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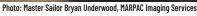
• CANADIAN MILITARY'S TRUSTED NEWS SOURCE FOR 82 YEARS •













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CELEBRATING 82 YEARS





#### A/SLt Andrew Dagg

**HMCS Calgary** 

Celebrating 30 years of service is no small feat for a vessel. As such, the crew of His Majesty's Canadian Ship (HMCS) *Calgary* hosted a series of events to unite local communities.

This year has been monumental for HMCS *Calgary*, with its return from refit at the end of May and its 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary festivities in June. *Calgary* and its crew celebrated the ship's history, strengthened community relationships in Esquimalt, and acknowledged their own hard work in supporting the ship's return from refit.

To begin the exciting weekend was the Paris Sahlen Memorial Golf Tournament, in honour of Paris Sahlen as the Honourary Coxswain of HMCS *Calgary* for the relationship he was able to both build and foster between the ship and its namesake city. Members of Sahlen's family attended and participated in the tournament, alongside members of the ship's crew, City of Calgary delegates, and community members.

Following the tournament was a tour of Canadian Forces Base (CFB) Esquimalt's Dockyard for guests and volunteers. This tour showcased HMCS *Max Bernays*, Patrol Craft Training Unit (Pacfic) training vessels, Fleet Maintenance Facility (Cape Breton), and the

CFB Esquimalt Naval and Military Museum. Through their time at Dockyard, guests gained a greater appreciation for the employment and training opportunities available to the Pacific Team members. They also experienced the hard work of those in engineering, maintenance, and other supporting roles. Additionally, the tour at the CFB Esquimalt Naval and Military Museum provided time for the guests and volunteers to appreciate RCN history while also contextualizing the significance of HMCS Calgary's 30 years of service.

Hosted at the Gunroom, the Saturday Barn Burner event featured food, drink, and various activities including live music, family-friendly activities, and even a surprise White Hat Ceremony where special guests and City of Calgary delegates presented classic Smithbilt White Hats to some of the ship's crew.

Sunday brought a traditional Stampede-style pancake breakfast at Ogden Point that drew the attention of hundreds of community members. Tours of HMCS *Vancouver* allowed visitors to experience what it is like for the sailors in their community to live, work, and sleep aboard a Canadian warship. Rigid Hulled Inflatable Boat (RHIB) rides were also available and a big attraction for visitors, who loved exploring Victoria Harbour with a unique perspective of the city. Younger visitors were also engaged with face

painting, bouncy castles, and popular fire truck tours provided by CFB Esquimalt Fire Rescue.

Following the weekend, HMCS *Vancouver* continued their support of *Calgary*'s anniversary with a day sail for guests. Importantly, the exemplary support from the *Vancouver* and its crew highlighted the strong community of the West Coast Fleet and the RCN. Heartfelt thanks to all those that participated or supported the successful celebratory weekend of Calgary's 30th anniversary. Onward!



Top inset: A Royal Canadian Navy sailor builds connections with a young civilian dressed in an Esquimalt Fire uniform. Photo supplied. Members of HMCS Calgary pose at Ogden Point, Victoria on 15 May 2025. Photo Credit: Sailor 2nd Class Jordan Schilstra, MARPAC Imaging Services







Rear-Admiral (RAdm) David Patchell (right) assumed command from RAdm Christopher Robinson (left) of Maritime Forces Pacific and Joint Task Force Pacific during a ceremony on August 5, at Canadian Forces Base Esquimalt. The ceremony was presided over by Vice-Admiral Angus Topshee (centre), Commander of the Royal Canadian Navy. Photo supplied

### A/SLt Do Hyun Kim

HMCS Regina

Maritime Forces Pacific (MARPAC) held a Change of Command Ceremony (CoC) on August 5 at Canadian Forces Base (CFB) Esquimalt's Duntze Head, marking the transfer of leadership from Rear-Admiral (RAdm) Christopher Robinson to RAdm David Patchell.

