

DIPPERS DIGEST #2

We are saddened to notify you that Vern "Mel" Melanson, our President since 1985, has passed away on 4 Apr 90 in Halifax after a valiant bout with cancer. Mel was born and raised in Moncton, New Brunswick, joined the Canadian Army during WWII, switched over to the Royal Canadian Navy in 1946 where he qualified as a Diver, retiring in 1974 as a C1CD. As a Diver he served on the East Coast Diving Unit and in Newfoundland, Arctic, Caribbean, North Sea and in the Mediterranean aboard the Aircraft Carrier HMCS MAGNIFICENT (the Fleet carried Clearance Divers at one time!) Mel was 61 when he passed on and we pass our condolences to his wife and 7 children. Mel was the third CNDA President (the first was Stanley F. Watts, with Sam Semple being the second) and the mantle of President now falls on the shoulders of the Vice Pres. Leo Goneau, who hails from Midland, Ontario (on Georgian Bay). Leo joined the RCN on 9 Feb 49 at Toronto and took his New Entry Training at HMCS NADEN and thence by draft to the East Coast where he eventually qualified as a Clearance Diver. Leo retired from the Canadian Armed Forces in 1974, lives with his wife in Halifax and now works at the Nova Scotia College of Art & Design. His family of three daughters now have presented them with 6 Grandchildren.
