

Volume 56 Number 50 | December 12, 2011

LOOKOUT

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MARPAC NEWS CFB Esquimalt, Victoria, B.C.

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Green means go!

HMCS Victoria's Executive Officer Lieutenant Commander Christopher Holland signals a nearby Sea King helicopter during a hoisting exercise. The submarine is at sea progressing through readiness trials. See the full story on page 2.

Photos by: Cpl Malcolm Byers, MARPAC Imaging Services

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September 30 to December 31 2011

HMCS VICTORIA HEADS TO SEA

Lt(N) Michael McWhinnie
BPAO

The Royal Canadian Navy achieved an important milestone in late November when *HMCS Victoria* became the first submarine in its class to complete an Extended Docking Work Period.

On Dec. 5 this milestone was underscored when its Commander and crew returned the boat to sea for the first time since it entered refit.

"There is a lot of excitement on board," said the commanding officer, Cdr Christopher Ellis. "It's been a long haul to get us here, and the crew and Formation have been working around the clock for the last year and a half to make sure that we get to this point."

While at sea, *Victoria* is completing several trials for various ship's systems, as well as training the crew to prepare them for future operations. Part of this training included a Hoist Exercise in which a CH-124 Sea King helicopter from 443 Maritime Squadron successfully airlifted a member of the crew off the submarine.

Victoria will also spend time in Bangor, Washington, to undergo deperming, a standard practice for all Royal Canadian Navy vessels after refit.

Many Fleet Maintenance Facility workers who worked on the submarine over the years lined the jetty to witness the sub's departure and snap photos as it sailed away.

"We are operating off Constance Bank and will be coming alongside over Christmas," said Cdr Ellis. "Then the next phase in January will be the dive portion of our trials."

Eight sea trainers are currently embarked on the ship to put *Victoria's* full crew of 49 through work up training during the sail.



Photo by Ben Green, Lookout

On Dec. 5, *HMCS Victoria* slipped from the jetty in Esquimalt harbour for its first solo voyage since undergoing upgrades performed by Fleet Maintenance Facility Cape Breton.

Above: At Duntze Head, a group of FMF employees watch *Victoria* sail past.

Left: A Sea King crew member helps a *Victoria* submariner into the helicopter after a hoist exercise.

Below: An aerial shot of the submarine as it sails through the water.

Photos by Cpl Malcolm Byers, MARPAC Imaging Services



Base prepares for Navy Lighting Contest

Mike Hillian
Contributor

Maritime Forces Pacific personnel have spent the last two weeks decorating ships and buildings to light up the base for another exciting year.

On Thursday, the 24th annual Navy Lighting Contest kicks off.

CFB Esquimalt organizes the contest every December to help raise money for the Mustard Seed Food Bank. For many, the contest is a great way to get into the holiday spirit.

"I think the crew really likes to get involved with dressing up the dockyard fleet and showcasing them to the community every year," said Lt(N) David Dalzel of *HMCS Protecteur*. "It's a longstanding tradition for us and it's great for the kids and the general public to see."

The contest runs Dec. 15 to 24 between 6 and 9 p.m. nightly. Bus drivers will shuttle visitors through Naden and Dockyard, leaving from the intersection of Admirals and Woodway Rd. every 20 minutes.

Visitors are asked to bring either cash or non-perishable food items for the Mustard Seed Food Bank, who will be on site each night to col-

lect donations. At the end of the tour, visitors can vote for their favourite building and ship, with winners being announced in the New Year.

HMCS Ottawa was the winning ship in last year's contest, but *Protecteur's* crew are optimistic about their ship's chances this year.

"We've got some pretty dedicated and creative individuals on board," said Lt(N) Dalzal. "We've got a lot of *Protecteur* pride and like to make the ship look the best she can for the Christmas season, so I think we've got a pretty good shot at it."

Over the past 10 years, 76,000 visitors have attended the event, donating more than \$270,000 worth of cash and food to the Mustard Seed. *HMCS Protecteur* is hoping the draw of Christmas lights and friendly competition between ships will help launch another successful campaign on Dec. 15.

"It's a great way to see the fleet in a different light, no pun intended," said Lt(N) Dalzal. "And there's the benefit we can give back to the community through food and monetary donations as well."

For more info on the Navy Lighting Contest, visit www.cfbesquimalt.ca.



Above: *HMCS Protecteur's* LS Albert Delos-Angeles (left), OS Preston Ralph (middle), MS Steve Coward (right) set up their ship's display of holiday lights.



Right: The tree outside the Admiral's House gets a string of lights.

Photos by Mike Hillian, Contributor



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MPCORNER

Use winter tires, lights for the season

Sgt Benoit Rheume
Military Police Community Relations

If you are like most vehicle owners, you probably have “all-season” tires. While they are designed to handle most driving conditions, they may not be suitable in heavy snow or icy road.

