

SECOND SESSION - TWENTY-SEVENTH LEGISLATURE

of the

# Legislative Assembly of Saskatchewan

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## DEBATES and PROCEEDINGS

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(HANSARD) Published under the authority of The Honourable Dan D'Autremont Speaker

N.S. VOL. 55 NO. 54A MONDAY, APRIL 29, 2013, 1:30 p.m.

### **90<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Naval Volunteer Reserve**

Mr. Forbes: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, on Saturday April 27th, Saskatoon's Naval Reserve Division, Her Majesty's Canadian Ship *Unicorn* celebrated its 90th anniversary. As their local MLA, I was pleased to attend their anniversary dinner along with Her Honour the Lieutenant Governor; the Minister of Advanced Education, Employment and Labour; and the member for Wood River.

It was on April 27th, 1923 that the then Saskatoon Half-Company was established as one of the first units of the three-month old Royal Canadian Naval Volunteer Reserve. Commissioned as HMCS [Her Majesty's Canadian Ship] *Unicorn* in 1941, it became an active recruiting centre for the Royal Canadian Navy during the Second World War, enrolling and providing initial training to over 3,600 prairie sailors. Many of those sailors served in the Battle of the Atlantic, which will be remembered this coming Sunday. They served from the Arctic to the Mediterranean, from the English Channel off the Normandy's beaches, across the North Atlantic to the coast of North America.

*Unicorn's* personnel also served off the shores of Korea, in the former Yugoslavia, the Persian Gulf, and Afghanistan. And they continue to serve today in ships off both East and West Coasts, as well as responding to emergencies closer to home like the Manitoba floods of 1997 and 2011. At all times they serve to remind their fellow citizens of the importance of Canada's Navy: that the sea is at our gates, even if those gates are over the horizon.

Mr. Speaker, I ask all members to join me in wishing a very happy anniversary to HMCS *Unicorn* and the Naval Reserve. Thank you.