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

Families welcomed aboard HMCS *Ville de Québec*

His Majesty's Canadian Ship (HMCS) Ville de Québec hosted friends and family for a day sail in and around Halifax Harbour on Saturday, June 6. The ship is currently preparing for an upcoming deployment to Operation REASSURANCE alongside NATO allies.

CPL GREGORY COLE





The final crew of HMCS Yellowknife, many of whom have now transferred to HMCS Nanaimo, pictured during an Op Caribbe deployment earlier this year.

FORMATION IMAGING SERVICES



HMCS Nanaimo arrived in Halifax last fall and is set to soon deploy on Operation REASSURANCE alongside NATO allies in a mine countermeasures role.

CPL ANTONIO GARCIA ALVAREZ

New commander takes helm as HMCS Yellowknife crew moves to HMCS Nanaimo

By Nathan Stone,
Trident Staff

The Royal Canadian Navy (RCN) celebrated both a farewell and a new beginning on May 29, as Lieutenant Commander (LCdr) Jeff Smith officially ended his tenure as the last Commanding Officer of His Majesty's Canadian Ship (HMCS) *Yellowknife*. He passed command of the ship's crew to LCdr Andrew Brumwell during a ceremony at HMCS *Scotian*.

With *Yellowknife* no longer in active service, LCdr Brumwell now takes command of HMCS *Nanaimo*, one of the Navy's four remaining Kingston-class Maritime Coastal Defense Vessels.

Much of *Yellowknife*'s crew is joining *Nanaimo* alongside LCdr Brumwell, who assumes his first command. *Nanaimo* is

expected to remain in service until its planned pay-off in 2028.

In his incoming remarks, LCdr Brumwell acknowledged the weight of his new role. He also thanked the departing LCdr Smith.

"I'm immensely proud and humbled to be assuming command. I'm committed to ensuring the vessel and her crew will be taken care of under my watch."

Commander Canadian Fleet Atlantic, Commodore (Cmdre) Jacob French, who presided over the ceremony, praised LCdr Smith's leadership and dedication to his crew.

"You always spoke up on behalf of the sailors when they needed my support, your support, or better support from

ashore, and you always had their well-being foremost on your mind," Cmdre French told the outgoing commander.

Speaking to the audience of *Yellowknife* sailors, friends and family, LCdr Smith reflected on his time in command. He recalled his less-than-ideal start at the Dockyard of Canadian Forces Base Esquimalt, where a sewage leak interrupted his first speech.

"The ship's black water connection to the jetty had totally let go, and black water was just spewing out everywhere," he said with a laugh.

Fortunately for LCdr Smith and his crew, the rocky start gave way to unforgettable moments like sailing through Norwegian fjords and transiting the

Panama Canal.

Yellowknife's final missions included joining Standing NATO Mine Countermeasures Group One alongside HMCS *Edmonton* in July 2025, and a seven-week deployment on Operation CARIBBE earlier this year.

More than seeing the world or sailing with NATO, LCdr Smith said that his proudest accomplishment was supporting his crew and helping them grow as sailors.

"Nothing beats being in command more than being able to impact other people, which I hope has been in a positive way... Managers look after numbers, whereas leaders look after people."

LCdr Brumwell's first test of leadership as *Nanaimo*'s Commanding Officer will be to integrate the incoming crew from *Yellowknife* with sailors freshly transferring to the ship.

Nanaimo is then expected to deploy on Operation REASSURANCE, picking up where *Yellowknife* left off in joining NATO's mine countermeasure work in the Baltic Sea.

TRIDENT

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Editor:
Ryan Melanson
ryan.melanson2@forces.gc.ca
902-721-8662

Editorial Advisor:
Margaret Conway
margaret.conway@forces.gc.ca
902-721-0560

Editorial Advisor:
Ariane Guay-Jadah
ariane.guay-jadah@forces.gc.ca
902-721-8341

Journalist:
Nathan Stone
stone.nathan@cfmws.com
902-721-8624

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Le Trident est une publication militaire autorisée par le contre-amiral Brian Santarpia, Commandant la force opérationnelle interarmées de l'Atlantique, qui est distribuée partout au Canada et outremer les lundis toutes les quinze semaines. Le rédacteur en chef se réserve

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Courier address:
Canadian Forces Base Halifax
Building S-90
Suite 329, P.O. Box 99000
Halifax, N.S., B3K 5X5





Members of HMCS Charlottetown helped landscape the courtyard and met with students and staff of the Da Nang Association of Victims of Agent Orange during a community outreach initiative on May 17.

