

BIO-OCEANS ASSOCIATION NEWSLETTER

Issue 10

January 2001

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THE PRESIDENT'S FORUM

By Dale Buckley

Welcome to the new millennium. We embark on a new year with aspirations of success and satisfaction. We have had a good year with progress on several fronts. Our membership has grown steadily, although we would like to welcome even more members. We now have four life members, with two of these residing in countries as far away as France and China.

Plans for the first BIO-OA Recognition Award are progressing well. A poster call for nominations was prepared (thanks to Art Cosgrove) and distributed throughout the Institute to members of the Association via the internet, and our web page (the latter thanks to Bosko Loncarevic). We have already received nominations for this award that will be made at the Annual General Meeting (AGM) in May 2001. A nominations review committee has been appointed consisting of two current staff of the Institute and three members of BIO-OA. Work is underway to create a suitable sculpture that will be presented as an emblem of the recognition award.

We had one of the most successful fall social evenings yet, when about 60 members and friends met at the Institute to hear and see Roger Belanger's memories of his career, with highlights of the many projects in which he participated while working at BIO. A big vote of thanks is due to the social committee and to Roger Belanger. We also had the biggest turnout of members to date at the annual "Christmas Eve" gathering at BIO on December 22.

Some investigation is being continued to explore the feasibility of having BIO-OA registered as a charitable foundation. You will hear more about this later at our AGM. We are also investigating the need to have liability insurance for officers and directors of the Association. Such is the way of our evolving society.

We continue to receive excellent support from the Directors and Management of BIO. This is much appreciated and we hope that we will continue to foster cooperation on several fronts in the years to come.

MEMBERSHIP REPORT

By Betty Anderson

Membership, to January 2001, for this fiscal year ending April 30, 2001, totals 129. In November we compiled a list of members who had not renewed since FY 98/99 and mailed 37 letters. We had 14 favourable responses, and sad to say, one rejection because of distance. We also have 13 new members which include, since our September newsletter:

Penny Bambury	435-4103
Lisa O'Neill	unlisted
Elaine Blanchard	865-8185
Shirley Parker	477-2410
Tim Lambert	426-3872
John Vandermeulen	860-0219
Ed Murray	479-1515

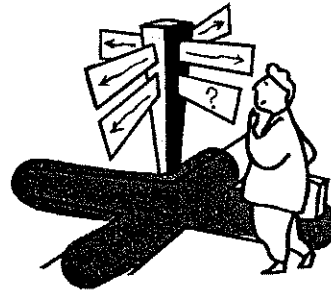
Somehow, Sherry Richardson (826-2146) and Guy Vezina (462-4026) were not included in our January/2000 newsletter. We hope they will be forgiving. Please add these names to your July/1999 newsletter. A current list is always published with the first newsletter after the Annual General Meeting. This follow-up for late membership produces nice surprises. One was a telephone call from Ying Wang in China, who asked to be remembered and extended many good wishes to all members for 2001.

We are pleased to advise that George Anderson and Alan Longhurst are now life members, bringing the total to four.

In an effort to increase membership, Bob Reinger, with the aid of Internet 411, and I have been working on old telephone lists. We are halfway through, and we hope to complete this task early in the New Year.

Again, we remind members whose cards indicate an expiry date of April 30, 2000, that renewals should be mailed to me at 79 Flamingo Drive, Halifax, NS, B3M 1T2.

**THE
TRAVEL
CORNER**

**Our Millennium Cruise**

By Steve & Karen Grant

We left Mahone Bay on 1 August 1999 aboard our 32 ft sloop *Saorsa (Gaelic for Freedom)*. On our way south we managed to get through the huge numbers of lobster buoys in Maine, weathered hurricanes at New York and Beaufort, NC, travelled the entire length of the Intracoastal Waterway from Norfolk to Miami, visited such wonderful cities as Charleston, Savannah, and St. Augustine and met dozens of other cruisers. Indeed, when we finally got to George Town, Exuma, in mid-February 2000, most of our fellow cruisers were among the over 500 boats at anchor.

