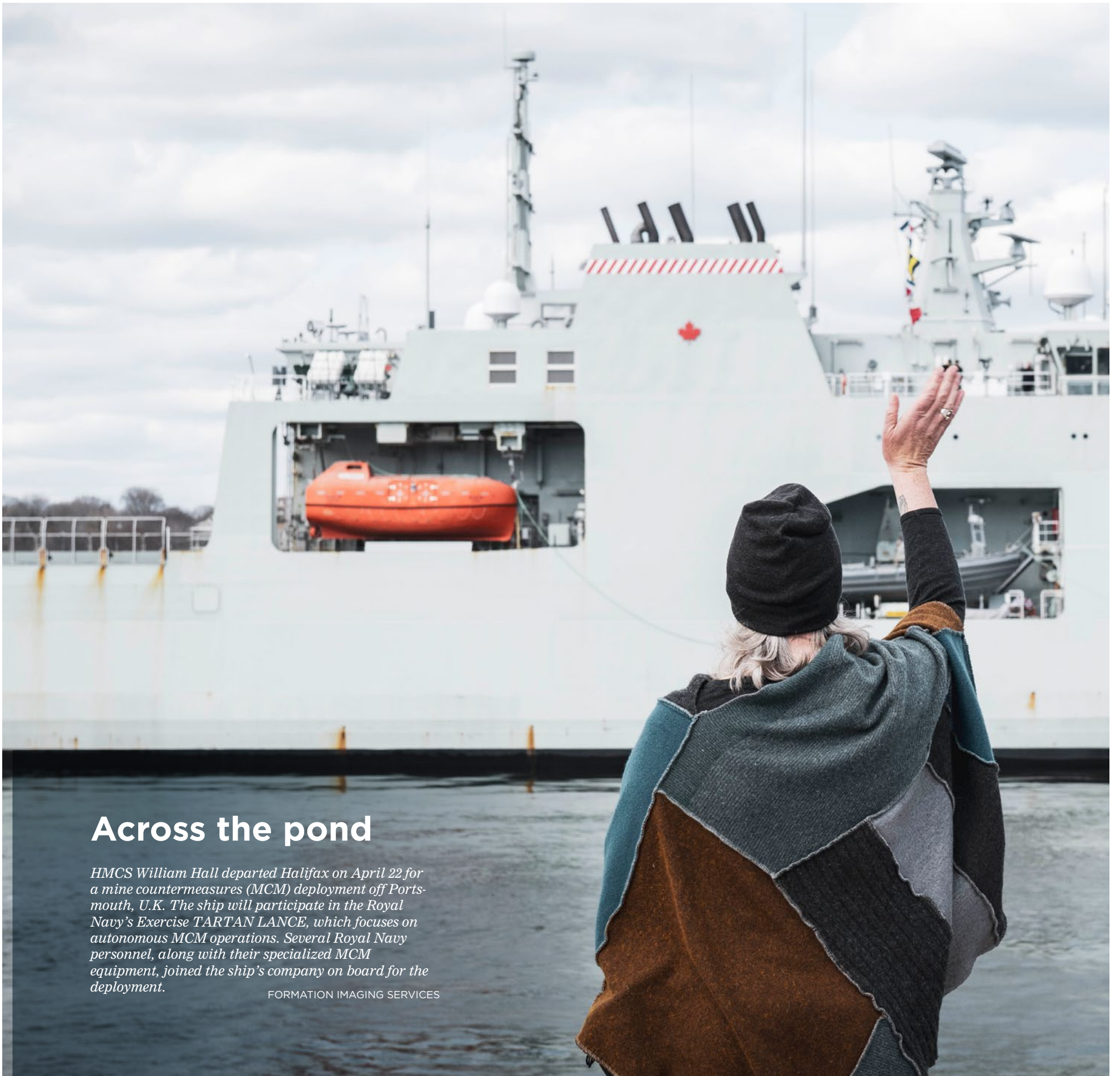




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TRIDENT

THE NEWSPAPER OF MARITIME FORCES ATLANTIC SINCE 1966 • LE JOURNAL DES FORCES MARITIMES DE L'ATLANTIQUE DEPUIS 1966



Across the pond

HMCS William Hall departed Halifax on April 22 for a mine countermeasures (MCM) deployment off Portsmouth, U.K. The ship will participate in the Royal Navy's Exercise TARTAN LANCE, which focuses on autonomous MCM operations. Several Royal Navy personnel, along with their specialized MCM equipment, joined the ship's company on board for the deployment.

