



## **Lt(N) Ret'd John Philips, CD**

John Philips started his life-long journey with the Navy League Cadet Program by following his father's footsteps, who was a 'plank owner' of RCSCC AJAX in 1943, by joining the NLCC ACHILLES, Guelph, Ont. in 1960 and subsequently becoming a member of RCSCC AJAX until he joined the navy as a Boatswain.

During his naval career, he sailed to various parts of the world in numerous warships which also included two years serving with the United States Navy sailing out of San Diego, California in USN ships. In 1981, due to his outstanding leadership abilities he was awarded a Naval Officers Commission (CFR) and trained as a Maritime Surface / Sub Surface Officer and served as a Weapons Officer in HMCS IROQUOIS and HMCS SAGUENAY. His last sea posting was Deck Officer in HMCS PROVIDER, Esquimalt, BC. John Philips retired in 1996 after serving three years as the Officer in Charge of the Leadership School in Halifax. Upon his retirement he started a successful business as an operator/owner of a courier and delivery service in Halifax, as well as volunteering with RCSCC Bonaventure, Stewiacke, NS.

In 1998 John Philips transferred from the reserve supplementary list to the Canadian Cadet Movement and it was at this time he realized there was a need in the Cole Harbour community to start a new Sea Cadet Corps. He started RCSCC IROQUOIS in 1999 where he served as the founding Commanding Officer for four years. He continued to volunteer with RCSCC IROQUOIS as a CIC in various roles for a total of 16 years.

In 1999 John Philips accepted a position working full time (Class B) at the Regional Cadet Support Unit (Atlantic), Halifax, NS. As a Staff Officer Sea Training he was involved in all aspects of the Sea Cadet Program which included coordination of the sea cadet training program, overseeing training standards for 75 Sea Cadet Corps in the Atlantic Region, management of international exchanges, sea deployments, regional and national courses as well as the organization, staffing, and training requirements for Cadet Summer Training Centre HMCS ACADIA and HMCS AVALON. He also served three summers as the Standards Officer and two summers as the Sea Operations Officer in HMCS ACADIA.

Upon his retirement after 45+ years of full-time service in uniform in 2015 from the CAF, John Philips, was elected to the Nova Scotia Mainland Division (NSMD) as the Vice President Sea Cadets. He served as the President of the NSMD 2017 – 2020. While serving as NSMD President, John Philips took on the additional role as the National Division Presidents Representative for two years with his term completing as of the AGM 2021. John Philips has continued to be an active member of the Cole Harbour/Eastern Passage Navy League Branch.



Notwithstanding, John Philips's commitment to his naval career and the Navy League Cadet Program, he has always been actively involved with various fraternal and charitable organizations within the community. He has been recognized by receiving numerous accolades for his volunteer involvement over the many years and was recently awarded the Governor General Sovereign Medal for Volunteers, as well as a Certificate of Achievement from the NS Lt Governor for his volunteer work as a Liaison Officer for International performers for the Royal Nova Scotia International Tattoo.

John Philips lives with his wife Sheila in Cole Harbour; NS and they have two sons and three grandsons which live in Edmonton and Victoria.

John Philips has been involved in various aspect of the Navy League Cadet Program from an early age. His father, brother and one son were also members of the program. As indicated above, John Philips is committed to the Navy League Cadet Program and will be there for the cadets, volunteers, and sponsors, to come together, not only to bounce back from the pandemic, but to help improve and enhance the Cadets programs when training is forecasted to resume at full strength in September 2021.