





Decorative knot tying pays off for bell rope finalists

Shelley Lipke Staff writer

The Naval Centennial Bell Rope competition officially came to a close last Wednesday when finalists gathered on board HMCS Protecteur for an award ceremony.

The oldest ship in the Canadian Navy was a fitting venue to host this event as the Centennial Bell, and chosen winning bell rope, will mark the next 100 years of the Canadian Navy and be showcased in Ottawa's Parliament Hill on May 4.

The finalists came from as far as CFB Halifax to receive their certificates, and while not all could attend it was a momentous occasion for the crafty and creative competitors.

Fleet Commander, Commodore Ron Lloyd spoke of the historical significance of bells

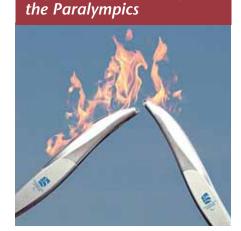
throughout the navy's history, and with a hearty smile and handshake congratulated each of the four competitors who were able to attend.

"I want to thank the sailors who contributed entries to the bell rope competition. The high standard of skill and artistry demonstrated in the entries challenged the judges to make their choice," he said. "We are extremely proud of your efforts and the skill you have demonstrated."

Centennial Bell rope winner CPO2 David Lowther, Base Regulating Chief at CFB Esquimalt, spent 75 hours on his winning bell rope, which features a blue and white navy colour scheme, King

See Bell Rope page 12

NEWS Esquimalt gets fired up for



AFGHANISTAN 4

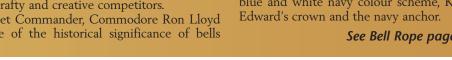
Sorting a sea of mail for the troops



HEALTH

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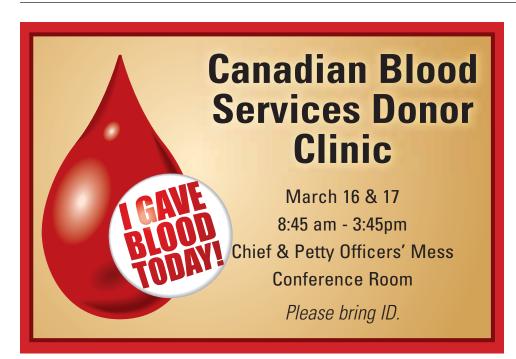












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Local M.P. learns of advances in CF care of ill and injured

Lt(N) Michael McWhinnie

Base Public Affairs

Dr. Keith Martin came to CFB Esquimalt last Wednesday for a two-hour fact finding trip arranged by the Officer Commanding, Joint Personnel Support Unit (JPSU) Pacific Commander Region, Barbara Carter. The visit was intended to inform the federal M.P. for Esquimalt-Juan de Fuca of recent improvements in the way the CF manages care for the injured.

After an official welcome by Base Commander Capt(N) Marcel Hallé, Dr. Martin was lead by Cdr Carter on a tour that included the temporary offices of the JPSU in Nelles Block and the Integrated Personnel Service Centre (IPSC) in building N40.

The concept of centrally managed casualty support units received Chief of Defence Staff approval in 2008. Operationally, the JPSU responds to Chief Military Personnel, the organization responsible for related programs such as health service provision, personnel generation and career management policy, and compensation and benefits administration.

"The system of care management is complex. The CF leadership saw that simplifying it would benefit ill or injured personnel during periods of need," Cdr Carter explained to Dr. Martin. "The JPSU is intended to enhance casualty support by providing one-stop access to services and benefits, and by simplifying the process of seeking assistance."

Nationally, eight regionally-based JPSU elements manage the service delivery of 30 IPSCs. In addition to CFB Esquimalt, JPSU Pacific Region supervises an IPSC in Vancouver, and will be establishing presence in Chilliwack and Comox.

The job of coordinating service support to actual CF individuals or their families is the responsibility of the team at the IPSC. "This is where ill and injured Regular Force and Reserve Force personnel, former personnel, their families and the families of the deceased receive integrated support when injuries or illnesses occur," explained Cdr Carter. "This happens whether the person is reintegrating into



Cdr Barb Carter explains the Joint Personnel Support Unit roles to Dr. Keith Martin with the aid of a functional diagram.

military life or exploring new options in the civilian workplace."

Dr. Martin showed keen interest and asked questions of the staff he met along the tour. He has been active in matters concerning the care of injured CF personnel and has published several articles on the topic. "Professionally, I feel very connected to the issue of health care: both in my current role as parliamentarian and from my previous occupation of physician," said Dr. Martin.

After leaving the IPSC offices, Dr Martin accompanied Cdr Carter to the Base Executive building for a briefing by IPSC partner organizations. Representatives from CF Health Services, Veteran's Canada, the Affairs Military Family Resource Centre, Operational Stress Injury Support Services and numerous other organizations encircled the conference table as if illustrating Cdr Carter's point regarding the complexity of comprehensive support to the ill or injured.

"Clearly, there is a wide and diverse range of skills and resources that are required to meet the needs of those we serve but the days of stovepipes and questions of jurisdiction are behind us. I am very encouraged by the unity of vision and common commitment that no one be left behind, forgotten or ill served," said Cdr Carter.

Reducing the potential

for gaps, overlaps and confusion among service providers and clients are some of the principal goals of the JPSU.

Organizational resentatives alternately detailed their roles in the new integrated approach. "This is really a good move forward towards eliminating the transition gaps, especially between those services delivered by DND and VAC," said Dr. Martin. "You are on the cutting edge of developing solutions to the challenges faced by ill or injured CF members and their families," said Dr. Martin.

As the briefing neared its conclusion, Capt(N) Hallé offered words of encouragement to the partner organization representatives to further pursue the collective agenda of care and support . "Though the seam has been closed there remains the challenge of identifying and helping those who transitioned before the current services were available," he said.

Dr. Martin expressed appreciation for the chance to visit the Base. "I am glad for this opportunity which will allow me to take this information back to Ottawa to share with Parliament," declared Dr. Martin.

The IPSC is the primary point to contact for coordinating services and benefits related to injury or illness of CF personnel. Their general inquiry phone number is 250-363-4477.

Paralympic Torch to light up Esquimalt

Shelley LipkeStaff writer

The Paralympic Torch Relay will make its debut on the streets of Esquimalt and Victoria, promising an experience far different than the Olympic Torch Relay.

On March 6, instead of granting spectators a passing glance at its travelling convoy of vehicles and the odd glimpse of a torch bearer, the torch relay will go through 14 selected cities across Canada with hosted community-focused events packed with entertainment, speeches, native welcoming ceremonies, activities and a chance to meet and greet the torchbearers.