FORMATION IMAGING SERVICES



Naval officials from across Allied Maritime Command recently gathered for a three-day conference in Northwood, United Kingdom.

ALLIED MARITIME COMMAND

NATO Naval Chiefs focus on alliance cohesion at annual conference

By Allied Maritime Command

NATO's Allied Maritime Command (MARCOM) hosted chiefs of navy, fleet commanders, operational directors, and other senior leaders for the Maritime Operational Commanders' Conference

(MOCC) 2026 at its headquarters in Northwood, April 15-17.

The annual event is designed to foster open discussion and dialogue about how the Alliance can strengthen its warfight-

ing advantage.

A key element of this year's conference was a robust discussion about the future of the Alliance's standing naval forces and the need for continued operational experimentation and integration of uncrewed systems into NATO's maritime operations. Participants also discussed ways to enhance information sharing and strengthen security cooperation across a range of missions within Allied maritime forces, including Operation Sea Guardian and the current Neptune Strike, Baltic Sentry and Arctic Sentry enhanced vigilance activities.

"We live in consequential times and an era of great power competition marked by rapid technological change and sophisticated and adaptive adversaries," said Vice Admiral Robert Pedre, Commander, Allied Maritime Command. "Maritime power remains foundational to NATO's collective defence, security and prosperity, serving as a critical domain for deterring adversaries, protecting over one billion Alliance citizens and securing vital and often contested

sea lines of communication. This year's MOCC focused principally on NATO's standing naval forces cognisant of their vital and enduring contribution to Allied deterrence as we contend with an increasingly challenging maritime picture. The contributions that every Allied navy makes to NATO's standing naval forces are immensely valued, clearly demonstrating Alliance cohesion and resolve."

Along with the chiefs of navy and Allied fleet commanders, senior leaders and planners from the Joint Force Commands and other Allied Command Operations staffs participated, and engaged in conversations centered around the evolution of MARCOM as a warfighting headquarters, preparing for short notice contingencies and maintaining a high state of operational readiness across their areas of operation.

MARCOM is the central command of all NATO maritime forces and the MARCOM commander is the primary maritime advisor to the Alliance. MARCOM also serves as a maritime information and coordination hub for the Alliance.

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On April 7, local Defence Team members and H&R MFRC staff members gathered during morning colours at CFB Halifax headquarters for a special flag raising in recognition of the Month of the Military Child and the Teal Up for Military Kids campaign. The Teal Up flag was also raised at Shearwater Main Gate.

AVR ROY



Teal Up for Military Children: Thank You, CFB Halifax & 12 Wing Shearwater

By the Halifax & Region Military Family Resource Centre

We extend our sincere thanks to members of the Canadian Armed Forces (CAF) community at Canadian Forces Base (CFB) Halifax and 12 Wing Shear-

water for your enthusiastic support of the Teal Up campaign for the Month of the Military Child. Your participation helps shine a light on the experiences of

military-connected children and reinforces that they are seen, valued, and supported.

Military children grow up navigating unique challenges. Frequent relocations mean changing schools, making new friends, and adapting to unfamiliar environments—often multiple times throughout their childhood. They also face periods of separation from parents due to training and deployments. Despite this, these children demonstrate resilience, adaptability, and strength well beyond their years. Here at the Halifax & Region Military Family Resource Centre, we are proud to celebrate these remarkable young people and to acknowledge the strong support we've seen across our community.

Throughout April, our team, alongside Military Family Resource Centres across the country, has been wearing teal to show our support. The colour teal was thoughtfully chosen to represent military children, blending the colours of the Canadian Armed Forces: blue for the Air Force, green for the Army, and navy/white for the Navy. It's a simple but powerful way to show unity and recognition.

