



Canada

SHOPS FOR NEW SUBMARINES

HMCS Corner Brook

"Submarine returns home to Vancouver Island after northern expedition." article page 15

MS Zack Davidson

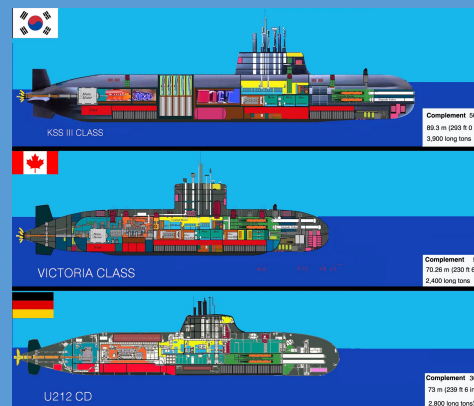
"Navy commander insists Canada should buy unmodified submarines" article page 8

Year in Review

Dedicated to Submariners
past and present

Thank you for your service

saocwest.ca



John Webber design

EXECUTIVE



Patrick Hunt
President



Christopher Robinson
Secretary



Shaun Sharpe
Treasurer

Vice President
Vacant position

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FRONT COVER: Photo of HMCS Corner Brook standing on deck MS Zack Davidson. Photographer PO2 Mark Theberge



Valerie Braunschweig

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Communications, Entertainment
& Website Director**

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The *Run Silent* Newsletter is published on behalf of the Submariners Association of Canada West for members to read and enjoy. Featuring articles of interest, photos and items pertaining to and about our Association, our serving and former Submariners and the boats they served on.

The newsletter is produced with acknowledgment & appreciation to authors of articles, photographers, stories submitted and photos sourced. Opinions expressed are not necessarily those of the Submariners Association of Canada West.



ANNOUNCEMENTS

January: Speaker Presentation

Date: Wednesday, January 28, 2026

Time: 7pm to 8 pm

Location: Collier Theatre, Work Point, 1094 Victoria View Road

Theme: **Captain Alex Kooiman** will discuss HMCS Corner Brook operations between 2009 and 2011 with a brief glimpse at 2025.



February: Subs & Suds

- Date: Wednesday, 25 February 2026 (Last Wednesday)
- Time: 2:30pm to 4pm
- Location: C&POs' Mess
- Theme: Subs & Suds (Social gathering with food)



March: Tour of HMCS Max Bernays

- Date: Wednesday, 25 March 2026 (Last Wednesday)
- Time: 2:30pm to 4pm
- Location: Dockyard (likely B jetty)
- Theme: Tour of HMCS Max Bernays
- Coordinating Instructions: Wear comfortable shoes and working clothes. Access requirements for the dockyard will be promulgated in mid-February.



April: Annual General Meeting (AGM)

- Date: Wednesday, 29 April 2026 (Last Wednesday)
- Time: 6:30pm gather, 7pm to 8pm meeting (Hybrid Meeting on Zoom)
- Location: C&POs' Mess
- Theme: AGM (business meeting)



May: Qualicum Beach

- Date: Saturday, 16 May 2026 (Victoria Day Weekend)
- Time: 1pm to 3pm
- Location: Qualicum Beach Legion



June Panel Discussion

- Date: Wednesday, 24 June 2026 (Last Wednesday)
- Time: 7pm to 8pm
- Location: C&POs' Mess
- Theme: Panel Discussion-Is the submarine community special, and if so why?
- Lead by Wilf Lund and Harvey Waddell. Panel members to be determined



EDITORS NOTES

Greetings Submariners

As the year end approaches and a New Year begins we can't help but reflect on the year we have all experienced. Needless to say these are challenging times. May 2026 bring you good health, and new beginnings.

Plans are underway for Canada's contract for new submarines with hope the decision comes in the spring.

In this issue of our SAOC West *Run Silent* Newsletter, you will find a photo review of our year, including our celebration of the of the Submariners Association of Canada West 30th Anniversary held in March. Our association was the first of the three branches to form back in 1995.



Merry Christmas everyone

The schedule SAOC West activities for 2026 to the end of June is on the previous page for you to put a note on your calendars and also on our website www.saocwest.ca.

Of special note at the end of April is our Annual General Meeting, and executive positions will need to be filled. It is time to ask our members to consider putting their name forward and making a commitment to fill an executive position the Vice President has been vacant for two years. Presently our bylaws require that you must be a regular member as associates are ineligible to fill an executive position. This means we need your help in order for our association to continue.

I hope you have enjoyed the issues I have produced for you over the present and past years. If someone would express interest in taking on the newsletter to provide their own perspective I would welcome they take over the publication. Today it is more complex, and every effort is taken to provide you information and articles of interest.

I have a new event that I hope we can enjoy in June that may be an annual event. If all goes according to plan, the details to be in your spring issue of *Run Silent*.

We were able to celebrate the 30th anniversary of the Submariners Association of Canada West this past March at the Langford Legion. Members enjoyed a special afternoon, and received several items to commemorate the event. At the Christmas luncheon I gifted those that attended with shot glasses for the 30th anniversary. And in the coming spring I hope to have another item to commemorate the 30th anniversary.

It is important to recognize and reflect on those members who founded SAOC West, and over the 30 years those who have made our association the foundation of friendship, comradery and goodwill.

