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LOOKOUT

MARPAC NEWS CFB Esquimalt, Victoria, B.C.

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Fifty-five graduates from the Raven Aboriginal Youth Program celebrated the end of their five-week program with a graduation and awards ceremony last Thursday. Family as far as Nunavut and the North West Territories drove to see their loved ones graduate.

Photo by Shelley Lipke, Lookout

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Above: Rear Admiral Bill Truelove receives the salute from Veterans during the march past on completion of the Peacekeeping Memorial Day Ceremony Aug. 9.

Left: Retired MGen Brian Vernon and MP Randall Garrison place a poppy on the Veterans Memorial Wreath during the ceremony.

Photos by Cpl A.W. Croskery, MARPAC Imaging Services



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DND gets tough on trespassers

Shelley Lipke
Staff Writer

DND is stepping up their authority to keep civilians out of the rifle range in Nanaimo.

Despite well placed "No Trespassing" signage, people continue to use the DND property as recreation land.

The threat of fines and court appearances has garnered the attention of local media and vocal opposition from mountain biking, running and hiking groups who trespass on the federal property along the Westwood Ridge.

With safety in mind, DND has placed additional barbed wire fences to keep the public out, and increased patrols.

The range has been used by the military, RCMP, the B.C. Rifle Association and other private groups since the 1920s.

Two weeks ago, Base Public Affairs officer, Lt(N)

Michael McWhinnie met with CTV Vancouver Island at the range to inform the public on this safety issue.

"We are asking for a change in the behaviour of

The Nanaimo Range is a restricted access military training area where live ammunition is used, which is clearly identified on regional maps. Any unauthorized access to the property constitutes an illegal act, and it is unsafe.

specific groups that knowingly trespass upon DND property," said Lt(N) McWhinnie. "The Nanaimo Range is a restricted access

military training area where live ammunition is used, which is clearly identified on regional maps. Any unauthorized access to the property constitutes an illegal act, and it is unsafe."

The military needs to conduct necessary training in an environment that is free of public risk, due to the inherent danger of weapons firing.

This eight-kilometre range is licensed to fire up to 7.62 millimetre ammunition from weapons ranging from pistols to machine guns.

"Bullets have the ability to travel anywhere in this danger template," explains MWO Bill Murphy, range control officer for CFB Esquimalt.

Situated near the Morrell Nature Sanctuary and Westwood Lake, the Nanaimo Range is a geographically remote area and has been used by civilians as a short cut to the Mount Benson lookout station.

"About five or six years ago there was a (one-time only) non-military use agreement signed to have the Nanaimo Mountain Bike Club traverse through our property for a race," said MWO Murphy. "Since then, it's become popular to hikers and bikers and they have established trails through the range."

Several trespassers have been warned, but said they didn't hear any firing at the time so thought it was safe to enter.

There have never been authorized public trails in the Nanaimo Range.

DND is planning to build a bigger fence to surround the range and take legal actions against trespassers.

MWO Murphy said the use of the range is sporadic, so people cannot know when it is safe to venture onto the property, putting them at great risk. This month it will be used 15 days.

Iron Man skirts for cancer

Shawn O'Hara
Staff Writer

LS Stephon Mullet of *HMCS Vancouver* might feel a little chafed when he competes in the Aug. 26 Iron Man Canada Triathlon.

The layers of green nylon that form the tutu he'll be wearing may rub in the wrong places.

Triathlons are hard work on the best of days, and a tutu isn't exactly standard endurance gear. But if LS Mullet meets his fundraising goal of \$10,000, he's pledged to compete in the running and cycling portions of the triathlon in a tutu.

It isn't the first time he's donned the costume. He wore it for this year's Times Colonist 10K, as well as the Victoria Triathlon.

Why? In support of his charity "Fighting Cancer Below the Belt", a organization that raises funds and brings awareness to the various forms of gynaecological cancer that affect approximately 80,000 women worldwide.

"My friend's mom is battling cancer, so I figured I'd wear the tutu for her," he says. "I've lost a friend to cancer in the past, so I want to do what I can to help."

LS Mullet isn't a stranger to endur-

ance sports. He competed in Iron Man Canada last year, sans tutu.

To prepare for this year's event, LS Mullet trains six days a week for between three and five hours a day.

"I'm swimming three days a week, running four days a week and I cycle every day. I'm ready," he says.

Fitness is a priority for LS Mullet, who believes all Canadian Forces members should stay fit.

"If I don't stay fit, I can't do the job. It helps me keep in fighting shape, and I can help support a great cause."