You may also notice the dandelion fea-

ture in Teal Up materials. This symbol reflects the strength and resilience of military children. As noted by Canadian Military Family Magazine, dandelions can grow and thrive wherever the wind carries them, just like military children who bloom wherever life takes them.

We were also proud to host the *Navigate: Military Youth Conference* on April 11, bringing together youth from military families for a day of connection, learning, and inspiration. This event would not have been possible without the generous funding support of Lockheed Martin. Their contribution helped create meaningful opportunities for military youth to build skills, share experiences, and strengthen their sense of community.

We've been especially encouraged to see participation in "Teal Up Tuesdays," with individuals and teams across CFB Halifax and 12 Wing Shearwater proudly wearing teal each week, as well as the flag raising ceremonies at both locations. These acts of visibility make a big difference in building awareness and support.

Thank you again to our CAF community for standing with military children. Your support matters, and it shows.

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French Navy Aquitaine-class frigate FS Bretagne (D655) arriving in Halifax, Nova Scotia on February 9.

FORMATION IMAGING SERVICES

FMF Cape Scott conducts Link 22 Testing with French Ship Bretagne

By Gabrielle Brunette,
FMF Cape Scott

In February, Fleet Maintenance Facility (FMF) Cape Scott successfully collaborated with the Marine Nationale to conduct Link 22 (L 22) testing with the French Ship (FS) Bretagne and a NH 90 CAIMAN helicopter.

This marked the first time FMF Cape Scott has conducted Link 22 testing with an aircraft, and the third time it has worked with the French Navy. In 2020, FMF Cape Scott tested Link 22 with FS Normandie, completing the first successful over the air international L 22 test. More recently, in 2024, testing was conducted between His Majesty's Canadian Ship (HMCS) Charlottetown, FMF Cape Scott, a southern U.S. testing range,

and two French ranges. During those tests, communication over thousands of nautical miles was achieved.

Link 22 is a NATO developed, secure, beyond line of sight tactical data link designed to allow allied military forces—air, surface, subsurface, and ground—to exchange tactical information reliably and securely across long distances.

“Tactical means everything we see on our radars, including friendly ships, suspect vessels, and more, is shared with them,” explained Chris Gilfoyle, Multi Link Engineering Facility Analyst at FMF Cape Scott. “Secure means the information is encrypted. There are no physical connections between ships and aircraft;

the data is transmitted over radio.”

Link 22 uses high frequency communications, allowing it to operate in satellite denied environments, a capability that is becoming increasingly important given the current political climate.

While Link 22 has been under development for several years, it is still considered a relatively new and uncommon capability across allied fleets, which makes multinational testing more challenging.

“Normally, we only test to make sure our equipment is working. Our navies go out, and then they deal with whatever they encounter once they’re deployed,” said Gilfoyle. “It’s rare to have the opportunity to test with another navy.”

Designed to replace Link 11, Link 22 operates seamlessly alongside Link 16, another NATO system intended for shorter range communications. The new system has already been installed on all Halifax-class frigates, with integration planned for the new River class ships and potential light version retrofits for Arctic vessels such as the Harry DeWolf class ships. The Royal Canadian Air Force is also preparing to adopt the system for some of its aircraft.

As allied fleets continue to modernize, FMF Cape Scott and the Royal Canadian Navy remain committed to supporting the integration and testing of Link 22, ensuring continued fleet readiness.

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King Charles III version of the Operational Service Medal unveiled

By DND

The Operational Service Medal (OSM) recently became the third permanent Canadian honour to be modified to reflect the reign of King Charles III.

The OSM was created by Queen Elizabeth II on July 5, 2010, to recognize military and civilian personnel who served in a theatre of operations or provided full-time direct support to such operations. It also applies to those who served under dangerous circumstances outside Canada, as long as that service is not counted towards another service medal, with the exception of the Canadian Peacekeeping Service Medal where applicable. This medal is always issued with a ribbon specific to the theatre or type of service being recognized, and each ribbon has its own criteria. There are six such ribbons to the OSM. There are also rotation bars for additional

periods of eligible service.

