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Editorial

As this issue took shape, the environment emerged as an unexpected theme. The opening article by Harry T. Holman looks at an attempt to find an ice-free Canadian port that would allow year-round trans-Atlantic steamship service during the late nineteenth century. Mary Baxter turned her 2024 CNRS/NASOH conference presentation into our second article, which examines the impact of dredging aggregate from the bed of Lake Erie near Point Pelee to supply building material for North America's rapidly developing urban communities. Adam Coombs's presentation at the 2025 CNRS conference is the basis for our third article, which looks at naval efforts to turn the sandy dunes of Sable Island off the coast of Nova Scotia into an airbase to support anti-submarine warfare. All three authors write of the confidence with which humanity endeavoured to leverage the marine environment to achieve commercial or military objectives, and yet also offer proof that such confidence can erode when exposed to forces of nature.

The issue continues with a commentary by Brian Bertosa, who discusses four documents written by Canadian naval officials involved with approval of a flag for Maritime Command that provide insights into organizational tensions remaining after unification of Canada's armed forces in the 1960s. References to Distinctive Environmental Uniforms that put sailors back into navy blue allude to the issue's theme, although this may be overstretching on the part of the editor. The commentary is followed by a tribute to Michael Hadley, a retired professor, Canadian naval officer, and maritime historian who passed away in March 2026. Reminiscences by colleagues mark the many accomplishments of a man who will be remembered as a fine scholar, humanitarian, and an important contributor to this journal.

We conclude with book reviews, the first batch published under the stewardship of Rebecca Murray as Book Reviews Editor. Rebecca is actively encouraging members of CNRS and NASOH to become more engaged in maritime history by undertaking reviews of the growing number of new books appearing in a field that is becoming increasingly multidisciplinary. On other news related to the editorial team, we are pleased to announce that Jean-Michel Turcotte has rejoined the masthead as General Editor responsible for French submissions. This appointment puts the journal in a much stronger position to work with authors in both of Canada's official languages for the benefit of our readership.

Michael Moir
General Editor (English)

