

CANADIAN COAST GUARD ASSOCIATION SUMMER 2003 NEWSLETTER

This is the Summer 2003 issue of our biannual Newsletter.

As always, contributions to our newsletters are welcomed and encouraged.

Please pass all input to: Alec Provan, Editor, 2656 Bukin Drive E., RR #7, Victoria, B. C., V9E 1H4

Telephone: (250) 479-9132; E-mail: <aprovan@shaw.ca>

or

Joan Scharf, #204-3969 Shelbourne Street, Victoria, B. C., V8N 6J5

Telephone (250) 477-1390; E-mail <handjmac@shaw.ca>

Item from a church newsletter: "The ladies of the Church have cast off clothing of every kind. They may be seen in the basement on Friday afternoon."

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1. GREETINGS!

Hello, everyone! This, our twenty-ninth Newsletter, is sent to you as usual, to

- update you on current events
- provide information of interest to both "Retirees" and "Serving Members"
- solicit items of possible interest for future newsletters.
- Note that with this issue, we are making the transition to a new Editor, Alec Provan!

2. OUR SUMMER 2003 LUNCHEON (Please note change in venue and date from information in Christmas Newsletter).

WHEN: Thursday, June 5th, 2003. 11:30: - Mingle; 12:15: - Luncheon starts.

AIM: To relax, yarn, lunch and celebrate the coming Holiday Season with friends and colleagues in familiar surroundings.

WHERE: In the Princess Mary Restaurant, 344 Harbour Road, Victoria, our traditional Christmas Luncheon gathering place.

WHAT: The Princess Mary Summer Luncheon Buffet.

WHO: Coast Guard Association members, Coast Guard Retirees and their Spouses and Guests. As usual, serving Coast Guarders are most welcome!

COST: \$17.00 per person, including gratuity. There will be the usual "No Host" Bar.

To facilitate catering, we need to give the Princess Mary Restaurant staff firm numbers on Monday, June 2nd and we are liable for the numbers reserved. To avoid disappointment, please reserve your place(s) with one of the following as soon as possible (or reserve by email to Joan Scharf, handjmac@shaw.ca

Joan Scharf 477-1390

Migs Turner 592-1198

Bob Baird (answering machine) 477-3605

George Graham (answering machine) 478-2357

Mainland:

Tom Kew (Richmond) 241-8676

Bob Manning (North Vancouver) 986-4638

Herb Adrian (Surrey) 596-9355

(Would Herb Adrian please co-ordinate with other Mainland contacts and pass information to Joan Scharf by E-mail as usual – Thanks Herb!)

MARK 11:30 THURSDAY, June 5th ON YOUR CALENDAR AND MAKE YOUR RESERVATIONS NOW!

For Vancouver/Mainland attendees: Usual ferry arrangements prevail. **Please let Tom, Herb, or Bob know by June 2nd.**

As usual, if you catch the 9 a.m. BC Ferry on June 5th as a foot passenger from TSAWWASSEN (free if you are a senior) we will meet you in SWARTZ BAY. After lunch, we will aim to get you back to SWARTZ BAY in time for the 3 p.m. ferry.

Volunteer Drivers: We thank Gerry Dixon for being available as our "ferry pick up driver" for our last luncheon. *Would anyone prepared to help out on June 5th please phone Joan Scharf (477-1390).*

3. OUR CHRISTMAS LUNCHEON AT THE PRINCESS MARY RESTAURANT

Some ninety-four members and guests turned out for our Christmas Luncheon, an all-time record for this popular event! On the one hand, it was such a pleasure to see so many old friends visiting together. On the other hand, the luncheon was just not quite the same without Admiral Tony Storrs and his wife Joy!

Several other members sent regrets: Harry Dubinski was having surgery, but plans to come next time. Des O'Halloran has had a hip replacement and was not yet mobile enough to come. Herb Adrian was having trouble with a back nerve, plans to make the next lunch. Rick Bryant had a conflicting appointment. Jeto Sangara also

had a conflict. Ian Campbell was out of town. Percy Sands could not make it this time. Margaret Dykes sent regrets. Genevieve Exley had to work. Bill McKechnie was at sea on the “Caribbean Mercy”. All sent their Best Holiday Season Wishes to their colleagues!