We crossed the Gulf Stream from Miami, overnight 10-11 December 1999 with 5 Quebec boats and continued across Grand Bahama Bank the next day. We anchored for the night about 50 miles from the nearest land in 15-20 ft of water with a dozen other boats. It started to blow so we had an uncomfortable night and a rough sail to Chub Cay the next day, where we cleared Bahamian customs. That was an interesting experience. One question they asked: Had any of our passengers died since our last port and, if so, what had we done with the bodies? From there, we had an easy sail to Nassau where we stayed 3 weeks over the Christmas and New Year holidays.

Our log for 31 December 1999 reads, in part: "At about 11 p.m. we went to *Wings of the Morning* [a friend's boat] which was anchored in the middle of the [Nassau] harbour and ... brought in the new millennium sipping champagne and eating chocolate cheese cake. At midnight, the sky over Atlantis [a major Nassau hotel complex] exploded into the most dazzling fireworks display we have ever seen.

...continued on page 4

On Travel

"A journey is like a marriage. The certain way to be wrong is to think you control it."

John Steinbeck, US author, 1902-68. From "Travels with Charlie: in Search of America", part 1 (1961).

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"For my part, I travel not to go anywhere, but to go. I travel for travel's sake. The great affair is to move; to feel the needs and hitches of our life more nearly; to come down off this feather-bed of civilisation; and to find the globe granite underfoot and strewn with cutting flints."

Robert Louis Stevenson, Scottish novelist, essayist, and poet, 1850-94. From "Travels with a Donkey: Cheylard and Luc", 1879.

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"I have found that there ain't no surer way to find out whether you like people or hate them than to travel with them."

Mark Twain, US author, 1835-1910. From "Tom Sawyer Abroad", Chapter 11, 1894.

□□□

A Visit to Scotland

By Steve MacPhee [Macphee5@attglobal.net]

In September 1999, Judy and I visited Scotland. We landed in Glasgow on a charter from Toronto and after one night in this fine city headed for the Western Isles. The main goal of this short vacation was to carry out some genealogical research on my ancestors.

Our trip to the Western Isles was by bus from Glasgow to Oban and by ferry from Oban to Lochboisdale on South Uist. On our ferry journey, we passed Tobermory, the port that my ancestors sailed from in 1832 on the vessel NORTHUMBERLAND, and then we made a stop at Castlebay on the Isle of Barra. We arrived at our destination on a Saturday evening and were met at the ferry terminal by the owner of the B and B we would be staying at while in South Uist.

On the Sunday, we went to a gaelic church service and then visited the parish cemetery. We found plenty of "MacPhee" headstones from the 1700s and early 1800s but were not able to determine whether they were relatives. After our visit to the cemetery, we went for a walk on a windy and cold beach and then headed for the only pub in the area to warm up.

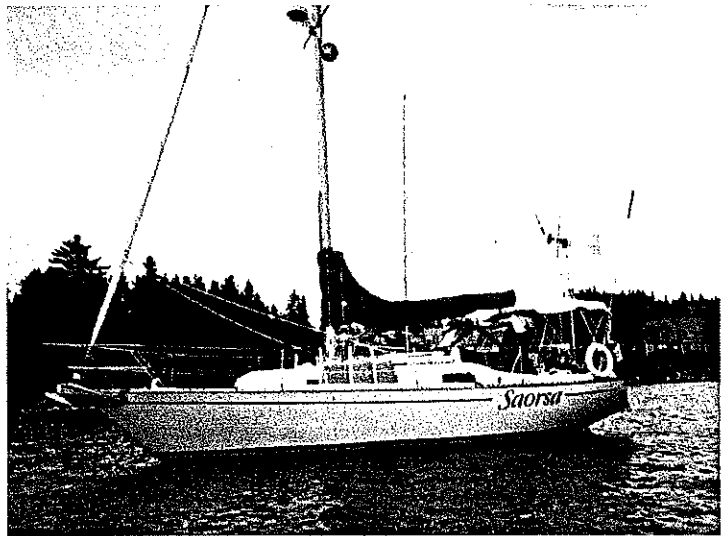
During the next few days on South Uist, we visited various historic sites, talked to crofters, fishermen, and other locals traveling by a regular bus service, by the Post Bus and by school bus. The areas of the Outer Hebrides that we visited have no trees but have many rocks, hills, and sheep. In addition to the B and B in South Uist, we stayed at a second one in Grimsay, a small island off North Uist. The people we met while in the Western Isles were friendly and helpful and the B and B facilities were excellent. We were lucky to travel just at the end of the tourist season when accommodations were not a problem.