Best wishes to you and your loved ones for a safe, healthy and prosperous New Year.

Valerie Braunschweig
Submariners Association of Canada West
Communications & Entertainment Director
valerieanddick@telus.net



SAOC WEST PRESIDENT'S REPORT

The Christmas/New Year Holiday is an ideal time to give thanks for our many blessings, reflect on our past activities, and plan for next year. For me I am appreciative of the submariner friendships I renewed and new friends I have made near and far through our submariner association. I am grateful that the recent changes to our program have been well received by our members. I count my blessings by the number of members who donate their time and talents in service to their fellow submariners, making my job such a delight.



Looking ahead, I asked myself what further changes might our members want? To answer a question like that is familiar territory for a submariner because we don't have all the data. There are also many competing variables, possibilities, combinations, and permutations. However, we carry out our mission regardless.

The line from the Rick Nelson song, "Garden Party" comes to mind, "*You can't please everyone, so you got to please yourself.*" A perk for being president I suppose; you should try it someday, soon. Here is my wish list for the new year:

- Definitely, more social time - hanging out, talking about the present and future from the vantage point of a shared past
- Expand the connection between serving and former submariners
- More tours of interest to submariners
- Reach out more to members outside of Greater Victoria
- Explore esoteric lessons learned as submariners that remind us of why we are members of SAOC
- Plan a memorable summer social event that includes spouses

A personal interest of mine is to keep members abreast of developments with the Canadian Patrol Submarine Project. A project that should make all submariners proud.

Yours Aye,

Patrick Hunt
President, Submariners Association of Canada, West
101 - 2930 Cook Street, Victoria, BC V8T 3S7
Mobile 250-213-1358

2026 Milestone Events:

40 years in 2026 - 16 January 1986 is the birth date of Submariners Old Comrades Assn. on Canadian Pacific Branch

60 years in 2026 - 22 April 1966 is the anniversary of the founding of the First Canadian Submarine Squadron

65 years in 2026 - 11 May 1961 is the anniversary of the commissioning of HMCS Grilse

25 years in 2026 - 5 July 2001 is the anniversary of the commissioning of HMCS Windsor

SAOC West Christmas Luncheon 2025





Navy commander insists Canada should buy unmodified submarines

Kyle Duggan, The Canadian Press Nov 12, 2025 2:05 PM

The commander of the Royal Canadian Navy says his "perfect" scenario would be to get an order into an existing production line so that Canada can quickly get its hands on a sub.

TIMES  COLONIST

<https://www.timescolonist.com/national-news/navy-commander-insists-canada-should-buy-unmodified-submarines-11480044>



Commander of the Royal Canadian Navy Vice-Admiral Angus Topshee speaks during a discussion with Charlotte Duval-Lantoine, Canadian Global Affairs Institute during a defence procurement conference in Ottawa, Wednesday, Nov. 12, 2025. THE CANADIAN PRESS/Adrian Wyld

OTTAWA — Vice-Admiral Angus Topshee said he has made it clear he wants "no changes" to the design of the submarines Canada intends to buy, due to the highly complex nature of the war machines.

"I have been as explicit as possible that there are no changes to the design," Topshee said Wednesday.

"If you have ever looked at submarine engineering, every change requires a full reconsideration because anything that goes wrong is potentially existential. When something is designed to sink and come back to the surface, you don't want to really re-engineer parts of that system."

Topshee made the comments at a defence procurement conference in the nation's capital, put on by the Canadian Global Affairs Institute think tank.

The commander of the Royal Canadian Navy says his "perfect" scenario would be to get an order into an existing production line so that Canada can quickly get its hands on a sub originally designed for use by Norway, Germany or South Korea.

"If the power is different on that submarine, then I will buy all my sailors adapters," he joked.

The plan is to build maintenance facilities on both coasts with Canadian steel and labour, and the boats will need a skilled domestic support workforce to sustain them.

Prime Minister Mark Carney toured one of the new Hanwha Oceans subs in its shipyard in South Korea last month, and a German submarine in August at a shipyard in Kiel.

The Carney government's first budget books more than \$80 billion in defence spending through to the end of the decade. It does not include money for submarines in the fiscal plan — raising questions about when the government plans to announce a winning bidder.

The government is also working behind the scenes to reform how it makes major military purchases.

Doug Guzman started his new job Wednesday as head of the Defence Investment Agency, a new government office meant to centralize

and speed up major military purchasing decisions.

TIMES  COLONIST

Senior bureaucrats said at the conference Wednesday that Ottawa's new defence spending plans have drawn expressions of interest from investors with large amounts of capital, such as banks and pension funds, and that the government is trying to shed red tape so projects can move at a quicker pace.

