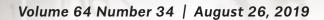
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# MARPAC NEWS CFB Esquimalt, Victoria, B.C.

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## **OTTAWA IN TRAINING**

Aviator Judith Crook-Nault, a supply technician, practices her first aid training on Corporal Marc-Andre Bertrand-Bigras, a medical technician, during a casualty clearing exercise on board HMCS Ottawa, which is currently deployed on Operation Projection.

Photo by Leading Seaman Victoria loganov, MARPAC Imaging Services



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# Fire displaces veteran family

## Peter Mallett

Staff Writer

Two military veterans and their families were displaced last week when a fire gutted their Langford home.

The six-bedroom, three-story house located on Bear Mountain is owned by Master Corporal (Retired) Elder Pineda, a veteran who did two tours in Afghanistan, and his wife Catherine, a paediatric nurse at Victoria General Hospital. The couple resided there for three years with their two children, their service dog Lincoln, and Catherine's mother Diana and father Warrant Officer (Retired) Darren Scott, who occupied a ground floor in-law suite.

"We are still in a state of shock, have lost most of our personal belongings, but are very grateful and blessed that everyone is still alive, that's the important thing," said Elder Pineda.

The fire broke out at approximately 1 a.m. on Aug. 18 while the family was sleeping. Pineda was the first to awake to the smoke alarms and his first concern was making sure everyone got out.

A neighbour called 911 while the men tried unsuccessfully to control the blaze with a garden hose before it engulfed the upper floors, which were destroyed in the blaze. The ground floor was spared but sustained extensive smoke and water damage.

"No matter how hard we tried to fight the flames back it wasn't enough and there was nothing we could do," said Darren Scott, who works at Rocky Point Ammunition Depot as a civilian after a 30-year military career.

Pineda is in the final year of studies for his masters degree in communications at Royal Roads University. His final thesis project was stored on his computer, which was lost in the blaze. His graduation from the program has been pushed forward to 2020.

At press time, the cause of the blaze was was still being investigated.

Scott was able to retrieve some of his late father-in-law's service medals, but all of Pineda's medals were lost in the fire.

Pineda was diagnosed with Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder, Operational Stress Injuries and anxiety from his tours in Afghanistan. He says coping with the stress of the ordeal immediately afterwards was difficult.

For the past week the family has been

living out of suitcases, first staying at a family friend's home in Belmont Park and later in the week at two different hotels. They have also relied on the generosity of neighbours who have donated food, clothing and other essential items.

Immediately after the fire, Scott's daughter, Master Corporal Andrea Lorinczy, who works at 4 Wing Cold Lake, flew to Victoria to assist the families. Both Pineda and Scott credit her with keeping everyone focused on the recovery operation and helping them plan and put their lives back together in the hours and days after the blaze.

The entire family believes the military training of Pineda, Scott and Lorinczy have been crucial in getting them through the ordeal.

"Learning basic survival skills and practising them over and over again enables you to deal with problems. No matter the level of stress, you can always rely on these skills to get you through tough times," said Pineda.

The family's next step is to rent or lease a house in Langford and return to what Pineda describes as "a sense of normalcy," as they await the insurance claim, which could take over a year.

In their spare time Scott and Catherine Pineda referee youth hockey games with the Juan de Fuca Minor Hockey Association. The association's Referee-In-Chief, Galen Brewer has set up a GoFundMe page to help the family: https://www.gofundme. com/f/1q95635u6o



Photos by Peter Mallett, Lookout Newspaper Above: Members of the Pineda and Scott family move groceries into their hotel room in Langford.

Left: MCpl (Retired) Elder Pineda unpacks a suitcase with his son Luka and daughter Mataeya in a hotel room in Langford on Aug. 20. The family was displaced from their Bear Mountain home after it was destroyed by a fire two days earlier.







Vice-Admiral Haydn Edmundson, Acting Commander, Military Personnel Command, with the Special Service Medal he struck during a recent tour of the Royal Canadian Mint.

## Mint tour showcases medal production

### **Courtesy Maple Leaf**

Vice-Admiral (VAdm) Haydn Edmundson, Acting Commander Military Personnel Command (A/ CMPC), accepted an opportunity to put his own stamp on things at the Royal Canadian Mint.