The ceremony included a land acknowledgement from Mary Ann Thomas on behalf of the Defence Aboriginal Advisory Group (DAAG), music by the Naden Band of the Royal Canadian Navy (RCN), and a speech from Lieutenant-Colonel (LCol) James McCorriston, Formation Chaplain. Additionally, Vice-Admiral Angus

Topshee, commander of the RCN, RAdm Robinson, and RAdm Patchell each gave formal addresses to the audience.

RAdm Robinson became the commander of MARPAC and Joint Task Force Pacific (JTFP) in May 2022. His leadership through the challenges of the COVID-19 pandemic sustained critical domestic and international operations. He oversaw Operation (Op) LENTUS along with the Canadian Armed Forces' (CAF) nationwide natural disaster relief efforts. Internationally, RAdm Robinson directed deployments across Ops PROJECTION, NEON, HORIZON, RENDER SAFE, CARIBBE, and LIMPID. Under his command, HMCS Max Bernays was commissioned and integrated into the Canadian

Pacific Fleet as the first Harry DeWolf-class vessel on the West Coast. HMCS Protecteur was also integrated to enhance fleet support.

"As I pass the watch, I do so with immense pride in what we have accomplished together," said RAdm Robinson in his farewell message. "Thank you for your service, your sacrifice, and your steadfast commitment to Canada and each other."

Following his address to the audi-



ence, RAdm Robinson's flag was hauled down, signifying the end of his command. RAdm Robinson will be taking up his new role as the Deputy Vice Chief of Defense Staff in Ottawa.

RAdm Patchell began his naval career in 1993 as an Ordinary Seaman at HMCS Carleton and trained as a surface warfare officer. He has served aboard HMC Ships Huron, Algonquin, Vancouver, Halifax, St. Johns, Athabaskan, Iroquois, and as Commanding Officer (CO) of HMCS Toronto during a Middle East deployment that earned a United States Navy Meritorious Unit Commendation. In summer 2022, RAdm Patchell was appointed as Vice-Commander of the U.S. 2nd Fleet, in Norfolk, Virginia.

Following the signing of the CoC certificates and the breaking of his distinguished flag, RAdm Patchell assumed command of MARPAC after 22 years away from Esquimalt.

In his formal address, RAdm Patchell said, "There is no doubt that Canada needs a strong navy to defend our nation, to work with Americans to defend North America, and to support our allies on the global stage.'

With RAdm Patchell also sharing ongoing investment into the Royal Canadian Navy's (RCN) River-class destroyers, Harry DeWolf-class, Protecteur-class, and submarine fleets, the future of the Canadian Defence Team continues to shine bright.