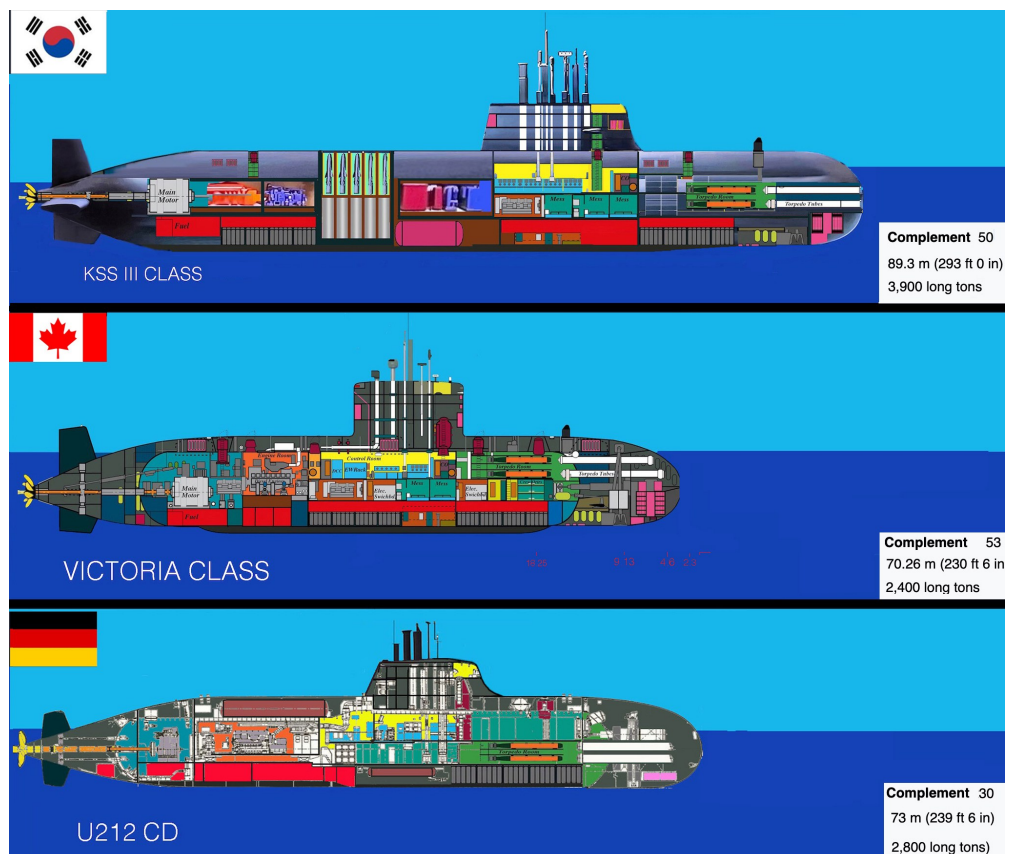
The federal government is also expected to release a new defence investment strategy in the coming weeks.

This report by The Canadian Press was first published Nov. 12, 2025.

Kyle Duggan, The Canadian Press

<https://www.timescolonist.com/national-news/navy-commander-insists-canada-should-buy-unmodified-submarines-11480044>

These drawings have been created by SAOC West member John Webber of the proposed choices for Canada's upcoming new submarines.



SAOC West 2025 In Review

January Speaker

Rear Admiral Christopher Robinson
presented an update on the Canadian Patrol Submarine Project.



YouTube video of presentation by John Webber:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=wBnlx-l928s&authuser=0>

February

Subs 'n' Suds Social

Last Wednesday, February 26th, 2025

Chief & Petty Officers' Mess - 1577 Lyall St., Esquimalt

2:30 pm — 4:00 pm



SAOC WEST 2025 IN REVIEW

March luncheon

SAOC West 30th Anniversary



**SAOC West
30th
Anniversary
luncheon**



SAOC WEST 2025 IN REVIEW

April

SAOC WEST ANNUAL GENERAL BUSINESS MEETING

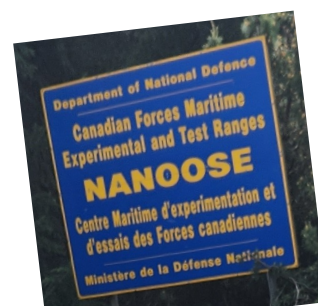
Wednesday, April 30th, 2025

Chief & Petty Officers' Mess—1577 Lyall St., Esquimalt



May

SAOC West Members tour of Nanoose & BBQ



SAOC WEST 2025 IN REVIEW

June

Rear-Admiral Robinson discussed **HMCS CORNER BROOK** operations between 2007 and 2009, where in addition to normal fleet duties. In recognition of its outstanding contribution to Canadian sovereignty, CORNER BROOK was awarded the Canadian Armed Forces Unit Commendation in 2008.



Commander Isabelle discussed **HMCS Windsor** operations between 2014 and 2018, where in addition to normal fleet duties, it deployed for 133 days on Op Projection Euro-Atlantic, the first time a Canadian submarine was operational in the Mediterranean in more than four decades. The year before Windsor deployed for NATO's Joint Warrior and Trident Juncture training engagements along with joint training with Canadian Special Operations Forces personnel.

CHANGE OF COMMAND CEREMONY

On Tuesday, August 3rd, Rear Admiral Christopher Robinson former commander of the Maritime Forces Pacific transfers authority to Rear Admiral David Patchell at a change of command ceremony held at the Canadian Forces Base Esquimalt.



SAOC WEST 2025 IN REVIEW

September

Wednesday, September 24th @ 4:00 pm

Burger & Beer at the Langford Legion to tip our mugs toasting the 60th Anniversary of HMCS Ojibwa & 10th Anniversary of HMCS Chicoutimi.



October Meeting was canceled as HMCS Corner Brook was scheduled to be at sea that day.

November meeting was rescheduled for January because the speaker was called out of town for that date

Annual Christmas Luncheon at Four Mile Restaurant see pages 6 & 7

Submarine returns home to Vancouver Island after northern expedition.