All-season tires begin losing their grip when the temperature drops below 7°C. Winter tires are made for cold and snowy conditions. They remain more flexible than all-season tires in colder temperatures and the deeper tread pattern allows the tire to clear itself of snow as it rotates. Studded tires are most effective on wet ice when the

temperature is near zero, but don't outperform other tires in other winter conditions

Few tips from us:

- Check the condition of your tires and check the air pressure regularly. A tire can lose one pound of air pressure for every five-degree drop in temperature.
- Avoid mixing tires of different tread patterns, construction and size. Replace any that are damaged or have worn out tread.
- It's recommended you install four winter tires, even on front-wheel drive vehicles, for best control in slippery and snowy conditions.

Winter Driving “Survival” Kit

It's a good idea to keep a win-

ter survival kit in your vehicle. Having essential supplies can provide some comfort and safety for you and your passengers should you become stranded.

Recommended items include:

- Ice scraper/snowbrush
- Shovel
- Sand or other traction aid
- Tow rope or chain
- Booster cables
- Road flares or warning lights
- Gas line antifreeze
- Flashlight and batteries
- First aid kit
- Fire extinguisher
- Small tool kit
- Extra clothing and footwear
- Blanket
- Non-perishable energy foods such as chocolate or granola bars, juice, soup, bottled

water etc.

- Candle and a small tin can
- Matches
- Radio/Spare batteries

Preparing for Driving in winter

Stay alert, slow down, and stay in control — the three key elements of safe winter driving. Drive according to highway and weather conditions. Keep a safe distance between you and the vehicle in front of you to avoid situations where you may have to brake suddenly on a slippery surface.

CFB Esquimalt Military Police: (250) 363-4032 or 9-1-1. To report information relating to any crime, visit: www.victoriacrimestoppers.com or call 1-800-222-8477.

BOOK review

Vancouver Island backdrop for apocalypse

Winter Kill, By Gene Skellig, Flea Circus Books, 2011.

Cpl Al Greer
Contributor

Can Canadian military personnel write best-selling thrillers? Why not?

Winter Kill, written by an Air Force pilot, may not be up for a literary prize, but there is much value in this novel, namely its relevance.

It's about a global economic collapse (sound familiar?) to be followed by a global nuclear war. Coincidentally, I read this over the summer while financial markets were on their wild ride.

The “nuclear extermination war” or NEW sounds like a plot you might expect from a Tom Clancy novel, except there is no Jack Ryan to step forward and save the day. In *Winter Kill* the unthinkable happens, and not due to tensions between the West and Russia, but because the Chinese have hacked into computers, and some ambitious Chinese general aims to use nuclear war and a subsequent nuclear winter to dominate what is left of the world.

Also unlike most bestselling thrillers, the hero is not a spy or a special ops type, but rather an ordinary family man seeking to survive. Casey Callaghan, Skellig's fictional character, is a Canadian military pilot who has read the gloomy writ-

ing on the wall about the world economic and geo-political situations. In response, Casey has invested his

money and time in building a fortress-like home on Vancouver Island -The “House on the Hill” or “HOTH”.

There is much technical details in some chapters and readers may think they are reading a survivalist manual. While *Winter Kill* does take us to the high security bunkers where politicians and generals reside, most of the chapters revolve around ordinary people trying to survive. On one hand, families and friends band together, help each other out, and resort to barter. Yet there are those who take advantage of the lawless situation and form gangs to terrorize the innocent. As “Boss Callaghan”, Casey and his group have to deal with the latter.

What is most attractive about this book is it has a very down-to-earth quality. Skellig's characters who survive the initial nuclear blasts are the kind of everyday people you would meet on the bus or at the store. Some of them were lucky not to have been at a ground zero, but many had some advance knowledge and used their wits to survive and then make their way to the HOTH.

Winter Kill leaves little room for hope in this mad world, but it does provoke some thinking about the unthinkable.



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HMCS Oriole lights up for the public

Mike Hillian
Contributor

HMCS Oriole got into the Christmas spirit from Dec. 2 to 4, participating in three lighted ship parades.

After a fun week of ship decorating and media visits at Dockyard, the crew joined parades in Oak Bay, the Victoria Inner Harbour and Maple Bay near Duncan.

First was the Sea of Lights on Dec. 2 at the Royal Victoria Yacht Club in Oak Bay. The Oriole led a parade of ships past Cattle Point, Willows Beach and Gyro Beach, before returning to the Yacht Club for viewing by members and local residents.

Saturday, Dec. 3, marked a busy day in downtown Victoria with the 22nd Annual Lighted Ship Parade, the Lighted Truck Parade and the opening of the Centennial Square skating rink. Hundreds of spectators crowded the

Inner Harbour to watch HMCS Oriole lead decorated ships of all sizes. Guests onboard Oriole enjoyed hot drinks and treats while other ships honked their horns to the tune of "Jingle Bells."