CFB Esquimalt was asked by the Vancouver Olympic Committee (VANOC) to organize the relay because the Paralympic movement originally stemmed from a need for war veterans with disabilities to become more active through sport.

"It was decided to make this event more accessible and include our neighbouring community by inviting the Township of Esquimalt to jointly host the celebration. We are inviting everyone to join us for this historic event," said organizer and Commanding Officer of HMCS Ottawa Cdr Frédérick Caron.

Esquimalt will be the first community in British Columbia to host the relay.

"It's going to be a good opportunity to talk about sport and about people with disabilities and bring people together during the community celebration," said Cdr Caron.

It kicks off at 8 a.m. at the back of the Archie Browning Sports Centre with a Lion's Club free pancake breakfast to warm up the early morning crowd.

Then in the 90 minutes leading up to the 9:30 a.m. torch relay start time, displays, music and entertainment for children with a bouncing castle will keep the crowd amused.

"We will have the Naden Band and the VIVA Youth Choir singing and playing music, the Canadian Forces caravan display, and 11th Field Ambulance will have displays with computers and a video screen so people can learn about the Navy and also see a medical simulator," said Cdr Caron.

The Canadian Naval Centennial Committee will be there to alert people of the centennial events planned this year, and the Disabled Sailing Association will have paralympians that have raced at the 2008 Beijing Paralympic Games and one of their sailboats on dis-



play as well and information on sailing for the disabled.

The Esquimalt Access Awareness committee from the Township of Esquimalt have invited many organizations such as the Capital Mental Health Association, Recreation Integration Victoria, the Disability Resource Centre, Canasist, BC Transit, the Multiple Sclerosis Society of Canada and the Island Deaf & Hard of Hearing Centre. Each will have a display and will there to show their program and answer questions. Also, the Vancourver Island Society of Disable Artists will showcase artwork being made on location by disable artists.

"In each city across Canada a local First Nation's community is chosen to build a fire from the land. This fire will be used to light the cauldron on stage. The welcoming ceremony by the First Nations community will bring the flame to the stage and will officially kick off the torch relay," said Cdr Caron.

Capt Trevor Greene, the army officer injured during an attack by an axe-weilding Afghan youth in 2006, will take the honour of being the first torchbearer. He will be introduced and interviewed briefly before he leaves the stage with the torch.

"The torch bearers will take a portion of a 800 metre route around the ground of the Bullen Field and returns back to the stage with three exchange points. This allows each of the 15 torchbearers to travel a distance suitable for them," said Cdr Caron. "While the torchbearers are out on this route, VANOC will keep the crowd entertained by interviewing RAdm Tyrone Pile, Esquimalt Acting Mayor Bruce McIldoon, and other federal and provincial government representatives."

Cdr Caron says this route will allow the crowd to stay at the stage and with the activities while being able to cheer for the torchbearers as they depart and return to the central area.

Of the 15 torch bearers, Maritime Forces Pacific was allotted two spots, which were awarded to LS Kirsten Arensen, a Naval Communicator in HMCS Winnipeg, and Lt(N) Hayley Mooney, Executive Assistant to Deputy Commander Joint Task Force Games. Both are triathletes nominated by their bosses.

At 11 a.m. the Esquimalt portion of the relay will end and the flame will make its way to Victoria for their celebrations and closing ceremonies.

The torch will travel down Lyall Street to Westbay Marina where it will board a navy rigid hull inflatable boat. On the water it will be transferred to the Navy Dragon Boat team for transfer to the landing area downtown Victoria where a torch bearer will carry it to the awaiting crowd at Ships Point to kick off the Victoria celebration.

"At the Esquimalt event people will be invited to either follow the flame down to the Westbay Marina, and if desired follow along the Inner Harbour walkway to meet up with the Victoria celebration at Ship's Point, or go inside Archie Browning Sports Centre and see the Paralympic curling demonstration and try their hand at paralympic curling."

at paralympic curling."

The Paralympic Torch Relay begins in Ottawa on March 3 and travels through 13 other cities before arriving in Vancouver on March 12 to light the cauldron officially opening the 2010 Paralympic Winter Games.

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WHAT SAY YOU

A day in the life of a postie in Afghanistan

Sgt Dustin D. Hood

JTF-Afg / National Support Element

Time: 0900 hours

Date: mid-December 2009

Place: Afghanistan

Today we are expecting 120 tri-walls of mail. (For those who don't know, a tri-wall is a standard shipping container about four feet square and three feet deep.) Never during my career as a postie have I ever seen such a quantity of incoming mail. I'm quite sure this must be a record.

The first fully loaded semi-tractor pulls up with about 42 tri-walls on it and I'm thinking, "All right, I have another two trucks after this one. Where am I going to put it all?" Needless to say, every square inch of our property and part of our neighbour's was covered in a sea of tri-walls.

Our staff consists of five Canadian Forces postal clerks and one civilian under contract. Already I'm down two people: one is at the front counter serving customers and the other will spend most of the day on the Bobcat unloading tri-walls and moving them around.

So off we go, full of energy, adrenaline just a-pumping, but after a few hours we slow down just a bit and I realize it's already time for lunch. Well, there's no time for lunch, so we order pizza and down some Red Bull and we're back at it.

Now it's around 1500 hours and our two "sea cans" (enormous maritime shipping containers) are bursting with packages and the couch where we put the letter mail has completely disappeared. I chuckle to myself as I think of all the people who say the Internet is killing letter mail.

It's truly amazing how much 'any soldier' mail we get, literally thousands of letters and post cards. Support from back home hasn't been this high in decades. It's nice to know our fellow Canadians are taking time out of their lives to let us know they're behind us.

When I go to check on the clerk at the front counter, my question is answered before I even see him: a barricade of out-going parcels has almost blocked the door. This is the day after the market where personnel can buy all kinds of souvenirs to send home. In the postal world we call this a perfect storm.

We have no more room anywhere, so it's time for us to send out the e-mail to all units asking them to pick up their mail — and watch the chaos ensue. Within a half an hour, there are vehicles everywhere.

The Battle Group, the largest unit at



Sgt Dustin Hood, JTF-Afg NSE

Above: Postal clerks MCpl David Schultz and Cpl Ernest Jesso sort a sea of mail. **Below:** The task at hand, a full load of incoming mail.



Kandahar Airfield, mobilizes quickly, and they don't bring just a few vehicles. They bring a whole fleet: 10-tonners, MLVW's, and bongo trucks everywhere.

Well, the sun has set and another day is drawing to an end. We pushed out a lot of mail today, and a lot of happy troops will soon receive their packages from family and friends. There is a quiet sense of satisfaction among us as we gather around and discuss tomorrow's plan of attack.

