

August 2024	Issue No. 129	email: brigden@outlook.com	Established 1998
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An Invite to a great place for our next Luncheon. Would love to see everyone again!!

The Retiree & Spouse Luncheon. Please come and enjoy a great time.

Tell us about your Summer over a great Lunch.

WHEN: SEPT. 12/24 TIME: 12pm Noon. Till _?_ (They close at 4pm)
WHERE: Cosmos's Pizza & Luncheon Place Location: Capel & Exmouth St.

For your RSVP by September 9, 2024, please call Alma Brown (519-336-9108) anytime
or Mel Sparks (519-344-2931)

15 People had a wonderful lunch at John's Restaurant on June 19, 2024.



Twenty Sarnia-Lambton residents have received King Charles III Coronation Medals for their community contributions in various sectors.

Judy Morris - The former president and CEO of Lambton College pioneered programs, expanded the school to three locations, and supported immigration to Sarnia.

<https://cknxnewstoday.ca/sarnia/news/2024/08/21/sarnia-lambton-residents-awarded-kings-coronation-medals>

THOSE WHO SERVED...

WW11 EXPERIENCES

BY ERIK S. NORMAN



On April 9, 1940 I watched a German Battalion march down the main street of Oslo to post sentries around Stortingat (the Parliament Buildings). Chaos erupted as rumours of bombing by the British spread through the crowd. My friends Eilert and Peter and I discussed our options and we decided to join the Norwegian Forces. We were issued Kraugh Jorgensen rifles from the late 1800's. We joined in some skirmishes with the Germans and were chased up the west side of Lake Mjøsa. Eventually the army disbanded and went home as we were woefully undermanned and ill equipped.

Eilert, Peter and I escaped, skiing over the mountains to Sandane in Nordfjord strafed along the way by German planes. Later, Peter and I hired on the fishing vessel, *Rundehorn*, to fish herring off Iceland.

The British occupied Iceland during the **summer of 1940** and our ship was requisitioned by the British Sea Transport Service. Since I was the only one on board who spoke English, I was required to do all negotiating and translating between the British crew and my Captain. I was 22 years old.

There was a Norwegian Naval Liaison Office in Reykjavik where I signed up to join the Norwegian Navy. **Early 1942** I received orders to report to Naval Headquarters in London. I was sent to Liverpool to where a new Hunt Class Destroyer named *H.N.M.S. Glaisdale* was being built. Before commissioning I was to familiarize myself with the store on board comprising of every spare part for the engine room and other areas of the ship, except ammunition. I was also in charge of the Rum Store.

During the next year and a half, we saw a great deal of action in the Channel and off North Africa and Gibraltar.

Early 1944 I was sent to Scots Yard on the Clyde in Greenock, Scotland to familiarize myself with *H.N.M.S. Svenner*, a much larger ship than *Glaisdale*. She was an "S" Class Destroyer. As Chief Petty Officer I was in charge of obtaining all supplies required to run the ship and also in charge of the Rum Store. When On Action Stations I was in charge of supplying ammunition to the 4.7" guns in the Bow. We had intensive training for a month before joining the Home Fleet in Glasgow.

On D-Day - June 6, 1944 we took up our position off Sword on the extreme left flank about 0430 (4:30 a.m.). Around 0530 (5:30 a.m.) I looked out the porthole to check the French Coast when I saw a track of a torpedo heading straight for me. I felt most uncomfortable as I was standing above the magazine for the 4.7" guns. The torpedo hit the boiler room midships and the secondary ammunition on deck exploded in all directions. About eighty survivors scrambled up nets on the side of *H.M.S. Swift*. I treaded in the icy water for about an hour and was picked up by a Special Forces ship and transferred to the British Troop transport, the *Maid of Orleans*. They took us to Portsmouth at 11 p.m. The *Maid of Orleans* was torpedoed and sunk the very next day in the same position *Svenner* had been torpedoed.

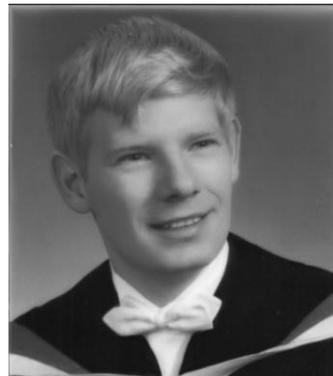
I was on a two week leave in London when the first V1's were falling all around us.

On termination of leave I reported to the Commanding Officer of the Norwegian Naval Stores in Edinburgh in the McVittie and Price Biscuit Factory building. I was promoted to 2nd Lieutenant. When Norway was liberated, I became Commanding Officer in charge of the Naval Stores. I was in charge of seeing our total inventory shipped to Norway.

I came home to stay in **May 1946**. I was assigned to the Norwegian Naval Stores in Oslo for four months. I was subsequently hired by Esso to work in their Bunker Department.

About two years later I was recalled as Paymaster on a Naval Base in the Arctic in Northern Norway in a place called Kirkenes. I was promoted to 1st Lieutenant. Four months later the Navy decided to dismantle the station and move all files 400 miles south to Tromsø. During this period, I was on loan to the Navy from Esso and when the job was done, I returned to the Esso office in Oslo. So ended my Naval career.

Thomas BUSCHER



Obtained employment at Lambton College in 1974 as a Professor of Medical Lab Technology, eventually obtaining his Master of Education before retiring in 2001. (from Obituary)

Link to Obituary: <https://smithfuneralhome.ca/memorial/thomas-tom-buscher-0>

Blessings and prayers to Pat Buscher (also a former employee of the College)

Below is a Link to a Lambton College Facebook page of a photo reel pulled from the Archives.

<https://www.facebook.com/reel/1035380381485689>

Did you recognize anyone? I had to watch the reel a few times to see everyone.

Here is the original Lambton College logo, from the Class of 69.



"I had the leather technology jacket, the 1968, 1969 yearbooks, the 1968 roses & gasoline book, the school ring, and the 1969 Convocation program."

From a Former Student and a follower of the Lambton College Facebook Page

Curious: How many reading this newsletter worked at the Bluewater Campus Site?

You can respond to brigden@outlook.com and I'll give response tally in next newsletter.

Also, do you recall the Logo's meaning in the Crest patch?

Answer in next newsletter too.

Spread the word about membership in the Lambton College Retirees' Club. \$ 10.00 per year fee.

Mel Sparks recently announced that he will be stepping down from the Executive.

Also, always looking for recent retirees to join the Executive. Not a strenuous position.

Your Executive: Alma Brown, Cathy Bull, Terry Cameron, Mary Leckie, Karen McClughan, Pat O'Connor, Gerry Page, Mel Sparks, Kathi Vandenheuvel, Ursula Westelaken, Ray Wreford.