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Participants of the annual 2024 Navy Run start their race near the Naden Athletic Centre on June 22. Read more on pages 6-7.

Photo: Corporal Jay Naples, MARPAC Imaging Services

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Commissionaire Gary Restell examines a photograph from 1914 depicting a march of Canadian soldiers and sailors through Dockyard at the archives of the CFB Esquimalt Naval and Military Museum.

Inset: An image from Aug. 27, 1914 of *The Daily Colonist* newspaper depicting a farewell at Victoria's Canadian Pacific Railroad Steamship terminal for volunteer soldiers bound for the First World War battlefields of Europe. Photos: Peter Mallett/Lookout Newspaper

### Peter Mallett

Staff Writer

The unsolved riddle of a historic photo, a poignant moment in Dockyard history 110 years ago, mesmerized Commissionaire Gary Restell.

The black and white photo was taken on Aug. 23, 1914. It shows a parade of hundreds of young Canadian soldiers and sailors marching up Esquimalt Road, days before some of them departed to the battlefields of Europe.

"The photo represents Victoria's contribution to the Great War overseas and is just dripping with military history," explains Restell. "It depicts the first wave of volunteers making final preparations before heading to the front."

The 78-year-old retired sales and marketing professional has worked at the Naden and Dockyard Gates as a security guard for the past ten years and is fascinated with the rich military history of CFB Esquimalt.

There were no details on the public record to answer the riddle of why, when and where the soldiers were marching when he first spied the photo. This stoked Restell's curiosity and just like a detective working on an unsolved caper, with magnifying

glass in hand, he began to look more closely at the details and identifiers in the photo.

"Little did I know what I had gotten myself into and I gradually became a full-time library and research sleuth because of this curiosity," he says.

Restell eventually found himself spending endless hours of his spare time studying online archives of local newspapers and other sources, asking questions of local historians at the CFB Esquimalt Naval and Military Museum, Esquimalt's archives and the Royal BC Museum. In the end, his sleuthing and persistence paid off.

#### FACTS REVEALED

Through his investigation, Restell uncovered that the photo was taken on Sunday, Aug. 23, 1914, and involved soldiers of the 88<sup>th</sup> Victoria Fusiliers, Band of the 5<sup>th</sup> (British Columbia) Field Regiment, and Royal Canadian Artillery CGA, who were headed to Valcartier, Que., before heading to the front lines in Europe. Members of HMCS Rainbow and members of the newly formed Royal Canadian Naval Volunteer Reserve also attended the parade in support of the deploying troops.

The parade was marching from the naval dockyard to St. Paul's Naval and Garrison Church located on

Esquimalt Road for a 'Valedictory Service' – this was the last opportunity for the soldiers to attend regimental prayer. Restell eventually confirmed their attendance in the church's record of services.

A few days after the farewell celebration at the church, seventy members of the 5<sup>th</sup> (British Columbia) Field Regiment boarded steamship S.S. Princess Mary at the Canadian Pacific Railway Wharf and head to Valcartier.

Then, on Aug. 28, the combined forces of 500 members from the 88<sup>th</sup> Victoria Fusiliers and 50<sup>th</sup> Gordon Highlanders marched through downtown Victoria towards the Warf to board S.S. Princess Sophia headed to Valcartier as well.

But the human side of his research revealed upsetting details, says Restell.

"All of these people were volunteers and the first wave of men to go overseas; sadly, a lot of them wouldn't be coming back," he said. "So many of them were caught up in the spirit of the day, but there is nothing romantic or intriguing about war. Many of them died brutal deaths at the hands of the enemy or suffered permanent injury."

#### SNAPSHOT SLEUTHING

This is not the first time Restell dug into the archives searching for infor-

mation on an undated photo.

About seven years ago when he was researching Esquimalt's streetcar system of the late 1800s and early 20<sup>th</sup> century, he found a photo depicting tracks along Esquimalt Road with a military parade marching out of Dockyard. The undated photo had no description of who was in the photo or what was going on; it simply stated, 'Naval parade in Esquimalt'.

His research and inquiries then revealed a second photo showing the back end of the parade. Taken from the same position its archive notation incorrectly stated the marchers were 'leaving dry dock in Esquimalt for a day of manoeuvres'.