All Canadian honours are created and awarded on behalf of the Sovereign, who is the Fount of Honours. Consequently, the design of the insignia of official honours includes the effigy, Royal Cypher, or Crown of the monarch as the source of the honour. When there is a change of reign, the insignia are gradually amended to reflect the new reign.

The OSM has borne the effigy of its creator, Queen Elizabeth II, since its inception. The new version, now bearing the effigy of The King, was first presented to 44 recipients currently deployed to the Middle East under Operation (Op) AMARNA. The inaugural ceremony took place at the Canadian Embassy in Amman, Jordan, on April 2, 2026. The very first recipient was Lieutenant-Colonel Christopher Scott.



DND

Following this inaugural presentation, the new version of the OSM will now be presented throughout the CAF for those who became eligible during The King's Reign, and whose medal is issued by the Directorate of Honours and Recognition from April 2, 2026, onwards. Previously awarded OSMs remain unchanged. Those who qualified for the OSM during The Late Queen's Reign will continue to

receive the Elizabeth II version in the future, and any replacement of that medal will be replaced by the same type.

In addition to the necessary update to the effigy on the obverse and Crown on the reverse, the occasion was taken to further improve the appearance of the medal by having all the raised elements frosted on both sides of the medal.

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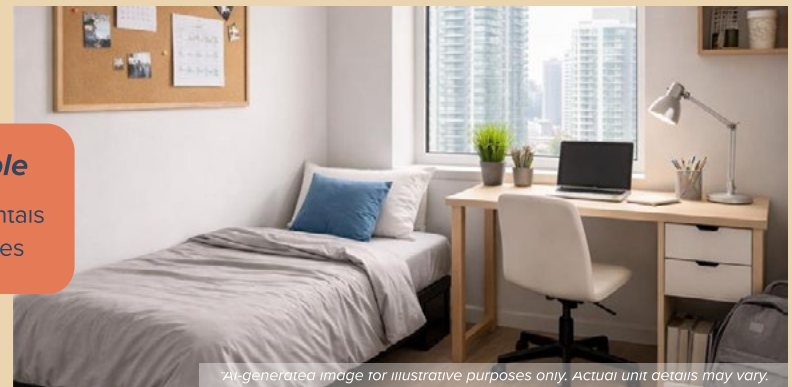
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The Naval Museum of Halifax's signature ship badge wall was recently packed up for safekeeping. The museum's entire collection is in the process of being moved out to prepare for renovation and restoration work on Admiralty House.

NAVAL MUSEUM OF HALIFAX

Inside the Naval Museum of Halifax's upcoming two-year transformation

By Nathan Stone
Trident Staff

After more than two centuries overlooking the Halifax dockyard, Admiralty House, the historic home of the Naval Museum of Halifax, is entering a two-year transformation that will renew both the landmark building and the stories told within its walls.

The museum closed its doors to visitors on April 2 as work begins on a full restoration of the heritage property, alongside a comprehensive overhaul of exhibits and visitor spaces designed to reshape how naval history is experienced.

While the closure marks the end of an era, Director Jennifer Denty describes the coming restoration as a rare and long-awaited opportunity to reimagine how the Naval Museum of Halifax tells the Royal Canadian Navy (RCN) story.

"We have truly hallowed halls here at Admiralty House," says Denty. "This is the epicenter of the history of the RCN on this coast, and it's a really important landmark historically for the development of Halifax, because the development of Halifax has been so deeply shaped by its relationship with it being a strategic naval port."

While the restoration is taking place, all the museum's approximately 250,000 artifacts are being carefully relocated.

Moving the entire collection out of a two-century-old heritage building is no small task. The operation involves packing and transporting a wide range of items, from preserved uniforms, medals, letters and personal mementos like lighters and coins, to historic books, paintings and other works of art. Denty noted that the museum's large model collection needs special care and attention ahead of any move.

"We have about 130 models. The biggest risk of moving them as they age is their adhesive dries and becomes more brittle, so even the vibrations of a truck could jiggle them enough to break a mast."

The team is currently tackling one floor per month, aiming to have everything moved out before the summer heat sets in.

