

# THE H.M.C.S. LINDSAY REUNION ASSOCIATION

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February 1994

Issue 5

## “THE LINDSAY LETTERS”

It has been too long since the Lindsay Letters have been opened. There are the usual reasons for this, but the major ones have to do with the fact that we keep losing a step here and there. We are all older slower and sadly, fewer. We must be resigned to those facts.

In reviewing 1993 we must report that Signalman Gord Wright, Able Seaman Jim Pedlar, Able Seaman Henry Williams and Lt. Len Brockington, left our ranks. They received their final draft notice to report to the quarterdeck where they will join the others of our crew. We must all be thankful to the good Lord, that He gave us the opportunity of having served with such men. We are the richer for it. Then, there was the loss of Laura Leek. We didn't get to know her too well. You'll remember she was rushed back to hospital in Owen Sound during our 1990 reunion. We are still with you, Les.

Among the good news for 1993, is the fact that we located a missing shipmate. We found Max Paterson (supply assistant, Victual) who lives in Peterborough, Ontario. Don't know how we missed him in our 1990 search. Max joined the ship in Milford Haven, from Niobe. He moved about at the reunion — re—connecting with his old shipmates. He looks good and has weathered the years well.

The reports from Sick Bay would indicate that everyone is holding their own—no better and no worse. There was some question about the “Buffer” last summer, but the surgeons said they got him patched up Ok. After two sojourns in the hospital he seems to be in recovery and is his mean and irritable self again. A sure sign of recovery.

As usual, many of our shipmates are on “liberty” for the winter, suffering in such places as Florida and Arizona. It is rumored that they are not “REAL” Canadians, as are the rest of us. We just love these winters. It must be said, however, that they do write and phone us. That gives us a warm feeling, at least.

## REUNION REPORT

Our reunion in Lindsay, Oct.'93, was billed as the last kick at the can! However, it was just a slogan and we are sure to have another shot. Our numbers totaled only 17, who reported aboard the Admiral Inn and Conference Center. In addition, we had the pleasure of having Libby Wright and Irene Redlar in attendance. This was particularly touching and we welcome and encourage all ladies of deceased shipmates to participate. We should therefore revise our attendance number from 17 to 19. Gordie and Jim would have been proud. I'm sure they know they were there. Listen up Libby and Irene, you are an integral part of our crew. We are family.

We know a few more would have been there, but previous commitments (a wedding) and early plans to go south prevented others. It was a concern of the committee at the outset, due to the lateness of the season. It won't be planned in that manner next time.

Our program went off as planned and generally speaking was a complete success.

Again, full credit has to go to the teamwork of Jack Tarbutt, Ivan, Len and Bobby Dixon. Special accolades go to Ted Castell of Bobcaygeon, who was the point man for the exercise.

As usual, after everyone arrived. The “Buffer” strutted around, giving orders, which everyone ignored. Wouldn’t you think he’d get the message by now. No one has listened to him for more than 50 years.

The main events for Friday & Saturday evenings went off well and Sunday was a full schedule just as planned. On Friday evening, however, we did have an unplanned incident. About 1/2 hour before our informal dinner, at the Admiral Balsam room, our good friend, guest and favourite author, Ken MacPherson was stricken with a stroke and was rushed to hospital. We are pleased to report that Ken is recovering nicely and as recent as 3 weeks ago, reports in conversation by phone that he is about 85—90% recovered. He still has a few problems, but promises not to spoil our evening again. If we ever invite him we’ll take him up on that. Why riot drop Ken a note at 28 Ross St. Port Hope, Ont. L1A 1J3. A friendly note is always good medicine. It is sure to make him feel a little better.

The formal dinner on Saturday at the Legion, of course, was the main event. Our Association presented the Town of Lindsay with a large Navy Ensign and proclamation of gratitude to the town. We requested, through the Mayor who was our guest, that the Town fly the Ensign each year on Battle of Atlantic Sunday, in commemoration not only of the HMCS Lindsay, but of all our Navy in recognition of the solemnity of that day which we all hold dear to our hearts. He agreed.

Sunday started with a successful Church Parade and wreath laying ceremony at the Town memorial cenotaph. This event was augmented by a Sea Cadet Band and Guard of Honour from the Peterborough Corps. One of the parents of a cadet took a video of the occasion. (More about that at the end of the letter).

The trip to Whetang Indian Arts & Craft display was outstanding (on Sunday afternoon). It’s about 30 miles from Lindsay, and we had a bus chartered for the trip. While we were few in numbers, the Lindsay Reps certainly made it seem like a larger crowd. As they have always done.