MS ALEXANDRE HEAGLE

HMCS *Charlottetown* gives back during goodwill visit to Da Nang, Vietnam

By Lt(N) Rosa Gutierrez

On February 1, 2026, His Majesty's Canadian Ship (HMCS) *Charlottetown* departed Halifax for a six-month deployment to the Indo-Pacific region in support of Operation HORIZON..

During a recent goodwill visit to Da Nang, Vietnam, the ship's company supported two community outreach initiatives through funding provided by Boomer's Legacy. Working alongside local organizations, the crew helped improve facilities that support vulnerable members of the community.

At the Da Nang Association for Victims of Agent Orange, a centre that supports children and adults living

with disabilities linked to Agent Orange exposure, *Charlottetown* purchased painting and gardening supplies to beautify the courtyard and repair parts of the building's electrical and water systems. These improvements helped create a safer, more welcoming space for students and staff.

The ship's company also visited the Elderly Loving Home, a shelter that supports unhoused seniors. The team purchased a water pump, fans, and beds to offer the residents comfort and improve their quality of life. The crew worked side by side assembling and setting up the new equipment, while also

taking some time to connect with the residents and staff throughout the visit.

The experience left a lasting impression on the team.

"Today was a humble reminder that we have a direct impact on improving the lives of those around us, and getting to see all those smiles meant a lot. I'm proud to have been part of it," says Sailor 1st Class MacNeil, Naval Combat Information Operator.

"Visits like these are an important part of what Operation HORIZON stands for," says Commander Jonathan Maurice, Commanding Officer of HMCS *Charlottetown*. "Beyond strengthening

regional partnerships, it gives our sailors the opportunity to connect directly with members of the local community and make a meaningful difference along the way."

Boomer's Legacy honours the memory of Corporal Andrew "Boomer" Eykelenboom by delivering humanitarian assistance to communities around the world. Operation HORIZON reflects Canada's growing commitment to the Indo Pacific region. HMCS *Charlottetown* is expected to return to Halifax in late summer 2026. For updates, photos, and stories from the deployment, follow HMCS *Charlottetown* on social media.



The strategic logistics resupply by sea delivered approximately 950,000 kilograms of new equipment and vehicles to support Operation REASSURANCE in Latvia.

CPL GWYNETH LOVELL

CAF members in light armoured vehicles during Mission Rehearsal OAK RESOLVE at the daži Training Area in daži, Latvia in April 2026.

CPL GWYNETH LOVELL

Strategic sail arrives in Latvia to resupply Operation REASSURANCE and the NATO Multinational Brigade

By Captain Wyatt Shorter,
Deputy PAO Task Force Latvia

The strategic logistics resupply by sea is one of the largest annual logistics efforts supporting Canadian Armed Forces (CAF) operations abroad. Otherwise known as a “sail”, this iteration delivered approximately 950,000 kilograms of new equipment and vehicles, including new Armoured Combat Support Vehicle (ACSV) Ambulances, to the Operation (Op) REASSURANCE Land Task Force. In support of Canada’s contributions as the framework nation for NATO Multinational Brigade – Latvia (MNB-LVA), these large logistic undertakings deliver essential equipment and vehicles that will directly enhance the combat readiness of the Canada-led Brigade.

These newly arrived vehicles and materiel will prove invaluable in supporting Canada’s mission to deter

aggression and defend NATO’s Eastern flank as it leads the Multinational Brigade in Latvia. They will also be important to upcoming Mission Rehearsal Activities, ensuring that deployed CAF members and Allies within MNB-LVA are equipped and prepared to respond effectively to evolving operational and training demands. The end goal: maintaining and demonstrating readiness on the Alliance’s Eastern flank while deterring aggression.

The success of this sail underscores the strength of coordination between Task Force Latvia (TFL), the Canadian Joint Operations Command, the Canadian Forces Joint Operational Support Group, and important in-country collaboration with Latvian authorities and the team at the Port of Riga. This collabo-

ration highlights Canada’s ability to project and sustain forces over extended distances and lines of communication.

Sustainment is the backbone of operational readiness. The timely delivery of equipment ensures that personnel in Latvia can work and train with the same tools they would employ in combat scenarios. It also reduces operational risk and increases interoperability among Allied forces within MNB-LVA and with flanking units, reinforcing Alliance cohesion.