HMCS Corner Brook was on a nearly two-month operation in the north Pacific and western Arctic.

TIMES COLONIST



[Hannah Link](#)
Oct 5, 2025

<https://www.timescolonist.com/local-news/submarine-returns-home-to-vancouver-island-after-northern-expedition-11308585>



Families of submariners waited with signs and Timbits on Sunday morning as HMCS Corner Brook arrived home after a nearly two-month operation in the north Pacific and western Arctic.

Guided by a navy tugboat, the submarine made its way into a pier at Ogden Point, where Lauren Tarr welcomed her boyfriend, Sailor 1st Class Zack Davidson, with a kiss.

Davidson, who had won the traditional raffle to exit the boat before its first officers to greet their partner, said it felt good to breathe fresh air for a change.

“I’m pretty jazzed,” he said.

Tarr said she was most looking forward to playing Davidson the recently released new Taylor Swift album *The Life of a Showgirl*, noting that submariners don’t have WiFi or cell service underwater, so he hadn’t had the chance to hear it yet.

“We have a lot to catch up on,” she said.

The submarine was quickly cleaned before welcoming guests aboard as part of CFB Esquimalt’s Defence on the Dock, where the public had a chance to tour HMCS Corner Brook and HMCS Vancouver.

Corner Brook played a role in Canadian Armed Forces Arctic exercises, working with Canadian and U.S. navy and coast guard vessels to help defend the continent as part of Operation LATITUDE.

“It’s been going on for a few years as part of our routine commitment to defending Canada and deterring threats in the area,” said Lieutenant-Commander Clark Hubbard, commanding officer of Corner Brook, who was in charge of 58 sailors during the journey, four of them women.

The operation was the first command for Hubbard, who said they encountered rough seas but managed them well because of the stability submarines have underwater during stormy weather.

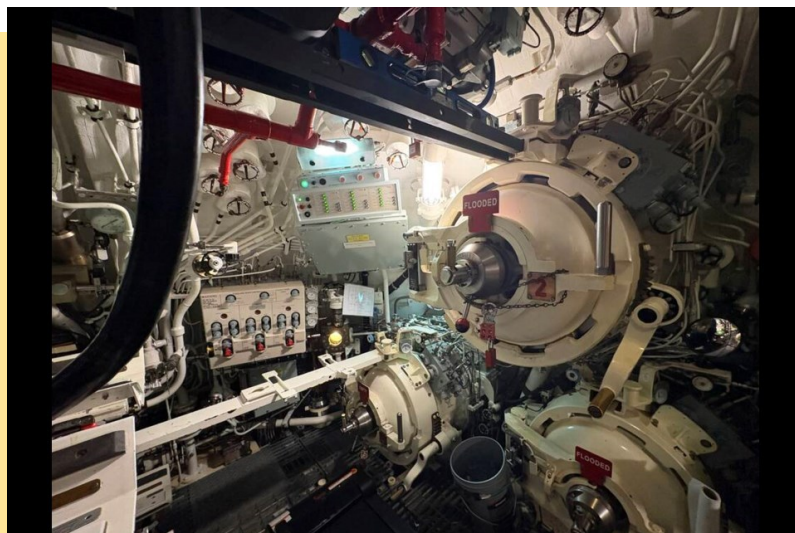
Next up for the submarine is a short work period, where the boat will be modernized and some small repairs will be made, before she continues performing exercises, said Captain Alex Kooiman, commander of the Canadian Submarine Force.

Kooiman said tensions between Canada and the U.S. haven't changed the relationship between their militaries as they work together to protect their waters.

"We have always been ready to go," he said. "Regardless of what the outside world looks like, the world inside a submarine doesn't change."

On board Corner Brook, naval combat systems engineering officer Nick Culbert said he became a submariner because he wanted to experience the most technically complicated systems possible. "I was looking for a challenge that didn't exist on the surface ships."

Culbert showed off the torpedoes aboard the boat, noting that just one can sink any ship on the water by detonating beneath it, causing the ship's spine to tear in half.



The 12 trainees aboard Corner Brook during Operation LATITUDE slept amongst the torpedoes in the weapons stowage compartment.

Despite the cramped quarters, Culbert said submariners are treated with the best food in the navy, adding that he once ate filet mignon and crab legs for dinner multiple days in a row while at sea.

"Food is morale on a submarine," he said. "We don't get to see the sun, so we get good food."

hlink@timescolonist.com





SAOC EAST REPORT

From Brian Lapierre, SAOC(E) Secretary 19 December 2025

Submariners Association of Canada East

The current Executive for SAOC East are as follows: President – Scott Parsons, Chairman – Brian Cooper & Slops is vacant with Claude Gendron resigning with Brian Lapierre handling it.

Since the fall of 2024 there hasn't been much going on with SAOC East. In August the Port Burwell Museum along with SAOC (Central) celebrated the 60th Anniversary of the Commissioning of HMCS Ojibwa. The event as reported went very well and a few Members of East went to Ontario to attend it.



September

SAOC East Honoured four Members of our Association in being Commissioning Members of HMCS Ojibwa 60 yrs ago. The Secretary presented each Member with a Certificate of Longevity, an Ojibwa Coin from Port Burwell Museum and a Bottle of Ojibwa Rum. It again was a good success, and everyone enjoyed.



