

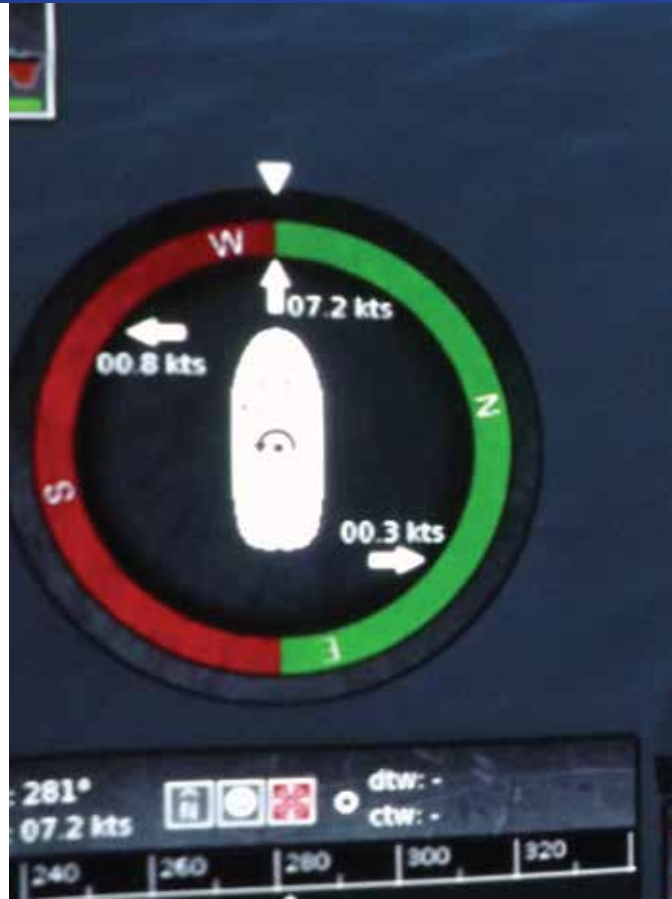
# Sea Cadets Set Sail on Dry Land

by Georgina Bishop and Ryan Kelly

Exploring ship handling, duty watches, and acting as helmsmen are not normal tasks for the average 12 to 18 year old; however, as a Royal Canadian Sea Cadet, they are. In the past, these tasks were only conducted at Sea Cadet Summer Training Centres across Canada with a select number of cadets chosen for this training. Today this training is at the fingertips of every sea cadet across Newfoundland and Labrador through the use of a ship simulator.

The Cadet Program is the largest federally-sponsored youth program in Canada and includes the Royal Canadian Sea, Army, and Air Cadets. It is a national program for young Canadians aged 12 to 18 who are interested in participating in a variety of fun, challenging, and rewarding activities while learning about the sea, army, and air activities of the Canadian Armed Forces. Cadets are encouraged to become active, responsible members of their communities. They make valuable contributions to Canadian society on a daily basis in terms of environmental, citizenship, and community activities.

One of the many transferrable skills learned within the Sea Cadet Program is ship management. Sea cadets have always trained in seamanship, naval knowledge, and navigation; however, the majority of training was completed at the local Sea Cadet Corps facilities within small communities during the training year (between September and



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June). This training would be delivered using knowledge-based lessons within a classroom. Cadets would then go on to learn their practical skills at a Sea Cadet Summer Training Centre like HMCS Acadia, located in Cornwallis, Nova Scotia. Now each sea cadet can receive both knowledge and skill-based training in any community regardless of the at-sea resources.

For years the aviation industry has been using simulator training to prepare pilots for flight in a safe and controlled environment; the resulting shift in training and aviation safety has drastically improved pilot training and the safety culture in the industry. The marine industry has been slower to adopt simulator training; however, due to recent advances



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navigation delivered in a classroom setting using knowledge-based lessons. Today they use a ship simulator.

in computing power, math modelling, and graphical design, the marine industry is beginning to adopt small scale simulator training. With younger generations entering the workforce, simulator buy-in is increasing. Younger students appear to more readily accept the visual displays presented to them and are quick to understand how the systems work – resulting in better student buy-in. Based on this the advancement of simulator technologies is on the rise.

As one of the oldest youth organizations in Canada, the Cadet Program needs to stay relevant and present in the changing technologies. Therefore the ship simulator offers sea cadets realistic controls as they learn to navigate,

control, and command various ships in different, real-world situations. It allows cadets to experience at-sea duties without the worry of vessel availability and weather in their communities around Newfoundland and Labrador. As technology progresses within the marine sector, youth will continue to look for ways to challenge this wonderful program and the development of training to meet the needs of their generation.

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