

Skipper cleared in mishap

VICTORIA (CP) — Lt.-Cmdr. Al Munroe was not negligent when his minesweeper HMCS Cowichan hit and sank a 17-metre fishboat in heavy fog in Nanaimo Harbor, a general court martial ruled this week.

Munroe's lawyer said the collision was probably inevitable because it appeared the seiner J. H. Todd was steering toward the 50-metre Cowichan at the time of the Oct. 22 accident.

The seiner was on the wrong side of the channel, was not monitoring its radio, had no lookout or passage plan and was not sounding its foghorn.

No one was hurt and the fishboat's three-man crew was rescued by the Cowichan which was being used on a destroyer navigation course.

Defence lawyer Lt.-Cmdr. Jim Price told the tribunal that Munroe was let down by his navigators who were not prepared when the ship left its berth early to avoid a B.C. government ferry on its regular run.

In addition, Munroe had "an accident waiting to happen bearing down on him," Price said.

Prosecuting officer Capt. Gord Macdonald based his case on the fact that Munroe, after receiving a report of a radar contact a nautical mile dead ahead, did not prompt his navigator to give him ordered updates of the ship's position.

The navigator, Lieut. Steven Bernsten, was later charged and severely reprimanded for not keeping his captain updated as ordered.

Macdonald argued the responsibility for the ship clearly lies with the captain despite what his subordinates do.

However, judge advocate Cmdr. Robbie Barnes of Ottawa, said in his charge to the court that he agreed with expert witness Capt. Lawrence Murray who testified that responsibility and culpability are separate.

Music festival results

Those who have followed the Prince George and District Music Festival for the past few years will notice some consistent champions of the past are being successfully challenged by newcomers.

As with sports, this year's results are proving the top gun always has to keep in practice because others want the recognition, awards and scholarships.

- Thursday's results were:
- PIANO
 - Class 011: Bach, Grade 1 — Carmen Hinkson (87).
 - Class 126: sonatina/sonata, Grade 6 — Nathan Krahn (85).
 - Class 095: romantic, Grade 5 — Warren Chow (88).
 - Class 021: sonatina, Grade 1 — Lauren Ko (86).
 - Class 022: sonatina, Grade 2 — Jason Neault (88).
 - Class 093: folk song, Grade 3 — Daniela Mogus (88).
 - Class 015: Bach, Grade 5 — David Graham (86).
 - Class 250: duo, Grade 10 and under — Karen and Joseph Su (89).
 - Class 140: concerto, Grade 7 and under — Tanya Johnson (86).
 - Class 128: sonatina/sonata, Grade 8 — David Swanson (87).
 - Class 270: modern and contemporary, Grade 10 — Stephanie Chow (92).
 - Class 001: early keyboard, Grade 1 — Genevieve Tam (89).
 - Class 136: Haydn/Mozart/Beethoven, Grade 6 — Cindi Jacques (86).
 - Class 052: Beethoven, Grade 2 — Natasha Johnson (88).
 - Class 073: program, Grade 3 — Susy Stever (90).
 - Class 041: Mozart, Grade 1 — Rachel Heese (86).
 - Class 042: Mozart, Grade 2 — Jennifer Power (87).
 - Class 031: Haydn, Grade 1 — Genevieve Tam (89).
 - Class 005: early keyboard, Grade 5 — Warren Chow (88).
 - Class 145: duet, Grade 7 — Joel and Carmelita Heese (88).
 - Class 187: Canadian, Grade 7 — Theresa Shaw (86).
 - Class 138: Haydn, Mozart/Beethoven, Grade 8 — Joseph Su (90).
 - Class 209: baroque, Grade 9 — Darin Swanson (88).
 - Class 232: classical, open competitive — Clara Lim (90).
 - ORGAN
 - Class 680: concerto group — Catherine Walsh (84).
- Festival competitions continue to Thursday, with honors performances in Vanier Hall, April 11.



Native art
 Prince George artist Myke Campbell, a recent graduate from the Native arts program, applies his trade to the walls of the Bingo-Go-Emporium on Robertson Street. The huge painting of a hummingbird in the garden took him three 10-hour days to complete.
 Citizen photo by Lisa Murdoch

NATIVE ART GALLERY
 144 GEORGE ST.

"GARDEN KEEPERS FEAST"

MYKE CAMPBELL
 87 R7

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