Beyond the immediate impact on readiness and training, this sail

demonstrates Canada’s strategic logistical reach. Moving large volumes of equipment across the Atlantic and into Eastern Europe requires precision planning, coordination, and execution. It is a tangible expression of Canada’s ability to support NATO operations at scale, even far from home.

As TFL integrates these new assets, the broader message is clear: Canada remains a reliable and capable partner, committed to sustaining its forces and contributing meaningfully to Alliance security.

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New sonar system selected for future River-class destroyers

By Trident Staff

A new sonar system has been selected for the Royal Canadian Navy's future River-class destroyers, with Thales Canada and Lockheed Martin Canada announcing an agreement related to the ships' anti-submarine warfare capabilities.

According to a recent Thales Canada press release, the company has been awarded a contract by Lockheed Martin Canada to supply its Sonar 2087 (S2087) towed array sonar system for the River-class destroyer fleet currently under development through Canada's National Shipbuilding Strategy.

The S2087 is a low-frequency towed array sonar designed to detect and track submarines at long ranges in both coastal and open-ocean environments. Thales says the system is already in service with the British Royal Navy and has also been selected for Australia's Hunter-class frigates.

"The S2087 adds a critical layer of capability to the River-class destroyers, ensuring Canada's surface combatants are equipped to operate effectively in contested maritime environments," said Ian Krepps, Chief Executive Officer of Thales Canada, in the press release.

The company says the sonar belongs to its CAPTAS family of systems, which has been adopted by 20 navies world-

wide. Thales also states that the addition of the S2087 will strengthen the future ships' anti-submarine warfare sensor suite and support interoperability with allied navies, including Five Eyes and NATO partners.

Lockheed Martin Canada serves as the Combat Systems Integrator for the River-class destroyer program, leading a team of industry partners responsible for delivering the ships' integrated combat management and sensor systems in coordination with Irving Shipbuilding, the prime contractor for the new ships.

The announcement also notes that Thales plans to work with Canadian industry partners to support the sonar systems throughout their service life, with maintenance and future upgrades intended to be carried out within Canada.

The River-class destroyers are expected to become the backbone of the Royal Canadian Navy's surface fleet in the coming decades, replacing both the Halifax-class frigates and the retired Iroquois-class destroyers. Based on the United Kingdom's Type 26 design, the ships are being built at Irving Shipbuilding's Halifax Shipyard, where production of the future HMCS *Fraser*, the first vessel in the class, began in 2025.



The S2087 low frequency towed array sonar.

THALES

Enabling the Defence Team for an AI-driven future

By DND

Military organizations around the world are undergoing a profound transformation as Artificial Intelligence (AI) reshapes how defence capabilities are developed and applied. Harnessing AI responsibly – at speed and scale – is essential for the Defence Team to maintain operational advantage in an increasingly complex and evolving environment.

Canada brings significant strengths to the defence AI landscape, including clear policy direction, a growing industrial vision, sovereign capability frameworks, and globally recognized expertise in frontier technologies.

Building on this foundation, the Defence Team established the [DND/CAF AI Centre](#) within the Digital Services Group (DSG) to help translate these strengths into operational impact.

Setting the direction: Responsible and scalable AI adoption

The DND/CAF AI Centre was established in the summer of 2024 to execute the Department's [AI Strategy](#) and provide enterprise-wide direction for AI

adoption.

While AI initiatives had already begun to emerge across the organization, scaling these efforts in a meaningful way required stronger coordination. The AI Centre was created to provide that focus – aligning efforts, reducing duplication, and accelerating the transition from experimentation to operational use.

Through a coordinated, department-wide approach, the AI Centre is evolving to enable and govern the strategic adoption of AI across the Defence Team. Through established governance aligned with legal, ethical, and policy requirements.

Navigating barriers

The Centre provides enterprise guidance, responsible AI frameworks, and targeted support to help teams navigate barriers to AI adoption and advance implementation.

The Centre's core areas of focus include:

- Promoting the responsible and effective use of AI

- Enabling innovation and experimentation
- Strengthening risk management practices
- Building foundational AI literacy across the workforce

The AI Centre is strengthening AI awareness, literacy, and adoption across the Defence Team. This work is informed by ongoing engagement with partners in government, academia, industry, and allied defence organizations – positioning the Defence Team to remain connected to emerging opportunities and best practices.

Digital readiness: Preparing the Defence Team for the future

The Centre is developing and sharing AI playbooks, tools, case studies, governance frameworks, implementation guidance, and enterprise mechanisms – including the AI Project Inventory – to promote reuse, reduce duplication, strengthen oversight, and accelerate capability delivery across the enterprise.