To donate to LS Mullet's cause, a donation page can be found on www.uncoverthecure.com

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WHAT SAY YOU

MOVIE Review Batman movie dark and delicious

Jennifer Fielding
Contributor

The *Dark Knight Rises* is the brilliant third and final installment in the trilogy directed by Christopher Nolan (*Inception*), who co-wrote this story with his brother, Jonathan, and David S. Goyer.

Five actors from *Inception* also appear in this film.

This is a true trilogy which brings the legend full circle; however, audiences will have a much richer understanding of this film if they have seen the previous two.

It has been eight years since the events of the *Dark Knight*, when District Attorney Harvey Dent (Aaron Eckhart), was horribly disfigured, both physically and mentally, by the Joker. This turned him into the revenge hungry Two-Face who shot Batman (Christian Bale), who then caused Dent's death in the act of saving Commissioner Gordon's (Gary Oldman) son.

However, only Batman and Gordon knew the truth, so to preserve Dent's legacy and

prevent the release of the dangerous criminals he imprisoned, they agreed to make Batman the villain and simply say that he killed Dent.

Batman has not been seen since, and is Public Enemy #1.

Bruce Wayne, now a recluse, is still wallowing in the loss of his love Rachel Dawes and is out of the crimefighting business. Nothing piques his interest until intriguing cat burglar Selina Kyle (Anne Hathaway) intrudes upon his solitude, stealing from him and unwittingly setting the stage for a much greater evil in the form of Bane (Tom Hardy).

Bane shatters the peace and wreaks devastation on not only Bruce Wayne, but all of Gotham.

When Bane causes the stock market to crash, threatening the existence of Wayne Enterprises, Miranda Tate (Marion Cotillard) saves the company by investing in the Wayne nuclear reactor as part of a clean energy program.

Meanwhile, Bane, an utterly amoral villain made even more frightening by his full-face mask and imposing physi-

cal strength, claims that he wants to give the city back to the people, freeing the prisoners, imprisoning the police and terrorizing the populace, and Gordon's secret is one of the weapons he deploys to further his agenda.

The other is a nuclear bomb, made from the core of the Wayne reactor, with which he threatens to destroy Gotham if anyone tries to thwart him. And who possibly could?

Wayne thinks Batman, but those close to him are divided on the issue, and some, like Lucius Fox (Morgan Freeman), question not only his motives, but what outcome he can realistically achieve, given his broken physical and mental condition.

The supporting cast is simply outstanding. Joseph Gordon-Levitt shines as dedicated police officer John Blake who believes in Batman and the power for good that he represents. Hathaway is very convincing as Catwoman, who is indeed as enigmatic and unpredictable as her namesake, and one can never be sure where her loyalties truly lie, but she

will make a useful ally for Batman if she proves herself worthy of his trust. Caine as Alfred is positively heart-breaking when imploring his beloved Master Wayne to consider what his choice will cost him.

Wayne soon discovers that the price is higher than he could have imagined, forced into a situation where he has no choice but to face his own failings, weaknesses and pain. He must reinvent himself in order to survive and save his city, and that is where the *Dark Knight rises* – he must let go of the past and rise from the ashes of his former self if he is to emerge as Gotham's hero once more.

This film is incredibly emotional, complex and engaging. There is a reason behind each plot twist and turn, and you will think you have it all figured out, but you don't. The tale continues to captivate you right up until the end, which itself gives several tantalizing glimpses of future stories which could yet be told.

Rating: 10/10

People Talk

Lookout asked this question: *If you could choose the sex and physical characteristics of your unborn child, would you? Why?*



Definitely not. If you're pregnant, it means that you were ready to have a child. The sex and physical appearance shouldn't matter.

Cpl Catherine Kozlowski



No. I think that's a little like playing God, and I'm not comfortable with that kind of thing.

Elena Lopez



I'd probably choose a male. My wife would probably want a female. I think it'd be appealing to make sure I have a physically capable child, who is good at sports and that kind of thing.

Lt(N) Shawn Walsh



I probably wouldn't. The surprise is part of the joy of having a child.

Paul Jones



Oh definitely. Male and good looking. I've always wanted a son and he'd be better off if he was good looking.