After receiving precise instructions, the newly minted Vice-Admiral activated the hydraulic press and produced a Special Service Medal. This "striking" performance took place during a recent visit to the historic facility at 320 Sussex Drive, Ottawa, where VAdm Edmundson was guided through the painstaking process required to produce medals at a consistent level of quality required for Canadian military honours and awards.

The tour offered a behind-thescenes look at the many steps required to transform an intricate design into a medal. Since 2007, the Royal Canadian Mint has been manufacturing the bulk of the medals and other forms of recognition—such as bars, medallions, and Memorial Crosses—presented to members of the Canadian Armed Forces (CAF) and employees of the Department of National Defence. The vast majority of the more than 16,000 medals issued by the Directorate of Honours and Recognition in 2018 were produced by the Royal Canadian Mint and then shipped across Canada to units for locally organized presentations.

As a gesture of thanks and appreciation, VAdm Edmundson presented the MPC Commander's Coin to Eric Jodouin in appreciation of the Royal Canadian Mint's steadfast support to the CAF.

"What the Mint has enabled us to do is to present medals to those who have earned it while they're still deployed, in the field," explained VAdm Edmundson during the presentation. "There is a lot more meaning for our CAF members when they receive recognition in the theatre alongside their sisters and brothers in arms."

Timely presentation of honours and awards has always been considered a key element to the honours and recognition process. Due in large part to production capacity at the Mint, Canada has achieved an unprecedented 98-plus percent delivery rate for medals while still in theatre.

For those interested in seeing what the Royal Canadian Mint does for Canada and the Canadian Armed Forces as it relates to medal and honours production, you are encouraged to visit their website at www.mint. ca or www.mint.ca/store/mint/visitthe-mint/ottawa-location-8900022 to learn more about their tours open to the public.

What the Mint has enabled us to do is to present medals to those who have earned it while they're still deployed, in the field. There is a lot more meaning for our CAF members when they receive recognition in the theatre alongside their sisters and brothers in arms. VAdm Edmundson, Acting Commander Military Personnel Command

## ESL classes for military families Mon, 9 Sep

Do you want to learn English or improve your English? Do you feel the need to improve your English to better communicate with your partner? The MFRC offers courses to CAF adult family members. The classes, taught by a professional, incorporate conversation, culture, grammar and writing to facilitate your integration into your community.

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## mattersofOPINION

## 📞 who we are

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## WHAT SAY **YOU**

of Korea.

#### Dear Editor, I would like to inform your readers about two very special medals that are available for our veterans. These are the National Order of the Legion of Honour from France and the Ambassador for Peace Medal from the Republic

Our veterans of the Second World War and the Korean War have both fought hard and made tremendous sacrifices and they have both won the greatest level of respect and thanks we can give them. The Government of France is awarding their highest medal to all living Canadian

veterans who directly helped to liberate their country between June 6 and Aug. 30, 1944. The Republic of

Korea is presenting its Ambassador for Peace Medal to all Canadian Veterans who participated in the Korean War and its peace keeping operations between 1950 and 1955. Living veterans or the families of veterans who have passed away may be eligible to receive this special medal from Korea.

If you are a veteran, or know someone who might be eligible for one of these important medals, please contact me. I am an unofficial volunteer who is willing to help you with your application. There is no fee involved.

For more information please contact Mr. Guy Black C/O 515 - 95 Moody Street, Port Moody, BC V3H0H2 or email Korea19501953@yahoo. com and include the subject Veterans Medals.

Thank you, Guy Black Recipient, Minister of Veterans Affairs Commendation and the Sovereign's Medal for Volunteers



National Order of the Legion of Honour -France

## Shooting for HMCS Malahat

hen I joined the Naval Reserve in 2006 in Ottawa, Ont., I discovered a passion for shooting and marksmanship.

Ambassador for Peace Medal -

**Republic of Korea** 

During my summers off from attending high school, and then Carleton University where I received a Bachelor of Arts in Psychology, I went on my boatswain trades courses, went to sea, and became familiar with various types small arms.

I learned how to handle a firearm safely and how to pass the basic qualifications for each one, but I never felt overly confident in my handling, marksmanship ability, or understanding of how weapons really function.

In 2012, I joined the Royal Canadian Navy Combat Shooting Team as a Leading Seaman in order to learn more about marksmanship and gain confidence in weapons handling. I participated in various shooting competitions and volunteered at the Canadian Armed Forces Small Arms Concentration (CAFSAC) held at Connaught Range outside of Ottawa.