We departed the Outer Hebrides from Lochmaddy, North Uist, and landed at Uig on the Isle of Skye. From there we traveled by bus to Fort William, a really nice small city with many well-maintained older buildings. From Fort William, we returned to Glasgow for a final night there before returning to Toronto. Our Air Travel was by Canada 3000 and we were very pleased with the service. It was an excellent vacation and we plan to return. However, on our next visit we will allocate several days to research genealogical material in the Glasgow and Edinburgh libraries.

...from page 2

And all around the harbour there were smaller fireworks displays - we counted 7 at one point. A half-hour later, the hotels at Cable Beach [a few miles to the west] set off their fireworks. We, and several other boats, added a small contribution as well. All in all, it was a delightful way to end the old millennium and bring in the new. We returned to our boat about 2 a.m.”

The next day, 1 January 2000, our log continues: “At 5:30 a.m. we went ashore to watch the end of the New Years Junkanoo Parade. It was just like the Christmas parade but the participants were obviously starting to tire; they had been going since midnight. We returned to the boat around 10 a.m. and spent a quiet day onboard.”



Of the many sights and experiences that we enjoyed during our one year odyssey, Christmas and New Years in Nassau had to top the list. Throughout the Bahamas, every community holds Mardi-Gras-like Junkanoo parades on Boxing and New Years days (unless they fall on a Sunday, in which case they are held the following day). The parades start at midnight and continue until about 10 a.m. The participants wear fantastic costumes like the one at right: they often start making them as early as the preceding February. They parade in groups of up to several dozen performers with names like The Family, The Valley Boys, and The Saxons. The main musical instruments are cow bells, drums, and horns, but all of the larger groups have full bands. As their favourite groups pass, the crowds go wild and the whole street throbs with the music, the bells, the horns, the drums, and the chanting and clapping of the crowds. It's impossible to simply 'watch' and not get caught up in excitement. We were fortunate that both nights we ended up standing with some very friendly Bahamians who went out of their way to explain what was going on, who the different groups were, etc. Also, the 'best' groups win major prizes and, since we were just down the street from the judge's stand, they were going out of their way to put on a really good show.

After a brief bout with the flu (which we caught compliments of some visiting Canadians!), we left Nassau on 10 January 2000 and headed south to the Exumas. The Exumas are a 100 mile chain of sandy cays and islands in the middle of the Bahamas starting about 30 miles southeast of Nassau and running southeast to George Town which sits right on the Tropic of Cancer. On our way south, we saw the Rock Iguanas that are unique to a few cays at the northern end of



the Exumas. We snorkelled over the coral reefs and were thrilled by the beautiful coral formations and the large numbers of brightly coloured fish. We saw several sharks (thankfully NOT while snorkelling!), barracuda, large rays and sea turtles. And, at Staniel Cay, we dove into Thunderball Cave made famous by the James Bond movie of that name.

