



John Andrews
LSER

I was born January 20, 1963, at Port de Grave. When I was five, we moved to Coley's Point. My parents were Roy and Florence Andrews. My father was a WW2 veteran, serving in the Royal Navy from 1939 till 1945. I have 2 brothers and 3 sisters.

Growing up was very typical. Hockey or skating in the winter, swimming or trouting in the summer.

In 1980 I finished high school, Ascension Collegiate, Bay Roberts and joined up September the same year. I was 17.

I served in the Royal Canadian Navy as a Marine Engineer. I completed Basic Training January 1981 and went to Fleet school in Halifax NS thereafter. It would have been the spring of the same year that I

was posted to HMCS Protecteur AOR 509. That was the ship I would spend the next 5 years serving aboard.

At that time the ship was at sea quite a bit. We visited ports up and down the eastern coast of the USA and many small Islands such as Aruba, Puerto Rico, and Barbados. One time in particular we were on our way to Norfolk Virginia and got caught in a hurricane. For Several days we rode out the storm. The waves were so high that the main armament gun actually washed off the ship. Another time while returning from England a Chemical tanker named Essi Silje had caught on fire and was abandoned by the crew. We took the crew onboard and over the next couple of days we put the fires out and patched any holes in the hull. We took the ship in tow and eventually turned it over to tugboats to bring it back to the safety of Europe.

I got to visit England several times, France, Spain, Gibraltar and Holland to name others. I served for five and a half years. When I came home, I used my background to continue as a Power Engineer. I worked at the Hospital in Carbonear for 17 years before coming out west to work as a Pipefitter.

I have been married for 30 years. Have one son and will soon be a grandfather. In another couple of years, I will retire and become a full time Pop.

No words could explain or describe the friends I have made.

John