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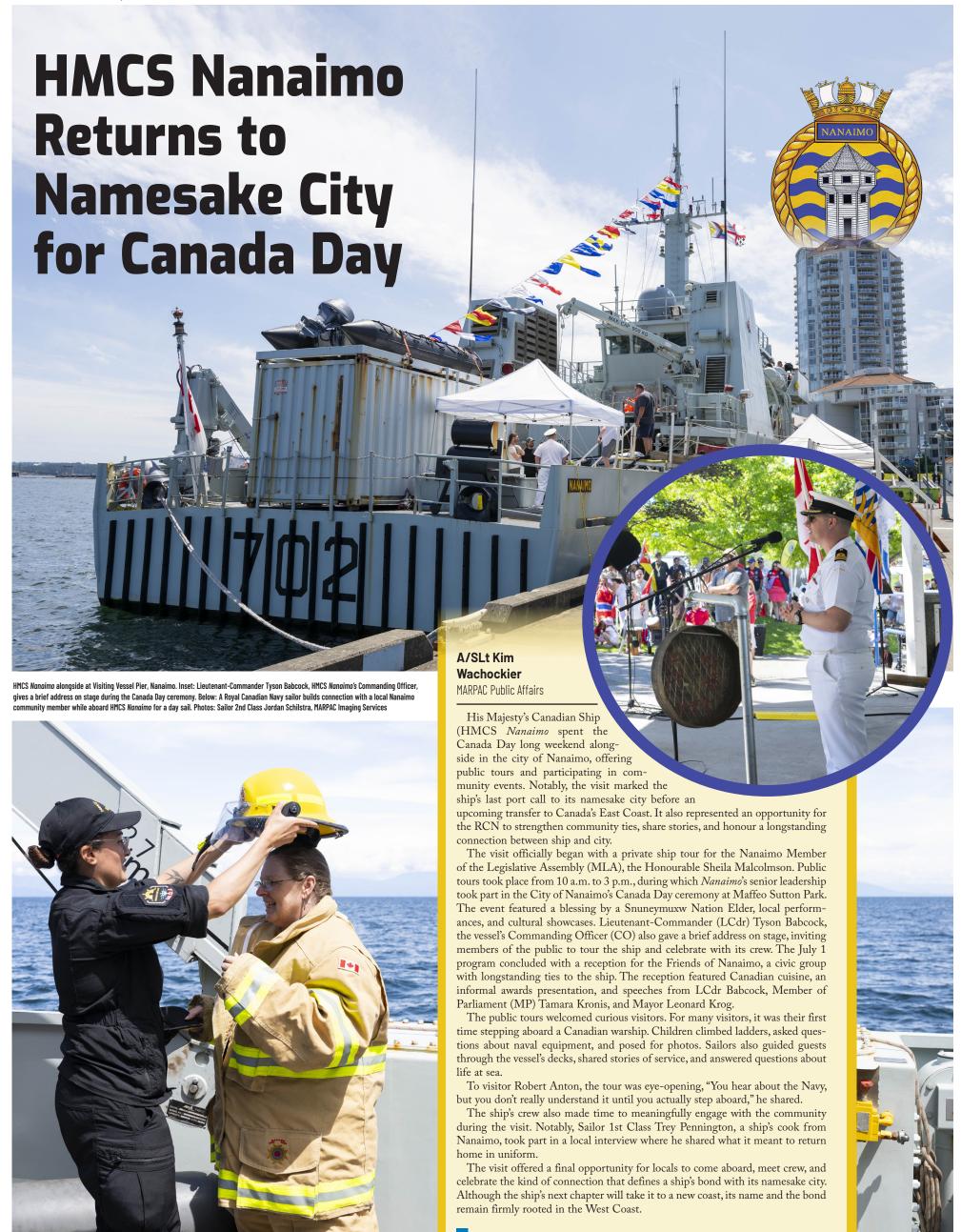
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Commander (Cdr) Justin Simmons, Captain(Navy) Samuel Patchell and Cdr Landon Creasy sign the Change of Command certificates. Photo Credit: Sailor 3rd Class Jacob Saunders, MARPAC Imaging Services



# **HMCS Ottawa Observes Change of Command Ceremony**

**Consolidated by Archana Cini** 

Lookout Newspaper

On July 9, His Majesty's Canadian Ship (HMCS) *Ottawa* held a Change of Command (CoC) ceremony at Canadian Forces Base (CFB) Esquimalt.

Presided over by Captain(Navy) Samuel Patchell, Commander of Canadian Fleet Pacific, the ceremony marked the official handover

of leadership from Commander (Cdr) Landon Creasy to Cdr Justin Simmons. The ceremony also included formal addresses by Captain (Navy) Patchell, Cdr Creasy, Cdr Simmons, and Lieutenant (Navy) Alistair Turkington; a parade by members of the *Ottawa*; and the reading of the command plaque gifted to Cdr Simmons.

Thank you for your service, Cdr Creasy, and welcome back to HMCS *Ottawa*, Cdr Simmons!



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The Lookout Newspaper and Publishing provides morale and welfare news to CFB Esquimalt, Maritime Forces Pacific, and is nationally distributed bi-weekly in print and online at lookoutnewspaper.com with social media updates on Facebook, Instagram, and LinkedIn.

