

Day Sail Aboard HMCS CALGARY, 23 June 2015

Our PROBUS Club received an invitation from Rear-Admiral Truelove of Maritime Forces Pacific Royal Canadian Navy for ten of our Members to participate in a day sail aboard HMCS Calgary. A lottery was used at our June monthly meeting to select the attendees from the many who wanted to attend.

At 8:45 AM we boarded the frigate, HMCS Calgary and were welcomed on the flight deck with coffee and pastries. We spent a thoroughly enjoyable day mainly in Howe Sound returning at 3:00 PM.

Although in service for 20 years, the ship is impressive having been modernized two years ago and the crew showed off its maneuverability with high speed stops and starts, evasive maneuvers and a man-overboard drill. The crew were obviously on a happy ship and were enthusiastic in showing us their workplace.

We toured the ship's departments including a fire centre (where crew demonstrated fire suppression techniques), the weaponry on deck (which included types from missiles, torpedoes and main gun to small arms), the control centre, the bridge, the engine control room and engines.

Lunch was served on the flight deck to well over 100 guests. The hot lunch was very impressive and the ship's company are rightly proud of their galley crew.

After completion of the tours we all gathered on the flight deck where Lieutenant-Commander French, the ship's Executive Officer, acted as Master of Ceremonies. Rear Admiral Truelove and Commander Elbourne (Captain of the ship), said a few words. On behalf of our Club I thanked the crew for their hospitality and presented the Captain with a donation from the participating Members of our Club for the Calgary Health Centre, Firefighters Burn Unit, a charity supported by the ship. The Admiral and Captain were most appreciative of our gesture.

It was a pleasure to meet so many engaged and outstanding officers and men and women on board the ship. It is unfortunate that all Canadians cannot be exposed to their outstanding professionalism and enthusiasm.

Mike McMahon



Above Left: Group awaiting boarding.



Above Right: (L-R) Mike McMahon, Colin Ritson, Arnold Dey and Bill Caulfield.



Bottom Right: Shot from the flight deck towards the stern showing some of the guests and tour guides.

