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Sgt Conrad Cowan (left), a Search and Rescue Technician with the Joint Rescue Coordination Centre, gives LGen Walter Semianiw, Commander Canada Command, an overview of his workstation at Joint Task Force Pacific Headquarters.

Cpl Charles A. Stephen, MARPAC Imaging Services



Joint rescue effort recognized with award

Shelley Lipke
Staff Writer

Eleven members of the Victoria Joint Rescue Coordination Centre (JRCC) were recognized by Commander of Canada Command, LGen Walter Semianiw last Tuesday during his visit to Esquimalt.

The JRCC team received a Certificate of Achievement from Canada Command for their collective work last December in locating two Canadians stranded in a life raft off the Costa Rican coast.

"Your work was instrumental in achieving a positive outcome. You bring great

credit to the search and rescue system that Canadians depend on in times of peril," said LGen Semianiw before presenting the unit with the framed certificate.

As a rule, the world of marine search and rescue is divided by jurisdiction, but on Dec. 9, as two Okanagan men were adrift in a life raft off the Costa Rican coast, those lines were forgotten and replaced by a joint rescue effort.

John Davidson and Jud Baker were forced to flee their badly damaged 42-foot sailboat Trinity during a storm.

"Their distress signal was picked up by satellite and gave a GPS position of where

it was originating from," said assistant air control Sgt Conrad Cowan.

The American registered beacon was reported to U.S. authorities, but since the vessel was registered to Canadians, Halifax and Victoria JRCCs were contacted.

"Since the next of kin were thought to be from British Columbia the case was transferred to us," said Sgt Cowan.

JRCC staff learned that Costa Rican authorities had performed an initial fly-over of the area, but found nothing.

"So we began looking for the next of kin to gather more information to aid the search. We wanted the description of boat,

sail plan, where they were they planning to go and when the next of kin last heard from them," said Sgt Cowan.

RCMP got involved knocking on doors to help to track down the relatives.

"We had to go through a lot of Bakers and Davidsons to find the right ones, as they are both very common names," said Sgt Cowan. "When we did find the right families we learned the two men had sailed from Vancouver in June bound for southern waters."

See Survivors on page 2

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Cpl Charles A. Stephen, MARPAC Imaging Services
LGen Walter Semianiw (far left), Commander Canada Command, stands with members of the Joint Rescue Coordination Centre after presenting them with a certificate of achievement.

Survivors grateful for rescuers' tenacity

From page 1

"They had two separate beacons, a personal one and one registered to the boat. Both were manually activated, which, from our perspective, seemed serious," said Sgt Cowan.

JRCC reported their finding to the U.S. Coast Guard authorities in Alameda, California, who then took on the rescue effort. "This rescue was very fluid and in a short time the U.S. Coast Guard had Hercules aircraft in the search area," said Sgt Cowan. "The U.S. Coast Guard did a night flight with a Hercules aircraft and honed into the homing device, but was

unable to locate the dinghy at night. The next morning it flew again and spotted the men in the raft," said maritime coordinator Wayne Bamford.

They redirected cargo vessel Sunbelt Spirit, which was 70 nautical miles away, to change course and retrieve the men.

When the large ship came alongside the life raft, Baker and Davidson were severely sun burnt and dehydrated, but managed to climb up the Jacob's ladder to safety on the ship. They were later disembarked in Panama.

"The U.S. Coast Guard went head and shoulders above what they needed to do," said Bamford.

Once the men were safely home in the Okanagan they thanked both Canadian and U.S. authorities for helping them.

The men had been in the dinghy for three days with no food or water and had drifted nearly 45 miles out to sea in the life raft.

"I would like to mention to anyone who is planning a trip - even locally - those beacons save lives," said Bamford. "If they didn't have them they would not have survived. There would have been nothing to alert anyone to their situation. Nobody was expecting them for four to five days."

In recognition of the award

Bamford said, "It was gratifying to have this award presented to our unit and not to us as individuals. We worked for about 30 hours with different shifts as a team and I feel it was a good acknowledgement of the work we do day in and day out."

Named on the award are marine coordinator officers Mike Stacey, Matt Thirkell, John Millman, Wayne Bamford, and Bob Bennett; air coordinators Capt Aaron Twa and Capt Dom Lassonde; air assistants 2Lt Pete Drysdale, and Sgt Conrad Cowan; and air assistants under training 2Lt Jon Phipps and 2Lt Andrew Rowlands.

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Ships deploy to help train U.S. officers

Ben Green
Staff Writer

Dockyard jetties have a few vacant spots because three warships deployed to warmer waters last Thursday.

HMCS Vancouver, Winnipeg, and Protecteur are on their way to the Hawaiian Islands to support a two-week course designed to help train prospective U.S. Navy submarine commanding and executive officers.

In addition to the U.S. officer training, the Feb. 14-24 exercise will allow Canadian warships to develop their anti-submarine warfare (ASW) capabilities by simultaneously hunting and evading submarines in U.S. waters.