Finally, on Dec. 4, Oriole sailed up to the Maple Bay Yacht Club for the Carols Afloat parade. The evening capped off a busy but exciting weekend for the entire crew.

"We really enjoyed taking part in a full weekend of ship parades," said LCdr Jeff Kibble, Commanding Officer of HMCS Oriole. "These events provided a great opportunity to engage with the community and enjoy the festive spirit of the season."

Oriole will show off its Christmas lights once again during the opening of the 2011 Navy Lighting Contest on Dec. 15. The contest runs until Christmas Eve, and CFB Esquimalt will offer bus tours from 6 to 9 p.m. nightly while accepting donations for the Mustard Seed Food Bank.



Mike Hillian, Contributor

Josslyn Sinotte (left) and Kate Kibble (right) enjoy hot chocolate on board HMCS Oriole during the annual lighted ship parade in Victoria's Inner Harbour.




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CANEX

New building aids refit project

N64 re-opens to house fleet repairs workers

Ben Green
Staff Writer

A turn-of-the-century wood building across the harbour will serve as a remote home for ship repair workers supporting the Halifax Class Modernization project.

N64, located on the water's edge in Naden and sharing a fence line with Esquimalt's Graving Dock (EGD), has now been acquired by Fleet Maintenance Facility Cape Breton (FMF CB) to use during the mid-life refits of the Pacific Fleet frigates.

When first constructed, N64 was used to repair and maintain small boats, but recent years saw it house a full wood-working shop for three hull technicians. Earlier this year, FMF CB representatives negotiated the building's acquisition from the Fleet Commander.

"Probably within 10 years it'll be finished [torn down], but it's perfect for the mid-life refit project [Halifax-Class Modernization Project] that'll go for the next six or seven years," says Tom Percy, industrial engineering manager at FMF CB.

The current age of N64 means it's beyond economical repair, but FMF CB saw an opportunity to use the facility through a strategic partnership with

Seaspan (formerly Victoria Shipyards Ltd. that works out of EGD). The external shipyard is providing much of the refit work on the frigates in conjunction with FMF CB and Percy says FMF CB now will have a remote work centre in close proximity to cooperate on the project.

"This provides the ability for FMF to do light industrial work," he says.

The building will see a transition of about 24 personnel from FMF CB, mostly mechanical fitters and electricians. They'll be tasked with repairing small motors, pumps, and electrical components coming off the frigates during their work periods. The building will also have space for some material storage.

"Saving time is the biggest benefit," says Percy. "This is in line with where we're going in the future. I can see benefits here for submarines and other Seaspan projects; it sets us up well for that."

N64 has a bright and spacious top floor with adequate work areas for at least two dozen people. Through a back entrance, stairs lead down to the water and a coded turnstile where employees will be able to enter EGD property to have access to the frigates. With extraordinary assistance from Ron Ramsdale at Base

Construction Engineering, Percy says they've updated the building with new washrooms, locks, fresh coats of paint, and upgrades to the building's fire code. A few conference rooms, a changing room, a lunch room, and separation from the base Kayak Club has also been added to the bottom floor in preparation for re-opening.

The new acquisition will also mean personnel from FMF and Seaspan won't be competing over work space, eating space, or other areas of common use.

Mark Corkery, facilities coordinator at FMF, says the acquisition of the facility went very smoothly with the previous tenants leaving the building in tip-top shape.

"They were superb in the transition," says Corkery. "They moved all the shelves, machines, and garbage; it was all gone."

Percy adds that using this pre-existing space rather than constructing a new facility to meet their means falls directly in line with recent mandates released about the usage of military holdings.

"It was a good cooperative effort across the Formation," he says. "This is a clear example, it's a win-win overall for the Formation's mission."



Photo by Ben Green, Lookout

Tom Percy, Industrial Engineering Manager at Fleet Maintenance Facility Cape Breton, dishes out the cake following the official re-opening of N64 Dec. 7. The building has been re-furbished in recent months to act as a remote site for FMF to work on the frigates undergoing their mid-life refits.

NEWS *Nuggets*

Reserve career managers visit base

On Jan. 19-20, 2012, Naval Reserve Career Managers will visit Esquimalt to conduct briefs about the naval reserves to unit command teams. Individual interviews are available by request. The overall schedule for briefs can be found on the Personnel Coordination Centre's website at <http://esquimalt.mil.ca/marpac/pcc/index.htm>.

Questions can be directed to CPO2 Bezanson at 250-363-8453. Meetings with *HMCS Malahat* will be coordinated directly between *Malahat* and Naval Reserve HQ.

Badminton Team

The 2012 season is just weeks away and the Base Team is looking for interested players. Practices are held every Monday and Wednesday from 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. at the Naden Athletic Centre's lower gym. Interested personnel can call the Sports Cell at 250-363-4068, or contact Lt(N) Roy at Daniel.roy@forces.gc.ca.

forces.gc.ca.