The AI Centre also convenes collaboration and knowledge-sharing initiatives, including the annual AI in Defence Conference, to help connect operational needs with emerging AI capabilities, lessons learned, and best practices across the Defence Team and allied partners.

Canada's strong foundation in AI positions the Defence Team to advance its digital readiness for modern operations. Through the DND/CAF AI Centre, the adoption of trusted, operationally ready AI capabilities that enhance decision-making and strengthen force effectiveness is being accelerated.

As AI continues to reshape the defence landscape, the DND/CAF AI Centre plays a central role in translating innovation into operational advantage – responsibly, securely, and at scale.

Defence Team members are encouraged to explore available resources on the [AI Centre SharePoint site](#) for guidance, tools, and support related to the responsible adoption of AI in their work.



A new containment unit designed to keep ceremonial fires burning safely and in compliance with regulations.

Sweat Lodge ceremonies are followed by a traditional feast.

2LT SAIF MORSY

2LT SAIF MORSY



Fire safety upgrade supports MARLANT Sweat Lodge ceremonies

By Griffin Bjerke-Clarke,
Trident Staff

On the coast of Morris Lake on the north side of 12 Wing Shearwater, civilians, local Maritime Forces Atlantic (MARLANT) members, veterans and community members gather for a ceremony and a traditional feast.

May 22 marked the largest attendance of a Sweat Lodge to date with 26 participants of both community and military members.

The biweekly Sweat Lodge, facilitated by local elders, knowledge keepers and volunteers from the Atlantic Defence Indigenous Advisory Group (ADIAG) in collaboration with the Mi'kmaq Native Friendship Centre, is a place for healing and connection within the Canadian Armed Forces (CAF).

“Part of our mandate is to ensure that all Indigenous personnel in MARLANT feel like they belong and that services that they would have in their commu-

nity are also offered in their local area where they're posted,” says ADIAG civilian co-chair Patrick Lavigne.

The MARLANT Sweat Lodge ceremonies date back to 1974 when permission was obtained to hold sweats on MacDonald Beach. Publicity at the time was spread solely by word of mouth and largely kept to a small group who independently supplied and maintained the sweats.

“Over the years they brought their own medicines, their own wood—as a community, the groups that would show up” says Lavigne. “They would basically share everything that they would bring to host the sweat together as a group. Things have changed over the years and now it is funded by the military and supported by the military. The firewood, the equipment required, the medicine is all supplied by the military. It's really

nice to see the support directly from the Admiral down.”

Thanks to the efforts of ADIAG Military Co-Chair, Chief Petty Officer 2nd Class Cheyanne Delaronde, a Standard Operating Procedure (SOP) was created to satisfy fire regulations, as well as traditional teachings, following the wildfires of 2023 and the 90-day drought of summer 2025.

Recent sweats marked the first use of a new containment unit designed to keep ceremonial fires burning safely throughout the season, meeting both provincial and federal fire regulations.

The sweats play a vital role in fostering a link to culture and tradition.

“There are a number of people that are Indigenous but were not exposed in their community to their cultures for various reasons,” says Lavigne.

Until 1951, sweat lodges were banned

by law in Canada under the Indian Act, often creating ruptures in the teaching of traditional knowledge compounded by the lasting impact of residential schools. For many participants—both Indigenous and non-Indigenous—the gatherings at Shearwater mark their first time taking part in a sweat lodge.

All are welcomed and encouraged to participate, regardless of their exposure to the cultural practice of the sweat lodge. The sweat lodge is an all-inclusive ceremony, open to military members, military families, civilians and community members and is hosted on a biweekly basis. Organizers are also preparing to host a women-only sweat on Saturday, June 20.

For more information on sweat lodge ceremonies and other ADIAG initiatives, reach out to halifax.diag@forces.gc.ca.



Update to DAOD 5019-1, Personal Relationships, in formal response to Arbour Report recommendation

By DND

The Department of National Defence (DND) and Canadian Armed Forces (CAF) Defence Administrative Order and Directive (DAOD) 5019-1, *Personal Relationships* policy has been revised and updated as a formal response to one of the recommendations made in the [Report of the Independent External Comprehensive Review \(Arbour Report, 2022\)](#). This DAOD applies to Regular and Reserve Force, as well as DND employees who act as managers/supervisors of CAF members. Practically speaking, it requires that, in specific circumstances, any existing or new personal relationships be disclosed to the chain of command.

