

20 June 2008

To: All RCNA Branch and Club Presidents

Subject: National Annual General Meeting Oshawa ON 26-28th September 08

Due to the sudden passing of our President John McGovern during our Annual reunion weekend, I have been asked to assume the responsibility of interim President. This was at the request of your national executive. In order to provide stability to our organization I have accepted.

Several of the executive attended shipmate John's service in Windsor and expressed our sympathies to his family and Sharon on our behalf. He will be sorely missed by all members and branches across the country. A eulogy for John has been placed on the National website.

I would like to assure all that we have made progress over the past few years in making the country aware of our presence and where we exist. This has been done through the establishment of a National website and various periodicals such as the "Yardarm" and our recruiting pamphlet being distributed through all release centres in hopes of attracting members leaving the forces and in particular the maritime branch. In addition our relationship with Veterans Affairs has seen a marked improvement with more notice of pilgrimages. Advance notification still needs some work however.

In order to maintain a viable organization it is paramount that all branches participate in the Annual General Meetings. I would encourage all branches to send a representative to safe guard your interests. This coming year leading up to the Centennial year for the Navy we want all branches to take a active interest in the event. This will be discussed at the AGM as well. Bring the suggestions and ideas of your branch with you.

I look forward to meeting as many of you as possible at the coming meeting in Oshawa so that we may embark on a bright and promising future for the RCNA in Canada.

Yours Aye,



**Blaine D. Barker
Interim President RCNA (National)
Cc National Secretary**

John McGovern

McGOVERN, John Henry Passed away suddenly at Hotel Dieu Grace Hospital on Friday, May 16, 2008, at the age of 77 years. Beloved husband of Sharon (nee Burrell). Dear father of Shawn & his wife Lissa. Loving grandfather of Jonathan and Connor McGovern. Dear son of the late John and Norah McGovern and brother of the late James McGovern. Dear son-in-law of the late Winifred Hebert. Dear brother-in-law of Barbara Penney & her husband, the late Roger Penney and Nancy Barnard. Dear uncle of Karen & Scott, Brian & Becky and great uncle of Addison Belle Penney. John will also be sadly missed by his little dog Skipper. John served for 5 years in the Essex Kent Scottish Regiment and for 5 years overseas in the Royal Canadian Navy during the Korean War. He was a member of the R.C.N.A., Admiral Hose Branch for over 45 years, and a member of the Chiefs and Pos Mess for over 50 years. John retired from John V. Carr Customs Brokerage in Detroit in 1993. John was currently serving as President of the Royal Canadian Naval Association of Canada. One of John's great joys was spending Tuesday afternoons with his buddies, playing darts at the Navy Club. Visitation will be held at the Anderson Funeral Home & Cremation Centre, 895 Ouellette Avenue (519) 254-3223 on Tuesday from 2-4 & 7-9 p.m. A Veterans Memorial Service will be held Tuesday evening at 7:30 p.m. under the auspices of the Royal Canadian Naval Association. Visitation will continue at Church of Ascension, 1385 University Avenue West on Wednesday, May 21, 2008 from 11:30 a.m. until the Funeral Service at 12 Noon. Rev. Lance Smith and Archdeacon Ronald Matthewman officiating. If desired, memorial donations in John's memory to Church of Ascension or to the Windsor Regional Cancer Centre would be



appreciated by the family. www.mem.com