Esquimalt Photography Club

The club meets every second and fourth Monday from 7:30-9:30 p.m. in the church hall of the Esquimalt United Church (at Admirals and Lyall Streets). The Club provides members with an opportunity to showcase their work and learn about photography from club experts and guest speakers. The next meeting is Dec. 12 with all levels of experience welcome. This month, the Esquimalt Library is hosting the club's display on the wall near the computer station.

Hockey All-Star Game

On Jan. 15, 2012, the Saanich Junior Braves are hosting the VIJHL All-Star Hockey Invitation at Pearkes Arena. The prospects' game will be at 1 p.m., skills competition at 2:30 p.m., and the all-star classic at 3:30 p.m. Tickets will be available at the door.

Win a Winnipeg Jets Jersey

On Dec. 12, a draw will be made to see who wins the official Winnipeg Jets home jersey. Raffle tickets are still available through your United Way Representative; \$5/ticket or \$10/three tickets. All proceeds will be donated to the MFRC through the United Way. The raffle is organized by *HMCS Winnipeg*, any questions contact SLt Ellie Aminaie at ellie.aminaie@forces.gc.ca.

Win a Flight over Victoria

Win a one-hour flight over Victoria in a Cessna 172 for you and a guest by purchasing raffle tickets at the CF Health Services Centre (Pacific) Orderly Room. Tickets are \$2/ticket or \$5/three tickets. The draw will be held on Dec. 16 with all donations going to the GCWCC-United Way.

Winners announced GCWCC pledge form

prize draws, and the winners are:

- Round trip for two between Victoria and Seattle on the Clipper (approx value \$250): Winner: Ed Dixon from Imaging Services

- BC Lions tickets for two and ferry passes (Car, Driver & Adult Passenger) approx value \$220: Winner: MS Pierre-Luc Poirier-Potvin from HMCS Regina

- One night accommodation for two at the Hotel Grand Pacific (approx value \$180): Winner: Geoff Michael from FMF CB Shop 154

- Return trip between Victoria and Vancouver for one with Harbour Air (approximate value \$260): Winner: Daniel Hall from FM CB Shop 151

- Accommodation for two for two nights at Marriott (approx value \$415):

Winner: Ron McClintock from Civilian Human Resources Service Centre

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This exceptionally beautiful, one-liter ceramic ship’s decanter has been commissioned to commemorate the Royal Canadian Navy’s 100th Anniversary. Fewer than 6,000 have been produced. A donation of \$5 from the sale of each decanter is being given to the Canadian Naval Memorial Trust, which maintains and operates the only surviving Corvette, HMCS SACKVILLE in Halifax. The mission of this non-profit trust is to maintain the ‘Last Corvette’ in her 1944 configuration as Canada’s Naval Memorial to all those who served in the naval service.

This decanter has been hand cast from porcelain, and hand decorated using glass colored inks, not plastic, that have been permanently fired into the ceramic at temperatures approaching 1600° Fahrenheit. It will provide more than a lifetime of service without any degradation to those who appreciate fine and unusual objects.

Of special mention is the bottom of the decanter’s base, on which most every RCN ship that was

commissioned over the past 100 years is listed in alphabetical order, more than 300 ships in all. If you served, your ship or ships should be on there.

All of the decanter’s decorative elements are of historical significance. Encircling the neck are the 13 Provincial and Territorial Flags.

One of the main cameos on the shoulder depicts HMCS SACKVILLE (K181). Commissioned in 1941, she was one of more than 120 Corvettes built for the RCN during WW II. She saw heavy action from 1941 to 1944, and is the last surviving Corvette.

The adjacent cameo, to the right of SACKVILLE, salutes the Merchant Navy with a painting of the FORT WALLACE. She was one of the Fort Ships that carried vital supplies on perilous voyages to the Allies throughout the Second World War.

The third cameo, “READY, AYE READY” - the RCN’s motto - is backed up by the White Ensign of World War II on the one side, and Canada’s

national flag on the other.

The final cameo, composed of maple leaves and Leviathans, quotes Churchill on the importance of winning the Battle of the Atlantic. Here the RCN played a vital and major role in its victory at a very high cost of ships and men. If that battle had been lost, so might the war in Europe.

The blue ribbon surrounding the base lists the Seven Seas in Latin.



Stopper Detail

The top of the stopper (shown above), commemorates the RCN’s 100th Anniversary, in gold leaf.

This Decanter is certainly a fitting tribute to all of those who served over the past 100 years in both the RCN and the Merchant Navy, and to those who still serve today in the cause of freedom.

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U.S. Dollars



Mike Hillian, Contributor

Santa takes a break from his busy schedule to give Emily Sperling a pre-Christmas present during HMCS Protecteur's children's party.

