We had a very good turnout for our April General Meeting with the pleasant weather and the return of members from their vacation lands. We were very pleased to welcome Les Karaganis, our Honourary Member who is 103 years of age. What a fabulous man to talk with and to be in his company.

Our attendance at the Titanic dinner was well received as First Class passengers and everyone looked very tiddely in their finest. A Well Done goes to Buck Cannon, our Entertainment Chairman for the arrangement of the tickets and placings.

We will be present for the Battle of the Atlantic ceremony in Point Pleasant Park again this year and we anticipate a good showing of our membership.

The delivery of our coins has been delayed a bit and we will answer all requests as soon as feasible. If you have ordered a license plate and coins, we will ship the articles together so as to save the cost of double shipping. Orders for license plates only are being filled at this time.

Summer dress is optional as of May 7, 2012.

Quote of the Month: “Age is a state of mind, not a measure of time.”
**Sick & Visiting Committee Report**

*Chair – Albert Bishop (902) 469-2829*

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Location</th>
<th>Committee Chair</th>
<th>Contact Phone</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Bridgewater</td>
<td>Doc Halliday</td>
<td>(902) 685-2342</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fishermans Memorial</td>
<td>Maurice Legault</td>
<td>(902) 527-2912</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Liverpool</td>
<td>Larry Truelove</td>
<td>(902) 354-2901</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Shelburne,</td>
<td>Fred Molyneau</td>
<td>(902) 875-4271</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Truro</td>
<td>Joe Fillion</td>
<td>(902) 662-2459</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Annapolis Royal and Valley</td>
<td>Doug Moore</td>
<td>(902) 638-8700</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Windsor &amp; Area</td>
<td>Spike Sullivan</td>
<td>(902) 798-3580</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Middleton</td>
<td>George Thomson</td>
<td>(902) 847-3308</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>St. John's, NF</td>
<td>Ron Coles</td>
<td>(709) 834-4751</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Charlottetown, PEI</td>
<td>Hari Boggs</td>
<td>(902) 368-2248</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Petit de Grat &amp; Isle Madam</td>
<td>Robbie Roberts</td>
<td>226-3476</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Moncton, NB</td>
<td>Carl (Pete) Petersen</td>
<td>(506) 384-8984</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Quebec Area</td>
<td>Frank Cholette</td>
<td>(450) 699 6770</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Montreal</td>
<td>Frank Cholette</td>
<td>(450) 699 6770</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Roxboro, QC</td>
<td>George Heaven</td>
<td>(514) 684 3577</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Brockville &amp; Area</td>
<td>Rev. Paul Gordon</td>
<td>(613) 865 8378</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Omemee, ON</td>
<td>George ‘Josh’ Warner</td>
<td>(705) 799-2863</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hamilton, ON - Area</td>
<td>Bill Venator</td>
<td>(289) 239 9394</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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**Camp Hill Veterans Memorial Building**

5955 Veteran’s Memorial Lane, Halifax, NS, B3H 2E1

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Floor</th>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Phone</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>3rd Floor West</td>
<td>Donald Eaglestone - 3221</td>
<td>Leo During - 3126</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>John MacGlashen - 3123</td>
<td>John Hobson - 3224</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4th Floor East</td>
<td>Jack McMahon - 4427</td>
<td>Robert Bowers - 4433</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Thomas Gilford - 4227</td>
<td>Paul Brunelle - 4525</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Annie Cormier - 4423</td>
<td>Robert Sinden - 4533</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4th Floor West</td>
<td>Ernest Finter - 4128</td>
<td>Ralph Russell - 4122</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5th Floor East</td>
<td>Carlton Kearney - 5530</td>
<td>Eric Publicover - 5525</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Hugh McMullin - 5431</td>
<td>Hugh McMullin - 5431</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Mike Salkin - 5522</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Vice Admiral Harry Porter(Retired) - 5523</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>5th Floor West</td>
<td>Arthur Baldwin - 5220</td>
<td>John Lipton - 5130</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Peter Waite - 5121</td>
<td>Bruce Parsons - 5133</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Calvin Farrell - 5221</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6th Floor West</td>
<td>Frank Hansen - 6127</td>
<td>Henry Cooke - 6125</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Gordon Tomlinson - 6124</td>
<td>Alvin Underhill - 6123</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Alvin Underhill - 6130</td>
<td>Wilfred Watts - 6227</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>John Purcell - 6124</td>
<td>Ernest Shellnutt - 6426</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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**Ocean View Manor, 1909 Caldwell Road**

