

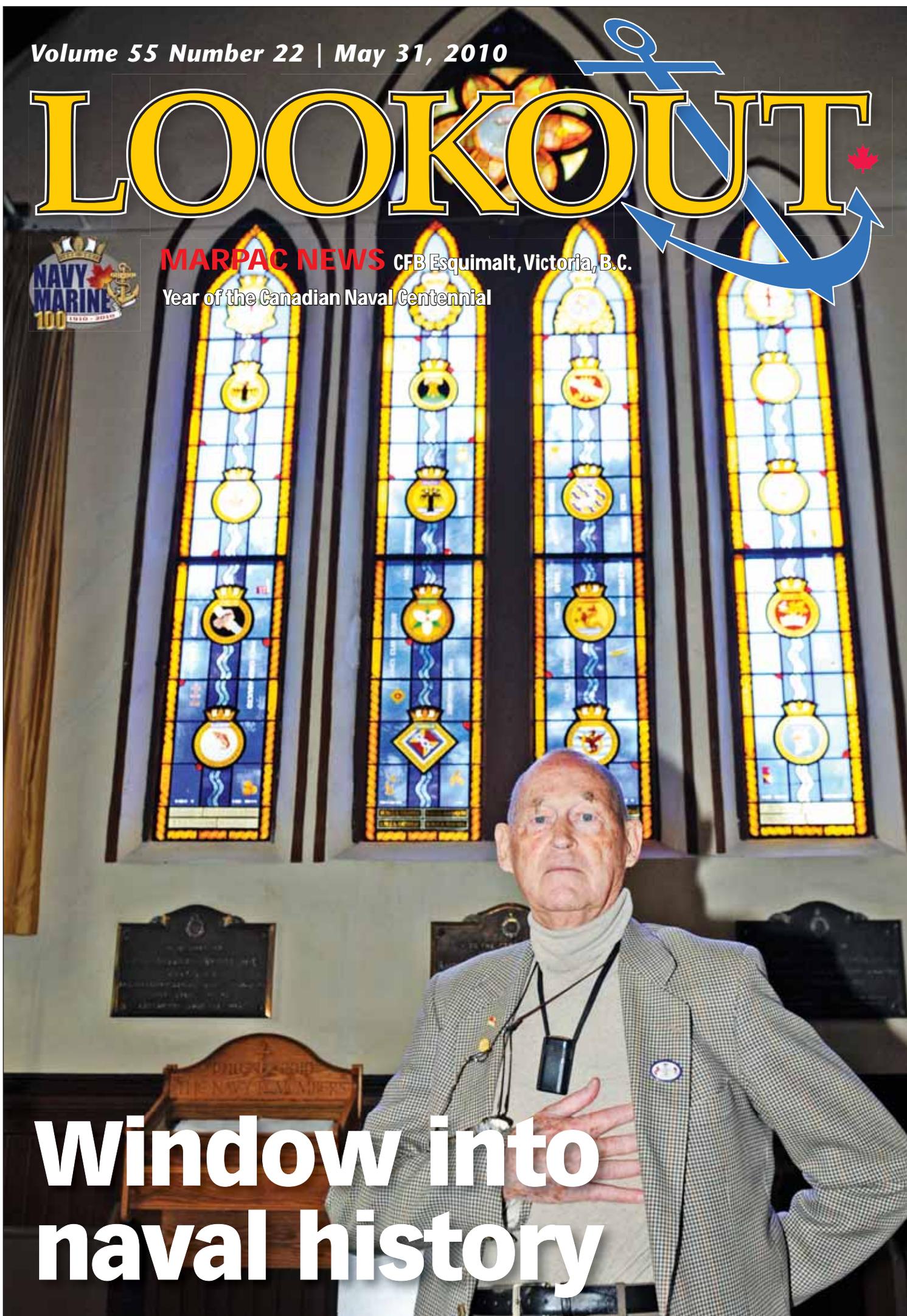
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LOOKOUT



MARPAC NEWS CFB Esquimalt, Victoria, B.C.

Year of the Canadian Naval Centennial



Window into naval history

Penny Rogers, Lookout

The three-year Naval Memorial Window project at St. Paul's Naval and Garrison Church in Esquimalt came to an end with the unveiling of a four-panel stained glass window over the Victoria Day Long weekend. Admiral (Ret'd) Bill Hughes stands under the newly revealed window during an open house at St. Paul's last week.

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Church unveils new legacy

Penny Rogers
Staff writer

On May 22, under a choral backdrop of songs from World War Two, the pews inside historic St. Paul's Anglican Church in Esquimalt filled with invited guests. Here, after close to three years of research, design, crafting and installation, the Naval Memorial Window was about to be unveiled.

Formerly called The Naval and Garrison Church, St. Paul's has a long-standing connection with the navy dating back 150 years. Because of this, the man behind the window project, Rear Admiral (Ret'd) Bill Hughes, knew stained glass window panels commemorating the Naval Centennial would be ideal at this location.

Guests were a mixture of civilians, clergy, civil servants, politicians and military, many in uniform adorned with medals silently speaking volumes about the service they have provided their country. They came from as far away as Halifax, Calgary, Vancouver, Ottawa and Georgetown.

The dedication ceremony was rich in tradition beginning with the entry of pipes and drum led by a colour party of two sea cadets parading the White Ensign and Canadian flag. Rev. Canon Andrew Gates led the crowd in prayer and song before introducing another special guest, Victoria's premiere tenor and composer, Ken Lavigne who sang a stirring rendition of "I Am Sailing."