The closure is also allowing the museum to implement an interpretive plan that's been a decade in the making, informed by years of observing how visitors move through the space and interact with exhibits. That plan is now being put into action with the help of a \$1.5-million grant from the Directorate of History and Heritage's Museum Development Fund, which allows Denty to bring in professional exhibit design-

ers and fabricators to help create new visitor experiences.

One of the most significant changes visitors will notice when the museum reopens is the relocation of the archive, which will move out of the building's traditional dining room. That space will become a new ground-floor exhibit covering the founding of the navy up to the dawn of the Second World War.

Denty notes that the museum will also be introducing entirely new subject matter, with a new exhibit dedicated to the RCN's role in the Korean conflict, while greatly expanding the footprint focused on the Second World War and the Battle of the Atlantic.

Another addition will be a "Room of Reflection," a commemorative space designed to bring individual sailors' stories to the forefront.

"The history of the Navy is complex, but one of the most important parts about it is the history of the sailors and their experiences," says Denty. "It's really important that we highlight individuals, because sometimes it's not just the people that have the big stories that we want to share; your everyday sailors and their experiences are also very important."

The room will also house the mu-

seum's Book of Remembrance and provide comfortable seating, creating a space for quiet contemplation.

While the doors will be closed, the Naval Museum of Halifax plans to remain active in the community during the closure. Some artifacts are being temporarily displayed in other locations around Canadian Forces Base Halifax, travelling displays will be brought out to mark important occasions, and staff will continue to participate in events such as the Harbour Bridge Walk and the Maritime Heritage Festival.

Staff are relocating to an off-site workspace in Windsor Park, where they, alongside a team of volunteers, will continue the museum's day-to-day work.

Denty says the restoration and renovation are ultimately a positive development for the museum, the historic building it calls home, and the community it serves.

"Admiralty House itself is such an important place, and it's very important to take away that it is being preserved and restored and will be available for generations to come. The ability to reinvest in the museum's exhibitory is the summation of a decade's worth of work. We're coming back with all the things that you love about us, but better."



George's Island offers one of the best vantage points for taking in the Sail GP races in Halifax Harbour this June.

SUBMITTED

Watch Sail GP from George's Island: Great prizes at DND Family Days

By PSP Halifax

Prize draws are always a highlight at DND Family Days, and the 2026 edition will be no different. From toys, games and bicycles to home goods, event tickets, and great travel packages, there will be giveaways to excite all our attendees!

As we prepare to welcome Sail GP back to the Halifax Waterfront on June 20-21, our partners at Ambassatours Gray Line have generously provided two tickets to take in the international competition from George's Island.

"Watch the world's top sailing teams race at high speed from an exclusive vantage point right on the edge of the racecourse. Your experience includes round-trip ferry transfers from the Halifax Waterfront, a picnic pack upon arrival, live race commentary and big-

screen coverage to keep you close to every moment," says Giacomo Bruno of Ambassatours.

"With panoramic harbour views and unbeatable on-water energy, this is an unforgettable day you won't want to miss."

For your chance to win Sail GP tickets and so many other exciting prizes, be sure to visit our sponsors on site and be at HMC Dockyard at 2 p.m. on June 12 and 13 when the draws take place.



The 2026 edition of DND Family Days is set for June 12-13.

S3 ANGELA MORRISON

All hands on deck: DND Family Days returns June 12-13

By PSP Halifax

DND Family Days returns to His Majesty's Canadian Dockyard in Halifax on Friday, June 12 and Saturday, June 13, bringing two days of excitement, connection, and community celebration for Canadian Armed Forces members, their families, and the wider Defence Team.

A tradition in Halifax for nearly three decades, Family Days continues to evolve. This year, visitors will notice a refreshed layout designed to enhance the experience right from the moment they arrive. Shortly after entering through Rainbow Gate, guests will be welcomed directly into the vibrant Entertainment Zone, where a wide range of inflatable games and rides will be set up for kids and families to enjoy.