In the middle of the Exumas is a 22 by 8 mile protected area called 'The Exuma Cays Land and Sea Park'. Check out their web site: www.exumapark.com. We spent 11 days on one of the moorings at the park's headquarters and, along with the 20 other boats, did volunteer work around the park during the mornings and hiked, snorkelled, and relaxed during the rest of the day. The picture at right shows us standing on Boo Boo Hill behind the headquarters, beside the memorabilia that cruisers have left over the years. We also watched the lemon tipped sharks feed on



kitchen scraps and kept an eye on Baba the barracuda that used to go boat to boat looking for food. It was a very enjoyable 11 days but we had to leave because we were down to our last 15 gallons of water and none was available at the headquarters. Further south we stopped at the Caribbean Marine Research Center at Lee Stocking Island (www.cmrc.org) and George Town before turning back north on 1 March 2000.

After three months spent exploring the Exuma Cays, we headed north to the island of Eleuthera and the Abacos group of cays and islands. At Marsh Harbour, the capital of the Abacos, we were visited by relatives for a week before we returned to the USA at Ft. Pierce, FL, with two other boats on 4 May. On the whole, conditions were a bit windier than we expected but it was warm (no snow!) and we thoroughly enjoyed the beautiful clear blue-green water, snorkelling, food, and wonderful people, both cruisers and Bahamians.

The trip north was fast and relatively uneventful although we did enjoy several visits with friends we had met earlier in the trip. We arrived home on 31 July 2000.

A General Request for Trip Suggestions

The warmer weather will be here sooner than we think, and it would be wonderful if we could get an indication of interest on the part of our members in local travel, especially in day trips. PLEASE give us any suggestions or ideas you may have. Call Jackie Dale (466-1584). □

Anyone Interested in Attending the Annual Eagle Watch?

There has been some interest expressed in taking a day trip to the Annapolis Valley for the annual *Eagle Watch*. On Saturday January 27, farmers in the general vicinity of Sheffield Mills spread chicken entrails in their fields, and the bald eagles come to feed, sometimes in large numbers. It is apparently an impressive thing to see these huge, beautiful birds fairly close at hand.

We are in the process of confirming the information. The general idea is to go on January 27 by car in groups of 4-5 to view the eagles and also the videos and exhibits displayed in a local building. We would then try get together somewhere for lunch.

Please call Jackie Dale (466-2584) if you are interested in joining the group. If you get her answering machine, please leave a message. A meeting will be held at BIO for all interested, probably during the third week in January. If you let us know of your interest, we can notify you of a meeting date, when we could all give suggestions and plan details. Sounds like it could be a fun day.



This will be the only notification you will receive. Please call.

OBITUARIES

The following friends and colleagues of many of our members have recently passed away. We would like to extend our very sincere sympathies to the bereaved families.

Ernest Sylvester Avery, Larry's River, died December 26, 2000, in Guysborough Memorial Hospital at the age of 77. A decorated veteran of WWII, he served as a steward on several of the BIO research ships. He is survived by his wife, Annie M. Dort, four daughters, Edith, Karen, Norine and Cathy, and five sons Arnold, Bruce, Glen, Kevin, and D.J.

Howard Stanley Glover, Martin's River, 72, passed away at the QEII on December 14. Stan retired from DFO in 1986 after 34 years with the Public Service. He is sadly missed by his wife Mary MacGregor and three daughters Carolyn, Kathleen and Margaret.

John William Myles, 88, died peacefully at the Camp Hill Veterans' Memorial Hospital, QEII, December 25. Born in Newfoundland, he retired from BIO in 1977. Surviving are his wife of 62 years, Annie Strowbridge, daughter Minnie and son George.

Alphonsus "Fonce" Power, 72, passed away December 2, 2000, at the QEII. A Newfoundlander by birth, he was an employee of BIO for 19 years. He is survived by his wife, Dorothy Osborne, two daughters, Cindy and Mary, and three sons, Wayne, Bob, and Paul.

Evelyn Georgia "Evvy" Walker passed away unexpectedly at her home in Saint John, New Brunswick at the age of 47. Evvy worked for several years at the Huntsman Marine Laboratory in St. Andrews before returning to University, after which she promoted the French language and taught courses at SJ Community College and UNBSJ. She is survived by two sisters, Ann and Monica, and a brother, Peter.