OS Kristofer Donecz

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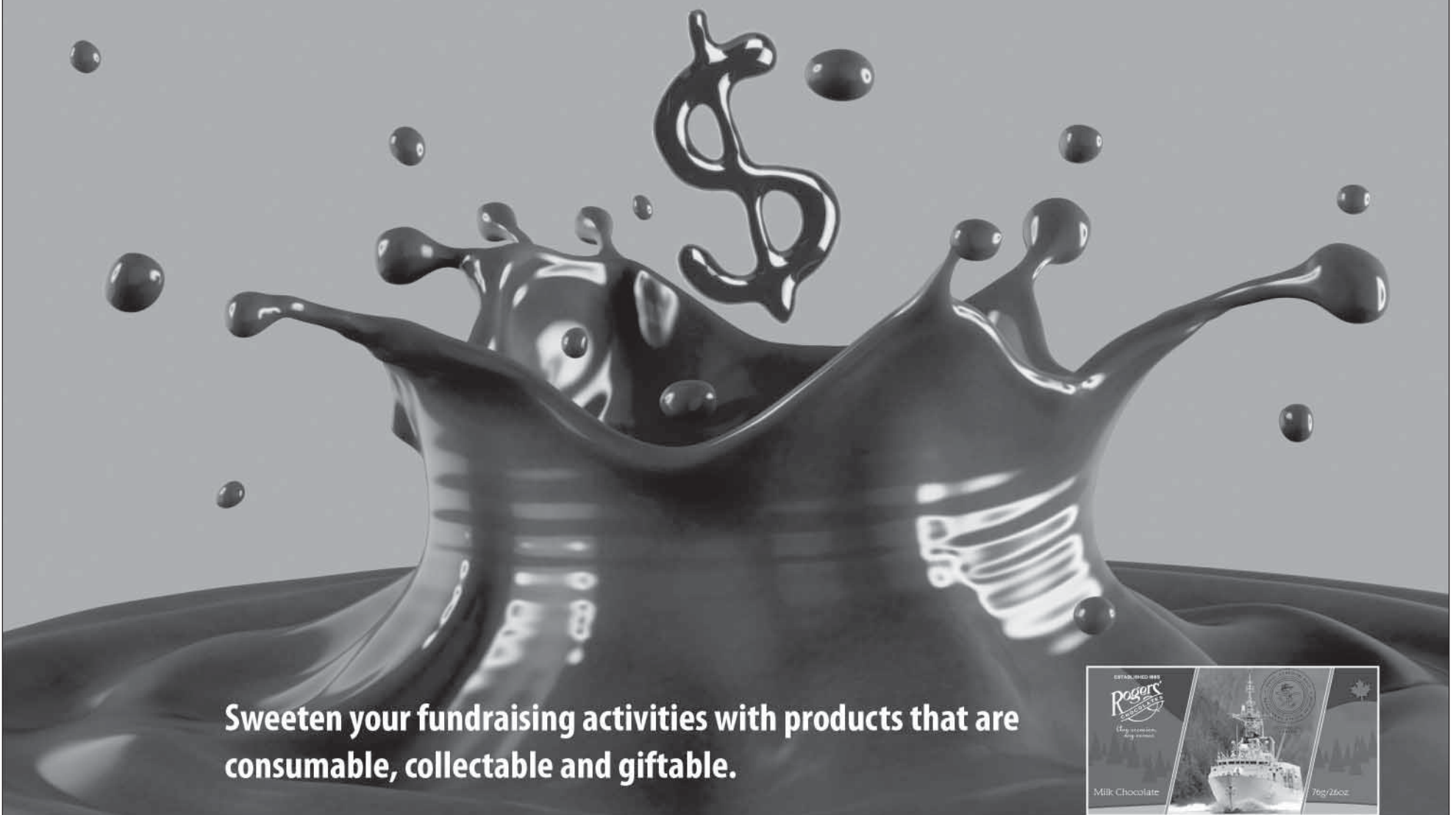
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RIMPAC IS OVER, SHIPS RETURN



Above: AB McGuinn and AB Ironstand take a locking turn on line 5 while HMCS Ottawa shifts brow position. Ottawa returned to HMC Dockyard Aug. 14 after participating in Rim of the Pacific Exercise 2012.

More than 1,400 Canadian sailors, soldiers, and airmen and airwomen participated in RIMPAC 2012, a combined and joint exercise that took place near the Hawaiian Islands from June 29 to Aug. 3. Scheduled and coordinated by the U.S. Navy Third Fleet, RIMPAC also offered Canada the senior members of the Canadian Forces the opportunity to assume positions of leadership, further enhancing Canada's ability to work with other nations of the Asia-Pacific region.

Photos by Cpl A.W. Croskery, MARPAC Imaging Services



Now that's refreshing!