CAFSAC is the pinnacle operational shooting concentration of the CAF, com-

prised of military and para-military participants from across Canada and abroad. The aim is to improve marksmanship and increase the operational effectiveness of the CAF. Immediately following CAFSAC, I stepped away from the shooting world to focus on my career as a junior sailor. I moved to Victoria, BC, and sailed for two years aboard *HMCS Yellowknife*.

On completion of that contract I went to school in Vancouver to become a Farrier (someone who shoes horses). Afterwards, I took an apprenticeship based in Victoria and became a member of *HMCS Malahat* in 2015. *Malahat* supported me through my apprenticeship, allowing me to work flexible hours during the day, and on training and admin at night.

Once settled in the Deck Department, I looked for every opportunity to continue to learn and improve my shooting ability. After returning from deployment on Operation Reassurance and Operation Artemis this spring, I had the opportunity to spend time training alongside members of 39 Canadian Brigade Group, learn-



ing from past CAFSAC competitors and winners.

After volunteering at CAFSAC seven years ago, I am finally able to return to Connaught Range outside of Ottawa as a competitor, and proud representative of *HMCS Malahat*.

PO2 Colleen McInnis





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Peter Mallett Staff Writer

Two navy grapplers are readying members of the newly formed Naden Grappling Team for national competition.

MS Lee Thibault, a fourtime national military combatives grappling champion and Greco-Roman wrestler, and OS Connor Sher, a Brazilian jiu-jitsu player and bronze medalist at this year's national championships in Petawawa, are training military members in the discipline of submission wrestling, a unique martial art that borrows techniques from wrestling, Brazilian jiujitsu and judo in order to control and ultimately subdue an opponent.

The team was founded by OS Sher this past winter as a way to get fellow sailors interested in grappling, the most important aspect of hand-to-hand combat.

"Being a proficient, confident grappler is one of the most important things we can learn as a functioning member of the military," says OS Sher. "Understanding how the human body works regarding its structural base, balance, leverage points and vulnerable areas is invaluable. When it comes to our military duties, being able to confidently de-escalate a situation with the least amount of force possible is always going to be priority number one. Whether it's controlling an aggressive civilian or detainee overseas or an active aggressor in a naval boarding scenario, its importance cannot be understated."

MS Thibault's enthusiasm for grappling is also infectious, his optimism unparalleled. "There are so many wres-

tlers, grapplers and mixed martial artists at the base who compete at their own private clubs, but what OS Sher and I are hoping to do is bring them together to train and fight under one banner."

Grappling teams have sprung up at other bases including CFB Edmonton, CFB Petawawa, CFB Gagetown and 12 Wing Shearwater. The Naden Grappling Team has approximately 20 members and trains three times a week at the Naden Athletic Centre.

Team members are now practicing their choke holds and joint locks in preparation for their first ever Canada West Regionals competition in September at CFB Edmonton.

"I want our team to make

history; I want the navy to win the whole competition," said MS Thibault.

Over his 12-year military career, MS Thibault has dedicated much of his free time training, defending his title, and promoting the sport and its health benefits to others.

"For me, seeing the sport of grappling officially recognized is like living a dream; something I have been waiting and hoping for since I first joined the navy."

MS Thibault won his fourth consecutive grappling title in the Military Combatives Grappling Concentration at Garrison Petawawa on June 22, striking gold in the Advanced Super-Heavyweight category. The competition brought together 111 competitors from across the country. Even though there were only two competitors in his division, fighting fewer matches did not make winning this year's title any easier he says.

"In other years when there have been more competitors in my weight category and thus more matches, competitors would try to pace themselves and conserve their energy," said MS Thibault. "The grapplers in the advanced superheavyweight category are the silver-backed gorillas of our sport, so when we knew we would only have two matches each, we tore each other apart when we competed, and really went at it."

His father, a former mixed martial arts competitor and military policeman, serves as coach when MS Thibault travels to Petawawa for nationals. His father built a gym in their family home which propelled MS Thibault into success on the high school wrestling stage, while his brother Tyler once captured three consecutive titles at the Pan Asian Jiu Jitsu champion.

OS Sher also had a successful outing securing bronze in his Welterweight category, a deep division with over 14 competitors, winning five of his seven matches and subduing three of his opponents by armlock.