## **THE LOG LINE**

Naturally, after every reunion, there is some fall out, and this one was no exception. One thing leads to another and this time the biggest “piece” of fall out sounded really good. Here is the story reported as concisely as possible.

For some time different shipmates have discussed war memorials, especially one for the Lindsay. The idea was germinated in the lobby of the Admiral Inn. It started in November and by December had grown — full blown into a project. Design — materials — costing — location and other data was considered and took form. It is an ambitious project and deserves your consideration and we welcome you aboard

The overall concept is that of a shield of red oak with the extremities measuring 5 ft. tall and 4 ft. wide. On the shield will be three columns of the following. At the top centre column will be the ships crest, with the motto inscribed below — “SERVIRE NOBIS GLORIOSUM EST” (we served with pride). Below this would be a picture of the ship, below the picture, a proclamation (calligraphy on parchment) and at the bottom a little note will read as follows — Would the last shipmate to leave, please sign the log “OUR WATCH IS FINISHED” and turn the lamp down. There will be a small brass hurricane lamp lit in place at the bottom. On the left column will be the Honour Roll of deceased/missing shipmates, there are about 69 at present with appropriate prayerful remarks, top & bottom.. The right hand column will be 3 pictures — the top one of the ship commissioning crew, the second our- 1990 reunion group in the Howard Johnson and the 3rd the 50th Anniversary of commissioning in Lindsay in 1993. Superimposed above the case will be a name board — of blond oak with 3” heavy brass letterings “H.M.C.S. LINDSAY”.

This will catch the eye of persons coming into the lobby and give out the message “come and look at this”.

The framing of the wall mount will be in blond oak to match the registration desk of the hotel.

All in all, it is a big project. The whole shield will be encased, with a locked glass door, and inserted in the most prominent wall in the lobby of the Admiral Inn. Why the Admiral Inn? While it could be argued that a memorial of this nature would be best placed in the town hall or local Legion. However, you know that in such locations — after a day or two, it becomes just another piece of furniture.

Town employees would never notice it and we all know that in the Legion it would eventually end up on a back wall in a card room or pool room. The Admiral Inn would give it constant public display, every day to strangers and visitors to Lindsay. In addition, it was felt that the staff of Admiral Inn are our kind of people. The management actually wants us to proceed with the project — forthwith. Besides — the word Admiral does have a certain ring to it. Now for the crunch — Many parts of this display are already finished, framing for the pictures and proclamations are being costed at present. Proclamations and honour roll have already been inscribed on parchment. We have the wood pieced and picked out. We have outside help—in the form of volunteer trades people and the use of a complete wood working shop, equipped with \$250,000 of equipment (made available for our use) and we have researched — costed — and had meetings. We are already into it and we'd like you to help. Overall cost will likely be in the range of \$1,000 — \$1,200. We are asking you to donate at least \$25.00 — to be sent to Len Atkins, marked "Memorial Fund". Some have indicated they would do more than that — but if everyone will do his best — the Lindsay will be well represented. The hotel is offering to open the wall to reinforce it — (because the unit will be heavy) — among other considerations. We would then plan a suitable dedication ceremony — at a convenient time— for all hands to be present — and possibly an impromptu reunion.

It is worth noting that of 123 corvettes — 113 were named for towns across Canada. It hasn't been fully determined as yet, how many corvettes have actually given their namesake town such a memorial. We believe this to be a first. There may be a few, where the local town council funded one for the local Legion — but this one (ours) would be the first to be given by the ship's crew (none of whom hail from Lindsay) a crew with roots in B.C. and every Province across the country to N.S.

It makes one feel good to be first. The Lindsay crew would never settle for silver or bronze. Your early reply will determine the success and early completion of this project and you will be updated on it in bi—monthly reports.

Earlier in the newsletter we referred to a video. Some of us have seen it and it is quite good. Since the gentleman who took it lives in Peterborough, we have asked our new found shipmate, Max Paterson to handle any requests for copies. It will be \$6.00 for a copy (including postage) Just drop Max a note.

Max Paterson

244 O'Carroll Ave.

Peterborough, Ontario

K9H 4V6 — Max will do the rest

And finally, remember the big Annual RCNA Reunion in Niagara Falls — June 3, 4, 5, & ,6

They expect more than 2,500 in attendance.

It is hoped the Lindsay will be well represented and could have a reunion within a reunion. Cast off—I'm running late!

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