

Meet the indomitable Heidi Harper

The Secretary of the Society of Atlantic Heroes

Heidi is a recently retired Criminal Investigator for the Canada Border Services Agency in NB. Her 33-year career with the CBSA started in 1990 as a Student Customs Officer in Pacific Highway in BC. After graduating with a Bachelor of Business Administration in 1992, she joined the CBSA full time as a front-line officer in BC. After attending the CBSA Recruit College in Rigaud Quebec she transferred to the Atlantic Region and started working at the Woodstock NB Border.

Her career with the CBSA continued with a position as an Intelligence Officer within the Intelligence and Enforcement Division in NB with responsibilities to develop and disseminate intelligence to CBSA Operations as well as external partners. Heidi has worked with various Canadian and US Law Enforcement partners in Joint Force Operations as well as a CBSA member within designated Intelligence Units.

In 2014 she became a Criminal Investigator within the Intelligence and Enforcement Division for CBSA and had the responsibility to conduct criminal investigations into border criminality as they related to Federal Legislation under Customs and Immigration Acts. CBSA criminal cases are approved and prosecuted by PPSC in Provincial and Federal Court. She was assigned to an Integrated Border Enforcement Team and worked collaboratively with RCMP, US Homeland Security Investigations and US Border Patrol to investigate criminal activity occurring at the NB/Maine Border.

Heidi was dedicated to both her career and her family. In 2020 a cancer diagnosis of one of their 11-year-old daughter affected their family. Treatment occurred at the IWK Children's Hospital in Halifax, and she took a leave of absence to stay with her daughter in Halifax. Her husband stayed in NB to work and care for the other 2 children and travelled to NS when they could visit. A referral to the SOAH was made and their family spent 10 months at the SOAH Apartment. The SOAH Apartment was a godsend to their family as it was a place for the family to be together, to have a little normalcy as a family outside the hospital. Thanksgiving and Christmas dinners were prepared and shared, and memories made. Her family is very grateful to SOAH for providing accommodations to her family during this time.

As her daughter's treatments concluded and her health improved, Heidi eventually returned to full duties as a Criminal Investigator. Unfortunately, in 2023 Heidi received a cancer diagnosis of her own and medically retired from CBSA after 33 years. Cancer treatments have now been completed and she is currently in remission and is grateful for the opportunity to assist SOAH as Secretary on the BOD. We don't think we could have found a better person for the role.