On the hunt to find the truth about both photos he was aided by the assistance of local historian Jack Bates of the Organization for the Preservation of Canadian Military History (OCPMH) and CFB Esquimalt Navy and Military Museum archivist Joseph Lenarcik. Restell says the story and facts about the parade gradually began to unravel.

According to his research, the soldiers in the front of the parade were the 5<sup>th</sup> (BC) Field Regiment because they wore white-covered forage caps, part of the required clothing for the first wave of soldiers from the regi-

ment in the war. He could also tell that because of the flutes played by band leading the parade that it was most likely the Fife and Drum Band of the Victoria Fusiliers.

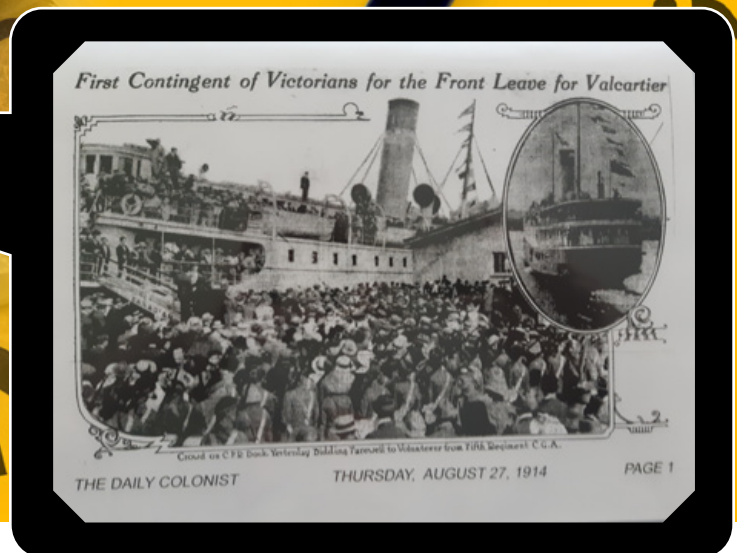
"It was extraordinary to come to the conclusion that two pictures of what I thought were two different parades with two militias and the navy and naval reservists, and four distinct organizations involved, were actually two photos of the same parade," said Restell.

Lenarcik said Restell has a keen eye for observing the world around him and searching for specific information.

"I admire him for his willingness to take on a project and test out his hypothesis until he arrives at a final answer that can't be disproved," said Lenarcik. "Like Sherlock Holmes, he methodically attacks all the possible answers until only one answer is left."

Restell says his appetite for such time-consuming research is waning while he eyes the option of full-fledged retirement coming in the months ahead.

"I've enjoyed meeting the challenge of pursuit but it's time to move on to explore other avenues of interest," he said. "But I will still look forward to hearing from anyone about the picture of the parade and its subject matter."





# POESB breaks records with Harbour Clean-up for World Ocean's Day 2024!



DND and Babcock crew collected garbage from Inskip Island. L-R: Mel Lacelle (Babcock Canada), Jean-Guy Mayer (POESB Fire Services), Graham Keehn (Babcock Canada), Lieutenant (Navy) Brayden Casper (POESB BaseOps), Chris Davis (Babcock Canada), Kurtis Briggs (Babcock Canada), Kate Bandura (Lookout Newspaper), Christina Pullen (Babcock Canada), Carolina Montes Valenzuela (POESB Auxiliary Fleet), Masha Vasiuta (POESB HQ).

Inset: Garbage collected by the Esquimalt Graving Dock (EGD), Victoria Shipyards - Seaspan (VSL), and Point Hope Maritime (PHM). L-R: Joe Walsh (EGD), Kevin Creighton (EGD), Kyle Lake (VSL), Jenna Olsen (EGD), Chris Gates (EGD) (back), Bill Utterson (VSL), Oliver Tonagel (PHM), Tia Cournoyer (PHM), Cameron Yakimoich (EGD), Mellissa Piasta (EGD), Ryan Kennedy (EGD), Catherine Munro (EGD), Nicola Greeley (EGD).