The policy update implements Recommendation #4 of the Report, which

counsels better articulating, clarifying, and regulating personal relationships within the CAF. It accomplishes this by addressing power imbalance, privacy, and oversight.

CAF policies and instructions must balance personal freedoms with professional conduct. While the updated DAOD clarifies that CAF members have the right to form personal relationships with other CAF members or DND employees without fear of reprisal or discrimination, it requires fostering a professional, respectful, and supportive work environment.

To that end, the updated policy provides amplification and clarity on how personal relationships are managed

within the CAF context, and places integrity and fairness as core values of the approach. It clarifies that, in undisclosed personal relationships which involve a power imbalance, a rebuttable presumption will apply that the relationship was not consensual.

This means that the onus is on individuals with the higher rank, authority, or influence to report such relationships to their chain of command. They also must demonstrate that the relationship was consensual, and that it did not result in any real or perceived disadvantage to the party with lesser power or authority.

This approach recognizes the inherent difficulty of ensuring genuine consent when one party holds authority over the

other. The intent is to protect DND and CAF members from exploitation and uphold trust, professionalism, and fairness within the chain of command.

In addition, references to “fraternization” were removed from the DAOD. The term is replaced in DAOD 5019-1 with clear, respectful language focused on professionalism and integrity, which are principal aspects of the Arbour Report direction.

The updated DAOD 5019-1, *Personal Relationships* is tangible evidence of the CAF’s constant evolution and its ongoing efforts to improve the quality of the professional and personal lives of CAF members.

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From left, MS Mike Benjamin (HMCS Windsor), PO2 Zach Cramm (Naval Fleet School Atlantic), CPO2 Benjamin Towns (NDQAR Marine East), and PO2 Norm Legault (Naval Fleet School Atlantic). Not pictured, but key to the volunteer effort, was PO2 Eric Griffith.

SUBMITTED

Sailors help drive food bank expansion in Porters Lake

By Trident Staff

A group of Royal Canadian Navy (RCN) sailors has played a key role in helping bring a major expansion project to life at the Marine Communities Food Bank (MCFB) in Porters Lake, supporting an effort that will soon allow the organization to better serve residents facing food insecurity.

The new MCFB building, which is expected to begin operations in the coming weeks, is the result of years of planning and construction involving community volunteers, local contractors and government funding, along with key help from the team of naval personnel.

Among those leading the effort was Chief Petty Officer 2nd Class (CPO2) Benjamin Towns, who became involved with the food bank as a volunteer in 2019. He began to recognize that the existing structure was deteriorating and no longer meeting the organization's needs.

"It was apparent to me that the structure they used was falling apart. I

suggested I could utilize regular force members in the community to build a new building," CPO2 Towns said.

What began as a straightforward idea quickly grew into a complex construction project. Acting as a volunteer project manager, CPO2 Towns worked with the food bank's board of directors to navigate planning requirements, permits, and approvals before construction could begin.

Work on the new building got underway in September 2025, with volunteers completing the main structure and closing it in before winter. The project resumed this spring as Navy volunteers returned to build a deck and install a subfloor, preparing the site for additional contractor work.

Throughout the project, local contractors donated expertise in areas including roofing, electrical work, drywall installation, and painting. Government grants also helped cover some material and



The team of naval volunteers made significant contributions toward the planning and construction of the new building.

SUBMITTED

skilled labour costs, allowing the project to move forward.

Marine Communities Food Bank coordinator Peggy Gates Webster said the new facility is the result of an extraordinary community effort, while highlighting the significant contribution made by CPO2 Towns and the volunteer sailors.

"He worked closely with the MCFB Board members and truly has spearheaded every phase of the project from design, planning, permitting and execution," she said.

Webster also praised the volunteer construction teams for coordinating their efforts with contractors and remaining engaged throughout each phase of the build.

The food bank specifically recognized the contributions of Master Sailor Mike Benjamin, Petty Officer 2nd Class Zach Cramm, CPO2 Towns, Petty Officer 2nd Class Norm Legault, and Petty Officer 2nd Class Eric Griffith.

"Without these gentlemen, servicemen and the Naval Community Volunteer program this project would not have been possible at this time. This new building will strengthen our ability to assist our communities and neighbours facing food insecurity," Webster said.

The MCFB, located at 5531 NS Trunk 7, Head of Chezzetcook, is part of the Feed Nova Scotia Member Network, serving Chezzetcook and Porters Lake, including areas from east of Lake Echo to west of Musquodoboit Harbour.