The frigates and oil replenisher each carry a CH-124 Sea King helicop-

ter from 443 Maritime Helicopter Squadron, and a CP-140 Aurora long range Maritime Patrol Aircraft from 407 Maritime Patrol Squadron at CFB Comox will complete the Canadian Task Group.

The Canadian warships and aircraft coalition will be led by Capt(N) Paul Dempsey, Deputy Fleet Commander, and by elements of the Canadian Pacific Fleet staff.

This type of training allows the navy to evaluate its effectiveness at detecting, classifying, tracking, localizing, and engaging or evading submarines as a task group.

With more than 40 countries worldwide operating submarines, the exercise will benefit both Canada and its allies.

"Training in anti-submarine warfare

is essential if we are to retain the ability to control our own waters and to operate elsewhere in the world safely and effectively in support of Canadian Forces operations and objectives," says Cmdre Peter Ellis, Commander of the Canadian Pacific Fleet. "Our participation in this exercise provides us with a high level of training at the unit and command team level which is extremely valuable in the development and refinement of Canadian procedures and tactics."

U.S. Navy participants will include Los Angeles-class submarines and USN destroyers.

On the way to the Hawaiian Islands, the three Canadian warships will conduct work-ups such as man overboards, a jackstay, and replenishments at sea.



Image by A/SLt Josh Brighton, Navy Public Affairs

HMCS Winnipeg departed Esquimalt Harbour last Thursday with HMC Ships Protecteur and Vancouver for Hawaii to participate in a United States Submarine Commanders Course.

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matters of OPINION

FILM *friday*

This week's movie headliners all duds

W. Andrew Powell
The GATE

This is a bad week to be a movie fan. New films opening this weekend include three big duds: the underwater thriller, *Sanctum*; the college thriller, *The Roommate* starring Leighton Meester and Minka Kelly; and the psychological drama, *Frankie and Alice* starring Halle Berry.

Sanctum

It looks like Universal Pictures is banking on the name dropping power of executive producer James Cameron to get you to see their new film, and that little thing known called 3-D. Forget director Alister Grierson, known for one feature film, and forget the actors, whoever they are.

Unfortunately, producers can't undo a bad script, a terrible concept, or bad direction.

In this action-thriller, Richard Roxburgh stars as Frank, an expert diver who is trapped with his team of divers in the South Pacific's Esa-ala Caves. Trying to survive with minimum supplies, and a group that includes two amateurs,

the divers have to try everything to escape what could become a watery grave if they're not careful.

The script was written by first-time screenwriter John Garvin and documentarian Andrew Wight, two people who have no experience with action-thrillers.

At press time, *Sanctum* was rated 41/100 by critics at MetaCritic.com.

The Roommate

For anyone old enough to remember, *The Roommate* looks sadly familiar to the 1992 thriller *Single White Female*. The only glaring difference is that *The Roommate* substitutes *Single White Female's* big city setting for a college campus with a couple of slightly younger co-stars.

Minka Kelly stars as Sara, an average college freshman who happens to get a new roommate, the obsessive Rebecca, played by Leighton Meester. Slinking her way into Sara's life, and getting uncomfortably close to Sara's friends and family, Rebecca will eventually prove to be more than just a bad roommate as her obsession turns deadly.



Universal Pictures

Things turn grave in the underwater thriller Sanctum.

The Roommate is clearly a cheap thriller that will find a way of breaking even thanks to the thriller-hungry masses and its PG-13 rating; there will probably be no shortage of teenagers lining up for what I can only call a waste of film.

Frankie and Alice

Lastly this week, in director Geoffrey Sax's *Frankie and Alice*, Halle Berry stars as 1970s Los Angeles go-go dancer and strip-

per Frankie Murdoch, who has multiple personality disorder.

Based on a true story, the film is a psychological drama that revolves around Alice's problems with her other two dominant personalities; Genius, a seven-year-old child, and Alice, a racist white woman from the southern states.

Frankie and Alice was rated a mere nine per cent fresh on RottenTomatoes.com on the film's release day.

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Pierre Goulet
SISIP

January and February are typically the time of year when many Canadians make their Registered Retirement Savings Plans (RRSPs) contributions. The first 60 days of each new year gives us the time to top-up contributions, borrow to make contributions if we haven't done so throughout the year, or to start a new contribution plan. All contributions made up to and including March 1, 2011, can be claimed either on your 2010 or your 2011 tax return.

1. Don't wait until the last minute

You work hard for 12 months of the year to earn your money. Don't wait until the deadline to seek out your investment options. It's easier to invest in small doses. Try making your investment decisions throughout the year, when you will have more time to reflect on these decisions, and

you can avoid the February rush.

2. How much to contribute?

When contributing to a RRSP, time is money. However, because we can carry over our unused contributions for an indefinite period, some of us have a lot of contribution room. Decide how much effort you want to make towards your 2010 contribution and what you would like to contribute in 2011. Be reasonable, do not invest every dollar of your surplus cash or borrow too much through a RRSP loan. This could cause you financial difficulties and prevent you from properly planning future contributions.