Reach out to us, we'd love to hear your feedback and story ideach

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# Tritons Grappling Team Hosts Successful Consolidated by Archana Cini Lookout Newspaper On July 12, the Tritons grappling

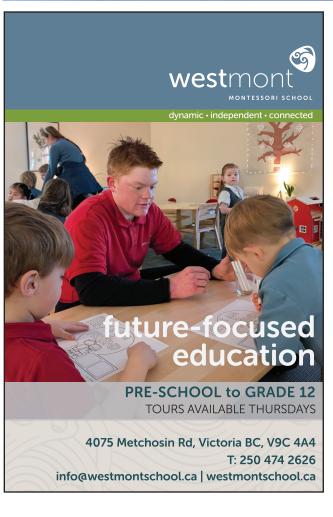
On July 12, the Tritons grappling team hosted their second annual summer charity event in support of Soldier On, a Canadian Armed Forces (CAF) program that contributes to the recovery of ill and injured CAF members and veterans.

This year's event saw the team trade a tournament format for a 90-minute rollathon. Team members cycled through 90 minutes of four-minute grappling rounds, with only 30-second breaks to rotate partners. Notably, many senior team members rolled, grappled, and wrestled for the entirety of the rollathon's duration.

The rollathon also tied directly into the Tritons' three-tier mission: to stay safe and have fun; leverage martial arts to support charitable causes; and create opportunities for new partnerships and learning. Over \$800 was raised for Soldier On, with medals awarded to all participants. Since grappling's official recognition as a CAF sport since 2019, the Tritons have been building community within the local Martial Arts space.

Thank you to the Tritons Grappling Team supporter and sponsor, Crusher Combat Sports.







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#### **Archana Cini**

Lookout Newspaper

Strategically complex waterways, tight channels, and high-traffic zones create challenging navigation — and important training conditions for members of the Canadian Naval Reserve (NAVRES).

In July, the Gulf and San Juan Islands functioned as a classroom for NAVRES sailors to develop their skills during a Naval Warfare Officer (NWO) Basic Pilotage Sea Phase. Offered by the Royal Canadian Navy (RCN), this course gives students critical exposure to demanding pilotage challenges. It blends academic instruction with hands-on training to prepare students for the realities of naval operations at sea.

Lieutenant-Commander (LCdr) Evan Park, OIC, was inspired by the crew's enthusiasm and dedication to teamwork. "Every student sailor showed a real eagerness to learn, contribute, and grow together as a crew over the two-week sea phase," he said. "I was genuinely

Petty Officer Second Class (PO2) Benjamin Lenner echoed Park's feelings. "Having the opportunity to lead, support, and develop junior leaders was a privilege. The students and support staff alike worked to ensure an excellent training environment. Great memories and friends

This year's sea phase was unique as it was staffed entirely by NAVRES personnel. Notably, it provided opportunities for the crew to work through training packages while also supporting Bridge

A major highlight was the Formation Navigation exercise, which took training vessels from Bedwell Harbour through Plumper Sound, Navy Channel, and Active Pass. Normally reserved for senior Fleet Navigating Officer candidates, this scenario pushed students to apply advanced navigation skills under pressure. The sail also included an overnight nested anchorage west of Montague Harbour on Galiano Island, and a camaraderie-building swim exercise, better known as a SWIMEX, to the crew.

By the time the crew returned to shore, they were not only more qualified but also more connected — to their peers, their careers, and

Commander (Cdr) Stephen Churm, Assistant Chief of Staff for NAVRES N7, Training Development and Readiness highlighted the ongoing effort to build critical capabilities. "The Naval Reserve remains committed to force generating sea-going officers to augment the fleet. In September, one-third of these reservists will put civilian employment or studies on hold to continue their training onboard ships. Reserve Force NWOs can be found in leadership positions at sea and ashore both domestically and around the world.

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# **CFB Esquimalt** Bids Farewell to **Base Administration Commanding Officer**



"In steadfast trust, as shipmates true, we serve with honour in all we do."

– Cdr Nicolas Bruzzone

## **Archana Cini**

Lookout Newspaper

In steadfast trust, as shipmates true,

From a poetry reading to lighthearted memories, Canadian Forces Base (CFB) Esquimalt's Change of Command (CoC) ceremony for the Commanding Officer (CO) of the Base Administration (BAdm) Branch was one to

The CoC was held on July 23 at Work Point's Nixon Gym. Presided over by Captain(Navy) Kevin Whiteside, Commander (Cdr) of CFB Esquimalt Base, command was passed from outgoing CO, Cdr Nicolas Bruzzone, to incoming CO, Cdr Donna Crosman.