Gary Hopkins



Jim Gordon



Boyd Thomas



John Madison

SAOC East Membership continues to be steady. We now have 89 Regular Memberships, 53 Life Memberships and 2 Honorary Life Memberships. The Standard for our Membership is that once you turn Age 80 and have been a member for 10 consecutive years then you are awarded a Life Membership. The Secretary does up a card, laminates it and mails it to the Member. In the past year we have also been honoured to have **four current serving Submariners** join our Association. We will continue to try and get more serving and retired Submariners to join. Our Membership dues are still only \$20.00 per year and the benefits outweigh your cost.

SAOC East continues to hold our Monthly Meetings on the 1st Tuesday of every month at the Somme Branch Legion in Dartmouth. They offered their facilities to us. We have a large room we use upstairs which we have begun to adorn with Submarine Memorabilia. Items donated from Members and some items Brian Lapierre has obtained from MOG 5 which recently cleaned out items and donated to the museum. Again, it is very suitable for us.

SAOC East held our Fall "Beer Call" at the Seamus David Pub in Dartmouth Crossing on the 22 of October 2025. Always an enjoyable time. Turnout was good. We would always like to see more attend but it is what it is.

The final Bottle of the **OJIBWA RUM PROJECT** was sold on the 22 October when the Secretary went to Compass Distiller and purchased the last six bottles. We sold the 600 Bottles and we are very pleased how the project went. Four of those bottles had been spoken for so I have a couple of bottles for future projects.

SAOC(E) will again continue to hold our Bi-Weekly Zoom Meetings which has had a so/so response considering that we send the email out to over 200 people. We normally get around 10 to 15 people who "pop in" for a short visit or longer. Notices are always posted on Facebook and sent out in an email. We have noticed in the past few months that those who attend are the normal people who attend. With the email going out to 200 people it appears that people are not interested.

On December 13th, SAOC East held our Christmas Function at the Seamus David Pub. We had 43 members and guests attend. Packed in and the Winner of the Bottle of Ojibwa Rum donated by Bill Cleal was Phil Webster. Only fitting seeing that Phil was a past CO of Ojibwa. Also Andy Lovasi and Bert Houde won gift certificates from the Seamus David Pub. Everyone enjoyed.



SAOC East has restructured its website, and Andy Lovasi is now the Administrator.

We at SAOC(E) wish everyone a "Merry Christmas" & "Happy New Year" and prosperous 2026.





FOR POSTERITY'S SAKE

A Royal Canadian Navy Historical Project



James Nelson Charles Dickens

C.A.F. (Navy) / RCN

Born: 1973, Liverpool, Queens Co., Nova Scotia, Canada

Died: 22 Dec 2025, Bridgewater, Nova Scotia, Canada

DICKENS, James Nelson Charles - Age 52, of Springfield, Annapolis Co., died on Monday, December 22, 2025, in South Shore Regional Hospital, Bridgewater, after a courageous battle with cancer, surrounded by his loving family.

Born in Liverpool, Queens Co., he was a son of Barbara Ann (Stuart) Dickens and the late Nelson Seldon.

He is survived by his wife of 28 years, together for nearly 35 years, Samantha Ann (Strowbridge) Dickens; children, Michaela Dickens, Christian Dickens, Mackenzie Dickens, all at home; mother and step-father, Barbara Ann and Charles Dickens, Bedford; sister, Cynthia Nicole Dickens, Vancouver, BC; aunt, Florence (Rob) Douglas, Kentville; father and mother in-law, David and Shirley Strowbridge, East Port l'Hebert; brothers-in-law, David (Bex) Strowbridge, BC, and Troy (Siriena) Strowbridge, Shelburne; nephews, Harley Strowbridge and Emmett Strowbridge.

Along with his father, Nelson, he was predeceased by a brother, Owen Nelson Seldon.

Further details regarding the celebration of life will be announced in the near future. No flowers please. Donations can be made to the Seahawks Minor Football club, Park View Panthers Football team, or Xplosion Women's Football team.

Arrangements entrusted to Sweeny's Funeral Home, 35 York Street, Bridgewater / 4895 Highway 10, New Germany. (Sweeny's Funeral Home)

Ships served in:

[HMCS WINDSOR](#)

[HMCS CORNER](#)

[BROOK](#)





FOR POSTERITY'S SAKE

A Royal Canadian Navy Historical Project



Jacob Lloyd Dyck

Lieutenant-Commander, RCN / C.A.F. (Navy)

Born: 27 Sep 1944, Altona, Manitoba, Canada

Died: 18 Dec 2025, Kentville, Nova Scotia, Canada



DYCK,

Jacob Lloyd - Passed away on Thursday, December 18, 2025 at the age of 81 years in Valley Regional Hospital, Kentville, N.S.

He was born in Altona, Manitoba on September 27, 1944. He is survived by his wife, Barbara; sons, Nathan (Nicola Holdsworth) and Joel; grandchildren, Samson, Fiona, James, Baker, and Mary. He was very proud of his family and their accomplishments.

Lloyd retired from the Royal Canadian Navy in the Canadian Submarine Squadron as Lieutenant Commander after a career that spanned 33 years. During his time in the Navy, he served on surface ships, and for a large part of his naval career, he was a submariner. Lloyd did an exchange with submarines in England in 1982.