**Eastern Passage NS** B3G 1M4

Fernand (Pedro) Guinard (902) 406 6056

**Soldiers Memorial Hospital, Middleton NS B0S 1P0**

John Reagh Rm. 256   Myrtle Coffill Rm. 264

**Fishermen’s Memorial, Lunenburg NS BOJ 2C0**

Clayton Reinhardt   John James Kinley
Leo Ouellette      John James MacDonald
Roy St. Almo Hirtle

**Oakwood Terrace**

10 Mount Hope Ave. Dartmouth NS  B2Y 4K1
Joseph Hecimovich - Home Phone - (902) 434 5558

**Sunnybrook Veteran’s Hospital, K2C10**

2075 Bayview Ave. Toronto ON  M4N 3M5
James (Tug) Wilson - (416) 488 8550

**Maplestone Enhanced Care, 245 Main Ave. Halifax**

Bill Comeau - (902) 446-4019

**Melville Gardens 11 Ramsgate Lane, Halifax NS**

Jon Dowthwaite - (902) 479 1521

**At Home**

Iris Johnson - (902) 443 7683
Bill Skeffington - (902) 435 3292
Kenneth Peach - (780) 727 2747
Edwin Toombs - (902) 543 7526
James Hamilton - (709) 368 5423
George Whittle - (709) 364 7598
Karl White - (902) 875 4105
Gordon Hawkins - (902) 434 4856
LAST POST
THE FOLLOWING SHIPMATES CROSSED THE BAR RECENTLY

Douglas Andrew Potter 88 CIRM
Smith Falls, ON 02 06 2011
Joseph Williams 80 C2CM
Winnipeg, MB 20 08 2011
William ‘Bill’ Robinson 87 C1WS
Kitchener, ON . 30 03 2012
Ronald ‘Dusty’ Miller 70 PO2
Springfield, NS . 07 04 2012

For though from out our bourn of time and place
The flood may bear me far,
I hope to see my Pilot face to face
When I have crossed the bar.

Alfred, Lord Tennyson

MEMBERSHIP REPORT
Membership Chairman: Ray Harvie (902) 462 7633
E-Mail: r.harvie.home@eastlink.ca

MEMBERSHIP STATISTICS
Charter, Ordinary, Affiliate and Life Members 650
Honourary Members 16
Miscellaneous Members 17
Total Membership 683

NEW MEMBERS
Peter Neville C1ER 0 - 3145 Salt Springs NS

Membership dues are $25 per year

NOTE: I mailed 46 letters out to members who have not responded to our call for 2012 dues. I will not include them in the April Mailing List.

SUBMARINERS’ ASSOCIATION OF CANADA
For information contact:
East (Halifax)—Buster Brown at 902 477-9148
http://www.sacoeast.com
Last Wednesday of every month
in Halifax Dockyard in the MOG-5 Messes
Central (Ottawa)—Bob Wallace, 819 994-4931
http://www.saoc-central.com
West (Victoria) — Jim Scott, 250 370-2359
http://members.shaw.ca/saocwest

Naval Weapons Association (Ottawa Chapter)
Meet: Third Wednesday of the Month HMCS Carleton
Chief’s & PO’s/ WO’s & Sgt’s Mess Dowes Lake
79 Prince of Wales Drive Ottawa
President: Ross Raymond
Vice President: Frank Perry
For Information Contact:
Hazen Harris 613-738-2880, OR
Ross Raymond 613-834-0105 ross.raymond@forces.gc.ca

RCN BENEVOLENT FUND
East 1-902-423-8561 Central 1-888-557-8777
West 1-250-383-6264
The Battle of the Atlantic

The “Battle of the Atlantic”, which lasted 2,075 days, was the longest campaign of the Second World War. It pitted Allied navies against German and Italian naval forces, especially submarines, in a battle to safeguard the essential flow of shipping between North America and Europe.

On any given day 125 merchant vessels were sailing in convoy across the North Atlantic. It was during these treacherous, stormy crossings that Canada’s navy matured and won the mantle of a professional service. Our navy escorted 25,343 merchant vessels across the Atlantic. These ships carried 181,643,180 tons of cargo to Europe — the equivalent of eleven lines of freight cars, each stretching from Vancouver to Halifax. Without these supplies, the war effort would have collapsed.