Santa drops in on ship's party

Mike Hillian
Contributor

It's a busy time of year at the North Pole. The reindeer are training hard, the elves are in overdrive and Santa's busy checking his list for the second time. Despite the rush, Mr. Claus still managed to stop by the 26th annual Children's Christmas party in HMCS Protecteur.

Every December, Protecteur partners with the Esquimalt Lions Club to help children with special needs or from disadvantaged homes enjoy Christmas celebrations on a navy ship. This year, 40 enthusiastic elementary school children from around Victoria climbed aboard Protecteur to attend the Dec. 2 party.

As children boarded the ship accompanied by teachers, parents, and members of the Lions Club, Protecteur's Executive Officer, Cdr Todd Bonnar, reported an "unidentified object" spotted flying in the ship's direction.

"We're not sure what it is," said Cdr Bonnar, "but we'll keep an eye on it through the day."

Amidst excited murmurs about the mysterious "object," children set off for a ship tour with crew members. After seeing the bridge and various messes and decks, tour groups descended into the ship's hangar for

lunch and Christmas crafts.

Around 12:30 p.m., suspicions about the "flying object" were confirmed when a loud crash echoed down from the hangar roof. As children looked up in wonder, Santa Claus himself descended through a hatch, met by a ruckus of cheers from the ship's guests.

Greeted with hugs and grins, Santa waded through the crowd of children towards Protecteur's Christmas tree. He plucked out presents from below the lighted branches and gave every child a personalized gift before the day was through.

Although it's a hectic

As children boarded the ship, Cdr Todd Bonnar reported an "unidentified object" spotted flying in the ship's directions.

time of year for St. Nick, he and his wife always make time for the children's party.

"He has a very busy schedule," said Mrs. Claus. "This one day every year, though, we do dedicate just to this event and we try to never miss it."

Daryl Driemel of the

Esquimalt Lions Club is also a regular at the party. Along with the Friends of HMCS Protecteur - an organization of community and business leaders - the Lions are instrumental in making the Christmas party happen.

"I like the event so much, it basically is the start of Christmas for me," said Driemel. "The ship's crew comes together and the Friends of Protecteur, the Lions, it's a real team event. But the bottom line, it's all about the kids, and you can see the way they enjoyed it in there. It was excellent."

After presents and some group pictures, Santa bid farewell and was away up the ladder. St. Nick traversed the levels of the navy ship like a cadet, demonstrating the agility it takes to climb so many chimneys each year.

Protecteur's crew, the school children, and Santa Claus all have a lot more work to do before Christmas break, but the smiling faces of everyone involved in the party seemed to indicate a very successful event.

"My favourite part of today was the look on the kids' faces," said LS Lisa Wilcox. "I love it when Santa Claus comes down and they all cheer. You can definitely hear the joy in their voices and for me that's always going to be my favourite part."

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Bolivia: 'The Saudi Ara

Nicole Johnson
Office of the Asia-Pacific Advisor

In one corner of Bolivia lies the largest alkali salt flat in the world known as Salar de Uyuni. This unexploited flat contains the most efficient raw material for battery production – lithium – an element that has recently formed a staple market for hybrid batteries. The discovery is considered a major growth opportunity for Bolivia's impoverished population, leading many to call the country "The Saudi Arabia of Lithium."

However, analysts fear the politics surrounding the country's reserves may produce challenges that may worsen security problems in Bolivia. This month's In Focus article addresses these challenges, the increasing global demand, and its emerging issues.

Resource of the Future

While small quantities of lithium can be found almost anywhere, large concentrated deposits are found mostly in South America. Bolivia's salt flats contain more than 50 percent of the world's reserves of lithium. The salt flats are the remnants of a prehistoric lake, which evaporated leaving briny pools covered in layers of salt crusts. These brines are exceptionally rich in lithium, a metal that is increasingly important to the manufacture of rechargeable batteries.

Lithium's high efficiency has made it quickly emerge as a popular alternative resource to its alkaline counterparts. The metal and its compounds are used in various applications, including

the production of rocket propellants and battery anode materials. These goods have rapidly consumed a growing share of the global rechargeable battery market that experts predict will increase by 40 percent from 2009 to 2014.

The Challenges Ahead

The Bolivian government has taken preliminary steps towards developing its lithium industry at the edge of the Salar de Uyuni. However, analysts caution that further development may lead to severe environmental and local infrastructural damage.

Many communities near the salt flats lack essential infrastructure necessary to power a lithium industry. Although officials assure that infrastructure will be available soon, financial setbacks have many to openly question the government's ability to make good on its promises.

