



# News

CANADIAN NAVAL TECHNICAL HISTORY ASSOCIATION

## CANDIB Project Key Activity for CNTHA

The major activity of the Canadian Naval Technical History Association continues to be the CANDIB historical research project. Thanks to some very energetic volunteers on our committee, the CANDIB project is making great progress in documenting the contribution of naval equipment and ship construction programs to the Canadian industrial base.

An acknowledged aim of CANDIB is to provide a focus for researchers. It has evolved to a data accumulation process, with the intention of making this information available to researchers of all stripes. In the past few months several new documents, artifacts and recordings have been submitted to the Directorate of History and Heritage (DHH). One such submission is a comprehensive document authored by **Jim Williams** that gives an in-depth look at the design houses of naval vessels since the development of the DDH-205 *St. Laurent* class.

In November, DHH archivist **Warren Sinclair** gave the committee a very pertinent presentation on copyright law and how it applies to CANDIB activities. It was noted that researchers are ultimately responsible for abiding by copyright restrictions in their endeavours. Donors of information to the DHH archive may put any restrictions they wish on the documents they provide.

As **Douglas Hearnshaw** writes elsewhere in this issue, the Oral History Project has recently emphasized

the DDH-280 tribal class build program. Interviews were conducted with **VAdm (ret.) Jock Allan**, a former DDH-280 project manager, and with program engineer **Gord Smith**. Admiral Allan donated some highly interesting historical documents about this controversial program, and Gord has written a fascinating personal account of his experiences with the DDH-280 program.

CANDIB now has regional representation on the East and West coasts in the persons of **Roger Chiasson** and **Stirling Ross**, respectively. We are still looking for people who would like to volunteer as interviewers, and of course for people who would like to be interviewed. To give everyone a better idea of what we expect of our regional reps, and of the tasks relating to the Oral History Project, we have included our guidelines for these activities in this issue of *CNTHA News*.

The CANDIB committee has been actively getting the word of our mission out to the maritime community. The CNTHA/CANDIB website is very popular and the photo gallery receives many hits. The website at [www.cntha.ca](http://www.cntha.ca) is continually updated with new information. Feel free to contact us if you care to discuss any aspect of the Canadian Naval Technical History Association's activities.

— **Tony Thatcher**  
CANDIB Committee Chair



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*Update:*

## DDH-280 Tribal-class Destroyer Program Centre Stage for CANDIB Oral History Project

The beginning months of this year have seen the completion of two more interviews, both of them relating to the DDH-280 tribal program. The first was undertaken by **Gordon Smith** on Feb. 1 when he interviewed **Vice-admiral (ret.) Jock Allan**, the project manager for the contractual phase of the DDH-280 program. An informative discussion took place regarding the building and setting-to-work of the four ships at the St. Lawrence shipyards of Marine Industries Ltd. and Davie Shipbuilding Co. Ltd. At the time of this interview, Jock Allan donated to CANDIB his large collection of photographs and papers relating to the building of these ships.

The second interview took place on Feb. 27 when I had the pleasure of interviewing Gordon Smith himself. Gordon was closely involved with the DDH-280 program as a naval engineer developing the preliminary design for the vessels, including the choice of gas turbines for the propulsion equipment. Later, employed by German and Milne and working under a contract from United Aircraft of Canada, he acted as chief engineer during the sea trials and initial setting-to-work of the two MIL (Marine Industries Ltd.) ships. These two interviews add greatly to the growing recorded history of this significant naval shipbuilding program. As with all of our interviews, finalized transcripts will be placed on the CNTHA website for public viewing so that the world will get to read these interesting reminiscences.

There is still a need for additional knowledgeable people to undertake interviews for our Oral History Project. Anyone having either first-hand experience with, or solid historical back-

ground knowledge of government contracting processes or defence industry practices of the day is invited to contact me at (613) 824-7521, or by e-mail at



**Vice-admiral (ret.) Jock Allan (left) being interviewed by Gordon Smith**

dhearnshaw@trytel.com. We are particularly eager to hear from people who might be in a position to conduct interviews on the West Coast.

— **Douglas Hearnshaw**  
**CANDIB Oral History Project**  
**Manager**



*CANDIB Oral History Project:***Criteria and Responsibilities for CANDIB Regional Representatives****Cleaning House?**

The Canadian Naval Technical History Association is working hard at preserving Canada's naval technical heritage. If you are planning to dispose of any unclassified/declassified naval technical documents, drawings, videos, or other material you think might have historical significance, please contact Warren Sinclair, Acting Chief Archivist with the Directorate of History and Heritage in Ottawa. Arrangements will be made to examine your material, and steps will be taken to preserve whatever may be historically significant. Warren Sinclair can be contacted at (613) 998-7060. Thank you for doing your bit to preserve Canada's important naval technical historical record.

**Preamble**

CANDIB is a national organization and seeks input from knowledgeable people throughout Canada. To date, limited travel expense funding has necessitated that all interviews under the CANDIB Oral History Project be held in the Ottawa region. It is apparent, however, that many opportunities exist for interviews with individuals residing on the East and West coasts and in other centres in Canada. It has therefore become necessary to consider ways in which these resources may best be explored. One obvious answer lies in establishing interviewing centres in regions other than the National Capital, and this in turn identifies the need for regional representatives. This document addresses the detailed requirements and practical aspects of operating a regional CANDIB centre, with particular regard to managing oral history interviews.

**Criteria for Regional Representation**

1. Regional representatives should be familiar with the aims of the CNTHA and CANDIB, and be prepared to explain them and solicit support for them from locally related organizations and personnel.
2. To promote CANDIB interests in their areas, regional representatives should have previously established connections with local naval organizations and/or possess a detailed knowledge of local industries that make up the defence industrial base.
3. CANDIB representatives should be familiar with, or at least show interest in such processes that involve research and gathering historical records, including preparing and organizing oral interviews.
4. It is essential that representatives establish a practical communication process such as e-mail so that messages can be exchanged quickly and

efficiently with the CANDIB committee, and with the Oral History Project (OHP) manager in Ottawa in particular. Expediently exchanging written memos, guidance messages and other documentation is an essential aspect of the operation and cannot be achieved in any practical sense by telephone or surface mail.

**Tasks Relating to Oral History Interviewing**

1. Regional representatives must maintain open communication with the CANDIB committee and the OHP manager in so far as oral interviewing is involved. Representatives have a standing invitation to attend CANDIB committee meetings, and will receive minutes of these meetings.
2. Representatives will establish a list of potential interviewees in their regions. Following consultation with the OHP manager, a joint decision will be reached on proceeding with any particular interview.
3. Representatives must be familiar with, and follow the *Guidelines for Interviewers* issued by the CANDIB committee. Regional representatives must be prepared to plan interviews and carry out the necessary research regarding the background and related activities of all proposed interviewees so that representatives may ask meaningful questions and conduct effective interviews.
4. Regional representatives will be responsible for maintaining the recording equipment provided by CANDIB.
5. Representatives must be prepared to manage limited, pre-approved budgets for regional oral history projects. Budgets will require prior approval by the OHP before a representative commits to any interview.

