

Annual Report of the  
Awards and Scholarships Committee to  
The Navy League of Canada, Ottawa Branch

7 June 2018

I met with the senior cadets of Falkland to brief them on what was required to apply for a Navy League (and other) scholarships and they were encouraged to do so. The cadets were also encouraged to contact myself should they have any question or require assistance. Having spoken to the Commanding Officer I have reason to believe some cadets will apply for scholarships at the national level but the closing date for these applications is not until June 30. All the applications submitted will be considered for Branch level scholarships. If awarded past practice is that they be presented at the beginning of the RCSCC Falkland training year in September. Also, in the past the closing date for Branch scholarships has been extended in the to the beginning of the following cadet training year. This was a result of previous difficulties with late applications. This may not be a concern this year, but I recommend that cadets may still apply for Navy League Branch scholarships until that time.

Unfortunately, two applicants last year who were granted national scholarships were not considered for Branch scholarships. At the May meeting of the Branch it was moved and voted that Owen Duncan and Lucy Ross-Blevis be awarded Branch scholarships.

My thanks and appreciation for a job well done goes to Nathalee Jacques and LCdr. Marchand for their help with scholarships this year.

I was fortunate in finding two Bell Trophy keepers and two President Trophies that had been stored years ago in a Past President's home. One of these Bell Trophy keepers will be presented this year. My thanks and appreciation for a job well done goes to Jim Burke who did all the woodwork and finishing for the Bell Trophy keepers back in 2006.

At one Executive meeting the Sovereign's Volunteer Medal (SVM) was discussed. Everyone present was in favour of pursuing opportunities to ensure that deserving Ottawa Branch members are considered. In a following Board meeting it was further discussed to ensure that everyone understood what kind and calibre of work is required to prepare such a submission.

I began a process of creating a way to determine those members of the Navy League who are deserving of recognition for their service through the Navy League award system. With help I put together an Application for Award form and sent it out to the Branch Board members. This was not that successful. Only a couple of forms were sent back to me and it was found that do to the nature of the form (programming) much of the information was lost. Also, most people did

not fill in and return the form (a blessing in disguise since it didn't work). I believe that people are self-conscious about filling in a form about themselves forgetting that they could also fill it out for another. It is a long form, but most people need only fill out a few sections.

Further work is required on the form. All suggestions are welcome. I believe that the title should be changed to Record of Service to mitigate the sense that one only fills this out to get awards. Also, it would go a long way in recording the history and accomplishments of the Branch. Although the intent of the form is for the Navy League Award system, anyone thinking of nominating someone for the SVM would probably find this for very useful once it is finalized and ready for use. It is my second "go around" on this job and I hope that I will get some of wrinkles worked out and do a better job next year.

Respectfully Submitted,

Jim Cummings