The Petawawa Military Combatives Grappling Concentration serves as the Canadian Armed Forces' de facto national championship since it was founded in 2013 by LCol Steve Burgess. It brings together all ranks from every service branch across the country to determine the best fighter in the CAF.



## Ship barbershop gives Jumpstart a boost

HMCS REGINA

FFH-334

PAY 10: Canadian Two Jump Start Chavity \$ 9412.77 Men Thousand Four Hundred Twelve \$ 14/2.77

### **Peter Mallett** Staff Writer

fter a lengthy Adeployment, HMCS Regina sailors disembarking off the ship last week were some

of the most well-groomed sailors in the Royal Canadian Navy.

Their expertly cropped crew cuts and neatly trimmed bangs were the work of Master Seaman Jeffrey Haines in his makeshift barbershop 'Greasy Clippers'.

For the past six-and-ahalf months, the 34-yearold Marine Engineering Technician has been the ship's unofficial coiffeur performing his cuts from a corner of the ship's Stoker Shop, all in support of Canadian Tire Jumpstart Charities, a national charity dedicated to helping kids overcome financial and accessibility barriers to sport and play.

While most of the ship's company were reunited with their loved ones, MS Haines walked down the brow with an oversized cheque for \$9,412, which he presented to Katlyn Soanes, Regional Manager, Pacific for Canadian Tire Jumpstart Charities.

"Jumpstart is thrilled to accept this generous donation from Master Seaman Haines," she said. "We are very grateful for his fundraising efforts and for the support of all of our donors coast-to-coast who help get kids of all abilities off the sidelines and into the game."

Ryan Cane, Senior Manager

October 13, 2019

RunVictoriaMarathon.com

and wh

of Military Recreation Community Services for Canadian Forces Morale and Welfare Services (CFMWS). also applauded MS

Haines for his "wonderful" efforts that will help support the children of military families in Esquimalt. Cane noted that Personnel Support Programs (PSP) has also partnered with Canadian Tire Jumpstart Charities to provide financial assistance to families with children ages four to 18 in accessing programs and equipment. Last vear, \$34,000 of support from Jumpstart helped over 450 children from military families

MS Haines tipped his hat to his shipmates for their generosity and called their support "truly amazing." He says it wasn't too hard to drum up support for his initiative and he had many repeat customers over the course of the deployment.

"I can't emphasize enough the importance of sports for children," said MS Haines who is the father of two children, Emily, 2, and Lucas, 3. "No child should go without access to sports equipment or sports programs because of finances and no parent should have to carry the burden of not being able to give their child the opportunity to play sports'

For more information about Jumpstart and how to get involved visit their website: https://jumpstart.canadiantire.ca.

Photo by Peter Mallett, Lookout Newspaper Above: MS Jeffrey Haines of HMCS Regina presents a cheque for \$9,412 to representatives from Canadian Tire's charity Jumpstart on Aug. 19 in Dockyard. MS Haines raised the money by performing hundreds of haircuts during his ship's six-and-a-half month deployment.

Right: MS Haines performs a haircut on OS Patrick Greenwood in his makeshift barbershop Greasy Clippers on Aug. 5. Photo by Corporal Stuart Evans, Borden Imaging Services

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### Peter Mallett Staff Writer

The crew of *HMCS Regina* returned to Esquimalt after a sixand-a-half month deployment in the Asia-Pacific and Middle East regions.

A large gathering of family, friends and military personnel waved, cheered and flashed homemade signs, flags, banners and balloons as *Regina* came alongside C2 Jetty in Dockyard on Aug. 19 after 193 days at sea.

It was busy deployment for the Halifax-class frigate and its crew.

*Regina* departed Esquimalt on Feb. 6 where it worked with other navies to enhance military cooperation and partnerships in the Asia-Pacific as part of Operation Projection. It then sailed to the Arabian Sea and Indian Ocean and participated in Operation Artemis in support of a combined naval task force of 33 partner nations to deter terrorist organizations from using the high seas for smuggling. *Regina* also participated in Operation Neon, Canada's contribution to supporting United Nations Security Council sanctions against North Korea.