The ceremony united military and civilian members of the Defence Team, along with family, to both honour Cdr Bruzzone's service and celebrate Cdr Crosman's arrival.

Cdr Bruzzone's career reflects both global reach and local leadership, with time served in Canada, Chile, and at sea. A logistician, he has supported Canadian naval operations and base needs and wellbeing of our people. The work functions for nearly two decades.

"Over my tenure, I laughed with many of you, got to know some of you, and cried with a few nourishment to sharing spiritual guidance and of you," said Cdr Bruzzone during his speech. building community." 

Cdr Bruzzone Through Every Storm (see left) his branch's solemn commitment to duty and

To Cdr Bruzzone, some of his most note-BAdm CO includes: implementing a genuine, Newspaper and Creative Services.

with Esquimalt's BAdm Branch as he passes oured to keep her focus on people. command, Cdr Bruzzone said, "Thank you for your commitment and tireless effort towards the

each of you does is sacred, seen, and appreciated — from managing information and providing

Esquimalt, where he will serve as the Formation During the ceremony a poem composed by Logistics Officer at MARPAC headquarters.

To Cdr Crosman, serving at CFB Esquimalt was recited and illustrated his sentiment on as Commanding Officer will fulfil a lifelong

"It will be a privilege to serve, with this role allowing me to continue to do some incredible worthy accomplishments during his time as work," said Cdr Crosman. She also acknowledged the sacrifices made by military families. people-first mindset; reopening the Wardroom Born into a military family and raised on milgalley for meals; and modernizing the Lookout itary bases across Canada, Cdr Crosman has served in the RCN since 2002. As the incoming When asked what he would like to leave CO of the BAdm branch, Cdr Crosman is hon-



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From July 21 to 31, candidates of the Naval Experience Program (NEP), Naval Fleet School Pacific's Marine Systems Engineers (MSE) Division, were hard at work in the woodshop, building both skills and cutting boards.

Students learned to make informed decisions, observe proper tool setup, and practise jointing and biscuit-joining hardwood while crafting their boards. The workshop also served as a bridge to improving technical proficiency and preparing for future dockside trade environments.

Woodworking is a highly transferable skill that mirrors many challenges in marine trades, including material management, tool safety, planning and measurement, and precision.





An NEP candidate from the Naval Fleet School Pacific's Marine Systems Engineers (MSE) Division receives instruction on proper woodworking technique and tool setup.





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(Left to Right) Lieutenant-Commander (LCdr) Bucky Branscombe, Captain(Navy) Samuel Patchell, and LCdr Tyson Babcock sign the Change of Command paperwork while on board HMCS Nanaimo



# **HMCS Nanaimo Welcomes New Commanding Officer**

**Consolidated by Archana Cini** 

Lookout Newspaper

A Change of Command (CoC) ceremony was observed on July 4 for the role of Commanding Officer of His Majesty's Canadian Ship (HMCS) Nanaimo.

Conducted aboard Nanaimo at Canadian Forces Base (CFB) Esquimalt, the ceremony saw command of the vessel pass from Lieutenant-Commander (LCdr) Tyson Babcock to LCdr Bucky Branscombe. The ceremony concluded with a meaningful farewell, with sailors aboard HMCS Nanaimo waving their caps as LCdr Babcock was transported ashore on a rigid-hulled inflatable boat.

Thank you, LCdr Babcock, for your service, and welcome aboard, LCdr Branscombe!