If you do not have surplus cash and you do not want to borrow, it is better to simply focus on the year ahead and start a monthly contribution plan into a RRSP. Doing so will put you ahead of the game at this time next year.

3. Whose RRSP to contribute to?

Generally, the purpose of a RRSP is to

build savings that will provide a source of income at retirement. If you have a retirement savings plan and your spouse does not, you may wish to make spousal RRSP contributions. Such contributions are still deducted from the income of the contributor, but help build a retirement income for the spouse with no retirement savings plan.

4. Determine your risk tolerance and RRSP investment choice

An understanding of your objectives and risk tolerance is crucial to your investment success. You may be considering a Tax Free Savings Account (TFSA) which allows up to \$5,000 every year into an account that grows tax free. Let a SISIP Financial Services (SISIP FS) financial planner assist you in determining your risk tolerance level and the appropriate investment vehicle; professional advice can really pay off. Visit your local SISIP FS office, call 1-800-680-8177 or online at www.sisip.com.

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Meet Canadian baseball's living legend

It is not often that one gets to meet a Canadian living hero and leading personality who is honoured with a commemorative postage stamp.

On Feb. 26, baseball hall-of-famer Ferguson Jenkins will be at the Gordon Head Recreation Centre, multipurpose room, from 10 a.m. to noon as part of the B.C. Black History Awareness Society's unveiling of his stamp.

As part of Black History Month 2011, and to reflect Canada's diversity, Canada Post is issuing two stamps that pay tribute to both the Canadian baseball Hall-of-Famer, and journalist and activist for



human rights, Carrie Best, founder of The Clarion, the first black-owned newspaper published in Nova Scotia, and who died at the age of 97 in 2001.

Jenkins had a 19-year baseball career, pitching from 1965 to 1983 for four different teams. He was a three-time Major League all-star and also a Cy Young

Award winner in 1971. In addition to his talents on the diamond, he was a multi-sport athlete, also playing basketball as a member of the Harlem Globetrotters. He was appointed to the Order of Canada in 1984 because of his work on and off the baseball field.

Other dignitaries invited to the stamp launch include the Mayor of Saanich, representative for the Mayor of Victoria, Doug Hudlin (inductee into the Greater Victoria Sports Hall of Fame), Dave Nicholls (Island Sports News photographer), members of Victoria's baseball associations and B.C. Black History Awareness Society.

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Bicycle racks throughout CFB Esquimalt and Dockyard have derelict bicycles/locks in various conditions of degradation.

Those racks are being inspected by the Base Chief Petty Officer's (BCPO) office, and any abandoned bikes and locks will be tagged for removal by Feb. 15. If they are not claimed or removed by that date, the bikes and locks will be removed by the BCPO's

Office and relocated to the Military Police lost and found storage.

If you are the owner of a tagged bicycle or lock please ensure it is removed prior to the date specified on the tag or made serviceable.

All bicycles secured to bike racks within CFB Esquimalt shall be maintained in good working order at all times. Derelict bicycles and locks will be removed in the future.



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Employment equity and diversity workshops

Starting in March 2011, the Directorate of Human Rights and Diversity (DHRD) and the Directorate of Diversity and Well Being (DDWB) will begin holding Employment Equity (EE) and Diversity Workshops in various locations throughout Canada.

These workshops will both inform and raise awareness of basic EE and diversity regulations and policies.

Since the application of the EE Act and other related regulations has different implications for the CF and DND employees, facilitators from DHRD and DDWB will be present to answer questions in both perspectives. The approach will depart from the typical data-heavy delivery style of learning and will aim at a more participative and discussion-based learning event consisting of case studies, personal anecdotes and situational exercises.

Participation from EE practitioners, Human Resources Business Managers (HRBMs), supervisors, managers, and members of the

local chain of command is encouraged. Additionally, Commanding Officers and senior managers/leaders are encouraged to also attend in order to better understand the context of their responsibilities, as well as to discuss situations that apply in their particular regions.

Contrary to past practice of having one annual workshop in Ottawa, the new focus is on a more practical approach designed to address local concerns with local EE and Diversity practitioners. Additionally, these will allow maximizing attendance while limiting travel and costs.

It is expected that these workshops will become a regular annual event, and that locations will be varied to accommodate a greater audience or particular needs of certain regions.

If you require more information, wish to register, or if you need to access the official call letter and annexes, go to <http://hr.ottawa-hull.mil.ca/dgmp-dgpm/dhrd-ddpd/index-eng.asp> under Quick Links.

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UPSTAIRS



Emil Dylan Pryce Edwards, Contributor
Brandon, MB, radio personality Tyler Glen tests out the small arms in HMCS Brandon under the watchful eyes of the ship's crew.

From air waves to sea waves

SLt Mark Fifield
 Navy Public Affairs

Brandon, Manitoba's, own Tyler Glen, the Star FM Morning Show host, experienced life as a naval reservist during a visit on board *HMCS Brandon* in the waters off Esquimalt Harbour from Jan. 26-28.