## Lorraine Crinkley Branch Environment Officer

Port Operations and Emergency  
Services Branch

CFB Esquimalt's Port Operations and Emergency Services Branch (POESB) celebrated World Ocean's Day on June 5<sup>th</sup> by completing their annual harbour and shoreline clean-up. POESB teamed up with the Esquimalt Graving Dock, Victoria Shipyards - Seaspan, Point Hope Maritime, and Babcock Canada in remov-

ing approximately 498kg (981 lbs) of waste from Esquimalt Harbour and its beaches. This is a new record for waste removed during the annual World Oceans Day clean-up for POESB.

Debris was collected from the harbour, with a focus on the beaches around Munroe Head, Dallas Bank and Inskip Island. The most predominant types of waste removed were wire and wire cabling, vehicle tires, and scrap metal. Other types of waste included hard plastics, styrofoam, glass, and rope.

Tires are composed of synthetic rubber that degrades and

leeches over time, contributing to microplastics and heavy metals in the marine environment. It was common practice to throw tires into the ocean before their effects on the marine environment were widely known.

If you are interested in participating in one of POESB's ocean or beach clean-ups, or you would like help organizing one within your own unit, please reach out to Lorraine Crinkley, POESB Environment Officer, at [lorraine.crinkley@forces.gc.ca](mailto:lorraine.crinkley@forces.gc.ca).

Happy World Ocean's Day!



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**Chaplain's Corner**



# The Golden Rule

**Capt (Padre) Dominic Lafrenière**  
Fleet Chaplain

This simple tale from the Brothers Grimm illustrates the Golden Rule well.

Once upon a time there was a grandfather who lived with his family. As he got older, he started drooling and spilling his food, so his family left him to eat alone. When he dropped his bowl and broke it, he was scolded and given a common wooden bowl. Grandpa was unhappy. One day the grandson was working in the workshop and his parents asked, "What are you doing?" "I'm making a wooden bowl," he replied, "for when you two are old and have to eat alone". The parents realized how badly they were treating Grandfather and decided to let him eat with the family.

The popular adage, endorsed by most cultures and found in the scriptures of many religions, goes something like this:

'Do unto others as you would have them do unto you', or 'Never impose on others that you would not choose for yourself'.

It is easy to say but difficult to practise. For a long time, this morality was considered to be too high, that at best it was only monks and a few individuals living on the margins of society who managed to put it into practise, and that ordinary people, who had to face the real life, must put into practice the law of the jungle to survive. This is because many consider this precept to be the top of the pyramid of morality and ethics when, in reality, it is the base. We are all invited to put it into practice. This is why most laws and moral codes, like our Charter of Rights and Freedoms, are based on the Golden Rule.

But beware:

Once upon a time there was a monkey who always followed the Golden Rule. One day there was a great flood, and as the threatening waters rose, the monkey

climbed a tree for safety. He looked down, saw a fish in the water and thought: "In its place I would like to be lifted from the water". So, he caught the fish, took it out of the water and placed it on a branch for its safety. Of course, the fish died.

Should we apply this precept at all times? Does this moral rule give me permission to take action each time I consider that in the place of the other I would like to be spoken to, touched, courted, etc.? Of course not. We understand in this last story the monkey reflected his own need to be safe on the fish who had no need of help. When we want to take action, we must take into consideration the desires and needs of others are not the same as ours. We must therefore talk to each other, listen to each other, understand each other, show empathy, and imagine ourselves in the other's shoes. This is how we can put the Golden Rule into practice.



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# Victoria Pride Week

## Message from the MARPAC Defence Team Pride Advisory Organization (DTPAO) Champion

Victoria Pride celebrations kick-off Thursday 27 June, and everyone is welcome to join in the activities! Pride week runs until July 7th with events around the Base and in the city, so look for the announcements and participate alongside our colleagues of the 2SLGBTQI+ community.

In addition to Pride Week, it is also Indigenous History month. You'll see the new intersex progress pride flag flying alongside the Indigenous Survivor's flag at our three primary locations at Dockyard, Naden, and Workpoint. Last month we also flew the pride flag for International Day Against Homophobia, Biphobia, and Transphobia. I hope you noticed the flags and took time to reflect on their collective meanings. It is important, and I would suggest imperative, that we continue our journey of learning about our 2SLGBTQI+ members. Our strength comes from our ability to be authentic every day, and that means knowing who

our teammates are. Pride week is an opportunity to celebrate the strengths of this community, so I highly recommend you join in and learn, contribute, and meet lots of great people along the way!