It will take us another few days to clear out the rest of the mail, track down recipients of parcels with incomplete addresses, and ship mail out to the forward operating bases. Of course, as soon as we get it cleared out, it will be just in time for the next batch of mail and so the cycle begins anew. This is the busiest Canadian Forces post office anywhere, and all of us are learning a lot. We consider ourselves privileged to have the opportunity.







Poet becomes well versed on war

Suzanne SteeleContributor

A half-hour after takeoff, we crossed the Afghan border into friendly air space.

I knew we were on the home stretch once I saw the load specialist, who covers arcs out the window of the C-130 Hercules, take off his PPE (frag vest, helmet, and ballistics). And while soldiers always give the impression of "what ever" in a war zone, I felt a collective sigh of relief throughout the military transport aircraft. When the plane landed they would head off for their HLTA (leave) and the "tourist" civilians would head home, their missions completed.

I got up, stretched and looked out the little window down at the mountain ranges of the Middle East that looked like a relief map carved of blue cedar, put on display just for us.

I went to Afghanistan as part of the Canadian Forces Artist Program (CFAP) to witness 1st Battalion Princess Patricias Canadian Light Infantry (1PPCLI) at war. As the first poet in CFAP, I hoped to bring back a sense of what it means to be Canadian and fighting in a country on the opposite side of the world.

I started my journey on a rainy night in the autumn of 2007 when DND Public Affairs set me up to interview a young veteran who had served in Afghanistan. I wanted to know what the experience was like for a new generation to go to war. Had been shot at and had to shoot.

The Corporal and I spent several hours over a few months drinking coffee together as he told me his story. He was a young reservist who had gone to Afghanistan as a member of a rifle company and lived

to tell the tale. I wrote a few poems from that interview and then was encouraged to apply for the artists program, which would send me to Afghanistan to see for myself. I am not a well known artist, so I was amazed to be chosen.

CFAP's program is extremely limited, only one short "deployment", so my luck was extraordinary when I met the Commanding Officer (CO) of 1PPCLI and was invited to spend as much time as I could with the battalion on their "road to war" preparations. I spent the next 14 months visiting 1PPCLI during their workup training.

That year was one of the toughest physically, mentally and emotionally, but also one of the best of my life. It was marked with doors being opened, and doors being slammed in my personal and professional life. A young Captain remarked how eerily similar my experience of the road to war was with that of the soldiers. I experienced the surreal notion of all who sign up for a tour share - that one might not come home alive. My family suffered this stress too. For some it was too much.

The day I set out for Afghanistan, Victoria piper Nathan Roberts showed up at the Victoria airport in full Highland dress and piped me to the departure gate. I kissed my two friends and my daughter goodbye, hugged the big, handsome ex-Canadian Scot goodbye and spent the next 48 hours in transit. After arriving at 0200hrs at the staging base, I caught a few hours sleep, put on my PPE and boarded a Herc filled with next-ofkin and soldiers heading back into theatre after their HLTA. The Herc was eerily silent except for the drone of engines. I found out later the



Photo courtesy of Suzanne Steele

War poet Suzanne Steele gets a bird's eye view of Aghanistan.

soldiers were not comfortable in the presence of the next-of-kin flying in to visit the spot their sons, brothers, and husbands had died. They are always aware of the presence, the potential for death, but they are good at compartmentalizing it.

For me as an artist, this was a poignant beginning to a journey I had obsessed over for months. Everywhere I went at the Kandahar Air Force base I ran into the next-of-kin. On the day I was driven to the airfield to catch my chopper to go outside the wire, they were having a tour of the airfield. One of them hugged me and warned me to be careful. A father said to me that he envied me. He wanted to see exactly where his son had died.

I'll be honest. The night before I flew outside the wire my nerve faltered. I told my visit officer that I couldn't do it. That evening I had a knock on my door. It was a young recce corporal who had just taken a 20 kilometre stroll across the

countryside.

"If you don't do it you'll regret it all your life. Besides," he said, "You've got to see the red desert, the wild camels, the nomads. KAF isn't Afghanistan."

I spent a short time with the rifle company I had been tracking since its inception at Shilo in 2008. I got to watch village life from a strong point, ate, chatted with the soldiers, including a navy diver from Victoria, went on sentry, bivouacked with the troops, most of whom I knew and watched 200 soldiers and the CO roll in one night and prepare for a big operation.

My time in Afghanistan was very short but every minute there had a curiously long feeling to it; a nerviness takes over after a rocket attack, but so does a kick of adrenaline and suddenly it's hilarious that you didn't get hit.

As far as my work goes, the words are spilling from me. I haven't enough time to write. My work is being read at Nov. 11th ceremonies, studied in schools in Ontario, B.C., and Manitoba, as well as the University of Glasgow in Scotland. My online project, www.warpoet.ca has had 45,000 hits. I'm publishing in Canada and the U.K.

War is bewitching. To go to war, and to survive whole of body and mind, is intoxicating, though not for the faint of heart. Never for the faint of heart. I guess that's why guys sign up for third tours. A second tour is for unfinished business. A third is that the country, or the fight, or something un-nameable, is in the system and needs to be worked out. I know that I'd go back in an instant if I could—my time there was far too short, my mission as a war artist incomplete, even though I kissed the ground when I reached home safely.



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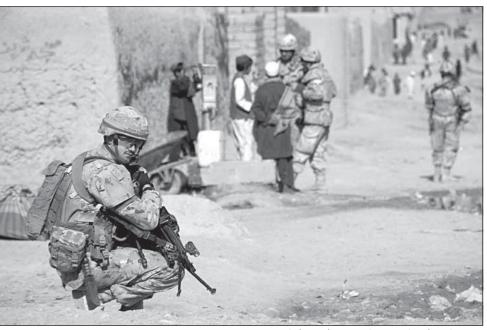
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MCpl Matthew McGregor, Combat Camera

A soldier on patrol in Afghanistan watches his arcs as other members of his patrol stop to speak with locals.

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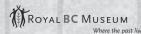
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Patrimoine



Cpl Chris Ringius, Formation Imaging Services Halifax Dr. B.A. "Rocky" Jones accepts the Distinguished Service Medallion posthumously awarded to Pte Jeremiah Jones for his actions during the Battle of Vimy Ridge. The presentation took place at the Colchester Branch 26 Royal Canadian Legion in Truro, NS.