Although it was largely unprepared for war in 1939, Canada’s navy grew at an unparalleled rate, eventually providing 47 percent of all convoy escorts. Rear Admiral Leonard Murray, Commander-in-Chief North-West Atlantic, who directed convoy battles from Halifax, would become the only Canadian to hold an Allied theatre command during the war.
Les Karaganis

Les was born in Cardiff, Wales on 13 August 1909. He first went to sea in merchant ships in 1923 at age 14 and continued to serve as a merchantman until 11 February 1931 when he came to Canada and joined the R.C.N. Reserves. On 20 December 1932 he transferred to the R.C.N. and served until 13 August 1961. He joined the supply branch as an Ordinary Seaman and came up through the ranks to Chief Petty Officer, later taking a commission and served as Supply Officer in H.M.C.S. Quebec.

Les served in several land bases and eight ships. His H.M.C Ships were Festubert, Champlain, Vancouver (1st), Assiniboine (1st), Fraser (1st), St. Laurent (1st), Warrior, and Quebec.

Les was awarded the MBE (Member of the Order of the British Empire); The CD and Bar (King George VI); War medal (1939-1945); Canadian Volunteer Service Medal (CVSM); Atlantic Star; and 1939-45 Star.

Les will be 103 years old on 13 August, has a sharp mind and has no trouble remembering names and places from times when many of us were not yet born.
What was it like, the thing they call the Battle of the Atlantic? Well... it was many things... like the monotonous route of a bus perhaps, hauling back and forth from the grey seas of Newfoundland to the Irish coast with the waste of the Atlantic between. It was the long night watches when the twisting loneliness shredded your soul and you knew that a thousand souls breathed in the air around you. It was an endless parade of black seas marching across half a world to batter a small black ship. It was shipping paint under the bow of a destroyer and the sting of red oxide spattered in your eyes.

It was four records sung by Vera Lynn played over and over until they became a part of you liked thin fingers of red hair. It was singing “Galway Bay” and “Kevin Barry” in the mess deck and swearing by God and the cook that Derry was the finest place on earth.

It was the wild nights when the seas hammered and the wind groaned and a seaman could sleep knowing that “they” would not bother you that night. And it was the starlit nights when the seas rested and no one slept – waiting. It was the clothing that had been wet for months and the physical aching for a pair of dry socks. It was laughing at the ship’s clown. No matter how many times you had heard the jokes, they renewed themselves with the telling. It was the limp book with glue eaten out by cockroaches and the leaves swelled with sea water so that the pages could not be closed. It was the thin wail of the bosun’s pipe and the smell of raw rum in your nostrils. It was the orange given to you by the tugboat cook and the smell of the peel under your blanket until it became mouldy and had to be thrown away.

It was the flash and the roar of heavy guns and the useless urgency to feed destruction. It was the ragged holes in the engine house left by a plane already out of sight. It was the wonderment of finding that your arms and legs were whole when a thin slice of time away you could not be sure.

It was the a greasy sea littered with bits of plank, cabbage crates, parts of life boats and humped blobs black with bunker oil – a husband, a son or somebody’s brother.

It was three sacks of mail and not one letter had your name. It was two slices of bread and a cup of black tea and an old memory of corn flakes and milk. It was the cardboard can of ice cream scrounged by you winger and shared out like fine gold. It was the bales of frozen sheep’s flesh, burlap wrapped and sprinkled with hair that you knew would be your dinner for many days to come.

It was fighting the spokes of the “wheel” and the ghostly glow of the compass repeater and the rumbling voice of the Old Man down the voice pipe. It was the sudsy wake of a torpedo and the relief as it faded astern.

It was the fog softened mass of Inishtrahull and the knowing that the trip was over; and it was “stand by lines and fenders” and “here we go again” and “why does it always have to be us?”

It was walking past lighted windows of houses and knowing that if you knocked at the door you would be sent away. It was the sight of a woman and the need to have her look your way.

It was long, straight rows of men and women, blue with a touch of white, proud in the sunlight.

It was - was it really so long ago?

(Editor’s note: This article was edited slightly for available space.)

The Canadian Naval Divers Association

11TH Triannual Reunion on the
14th 15th & 16th, SEPTEMBER, 2012.

Sarting with a Meet and Greet in “Y” hanger, fleet diving unit (Atlantic) at CFB Shearwater, at 1200-1800 with a welcome party, late registrations, and the unveiling of our diver memorial plaque with a toast to our departed friends.

