

The 1930's brought with them a renewal of interest in Naval Defence. With each year of the decade the possibility of another great war grew stronger. When the seventeen-year old cruisers Vancouver and Champlain were judged no longer capable of economical operation, taken out of service in 1936, the Canadian Government at the urging of the Naval Staff approved the purchase of two new destroyers. For \$1,000,000 apiece the Cygnet and the Crescent, renamed respectively the St. Laurent and the Fraser, were purchased from the Admiralty. These ships had been commissioned in 1932 and were of a class akin to the Skeena and Saguenay. On arrival in Canadian waters the Fraser was based in the West, the St. Laurent in the East. This was 1937.

That same year saw the Dominion shipyards busy with four new minesweepers, the Gaspé, Fundy, Nootka and Comox, and (to be used as a training ship) the 143-foot schooner Venture.

The following year two destroyers similar to the others in the Canadian Service were purchased from England at a cost of \$817,500 each. These ships were given the names Ottawa and Restigouche. As has been seen, a policy had been adopted of calling Canadian destroyers after Canadian rivers; the minesweepers were after Canadian bays.

During the summer months, Canada's peacetime Navy toured Canadian ports. They took aboard reservists for short, intensive training courses, covering discipline, seamanship, engine-room duty, gunnery, torpedo, wireless, signals, searchlight, naval routine, and tactical exercises under seagoing conditions.

During the winter, Canadian destroyers took part with ships of the Royal Navy in intensive exercises and manoeuvres in West Indian waters.