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Becoming a Boatswain, the high seas jack-of-all-trades

By Naval Reserve HQ

For PO1 Jonathan Paradis, Boatswain Course Director at Naval Fleet School (Québec), who joined the Royal Canadian Navy as a naval reservist in 2008, the Boatswain occupation has been a challenging, intense, and deeply rewarding career. PO1 Paradis spent 10 years on ship, including NATO deployments and participating in Operation CARIBBE. To him, being a boatswain offers incredible opportunities for sailors seeking varied experiences at sea and in leadership roles.

PO1 Paradis is currently conducting a pilot project on behalf of the Naval Training Group to increase the availability of Boatswain occupational training previously conducted only at Naval Fleet School (Pacific) and Naval Fleet School (Atlantic).

The project's goal is to increase training efficiency for both Reserve Force and Regular Force Naval recruits requiring the course by allowing them to reach their Occupational Functional Point (OFP) sooner through increased choice in the number of offerings and locations across the country where they can complete their training.

The Naval Training Group command team saw the immediate need and benefits of this course and threw their support behind the initiative.

The Boatswain occupational qualifica-

tion training lasts 12 weeks and covers essential duties such as:

- working of anchors, cables, lines, and tasks associated with mooring, anchoring, and towing;
- transfer of material and personnel between ships at sea;
- rescue operations;
- handling, preparation, and detonation of demolition charges;
- operation and maintenance of small arms, from rifle and pistol up to .50-calibre heavy machine gun; and
- boat work, including high-speed small boat operations, boat maintenance and navigation.

While there have been some challenges and lessons learned, PO1 Paradis hopes the overall success of this trial run will see more sessions delivered through Naval Fleet School (Québec), while at the same time showcasing the exciting and unique learning opportunities that the course offers for both seasoned sailors and new recruits.

“Being a boatswain is tough and a challenge, but once you get your sea legs and can fully operate the many tasks you will have, it is the finest, most rewarding career especially for sailors with leadership potential. You are the backbone of the Navy,” said PO1 Paradis.



Boatswains ride in HMCS Margaret Brooke's multi-role rescue boat as part of a launching exercise while sailing on Operation PROJECTION in January 2025.

CPL CONNOR BENNETT



HMCS William Hall Arrives in London, England

Members of the ship's company of HMCS William Hall are seen on the flight deck in front of the iconic Tower Bridge in London, England on June 2. The ship left Halifax in April for a deployment that involves mine countermeasures operations with Royal Navy counterparts as part of exercise TARTAN LANCE.

CPL MITCHELL PAQUETTE



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HMCS *Fredericton* raises \$48,000 for Make-A-Wish NB

Ships of Canadian Fleet Atlantic have begun the season of fundraisers in support of Make-A-Wish with Canada, and the crew of His Majesty's Canadian Ship (HMCS) *Fredericton* have helped start things off strong.

The ship's annual Ride for Wishes fundraiser took team members across New Brunswick from May 20-26 for a relay-style bicycle race, with plenty of community visits along the way to meet with supporters and shore up fundraising efforts. The route included stops in Campbellton, Bathurst, Miramichi, Moncton, Saint John, Oromocto and

Fredericton. Support came from local businesses, community groups, Legions and Cadet chapters, as well as those who chose to contribute online, leading to an impressive \$48,000 total. A cheque presentation was made during the campaign's wrap-up events in Fredericton on May 26.

If you'd like to add to this year's campaign total in support of Make-A-Wish New Brunswick, it's not too late! Visit the team's fundraising page [here](#). Funds will be used to help create life-changing wishes for local children with critical illnesses.



Members of the HMCS *Fredericton* Ride for Wishes team arrived in New Brunswick's capital of Fredericton, the ship's namesake city, for the finale of the campaign on May 26.



HFX Wanderers victorious at DND Appreciation Match

The annual HFX Wanderers FC DND Appreciation Match took place on May 30, with a raucous crowd treated to a 1-0 Wanderers win in stoppage time over Vancouver FC. The day came with a Defence team takeover of the Wanderers Grounds — The Stadacoma Band of the Royal Canadian Navy and a tri-service colour party was on the field for pre-game activities, while CFB Halifax Base Commander Capt(N) Annick Fortin was joined by H&R MFRC Executive Director Shelley Hopkins for the opening coin toss. Various units were also set up outside the venue with displays and equipment demonstrations.