"I am so impressed with the crew of *HMCS Regina* who represented the Royal Canadian Navy's spectrum of tasks across the globe throughout this deployment," said Commander Jacob French, ship's commanding officer. "It's a proud day for me seeing my crew reunited with their families after all they've accomplished." The deployments also marked the first embarked CH-148 Cyclone detachment from 443 Maritime Helicopter Squadron, which Cdr French described as "an absolute bonus" and effective at conducting surveillance and searching out vessels of interest. The Cyclone was introduced on the Pacific coast at the start of 2019 as a replacement for the CH-124 Sea King.

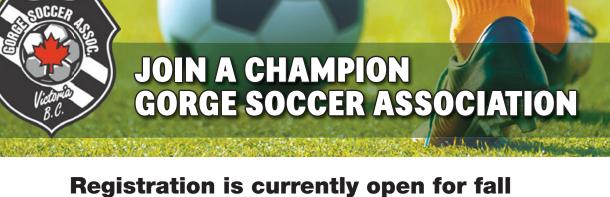
A Naval Boarding Party from the Naval Tactical Operations Group also embarked *Regina* for Artemis, assisting in four separate drug busts during the deployment.

*Regina* also made several port visits during its time away including stops in Guam, Hawaii, Japan, United Arab Emirates, Seychelles, Singapore, Oman and Australia. It also participated in Exercise Talisman Sabre, a biennial Australian and United States bilateral exercise designed to train partner military forces in planning and conducting Combined Task Force operations and to improve combat readiness and interoperability.

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# Warrior Games athlete pays it forward

## Peter Mallett Staff Writer

Following what he describes as an "unforgettable" Warrior Games experience, a Royal Canadian Navy Combat Systems Engineer is helping others with a generous act of chivalry.

Leading Seaman Desi Cozier has come to the assistance of the Gallant Knights Charity Sports Association, a newly cre-



ation, a newly created non-profit to help injured veterans and currentserving military pay for sporting goods and equipment. Gallant Knights is organizing its first annual

2019 Soldier On

Motorcycle Ride and Classic Car Rally. The event will be held in 36 different regional routes in Ontario on Sept. 21 and 28. LS Cozier is selling raffle tickets for the event and hoping Victoria's defence community will support this initiative.

"Now that I have completed my Warrior Games experience, I wanted to help others and give them same healing I enjoyed while at the same time spreading the word about the Soldier On program," said LS Cozier. "Right now, I have established and organized a meeting with Victoria's Mayor Helps office to assist with reaching out to community groups as well as MLAs. I'm reaching out to friends, family, CFB Esquimalt, social media and local businesses to buy tickets or help boost our sales in any way they can."

He hopes some of the lucrative prizes in the raffle will catch the attention of motorcycle enthusiasts across the country. Motorcycle manufacturer Harley-Davidson has offered several prizes including an early bird prize of a \$2,500 cash credit to be used at its officially licensed motorcycle dealerships, a 2019 Triumph Speedmaster motorcycle, and a 2019 Harley-Davidson Street 750.

LS Cozier was among 39 athletes who represented Canada at the United States' Department of Defence Warrior Games in Tampa June 21 to June 30. The Department of National Defence's Soldier On program organizes Canada's Warrior and Invictus Games teams and holds regional sports camps throughout the year.

He jumped at the chance to pitch in with the fundraising initiative when he was first approached by Gallant Knights organizer and fellow Warrior Games athlete Maj (Retired) Corey Moore during a Warrior Games training camp in Victoria last April. PO1 (Retired) Joe Kiraly who works as a director with the Canadian Armed Forces Transition Group's Soldier On program has been impressed by the "generous" efforts of LS Cozier and other athletes to support Soldier On as they continue to recover from injuries.

"Desi has proven himself to be a highly motivated and energetic fellow," said Kiraly. "He and Corey Moore and other Warrior and Invictus Games athletes are helping us enhance our service delivery while at the same time telling Canada about the healing power of our programs at Soldier On."

Soldier On currently offers sports equipment grants to its athletes but often times the funds aren't enough to pay for the full cost of the equipment.

For more information and to register for your raffle tickets write LS Cozier at desi. gallantknights@gmail.com



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Photo by OS Alexandra Proulx, Director of Army Public Affairs General Jonathan Vance, Chief of the Defence Staff of the Canadian Armed Forces, hugs a fallen soldier's family member during the Kandahar Cenotaph Rededication Ceremony at the Afghanistan Memorial Hall located in the Carling campus in Ottawa, Ontario, on Aug. 17.