SOCIAL EVENTS

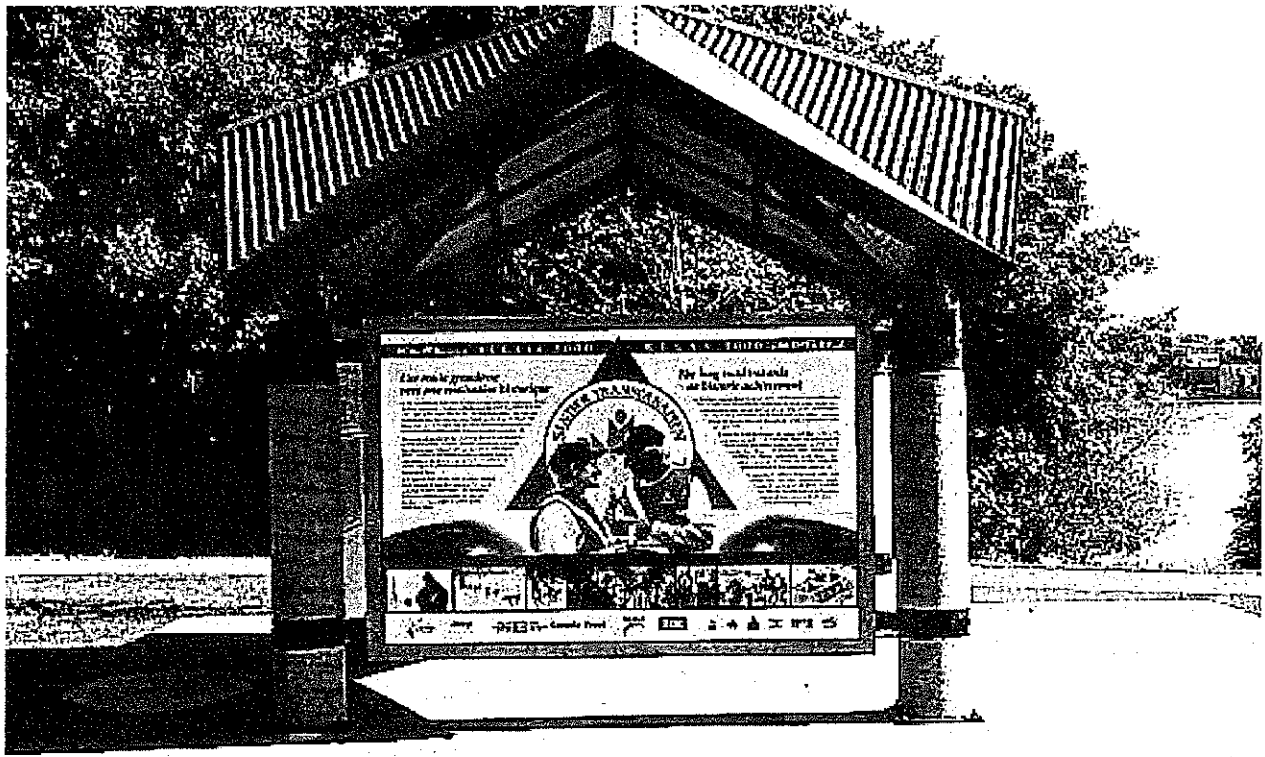
By Jackie Dale

Wine and Cheese Party a Great Success

Held in the BIO Auditorium on November 9, 2000, this event was definitely a success, judging from the positive feedback. Approximately 60 people attended, and they were treated to various cheeses, wine, homemade desserts and coffee. It was a good chance to greet old friends and fellow colleagues. The special attraction of the night, however, was in the person of Roger Belanger, who most of you know was a key member of the Photography Unit at BIO, familiarly known as the "BIO Roving Photographer". And rove he did – Roger, with his sustaining interest in all types of individuals and activities, seemed to be part and parcel of almost every major and most minor events which were connected in any way to the Bedford Institute.

