

Gena Branscombe

**Picton-Born  
Girl Composes  
Song for Navy**  
*File Nov 26/60*

Dedicated to the Royal Canadian Navy on its 50th Anniversary, "Arms That Have Shelter'd Us," with words and music by Gena Branscombe, has been published by Gordon V. Thompson Limited, Toronto. The song has been officially adopted by the Royal Canadian Navy. It is the first song directly written for the Royal Canadian Navy, the regular, all-time one being the British "Hearts of Oak." Dr. Gerald Allison and Mrs. Allison have a score of the arrangement.

Picton-born Gena Branscombe is a prominent composer-conductor in New York City. Her song was heard by Lt.-Com. Cuthbert, R.C.N., whose first communication with Gena Branscombe, was a band score, asking permission to use it. The Chief of Naval Defence, Vice-Admiral DeWolf, sent her a tape of the band of HMCS "Stadacona" playing it, and telling her how much they all liked the composition and how deeply they appreciated her work for them.

The Times understands that at a recent staff meeting in Ottawa, Admiral Budge, who is very musical, had arranged navy choruses and he had all the heads of staff sing this piece, until they knew it. Commander Law said the staff officers' singing was "Pretty good!" Of course, he did not know what people on the outside thought of bursts of song coming from the Admiral's office. That they adopted the song officially was heart-warming to Gena Branscombe.

The song goes as follows:  
Arms that have shelter'd us,  
Land that we love,  
Fields green in summer sun,  
High hills above,  
Our solemn pledge we give,  
Thro' years to be,  
Canada, Canada, Guardians are  
we,  
Proudly thy ships will ride,  
Keeping thee free.

Dear are remember'd things,  
Firelight and home,  
Pines white with glist'ning  
snow, Bays bright with  
foam.

Our solemn pledge we give,  
Thro' years to be,  
Canada, Canada, Guardians are  
we.  
Proudly thy ships will ride,  
Keeping thee free.

This is a musical arrangement that can be used in church, or on patriotic occasions. As a band arrangement it is most stirring and effective.

(Taken from Picton Times)

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