

May 25, 2021

Greetings Trustees:

RE: **2021 Annual General Meeting – Canadian Naval Memorial Trust**

I hope this letter finds each and everyone of you healthy and coping well with the impact of COVID-19 restrictions, wherever you may be found. It is that time of year again and our Annual General Meeting (AGM) is quickly approaching. For the second year in a row we will be adjusting our format to hold the meeting virtually via ZOOM. The AGM will take place at 1400 (ADT) on June 26, 2021.

I am hopeful you will be able to attend and ask that you call our Trust Office at (902) 492-1424, or contact Debbie Findlay by email at sectreas@canadasnavalmemorial.ca to indicate your intention to join the meeting. We will reply to you by email in advance of the meeting and provide the computer link to join, as well as the meeting ID and password. We expect the host waiting room to be active at least 15 minutes before the AGM begins. Should you experience difficulty joining the meeting or need to join later than the promulgated start time, please inform us by email. We will do our best to resolve any issues and ensure we are attentive to the time you expect to join. As with all virtual meetings please be patient in the event we experience unforeseen technical difficulties.

This has been a big year for the Trust as we completed the most significant refit HMCS *Sackville* has undergone in decades. Hopefully, most of you have had the opportunity to follow the progress of the ship in refit through our website and/or many of the social media networks we are actively engaged with. In effect, we have provided a new lease on life for the ship by addressing significant deterioration of the hull in the fulfillment of our mandate to preserve HMCS *Sackville*, tell her story, and commemorate for years to come, the accomplishments of the Royal Canadian Navy, of those who served and sacrificed, and of those who continue to serve. However, although the refit has bought us valuable time, the repairs implemented will only get us so far. In the longer term, the hull will need to be completely replaced and, in so doing, will require the Trust to turn its focus to this major undertaking.

I am pleased to report that notwithstanding the restrictions on public access associated with COVID-19, HMCS *Sackville* has nevertheless enjoyed a resurgence in popularity due to the miracle of social media and, in particular, the interest shown by the public in our refit. We also had the honour to appear before the House of Commons Standing Committee on Veterans' Affairs (ACVA) in support of their study on Commemoration in the 21st Century. As stated to ACVA,

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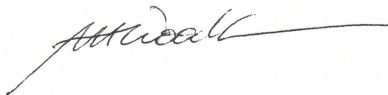
“ HMCS *Sackville*, represents, and is a reminder of what Canadians, from all walks of life, from all regions of the country can do in times of peril. From the builders in Canadian shipyards, to the families that were so tragically affected, HMCS *Sackville* still resonates as a pillar of our collective national history, we must ensure that legacy endures”. Most recently we participated in the inaugural Tri-City, Convoy Bell Ringing Ceremony, held virtually between Londonderry, St John’s, and Halifax. We had the honour, to have Master Mariner and World War II Merchant Navy veteran, Captain Earle Wagner, age 97, ring the Halifax Bell.

The accompanying package (electronic and paper) includes the agenda, audited financial statements, last year’s AGM draft minutes and the normal donation form. The form can be either scanned and emailed, mailed to the address above, or a donation can be made directly through the web site or by e-transfer. Should you have any questions after you review the enclosed documents, please email them to Debbie and we will either email our answer or address the question during the AGM. Likewise, should you have any questions, suggestions, or observations about Action Stations, please let us know and we will strive to provide a response. There will be opportunities to ask questions during the meeting as well.

In closing, I would be remiss if I didn’t acknowledge the professionalism, dedication, and amazing work by so many behind the scenes from the ship’s company to HMC Dockyard and Fleet Maintenance Facility Cape Scott, to outside contractors and the countless volunteers who have given of their time, expertise, and pocketbook to support the Trust. Simply put, our success this past year would not have been possible without you. Thank-you.

I look forward to seeing you at the AGM. In the meantime, stay strong, and stay safe.

Yours Aye,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Bill Woodburn", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Bill Woodburn,
Captain (Navy) OMM, CD, RCN (Ret’d)
Chair
Canadian Naval Memorial Trust