## Grief, gratitude expressed in Kandahar Cenotaph rededication

## **Steven Fouchard** Army Public Affairs

There was sadness and grief in the air as military leaders and government officials joined with the loved ones of Canada's Afghanistan Fallen to rededicate a memorial to their sacrifices, but also a clear message from the people of Afghanistan: it was not in vain.

The Kandahar Cenotaph was designed and built by Canadian soldiers in Afghanistan. It was returned to Canada in 2011 and is now permanently housed within the Afghanistan Memorial Hall at National Defence Headquarters (Carling) (NDHQ (Carling)) in Ottawa.

The skies over NDHQ (Carling) were appropriately overcast as events got underway at 11 a.m. on Aug. 17. The Governor General, Her Excellency Julie Payette; the Minister of National Defence Harjit Sajjan, and Chief of the Defence Staff General Jonathan Vance all offered thanks to hundreds of family members, friends and other invitees.

Richard Mills Jr., Deputy Chief of Mission with the United States Embassy in Ottawa, also offered his country's gratitude for Canada's partnership in the conflict, as did Fahim Ebrat, First Secretary of the Embassy of Afghanistan, which is also in Ottawa.

"To the families of the fallen heroes, on behalf of my nation, I say that there are no words that can adequately express how deeply we appreciate and will forever remember the sacrifices of your brave men and women," said Mr. Ebrat. "It has not been in vain." there in Gander and towns across Canada to welcome planeloads of Americans and international travellers when U.S. airspace had been

He spoke of Afghanistan's Kandahar Province, where Canada's forces were concentrated. While it was a highly volatile place during Canada's mission, Mr. Ebrat described today's Kandahar as "vibrant" thanks to the sacrifices of Canada's Fallen.

"Their names are etched here in this cenotaph so that we will never forget what Canadians and the fallen heroes have selflessly given us. Let me say loud and clear that their legacy is also indelibly etched in the living hearts of my people and is now forever part of our history. We see the sacrifices of your loved ones each time a girl is educated. Each time an Afghan citizen casts a vote. Each time a woman is elected to lead and in each stride Afghanistan takes toward securing its future."

"My parting message on behalf of the Afghan people and government," Mr. Ebrat concluded, "is to tell the families of those who have fallen, those who are wounded and those who served in Afghanistan that we will never forget your sacrifices."

Mr. Mills noted that Canada was there for its southern neighbour even in the immediate hours after the 9/11 attack that triggered the mission, offering sanctuary to travellers impacted.

"As everything seemed to be falling apart, we in the United States looked around and we saw our Canadian friends," he said. "You were there in Gander and towns across Canada to welcome planeloads of Americans and international travellers when U.S. airspace had been closed. You are at our side in the hallways of NORAD in the Northern Command as our joint operation centres responded to this unthinkable event."

"Today I am very honoured on behalf of all Americans to join you in remembering the 158 Canadians who lay down their lives to ensure the safety and security of our great nations," Mr. Mills added. "The United States honours their sacrifices and we will never forget."

Gen Vance said he would often visit the Cenotaph to reflect during his two tours in Afghanistan, and that he finds it to be as much an object of hope as of grief.

"The cenotaph contains the grief but also carries the hopes and fears, the courage and vitality of those who died in the mission they were trying to accomplish and it feels very much alive."

In Kandahar, the Cenotaph was always in view of the missions' leaders to remind them of the heavy responsibility of command and Gen Vance said it will serve an equally profound purpose in its new home in Ottawa.

"It is contained within a place of permanent honour in a familiar spot beside the headquarters offering all who wish to visit the chance to remember not only the terrible cost of war but also the joy of military comradeship. The chance to see and maybe even hear the voices of those who gave everything and yet somehow keep giving."







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## Supporting Indigenous veterans

### **Tim Bryant** Western Sentinel

The transition to life as a veteran after years in the armed forces is not always easy, and for Indigenous veterans, the challenge can be even greater.

It's for that reason the Aboriginal Veterans Society of Alberta (AVSA) has made it its mission to provide support for Indigenous veterans as they make their way through a post-service life.

The society was formed in 1983 by several Second World War and Korea veterans, explained John McDonald, past president of the AVSA.

"The mandate was to organize and unite all Aboriginal veterans for advocacy and support of each other," he said.

A large reason for creating the society was to work to improve the situation of veterans compared to how the federal government treated them.