Photo by Cpl Rick Ayer, Formation Imaging Services

Members of HMCS Regina are instructed in a gas hut at the damage control school in Pearl Harbor, Hawaii. Regina is preparing for Operation Artemis in the Arabian Sea.

Regina trains with U.S. before Arabian Sea mission

Lt(N) Chris Walkinshaw
HMCS Regina

Crew members from *HMCS Regina* attended a Chemical Biological Radiation and Nuclear (CBRN) refresher course at United States Navy (USN) facilities in Pearl Harbor, Hawaii.

As part of their routine preparations for Operation Artemis - the Canadian Forces contribution to counter terrorism operations in the Arabian Sea - 35 sailors successfully completed their CBRN Defence qualification.

This course was conducted by instructors from CF Fleet School Esquimalt's Damage Control Division with assistance from instructors at the U.S. Navy's Surface Warfare Officers School, Engineering Learning Site at Pearl Harbor, Hawaii.

Although CBRN training is routinely conducted by CF members, the location of this course also provided a unique opportunity for sailors from the Royal Canadian Navy to work alongside their counterparts from the USN. Despite the fact that *HMCS Regina* did not participate in this year's Rim of the Pacific (RIMPAC) exercise, this joint day of training certainly matched the theme of RIMPAC 2012, which is to be "capable, adaptive partners."

"It was very interesting to see the Canadians conduct their drills," said Damage Controlman First Class Terrance Artis, one of the USN's instructors. "While the masks are different, there are many

similarities between the training standards used by both navies."

This sentiment was echoed by the lead USN instructor, Damage Control Chief Joe "Tommy" Thompson. He described the course taught as being "almost identical to the courses we teach here on a daily basis. I didn't really see any significant differences."

According to LCdr Iain Meredith, Commander of Damage Control Division at CF Fleet School Esquimalt, *Regina's* visit to Pearl Harbor opened doors to cooperation in the area of naval damage control training.

"To my knowledge, the completion of their CBRN qualification at a USN facility by the crew of *Regina* is a first in the RCN. The quality of the facilities and the warm reception provided by the American hosts was outstanding. In addition, it has established bi-lateral contacts between the USN and RCN in the area of training practices in CBRN and all areas of naval damage control, which we hope to build upon in the months ahead."

Despite the tropical location of the sun-drenched Hawaiian island and the hot temperatures, the training differences and similarities were also noticed by the crew of *Regina*.

As Captain Ian Halliburton, Commander of the Unmanned Aerial Vehicle Detachment, explained, "In the army, we normally conduct CBRN in the middle of winter, so this is my first time doing these drills in such hot weather. But, the course



Photo by Cpl Rick Ayer, Formation Imaging Services

PO1 Nick Nickmann (left) instructs members from Regina in surviving a gas environment.

and individual drills taught were the same as back in Canada."

On July 22, *Regina* left Hawaii to continue the transit across the Pacific Ocean. Once the Esquimalt-based frigate reaches the Arabian Sea, it will replace *HMCS*

Charlottetown as part of Combined Task Force 150, an international coalition of ships conducting maritime interdiction to fight against terrorism.



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Diamond celebration for Oriole

Kristine Parker
Contributor

This is a record-breaking year for *HMCS Oriole* as she sets her sails to celebrate her 60th year of service with the Royal Canadian Navy (RCN).

On Aug. 28, the sail ship's commanding officer, LCdr Jeff Kibble, will host an event and day sail to commemorate the ship on her Diamond Jubilee and 91st birthday.

Oriole, which underwent a major refit earlier this year, was commissioned into the RCN 60 years ago in Halifax on June

19, 1952, and was transferred to the Pacific Fleet in 1954.

Training generations of junior sailors and officers, the ship has become a well-known representative of the navy through the leadership and teamwork learned while on board.

Past commanding officers, coxswains, and crew will be there to bring the sail ship into her Jubilee year with the unveiling of a commemorative, special edition coin, each cast with brass from the original ship to celebrate this monumental Diamond Jubilee event.

Centuries old battle garners battle honours for regiments

DND

Peter MacKay, Minister of National Defence, announced Aug. 15 Canadian Army regiments that perpetuate the history and heritage of War of 1812 units that defended Canada during that conflict will be awarded a battle honour for the victory at the Battle of Detroit.

Minister MacKay, joined by Ted Opitz, Member of Parliament for Etobicoke Centre, made the announcement at Fort York National Historic Site as part of the government's commemoration of the 200th anniversary of the War of 1812.

The Battle of Detroit was a pivotal event for the people of York and for the militia units.