He had many stories to tell from his time in Britain, from going to the 24 hour car race in Le Mans to dealing with British council bylaws when Lloyd thought a tree needed pruning. He learned, after the fact, you get approval first, then prune.

Lloyd earned his Mechanical Engineering degree at TUNS in 1976.

After his retirement from the Navy, he decided he wanted to grow tomatoes. Consequently, he and Barb bought a tree fruit farm in Waterville, N.S. Lloyd enjoyed working in the orchard, learning and developing techniques to grow quality apples, pears, and cherries. Lloyd was a grower member of Scotian Gold. He had found his passion, not in growing tomatoes, but in his orchard, Apples and Spice.

His honest and forth right approach to life and genuine caring for others will be missed. In keeping with Lloyd's wishes, there is no service at this time. A Celebration of Lloyd's Life will be held at a later date. Donations may be made to a charity of choice. (Middleton Funeral Home)

Ships served in:

[HMCS BONAVENTURE](#)

[HMCS ONONDAGA](#)

[HMCS OJIBWA](#)

[HMCS OKANAGAN](#) - 1983-1985

HMS/m ONYX HMS/m OTTER HMS/m SEALION - 1981-1983



James Michael (Mitch) Ewan

Commander, RCN / C.A.F. (Navy)

Born: Oct 1946, Ottawa, Ontario, Canada

Died: 05 Nov 2025, Houston, Texas, USA



EWAN, James Michel (Mitch) - Passed away peacefully with his family at his side on 05 November 2025 in Houston, Texas. A distinguished naval officer, pioneering engineer, and devoted family man, Mitch left an indelible mark on both the military and the field of renewable energy.

Born in Ottawa, Ontario, Canada, Mitch pursued a rigorous education in Applied Science at the Royal Military College in Kingston, Ontario. His academic foundation laid the groundwork for his remarkable career that spanned continents and disciplines. Mitch served with honour in the Royal Canadian Navy, rising to the rank of Commander. During his Naval Career, he commanded three submarines and a destroyer.

After retiring from active duty, he transitioned into private industry where he held several senior executive positions. His post military career was marked by innovation and vision. For over 28 years, Mitch dedicated himself to advancing hydrogen and fuel cell technologies. He led the team that designed and built the world's first fuel cell-powered automobile. In 2001, he joined the University of Hawaii's Natural Energy Institute as the Hydrogen Systems Project Manager.

Over his 23 years tenure, Mitch played a pivotal role in developing hydrogen as a potential alternative fuel source, including the development of a hydrogen run bus system on the big island of Hawaii. His life work was to "decarbonize the world through the use of hydrogen". He was known as "Mr. Hydrogen" to his friends and colleagues. Mitch's work earned him multiple patents and widespread recognition within the scientific community.

Mitch is survived by his loving wife of 42 years, DeAnne Ewan, daughters Courtney and Caroline Ewan; brother-in-law Steven D. Wright and several nieces and nephews. May his memory bring comfort to those who knew him and inspiration to those who follow in his footsteps.

Ships served in:

[HMCS RAINBOW](#)

[HMCS OJIBWA](#) - 11th Commanding Officer

[HMCS ONONDAGA](#) - 18th Commanding Officer

[HMCS OKANAGAN](#) - 12th Commanding Officer

[HMCS MARGAREE](#) - 17th Commanding Officer





Gilles Maurice Poirier

Chief Petty Officer 2nd Class Marine Engineer

RCN / C.A.F. (Navy)

Born: 21 Apr 1943, Verdun, Quebec, Canada

Died: 03 Nov 2025, Shelburne, Nova Scotia, Canada



POIRIER, Gilles Maurice - Passed away on November 3, 2025 in the Roseway Hospital, Shelburne, NS. Born April 21, 1943, in Verdun, Quebec to a very religious family, he could not make it as a priest or a Montreal Canadians hockey player, so he joined the Merchant Marines.

After a year of schooling in Rimouski, he went to work for the Clarke Steamship Line, where he served on the SS Nova Port, MV North Gaspe and the MV North Voyageur.

In 1962, he joined the navy, signing up at HMCS Donnacona in Montreal. Having enlisted during the Cuban crisis, the navy was preparing ships in case of conflict, so he was quickly issued a uniform and sent to HMCS Cornwallis, where for the next three months he went through basic training. He graduated as an Ordinary Seaman Engineering Mechanic Standard trade and was shipped out to HMCS Stadacona where he joined the frigate HMCS Lanark. In 1963 he went to Victoria, BC and took his 3-year Naval Technical Apprenticeship course at HMCS Naden. He briefly served on both HMCS Assiniboine and HMCS Iroquois.

In April 1968 Gilles decided to serve in Submarines. He served on all of the Oberon class submarines; HMCS/ M Onondaga, Okanagan and Ojibwa. He was CERA onboard HMCS Ojibwa. He retired from the navy in 1986.

Upon his release, he continued to work as a submarine civilian technologist for another 20 years until his retirement in 2006.

In his later years, he was proud to be liaison/"sea daddy" to the HMCS Ojibwa Museum, providing much technical information on normal day-to-day submarine operations. He was an avid storyteller, frequently recounting many of his on and off board shenanigans.

He was a long time member of the Submariners Association of Canada.