Nearby, the always-popular RHIB rides will also be found closer to the site entrance, giving attendees an opportunity to experience the harbour from a different perspective. Family Days also offers the chance to get out on the water aboard the Harbour Hopper, which will be on site offering free amphibious tours on both days of the event. The Hopper provides a unique way to explore both land and water while taking in the sights of Halifax. Be sure to grab your free tickets shortly after arriving to secure a seat!

Family Days would not be possible without the continued support of its sponsors. Sobeys returns as Presenting Sponsor, alongside a strong group of partners who help bring the event to life. Throughout the Dockyard, sponsor booths will offer interactive activities, giveaways, and opportunities for attendees to connect with organizations that support the military community.

DND
FAMILY 
Days

Military units and partners will also play a key role in the event. Attendees can expect Military Police demonstrations and the chance to explore ship tours, offering a closer look at the operations and people behind Canada's Atlantic Fleet.

Visitors can also stop by the Ships' Marketplace, supported by the PSP Fleet Support team, where merchandise from ships of the Atlantic Fleet will be available for purchase. From hats and hoodies to coins and other unique items, the marketplace offers a chance to take home a piece of naval pride.

Other Family Days staples — great snacks and drinks, mascot appearances, prize giveaways, and more — will also be back, making it a weekend the whole family won't want to miss.

"We're so excited to welcome everyone back to DND Family Days, and the whole team is hard at work putting together a great event for our military families," says Missy Sonier, Corporate Services Manager with Personnel Support Programs Halifax.



Participant group photo during the 16th Global Combat Ship (GCS) User Group Meeting at Canadian Forces Base (CFB) Halifax.

Cmdre Jacob French, Commander of Canadian Fleet Atlantic, speaks to colleagues at the GCS User Group Meeting in Halifax.

CPL GREGORY COLE

CPL GREGORY COLE

Global Combat Ship partners convene in Halifax, welcome Norway to User Group

By Trident Staff

From April 20 to 24, 2026, Canada hosted the 16th Global Combat Ship (GCS) User Group Meeting at Canadian Forces Base (CFB) Halifax, bringing together international partners working on a common next-generation warship design.

The working-level forum brought together navies developing ships based on the Type 26 design: the Royal Canadian Navy's River-class destroyers, the United Kingdom's Type 26 frigates, and Australia's Hunter-class frigates. The meeting also marked the formal entry of the Royal Norwegian Navy into the User Group, following a charter-signing

ceremony led by Norwegian Navy Captain Alex Erichsen. Norway also plans to acquire 5 to 6 ships based on the Type 26 design.

The group oversees the development, construction, and future operation of a class of up to 34 warships across participating nations. The initiative spans multiple national programs focused on surface combatant and anti-submarine warfare capabilities.

During the week, program teams shared updates and discussed technical and operational issues related to their respective shipbuilding efforts. Discussions focused on design evolution, sup-

ply chain considerations, and approaches to delivery and sustainment. The group states that the forum also supports the development of long-term interoperability among participating navies.

The GCS User Group charter describes the partnership between the United Kingdom, Australia, Norway and Canada as a collaborative effort intended to optimize delivery, sustainment and operational effectiveness across the different ship variants. It notes that the group aims to make efficient use of resources, address common challenges, and identify shared opportunities, while recognizing the sovereign nature of each national program.

In addition to discussions at CFB Halifax, Senior representatives also observed progress on the future His Majesty's Canadian Ship Fraser, the first River-class destroyer for Canada, on which construction began approximately one year ago.

Industry partners from the three programs participated in discussions throughout the week. The meeting concluded with a visit to Irving Shipbuilding, including a tour of the shipyard.

With files from the Department of National Defence



Documents were signed to officially welcome Norway into the Global Combat Ship (GCS) User Group, joining existing members Canada, Australia and the United Kingdom.

CPL GREGORY COLE



SPORTS & FITNESS



Register now for 2026 Navy Bike Ride

By Trident Staff

The Navy Bike Ride returns to the Halifax region on Saturday, June 6, bringing together military members, families, and the wider community for a day of fitness, connection while also lending support to important causes.