After a very pleasant “social” period and a fantastic lunch, Canadian Coast Guard Regional Director of Marine Programs Yvette Myers provided a briefing on current CCG developments. She told the group that two new lifeboat stations are planned for Bella Bella and Sandspit, scheduled to be in place by the fall of 2003. A reconditioned hovercraft should arrive in about six months to bring the Georgia Straits SAR response capability back up to normal. Demand for CCG services is increasing, but resources are declining. There may be a possibility of making a case to Treasury Board for an increase the CCG resource base soon. There were many questions for Yvette, those present obviously enjoyed her briefing.

Before the wrap-up, the possibility of trying a Spring Lunch on the Lower Mainland was discussed. Since strong support was indicated, it was agreed to try to arrange a lunch for a suitable mainland location on a trial basis.

Several members suggested we have both our regular Christmas and Summer Luncheons at the Princess Mary (reliable food, easy to get to, good parking). It was agreed we would do this for the time being at least.

It was a very successful luncheon thoroughly enjoyed by all!

4. OUR LOWER MAINLAND SPRING LUNCHEON

As agreed at the Christmas Luncheon, an early “Spring Luncheon” was arranged for March 13th at the Charthouse Restaurant in Steveston, after identification and review of potential locations by Tom Kew. The Charthouse turned out to be a good choice, easy to get to from the ferry for Vancouver Island members and convenient for lower mainland members, with good parking and good food.

Despite a blustery day, some forty-four members gathered at the Steveston Charthouse for a very enjoyable visit with their former working colleagues. Ron Kirlaw, Rick Worrall, Chris Hyde, Dave Johns and George Livsey had other engagements. Gerry Gaily was visiting his son in Switzerland and Larry Slaght was on his way home from Cuba. Sandy Kelley broke a bone in her foot, but managed to attend (can’t stop that lady!). This event was a great success, providing an opportunity for members to renew acquaintances with colleagues that find it too difficult to get to Victoria lunches. It was so nice to see faces that we have not seen for years, and to catch up on what everyone is doing.

Gerry Dixon did yeoman service and drove a van to Vancouver to transport those that did not wish to drive. Thanks Gerry, what would we do without you!

Many thanks must go to Tom Kew and other “Mainlanders” who helped arrange things on that end, but particularly to Joan Scharf, who negotiated with the Charthouse and put the whole act together. We will ask people at the Summer luncheon if they would like to try this again.

5. “LONG RANGE” PLANNING FOR OUR CHRISTMAS 2003 LUNCHEON

We have tentatively reserved at the Princess Mary Restaurant for our Christmas Luncheon for Thursday, December 4th, 2003. Mark it on your calendar, we’ll confirm the time and place in the next Newsletter.

6. NOTEBOOK

➤ In Memoriam

We must regrettably advise that a number of our former Coast Guard Colleagues have passed away since our last newsletter:

Dick Hughes, former Supply Officer on the CCGS Quadra for many years, passed away in Halifax, NS. He was 78 years old.

Gerry Pauline passed away on December 10th. Gerry retired as Regional Staffing Officer after serving almost 12 years with the Coast Guard.

David Guy -- joined the Coast Guard in 1977 as a Pilot. In April 1980 he came to Victoria as Senior Helicopter Pilot and remained in that position until his retirement in 1988.

Jeffrey Howard, who retired about 15 years ago as a Lightkeeper at Porlier Pass, passed away several months ago. He also spent time at Estevan Point and Pulteney Point Lightstations.

➤ **New Members**

We welcome the following new CCGA members to our Association:

Jean Barr – Jean, widow of James Barr, served on Lightstations from 1968 to 1977.

Charles Gillard -- Charles Gillard began his career in 1953. He served on the St.Catherines, the Stonetown, St. Stephens, Estevan, Racer, Douglas and others. He retired as Chief Engineer in 1980.

Babe Hegstrom – Babe is the Mother of Dave Hegstrom, and the widow of Walter Hegstrom who was the Trail Patrolman as well as a Boatman/Crew on the Lifeboat Station in Bamfield many years ago

Gary Conway – Garry joined the Association, but has moved. If you can give us his current address, please do so we can keep in touch.

Elmer Cordoni – Elmer started his career as a Lightkeeper at Scarlett Point in 1958 and then at Active Pass Lightstation. He worked in the lamproom at the old depot yard in Victoria and then became the Aids to Navigation Technician in the Vancouver area, including the lower Fraser River, Howe Sound, Pitt Lake and Harrison Lake areas.