It is an honour to be the Champion for the MARPAC Defence Team Pride Advisory Group, and I am proud to say that progressing the goals of equity and inclusivity, through improved infrastructure, training, medical, and administrative systems, to promote and support the 2SLGBTQI+ community, assists all our Canadian Armed Forces members and is an enriching experience. It is also the right thing to do. As members of the Defence Team, we stand for the rights and freedoms of all Canadians, and that starts first and foremost within our own organization. Pride Week fosters a sense of belonging and solidarity, reminding us all of the rich diversity within the human experience and the fundamental right of each person to live authentically. The visibility and positive representation during Pride Week challenges stereotypes and combats prejudice, promoting a more inclusive and accepting society.

Join the MARPAC DTPAO as they celebrate who they are throughout Pride Week and contribute to making our organization better together!

*Commodore Matthew D. Coates*

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\* Events are Victoria Pride Society.  
Please see [victoriapridesociety.org](http://victoriapridesociety.org) for info.

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# Happy Canada Day

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# Family fun takes centre stage at 2024 NAVY RUN

**Peter Mallett**  
Staff Writer

The 18<sup>th</sup> edition of one of the most anticipated events on the CFB Esquimalt social calendar started on June 22 with the traditional starting blast of an army howitzer at the Naden Gates.

Runners of all ages and experience levels, and even entire families, had cause for celebration at the finish line of this year's Navy Run. This year's run included 5 and 10 km races and a Kids Fun Run on the track at the Naden Athletic Centre.

More than one military family from Esquimalt has made taking part in the Navy Run a long-standing family tradition. Among the 550 military and civilian participants was the family of Sub-Lieutenant (SLt) Jacob Russell of HMCS *Venture*.

"We have three generations here today because it is one of the best runs in Victoria for a family," said SLt Russell. "It's such a great family-friendly event to be involved in: there are no huge crowds and we get an excellent support from the race staff."

SLt Russell finished the 5km course in 22<sup>nd</sup> place in a field of 161 runners, finishing with a time of 22:52. His wife, Sailor 1<sup>st</sup> Class (S1) Laura Russell of Base Logistics (BLOG), is also a regular participant in the Navy Run; she plans on returning to the race next year as she just delivered their daughter Zoë. S1 Russell's father, Major (ret'd) Robert Henry,

walked the race with his three-year-old granddaughter Joni Russell, who participated in the Kids Fun Run earlier in the day. As his granddaughter refueled in her stroller with a bag of potato chips, Henry reflected on nearly two decades of family tradition at the Navy Run.

"I started doing the race years ago when I was working for MARPAC and Naval Fleet School, and then Jacob got involved and the family began doing the race together," said Henry. "It's become a real tradition for us."

Henry's son Jeffrey of the Naval Experience Program (NEP) also ran in the race.

Another participating family was of Lieutenant (Lt) Mireille Grant of Air Component Coordination Element (Pacific). She began participating in the Navy Run 15 years ago.

"The Navy Run brings us closer together," she said. "It's a change of pace and more fun than pastimes of dinner or a movie."

Running with her in the 5km race was her husband Lt(N) Brian Grant, Operations Officer of HMCS *Calgary*, and their eight-year-old son Henry, while their four-year-old son Hector took advantage of the Kids Fun Run.

For most of the registered participants, their final time or placing in the races standings didn't seem to matter too much; that was the case for Acting Sub-Lieutenant (A/SLt) Octavian Radulescu, a naval reservist from HMCS *Montcalm* in Quebec

City temporarily posted to the Office of the Base Commander for the summer.

"I didn't really know what to expect and feared I would spend most of the race out of breath and walking the course," said A/SLt Radulescu. "I am really proud of myself because I managed to keep running the entire way and even during the uphill portions."

A/SLt Radulescu ran in the 10 km race; the occasion marked the first time he has ever participated in an organized running event. He finished the course in 172<sup>nd</sup> place, in a field of 209 runners, with a time of 1:11:40.

