



NEWS

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The passing of a good friend of the Navy Colin Ralph Brown (March 9, 1927 – October 2, 2016)

By Tony Thatcher and Pat Barnhouse (With notes from Dave McCracken)

To those of us involved with preserving Canada's naval technical history through the auspices of the CNTHA, Colin Brown was a dedicated member of the team, and a tireless worker who would do what was needed of him for the cause. It says something about him that he took on the role of treasurer for our organization when he was in his early eighties. His steady presence at our meeting table has been sorely missed.

Colin enjoyed a successful 35-year naval career in the Royal Navy and the RCN that began with his entry as a 15-year-old artificer apprentice in Benbow Division at HMS *Caledonia* in Rosyth, Scotland. It was the start of a lifelong love affair with engineering, ships, and the sea. Following his retirement from the Navy in the 1970s, he worked as a marine engineer for Transport Canada's Marine and Ferries Branch.

Colin was married to his wife Helen for 53 years until her death in 2007, and was a loving and caring family man to his people on both sides of the Atlantic. To his many friends, he was a valued member of his various clubs and naval associations, and was known by everyone as someone who would see things through to completion,



Photo by Brian McCullough

always with the twinkle of good humour in his eye. Those who knew him best say that Colin marveled at the wonders of the natural world, and that his soul will live forever at his cottage on Ashby Lake in the Addington Highlands of Eastern Ontario.

When he died peacefully in hospital in Ottawa on Oct. 2 last year, the loss to the Navy was significant, for in Colin Brown they had a staunch friend and supporter of the highest order. He enjoyed the admiration and respect of everyone who knew him. He was an honourable man.



Roundtable with DGMEPM

CNTHA Executive Director Tony Thatcher met with Cmdre Simon Page, DGMEPM, on Dec. 5, 2016 to discuss forging closer working ties, and raising the profile of the CNTHA within the technical branch of the RCN. A more visible presence by the CNTHA at the Navy's annual technical seminars and other events will lead to greater sharing of

information that can benefit anyone concerned with preserving Canada's naval technical heritage, and those looking to access the archived records.



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