Land above the salt flats has been increasingly destitute of water, a vital resource. Local competition for water has already taken place between operations at the San Cristóbal Mine and between local irrigation activities. Authorities have expressed concerns that disputes might escalate into deadly clashes that could force water usage to reach dangerous shortages. Furthermore, local communities rely heavily on the Salar de Uyuni for economic survival, including salt harvesting and tourism, all of which have provided an economic lifeline to the area and its residents.

Territorial disputes have also created tensions among residents in Bolivia, who have begun to redefine

land boundaries in determining associated with

The East/W

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agricultural regions, which are mainly populated by indigenous peoples who will undoubtedly want any profits produced by a lithium industry. The instability has also made many foreign firms hesitant to invest in Bolivia. This is particularly true when it comes to natural resources, which have been nationalised by the government in the past without much notice. This simple fact, coupled with recent unrest, leaves a strong potential for violent internal conflict as multi-layered as the flats itself.

While many consider Bolivia to be "The Saudi Arabia of lithium", a metal that is critical to the next generation of electric vehicles, a successful Bolivian lithium industry will only be possible with foreign expertise; an option that many fear will lead to resource exploitation. If, however, foreign involvement can help mitigate the environmental, economic and political effects associated with an industrial salt flat development, lithium may turn out to be the key to Bolivia's long-awaited economic prosperity.

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Pacific Naval Construction Troop lends a hand in the community

Ben Green
Staff Writer

Since September, a variety of tradesmen from Pacific Naval Construction Troop (PNCT) at Base Construction Engineering have been lending their time, energy, and tools to help build a Habitat for Humanity residence for two local families in need.

The duplex is situated directly across from Tillicum Centre and will see two single-parent families occupy the 1,470 square foot homes upon their completion.

"It's a hand up rather than a hand out," says Yolanda Meijer, Executive Director for Habitat for Humanity Victoria. "Everyone needs a break, this is their break."

In February of last year, PNCT, approached Habitat for Humanity Victoria with the idea of coordinating on a project. MCpl Don Fraser, Construction Technician Supervisor, previously had worked with the organization during a posting in Edmonton, he thought a similar opportunity would be a win-win for both parties; his young tradesmen would receive On Job Training to meet trade qualifications and Habitat for Humanity would receive skilled labourers for their work site.

Due to permits, chain-of-command approvals, and taskings all meant that PNCT was delayed until this fall in participating but the project has moved forward and is expected to be completed at the end of January.

With work now finally underway, the handful of construction technicians from PNCT have been battling

soggy weather to make sure the project keeps on track.

"They are on site fulltime with the exception of when military commitments arise, such as the requirement for personnel to go up north for Exercise Northern Watch," says Lt Peter Hucal, PNCT Troop Commander.

The duplex, located on Ker Avenue, is the 17th and 18th homes built in the greater Victoria area by Habitat for Humanity Victoria. The lot was donated by B.C. Housing for \$10, which then saw the organization rezone it for construction. MCpl Fraser says allowing PNCT personnel to participate in the project from its onset has given them invaluable, real-world experience.

"I would say exercising outside in a real carpentry environment [has been the biggest benefit]," he says. "It's completely unique; a lot of guys haven't seen this. It's a real eye-opener."

Habitat for Humanity relies on sponsorship and donations of time and materials to successfully complete projects. Each half of the duplex has a Home Sponsor; one by the United Way of Victoria and the other by the Canadian Institute of Plumbing and Heating. Other local businesses, such as the Victoria Real Estate Board, the Home Depot Foundation, the Royal Bank Foundation, and Zebra Design Group have provided additional support. Large corporations can also sign on for Team Build days which sees the company pay to have its employees work on site.

In conjunction with community

assistance, both families residing in the duplex are required to provide 500 hours of "sweat equity" to the project. This fosters a level of commitment from them to their new residence, as well as to the multiple volunteers on site.

To date, PNCT personnel have completed a variety of tasks including installing paper and shingled roof, installing all the windows and doors, wrapping the entire house with paper and strapping, installing flashing and trim, as well as installing siding. Lt Hucal says their three months on site have given them much more than a training opportunity.

"This provides a connection between the community and the military, which highlights the military in a positive light and shows how many individuals give their time and effort to the community," he says. "In this instance this is very visual and provides an outcome which will last for a long time. It provides a very direct impact to people."

The project is scheduled to be finished by the end of January, 2012.

Habitat for Humanity is a global initiative that believes adequate housing is critical for the foundation of a healthy community. Recipients of houses built by the organization complete principle-only mortgage payments, which are then recycled into a revolving fund that Habitat for Humanity uses to build more houses.

For more information on the project or Habitat for Humanity Victoria, visit them online at www.habitatvictoria.com



Photos by Ben Green, Lookout

Above: Pte Mathieu Mercier nails on some stripping to an external wall at the Ker Avenue project.

Below: Pte Mercier and Cpl Lucas Pastershank cut boards for trim. Both have been working on the project non-stop since its start.