Ian Sacre – Ian began his career as a Ship Safety Branch Marine Surveyor in the Laurentian Region. He retired as the Regional Manager, Fleet Systems, Pacific Region On January 4th, 1994.

Member Snippets

Pen Brown won the door prize at the FSNA (Federal Superannuates National Association) Spring Luncheon on May 13. The luncheon was held at Charters Restaurant at McMorrans. This is an annual event and very enjoyable.

Travor Bowen is home recuperating from surgery.

⇒ *And, Finally, Once Again...*

- **Hugh MacDonald, our Treasurer wishes to remind those who have not yet paid their 2003 membership dues that, for the convenience of members, these may be paid at the Summer Luncheon. Annual dues will remain at \$5.00 for the year 2003.**

- **Remember to keep our Service Committee**, run by **Ivor Roberts** and **Sandy Kelley**, informed about **how our members are doing**. Anyone knowing of a member (or member's spouse) who is ill, or who has suffered a family bereavement or problem and/or who may need a little help, comfort or recognition, please give Ivor, Sandy, Joan Scharf or Bill Dancer a call. We will be pleased to see if there is any way our organisation can be of assistance, and to let fellow members who may be concerned know of the situation. **Ivor's telephone number is 658-5519 and Sandy can be reached at 382-2706**. Joan and Bill's numbers are at the top of the first page. Also, please note that the **spouses of deceased members are most welcome to continue as associate members of the CCGA** (annual dues remain at \$5.00 per year to cover costs.)
- *We continue to need "news and input" we can pass on to other members through the Newsletter, such as anecdotes and information about what is happening to our members and what they are doing, topical marine-oriented articles which would be of general interest to our readers. **We are struggling a bit here. Help! Our Special "Thanks" to all those who have contributed to this Newsletter!***

7. MEMBER "THUMBNAILS"

In our last few issues, we have included a section containing a few words about some of our members, to try to help re-establish contact between former colleagues. As we have said before, so often we see a familiar face at the luncheon or hear a name that "rings a bell", but because we meet so many people over our working years, we can't quite remember what each person did. More member "Thumbnails" follow.

Kirlew, Ronald. Ron came to Canada in 1956 while serving in the RAF. After his release from the RAF, he came to Vancouver and joined the RCAF in 1960 and served for 20 years. He accepted a position with Canada Employment and Immigration as Chief of Financial Services for Northern BC in Prince George. He refused to relocate to Vancouver when accounting operations were re-centralized to that city. Ron joined the Coast Guard in 1982 as District Accountant and retired from that position on May 30, 1993. Ron says the very best job he ever had is the one called Retirement. It doesn't seem like he's had it for 10 years.

Leak, Fred. In August 1951, Fred joined the Department of Transport and served aboard the "Estevan" as Seaman, Coal Trimmer, Fireman, Chief Cook and Chief Steward. He then served on the Sir James Douglas, the Camsell, the John A. MacDonald and the Weathership Vancouver in various positions including Supply Officer. He became a qualified Diver in 1964. In 1971 he transferred to a shore position and served in several positions, including Regional Ships Supply Officer, District Supply and Administrative Officer and Superintendent of Materiel Management until May 1990, when he retired as Regional Superintendent of Supply Operations, Pacific Region. In one position he was involved in establishing and providing courses for Ships Supply Personnel in Ottawa. He was also involved in the first outfitting of three ships, CCGS Sir James Douglas, Camsell and the Weathership Vancouver. Fred had a very interesting career and served for 39 years with the Coast Guard.

LIVESEY, George. George's association with the Coast Guard began in January 1962, when he joined the Weathership CCGS Stonetown as Meteorological Officer. He then served on the CCGS Quadra when it came into service, until he left this position in January 1981.

MacDONALD, Hugh. Hugh joined the Coast Guard in 1966, and spent that summer in Ottawa, being indoctrinated (brainwashed?) into the "new financial management system," before moving to Prince Rupert in August, as District Financial Officer (DFO!). Because the DOT house he and his family (wife, Norma, and five children) were to occupy was not ready, they lived in their converted school bus until November, first in the Base parking lot, and then in the stores receiving area, after it started to rain horizontally quite a bit. That was an interesting introduction to Coast Guard service. In 1971 he transferred to Ottawa, after working for District Marine Agents Glen Stewart, John Lewis and Ed Harris in Prince Rupert. In 1976 he transferred to the Transport Canada Training Institute (TCTI) project team, and moved to Cornwall in 1978, when it opened. In 1980 he transferred to Victoria and retired as DFO in 1985. One of his children, Ian, graduated from the Coast

Guard College and was later Captain of SAR cutters on the Great Lakes. He is now working in CG Headquarters in Ottawa.