The popular Brandon radio personality and self-professed "land-locked prairie boy" was more than a little nervous about his first sail in a Canadian warship, as he had never sailed before and wasn't sure of his "sea legs" on the open water.

"My pre-sail expectations were cramped quarters, lots of rough seas, pork and beans for dinner with little a bit of anxiety thrown in the mix," says Glen. "I was definitely anxious due to pre-conceived notions of what it was going to be like to sail on the ship."

Throughout his time on board, Glen broadcasted his live Morning Show daily from various spaces on the ship and sent regular status updates to his audience via social media. He also uploaded iPhone videos of his visit to YouTube so his audience could watch his adventures as it happened.

It was a golden opportunity to show 100,000 fellow Manitobans the role, mandate and operations of the namesake city ship and expose them to daily life in the navy.

Glen actively participated in ship evolutions such as riding a Zodiac during a man overboard exercise, firing small arms, steering the helm and manoeuvring the 40 mm Bofors main gun under the watchful eye of experienced sailors. Another highlight was his participation in a naval boarding party training exercise where he played the role of a hostile ship captain resisting a lawful search of his vessel.

"My most memorable experiences on *Brandon* were mealtimes as not only was the food first class, but the company was first class as well," he says. "I had the opportunity to eat in all the messes on board and I got to know all the different people on the ship, where

they came from, why they joined the navy and what brought them to *HMCS Brandon*."

According to Glen, the City of Brandon enjoys a close-knit relationship with nearby CFB Shilo, but many Brandonites are unaware of the city's links to the Naval Reserve and *HMCS Brandon* in particular.

"I don't think they were aware of the incredible pride, professionalism and truly great crew that are representing the city day after day on the seas," says Glen. "Up until my visit here we had CFB Shilo as a very important part of our community and it really was the flagship of our military pride. Now that includes *HMCS Brandon* as well."

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AFGHANISTAN NEWS

Deployed dogs save lives

Sgt Sébastien Fréchette
Army News

The Canadian Army has been employing sniffer dogs to detect mines and improvised explosive devices (IED) not only along routes, but also in buildings and vehicles.

"We work with canine teams nearly every day, and the dogs form an integral part of our teams and sections," explained Sergeant Alexandre Murgia, commander of a combat-engineer section of the 1st Battalion Royal 22e Régiment Battle Group (1 R22eR BG).

"The dogs provide us with an added measure of security during our operations, and it's our role to protect them from the insurgents while they're doing their job."

The vast majority of

Canadian soldiers killed in Afghanistan have been killed by explosions. The Canadian Forces have therefore been progressively stepping up the employment of sniffer dogs in Afghanistan since 2005.

Most of these dogs are German or Belgian shepherds. The sniffer dogs represent an indispensable asset highly appreciated by the soldiers, given their ability to sense sources of danger well before humans.

"Humans are not infallible and can't see or detect everything. When they're with us, we feel better and we feel safer," added Sgt Murgia.

But despite their ability and effectiveness, sniffer dogs are susceptible to injury while performing their work. For this reason, Kandahar Airfield has been equipped with a veterinary

clinic that attends to the health of the dogs since the arrival of coalition forces.

"Given the climate and environmental conditions encountered here in Afghanistan, it is quite common for the sniffer dogs to be afflicted by health problems such as dehydration and severe cuts to their paws," explained Major Ray Rudd, a veterinary officer at Kandahar Airfield. "The dogs regard their work primarily as a form of play, but they won't want to play if they're suffering. Their work is essential. They save lives, so it's up to us to ensure they're kept in perfect health."

In the operational environment in Afghanistan, the canine units are given the same priority as NATO soldiers with regard to medical attention. And in cases of extreme emergency, the sniffer dogs are even treated at the Role 3 Multinational Medical Unit (MMU), a facility normally reserved for the treatment of soldiers.

"Certain forms of surgery are too complex for us at the veterinary clinic," notes Maj Rudd. "The medical personnel at the Role 3 MMU have therefore agreed to treat our animals whenever major surgery is needed. This allowed us to save two dogs from certain death last year."

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Base hockey and basketball teams win regionals

Ben Green
Staff Writer

It's a clean sweep for CFB Esquimalt as all three base hockey teams and the base basketball team squeezed past CFB Comox in challenging regional action.

Hockey

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of victory for the men's, women's, and old timers' teams, although the scorecard tells a different story. While all three teams combined for a record of 6-0, it was only the old timers who won a game by more than a single goal.

The old timers' offense clicked straight out of the gates and never looked back. Led by tournament most valuable player (MVP), Sgt Michael Bell, Esquimalt defeated Comox in the first game 5-1 and clinched their title with a 5-3 victory in the second game. Although the wins may have looked like a cakewalk, Sgt Bell assures they weren't.

"It's always a good feeling to beat Comox because it's never easy; that team never gives up regardless of the score," he says.

Sgt Bell attributes a total team effort rather than any individual performance for their regional title.