First World War hero honoured

Mike Bonin BPAO CFB Halifax

After more than 93 years without recognition, Private Jeremiah Jones finally received the Canadian Forces Medallion for Distinguished Service. The heart-warming and emotionally-filled event was held Feb. 22 in Jeremiah's hometown of Truro, NS, at the Colchester Branch 26 Royal Canadian

Accepting the award on his behalf were his grandsons, Dr. B.A. "Rocky" Jones and Roger Jones. It was a bittersweet ceremony as Jeremiah's daughter; and family matriarch passed away in the early hours the very morning his grandsons were to receive his award. Also present at the ceremony, that celebrated both lives lived, were several of Jeremiah Jones' family members.

During the First World War at Vimy Ridge in April 1917, Pte Jones singlehandedly destroyed a German machine gun nest and captured the crew. For this act of bravery, he was recommended by his superiors for an award, but due to his race, was never acknowledged for his gallant deeds. Jeremiah Jones was one of 16 Black soldiers of the 106th Battalion, Nova Scotia Rifles, assigned to the Royal Canadian Regiment, who saw action on the front line.

In attendance were the Honourable Mayann Francis, Lt. Gov of Nova Scotia, Hon. Peter McKay, Minister of National Defence and RAdm Paul Maddison, Commander of Maritime Forces Atlantic.

Join triathlon development camp

is coordinating Development Camps in all CF regions over Region Development Camp and amateurs of all levels.

In addition to the benefit of coached swim, bike and run sessions, participants will have the opportunity to hear experts in nutrition, endurance sports and much more. The objective is to promote the CF program by increasing the interest in the sport of triathlon and develop potential athletes for CF competition as part

The CF Triathlon Program of a base team or CISM.

This is open to all Reserve Class B, C and Regular the next months. The Pacific Force members and organizers are hoping to attract a will be held at the end of combination of experienced Triathlon Program Regional athletes and people wanting to try this out for the first time. Please pass the word to those you know who already enjoy triathlon or might be interested in the sport.

When: April 30, May 1-2 (Friday to Sunday camp)

Where: Naden Athletic Centre with some activities outside in the Greater Victoria area. Accommodation will be

arranged for those from outside the area.

For more information on this upcoming camp, please contact your Coordinator, LCdr Lucie Tremblay at 604-225-3078 (until April 3) or 250-363-4033 (after Easter break) or via e-mail lucie.tremblay@ forces.gc.ca.

To register and book accommodations as required, please contact Danielle Sutherland, PSP Sports Coordinator at 250-363-4068. Organizers will require a short athletic résumé in order to assess individual skill/ability level.



Representing **HMCS** Brandon's fitness spirit, LS Dino Larizza, MS **Gregory Andrews and** LS Max Senyuk stand tall upon Brandon's makeshift podium. In five days, Brandon's 13 fitness challenge participants strained through 8,320 pushups and 24,967 sit-ups combined. Seven participants counted their cardio and totaled 27 hours, 33 minutes on the treadmill and stationary bicycle.

MS Emil Edwards, **HMCS Brandon**

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Brandon's own podium moment

MS Emil Edwards HMCS Brandon

These days the constant cadence of feet meeting the treadmill and the accompaniment of deep, focused breathing have become as common a sound on the bridge as the whirring of radars and marine radio chatter. If you were to traverse between the bridge and the machinery control room, odds are very good you would see someone whether on or off watch - on the deck straining for that one extra push-up or sit-up. The crew of HMCS Brandon, it appears, has taken a liking for physical fitness.

The push-up/sit-up challenge is not a new phenomenon. For ROTO 3, I, with the blessing of Brandon's sports officer, SLt Melanie Weaver, believed it should expand from what it has been - a departmental

challenge between the Engineering and Deck Department - and develop it into a ship-wide challenge with an incentive that was more than mere bragging rights and an endorphin

The three sailors, LS Dino Larizza, MS Gregory Andrews, and LS Max Senyuk, through their sweat and drive, have earned the privilege to represent Brandon's athletic spirit as she patrols the waters of the scenic coastline surrounding Vancouver as part of Olympic security.

From personal experience, the stress on the mind and body, whic can result from working shifts that change with varying conditions and at odd hours of the day, has been nearly negated through strenuous exercise.

What could have been a very mundane day brightened up significantly

through the good feelings I had after a difficult workout. Watching the spectacular sunrises that only the B.C. coast can produce, while grinding away the miles on the stationary bicycle, has been a highlight of this deployment. Physical fitness, it seems, is a critical element to a successful day and a successful operation.

When I polled the participants asking if they noticed significant difference in their mood, attitude, perception and behaviour, their responses have tended towards increased motivation in their job, a sense of well-being and all-around less stress. All polled are intent on continuing their physical fitness training beyond the fitness challenge.

"I am really pleased with the way the ship's company took on the challenge of staying focused on sector patrol through fitness and connected it to the Olympics," said LCdr Timothy Doherty, Brandon's Commanding Officer.

Deploying to an operation that is not only concurrent with the Vancouver 2010 Olympic games, but is in direct support of it, provides another avenue of motivation to drive members of the ship's company to perform as well as we have during this competition. The determination and drive that is visible when the athletes perform contributes to Brandon's athletic spirit. That spirit exists in everyone who believes they can strive towards improving themselves physically through the pursuit of athletic excellence. While the Olympic Games are but 17 days long, I believe this spirit of excellence is eternal. The steady cadence of feet upon Brandon's treadmill continues.

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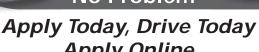
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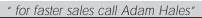
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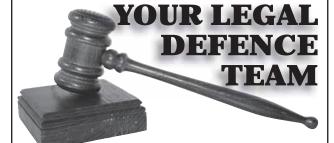
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Be heart

Shelley Lipke Staff writer

Ninety per cent of Canadians have at least one risk factor associated with heart attacks or strokes.

Whether it's smoking, alcohol, physical inactivity, obesity, high blood pressure, high blood cholesterol, or diabetes, it's important to know how to prevent having a heart attack and what to do in the event of one.

Acting Base Surgeon Capt Jane Cruchley offers advice to the population of CFB Esquimalt.

"Prevention is the key," she said. "The older you get the more at risk you are, and unhealthy lifestyles predispose you to issues later in life."

Fitness and diet are also extremely important says Capt Cruchley. "By doing exercise you are training your cardiovascular system to be its most efficient, which helps prevent heart attacks.

And a diet according to Canada's Food Guide, with low saturated fats and lots of fibre, fruits and vegetables, will promote keeping arteries clear and also contribute to psychological well being."

Aside from healthy food and exercise, people need to get at least seven hours of sleep a night, try to keep stress levels to a minimum and avoid smoking.

"Smoking constricts blood vessels, raises blood pressure and causes more strain on the heart," she said.