He is survived by his wife of 51 years, Jocelyne Poirier, his son Patrick (Cavelle), his grandsons Ethan, Austin and Cameron, all from Leduc, Alberta, his daughter Natasha (Adrian) from Roseway, NS. Brothers Guy (Francine), Claude, sisters Lilianne, Claire, Celine and France (Normand), all of Quebec.

He was predeceased by his parents Lionel and Lucille Poirier, his brother Jacques and his daughter Shawna. As per his wishes, his body was donated to the Human Body Donation Program, Department of Medical Neuroscience at Dalhousie University. A Celebration of Life will be held about April 2026.

Ships served in: [HMCS DONNACONA](#) - Enlisted in the RCN in 1962 [HMCS CORNWALLIS](#)

* Rated Ordinary Seaman Engineering Mechanic (Standard) [HMCS STADACONA](#) [HMCS LANARK](#)

[HMCS NADEN](#) [HMCS ASSINIBOINE](#) * Volunteered for Submarine Service Apr 1968

[HMCS ONONDAGA](#) [HMCS OKANAGAN](#) - Gilles is in the 1979 Work-ups crew photo as a PO1 & in the 1982 crew photo. [HMCS OJIBWA](#) - Served in OJIBWA as Chief ERA [HMCS IROQUOIS](#) * Retired 1986



FOR POSTERITY'S SAKE

A Royal Canadian Navy Historical Project



Joseph Arthur Haddock

Chief Petty Officer 1st Class, C.A.F. (Navy)

Born: 10 Jun 1954, Hamilton, Ontario, Canada

Died: 30 Oct 2025, Lower Sackville, Nova Scotia, Canada



HADDOCK, Joseph Arthur - On October 30, 2025 Joseph Arthur Haddock, of Lower Sackville, NS passed away peacefully surrounded by family and friends at the Cobequid Community Health Centre at the age of 71.

Joe was born June 10, 1954 in Hamilton ON to the late Arnold Halgate Haddock of Hamilton ON and Laura (Kaitting) Haddock of Goderich ON.

He joined the Canadian Armed Forces in August 1977 where he served in the Navy as a submariner for 32 years before retiring as a CPO1 and joining the civilian side working in the Dockyard for BAE. Joe retired in 2021 and was greatly respected by anyone who had the pleasure of knowing or working with him. He met his wife Dorothy in the fall of 1974. They married on December 29, 1978 beginning a long and happy marriage. When not working, Joe enjoyed being with his family and friends, watching CFL TI-Cat games, playing and watching hockey (Go Leafs!), riding his Harley and attending weekly darts which lets be honest, he went for the cheap legion beer! He also loved listening to the Blue Jays game on the radio while tinkering in his garage or at the cottage. Joe was a man that would give you the shirt off his back, and whose actions did all the speaking he needed. He would never hesitate to help anyone in need or when voluntold by Dorothy.

Joe was a loving husband, father and grandfather and will be dearly missed. He is survived by his loving wife Dorothy, daughter Amanda Haddock (Trevor O'Neil) and son, Ian Haddock (Amy), grandchildren; Hailey Haddock-O'Neil (Thomas), Riley and Makaila Haddock.

Joe was predeceased by both his parents as well as his sister, Shirley who passed away during childhood.

The family wishes to extend their sincere gratitude and appreciation to Dr. Chiasson and her staff, Dr Diaz, Dr Robbins, all the Toronto General Hospital Lung Transplant Team and the Cobequid Emergency Department for their exemplary care, support and compassion for Joe and his family.

Following Joe's wishes there will be no visitation but there will be a Graveside Service at Oakridge Memorial Gardens on November 25, 2025 at 11am for those who wish to attend. A Celebration of Life for close family and friends will follow.

Donations in Joe's memory may be made in his name to the NS Lung Association. (The Halifax Chronicle-Herald 04 Nov 2025)

Ships served in:

[HMCS ONONDAGA](#) - Joe was part of the 1984 rededication crew and is in the rededication crew photo

[HMCS OJIBWA](#) - Joe is in the 1988 summer crew photo

[HMCS OKANAGAN](#)

[HMCS VICTORIA](#)

[HMCS CORNER BROOK](#)



FOR POSTERITY'S SAKE

A Royal Canadian Navy Historical Project



Joseph Arthur Haddock (cont.)

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[HMCS CORNER BROOK](#)

Kelly Lough—26 November 2025 HMCS Onondaga HMCS Okanagan

No information available on his death.



David Brygadyr - ??????. HMCS Grilse, HMCS Rainbow

No information on his death





FOR POSTERITY'S SAKE

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Edward Henry Andrew Hinch

RCN / C.A.F. (Navy)

Born: 16 Sep 1942

Died: 14 Sep 2025, Victoria, British Columbia, Canada



HINCH, Edward Henry Andrew -

It is with great sorrow to announce Edward Hinch has passed away peacefully. A proud Navy veteran, Edward served in Submarines and dedicated a portion of his life to serving his country and exemplified honour, courage, and commitment. He will be fondly remembered by family, friends, and all who had the privilege of knowing him for his kindness, generosity, and steadfast character. Edward's life was marked by service, loyalty, and a deep love for his community. Edward's legacy of dedication and compassion will live on in the hearts of all who knew him. In lieu of flowers, the family kindly requests that donations be made to Broadmead Veterans Lodge in honor of Edward's service and memory.