"To be named MVP, it's always nice to be recognized; however, with-

out a total team effort, especially in the last period of the final game, things could have been very different," he says. "Coaching was huge in this championship; the quick decisions made by PO Cam Armstrong and LS Andrew Johnston I believe won it for us, especially when we were down to two lines for the final game."

For the men's and women's teams, they faced equally determined Comox teams that kept pace right until the final buzzer. The men were pushed to two straight 4-3 finishes, the second and clinching game coming in overtime.

The women were also pushed to one goal victories, winning both their games 2-1; the clinching game in a double-overtime thriller. Esquimalt's A/SLt Joseph Stewart and WO Charlene Arsenault were named men's and women's tournament MVPs respectively.

With regional bragging rights safely in hand for another year, all three teams are back on the ice

in preparation for their national tournaments. The old timers get things underway first as they'll be competing March 5-11 at a yet-to-be-determined location. CFB Borden in Ontario will host the men's and women's finals, March 12-18 for the women and March 19-25 for the men.

Basketball

The action on the court was just as tight as it was on the ice. After an impressive 64-37 win in their opening regional game, Esquimalt couldn't wrap up the title in the second as Comox forced a third and decisive game with a 46-43 victory.

In the deciding tilt, Esquimalt dug deep and

booked their ticket to nationals with a 66-40 win.

"We definitely underestimated Comox in that second game; you have to give them credit because they didn't give us an inch," says SLt Kevin Darling, tournament MVP. "Coming off of that fresh loss meant there was no measure of underestimation on Sunday. There was a moment in the first period of the final game, when we were tied and it could have gone either way. We took a time-out and the entire team knew this was our game to lose, and that if we didn't go out on the court and leave it all on the floor, we could kiss

our national championships goodbye."

SLt Darling says the team has taken the difficulty they faced in the regional tournament and used it as the driving force towards their ultimate goal.

"Overcoming that kind of adversity was a challenge that brought the entire team together, and it definitely helped us gel more than if we had come in and walked all over Comox," he says. "We've worked hard to get here, and hopefully we can bring home the national championship in April."

The team will travel to CFB Borden as well for their national championship, April 2-8.

Fleet Run results

Approximately 300 people met the CFB Esquimalt 5km Fleet Challenge in January, hosted by Personnel Support Program staff. The top three Male and Female finishers are as followed:

Men

- #1 - LS Mullett - 19:04
- #2 - SLt Darling - 19:08
- #3 - LCdr Butler - 20:04

Women

- #1 - SLt Dignan - 24:10
- #2 - Sgt Dupuis - 24:44
- #3 - Cpl Runduau - 24:58

Fleet runs take place the last Thursday of the month. Sign up for the next one on Feb. 24. Call Personnel Support Programs Fitness Coordinator at 363-4495.



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Shelley Lipke, Lookout

Top Left: Brock Noseworthy and Jordan Tame of Victoria Hyundai take a moment to relax, leaning on a pink 2011 Accent that promotes breast cancer awareness.

Bottom Left: OS Brandon Christenson had his blood pressure taken by Caroline Macey-Brown at the Heart and Stroke booth.

Above: Stu Gordon of Scuba Stu's Dive Club had a steady stream of people come by his booth to chat about the dive industry.

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University students create a way to support military

Shelley Lipke
Staff writer

A group of students from Royal Roads University have used a school commerce project to host a fundraising event in support of military personnel and their families.

They have teamed up with IMAX for a special showing of Under the Sea on Feb 12 at 9:30 a.m. Their aim is to raise \$5,000 for The Canadian Hero Fund.

This is part of the Venture Challenge assignment and competition, which tests Royal Roads University students on their entrepreneurial skills.

"Learners are asked to

conceptualize, plan and implement a small business venture in only five weeks," explains Zac Dalrymple.

Dalrymple and four classmates created a fundraising event geared to the West Coast culture.

"We wanted a family-oriented event that would appeal to an audience of all ages. The IMAX is a popular form of entertainment and inclusive to all age demographics. We felt this idea would be the most efficient and profitable way to generate money for our charity," he said.

While the 13 other groups chose health and welfare related charities,

Dalrymple's group wanted to do something in support of the military.

"As Canadians we are extremely proud and indebted to military personnel for their sacrifices and services, and we strongly believe these families deserve more support. The Canadian Hero Fund is a charitable organization dedicated to supporting Canadian military personnel and their families."

For local flavor, the students invited a dive master from Ogden Point Dive Centre to speak to the audience about local marine life and diving around Vancouver Island.

While the project is educational and challenging for students, it's also competitive. The team that raises the most money for their charity wins a \$1,000 prize donated through the University's Students In Free Enterprise (SIFE) fund.

To help support the Canadian Hero Fund, IMAX movie tickets must be purchased prior to Feb 11. People should email or phone the students to purchase the tickets at rru-fundsforfamilies@gmail.com or 778-977-3485.