Alarming statistics on the Heart and Stroke Foundation's website reveal that an estimated 70,000 heart attacks affect Canadians each year - one every seven minutes.

And with over 17,000 Canadians dying each year as the result of a heart attack, and the majority of them occurring out of hospital, it's important to know the symptoms and what to do in the event of a heart attack.

"Many people don't even know they are having a heart attack," says Capt Cruchley. "There could be no symptoms at all, or people experience pain in the jaw, abdominal pain, shortness of breath, sweating, or severe heartburn. The problem is chest pain can feel like indigestion or heartburn and people delay seeing a doctor because they just think it is due to something they ate."

A heart attack is caused by a blockage in the artery system, and depending on where in the heart the blockage occurs it can be severe or mild and can come on suddenly or gradually.

"If people think they are having a heart attack they should call 911 or get to the Emergency Room as soon as possible. If the symptoms are milder but recurrent they should see their doctor and have them checked out. Regardless of whether they have pain or not it's important to have their blood pressure and cholesterol checked periodically. Everyone over age 40 should have a full physical every two years."

Myths circulating the Internet are giving false information on what a person should do if experiencing a heart attack alone.

One widely circulated slideshow presentation called 'How To Survive A Heart Attack When Alone' looks genuine, yet suggests that coughing repeatedly and very vigorously while taking deep breaths will allow a person suffering from a heart attack enough time to get help or drive themselves to a hospital.

"This is totally inaccurate," said Capt Cruchley.

"Coughing will not get more blood flow

> blockage." The Heart and Stroke Foundation's website has also dispelled this myth.

that is experiencing the

to the part of the heart

"If possible, a person who experiences chest pain should phone 911, stop activity, and sit or lie down to wait for help. They should chew and swallow either one 325 milligram tablet or two 80 milligram tablets of Aspirin and wait for emergency medical staff to arrive," she says. If there is a bystander nearby the person should be alerted that the victim needs help.

Automatic external defibrillators (AED) are another aid that is becoming more popular in malls and public places. "AED's are nifty gadgets that sense the rhythm of the heart and direct the person helping the patient to shock the heart at the proper moment to get the heart back into the right rhythm. If a person is trained to use an AED they can be real lifesavers until the ambulance can get the patient to the hospital," she said.

The Heart and Stroke Foundation states on their website if a person is inactive and then becomes active they will reduce their risk for heart attacks by 35 to 55

Personnel Support Programs health promotion suggests the following tips to consider for diet and lifestyle changes to help prevent heart disease:

(Canada's Food Guide) get lots of vegetables, fruit, whole grains, and lean protein. Eliminate transfats

• Practice stress management - keep stress at bay

and watch your saturated fat

- Express yourself talk about your worries, seek support from friends and family and find a healthy outlet for your stress and anger
 - Have fun
- Walk

intake.

- Surround yourself with a great support system
- Have a workout buddy
- Join a club, gym, or fitness group
- Set goals and make them SMART (specific, measureable, attainable, realistic, time bound)
- Sign a contract with yourself
- Do things you enjoy
- Get regular doctor checkups
 - Educate yourself
 - Get outside more
 - Find balance in your life
- Have loving and respectful relationships
- Volunteer in your community
- Be physically active for an hour most days of the week (four or more) - strike a balance between cardio, strength training and stretching exercises
- Sleep seven hours a
- Have lots of friends
- Follow the low risk drinking guidelines: no more than two standard drinks on any given day for men and one for women. No binge drinking.
- Think positively opti-• Eat a well balanced diet mistic people are healthier.





Canada's first **Navy Centennial Rose dedication**

Shelley Lipke Staff writer

The 2010 Navy Lady Rose will have its first of many Canadian dedication ceremonies this year starting at CFB Esquimalt on March 8. The event also commemorates International Women's Day and the Canadian Naval Centennial (CNC).

More than a dozen local veterans of the Women's Royal Canadian Naval Service (WRCNS) will gather with currently serving Canadian Forces naval women to celebrate women in the navy's past and present.

Most WRCNS veterans are in their mid to late 80s and are excited to talk with today's naval women, says 84-year-old veteran Barbara Duncan.

"I'm really looking forward to the ceremony at the Wardroom. We can swap salty dips and us oldies will enjoy meeting the younger naval ladies," she says.

Three Navy Lady Rose bushes will be presented in pots on the Wardroom patio overlooking the ocean. These rose bushes will flourish and bloom in late spring and summer displaying deep red petals.

"We have seen it growing in the fields and we were very pleased with the red velvet petals and the dark green leaves. It is red to signify remembrance," says Joan Balch, a member of the Wren Association of Toronto, and the Rose Committee who started this project on behalf

of the CNC. "I hope this rose will link the naval communities' together, act as a reminder of the past, present and future in gardens for years to come, and signify the navy and its men and women of all ranks and services."

More rose dedication ceremonies will follow across Canada when the ground thaws. Several more will also take place in Victoria.

"Butchart Gardens will be planting five bushes and dedicating them with a ceremony, and I've been in contact with Government house, the Pacific Horticultural Society and Royal Roads University about similar planting ceremonies," said Duncan.

The flower is dark red, has a mild fragrance and several bloom cycles throughout the summer. The Wrens anticipate Navy Lady blossoms will bring the navy to the gardens of Canadians for years to come.

The Rose bush is grown exclusively by J.C. Bakker Nurseries in St Catharines, ON, and will be distributed to selected nurseries across the country. The Rose committee hopes to see the rose planted alongside all major Centennial celebrations.

The price for each rose bush is set by the retail location. In British Columbia it is available exclusively through Select Rose in Langley (604-530-5786) and each rose bush is selling for \$28.50. To see the list of retailers in other provinces go to www.thewrens.com

This year there are a limited numbers available.





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THAITI: RECONSTRUCTION CONTINUES

Naval Construction Troop keeps military running

Pte Michael Leeman Joint Task Force Haiti

The Naval Construction Troop (NCT) hit the ground running as soon as we arrived in Port-au-Prince in early February, gathering our kit and moving to a new home south of the airport almost immediately.

Keen to make a difference, team work and dedication to our mission helped carry us through the hot days and humid nights. The NCT took only two days to establish our new camp, raising the Engineering flag to make it known that the Naval Construction Troop was in busi-

Within days, we were extremely busy making everything we could to provide our troops with some creature comforts. We built tables and benches for the clerks and supply techs to make their work spaces more comfortable, and we installed lights and plug receptacles in every tent.

When all the little things were taken care of, it was time to tackle the bigger projects.