MacLeod, John John transferred to the Coast Guard Aids and Waterways/ Vessel Traffic Services from TC Air Traffic Control in April 1974. John spent his entire Coast Guard career at Kap 100 starting as a Marine Traffic Regulator, progressing to Watch Supervisor, Centre Operations Supervisor and O.I.C. of the Vancouver Vessel Traffic Centre in West Vancouver when he retired in April 1995 after 34 years of Federal Service.

Manning, Robert Robert joined the DOT (Department of Transport) Aeradio Department in 1957. He did the circuit working at Naniamo Aeradio (Cassidy), Pat Bay Victoria, Sandspit, Vancouver Aeradio VFU, Comox Aeradio and Cape Lazo Marine VAC, Vancouver Aeradio VFU, Point Grey Marine radio VAI, Spring Island Loran Station, Ashcroft and Kamloops Aeradio and in 1966, joined the Weathership Stonetown. He served as Radio Officer on the Vancouver and Chief Radio Officer on the Quadra. After working at the Victoria Marine Radio for a number of years, he went to Ottawa as an Instructor at the Training Institute. In 1978, he returned to the West Coast as Telecommunications Operations Manager for the TAM West Coast until he retired. From Bob “I always got a kick from waking up Bill Exley or Bill Wotherspoon in the middle of the night to advise them of an extinguished light or a misplaced buoy. How I loved broadcasting notices to shipping ad infinitum. Who else remembers standby duty?”

Masters, Robert Bob joined the Department of Transport in 1958, after serving in the RCAF, and spent two summers in the Eastern Arctic flying helicopters from icebreakers. Bob says he ...”had the honour and pleasure of flying Henry Larson on his last inspection of RCMP E. Division”. In 1960 he was posted to the West Coast in time to join the Camsell on her maiden voyage to the Arctic. Bob was Chief Pilot in Victoria and Prince Rupert until leaving to start his own engineering consulting business in May 1977.

Matley, Peter Peter immigrated to Canada in 1963 and joined what was then the Canadian Air Transportation Authority, CATA and worked briefly at Vancouver International Airport before transferring to Alert Bay Marine Radio. In 1970 he transferred to Tofino Marine Aeradio Station. In 1977 CATA separated and the Marine Station became an operational element of the Coast Guard. In 1987, the Marine Radio Station transferred to Amphitrite Point, and Peter took up the position of Operations Manager until he retired “in the distant and far reaching past”.

McDowell, Don Don is still serving with the Coast Guard as Chief Engineer, CCGS Eckaloo. Don started with the Coast Guard on the CCGS Vancouver in May 1969 and later worked as a member of the Shore Maintenance Crew. In May 1976, Don went to Hay River to serve on the CCGS Tembah, and in May 1983, became Chief Engineer on the CCGS Dumit. On July 20, 1988, he was transferred to the new CCGS Eckaloo as the first Chief Engineer on that Vessel. Don retired on January 15, 2003.

8. CURRENT EMAIL ADDRESSES – HOW TO GET THEM

If you should:

- need a list of CCGA Member Email addresses
- get a new Email address, or
- discover any errors or omissions in our CCGA Member Email address information

Please contact Reg Gunn by Email (a1agunnreg@shaw.ca) and he will be pleased to help you out!

9. A CAREER PROFILE OF CAPTAIN GEORGE M. GRAHAM

by Bev and George Graham with greatly appreciated assistance from Captain Norm Thomas.

George was born on May 16th, 1927 (*Happy Birthday George – Ed.*) in Clearwater, Manitoba. His father was an Anglican Church Minister. The family moved to Masset, BC QC in 1930. In 1935 they moved to Atlin, BC. His mother and father passed away in 1940 and 1944 respectively. George's first job was working with the White Pass and Yukon Route on Atlin Lake and Tagish Lake. He left school in 1942 after completing grade 9 and moved to Whitehorse, Y.T in the fall of 1943. He worked there as a swamper on the trucks hauling cord wood.