Major-General Isaac

Brock, commander at Detroit, publicly expressed his admiration for the militia units from York that had served in the battle. In his report on the battle, he went on to note the service of the militia units would never be forgotten.

Seven modern day Canadian Army regiments that perpetuate the War of 1812 units that fought at the Battle of Detroit will receive the Battle Honour "Detroit". The first six of these regiments are:

- 56th Field Artillery Regiment (RCA), Brantford, Ont.

- The Essex and Kent Scottish, Windsor, Ont.

- The Lincoln and Welland Regiment, St. Catharines, Ont.

- The Queen's York Rangers (1st American Regiment) (RCAC),

Toronto, Ont.

- The Royal Canadian Regiment, Petawawa, Ont.

- The Royal Hamilton Light Infantry (Wentworth Regiment), Hamilton, Ont.

In addition to these units, the Royal Newfoundland Regiment stationed in St. John's, N.L., will also receive the Battle Honour in memory of the Newfoundlanders who, as members of the British Royal Newfoundland Fencible Infantry, were present at the Battle of Detroit.

The War of 1812 was instrumental in the development of Canada's military history and established the basis of the Canada we know today – an independent and free country in a constitutional monarchy with its own parliamentary system.

Admiral visits Vernon



Admiral Bill Truelove discusses the summer's training with Cadet Dustin of Fort McMurray, Alberta, while inspecting the Quarter Guard on his arrival at Vernon Army Cadet Summer Training Centre.



Cadet Warrant Officer Stefanie Noordegraaf of Chilliwack, B.C., speaks of her experience as a staff cadet with the marksmanship program with Admiral Truelove during his tour of the facility.

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CADET FOR A DAY

Shawn O'Hara
Staff Writer

When I arrive at Belmont Secondary School in Langford, the air cadets are already running.

They're playing ultimate Frisbee on one of the school's sports fields, and as a "Cadet for a Day" I join one of the teams.

Now, I'm only 23 years old, but what I learned that day is the difference between 14 and 23 energy-wise is pretty substantial.

The cadets have taken over the field for this fun-filled athletic activity, but most days are spent a few miles away, tucked away in the remote Albert Head, a DND property turned into the Air Cadet Summer Training Centre.

As we run up and down the field, I start thinking what makes these kids want to spend their summer at Albert Head in a pseudo military environment? Come summer, they could be doing what many kids do, spend their school-free days wasting time online or lazing around with friends. But these kids have chosen to spend two to seven weeks living on a military base learning how to shoot and march and camp - and for some, how to fly and hone their musical talent.

After fumbling pass after pass, I turn to one of my team mates, Bryn Featherstone, 14, from Air Cadet Squadron 907 in White Rock.

I ask her why she joined the Air Cadets in the first place. Her answer is both social and professional.

"You get to meet a lot of new people, and they come from all over the province," she says. "Most of us are from B.C., but people come from as far away as Saskatchewan. Plus, I want to go into the Air Force when I grow up so this is great experience."

This seems to be the consensus with a lot of young cadets, and it's totally refreshing. Kids that want to take charge of their futures.

My team ends up losing 5-2. I check. No eyes are on me.

I follow the cadets into one of the school's classrooms for a technical exercise. We're building model bi-planes from sheets of aluminum and plastic pop bottles. The importance of this activity isn't in the final product, but the teamwork.

I ask one of my partners what brought him here.

Nathan Mendes, 552 Key City Squadron in Cranbrook, has always had his eyes on the sky. This interest in flight and aerospace made Air Cadets an appealing choice for the 16-year-old.

"I've always had a lot more interest in the sky than the ocean," he says to me as he bends a strip of aluminum with deftness. So far, Nathan's favourite moment at camp has been the construction and launching of miniature rockets.

"It's interesting, because the construction is kind of complicated so you learn a lot. Then it's just fun to launch them into the air."

Before he's finished the sentence, the instructor bellows out, "Let's go launch a rocket." Not sure if she overheard us, but the timing is peculiar, as is the grin on Nathan's face.

Outside, I stand well back; it is a rocket after all. But I'm given the launch button to press. In a rush of sound and smoke, the majestic cardboard rocket shoots skyward. It's pretty exciting, and I start to understand the appeal of the camp. This isn't something a kid would get to do every day. For someone with an interest in aerospace technology, it's invaluable knowledge.

As the cadets pile onto a bus, I take the car to Albert Head for lunch.

