



NEWS (SUMMER 2021)

Canadian Naval Technical History Association

CNTHA News
Est. 1997

CNTHA Chairman
Pat Barnhouse

CNTHA Executive Director
Tony Thatcher

Directorate of History and Heritage Liaison
Michael Whitby

Maritime Engineering Journal Liaison
Brian McCullough

Webmaster
Peter MacGillivray

Webmaster Emeritus
Don Wilson

CNTHA News is the unofficial newsletter of the Canadian Naval Technical History Association. Please address all correspondence to the publisher, attention Michael Whitby, Chief of the Naval Team, Directorate of History and Heritage, NDHQ 101 Colonel By Dr Ottawa, ON K1A 0K2 Tel. (613) 998-7045 Fax (613) 990-8579

Views expressed are those of the writers and do not necessarily reflect official DND opinion or policy. The editor reserves the right to edit or reject any editorial material.

www.cntha.ca

CNTHA 25th Anniversary

In its continuing mission to “Preserve Canada’s Naval Technical Heritage,” the Canadian Naval Technical History Association enjoys a close strategic partnership with the Royal Canadian Navy’s technical community. Two years after the CNTHA was established in 1996, DGMEPM kindly began producing our unfunded association newsletter as an insert to the long-running *Maritime Engineering Journal*, for which we are most grateful. It is a truly synergistic relationship, as we now provide most of the content that the *Journal* used to cover in its Looking Back segments.

Since the late 1940s, the RCN has had an interesting history of technical innovation in ships and naval equipment designed to meet operational requirements. While these have satisfied what may be sometimes described as uniquely Canadian circumstances, many of our home-grown advancements have had more universal applicability to other navies. Working in support of Department of National Defence naval researchers in the Directorate of History and Heritage (DHH), the all-volunteer CNTHA works to document these major developments in Canada’s naval technical history while the people who have close knowledge of the various programs are still around to tell their stories.

Through our oral history project and written summaries on various naval engineering disciplines, the CNTHA has documented many notable reminiscences by naval, government, and industry personnel, and made them available on our CNTHA.ca website. Bit by bit, we are gradually filling in the broader story of Canada’s naval developmental activity in such areas as ship procurement, construction and

upgrade projects, equipment design and support activities, and the effect this has all had on Canada’s defence industrial base. By tapping into the body of knowledge we have collected, working members of the naval technical community and other interested researchers are able to study the lessons of the past, and see how they might apply to current or emerging technology projects.

The information showcased on our website is a rich and unique resource of source material for presentations, articles, training courses – you name it – pertaining to the technical activity of the RCN. To ensure the ongoing relevance of what the CNTHA has begun, the people who play active roles in the naval technical support community, and those who work in the marine technical industry, including shipyards, design offices and naval equipment suppliers, must be encouraged to contribute their knowledge to the base we have built.

By 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, we are hoping to foster a culture whereby the teams of today will take responsibility for preserving the record of Canada’s naval technical history for future generations. We invite you to join us in supporting this worthwhile effort.

We are always looking for new people to get involved with the important work of the CNTHA, and we invite you to contact us at info@cntha.ca to learn more about how you can contribute.

