



Submariners Association of Canada West Branch History (cont.)

Submariners were invited to join our 2011 Grilse 50th – commemorating the re-birth of a Canadian Submarine Force with the May 1961 commissioning of HMCS GRILSE SS71. Guest of Honour was Commodore Peter Ellis Commander Canadian Fleet Pacific, along with our distinguished guest list of Grilse commissioning / decommissioning crew and 151 national & international attendees.

During August of 2014 we commemorated the Centenary of Canadian Submarines and together with partners and stakeholders hosted West Coast Submarine Week in honour of the 1914 acquisition and commissioning of HMC Submarines CC1 & CC2.

In June, 2017, we commemorated the 50th anniversary of the commissioning of HMCS ONONDAGA with a dinner held at the University of Victoria Club. Sixty-one were in attendance including several of the submarine's Commanding Officers.

We held a Gathering of Submariners in November 2018 to commemorate the 50th anniversary of the commissioning of HMCS OKANAGAN and HMCS RAINBOW. The event was held at the Hotel Grand Pacific in Victoria. Our Guest of Honour was our Honorary Member, Vice-Admiral (Ret'd) Bruce Maclean. Former Commanding Officer of the OKANAGAN and former Chief of the Naval Staff. The event included a tour of HMCS CHICOUTIMI. One hundred and one attended the gathering.

In the summer of 2019 our Association along with the Friends of HMCS VICTORIA and the Naval Association of Canada hosted a Submariner Summer Sizzler at the Windsor Park Pavilion in Oak Bay in the summer of 2019. The purpose of this event was to entertain serving submariners and their families. The event was very well attended. We postponed our December annual Christmas luncheon to February 2020.

Our annual Christmas luncheon which was postponed to February 2021 was held at the Four Mile Restaurant, and shortly thereafter we were advised of the Covid pandemic. We were unable to host our annual Summer Sizzler meeting with serving submariners and their families. We held a small members BBQ at the home of Chris & Leonne Parks, socially distanced. Needless to say we were grateful to meet, but not the same as a more relaxed gathering. Due to the Covid pandemic we had to discontinue our in person meetings, and hosted them via the internet on Zoom. This gave us the opportunity to meet with members that lived outside of the Greater Victoria area, and the meeting continued on line. HMCS Grilse 60th anniversary of commissioning, we did not host a gathering. We continued via Zoom during this time. We were finally able to return to our in person meetings at the C&PO's Mess, Esquimalt B.C. in September of 2021 (Covid protocols in place). Our annual Christmas luncheon was held at the Four Mile Restaurant.

As we slowly returned to our normal meetings and events, the idea of a Meet & Greet with Serving Submariners was introduced and in April 2022 we hosted a luncheon at the C&PO's Mess, Esquimalt with 100 in attendance. This was an opportunity to introduce our association to the serving submariners with a power point presentation. We were able to acquire new members through this event. During the summer of 2022, we were able to return to hosting our Annual Summer Sizzler BBQ along with the Friends of HMCS VICTORIA and the Naval Association of Canada hosted a Submariner Summer Sizzler at the Windsor Park Pavilion in Oak Bay in the summer of 2019. The purpose of this event was to entertain serving submariners and their families. The event was very well attended. The purpose of this event was to entertain serving submariners and their families. The event was very well attended. We also were extended an invitation to the Submariners Summer Pig Roast, of which several of our members attended. Again Chris & Leonne Parks, hosted our members summer BBQ in their lovely back yard, again a nice attendance.

In the fall of 2022 we introduced a new event a *Subs 'n' Suds* Social, hosted at the C&PO's Mess, this was to meet and socialize with serving submariners after work, and to our members to meet in a relaxed social atmosphere to gather for more comradery. We held two of these socials in the fall, and a return to regular meetings. Our annual Christmas luncheon was held at the Four Mile Restaurant.

In 2023 we held another *Subs 'n' Suds* Social, and a regular meeting. Plans are well under way for our annual Summer Sizzler BBQ. Our website is being upgraded and at the time you read this note, it should be up and running. Our AGM will be held in April.