Inside the gate is a small town filled with tree-lined roads, acres of sports fields, barracks identified by symbols of stick men or women, a canteen, classrooms of varying shapes and sizes, a bustling mess hall, and a duty services hut that is manned 24/7, staffed with camo-clad personnel who deal with the day-to-day logistics

of the camp.

Almost 1,000 cadets will have trained on the scenic 220 acre spread by summer's end. Located between Parry Bay and Royal Roads, overlooking the vast blue of the Strait of Juan de Fuca, the camp hosts a variety of two, three, and seven week courses that improve cadets' knowledge in skills such as wilderness survival, aviation technology, and leadership training.

The cadets, who come from squadrons all over B.C., are joined by approximately 150 staff cadets, civilian staff, and Cadet Instructor Cadre officers that run the courses.

While the popular two-week General Training Course sees younger cadets enhance their self-confidence and communication skills through regular squadron activities, the three-week courses offer a greater range in breadth and intensity to participants.

Basic survival, leadership, fitness and sports, and aviation technology and aerospace courses also look to reinforce training cadets receive during the September to June squadron programs. However, each of the courses provides cadets with further qualification they can use in advanced squadron positions.

Over a plate of chicken strips and spinach salad, I chat with Thilina Ratnayake, 18, 692 BCIT Aerospace in Richmond, and a Warrant Officer 2nd for the cadets at camp. When he was 12 Ratnayake attended an open house at an Air Cadet squadron in Richmond, where a fighter jet was on display. The initial rush of excitement of meeting pilots drew him into the air cadets.

"When I started, I was the kid who watched *Top Gun* 10 times and was just excited about planes," he says. "After a couple years I started learning about leadership and realized that's where my real passion was. I used to be a shy kid who could hardly work up the courage to speak in public, and now I'm addressing groups of 600 cadets.

It's completely changed me."

For Cadet Sgt Erin Aitchison, 861 Silver Fox in Abbotsford, being a cadet has been nothing but beneficial.

"At first, I wasn't really into it, but I stuck it out. I'm really happy that I did," she says. "I get together with my cadet friends, and we talk about how we're way more organized than the other people in our school."

As this is her last year as an Air Force Cadet, Aitchison plans on

joining the Canadian Air Force as soon as she ages out.

This sense of direction from someone so young is impressive. The opportunities afforded by the Cadets are beneficial to youth interested in a career in the military, but they also extend way beyond that.

Anyone of the opinion that all kids are lazy, selfish, and without direction need look no further than the cadet camps of Canada for another point of view.



Photos by LS Raegan Elford, Lookout

Top: Shawn O'Hara, in blue, joined cadets at Belmont Secondary School for a game of Ultimate Frisbee.

Above: A reluctant O'Hara launches a rocket in the field as his fellow cadets look on unfazed.

HMCS Haida: an irreplaceable historic artifact

Darlene Blakeley
NDHQ PA

For those who know little or nothing about the Royal Canadian Navy (RCN), stumbling across a vintage warship on the waterfront in Hamilton, Ont., can be a revelation.

HMCS Haida, a Tribal-class destroyer built in England, was commissioned into the RCN in 1943, serving in many theatres of operation through the Second World War. After a post-war refit, Haida continued in service through Korean War and Cold War until she was decommissioned in 1963. That year a group of Toronto businessmen formed an organization called Haida Inc and saved her from the scrap yard. The ship was later acquired by the Province of Ontario and moved to Ontario Place in Toronto in 1971. She was designated as a national historic site in 1984 and ownership was transferred to Parks Canada in 2002. Haida was moved to Pier 9 in Hamilton on August 30, 2003, the 60th anniversary of her commissioning.

"In our experience, many people who visit the ship have minimal to zero knowledge of Haida or the navy," says Darryl Jones, past president of Friends of Haida, an organization partnered with Parks

Canada and devoted to the preservation of the ship. "When our volunteers inform the public about the history of the ship, her accomplishments and the living conditions aboard, they come away amazed and carry an appreciation of the ship and our navy that they never realized previously."

Haida is now an "irreplaceable historic artifact" managed and presented as a living, operating ship, according to Mr. Jones. Visitors can enjoy the unique opportunity of exploring, experiencing and learning about the ship's inner workings and what life must have been like aboard a Second World War-era naval vessel.

"Haida is a direct result of the navy's ambitions when Canada's tiny navy was struggling for existence," says Mr. Jones. "No other warship has made a greater contribution to Canada's naval traditions than Haida. With her unmatched war record (sinking more tonnage than any other ship in the Canadian navy), Haida is Canada's 'fightingest' ship. Along with HMCS Sackville [a Second World War corvette located in Halifax], Haida represents the heritage of the navy."