"Everyone in the race was motivating and encouraging each other and I really liked that about the Navy Run," he said. "I guess this is the start of something new for me and I am officially a runner now."

The run raised over \$3K for Soldier On, the non-profit charity of Canadian Forces Morale and Welfare Services (CFMWS).

The event also involved the assistance of over 60 staff from Personnel Support Programs (PSP) and other units at the Base, who helped staff, organize, promote and operate the event along with support from volunteers of the Navy Run Committee.

Sponsorship for this year's Navy Run included Seaspan, Babcock, BMO and Bell Media while Saje Wellness provided the race winner's prize packages. Support was also provided by McDonalds Canada and the BC Lions.

For a list of full results visit [esquimaltnavyrun.com](http://esquimaltnavyrun.com).



Lieutenant (Navy) Brian Grant along with his spouse Lieutenant Mireille Grant and their children Henry and Hector all competed in the 2024 Annual Navy Run.  
Photo: Sergeant Malcolm Byers, MARPAC Imaging Services

## NAVY RUN TOP 3

### 10 km

- Men:**
1. Devonte Scarlette 34:55;
  2. Joshua Koromei 35:09;
  3. Dan Wall 36:44.

### Women:

1. Richel Guarate 44:45;
2. Cara Macrae 46:13;
3. Leah Conrad 48:37.

### 5 km

- Men:**
1. CP02 Jonathon Gendron 16:04;
  2. Lt(N) Rodney Newcombe 17:43;
  3. Lt(N) Alexander Castagna, 18:58.

### Women:

1. Kate Guy 19:01;
2. Isla Ross 20:22;
3. Jamie Wigmore 20:26.

### NAVY RUN CHALLENGE WINNERS

- Small Unit:**  
Fleet Diving Unit (Pacific)
- Medium Unit:**  
Canadian Submarine Force

Photo: John's Photography, Sooke, BC

Photo: Sgt. Malcolm Byers

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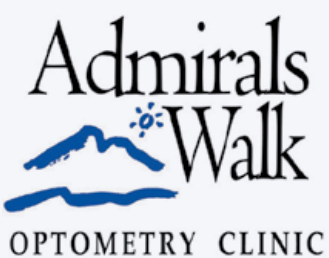
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# Battle of Atlantic memorial takes shape



Above: An architect's rendering of the proposed Battle of Atlantic National Memorial commemorative panels in London, Ont. Photo: Naval Association of Canada

Inset: Honorary Captain (Navy) (HCapt(N)) Jeff Topping during a visit to Hamilton, Ont. HCapt(N) Topping was recently named to the ambassador role for HMCS Prevost, the Naval Reserve Unit of London, Ont. Photo: HMCS Star

**Peter Mallett**  
Staff Writer

The newest Honorary Captain (HCapt(N)) of the Royal Canadian Navy (RCN) hit the ground running with inspiring projects to honour and celebrate the legacy of RCN sailors.

Jeff Topping was appointed HCapt(N) of HMCS *Prevost*, London, Ont., Naval Reserve Unit (NAVRES), in a March 5 ceremony involving Vice-Admiral (VAdm) Angus Topshee, RCN Commander. Now he spearheads a design and build project for a first-of-its kind national war memorial, supported by many significant community leaders.

Located on the banks of the Thames River in London, Ont., the Battle of the Atlantic Memorial project aims to enshrine the names of 2,000 RCN members, 750 aviators and 1,600 Merchant Navy members who were lost in the longest continuous military campaign of the Second World War.

Most of these sailors have no gravesites to visit as they were lost at sea, HCapt(N) Topping explains.

"It is intended to serve as a solemn reminder of the sacrifices those who secured our freedom and it's time Canada paid tribute to them," HCapt(N) Topping says.

While other allied nations have created significant national monuments sites, there is no national memorial in Canada specifically dedicated to the Battle of the Atlantic. HCapt(N) Topping, the project's supporters at the London Branch of the Naval Association of Canada and HMCS *Prevost* are planning the groundbreaking in the fall, with plans to complete the project in time for the battle's 80<sup>th</sup> anniversary in

May 2025. Topping's journey to become Honorary Captain began in 2019 when he participated in the Canadian Leaders Alongside program with NAVRES unit HMCS *York*. That resulted in five days at sea aboard HMCS *Calgary* where he learned first-hand about the hard work done by sailors aboard warships.