In the spring of 1944 he moved to Prince Rupert and worked in the shipyard until he got a job with the Department of Transport in August 1944 as a Seaman on the "Alberni". He served under Capt. H.A. Ormiston until Capt. Ormiston was transferred to Victoria in the fall of 1945. He was promoted to Boatswain and served under Capt. Joe Peterson until 1950. In 1951 he undertook home study and got his Limited Master's Certificate. Also in 1951 he was promoted to 2nd Officer and served under Captain Arthur F. Davidson until January 1955. In 1952 he again undertook home study and got his Mate Home Trade Certificate in April.

In 1955 George met Bev, and they were married on June 9, 1956. During this time, George was promoted to Chief Officer and served under Captain R.E.S. Armstrong until the fall of 1956. Also in October 1956, George attended Vancouver Vocational Institute, and by February 1957, had received his Master Home Trade Certificate. In 1957 George was promoted to Relief Master West Coast. He served on the "Alexander MacKenzie" and "Alberni" as Relief Master until George decommissioned the "Alberni" in April 1960 in Victoria.

Upon his return to Prince Rupert he spent some time in the Office and relieving on the CCGS Alexander MacKenzie until 1962. During this time in Prince Rupert, as well as going to sea, George was busy with his family life. Jim was born in 1957, Keith in 1958, Marjorie in 1959 and Muriel in 1961. (George and Bev now have 4 wonderful grandchildren, Christopher, Adina, Andrew and Kelsea.)

George was transferred to Victoria as Relief Master and Chief Officer in 1962. He relieved on various ships, CCGS Simon Frazer, CCGS Camsell, CCGS Sir James Douglas and CCGS Estevan until September 1964. George was appointed Master of the CCGC Racer in 1964 and served on her until 1968 when he was transferred back to Prince Rupert as Master of the CCGS Alexander MacKenzie. In January 1971. George again returned to Victoria as Master on the CCGS Sir James Douglas. On this transfer Bev and the kids, the dog, plants and trailer all came down on the ferry via Port Hardy. Bev says George came first class as he flew down with no kids. Between 1971 and 1974 George served numerous times as Master on CCGS Camsell.

In 1973 he went back east and spent 3 months as supernumerary on the CCGS Louis S. St.Laurent in the Eastern Arctic. On July 7th, 1974, George was transferred to Hay River District as Master on the CCGS Nahidik. He joined the CCGS Nahidik in Vancouver where she was built in Allied Shipyards. They sailed from Vancouver at the end of August across the North Pacific through the Bering Straits and through the Western Arctic arriving in Tuktoyaktuk on September 25th and sailing up the Mackenzie River to Hay River, arriving there October 10th 1974. George completed the end of the season on October 22 and returned home to Victoria around the 25th of October 1974. George worked in the Hay River District and Western Arctic until March 1981.

By 1978 George had studied for, and received his ONI certificate. In 1981 he transferred back to Victoria and took Command of the CCGS George E. Darby, also relieving as Master on the CCGS Narwhal and, in 1981, on the CCGS Camsell. In 1982 George was appointed Master of the CCGS Camsell and served on her until 1986, when he took command of the CCGS George R. Parkes. That was a busy time with commissioning a new ship, performance trials, teething problems, equipment changes, and managing to work within budgetary changes that the Coast Guard was experiencing at the time. Captain Graham retired from the Coast Guard on September 30th 1988.

During all those years, George managed to not eat hundreds of different vegetables, and almost quit smoking several times! He and Bev live in Glen Lake and became avid golfers at the Metchosin Golf Club upon retirement, although recently his health has limited his golfing activities. In his 44 years of service, George served in 3 different Districts with 9 different District Marine Agents and District Managers. George also commissioned three new Ships into the Coast Guard Service.

10. Ed and Pat Kidder retire from Nootka Lightstation

(Many of our readers will be familiar with Shirley Hewett, a well-known and prolific contributor to marine journals. Shirley very kindly sent us this article on recent retiree Ed Kidder and his wife Pat. – Ed.)

When a water taxi took the latest Coast Guard retirees from Friendly Cove to Gold River on May 3rd, a lightkeeping era ended. Over their 42 year career on the lights---the last 33 at Nootka lightstation---B.C.'s senior keepers Ed and Pat Kidder have seen many technical and political changes.