Mr. Jones adds that the Friends of Haida organization works to preserve naval traditions and build links between the current Canadian navy and its past through

ship visits and outreach to the fleet. "Its members and donors, some of them naval veterans and some with no naval experience at all, share a common belief that it is important to all Canadians, young and old, not only to preserve Canadian naval history and heritage, but to ensure that Canadians know about it."

Friends of Haida is vital to the continued

preservation of the ship and needs support from contributors and volunteers. The organization has a school visit program and volunteers can help on the ship, work in the gift shop, research information, or help develop new skills. To join Friends of Haida, make a contribution, or simply learn more about the ship, visit www.hmcshaida.com.



Photo courtesy of Friends of Haida

HMCS Haida on the waterfront in Hamilton, Ont.

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This year's event will kick off at 1800hrs with supper being served at 1830hrs.

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Cdr Scott Van Will, Commanding Officer, and the crew of HMCS Ottawa in marking 70 years since the loss of Ottawa I and 114 crew.

A brief ceremony will be conducted on

be N2's and for retired members a suit or sports coat and slacks.

Cost is \$35 and may be paid by cheque or cash to PO1 Corey Lange at Sea Training Pacific, PO Box 17000 Station Forces, Victoria, B.C. V9A 7N2 until Sept. 14.

For more information, please call PO1 Corey Lange at 250-363-1264 or via email at corey.lange@forces.gc.ca.

Sept. 14 at 11 a.m. on board the warship.

Dress is N1A for service members and business casual for former crew.

RSVP is required for all guests no later than Sept. 11 to Sid Tobias, Coxswain Ottawa IV, 250-363-5708, david.tobias2@forces.gc.ca

Local car dealer raises money for Legion 191

Shawn O'Hara
Staff Writer

The good people at Victoria Hyundai hope to set things right for Branch 191 of the Royal Canadian Legion following a break in Aug. 6. Thousands of dollars worth of cash, goods, and equipment were stolen from the Chemainus branch after the building's security

system was disabled.

Donations received to offset the damages and insurance deductibles currently facing the branch will be matched by Victoria Hyundai. The total currently sits at \$2,000 of their \$5,000 goal. To donate, you can visit Victoria Hyundai's Facebook page at www.facebook.com/VictoriaHyundai or visit their location at 525 Gorge Road East in Victoria.

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Left to right: Outgoing Acoustic Data Analysis Centre (ADAC) Commanding Officer, Major Travis Field; Reviewing Officer, Capt(N) Luc Cassivi; and incoming ADAC CO, Maj Aaron Novecosky, sign the Change of Command certificates during the ADAC Change of Command Ceremony held Aug. 10 in Her Majesty's Canadian Dockyard Esquimalt.

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Top brass visit Ottawa, hand out awards

SLt Cody Black
SLt Alex Grinton
 HMCS Ottawa

For two days during the Rim of the Pacific (RIMPAC) 2012 international exercise, *HMCS Ottawa*, was fortunate to host three special guests: Canadian Forces Chief Warrant Officer, CPO1 Bob Cléroux; Chief of Defence Staff, General Walter Natynczyk; and our Commander-in-Chief, His Excellency, Governor General David Johnston.

The purpose of the visit was to acquaint themselves with members of the ship's company, to present awards and promotions, and to answer questions and speak to the future of the Canadian Forces and the Royal Canadian Navy.

The visit began with a supper prepared and served by the cooks and stewards of *Ottawa*; even at sea in the middle of the Pacific Ocean, our guests were treated to exceptional and familiar Canadian hospitality.

A tour of the ship to meet with members of the crew would follow the meal. Our guests made rounds of the ship, visiting on-watch personnel, chatting with them, and experiencing the peculiarities of life at sea for a Canadian sailor.

With only a limited time available

on board, the evening would eventually terminate with a rousing conversation in the Chiefs and Petty Officers' Lounge. During conversation, two topics were on everyone's lips: leadership and the future of the navy.

General Natynczyk spoke at length about some of the most impressive people he had met in his travels, and made it very clear that what he had seen of *Ottawa* put her crew among their ranks.

The following morning, offshore from the beautiful Hawaiian island of Oahu, the ship's company mustered on the flight deck. There, we anticipated awards, presentations and speeches from our guests.

When the Chief of Defence Staff and Governor General arrived, the parading ship's company came swiftly to attention. Always wanting to be closer to his sailors and officers, General Natynczyk quickly dismissed the parade and brought *Ottawa's* company in close for a huddle.