"It was definitely not a VIP cruise, we learned about all aspects of life at sea, and I returned inspired to support our serving members to the best of our ability," he said.

Appointed by the Minister of National Defence, Honorary Captains are distinguished, well-known public, business or community leaders. They play a vital ambassadorial role for the Navy, connecting the RCN with the communities they serve. The Navy currently has 19 Honorary Captains, each bringing a unique set of talents and skills to the table.

In his new volunteer role, one of his goals is seeing the memorial project through while at the same time the monument project will also help build the profile of HMCS *Prevost*. He estimates the cost of the memorial at \$750,000. The Battle of the Atlantic Memorial Project Team and the Naval Association of Canada are behind the fundraising effort with monies raised through private and corporate donations through their website: [boamemorial.com](http://boamemorial.com).

The memorial will also help honour HCapt(N) Topping's grandfathers, who served in the RCN during the Second World War.

"It is incredibly humbling to be asked to serve and I immediately thought of my



grandfathers, who both have passed, but I know would be so proud to see me in uniform," he reflected. "My family was very excited because they know how much this means to me personally."

One grandfather served as a Chief Petty Officer and shipwright in Newfoundland during the war and the other became member of the Royal Canadian Navy Volunteer Reserve (RCNVR) with wartime sub-hunting service aboard HMCS *Skeena*, HMCS *Haida*, HMCS *Fort William* among other vessels. Young HCapt(N) Topping had a strong desire to follow his grandfathers' footsteps, but was unable to join NAVRES due to a hearing issue. In subsequent years, he volunteered his time as a civilian instructor specializing in naval history with his local branch of the Royal Canadian Sea Cadets (RCSC) *Courageous*.

HCapt(N) Topping says one of his key tasks in his volunteer role will be to educate people in his hometown and across central Canada about the importance of the RCN and the work they do.

"Many Londoners don't realize there is a naval unit in town, and I aim to change that," he said.

For more information on the Battle of Atlantic Memorial visit the website [boamemorial.com](http://boamemorial.com) or watch the Taking Back Their Names video available on YouTube.

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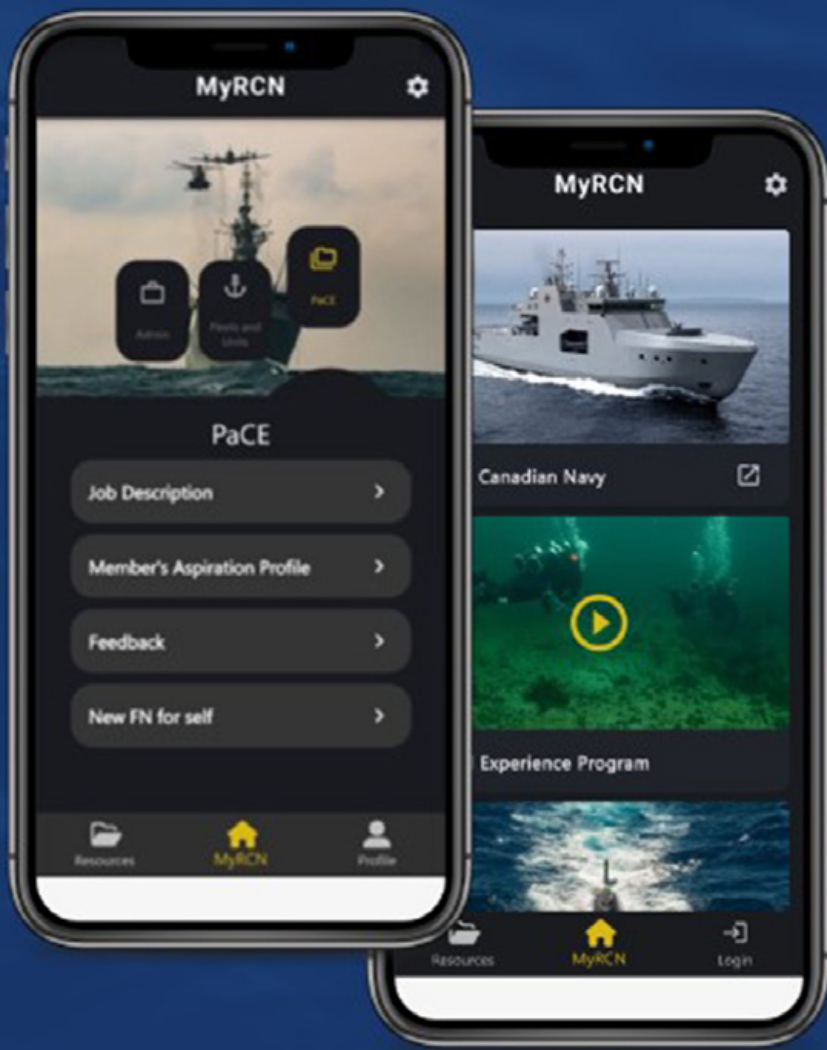
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Located on the on the grounds of HMCS *Prevost*, the monument's 1.8-meter tall metal panels will have the names of the fallen sailors. A key aspect of the project also involves the leveraging virtual technology and educational program to bring the life stories of sailors and Battle of Atlantic history. It will allow visitors to access information on their mobile devices.