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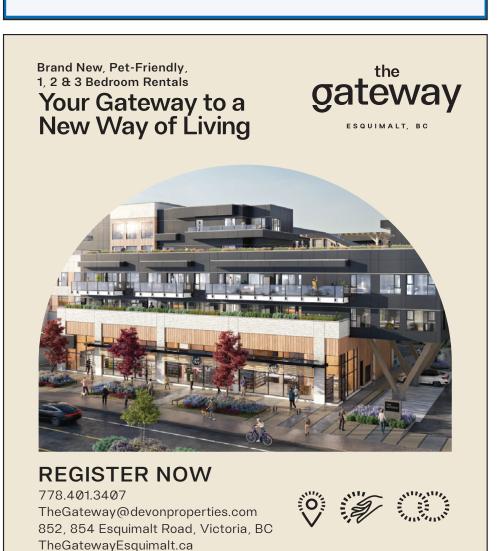
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# RCN to Enhance Maritime Operations with New Uncrewed Aircraft Systems

National Defence / Canadian Armed Forces

The Government of Canada announced the award of two contracts to MDA Space to equip the Royal Canadian Navy (RCN)'s Halifax-class ships with up to six state-of-the-art Uncrewed Aircraft Systems (UAS). The initial acquisition contract for two UAS is valued at approximately \$39 million (including taxes), and the initial in-service support contract has an estimated value of \$27 million (including taxes) for a period of five years (and could be extended up to 20 years). These UAS will enhance the RCN's ability to conduct long-range surveillance and targeting operations.

The award of these contracts to MDA Space is important for the continued development of Canada's defence industry. The two new contracts have the potential to contribute \$18 million annually to Canada's gross domestic product (GDP) and create or maintain 145 jobs annually to the Canadian economy over a 20-year period.

This investment, part of the Intelligence, Surveillance, Target Acquisition, and Reconnaissance Uncrewed Aircraft Systems (ISTAR-UAS) project, marks the first time the RCN will operate and support a Class-2 UAS. The project will cover acquisition, integration, and long-term in-service support. Initial operational capability is anticipated in 2028, with full operational capability expected in 2032.

These new systems will significantly enhance the RCN's ability to detect and monitor potential threats, both at home and abroad. By extending the Navy's situational awareness and operational reach, the advanced technology of the RCN-ISTAR UAS will support Canada's naval missions by providing the RCN with critical expertise in uncrewed systems and intelligence, surveillance and reconnaissance operations, and reinforce Canada's commitment to modern, adaptable, and effective naval defence.

"The Royal Canadian Navy's...Uncrewed Aircraft Systems capability is vital in safeguarding Canada's maritime interests. These advanced systems extend our reach, enhance our situational awareness, and strengthen our ability to respond to emerging threats – both at home and abroad."

- The Honourable David McGuinty, Minister of National Defence

# **QUICK FACTS**

- In support of Canada's defence policy, Our North, Strong and Free, the RCN ISTAR UAS
  procurement aligns with investment initiatives focused on integrating advanced surveillance
  and sensor technologies, enhancing ISTAR capabilities, and acquiring uncrewed systems to
  extend operational reach and reduce risk to personnel.
- Existing Halifax-class ship sensors, including the CH-148 Cyclone (Maritime Helicopter), will continue to provide ISTAR data-gathering capabilities until the project is able to deliver an UAS for use by the RCN.
- Canada's Industrial and Technological Benefits Policy applies to this project and will require
  that MDA Space provide business activities and make targeted investments to the Canadian
  aerospace and defence sector equal to the value of the contracts awarded.



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SUITE FOR RENT: 1 bed, 1 bath furnished suite in Esquimalt, B.C. \$1800 + utilities. Available Sept 1, 2025. Private laundry, Close to CFB Esquimalt. No pets, no smoking. Contact Peter at 250-580-6252, Petevanb@gmail.com for more information and photos.

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Port & Puzzle Riddle Answers: 1: A knot; 2: Naval Signal Flags

# Port & Puzzle

Episode 03, August RIDDLES

Welcome back to Port and Puzzle - your monthly moment of naval and West Coast fun. In this episode, we're serving up three simple naval riddles to test your wit. To play, simply read the riddles below and decipher the answer. Stumped? Answers can be found on the bottom of this page under the Classifieds.