Contact person for this upcoming reunion is Andy Desrochers, andyd@eastlink.ca or 1(902) 434-5545

Days of Yore

May 7 1944
HMCS Valleyfield .torpedoed . 125 lost

May 27, 1941
German battleship Bismark sunk

May 8, 1941
V.E. Day . Battle of Atlantic ends

May 21, 1989
HMCS Ojibwa conducts her final sailpast in Halifax
Honour Roll of Age Happy Birthday To All Concerned

Members 90 years and over that age and ladies will have an honourable place in the Golden Memories article.

May 2012:

John Fitzpatrick 81 Saint John, NB 18 – 12
Edgar Gaudet 82 Halifax, NS 20 – 12
Ronald Girard 69 Lake Echo, NS 20 – 12
Rendall Guinchard 79 Dartmouth, NS 29 – 12
Walter Hall 88 Brampton, ON 08 – 12
Edward Leppard 85 Head of Chezzetcook, NS 07 – 12
Ronald Marshall 74 Annapolis Royal, NS 21 – 12
Ronald McCorvie 65 Dauphin, MB
Richard McNair 66 Halifax, NS 18 – 12
Terry Meloche 65 Woodstock, ON 27 – 12

Dennis Norquay 70 Dartmouth, NS 04 – 12
Bert Noyes 79 Lower Sackville, NS 10 – 12
Ken Orchard 85 Halifax, NS 20 – 12
Roy Robertson 87 Lake Echo, NS 22 – 12
David Russell 83 Dartmouth, NS 28 – 12
Donald Smith 88 Whitecourt, AB 06 – 12
Norman Smith 62 Kanata, ON 04 – 12
George Thomson 78 Kingston, NS 13 – 12
Bruce Tobin 85 New Glasgow, NS 29 – 12
Ed Toombs 82 Bridgewater, NS 01 – 12
Tom Walton 75 Coaldale, AB 16 – 12

These figures are taken from application forms when submitted. Discrepancies are to be forwarded to gaylordk@yahoo.com or the Association office 902 446 8001.

If you do not wish to have the date of your birth placed here, please contact me at gaylordk@yahoo.com or 902 446 8001.

Enhancements to the Canadian Forces Long Term Disability Income Replacement Benefits

In line with the New Veterans Charter enhancements announced on 6 October, 2011, Veterans Affairs Canada (VAC) implemented enhancements to its Earnings Loss Benefit (ELB) program for disabled Veterans. Subsequently, the Government of Canada (GoC) recognized that some SISIP LTD clients who left the Canadian Forces when military salaries were much lower than they are today would end up receiving less income support than their peers under the enhanced VAC administered ELB. As such, the Minister of National Defence announced on April 10, 2012 the investment of nearly $113M in FY11/12 to increase the minimum income support for current in-claim SISIP LTD clients.

Since the VAC ELB and CF LTD are intended to mirror each other, this announcement addressed the need to align these two income support programs to ensure that all clients would receive the same benefits under their respective programs.

The enhancements to the CF LTD program allow for an increase to the minimum gross monthly benefit, raising the minimum benefit calculation to 75% of the basic salary rate of a Corporal, which is currently $4,554/month. Previously, the minimum benefit calculation was based on the salary rate of a senior private. In addition, the minimum benefit for the Primary Reserve Force members on short-term class of service who are medically released, or who take a voluntary release but qualify as being totally disabled has increased to 75% of the deemed salary of $2700/month from the previously used $2000/month rate.

The enhanced CF LTD program translates into a minimum pre-tax income of $40,000 a year. Although taxable, during the first year that a CF member becomes a claimant, all the CF LTD premiums paid during a member’s military career can be deducted for tax purposes. Changes to the CF LTD program will not impact the premiums paid by insured CF members.

Under the enhancements to the CF LTD income replacement benefits, up to 2000 beneficiaries will receive compensation retroactive to 3 October 2011.

Goverance

The Treasury Board of Canada has the governance of the plan, SISIP Financial services (SISIP FS) is the administrator, and Manulife Financial is the insurer.

Note: For more information on the SISIP LTD program, please visit the SISIP web page at: http://www.sisip.ca/en/Insurance_e/ltd_e.asp.
Titanic Dinner A first-Class Affair

First-Class passengers:
Photos: Top Left – Entertainment Chairman Buck Cannon and wife Joan;
Top Center – Colin Cummings, Ashley Boudreau, Connie Cummings, Millie Cummings, and James Cummings;
Top Right – Graham McBride and wife Margaret;
Bottom Left – Footwear for the Fancy-free;
Bottom Right – Ladies In Waiting: Yvonne, Cathy, Irene and Michelle.