



NEWS

Canadian Naval Technical History Association

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Memorandum of Understanding and Cooperation

By Don Wilson, CNTHA Webmaster

We are very pleased to note that Canada's 150th anniversary year may also be remembered as the 20th anniversary of the establishment of the Canadian Naval Technical History Association. Twenty years into our mandate, the CNTHA continues to support the Department of National Defence's own Directorate of History and Heritage (DHH) through the collection of interviews, documents, and items that "serve to preserve" Canada's naval technical history for future generations.

The CNTHA has always shared a strong relationship with the head of the technical branch of the Royal Canadian Navy – the Director General Maritime Equipment Program Management – who kindly offers us space within the *Maritime Engineering Journal*, itself celebrating 35 years of publication this year. In June, CNTHA Chairman Pat Barnhouse and Commodore Simon Page (DGMEPM) signed a Memorandum of Understanding and Cooperation that aligns our two organizations significantly better toward achieving the common goal of preserving a record of Canada's naval technical heritage.

The memorandum is based on the premise that the CNTHA can do its work better within a culture that understands the value of making the story of the RCN's technical history accessible to everyone, and that DGMEPM can support this work through better awareness and coordination between

the current naval engineering enterprise and the CNTHA. As former CNTHA Chairman Mike Saker wrote in 2002:

From the outset (in 1997), the CNTHA was very fortunate in securing the endorsement of the Director General Maritime Equipment Program Management. This was highly desirable, considering that DGMEPM and DHH share a professional interest in the CNTHA's goal of "*Preserving Canada's Naval Technical Heritage*." The greatest benefit of sharing an audience with the *Maritime Engineering Journal* is that we are getting our message out to the engineering, technical and logistics support personnel, both military and civilian, who are managing the technical resources of the navy *right now*. This is crucial because these are the very people upon whom we are depending to document and preserve the continuing, "living" record of Canada's naval technical history.

The memorandum signals an exciting new spirit of cooperation that paves the way for much greater interaction that is productive for all concerned – historians everywhere, our serving naval personnel and Public Service employees, our industry partners, and the curious student who simply wants to know if our navy ever had a hydrofoil. What better birthday gift to offer Canadians during our national sesquicentennial year?

Happy birthday, Canada!



Welcome new member!

Historian **Dr. Chris Madsen** has joined our ranks at the CNTHA. Chris is Professor of Naval History and Military Law at the Canadian Forces College in Toronto, and president of the Canadian Nautical Research Society until August. His research interests are naval logistics and procurement, shipbuilding, labour on industrial waterfronts (Pacific Coast focus), and courts martial. We are very pleased to welcome Chris, as he has much to contribute to our technical history initiatives.



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