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CF looks to the stars

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DND/CF are helping to keep an eye on the more than 22,000 man-made objects currently orbiting our planet.

DND's ground-based optical (GBO) sensors were recently certified as part of the US Space Surveillance Network, a collection of more than 25 sensors distributed around Earth. While ground-based operations represent a significant milestone in Canada's space program, tracking orbiting objects is not a new mission for Defence. Canada has been operating a system comprising two space-tracking sensors for more than 20 years.

The sensors are a system of two robotic telescopes, one located in Suffield, Alta., and the other in Valcartier, Que. Their purpose is to track man-made objects in Earth orbit; specifically, objects in "deep space", more than 6,000 km above the Earth. They also help the CF conduct surveillance of Canadian territories, a core activity outlined in the Defence Priorities.

The older film-based cameras of the original telescopes required significant manpower and time to operate. In the early 1990s, they fell prey to resource limitations and were made

obsolete by newer technology. The current sensors use digital cameras, called charge-coupled devices, on robotic telescopes to perform their assigned tasks automatically. This means the system can be managed by one or two remote operators; specifically, CF personnel from 21 Aerospace Control and Warning Squadron at the newly established Sensor System Operations Centre at 22 Wing North Bay.

"Our initial cadre of space system operators are excited to be bringing this revitalized capability back to DND," says 21 AC&W Sqn Commanding Officer, LCol David Dixon. "They have been heavily involved in standing up the Sensor System Operations Centre, conducting training on these unique systems, and integrating the GBO sensors into the Space Surveillance Network. Now they are ready to put all of their preparation and training to good use."

The GBO sensors are holding their own until a new satellite, named Sapphire, is ready to be launched in 2012. While the GBOs can operate only at night and are frequently hampered by weather, Sapphire, deployed far above the effects of the atmosphere, will be an all-weather 24-7 sensor.

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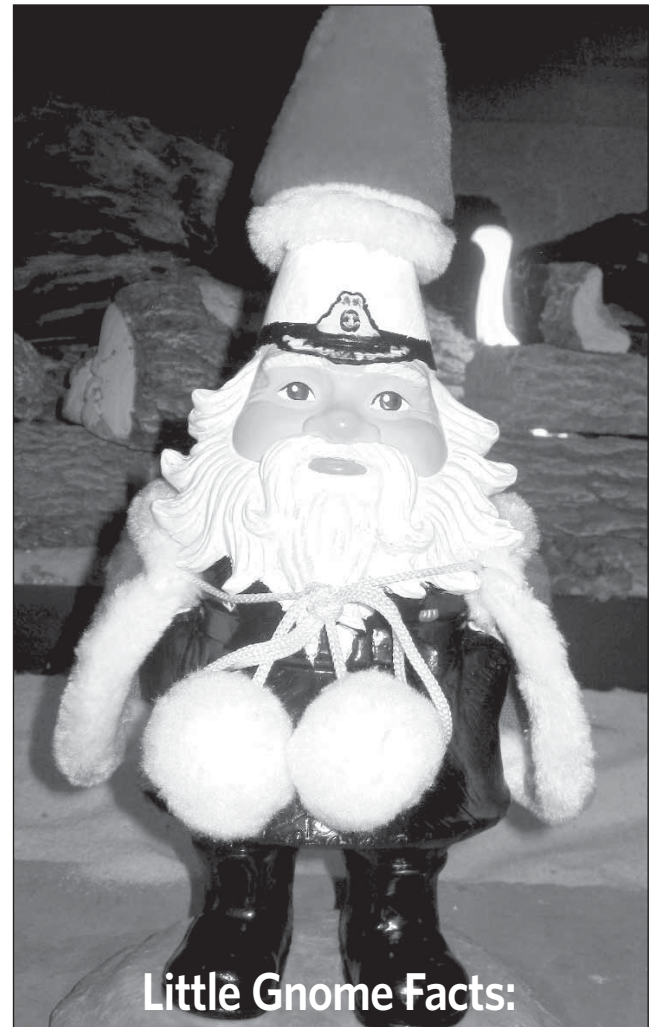


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Little Gnome Facts:

Did you know the phrase, "Cut of His Jib" originated in a maritime milieu? Back when ships had sails and my hearty beard was just a collection of whiskers, the jibs could often distinguish a vessel's nationality and rigs. From ships, the phrase was extended to apply to people. Like the jib of a ship arriving in harbour, the nose (or the belly in the case of us gnomes) is the first part of a person to arrive at a destination. Therefore, it means the first impression a person makes on another.



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Movember staches

Photo by Ben Green, Lookout
Above: Crew members from HMC Ships Nanaimo, Saskatoon, Whitehorse, and Yellowknife gathered on Y jetty to say farewell to their Movember moustaches. Approximately 20 men and women from the Maritime Coastal Defence Vessels (MCDV) sported either fake "staches" or ones painstakingly grown over the past month. All moneys raised during Movember will be donated to support prostate cancer research.