More information about this event can be found at fundsforfamilies.yolasite.com

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Documentary focuses on paratroopers of the past

Shelley Lipke
Staff Writer

More than 350 veterans from across Canada are being interviewed on high definition cameras for an eight-part documentary series that will tell the story of Canada's military history through the words of Canadian paratroopers.

Men who served in the Second World War, Korea, the Cold War, Cyprus, Somalia and the current military are recounting their experiences for *Paratroopers - The Canadian Story*.

Through movie footage, photographs and detailed interviews of veterans and serving soldiers alike, this full-length documentary brings the viewer through 70 years of paratrooper participation in Canada's military.

"The History Channel has proven there is a demand for history and Canadians love to support their troops," says producer and director Dixon Christie. "We have a unique opportunity to give people a view of our military history through the words of our paratroopers. History lovers, veterans, cadets, and soldiers will hopefully enjoy this documentary series."

Christie of Hype TV in Edmonton teamed up three years ago with then 69-year-old Princess Patricia's Canadian Light Infantry (PPCLI) and airborne veteran Bill Dickson to produce this movie. Along the path, they've brought in other produc-

ers and paratroopers advisory committees to help ensure the story is told with accuracy and integrity.

The movie takes the viewer from the creation of the paratroopers role in Canada to the first drop into Normandy on D-Day, to Canada's participation in Cyprus, and to present day.

For Christie, interviewing the vets has been both educational and uplifting.

"I ask a question and sometimes it's that one question that triggers memories of anger, happiness, or sadness, and the entirety of the human condition can be expressed. Some men have no problem with talking about their experiences and others do. It's really quite rewarding at the end of the day."

Local Victoria vets interviewed include LCol Barry Phillips, who served under the Canadian Scottish Regiment and WO Don Thomas, (PPCLI) who was also with the Airborne Regiment in Edmonton. Rosalie Hartigan, the widow of Dan Hartigan, was interviewed about her husband's jump into Normandy on D-Day, and Col Dave Barr, who served in the post cold war and the modern military at CFB Esquimalt, was interviewed along with his previously interviewed paratrooper father Col (Ret'd) Mike Barr.

"What I remember the most about my first jump was there was no real question I would jump," recalls

Col Dave Barr. "There was a fair amount of peer pressure back then and once I jumped and was under my canopy there was this incredible silence. Having just been in a very noisy C130 Hercules hearing the engine and wind and then all of a sudden the incredible silence as I peacefully floated down towards earth."

Col Dave Barr has performed 106 static line jumps and 65 freefall jumps.

"We jump with a rifle, rucksack, snowshoes and a lot of equipment. It's heavy and you just want to get out of the aircraft. Landing depends a lot on the winds, as you will have hard landings in high winds. The hard part of jumping is not leaving the aircraft, but landing," he reflected.

About 20 per cent of the vets interviewed served in the Second World War, 10 per cent in Korea, 30 per cent in The Cold War and about 40 who served post Cold War including modern soldiers. "We are still conducting interviews and encouraging anyone who has a relative who may want to be interviewed to contact us through the website at HYPERLINK "<http://www.paratroopers.ca>"www.paratroopers.ca," says Christie.

The eight part documentary series is planned to be released in time for broadcast on Remembrance Day 2012 and then will be sold in tin DVD sets with accompanying bonus segments.



Shelley Lipke, Lookout

Paratroopers movie producer and director Dixon Christie interviews Col David Barr, former Commander of Special Forces Command, about his history in the Airborne Regiment.

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Above: An artist's rendering of CFB Esquimalt's new firehall.

Inset: The new fire hall's interior space will be brighter and feature more storage space, classrooms and a workshop.

New firehall a welcome step into the 21st century

Shelley Lipke
Staff Writer

Although it won't be open to house operations until the spring of 2012, Dockyard firefighters are already looking forward to their future in the new Base Fire Hall and Emergency Response Centre.

The beginning phase of construction for this state-of-the-art facility at the Esquimalt Road and Sturdee Street location is underway, and the chatter within the existing 71-year-old fire station in Dockyard is one of excitement.

"It's been a long time coming," says CFB Esquimalt Fire Chief Steve Mullen. "Portions of this building go back to the turn of the century."

There is no denying that times have changed in the firefighting industry since the fire hall in dockyard was built.

"We had to install a roller door on the exterior of the building to get the modern trucks inside because they are so long, wide and tall compared to the old fashioned trucks. We even trimmed the top of the cement to get the doors to fit properly," says Mullen.

With only an inch and a half clearance when driving into and backing out of the bays, the fire fighters have literally outgrown the building.

The new facility will be four times the size of the existing fire hall, and will also accommodate Base Operations, which is responsible for emergency management.

"The Base Commander, his branch heads, and their associated staff will run command from the new facility during major exercises or incidents," said Mullen. "This is advantageous as people can confer in real time, provide updates and access video feeds from around the base."

The design of the building is cutting edge with significant strength to withstand an earthquake.