"The stories won't just include facts and figures but the story of what it was like to be at sea in a Canadian Corvette or during convoy duty and protecting merchant ships trying to cross the cold dark Atlantic Ocean," says Honourable Captain (Navy) Jeff Topping.





## MyRCN App updated: Easy login and PaCE access

Maple Leaf

Thanks to user feedback the MyRCN mobile App has been updated to make the login process easier and provide access to Performance and Competency Evaluation (PaCE).

Users can now login using their D365 / Teams account, an improvement over the previous GCKey login, which users found cumbersome.

The PaCE feature allows users to input Job Descriptions, acknowledge Feedback Notes, and update one's Member Aspiration Profile.

Introduced in May 2023, MyRCN provides all Canadian Armed Forces members access to leave request submissions, fleet schedules, and availability reports for Naval Reservists.

**The MyRCN team are working on adding more features in the future, such as:**

- Career Notifications;
- Digital In and Out-Routine;
- Opportunity Manager;
- On Job Performance Record (OJPR) access;
- Career notifications will alert members about upcoming courses, postings, and profile status changes.

The Opportunity Manager feature will enable authorized personnel to create tailored job opportunities using filters like:

- MOS ID;
- qualifications; and
- courses.

OJPR integration is being explored to facilitate member access and supervisor signatures.

Your input is highly valuable and actively used to improve the App, so please continue to submit reviews.

Feedback can be provided directly from within the App, or at [myrcn.support@forces.gc.ca](mailto:myrcn.support@forces.gc.ca).

**Stay tuned for updates on these features later this year!**

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## CAF Systemic Racism *Notice of Proposed Settlement*

### Federal Court agrees to proposed notice of the CAF Systemic Racism class action lawsuit

On April 2, the Federal Court approved the notice of a proposed settlement of a class action for current and former members of the Canadian Armed Forces (CAF) who experienced racial discrimination and/or racial harass-

ment in connection with their military service.

The proposed settlement provides individual payments, the option to participate in a restorative engagement process, and other systemic relief measures to improve the organizational culture and systems within the CAF with the objective of addressing and eliminating racial discrimination and racial harassment in the CAF.

A hearing to determine if the proposed settlement is fair, reasonable, and in the best interest of the Class Members is scheduled for July 16 in Halifax, N.S.

To learn more about the proposed settlement agreement, call 902-420-3322.

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## From CNTG to CSNMG2

A Big Step on a Journey of letters and numbers



(Left) Leonard Handley, Major (Maj) Harold Handley's father, and Tyler Handley, Maj Handley's son (right), had the honour of promoting Maj Handley to current rank on June 14 at Naval Training Group Headquarters at Work Point. Commander Darren Sleen, Commander NTG, presided over the ceremony.



(Left) Violet Ouellette, Commander (Cdr) Robert Ouellette's mother, and Regan Thexton, Cdr Ouellette's wife (right), had the honour of promoting Cdr Ouellette to current rank on June 14 at Naval Training Group (NTG) Headquarters at Work Point. Cdr Darren Sleen, Commander NTG, presided over the ceremony.



