

Defence Minister Peter MacKay announces HMCS Hunter project



Honourable Peter MacKay, centre right, speaks with Canadian veteran Larry Costello, centre, and MP Jeff Watson at the HMCS Hunter Naval Reserve during an announcement for the construction of a new building at Mill Cove Marina in Windsor, Ont., on the Detroit River, September 6, 2012. Canadian Naval officers joined in the photo opportunity. (NICK BRANCACCIO/The Windsor Star)



[Don Lajoie](#)

Sep 06, 2012 - 1:09 PM EST

Last Updated: Sep 06, 2012 - 8:41 PM EST

Minister of National Defence Peter MacKay has officially announced construction of a \$36.4-million “state of the art” waterfront mooring for Windsor’s HMCS Hunter.

Speaking at the Hunter’s Second World War era “stone frigate” on Ouellette Avenue Thursday, MacKay said the historic building had served its purpose well but the facility

was in need of an upgrade to be achieved through the construction of a \$15.7 million 5,805-square-metre building at Mill Cove Marina on the Detroit River in Sandwich Towne, with work to begin in the spring. Total value of the upgrade of the facility and equipment is set at \$36.4 million

The new Hunter will be large enough, he said, to house 250 personnel and three cadet corps and include offices, classrooms, mess areas, a boat lift and boat shed, a drill deck, storage areas and training facilities. Construction, to be handled by PCR Contractor Inc. of Windsor, will generate 85 jobs. The old Hunter will be declared surplus and returned to the Canadian Forces Support Unit in London.

“The government is working hard to provide the men and women of our military the best equipment, training, support and infrastructure we can,” said MacKay. “We are committed to give them what is needed to protect Canada ... and to meet the challenges of the 21st century.”

He said the project fits into that goal, adding that the service men and women at HMCS Hunter exemplify the best of the military, whether regular forces or reserve personnel, adding that the unit’s motto, “ready when required,” encapsulates that spirit.

“But this venerable building is aging,” he said. “It no longer meets the needs and requirements of a modern navy.... The new one will be state of the art.”

MP Jeff Watson (C — Essex), whom MacKay credited with pushing the new Hunter building in Parliament, noted that the project will also bring jobs to the area.

“I’m confident that our government’s investment will help bolster the local economy and greatly benefit our Canadian Forces.”

Commander Dan Manu-Popa, of HMCS Hunter, said “the new facility will greatly enhance our collective efforts in the service of Canada.”



Honourable Peter MacKay, right, Minister of National Defence, along with local MP Jeff Watson were joined by Commander Dan Manu-Popa, (not shown) HMCS Hunter Naval Reserve, during an announcement for the construction of a new building at Mill Cove Marina in Windsor, Ont., on the Detroit River, September 6, 2012. (NICK BRANCACCIO/The Windsor Star)



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