We started with guard houses and gates and then searched the sea containers for sections

Camp Chimo 1 and Camp Lynx in Léogâne, where the soldiers of the 3rd Battalion, Royal 22e Régiment and the 5e Régiment de génie du Canada from Valcartier had been sleeping under the stars for almost three weeks.

The next priority was fuel: generators and trucks go through it at a great rate, but fully operational fuel delivery vehicles were few and far between. The NCT found the solution — fuel bladders and pumps in one of the sea containers. In a couple of days, we had a fuel farm up and running at Camp Nouveau Née.

Next, we packed up our tools and headed for Léogâne, where the troops had a roof over their heads, but were still using field shower bags and bottles of water to wash. Within a few days, the ablution tents were up and running, and every tent had power.

About two weeks later, the engineers have not stopped the big push to provide our troops with what they need. We are dedicated to every project we are assigned. So far, we have supported the Task Force by building tables, benches, shelves, guard houses, gates, shelters,

of modular tents and cots for shower platforms and much

With the final nail driven in each project, the word CHIMO is proudly displayed. It's our signature to say we are here for

engineer, you get all of us.

Since our arrival in Haiti, the Naval Construction Troop has tackled each and every project with ingenuity and excellent

you, and when you need one teamwork. We hit the ground running, and I don't think that will change until we board the plane to return home for a welldeserved rest with our friends and families.



MCpl David Hardwick, Combat Camera



Cadets fundraise for Haiti victims

Capt Madeleine Dahl 2483 RCACC PPCLI

The cadets from 2483 Princess Patricia Canadian Light Infantry (PPCLI) Royal Canadian Army Cadet Corps (RCACC) were challenged to go out and raise donations for the Haiti relief efforts. The incentive being for every \$20 the cadets earned they got to throw a cream pie in one of the corps staff members faces.

The cadets totally surpassed the officer's expectations and raised a whopping \$1,000. That meant the officers faces were at the mercy of 50 cream pies. On Feb. 9 the officers lined up, seated in chairs, while the cadets eved up their targets and took aim, launching their cream pies at any staff member they wanted. The staff were really good sports and everyone had a blast. However, the best part of this experience was the good feeling all the cadets and staff went home with knowing that their donations went to rebuild the lives of the Haitians affected by the Jan. 12 earthquake.

Currently there are 280,000 people buried in mass graves in Haiti and the majority of the remaining population are children who have little or nothing. The \$1,000 raised by the cadets was donated to The Salvation Army Haiti Relief Fund and was matched by the Canadian Government - so in total \$2,000 was raised by 2483 RCACC.

Rebuilding Haiti will not happen overnight; in fact, this devastating earthquake will take many, many decades to help all the people affected by this earthquake to resume some kind of normalcy. So any kind of fundraisers done now, or planned for later this year, will be of huge benefit to the Haitian's.

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In recognition of their commitment and service to Canada, Intuit will once again offer QuickTax Online at no charge to members of the Canadian military and police services who served on active duty overseas during the 2009 tax year. The Military Free File program, which also applies to spouses if they prepare their taxes together, is in its second year.

Program details:

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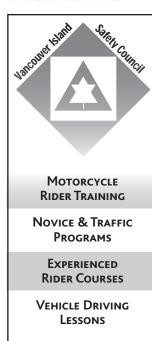
QuickTax Online is accessible to anyone with an Internet connection; spouses can file together regardless of location at home or abroad.

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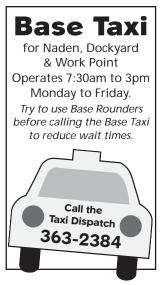


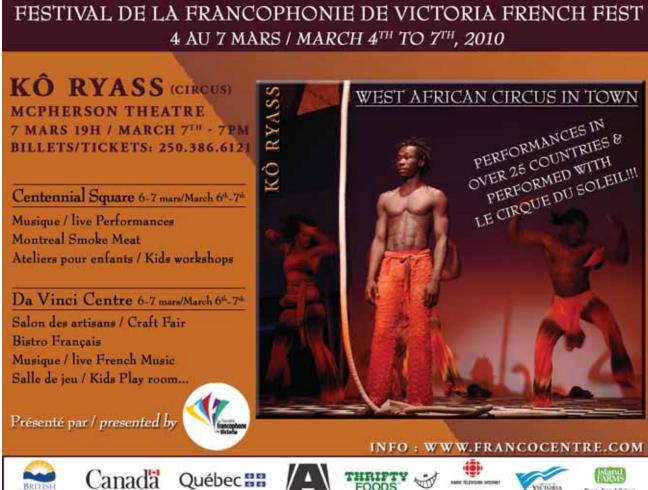
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CPO2 David Lowther, Base Regulating Chief at CFB Esquimalt, stands proudly beside his winning Navy Centennial bell rope as he accepts a cheque for \$500 from prize sponsor Capt(N) (ret'd) Hal Davies. A ceremony recognizing the contest finalists took place last Thursday in HMCS Protecteur.

Talented knotters honoured

From page 1

"It is really nice to see that this rope work is something that is not forgotten. Many Leading Seamen have taken a chance to learn something new and it's nice to see that it's been passed on," he said.

Back in 1986 he learned knot tying in his boatswain trade when he joined the

"I'm proud to be a part of the Naval Centennial with this contribution," he said.

Fifteen entries from across Canada were judged in two stages to determine a winner, and the entries came from regular, retired

and reserve members ranging in age from 23 to 96.

Second World War veteran, 3 Badge LS G. Merill Rumson was unable to attend, but passed on a message that before he worked on his bell rope submission each day, he had a tot of rum in honour of the navy.

One by one the competitors were called up to receive their certificates. CPO2 Lowther was also awarded a \$500 cheque from bell rope prize sponsor Capt(N) (ret'd) Hal Davies.

Capt(N) (ret'd) Davies proposed having this competition and was delighted when they agreed it was a good idea.

"This kind of naval heritage will continue into the next 100 years of the navy," he said.

Those competitors who weren't able to attend the ceremony will be awarded their certificates at divisions.

On May 4, the Centennial Bell with the winning bell rope will be presented to Parliament Hill in Ottawa where it will rededicate the Canadian Navy to the next 100 years of service to Canada.

It will hang in Ottawa for one year and then begin touring various Canadian military museums for Canadians to see.



LS Elysia Stevens is all smiles upon receiving a competition finalist's certificate from the Commander Canadian Fleet Pacific, Cmdre Ron Lloyd.