As our special speaker, Roger presented, in photo format and in his own inimitable style, a history of his years spent at BIO, which emphasized in particular the people of BIO, their particular interests, and the projects undertaken by them during his own years "in residence". We would sincerely like to thank Roger for taking the time from his many retirement activities to provide us with such superb entertainment.

We would also, at this time, like to congratulate Roger for the recognition he received for his contributions to the Trans Canada Trail. The outdoor display shown below is in Ottawa. It de-



picts Roger receiving the water bottle used during the Relay 2000 run from coast to coast. Of the seven other smaller photographs included in the display, four of them were submitted by Roger. As they say, that was no small feat.

Retirees Well in Evidence at BIO Christmas Party

The BIO Christmas Party was, as usual, held in the cafeteria, on Friday December 22. A large number of retirees attended, and it was good to see everybody – it seemed just like old times. With the large number of retirements, and turnover in staff, we are all aware of the extent to which the Institute has changed within a reasonably short period of time, so it was sort of comforting for us old dogs to see so many familiar faces. Let's hope that these numbers will increase as the years pass. For those of you who didn't attend, make a date for next year – you will be glad you did.

Plan to Attend the Spring Fling – At a New Location!

Clive Mason has been able to secure the "hospitality room" at Admiralty Place in downtown Dartmouth for the spring social. The date set is **Saturday, March 24th**, and Sharon and Don Locke have once more agreed to look after the particulars. Please try to keep this date open and help to make the event another success. You will be contacted in March by a member of the telephone committee with details.

Some Personal Millennium Projects

By Earle Wagner

[Editor's Note: Responding to requests in this newsletter for personal information on what members are up to, Earle Wagner has provided below a snapshot of some of his activities to commemorate the millennium and a few brief lines on his activities since retirement. Readers are encouraged to send us information on their own activities since retirement. Don't be shy: we would love to hear from you.]

For a personal challenge, I initiated, managed, and assisted in the completion of several projects to commemorate the new Millennium. These activities represented my career, community, and country. I would like to share them with you.

On behalf of Canada's merchant navy veterans, I started a national funding campaign to raise \$9000. It will be used to build a model of a 4700 ton World War II Park vessel for display in the new National War Museum in Ottawa. It will commemorate the role of Canada's merchant navy in the Allied victory of that war.

On July 15, 2000, over 130 former students, teachers, and friends of Pentz, Pleasantville, and West La Have schools (before consolidation) attended a reunion at Pleasantville fire department hall. Proceeds from the reunion were used for a scholarship fund. The local committee I chaired put a lot of effort into organizing this once in a lifetime reunion and we were delighted when it succeeded.

An Honour Roll listing 120 veterans from Jollimore and Fleming Heights in Halifax was completed and will be hung in Halifax's St. Augustine's Church. A special commemorative service for surviving veterans is being organized for this year's Remembrance Sunday. In addition, a ship's life ring from Maritime Command stencilled "M.V. Reginolite, Montreal" that symbolized my early seafaring career from 1941-1943 was completed: it will be displayed in the new war museum in Ottawa.

For those who, like me, are interested in what others do in retirement, permit me to submit a list of my activities over the past dozen years: completion of my family's genealogy; preparation of my autobiography from 1929 through 1999; service as national chairman of the Memorial Fund for the Canadian Merchant Navy Veterans Association with particular responsibility for the merchant navy's National Memorial on Halifax's waterfront; property chairman for my local church for 6 years; grow-

ing vegetables and flowers that are valued at 3 or 400 dollars annually; completing my 19th annual Terry Fox run recently in a time of 78 minutes; swimming 3 times weekly; skating over a 5-month period annually; walking regularly; using computers as needed; and maintaining my home and property.

Donations for the ship model will be accepted. Make cheques payable to: "C.M.N.V.A., Memorial Fund" and mail to: Mr. Eugene McDonald, C.M.N.V.A. Treasurer, 10915 Ste Gertrude, Montréal, Québec H1G 5N8. Receipts for income tax will be issued.

