-90s and in time the Seahawks of 816 will have to be updated; it's a busy place.

Trust you will all have a good year.

Bob Geale, Staff, 1965

[Ed Note: LCdr Robert ("Windy") Geale, MBE, RAN (rtd) began his career with the RNVR Air Arm in 1943, and transferred as an Observer to the RCN in 1956. In 1965, he served with Ken Scotten and Wilf Lund in Stettler, simultaneously navigation instructor (with Ian Sturgess) at Venture. He returned to flying with Sea Kings in Shearwater, and when he transferred to the RAN in 1969, he was replaced as OIC of the Sea King Flight Simulator by Ted Gibbon ('56). Windy retired in 1985, but stays on in his current incarnation. He remains in touch with Ventures in Canada, including Dave Abrahams. A varied career, in three Commonwealth navies!]

From Sooke, BC

Dear Friends of Margot,

On Sunday, July 13, 2008, some sixty-seven years and three months after Dan Hanington and 282 shipmates were sunk off Iceland in RMS Rajputana while on patrol in the Strait of Denmark, a wreath was slipped over the stern of HMS Exeter to mark the tragedy at latitude 64 50 North and longitude 27 25 West.

Bearing a simple tribute that Margot Hanington had penned weeks before, the wreath was a symbol of the admiration and gratitude shared by many for those who live in peril on the sea, for our father Dan who lost so many of his dear friends that day, and especially for Margot, who for all the world intended to be present at this time.

To see the event, visit http://hanington.net and download the seven-screen PDF. Thanks again to all of you for your beautiful thoughts, words and prayers.

Mum has her feet up at last!

Love,

Gillian, Mark, Felicity and Brian

Brian Hanington (son of Margot Hanington) [Ed Note: See Obit for Margot on page 7]

[Letters continued on page 3]

Letters to the Editor [cont'd from p. 2] From Kitchener, ON

You may already be aware of [Senator Hugh Segal's speech to the CDA this past spring]. I remember being part of a 'Dream Team' in Ottawa during the late 70s... a lot of the same type of thoughts now, but without the Cold War. At that time, I prepared a paper about "Ice Capable Ships for the Arctic" -- my DG was directed to ask me to put a lid on it, as it might get in the way off current programs. I had also shown an interest in Minesweepers and the Reserve Navy. I started in the Reserves and finished direct involvement at HMCS York, giving me 22 years and a clasp on my CD. And that seems like only yesterday!

Mike Moore, Class of '57

[Ed Note: Reference to this excellent speech by a true champion of the Canadian Navy (as most members will know, Senator Segal is also on the Boards of Directors of both the CDA and the Canadian International Council) was sent out by the Executive Director or the NOAC in Ottawa; I regret this newsletter cannot accommodate even an edited version of the speech; the best direct URL is http://www.navyleague.ca/eng/ma/papers/2008NavalStrategyConf Segal.pdf, Well worth a read.]



SHEARWATER AVIATION MUSEUM CLASS TILE PROJECT

The *Shearwater Aviation Museum* has created a wall of plaques inscribed with the names of those who served at Shearwater, primarily aviators. Individuals may purchase a tile and have it suitably inscribed to reflect their posting at *Shearwater*.

The **VENTURE** class of 65 has a unique tile on the wall in the museum. The tile has the names of all class members (aviators and non-aviators) who served at *Shearwater*. The idea of a Class 65 tile was raised during our class reunion in 2004. It lay dormant for some time until Ray Cowper and I fleshed it out, and in Jun 2007 ran it up the pole to see who would salute. The message went to those who had served at *Shearwater* and there was a consensus that it was a good idea so we put the project into gear. The aviation museum was enthusiastic to the extent that they provided a **VENTURE** tile with the crest to be a title tile. The museum hopes to create a **VENTURE** wall with tiles representing all classes (those who served at *Shearwater* in whatever capacity).

The concept of a **VENTURE** wall has been discussed by members of the Association executive who have agreed that it would be a good project. The creation of individual class tiles would be the responsibility of each class — this would entail contacting members, collecting funds from them, and having the *Shearwater* Aviation Museum produce and install the tiles. It would be an excellent project to have class tiles installed by the Sep '09 Reunion.

