

Why a “Prairie Sailor” statue in Winnipeg?

During World War 11, the Korean Conflict, the Gulf War and throughout the 100 year history of the Canadian Navy men from across the prairies have enlisted in the navy to serve their country.

During WWII Winnipeg became the third largest naval recruiting center in Canada only exceeded by those on the two coasts. Approximately 300 officers and 8,000 other ranks began their journey to the sea in Winnipeg onboard HMCS Chippawa.

On a population basis, men from the prairies made up an exceptional percentage of Canada’s seagoing naval force that performed such great service during the Battle of the Atlantic and in subsequent years as Canada’s navy has continued its activities to protect those that “pass upon the seas upon their lawful occasion.”

Many women also joined the Women’s Naval Service and served in shore establishments in Canada and abroad. Their service is marked as part of a tri-service women’s monument in Memorial Park. However, there is no monument specifically honouring the men from the prairies, - the “Prairie Sailors.”



Sculptor Helen Granger Young

A model, or “marquette,” as seen on the cover, of the proposed life-size statue has been created by Winnipeg Sculptor Helen Granger Young, a well known Winnipeg sculptor whose recent work includes that of the “Famous Five” (Nelly McClung and her four friends signing the petition to get Canada to recognize women as persons) which was recently placed on the Manitoba Legislative grounds.

Placement of the Statue

As a Naval Centennial project the Naval Museum of Manitoba placed a large anchor in front of HMCS Chippawa to honour all who have served in Canada’s Navy during the past 100 years. It is proposed to place the Prairie Sailor statue adjacent to the anchor to complete an area honouring all past naval service and marking the exceptional contribution made by men from the prairies.

Placement would be to the left of the anchor seen above, between it and HMCS Chippawa.

Donations

You are invited to take part in the Prairie Sailor Project. Here is how you may participate.

- 1) You may make a donation. Any amount is greatly appreciated.
- 2) The area around the centennial anchor and Prairie Sailor statue will be paved with bricks. You may purchase a **Memorial Brick** to be personally engraved. Your brick will be a permanent tribute at this site.

You have two options to choose from. You may choose a 4”x 8” brick with 3 lines (18 letters each line) for \$200. Or you may choose an 8”x 8” brick with four lines for \$350. Please use the form on the reverse side to order.
- 3) Help us by spreading the word regarding this project.

Note: All donations over \$10 and all brick purchases will receive a **tax receipt**.

Please make your cheque payable to:

Friends of the Naval Museum and place “Prairie Sailor” in the memo line.

Mail cheques to **Prairie Sailor Project**
C/O HMCS Chippawa
1 Navy Way
Winnipeg, MB R3C 4J7

Complete the following if not on your cheque or when ordering a Memorial Stone.

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ Province _____

Phone _____