"The Indigenous or the Aboriginal veteran has always been discriminated against after every war

in," McDonald explained. "We've never got a fair shake."

Although the AVSA cannot do everything to make up for a history of mistreatment, he said the society works hard to do whatever it can. This can be a challenge, because in many cases it can be difficult to find Indigenous veterans in need of assistance.

"The Aboriginal veteran is a very proud individual and he does not like advertising his situation," McDonald said, adding non-Indigenous veterans also have the same pride.

Among the many ways the AVSA seeks to help Indigenous veterans is to work to get them into living situations that are respectful and afford them the dignity they deserve.

"We find homeless veterans and we attempt to get them care and get them into a home where they can be looked after and live the remainder of their lives in dignity," McDonald said.

The society also tries to go out and find veterans who have been placed in nursing

Canada has participated homes by their families and essentially left there. Those veterans should be in veterans' hospitals, McDonald said, but it is often difficult to get them into those facilities.

> In conjunction with the Royal Canadian Legion, the society's goal is to honour Indigenous veterans while they are still alive. And when they pass away, the AVSA shifts gears and works "to ensure future generations know the contributions made by Aboriginal veterans," he added.

> In death, the AVSA also recognizes the service Indigenous veterans provided to Canada by working to provide the veterans with a dignified burial, cemetery plot and headstone. Many Indigenous groups do not use headstones, McDonald said, but for those individuals who want one, the AVSA will work to get one.

On the whole, McDonald said the AVSA wants to provide support to veterans, in any way it can.

"We support each other," he said. "We advocate [for] and support all veterans."

## **Sexual Misconduct Response Centre launches Sexual Assault Centre Contribution Program**

### DND

Improving access to support services for military members and for the wider Canadian Armed Forces (CAF).community who have been affected by sexual misconduct is a top priority for the Department of National Defence (DND).

Last week, the Sexual Misconduct Response Centre (SMRC) launched the Sexual Assault Centre Contribution Program, as part of Canada's overall commitment to respondgender-based ing to violence.

This new initiative aims to ensure that affected people in the wider CAF community are better able to cope with the effects of sexual assault, and are better supported to access the services they need. This includes anyone associated with the CAF, including family members, civilian employees, contractors and others impacted by the CAF presence in their community. This program will fund projects proposed by communitybased sexual assault centres operating near the 10 CAF bases with the

highest client base.

In addition to addressing gaps in support services for those affected, this contribution program will foster the development of collaborative working relationships between the sexual assault centres and CAF support services.

To be eligible for funding, the applicants must be incorporated Canadian not-for-profit sexual assault service providers and serve a community in the vicinity of one of the specified 10 CAF bases. The total funding amount available is \$2 million. Successful projects will be funded for up to \$50,000 a year for four years (until March 31, 2023) subject to periodic reporting to the SMRC.

The Sexual Assault Centre Contribution Program is part of It's Time: Canada's Strategy to Prevent and Address Gender-based Violence. It aligns with Strong, Secure, Engaged, Canada's Defence *Policy*, which recognizes that addressing the problem of sexual misconduct in the CAF is essential to supporting its uniformed members, their families and the wider Defence Team community.

The 10 preselected CAF bases are:

- Canadian Forces Base (CFB) Esquimalt, near Victoria, British Columbia
- CFB Edmonton, in Edmonton, Alberta
- CFB Borden, near Barrie, Ontario
- CFB Kingston, in Kingston, Ontario
- CFB Petawawa, in Petawawa, Ontario
- Canadian Forces Support Unit (Ottawa), in the National Capital Region (Ottawa/ Gatineau)
- CFB St. Jean, near Montreal, Quebec • CFB Valcartier, near
- Quebec City, Quebec • CFB Gagetown, near
- Fredericton, New Brunswick
- CFB Halifax, in Halifax, Nova Scotia SMRC

The will assess project applications and administer the Sexual Assault Centre Contribution Program. More information on the application process and how to contact the SMRC is available on the program website https://www. canada.ca/en/departmentnational-defence/programs/sexual-assault-centre-contribution.html





Petty Officer Second Class Angelo Aries is Leading Seaman Richard Roundtree receives his commissioned to Sub-Lieutenant by Cdr French and Lieutenant (Navy) Nicole Forbes.



Operational Service Expedition Medal from Cdr French.



Master Seaman Gilles Saucier receives his Operational Service Expedition Medal from Cdr French.