The subject of class tiles was discussed at the meeting of the **VENTURE** Reunion Committee on 22 Sept. The consensus was that this was a good project to recognize the service of Ventures at Shearwater. It was proposed that the class representatives on the Committee consider

volunteering to coordinate this project, quite separately from their duties on the Committee. All members present agreed to either represent their class or seek another volunteer OPI. Those who volunteered to represent their class were:

Class 56- Bob Lancashsire, casalanc@eastlink.ca

Class 57- Don Uhrich, dgu@ns.sympatico.ca

Class 58 Gord Gray, gcgray@accesswave.ca

Class 59 Sieg Deleu, istella@eastlink.ca

Class 60 Frank Dennis will solicit a representative

Class 61 Joe Paquette, jjpaquette@ns.sympatico.ca

Class 62- Roger Chiasson, chiassonr@ns.sympatico.ca

Class 63-1 Gord Davis, gordon.davis@ns.sympatico.ca

Class 63-2 Representative required

Class 64 Ken Millar, kb.millar@ns.sympatico.ca

Class 65 Matt Durnford(project completed, tile installed)

Class 66 Doug Thomas, doug.thomas@ns.sympatico.ca

Class 67 Representative required

Class 68 Representative required

The **VENTURE** Association supports the project, but this is really entirely up to individual

classes. The coordination required will be between members of the class to their coordinator and between the coordinator and the *Shearwater* museum. Hopefully, all classes will be as enthusiastic about this project as the class of 65 and a special space will be created recognizing the contribution of *VENTURE* officers to Naval Aviation.

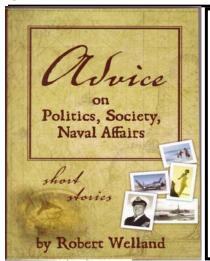
Matt Durnford, Class of '65



A Summer of Celebration: Victoria and Halifax — Mini-Reunions, a Golden Anniversary and Just Plain Gatherings of Shipmates



The spirit lives on: on May 25, the Maritime Ventures held their "first" gathering at the Casino in Halifax; at the end of June, Rene and Ruth D'Hollander ('57) celebrated their 50th Anniversary at their lovely "log cabin" on the border of the Dockyard in Esquimalt. And on August 17, Tom Essery ('59) played host to the Victoria (and vicinity) Ventures for a BBQ. John and Marcelle Truran hosted a small group of the Class of '57 in the same month. Quite a summer. And, as we go into the fall, the West Coasters look forward to the second annual non-AGM and Mini-Reunion at the Canoe Club in Victoria. Consult the website (www.hmcsventure.com) for a variety of pictures from these various events and lots more!



RAdm (Ret'd) Robert P. Welland, first Commanding Officer of HMCS Venture

has published his long-awaited *book*, of "short stories', but really essays and opinion pieces — and what opinions! Copies are available "from the author" at the unbelievably reasonable price of \$25 (postage included), full proceeds going to the Navy League "for the welfare of the Sea Cadets".

[From the Introduction]: I have compiled this book mainly to show ... that I'm not the pension-drawing couch potato they think I am. Some have had the temerity to ask "...but what do you do?" and some have added "...for God's sake." Their opinions matter not a fig ... nevertheless it will be a great surprise when they discover I do more than draw my pensions The book is intended for busy people, the sort who work for a living, and have neither the time nor inclination to get wrapped up in the convoluted musings of a novel writer or the discoveries of a biography composer or those long things on self improvement and global warming. Some of the stories are true and you are allowed to guess which. Whether I'll write another depends on how much praise I get for this one.