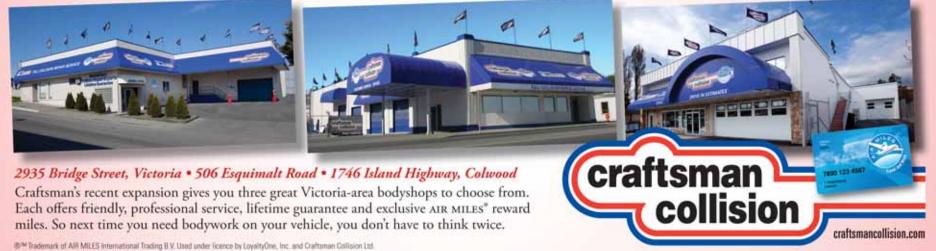


Cmdre Lloyd presents a congratulatory certificate to second place winner CPO2 Rick Meredith from CFB Halifax.



MS (ret'd) Len Handley submitted two bell ropes into the competition and proudly receives his certificate from Cmdre Lloyd.





Army reserve members travel the Island

Shelley Lipke Staff writer

Two weekends ago, 60 soldiers from the Canadian Scottish Regiments in Victoria, Nanaimo and Comox Valley broke into two military convoys in a two pronged exercise around Vancouver Island.

It was meant to be a training run for the drivers to give them more experience travelling in military vehicle convoys, but also an opportunity to reach out to Vancouver Island branches of the Royal Canadian Legions and thank them for their continued support through the years, said Capt Scott Macdonald, Adjutant Canadian Scottish Regiment.

Regiment travelled to Nanaimo on Feb. 19 and then split up into "southern A Company" and a "northern B Company" convoys to travel to various Legions on Saturday and Sunday.

At each location, the soldiers filtered out of the vehicle convoy to the tunes of a lone bagpiper and paraded into the legion.

In the smaller communities this display attracted a lot of public attention.

"People were interested when they saw us wheel up in the convoy, and were a little shocked to see a number of army vehicles on their streets," said Capt Macdonald. "A lot of these smaller areas hadn't seen a military presence before, but the reaction was of interest and was positive. We stopped to answer a number of questions from people on the

Once inside each legion they greeted the president and set up a small arms display and information about their Regiment.

"We celebrated the legion's support to the forces and the army by giving a certificate of appreciation to each legion president, and inviting the public into the legion to view the weapons display and talk to our soldiers," said Capt Macdonald.

In Tofino a famous photo from the Second World War hangs on the legion wall; it is of a young

People were interested when they saw us wheel up in the convoy, and were a little shocked to see a number of army vehicles on their streets.

-Capt Scott Macdonald

boy coming up to his father in uniform in a military parade on a Vancouver Street. It turns out that the legion's president, W.D. (Whitey) Bernard, was the young boy in the photo.

"Then in Bowser the president showed us a memorial for Lt Ian MacDonald who was the 12 Platoon Commander of B Company with the Canadian Scottish Regiment, and was the only soldier from that area to die in the Second World War," he said. "It brought it home that the Regiment had people serving from the area; it was relevant from a historical perspective."

The southern convoy covered 480 kilometres, travelling to Duncan, Shawnigan Lake, Chemainus Victoria and Esquimalt, while the northern convoy tacked on 587 kilometres visiting Parksville, Port Alberni, Tofino Bowser, Qualicum Beach and Nanaimo.

"We wanted to get better at convoy operations because normally we don't do this. Most of our trained soldiers are deployed on operations, so this was a good opportunity to confirm leadership skills, and plan and supervise road moves. It helped newly trained drivers to confirm their ability to drive and maintain vehicles while getting lots of kilometres under their belt," he said.



Capt Scott Macdonald, Contributor

Above: The B Company convoy halted during a stop in Port Alberni.

Below: Convoy members establish an overnight bivouac at Bella Pacifica Campground near Tofino, B.C.



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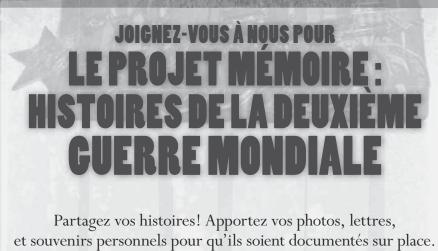
anadians' attitudes toward debt have begun to shift in the past few decades. While we aren't carrying as much debt as our American neighbours, many of us have some debt and the amount has been increasing over the years.

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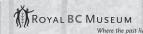
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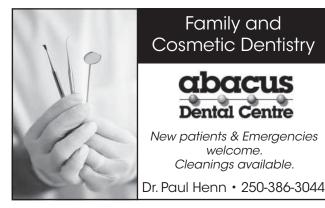


Chief Engineering officer C1ER4 (ret'd) Jack Bugslag donated memorabilia collected over his 25 years in the navy to the Naval and Military Museum. He hopes people will enjoy the collection. "I think it's worth looking at," he said.













Top: A crewmember aboard a Sea King helicopter looks over the City of Vancouver during Operation Podium.

Left: Capt(N) Gilles Couturier, Commander of Joint Task Force Games Maritime Component, presents a Maritime Component ball cap to MK2 Alexandros Kalfoglou. Capt(N) Couturier presented this gift to the deserving crewmember of the United States Coast Guard Cutter during a visit to the vessel in American waters during Operation Podium.





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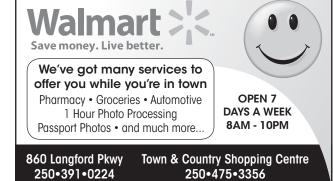
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First Canadian Ace to be inducted to Canadian Aviation Hall of Fame

2Lt Thomas Edelson

Defence Public Affairs Learning Centre

Last summer, it was a curious and slightly frightening experience to see a large man wearing a parachute squeeze himself into the open cockpit of a small homemade aircraft for a three-month, coast-to-coast trip of more than 5,000 kilometres.

The sound of the Volkswagen engine that powered the little aluminum tube and fabric airplane down the runway was unexpected, as was the replica machine gun mounted on the top wing of his biplane.

As it turns out, Allan Snowie, had several good reasons for going on such an adventure. Some were self-indulgent, getting to see the entire beauty of Canada from 3,000 ft. Some were philanthropic, raising awareness for a charity called Abbeyfield. The most important and singular reason for his trip was to drop off the official nomination for Canada's first Ace, Colonel Redford 'Red' Henry Mulock, at the Canadian Aviation Hall of Fame in Wetaskiwin, Alta.

"We as Canadians, for some reason, don't pay much attention to our World War One pilot war heroes other than Billy Bishop of the Royal Flying Corps," Snowie told the B.C. newspaper, Ladysmith Chronicle. "But the truth is, out of 936 Canadians who also flew with the Royal Naval Air Service, Canada produced 50 aces and Red was the first one ever to shoot down five enemy planes."