Photo by MS Brian Willms, HMCS Nanaimo
Right: Unable to take part in the group photo with the other MCDV crews, moustache-clad sailors from HMCS Nanaimo posed for an additional shot as they braved one more day with their hairy upper lips. The ship had 19 crew members participate in Movember, raising \$380 for Prostate Cancer Canada through the GCWCC-United Way Campaign.



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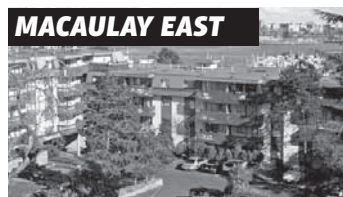
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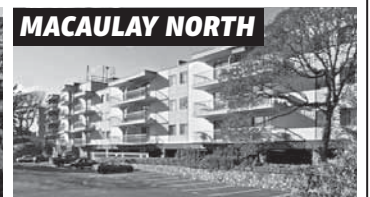
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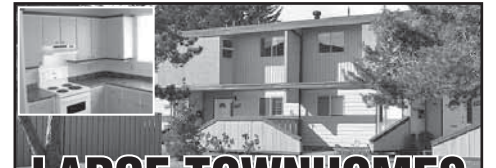
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**Wurtele Arena Christmas Schedule
December 2011 19 Dec– 03 January 2012**

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
19 Dec 11 1130-1300 DND SHINNY 1300-1430 Sticks and Pucks	20 Dec 11 1130-1300 DND SHINNY 1300-1430 Casual Skate	21 Dec 11 1130-1300 DND SHINNY 1300-1430 Casual Skate 1430-1600 Sticks and Pucks	22 Dec 11 1130-1300 DND SHINNY 1300-1430 Casual Skate 1430-1600 Sticks and Pucks	23 Dec 11 0900-1130 Sticks and Pucks 1130-1300 DND SHINNY 1300-1430 Casual Skate	24 Dec 11 1000-1130 Casual Skate 1130-1300 DND SHINNY 1300-1430 Sticks and Pucks	25 Dec 11 Christmas Day "Closed"
26 Dec 11 Boxing Day "Closed"	27 Dec 11 1130-1300 DND SHINNY 1300-1430 Sticks and Pucks 1430-1600 Casual Skate	28 Dec 11 1130-1300 DND SHINNY 1300-1430 Sticks and Pucks 1430-1600 Casual Skate	29 Dec 11 1130-1300 DND SHINNY 1300-1430 Sticks and Pucks 1430-1600 Casual Skate	30 Dec 11 1130-1300 DND SHINNY 1300-1430 Sticks and Pucks 1430-1600 Casual Skate	31 Dec 11 1000-1130 Casual Skate 1130-1300 DND SHINNY 1430-1600 Sticks and Pucks	01 Jan 12 New Year's Day "Closed"
02 Jan 12 Hockey Tournament	03 Jan 12 1130 - 1300 DND SHINNY 1300-1430 DND SHINNY					

**Naden Athletic Centre Christmas Schedule
19 December 2011 – 02 January 2012**

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
19 Dec 11 0600-2200 hrs Pool Open Swim 0600-2100 hrs	20 Dec 11 0600-2200 hrs Pool Open Swim 0600-2100 hrs	21 Dec 11 0600-2200 hrs Pool Open Swim 0600-2100 hrs	22 Dec 11 0600-2200 hrs Pool Open Swim 0600-2100 hrs	23 Dec 11 0600-2200 hrs Pool Open Swim 0600-2100 hrs	24 Dec 11 0900-1300 hrs Pool Open Swim 0900-1300 hrs	25 Dec 11 Christmas Day CLOSED
26 Dec 11 Boxing Day CLOSED	27 Dec 11 0900-2000 hrs Pool Open Swim 1200-1600 hrs	28 Dec 11 0600-2200 hrs Pool Open Swim 0600-2100 hrs	29 Dec 11 0600-2200 hrs Pool Open Swim 0600-2100 hrs	30 Dec 11 0600-2200 hrs Pool Open Swim 0600-2100 hrs	31 Dec 11 0900-1300 hrs Pool Open Swim 0900-1300 hrs	1 Jan 12 New Year's Day CLOSED
2 Jan 12 Open 0900-2000 hrs Pool Open Swim 1200-1600 hrs	<p>**Please be advised**</p> <p>"Fleet Fitness and Wellness Centre" Dockyard Closed 23 December 2011 - 02 January 2012 Inclusive</p>					

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- **An additional monthly financial payment** for seriously injured Veterans;
- **A higher annual income for eligible Veterans;** and
- **New flexible options for Disability Award Program payments.**

If you're a Veteran and you're in need of support, you can learn more about services and benefits at **veterans.gc.ca** or call **1-866-522-2122**.