Hosted at 12 Wing Shearwater, this year's event features three in-person route options: a 6-kilometre family ride, a 15-kilometre route, and a 37-kilometre ride. All rides begin at 10 a.m. from the Shearwater Fitness, Sports and Recreation Centre, with participants then travelling along scenic local trails including the Shearwater Flyer, Salt Marsh, and Atlantic View.

Since its founding in 2016, the Navy Bike Ride has grown into a national initiative, encouraging participants across the country to stay active while fostering a sense of community within and beyond the Royal Canadian Navy.

This year, cyclists can also take part in the virtual 116K "Admiral's Ride" by challenging themselves to complete a 116-kilometre ride anytime between June 1 and June 30 in honour of the RCN's 116th birthday in 2026. Those who complete the challenge will receive a Navy Bike Ride technical T-shirt and commemorative coin.

Money raised through the Navy Bike Ride supports programs that aim to make a meaningful difference in the lives of CAF members, veterans, and their families. Funds raised benefit the Royal Canadian Naval Benevolent Fund, Support Our Troops, and Soldier On.

Registration is [open now](#) (in person and virtual), with organizers encouraging participants of all ages and experience levels to sign up, start training, and take part in this year's ride.

Participants get started at 12 Wing Shearwater during last year's Navy Bike Ride.

CPL AMELIE GRAVELINE

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The first Fleet Run/Walk of 2026 was held on April 15.

CPL BRENDAN GAMACHE

Fleet Run starts off 2026 season with a splash

By Nathan Stone
Trident Staff

Participants dodged puddles and braved a blanket of fog and mist as they took part in the first 5K Fleet Run/Walk of the year on April 15.

Beginning at the Maritime Forces Atlantic Headquarters building (D-201), runners traveled through the dockyard and down to the Halifax waterfront boardwalk before turning around at The Wave sculpture and coming back.

Personnel Support Programs (PSP) Halifax Fitness Coordinator Jocelyn Crothers helped organize the morning and led participants in a warm-up before the run. She says the run/walk is an ideal way to get active and socialize, regardless of fitness level.

“There are participants of all abilities, walkers, slow runners, and fast runners. So, you’ll find the right pace within the group.”

Despite the wet weather, Crothers says the turnout was high. She notes that for a lot of people the biggest challenge is making the choice to come out.

“Sometimes the hardest part is just showing up... Once you get started,

you’re going to love it.”

Civilian contractor Cherry Ren and Lieutenant (Navy) Jason Pereira walked the route together. They both chose to participate because of the health benefits.

“It’s a unique thing,” said Ren. “I think it’s good for our mental and physical health.”

“It’s something to do with your teammates and just get out and have a little fun,” added Lt(N) Pereira.

Sailor First Class (S1) Michael Raniowski was among the group of walkers. A member of the local Defence Advisory Group for Persons with Disabilities (DAGPWD), he took a different view of participating in the event.

“This kind of represents walking a few miles in somebody else’s shoes. This type of event can represent that, if you want it to.”

Stay tuned to [PSP Weekly Updates](#) and [CFB Halifax social media](#) to keep up with upcoming Fleet Run/Walk events throughout the spring and summer.



Lt(N) Cody Brown of the CFB Halifax Mariners received multiple Game MVP awards through the week at the CAF National Basketball Championship.

CANADIAN ARMED FORCES SPORTS

Mariners Battle to Bronze at CAF basketball nationals

By Trident Staff

The Canadian Forces Base (CFB) Halifax Mariners fell just short of the top prize but captured bronze at the recent Canadian Armed Forces (CAF) National Basketball Championship, held April 26–30 at CFB Borden.

The Mariners faced off against top teams from Esquimalt, Montreal, and host Borden throughout the week, with each squad earning its place by winning their respective CAF Regional Basketball Championship earlier this year.

Halifax went undefeated through

round-robin play with wins over Borden (66–55), Esquimalt (74–48), and Montreal (66–57), advancing to the semifinal round where they dropped a hard-fought 67–60 decision to Borden. The Mariners rebounded in the bronze medal game, defeating Esquimalt 73–59 to secure third place.

Borden went on to claim gold, turning their first regional title in 15 years into a national championship with a 72–53 victory over Montreal in the final.