



NEWS

Canadian Naval Technical History Association

CANTHA's WAY AHEAD

CANTHA News

Est. 1997

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Newsletter Production Editing Services by

Brightstar Communications
(Kanata, ON)
in association with
d2k Marketing Communications
(Gatineau, QC)

CANTHA News is the unofficial newsletter of the Canadian Naval Technical History Association.

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More than 15 years into its mandate to investigate and preserve the story of Canada's naval technical heritage, the CANTHA has re-examined its mission, vision and goals with the aim of charting the way ahead with clear objectives and renewed focus. The new statements reflect a more unified approach to the CANTHA's important contribution to the overall Canadian naval historical record.

Mission

To capture and preserve Canada's oral and written naval technical history.

Vision

To encourage the establishment of a culture in which Canada's naval technical heritage is preserved and made accessible to future generations.

Goals

- A. To collect and document information on Canada's naval technical history with a focus on:
 1. progression of the use of new or different technologies in naval technical activities;
 2. effects of the navy's procurement and construction activities on the defence industry;
 3. technical infrastructure supporting naval platforms and equipment (e.g. standards, quality assurance, project management, procurement approach, documentation, role of the ship repair unit, etc.); and
 4. recruitment, training and development of naval engineers.
- B. To increase accessibility to Canada's naval technical history.

(Goals A1-4 will be achieved through the CANTHA's oral history program and technical working groups. Goal B will be achieved through the CANTHA website and various other communication activities.)

Oral History Program

The following goals for the oral history program have also been endorsed by the committee:

1. Maintain a list of prospective interviewees and the reason for the interview;
2. Assign interviewer(s); and

3. Identify specific lines of inquiry (by seeking input from other CANTHA members, reviewing previous related interviews, reviewing the output of the working groups, and following up on controversial/conflicting statements made in collected material).

Working Groups

Activities regarding the establishment and operation of focused working groups to support the updated CANTHA goals now include the following guidelines:

1. establish working groups and WG leaders;
 2. identify technologies, activities and types of infrastructure that should be investigated;
 3. establish specific goals and dates;
 4. identify key persons of interest within each area of activity;
 5. conduct working group sessions; and
 6. keep/prepare records that are suitable for the Directorate of History and Heritage and the CANTHA website.
- These include:
- audio recordings with indexing;
 - synopses of sessions in paper copy (document, spreadsheet or database);
 - timelines showing linkages between critical events;
 - notes of constraints, assumptions and other factors that influenced events; and
 - records of differing opinions or points of view.

The Canadian Naval Technical History Association continues to make significant progress in piecing together the stories that make up Canada's fascinating naval technical heritage. This labour of love is shouldered by a small group of mostly older volunteers who would enjoy hearing from others who are interested in joining the team and making their own important contribution to the historical record. We welcome you all.

– Pat Barnhouse and Tony Thatcher



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