Mulock's nomination was accepted for induction into the Canadian Aviation Hall of Fame earlier this year.

In honour of the Canadian Centennial of Flight, and to get a sense of what a pilot like Mulock had to endure, Snowie chose a First World War era replica. His plane, christened 'Abbey', is a scaled model of the Nieuport XI, a single seat fighter aircraft, designed by Gustave Delage and widely used in war. "The plane is a seven-eighths scale, but I'm a nine-eighths pilot," he acknowledged.

The little details on Snowie's plane have presented a strikingly believable machine. The plane has accurate Royal Naval Air Service insignia, a wooden propeller and a mock-up of a Lewis machine gun to the top wing. It was made of a spray-painted pool cue cut in half and sections of brass piping, mimicking the rounds held in the drum magazine.

The accounts of Mulock's flying

during the First World War lend legendary status. A McGill graduate, he resigned his Militia Lieutenant's commission in 1914 and joined the 13th Field Battery of Winnipeg as a Corporal in order to get overseas quickly with the Canadian Expeditionary Force. In January 1915 he entered the Royal Naval Air Service, and was soon flying and fighting over the skies of England, France and Belgium. He was mentioned in the London Gazette on June 22, 1916, for the Distinguished Service Order (DSO):

In recognition of his services as a pilot at Dunkirk. This officer has been constantly employed at Dunkirk since July, 1915, and has displayed indefatigable zeal and energy. He has on several occasions engaged hostile aeroplanes and seaplanes, and attacked submarines, and has carried out attacks on enemy air stations, and made long-distance reconnaissance.

Mulock went on to win another DSO, the Chevalier of the Legion of Honour, and was named a Companion of the British Empire. He is the only 1914-1918 Canadian airman to receive that honour.

When Mulock returned to Canada after the war, he spent some time in the peacetime aircraft industry and at the start of the Second World War he served in the RCAF's Honorary Advisory Air Council and as an Air Commodore Aide-de-Campe for the Governor General. Mulock died in Montreal in 1961.

The Canadian Aviation Hall of Fame will admit four new members to be formally inducted this summer during

its annual dinner on June 10, 2010, in Vancouver at the River Rock Casino. The other inductees are Vi Milstead Warren, an Air Transport Authority during the Second World War, Willy Laserich who flew in the north as a bush pilot and Julie Payette, a former astronaut.

"I strongly believe that Canada has been instrumental in world aviation and aerospace development. These have not always been obvious in our presentation and identity as Canadians," said David Crone, the curator of the hall of fame. "Museums, especially those with the interest of aviation, can fulfill the necessity of honouring those who have gone on before. Those who have set themselves to make our paths and lives better, not always easier but better, deserve to be remembered

Once the four newest pilots are admitted, there will be 200 members whose efforts and achievements are recognized in the Canadian Aviation Hall of Fame.

As for future plans Snowie, who is also a published author, has some ideas for this year's Navy Centennial and for 100th Anniversaries of the Great War.

"We hope to have at least a three plane airborne display this summer on the west coast to be part of the RCN 100th ceremonies in Esquimalt," He said. "We will also see a Canadian pilgrimage to Vimy Ridge in 2017 and an aeroplane contingent should be in that planning." Snowie will release his newest book, Collishaw & Company — Canadians in the RNAS 1914-1918 at the Shearwater Air Show in Nova Scotia in September 2010.



Courtesy of National Archives of Canada

Pilots in a Nieuport Monoplane 3194 of the R.N.A.S. prepare for a training flight.

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Service a Blondin family tradition

Lt(N) Len Hickey Defence Public Affairs Learning Centre

Welcome to the life of the Blondins, a family well represented in the Canadian Forces, living a life of travel, adventure and change.

Lt(N) Alain Blondin, a Public Affairs Officer in Halifax, N.S. is married to Lee-Ann Blondin and has two sons: Cpl Yvan Blondin, a Land Communications and Information Systems Technician posted to Canadian Forces Base Kingston, ON, and LS Ryan Blondin, a Boatswain aboard HMCS Iroquois in Halifax, NS.

"I believe that Alain, Yvan and Ryan each set a positive example of life in the military and I'm very proud of that," says Lee-Ann when asked about her family's military tradition.

Blondins involved with all current major CF commitments. Alain is aboard HMCS Athabaskan in support of Operation Hestia off the coast of Haiti. Yvan is an Electronic Warfare Technician at Kandahar, Afghanistan. Ryan is the Senior Boatswain's Mate aboard a vessel conducting maritime security for Operation Podium in support of the Olympics and Lee-Ann is deploying to Afghanistan for six months as part of the CF Personnel Support Agency as a civilian.

With these obligations, the Blondins spend plenty of time apart.

"It has brought us closer together as the few times we do see each other becomes all the more precious," says Yvan. "I know



It's all in the family. Pictured left to right: Cpl Yvan Blondin, Tina Filion, Lt(N) Alain Blondin, Leeann Blondin and LS Ryan Blondin

that my work, especially over here, contributes towards making sure our people can come home safe. Knowing that makes me really appreciate being given the opportunity to

This sentiment is shared by Alain about finding the silver lining in separation.

"It's a challenge to spend time together," said Al. "But there is an awesome rapport, especially between the boys and I. I am their father but we also share the sense of brotherhood of soldiers and sailors. Needless to say, I am overwhelmed with pride for my sons."

The distress of missed loved ones can sometimes be softened by better appreciating the time they do have together.

"We don't need to always be together in order to feel the challenges imposed on a marriage by absence. "We spend time together as a choice rather than a compulsion."

And what persuaded Lee-Ann to volunteer for Afghanistan as a civilian?

"I've stayed home many years, looking after the home front and watched while Alain and then my sons went," said Lee-Ann. "I've enjoyed hearing all about their experiences. Alain asked once why I didn't join; I told him that someone had to be the lighthouse to welcome everyone home. I decided that I manned the lighthouse long enough,

I wanted to be the one to go."

Life in the CF is unique. It merges the highs of adventure with the lows of longing for loved ones. The Blondins have learned to live in the balance, enjoying military life while using absence as a means to strengthen family bonds. It's not an easy job, but as stated by Alain, "nothing worthwhile in life is."

"I am grateful for the awesome job I have," said Al. "I am well paid and have an exciting career. I love our country and as a member of the CF, I feel like I am as Canadian as can be."



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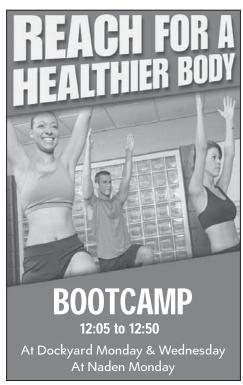
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