Lieutenant (Navy) Richard Barnes receives his Gun Metal Sea Service Insignia from Cdr French.



Ordinary Seaman Bradley Kerschbaum receives his Gun Metal Sea Service Insignia from Cdr French.



Sub-Lieutenant Mackenzie Labrecque receives his Gun Metal Sea Service Insignia from Cdr French.



Lieutenant Craig Bellamy receives his commisioning scroll from Cdr French.



@LookoutNewspaperNavyNews



MS Gould is promoted to his present rank by Commander Nicholas Manley, Base Information Services Officer, and Petty Officer Second Class Gaun Cochran, Operations Watch Supervisor.

Photos by Corporal Stuart Evans, Borden Imaging Services

Commander Jacob French, HMCS Regina's commanding officer, handed out awards and promotions to his sailors just before the ship returned home.

# Were you directly affected by sexual misconduct in a CAF/DND workplace?

Are you a current or former member of the CAF, or a current or former employee of the DND or Staff of the Non-Public Funds, Canadian Forces?

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#### **AVAILABLE IMMEDIATELY**

This bright, newly renovated suite has everything including amazing views of Sooke Hills and the Olympic Mountains. Treelane Estates is an adult-oriented community situated right on the banks of the Gorge waterway with waterfront access for swimming, kayaking and diving. Only 5 minutes from downtown Victoria Uptown, Tillicum, Mayfair and Hillside shopping centres. New upgrades include an open concept kitchen with stainless steel appliances, and a renovated modern bathroom. Building has a workshop, games room, outdoor BBQ area and a large common room for larger gatherings. There is covered parking, secure storage, lockup areas for bikes, motorcycles and kayaks. Rent includes water, hot water, garbage and recycling removal, access to building amenities including a guest suite and maintenance. \$1550.00/ month Sorry, no pets. Email crdproperty@gmail.com or call 250-858-6793

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## **REAL ESTATE FOR RENT**

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Newer large two bedroom, two bath corner unit in View Royal. Partially furnished. Includes 5 appliances, 2 underground parking spaces and storage locker. Hot water included. No smoking, no pets. \$2200 per month. 250 888-3540.

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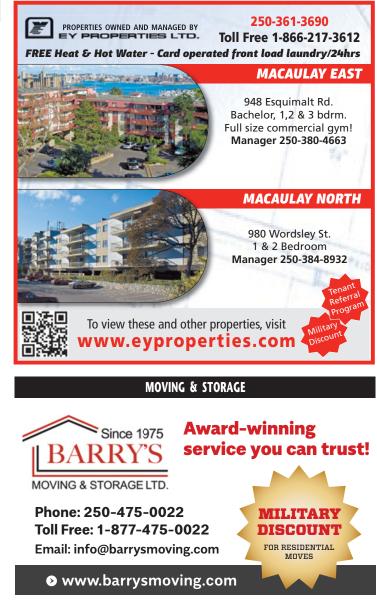
Condominium walking distance to downtown Victoria. 16th floor unit faces south with amazing views of the Strait of Juan de Fuca, the Olympic Peninsula and Sooke hills. There are terraces off each bedroom for morning coffee and watching the sunset over the mountains in the evening. The unit is semi-furnished, includes one bathroom, washer/dryer and kitchen comes with convec-tion oven and microwave. Master bedroom has built-in desk and dresser; the second has built in shelving. A gardener is included in the \$2,700 monthly rent plus a parking spot is available for an additional \$80 per month. Cat OK. Contact Doug Baker at dbaker01@telus.net for any further information or interest in renting the unit.

#### AVAILABLE NOW

This bright, newly renovated beauty of a suite has everything. Best of all, it boasts an amazing panoramic view; spanning from Mt. Douglas, across downtown and the Gorge waterway, to the Sooke Hills (with the Olympic Mountains as a backdrop!)

Treelane Estates is situated right on the banks of the Gorge waterway. It has waterfront access for swimming, kayaking and diving, and is tucked away from traffic down its park-like private driveway. New upgrades include a new kitchen with stainless steel appliances, a renovated modern bathroom and hardwood flooring throughout. Included in the building are a workshop, games room, outdoor BBQ area and a large common room for larger gatherings. There is covered parking, secure storage, lockup areas for bikes, motorcycles and kayaks. The apartment has its own sunny balcony as well.

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