Bob Welland

To Order: RAdm Robert Welland (Ret'd), 14151 23A Ave, Surrey, BC V4A 8A5 (or) rpwelland@telus.net



Naughtical Terms*

f HEADS - the correct Canadian sailor's description of a toilet is the plural deriving from the practise of using one of two positions in the bowsprit netting for the elimination of bodily wastes. By Nelson's time Naval Vessels had become slightly more civilized; the heads were located either side of the bowsprit inside the beak-head. The seamen's heads were next to the focsle living quarters, often flushed naturally by oncoming seas; for obvious reasons, one was admonished to use the leeward one. They take their name from the cat-heads, the knight heads, or the beakhead, all in the same area. Cat-heads were short projections from the ship's side to which the main or bower anchors could be secured at sea. When a sailing ship prepared to anchor, the bower anchors were un-catted and then swung from the hawse holes, close above the sea surface and dangerously close to the hull planking - ready for letting go. Ships have had heads since the days when they were first conceived. Phonecian and Greek ships had knight's heads carved at the top of the bitts in the forward castle; the altar housing the religious icons was mounted in the after castle, and the battle was fought as land battles were, by soldiers initially protected by the bulwarks and shields held or fixed above the railings. When the ships were maneouvered at close quarters, ramming was the first tactic, followed by boarding and hand-to-hand combat. The carvings served as a rallying point in the confusion of battle. Ramming devices were often constructed in the form of a beakhead, and indeed the supporting structure for the bowsprit in bluff bowed sailing vessels is still called a beakhead, and the forward main collision bulkhead just aft of the beakhead is often constructed with the upper stumps of the frames forming railing posts and their tops were still dubbed, knight-heads, even if they were not carved. Viking long boats had dragon heads or sea monsters carved into the curved top of their stem and stern posts, to frighten their opponents, or to mollify the denizens of the deep. These practises developed into the use of figure heads which always had some meaning in relation to the ship's name, and were often in the form of bare breasted ladies, in hopes that the sea ahead of the ship might be calmed by the sight of a nurturing figure. The singular ship's head is the line of the keel marked by the top of the stem post and generally refers to the course being steered.

* Courtesy of our venerable and esteemed Past President, Joe Cunningham, Cdr (E), RCN

BUGGINS



Young Buggins, aged 3, examined his testicles while taking a bath.

"Mom", he asked,
"Are these my
brains?"

"Not yet," she replied.



HMCS Ontario: A Bone in her Teeth; sketch by Don MacMillan (Class of '58)

KIT SHOP: For those who may have missed the announcement in previous *Signals*, the *Venture* Website (www.hmcsventure.com) provides a direct link to the "kit shop" where you may purchase Venture-crested and other items (e.g., generic RCN, NAVY, ship/squadrons insignia, etc) from two suppliers — feel free to place your orders (and special requests, e.g., for car decals) well in advance of the 2009 Halifax Reunion. The addresses are:

Logo Depot, 24 Otago Drive, Dartmouth, NS B2W 4K3; Phone/Fax (902) 435-2228

E-mail: loisstark@eastlink.ca

Ed Falstrem, *Periscope Promotions*, 2190C South Island Hwy, Campbell River, BC V9W 1C1

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The President's Message

Ken Scotten (Class of '61)

reetings –Final preparations for the Reunion in Halifax next year are in full swing and by all reports there should be good attendance. Ted Kelly and his team have come up with a great program. It is significant that next year marks the Navy's Centennial celebrations and we can be part

of that event as well. I would urge all who may not have committed to the Reunion to consider doing so – check with your Class Reps. We have added two years to our Association and hence some "fresh blood."

The Executive have been looking to the future as well. Jean Verroneau has done excellent work producing a list of Executive for consideration at the 2009 AGM . There is a cadre of people who have served the Association long and well, so we are hopeful that some new faces can be added and we can shift some of the activities off the West Coast. As with most volunteer organizations, a small number of folks do the Lion's share of the work so it is time to find some additional support within the Association. The ability to speak and work on line removes the need for having the Executive centrally located. Also, our Constitution and general pattern of Association activities does not have us involved in a lot of work outside of our newsletter, periodic area gatherings and the Reunion every five years. Hence, a mix of folks, old and new, who may not be at a single location can be functional and appropriate.

Matt Durnford is championing the "Shearwater Tiles" project: note the article in this issue (p. 3). I believe this to be another good Association project in the Navy's Centennial year.