(L-R) Jackson, Meghan, Nathaniel and Commodore Matthew Coates with presiding officer Rear-Admiral Chris Robinson. Photo: Michael McWhinnie

By NTG PA

"This is a fairly uncommon event, to have the honour of promoting someone to the rank of Commodore (Cmdre) within our Formation," said Rear-Admiral (RAdm) Christopher Robinson, Commander MARPAC.

RAdm Robinson was addressing a small gathering of Naval Training Group (NTG) personnel, family, and friends of Cmdre Matthew Coates who were gathered at Work Point's Gun Room for his promotion ceremony on June 17.

Cmdre Coates served as NTG's Commanding Officer from 2021 until a few weeks ago when he relinquished command to prepare for his next assignment as Commander

Standing NATO Maritime Group 2 (SNMG2).

RAdm Robinson commended Cmdre Coates for his professional attributes and underscored how his new rank reflected a deepening responsibility for institutional leadership.

"As I look around this room, I am humbled by the realization of how so many people contributed to my professional growth over the past decades," said Cmdre Coates. He recognized several people by name and concluded by expressing gratitude for his family's support.

"As the Admiral stated moments ago, I may be moving on to a dream job but that also comes at a cost," he said while looking to his two sons Nathaniel and Jackson, and wife Commander Meghan Coates. "Your

understanding, resilience and your love are the foundation that supports everything I do."

RAdm Robinson invited the two boys to come forward to install their father's new rank and after a few moments of trial and error with the mechanics of the shoulder boards, the former captain officially became Commodore Matthew Coates.

Based in the Mediterranean Sea, SNMG2 is one of four Standing Naval Forces that operate under NATO Allied Maritime Command. The Government of Canada recently announced the departure from Halifax of HMCS *Charlottetown* who will join and assume flagship duties for SNMG2 as part of Operation REASSURANCE for the next six months.



Commander Brad Henderson presents Matthew Kerr with a CANSUBFOR HQ certificate recognizing his service. With deepest thanks for his hard work in communications during the past five months with CANSUBFOR. Congratulations on your graduation!

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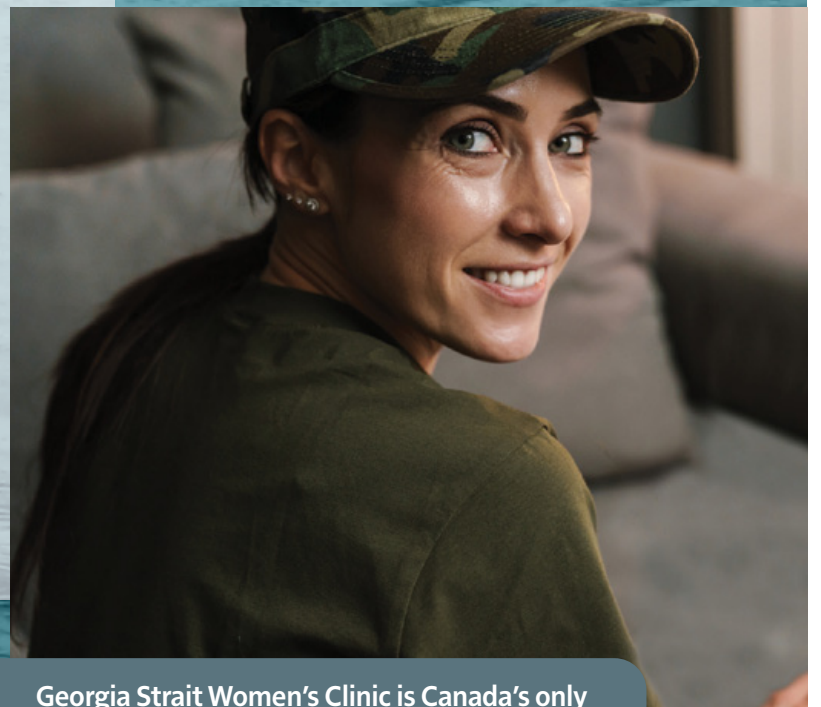
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