First In, Last Out

Canada's Airwomen Served with Distinction

By Major C.A. "Mac" McCarthy, CD

*[Editor's Note: Many BIO-OA members might be interested to learn that before she came to BIO as head of purchasing, Betty Anderson had an active wartime career in the Royal Canadian Air Force. The attached article is reprinted from the December 1999, volume 26, No. 23 issue (page 10) of *Warrior* magazine. The author is the wing heritage officer at 12 Wing Shearwater, NS, and a member of the Air Force Association of Canada.]*

I recently had the privilege of speaking with three delightful ladies during a visit to the Shearwater Aviation Museum at 12 Wing Shearwater, NS. Betty Anderson, June Clark and Ethel Miller share something very special: they were wartime members of the Royal Canadian Air Force Women's Division.

Formed in 1941 as part of Canada's WWII response, the WDs as they were affectionately known enlisted over 17,000 young women from across Canada for employment in 65 trades. Their official motto "*They Serve That Men May Fly*" was certainly the *raison d'être* for their creation. And serve they did: they cooked, clerked, nursed, drove trucks, packed parachutes, operated advanced communications equipment, performed airframe and aero engine maintenance, and a myriad of other duties all vital to free up airmen and officers for critical operations. They served overseas with distinction in organizations such as Canada's own 6 (RCAF) Bomber Group and in Overseas Headquarters London. By the end of the war almost 2,000 WDs served overseas, and many were decorated for their service. Thirty WDs were killed while on active service.

Certainly the idea of women in uniform offended the sensibilities of your average male "cave-man" of the day. This fact, along with being a brand new component of the RCAF further intensified the pressures and adjustments that all WDs had to face for simply wanting to serve their country in its greatest hour of need. We must remember, this was during a time when the WDs were paid only two-thirds of a man's pay, even when doing an identical job. Notwithstanding these issues, this was where the women of the RCAF had their origin and first made their mark. In fact of all Canada's women's services, the RCAF WDs were "first in and last out" of this dangerous and historic conflict.

Do these ladies of yesteryear even care about what they contributed to so many years ago? You bet!! The visit to the museum was not a casual one as our three veterans brought a number of artifacts with them to donate to the museum. As they went through the various items they brought, stories, names and events abounded.

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The Women's Division is alive and well in the memories of these ladies and they hold special thoughts for those who made the ultimate sacrifice. From inception in 1941 to final release in 1946, the ladies of the RCAF Women's Division served their country with honour. We salute them and assure them that the ladies of today's air force are carrying on their proud tradition.

POSTSCRIPT:

On a separate note, the Royal Canadian Air Force (Women's Division) has established two bursaries of \$250 each and a \$1000 scholarship for female students over 30 years of age with demonstrable need at Mount Saint Vincent University who plan to reenter the workforce upon graduation. Preference is given to those born in Nova Scotia.



CONTACTS FOR INFORMATION

Dale Buckley, President 434-5734 buckley@agc.bio.ns.ca

Ed Verge, Vice President 434-4987 everge@sprint.ca

Clive Mason, Secretary 469-2085 ab337@chebucto.ns.ca

Gordon Bowdridge,
Vice Secretary 865-7530

Betty Anderson, Treasurer 443-2572

Bob Reiniger, Past President
and Vice Treasurer 477-9833 at665@chebucto.ns.ca

Michael Latrémouille,
Newsletter Editor 434-4036 latremouille@accesswave.ca

[Feel free to submit contributions via e-mail or by regular mail
to me at 48 Swanton Drive, Dartmouth., N.S. B2W 2C5]

Don Locke, Vice Editor,
Newsletter 835-5209 don-sharon.locke@ns.sympatico.ca

Ted Smith, Chair,
Social Activities 826-2059 ted.smith@ns.sympatico.ca

Jackie Dale, Vice Chair,
Social 466-2584 jdale902@aol.com