West Coasters should note that a gathering in Victoria is planned for November 5 at the Canoe Club on Swift St on the waterfront, just off Store St in Vicroria; mark your calendars.

Yours aye

Ken



LONGMUIR, G. Esquimalt, B.C. This lad's sense of humor has a devastating effect on seriousminded types.

The Editor's Corner

Gordon Longmuir (Class of '57)

ne positive about this job is my correspondence with the Exec including Class Reps and, in several cases, spouses who have been bludgeoned into the task of tracking the peregrinations of members. They then conscientiously apprise me (and the webmaster and Sieg Deleu, for the Reunion) of new addresses, phone numbers, email addresses, etc. that serve to fill out ap-

propriate entries in the register. One of the most faithful of these self-less volunteers is Jane Durnford, who has accused me of having "a wicked sense of humour" — I believe one black day when I wanted to recruit her to replace me as Registrar. By some magical means, I sent her the photo and caption published in the 57 *Venturian* (above) to prove that "... serious-minded types" have been leveling that charge at me for over 50 years. The flower-bearing geezer below is probably closer to today's truth.

And YES, the Reunion is only a year away, so go back and read page 1 ASAP and contact your Class Rep indicating the events you will be attending, and getting your PAYMENT ready. We will be putting out a special edition in March, just in case, but by then we need to have a good handle on attendance.

Yours aye,

Gordon



Distribution of the Signal

A s of this edition, 513 copies distributed: 409 electronically via the website; 104 by snailmail.



To addresses in: Australia, Belgium, Canada, New Zealand, Thailand, the UK and the USA.



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*NB: Class Reps are members of the Executive

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Margot Hanington, 1923-2008

beloved partner of Venture's first CO, RAdm Robert Welland, and a generous and loyal friend of the Venture Association, passed away in Victoria B.C. on Sunday, June 15, 2008. She was born in New Brunswick, and grew up in Halifax. Pre-deceased by her husband RAdm Dan Hanington, she leaves four children: Gillian of Ajijic, Mexico; Mark of Kailua, Hawaii; Brian of Ottawa; and Felicity of Texada Island, as well as 10 grandchildren and 4 great-grandchildren. She also leaves one brother, Lt. Cdr. Howard Wallace of Ottawa, Ontario and two sisters: Rosemary McDonald and Isabel Wallace. both of Halifax, N.S. The funeral service was held at St. Paul's Church in Esquimalt Road. on Thursday June 19. Fond memories are still welcomed by email at

hanington@backdraft.org. Cards and letters may be directed to 2641 Kemp Lake Road, Sooke, B.C., V9Z 0R4, or to Admiral Bob at 14151 23A Avenue, Surrey, BC V4A 8A5.

In Memoriam

CPO George Vander Haegen (Staff c. 1958-60) C1 PTI Jack Waldron (Staff c. 1954-57)

Editor's Note:

The Executive has agreed that the Association should make a periodic contribution to the Canadian Naval Memorial Trust, HMCS Sackville with the passing of colleagues. Individual members are encouraged to make personal donations to the CNMT. The website is: www.hmcssackville-cnmt.ns.ca/Another worthy cause, although not a memorial, is the Shearwater Air Museum www.shearwateraviationmuseum.ns.ca

Members will also, of course, want to continue with their own favorite charities, e.g., the Canadian Cancer Society, Heart and Stroke Foundation, etc.

Bravo Zulu, guys.



<u>EX LIBRIS:</u> <u>THE BOOKLIST</u>

[Ed note: This will be a continuing column recommending good reading, which many of us find more time to do these days. Please send us suggestions, primarily but not exclusively "naval" and/or Canadian, works.]

S. Thomas Russell, *Under Enemy Colors (sic)*, New York, Putnam & Sons, 2007. According to Joe Cunningham, the author is from the Courtenay/Comox area. This is a historical novel in the style and era of Hornblower and Aubrey. The first in a series to be continued in 2009.