"In the event of an earthquake we can operate for three days with domestic water supply, fuel and onsite food. We can commence operations immediately, whereas in the old hall we'd potentially be casualties ourselves, and be faced with digging out our fire trucks in order to help others."

Fire fighting staff sat

with the architect during the design stage to ensure all their needs and requirements were met. Included in the design:

- five large drive-through bays that house all the trucks; they currently have to back their trucks out of the hall when responding to calls
- fitness rooms, classrooms and improved living quarters
- storage space
- a workshop
- a functional training tower where firefighters can practice rappelling, confined space rescues, and use smoke and sprinkler heads during various training evolutions.

"Half the roof will double as a training ground as the replaceable wood cartridges can be cut away to practice ventilation and ladder drills," said Mullen. "We are excited about being able to do any number of training evolutions at this new facility, and know this ultra modern facility will give the men and women of the fire department an excellent place to work and live. It will boost morale and it is certainly a building that everyone can be proud of."



Shelley Lipke, Lookout

Assistant Fire Chief Mike Gains and Base Fire Chief Steve Mullen hold up a photo taken in 1940 of the base fire hall in dockyard.

ADMIRAL GETS THE TOUR



Sgt McCauley explains the 105mm Howitzer to Rear-Admiral Nigel Greenwood (right), Commander of Joint Task Force Pacific and Commander of Maritime Forces Pacific, when he came to visit the Artillery members tasked on Operation Palaci. The Admiral's tour included the Parks Canada maintenance compound and a discussion with avalanche control specialists. With an accumulation of more than a metre and a half of snow, the buildings are the soldier's home away from home during the operation, where they have been on call 24 hours a day, seven days a week, since they arrived on Dec. 8, 2010.

Photo by Cpl C Hutson



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Q: What kind of services do you provide now?

Peter: We are providing a variety of automotive repairs, from oil changes and regular maintenance to diagnosing all kinds of car troubles. An average day could include anything from brake jobs, wheel alignments, tire repairs and replacements, tune-ups or a variety of other break-down repairs. We also provide "rescue service" to customers on the base as well as the Esquimalt community. And, we are a designated BC Safety Inspection facility.

Q: What about your staff?

Peter: We have an excellent team of certified technicians. They have been with me for the past 3 years and I couldn't be happier with their professionalism and customer service skills. For a few years, we had a lot of difficulty finding top quality mechanics. Thankfully, we have turned that around and business and service is much better now.



Q: Do most of your customers work on the base?

Peter: Yes. This shop has always relied on our military and dockyard customers. We are working hard to get more of the base personnel to take advantage of our competitive prices and the pure convenience of our location.

Q: Peter, what sets you apart from other repair shops?

Peter: We operate on a strict code of ethics and we don't do any unauthorized work. We also provide complimentary vacuuming and washing of the cars we work on. For the customers that need a ride to work, we can give you a lift.

Q: Is there anything you would like to add?

Peter: I just like to say...If you haven't been here before or it has been a while, "give us a shot." Trust is said to be hard to win and easy to lose. We'd appreciate the chance to be your shop.

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Bravo ZULU



PO1 Ronald Eccles received the Canadian Forces Award of Aerobic Excellence - Red Seal (Level 1) from LCdr Matthew Bowen following the 5K Fleet Run.



Above: LS Adrian Jack is promoted by LCdr Matthew Bowen during the 5K Fleet Run.

Below: A/MS D. Harris is promoted by Cdr G. Bolduc, Commanding Officer MARPAC/JTFP HQ, and LCdr C.N. Steir, J36-2.



PO1 John Steffan of HMC FELEX Det West was promoted to CPO2 by LCdr van der Krogt and LCdr Landon Creasy.



Pte(B) Andrew Vallieres was promoted to Pte(T) by Cdr Kathleen Ballantyne of Base Logistics.



OS Ryan Hermansen was promoted to Able Seaman by Cdr Kathleen Ballantyne and CPO1 Jeff Bombay of Base Logistics.



PO1 Neveau is promoted by Capt Smyth and CPO2 Vincelette of the Acoustic Data Analysis Centre (Pacific).



Major Bryan Mialkowski received plenty of kisses from his dog Zoey after returning home from an eight month tour in Afghanistan.

During the tour, Maj Mialkowski was the Officer Commanding the Engineer Construction Squadron that facilitated reconstruction projects throughout Kandahar Province.

He has since been posted to Halifax, and, following his post tour leave, he will begin a short spell as Operations Officer with the Formation Construction Engineers at CFB Halifax before assuming the Executive Officer's position this coming summer.