Two of the lights they tended have been destaffed. Ed was 19 and Pat 18 when they brought their newborn son Dean to Gallows Point in Nanaimo Harbour. The light was an Alladin-type that sometimes smoked when the pressure changed, and blackened the tower walls. At Quatsino Sound's Kains Island, the only way off was from the rocks by the ship's surf boat. "When they said 'jump' you jumped," Pat recalls. At Carmanah, everybody "the boss and the wife and the kids," rode up and down in the coast's longest highline (350 feet)

Following Scarlett Point Ed rotated two week shifts at Sandheads Light by Steveston. Pat, Dean and their daughter Petronella lived in Nanaimo.

On May 3rd, while 40 Huron Street staff and the *Bartlett* red crew watched, Senator Pat Carney presented Ed Kidder with a Queen's Golden Jubilee medal, one of 17 awarded to veteran lightkeepers for their role in keeping B.C.'s coast safe for mariners. "Lightkeepers keep people connected," said Carney, "and no one has done that better than Ed and Pat Kidder."

Article and photographs by shirley hewett



Pat and Ed with Siamese cat Sheba and toy poodle Macho.



Nootka Sound from the Lightstation.

11. AGENDA FOR THE CANADIAN COAST GUARD ASSOCIATION JUNE 5th, 2003, AGM

1. Call to Order

2. Approval of Minutes of Last Meeting

(The minutes were circulated in the Christmas issue of the CCGA Newsletter)

3. Approval of Actions by the Executive on behalf of the CCGA since the last meeting. Reports

a) General Report to Members

b) Treasurer's Report

5. Elections

Notes:

Current Executive members Joan Scharf (Secretary) and Hugh MacDonald (Treasurer) are prepared to stand for another term. Current President Art Mountain does not wish to stand for another term.

Member Bill Dancer is prepared to stand for President.

Alec Provan has agreed to serve as Editor of the CCGA Newsletter.

"A special "thank you" is due to Migs Turner for chairing the Nominating Committee this year which identified past CCG Regional Director-General Bill Dancer as willing to stand for CCGA President and past Victoria District Manager Alec Provan as willing to become the Editor of the CCGA Newsletter. Thank you to all."

6. New Business

7. Adjournment

CANADIAN COAST GUARD ASSOCIATION MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION/ RENEWAL

THE PURPOSES of the Canadian Coast Guard Association (incorporated in July, 1996, under the B.C. Society Act) are:

- 1) To continue our Canadian Coast Guard camaraderie into retirement.
- 2) To support our Membership and their families, when and as appropriate.
- 3) To support those currently serving in the Canadian Coast Guard and other maritime interests, when and as appropriate.
- 4) To undertake or support other activities approved by the Membership.

MEMBERSHIP - A person who has retired from, or is serving in the Canadian Coast Guard, with at least five years of Federal public service, who is willing to accept the purposes and objectives of the Society and pay the annual membership dues, may apply to the Directors for membership in the Society and on acceptance by the Directors, shall be a member.

The Commissioner of the Canadian Coast Guard has fully endorsed the Association and its purposes, with the understanding that serving CCG personnel would not become directly involved in controversial issues through their membership in the Association or serve on the executive.

APPLICATION FOR MEMBERSHIP may be made by completing the information below and forwarding the signed application, along with one year's membership dues to Joan Scharf, Secretary/Membership, Canadian Coast Guard Association, 204 - 3969 Shelbourne Street, Victoria, B.C. V8N 6J5. **FOR MEMBERSHIP RENEWALS**, complete name and address sections, circle "Renewal", enclose one year's current membership dues, sign and mail as above. Thanks!

NAME: _____ **Tel.** _____ **No.** _____
 _____ **RENEWAL?** _____

ADDRESS: _____

Internet Email address _____

CURRENT ANNUAL DUES: 2003
 - \$5.00 (Covers Newsletter mailing and administrative costs)

Canadian Coast Guard Service: Retired (Date) _____ **Still Serving**

Started _____ **career** _____ **as** _____
 _____ **on** _____ **(date)**

Other areas of work/location _____ **in Coast Guard**

Retired _____ **or** _____ **left** _____ **as**

_____ on _____ (date)

Other Canadian Federal Service: _____ **From:** _____ **To**

Signature _____ Date: _____