The pride of place, of course, belonged to Governor General Johnston, who spoke of the great admiration he has for the men and women in the Royal Canadian Navy, and of the Canadian Forces in general. He also expressed appreciation for the families and loved ones sailors at

sea leave at home. This sentiment was very well received by those assembled on the flight deck.

After speeches by General Natynczyk and CPO1 Cléroux, many sailors and ship borne aircrew were presented with awards for their hard work. These awards were presented in the form of Challenge Coins from the offices of the Chief of Defence Staff and the Forces Chief.

The highest honour of the morning belonged to *Ottawa's* Coxswain, CPO1 Sid Tobias, who was the recipient of the Meritorious Service Medal. In most cases, such a medal recipient would travel to Ottawa for a ceremony at Rideau Hall. On this occasion, however, Rideau Hall came to *Ottawa*, with His Excellency presenting the medal at sea. As all things must pass, so too did the VIP visit to *Ottawa*. The Canadian Forces Chief, Chief of Defence Staff and Governor General departed the same way they arrived, by helicopter.

As the helicopter whisked them away to Honolulu airport, the ship's company knew that they had been privileged to witness a very special event, and the photographs, coins, medals, and promotions awarded served to augment the very pleasant memories of this all too brief visit.



MS Steve Norton is awarded the Canadian Forces Decoration 2nd Clasp.

Medals

MS Steve Norton, Canadian Forces Decoration 2nd Clasp

Promotions

PO2 Budden promoted to PO1
 Sgt Volf promoted to WO
 AB Mann advanced promoted to LS

CDS Coin

Capt Nick Veenhof, CAT 2, Deputy Air Officer
 SLt Malorie Aubrey MARS, Bridge Watchkeeper
 PO2 Jamie Stohl, Naval Communicator
 LS Daniel Milburn, Steward
 Leading Seaman Steve Newton, Boatswain

CF CWO Coin

Sgt Jon Volf, Aviation Technician, Air Department
 Senior Technician Supervisor
 MS David Brewin, Cook
 MS Thomas Hertel, Electrician
 Leading Seaman Pat McKernan, Boatswain
 AB Mark Ironstand, Sonar Operator



PO2 Budden is promoted to PO1.



CPO Tobias receives the Meritorious Service Medal from the Governor General.



AB Mann is promoted to Leading Seaman.



PO2 Jamie Stohl receives the CDS Coin.



Sgt Volf is promoted to Warrant Officer.



LCdr Brennan Blanchfield, Quality Assurance Manager - NDQAR Victoria, presents CPO2 Ron Eccles with his Blue Seal for Scroll One, marking an achievement of 6,000 aerobic units as part of the CF Award of Aerobic Excellence Program.



OS Jiayi Zhou is promoted to Able Seaman effective June 16. In the photo are LCdr (Jeffrey) Murray, Executive Officer, and CPO2 (Louis) Charlebois, CSE Chief.



OS Chris Swain is promoted by Cdr Bonnar, HMCS Protecteur Commanding Officer, and PO2 Vezerian to Able Seaman.



QL1 Jr CISN OP Course Session 0008. Instructors: NAV COMM Chief, CPO2 Martin; Senior Instructor, PO2 Hamilton; and Instructor, LS Mitchell. Students: OS Allain, OS Hudson (also top student), OS Leslie, OS Sayre, OS Turner, and OS Wallis.

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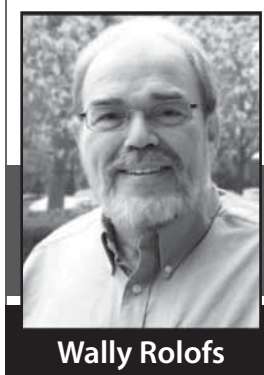
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MFRC Annual General Meeting

Wednesday September 5
7:30 - 8:30 am

CFB Esquimalt Wardroom
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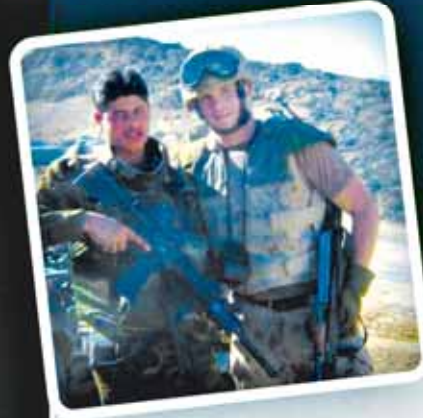
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