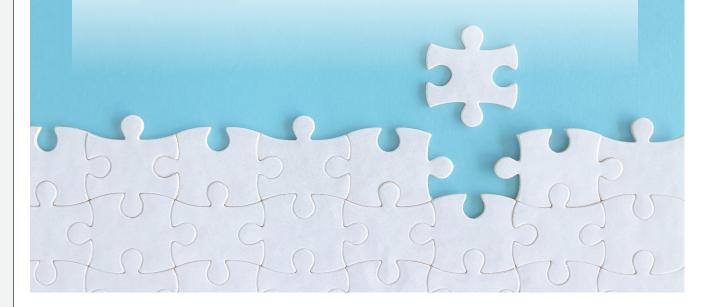
You won't find me on your finger or toe, But I measure how fast your ship will go. Not in miles, nor feet, nor leagues -What term is used for nautical speed?



I don't speak French or English clear, But flashing lights or flags appear. What language needs no voice to cry -Yet sends our message through the sky?



Up in the air, yet not a plane, From mast I hang in sun or rain. At sunrise sharp, at sunset gone -What shows the ship it carries on?





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# Royal Canadian Navy to Pay Off Kingston-class vessels

National Defence

In the fall of 2025, the Royal Canadian Navy (RCN) will begin paying off the Kingston-class Maritime Coastal Defence Vessels (MCDVs).

The term "paying off" refers to the British practice of paying a crew their wages once a ship has completed its voyage. In the RCN, the tradition continues with the term paying off referring to the formal ceremony where the naval jack, ensign, and commissioning pennant are hauled down, the crew departs a ship for the last time, and the ship is then no longer referred to as His Majesty's Canadian Ship (HMCS).

This fall, eight of the twelve Kingston-class ships will be paid off during formal naval ceremonies to recognize and celebrate their long and distinguished service. These ceremonies will take place in Halifax for HMC Ships Shawinigan, Summerside, Goose Bay, Glace Bay and Kingston. Ceremonies in Esquimalt will be held for HMC Ships Saskatoon, Whitehorse and Brandon.

The RCN's four remaining operational Kingston-class vessels will consolidate under Canadian Fleet Atlantic in Halifax, N.S. As such, HMCS Moncton will remain based in Halifax, HMC Ships Yellowknife and Edmonton recently transferred to the east coast, and HMCS Nanaimo will transit to Halifax later this year. This will support current operational commitments, and efficient maintenance and crewing of the remaining Kingston-class vessels and the broader RCN float.

While looking forward to the introduction of new, modern warships to its fleet, the RCN has a robust plan in place to facilitate this transition, while maintaining excellence in training and operational capability. There is no loss of capability for the RCN as a result of the divestment of the Kingston-class – their missions and tasks will be redistributed to other existing ships and assets, and taken on by new platforms, capabilities and systems being introduced by the RCN.

"Kingston-class vessels have provided the Royal Canadian Navy with a significant, impactful, and flexible capability throughout their many years of service. As we move towards the future of the Royal Canadian Navy, I want to recognize the service of these ships and extend my tremendous gratitude to all who have sailed within them."

- Vice-Admiral Angus Topshee, Commander, Royal Canadian Navy

# **QUICK FACTS**

- MCDVs have deployed on Operation (Op) CARIBBE in the Eastern Pacific and Caribbean, Op PROJECTION in West Africa, Op REASSURANCE in European waters, and on multiple domestic operations across Canada's three oceans.
- MCDVs are multi-role minor war vessels with a primary mission of coastal surveillance and patrol including general naval operations and exercises, search and rescue, law enforcement, resource protection and fisheries patrols.
- By transitioning from a platform-centric approach
  to the delivery of maritime capability, the RCN
  will continue to fill the roles previously performed
  by the Kingston-class. To continue investing in our
  sailors, the training role of the Kingston-class will be
  assumed by an expanded fleet of Orca-class vessels.
- The remaining Kingston-class vessels will be gradually paid off in the years ahead. HMCS Yellowknife is set to be paid off in 2026, followed by HMCS Edmonton in 2027 and finally HMC Ships Moncton and Nanaimo in 2028.



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