James Boutilier, ed., RCN in Retrospect, 1910-1968, Vancouver, UBC Press, 1982. For those who have not read it, this book is based on the proceedings of a conference on the history of the RCN from its founding to what was then seen as its demise. Some good interventions by such luminaries as Hugh Pullen, John Bovey, Dick Leir and Nigel Brodeur. Dr. Jim Boutilier has for some years served as Policy Adviser to the Maritime Commander, Pacific.

<u>Jack Granatstein</u>, *Who Killed the Canadian Military*, Toronto, Harper Collins, 2004. Written before the advent of "Canada's New Government", and thus a little dated now, this is nonetheless a good political essay arguing for the rapid re-establishment of a well-funded and well-trained military—and a realistic strategy for how we can achieve that. A good read by our most readable Canadian historian.

Bernard Ireland and Jane's Information Group, Jane's War at Sea 1897-1997: 100 Years of Jane's Fighting Ships, Harper Collins Canada, 1997. For all of us who spent endless hours leafing through library editions of Jane's Fighting Ships because the price deterred us from having our own, this centenary edition, with over 500 photos and available from Amazon "used and new" for \$20.99, is an entertaining and engrossing digest. Pity there does not seem to be a similarly retrospective edition of All the World's Aircraft, but one assumes that is in the offing some time.

John Boileau, Fastest in the World: the Saga of Canada's Revolutionary Hydrofoils, Formac, 2005. For those who may think the CF-105 was Canada's only foiled attempt at revolutionary "made in Canada" technology, Boileau tells the story of the architects and engineers who designed and built the world-class HMCS Bras d'Or, a unique antisubmarine hydrofoil, prototype for a class of ships that was canned, this time by a Liberal government, in 1971. The orphaned vessel is now on view at the Maritime Museum of Quebec.



Reunion 2009 [continued from page 1]

HMCS VENTURE DAY: Sep 26 Sat daytime – 1000 – 1200 – **Annual General Meeting**. The AGM will be held at the **Warfare Centre** which is what old hands will remember as the Maritime Warfare School. This will be followed by a buffet lunch at the Wardroom.

<u>Sep 26 Sat evening – 1830 – 0100</u> – **Dinner Dance Pier 21** We expect to have music for this event provided by the Stadacona Band. Coupled with the great venue, it promises to be a great evening.

REMEMBRANCE DAY Sep 27 Sun daytime – 1100-1200 (TBC) – **Remembrance Service.** The service will be at the Shearwater Chapel . One of our own, the Rev Harvey Waddell has agreed to conduct the service, after which we will convene at the Shearwater Aviation Museum for a farewell reception.

COSTS Costs for attendees at events have not been finalized, but rest assured everything is being done to keep them down. We are still awaiting numbers from some classes and we are hopeful for some sponsorship support to help defray costs. The following are the approximate charges per person for the events where attendees will bear some cost:

Reception -\$20pp Meet & Greet -\$25pp Golf -\$60pp

Art Gallery & Citadel Tour with Lunch -\$25pp based on 40 attendees

AGM -\$15pp Dinner Dance -\$60pp

Farewell Reception -\$10pp

The above may change slightly by November when firm costs will be posted on the web site

REGISTRATION: Registration will be conducted in advance via the posting of the registration form on the *WEBSITE* (www.hmcsventure.com) and sent by the Reunion Registrar, Sieg Deleu, as an e-mail attachment to members in the Venture database. Members will be asked to complete and forward payment to the Reunion Mail Box as early as they are able. Dues may also be paid at this time.

ACCOMMODATION: September is a busy tourist month for hotels in Halifax. Members planning on commercial accommodation make their arrangement early. We are negotiating preferred rates with a selection of establishments, which span the price spectrum. To obtain the preferred rate there will be a protocol for members to identify themselves when registering, which each of the Hotels/Inns will require. The selected establishments with rates and reservation protocols will be finalized and promulgated on the website by November. Additionally, the Wardroom will accommodate members if rooms/suites are available. However, they will not accept reservations prior to 60 days in advance of the dates of stay.

There you have it – most everything you need to get moving. If you have need of any further information please contact your "reunion Class Representative" or me "tedk@eastlink.ca"