Ships served in:

[HMCS KOOTENAY](#) - Served in KOOTENAY 1964-1967

[HMCS ANNAPOLIS](#)

[HMCS OJIBWA](#)





FOR POSTERITY'S SAKE

A Royal Canadian Navy Historical Project



Norman Deen

Chief Petty Officer 1st Class Naval Electronic Sensor Operator, 34636-E,

RCN / C.A.F. (Navy)

Born: 25 Jan 1937

Died: circa Jun/Jul 2025



Ships served in:

[HMCS NONSUCH](#) - Enlisted in the RCN 24 Apr 1956

[HMCS CORNWALLIS](#)

[HMCS CRESCENT](#) - 1957 - 1959

[HMCS ASSINIBOINE](#) - 1959 - 1960 New London, Connecticut, USA for Submarine
Training - 1961

[HMCS GRILSE](#) - 1961 - 1962

[HMCS STADACONA](#) - 1962 - 1963 for TG3 course

[HMCS NADEN](#) - 1963 - 1964

[HMCS GRILSE](#) - 1964 - 1968

[HMCS RAINBOW](#) - 1968 - 1969 - Commissioning crew as a PO2
CFFS ESQUIMALT - 1969 - 1972 as Communication / EW Instructor

[HMCS KOOTENAY](#) - 1972 - 1974

COMMANDER 2nd DESTROYER SQUADRON (Staff of) - 1974 - 1976

CFFS HALIFAX - 1976 - 1977

COMMANDER 1st DESTROYER SQUADRON (Staff of)
- 1977 - 1978 (for EW)

CFFS ESQUIMALT - Combat Division Regulator - 1978 -
1981

[HMCS YUKON](#) - 1981 - 1984 as Cox'n

NOTC - 1984 - 1985

SEA TRAINING PACIFIC - 1985 - 1987

CFFS ESQUIMALT - School CPO - 1987 - 1990

* Released 08 May 1991

* Transferred to Primary Reserve

NAVAL RESERVE OJT COORDINATOR 1991 - 1993

(Class B Reserve)



FOR POSTERITY'S SAKE

A Royal Canadian Navy Historical Project



Bernard N. O'Leary

Petty Officer 1st Class Steward, 36309-H, RCN / C.A.F. (Navy)

Born: 20 Jul 1938

Died: 24 Aug 2025



Bernard served in submarines from 1961 to 1967. He trained in the UK.

Ships served in:

[HMCS HAIDA](#)

[HMCS ST LAURENT](#) - 1957

[HMS/m ACHERON](#) - 1961 - 1963

HMS/m NARWHAL - 1963 - 1965

HMS/m OCELOT 1965 - 1967

[HMCS ONONDAGA](#) - 1967 - Commissioning Crew

[HMCS YUKON](#)

[HMCS SASKATCHEWAN](#)

[HMCS GATINEAU](#)





FOR POSTERITY'S SAKE

A Royal Canadian Navy Historical Project



Francis Joseph Zareski

Chief Petty Officer Engine Room Artificer, RCN

Lieutenant, O-80622, RCN

Born: 1919, Crowland, Ontario, Canada

Died: 1977

ZARESKI, Francis Joseph - He went to HMS Dolphin for Submarine Training in 1956 accompanied by his wife and 9 children and lived at 26 Elizabeth Gardens, Southsea. When they returned to Canada there were 11 kids (addition of 2 girls). At that time he was a CPO ERA. In 1958 he took his commission as an Acting Commissioned Engineer. He is buried in Saint Genevieve's Roman Catholic Church Cemetery, East Chezzetcook, Halifax County, Nova Scotia, Canada.

Ships served in:

* Enlisted in the RCNVR 15 Nov 1940

HMS RAMILLIES

* Transferred to the RCN Apr 1945

[SIXTH SUBMARINE DIVISION](#)

[HMCS CORNWALLIS](#)

[HMCS SIOUX](#)

[HMCS RESTIGOUCHE](#)

[HMCS GRANBY](#)

[HMCS NEW WATERFORD](#)

[HMCS STADACONA](#) -

Engineering Division

Retired 27 Dec 1965

Two Engineers Commissioned

Two former chief petty officers of the Royal Canadian Navy, Francis J. Zareski and R. R. Winder, have been promoted to the rank of acting commissioned engineer officer and appointed to a six-week officers' divisional course at HMCS *Cornwallis*, training establishment near Digby, N.S. On completion of the course, A/Cd. Eng Off. Zareski will take up an appointment in the *Sioux* and A/Cd. Eng Off. Winder in the *Huron*.

Cd. Eng. Off. Zareski was born in Crowland, Ontario, and entered the navy in November 1940 in the former stoker branch. He served during the Second World War in establishments on both coasts, in the United Kingdom, and at sea in HMS *Ramillies* (battleship), and corvettes, frigates and destroyers of the RCN. He transferred to the regular force in April 1945.

Since the war he served in destroyer escorts, an aircraft carrier and frigates. He also took submarine training in the United Kingdom, and served with the Sixth Submarine Squadron based at Halifax.

Cdr. Eng. Off. Winder was born in Portsmouth, England, and served in the Royal Navy from January 1938 until June 1953. He entered the Royal Canadian Navy in June 1954 at Montreal, in the engineering branch, and has served in RCN barracks on both coasts, at *Cornwallis* and in the *Algonquin*.