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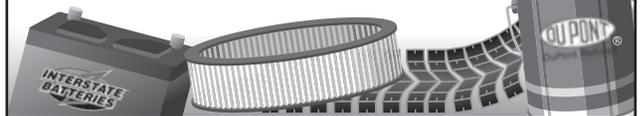
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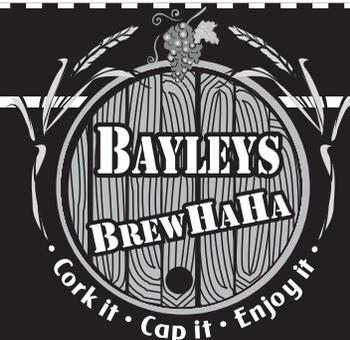
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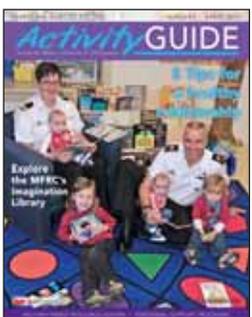
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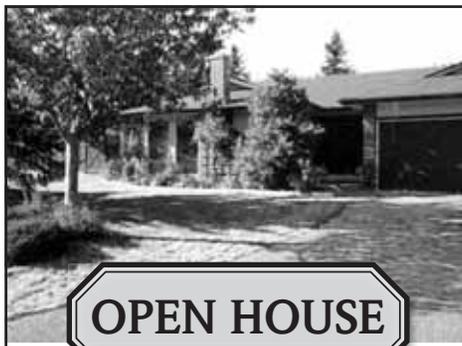
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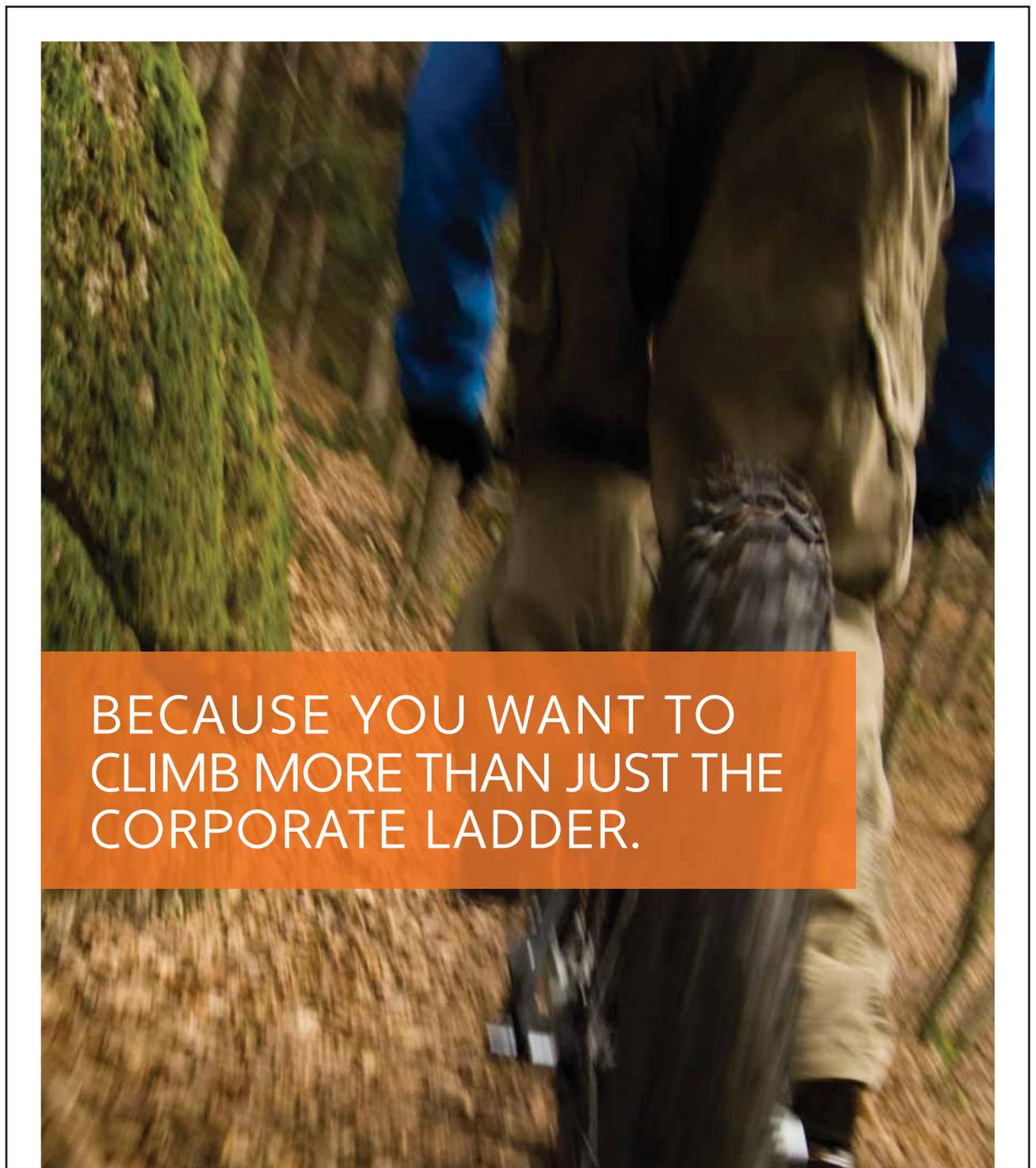
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