



Colin in Canada, 1956.

## Colin Macaulay

Colin Macaulay joined the RCN as a fleet air arm in 1951 with aspirations to travel and fly. He trained in the West Coast, and his experience with light aircraft before joining the navy fueled his interest, as well easing the transition to naval life. Colin worked as a navigator, his primary duties involving communication and anti-submarine tactics with hydrographic

recorders aboard HMCS *Bonaventure* 22. Colin recalls the fear he felt during an operation when forty-five aircraft were airborne and fog settled in, making it impossible for them to land on the carrier; luckily, just before their fuel ran out, the fog lifted and they were able to land. Colin's best memory from the navy was meeting his wife, but he enjoyed all of his time in service. After leaving the navy in 1958, Colin became an elementary school teacher. He fondly reminisces that naval life taught him to be punctual and allowed him to make many friends, meet his wife, and travel broadly.



Successor to HMCS *Magnificent*, *Bonaventure* is named after a bird sanctuary in the Gulf of the St. Lawrence. She was commissioned in 1957, complete with an angled flight deck, steam catapult, and mirror landing site. She also had an experimental hydrofoil craft, Banshee jet fighters, and Tracker A/S aircraft. She had a career of flying training and participation in tactical exercises with other NATO nations. After a major refit the *Bonaventure* was paid off July 1970.



June at the Royal Naval Air Station, St. Merrin, Cornwall in 1952.

## June (Lee) Macaulay

In 1951, June Lee entered the Royal Navy (RN) as an Able Bodied Wren. She joined the Wrens because her mother had been one during the Second World War, and she wanted to travel. After training for three months in Hampshire, June became a fully certified signals Wren, working in the control tower, before working in DF (Direction Finding) for lost aircraft in Cornwall. She explains that DF came with many challenges; if the aircraft did not send a long signal, it was hard to get an accurate bearing in order to transmit their location to the tower. Having gone to boarding school, June did not find the transition to being a Wren difficult because she was used to living away from home under strict regulations. June remarks fondly that being a Wren was a "care-free time" in her life. When

she married Colin, she left the Wrens and moved to Canada. June remarks that the Canadian Navy Centennial celebrations are "delightful."

## How They Met

Colin and June met on a squash court in Cornwall, England, in 1952 while June was a qualified Wren



Colin and June in 2010 beside HMS *Victory*, one of their favourite naval ships.

and Colin was in training. After meeting, they spent the next three months going to pubs together, even though it was strongly discouraged at the base. They were forced to keep their love secret, usually meeting outside the entrance gate to the base. During their courtship, Colin was transferred to North Ireland for three months, after which he returned to England to marry June, or “collect her,” as he lovingly describes the event. June and Colin have been together for almost sixty years and remain in love to this day.