Then RAdm (Ret'd) Hughes took to the podium leading the crowd on a gamut of emotion with his inspirational words. He began by thanking several people for attending the dedication.

"We have the only living four star Admiral in the Canadian Navy with us in the form of Admiral (Ret'd) John Anderson. Also here today is retired Primate of the Anglican Church of Canada, the most Reverend Andrew Hutchison."

See St Paul's on page 3

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Historic moment for St. Paul's

From page 1

He thanked the firm of Mercer and Schaefer Glasstudios for doing such a wonderful job on the four-panel window, and asked both Tom Mercer and Ed Schaefer to stand and accept well deserved applause from the crowd.

He then recounted a story of a young woman who called him a few months after the fundraising began.

"She told me she was the widow of a Master Seaman who had died quite recently and she wanted to make a donation. I said that would be wonderful and was thinking she'd say \$100 or something like that. But she told me she wanted to donate \$2,000. She said it was the money she and her husband had been saving for a holiday."

In the end over 400 donors contributed to the Naval Memorial Window Fund, coming from Northern Ireland, Scotland, England, five U.S. states and coast to coast in Canada. Also, eight cities donated in honour of HMC ships named after them: Calgary, Charlottetown, Edmonton, Ottawa, Summerside, Toronto, Whitehorse and Yellowknife. A list of donors can be found at www.navymemorialwindow.org.

One of the more moving portions of the dedication was when RAdm (Ret'd) Hughes described to the assembled crowd what led to the design of the window that was still hidden behind curtains.

"A stained glass window must be colourful and there is nothing colourful about grey-hulled ships or submarines or aircraft, so do not expect those, but do expect colourful symbols represent-



Penny Rogers, Lookout

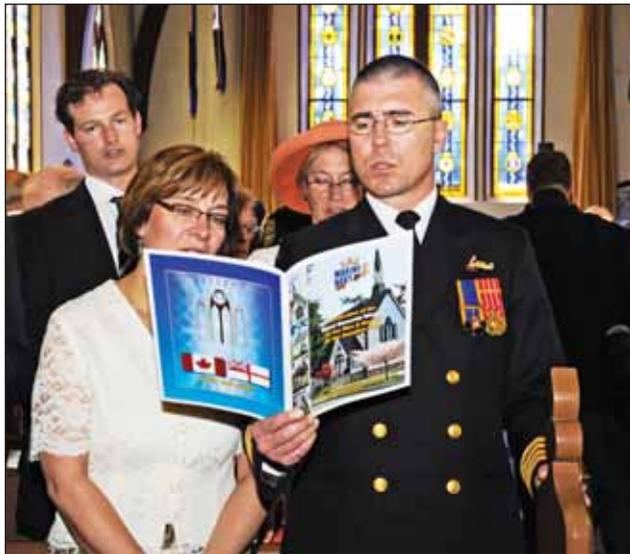
Above: Given the honour of unveiling the Naval Memorial Window are Darwin Robinson and Mark Hallan.

Below: Base Commander Capt(N) Marcel Hallé participates in the dedication ceremony.

ing those things. Of course we must remember also the people of our navy who provide the soul to go with the hardware."

Represented on the window are the badges of ships and commands, symbols signifying the merchant navy, the nurses, submariners, airmen, wrens and divers.

"Look for the lovely Lady Rose that the Wren's Association has developed for the Naval Centennial. Look for the names of the 24 ships sunk in the First World War and the one that sunk in the Second World War, all shown in ghostly white in the deep blue sea. Look for the red jewels, symbols of the lives of those who died with the ships," continued RAdm Hughes. "Look for the names of our 24 naval reserve divisions set in gold rope around the window. Look for a Sea King, the White Ensign and, of course, the oak leaves of



Londonderry and the Pitcher Plant of Newfoundland that commemorates the famous Newfie-Derry Run of the Second World War. Finally, look for the two lighthouses off Halifax and Esquimalt that guided and still guide our ships back home to safe harbour. All these and more you'll see on the Naval Memorial Window."

And with that, Bishop James Cowan and Maj Douglas Friesen, Formation Chaplain, made their way beneath the window. As they spoke, the curtain was pulled away revealing the colorful beauty of the stained glass panels beneath. One word seemed to echo through the

crowd and that was, "Wow." "There are two things in Victoria that will be permanent reminders of the Naval Centennial," said RAdm (Ret'd) Hughes. "One is the Homecoming Statue downtown and the second is this window in St. Paul's. We have parades, we have ship assemblies, all sorts of things that are transient, but these two things are permanent and I think that is very significant."

St. Paul's Anglican Church is located at 1379 Esquimalt Road and will be open between 1:30-3:30 p.m. from May 24 to June 6 for those wishing to view the Naval Memorial Window.

There are two things in Victoria that will be permanent reminders of the Naval Centennial. One is the Homecoming Statue downtown and the second is this window in St. Paul's.

-RAdm (Ret'd) Hughes

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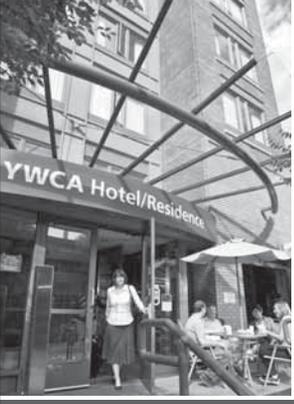
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