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Photo by S1 Mike Goluboff, MARPAC Imaging Services

Bill (Willie) Gosse, Army Reserve veteran, gives a salute after laying a wreath in memory of his father Bass Gosse who served with 31 Service Battalion out of Saint John, New Brunswick. The Remembrance Day ceremony was held at the Memorial Park Cenotaph in Esquimalt.

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# Veteran's poem recalls liberation of Europe

Peter Mallett, Staff Writer

There are two things that help Second World War veteran Fred Andrews remember his military service: a carefully preserved poppy and the poetry he wrote.

The 99-year-old is one of a dwindling population of veterans from that war.

His caregivers at Roberta Place Retirement Lodge long-term care facility in Barrie, ON, say his memory is fading.

His poetry helps him remember, says Anita Crane, his Life Enrichment Coordinator. She is helping Andrews share his story, but says his "incredible poetry" speaks for itself.

Until recently, he was a prolific writer of prose with one of his five books of poems drawing praise from Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II.

Three quarters of a century ago Andrews was a young man from Trinity Bay, Newfoundland, and a member of the then Dominion's 59th Heavy Artillery Regiment. The largely unheralded regiment played a key role in the Battle of Normandy and helped liberate France, Belgium, and the Netherlands from German occupation.

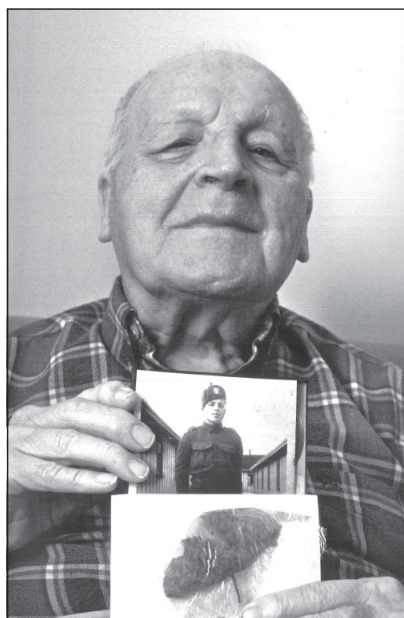
His favourite poem *The Trail of 59th Newfoundland Heavy Regiment* took many years to write and recounts his regiment's trek across Europe.

"I think of all of his prized possessions he is most proud of this poem," said Crane. "He wrote that poem over the course of a few years."

The 1,354 word poem employs a heroic quatrain to recount the regiment, their training, and eventual movement and battles in Europe.

Although poetic, his words offer a rare first-hand account of the 59th Regiment.

When pressed for details about what he saw during the D-Day landings and his regiment's role in the battle for the City of Caen, Crane says Andrews often falls silent. "He doesn't like to get into too many details about what he actually saw in the war and the carnage he must have seen," says Crane. "This is completely understandable because of the lives lost in his own regiment; many men like him have done their best to block this from their memory."



Fred Andrews



*The Steel Spirit is always accepting new artists. Contact [thesteelspiritcanada@gmail.com](mailto:thesteelspiritcanada@gmail.com) or visit [www.thesteelspirit.ca](http://www.thesteelspirit.ca) if interested.*

## Preserved Poppy

A fragile, faded red poppy is carefully held inside a cracker wrapper from his rations, and pressed in a book. It was plucked from Flanders Field in Belgium during a fierce firefight between the Germans and the 59th Regiment.

"It just looked so red and so beautiful and peaceful as we were loading guns and firing at the enemy, so it just came to my mind to pick it," Andrews once told the *Toronto Star* during an interview in 2010.

He mailed the poppy to his mother while he was in Europe. For many years he thought it had been lost until 1980 following his mother's death when it was discovered pressed inside a bible. Andrews keeps his poppy in a safe place, but often pulls it out to remember his days with the 59th Regiment and those who never made it home, says Crane.

After the war he met his wife Elizabeth. They both enrolled at Memorial University in St. John's and earned teaching degrees. The two were married for 51 years and raised twin daughters. Crane says Fred and Elizabeth were inseparable until her death in 2005.

He continued to write poetry in the years following her passing.

While living in Roberta Place he met volunteer Barbara Brown who founded The Steel Spirit, which hosts galleries of artwork created entirely by military, first responders, and hospital practitioners. Brown, a military wife and former paramedic, created the forum to recognize and give back to those that serve their community and country. After learning of his talent as a poet, she invited Andrews to be part of an upcoming art gallery showing in town. While he could not attend the exhibit, his daughters attended the gallery reception where his poem on the 59th Regiment was prominently displayed. Since then, his poem has continued to be on display with The Steel Spirit at more gallery locations.

One of the greatest things about having him join the circle of Steel Spirit artists is how admired he is by the other artists, says Brown.

"It's the absolute wisdom he carries in his presence with them. On a few occasions over the last two years, the other artists have come with me to the nursing home to meet and talk with Fred. He is so humbled by being part of it all and yet brings such immediate perspective and humour to the room."

*The weather now was getting coarse  
And trench life tried to kill  
Our boys with wet and rainy days,  
But we proved our native skill.*

*We made our foxholds near the guns  
And sheltered then within tin,  
Reinforcing firm and strong  
With earth filled cartridge bins.*

*But this was only a part of it.  
And we did fully know,  
Here night by night old Jerry barked  
From mortars down below.  
By now we had cleared Breskens  
And shifted from the West,  
Moving to front positions  
And blasted Hitler's best.*

Excerpt from Fred Andrews' poem  
"The Trail of 59th Newfoundland  
Heavy Regiment"



Photo credit: Roberta Place

Back row from left: Trisha MacLeod, Colin Partridge, and Lee-Ann LeMesurier. Front Row: Andrews and The Steel Spirit founder Barbara Brown.

But there haven't been too many visits this year due to COVID. On Nov. 11, there wasn't a large Remembrance Day gathering of residents at Roberta Place. Instead, a public address announcement alerted residents to observe the moment of silence; TVs were tuned to the live coverage from the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier.

Residents broke into five cohorts due to the pandemic. Each cohort was permitted to gather for what the Lodge called a Memorial Social. It enabled residents to gather at their nearby nurse's station with veterans having an opportunity to wear their medals and tell their stories about military service.

The importance of Andrews' military service and some of the other residents wasn't lost on Crane or other staff members at Roberta Place.

"I think we owe a huge debt of gratitude to these individuals who fought for our freedom and he is one of them," says Crane. "For someone like Fred who saw so much destruction and death, to be able to come home from the war and establish a sense of normality and dedicate his life to teaching is really something remarkable."





Capt Chris Willis



CPO1 Pascal Harel

## HMCS Winnipeg finds a way to vote

### Captain Chelsea Dubeau HMCS Winnipeg

When a snap provincial election was called in September, it presented a unique dilemma for deployed members on board *HMCS Winnipeg*.

How was one to cast their vote while sailing halfway around the world?

The usual method used for federal elections – mail-in ballots – was out; COVID-19's impact on the mail and supply chain saw to that. So what was the democratically-minded sailor to do?

Fortunately, a collaborative effort between senior staff at Maritime Forces Pacific, Canadian Fleet Pacific, Elections BC, and, of course, on board *Winnipeg*, helped make this endeavour possible.

It wouldn't be via mail, there was simply not enough time for that, and pre-registration was also off the table. By the time options had been weighed for how to facilitate voting, the pre-registration window for eligible voters had already passed.

What came about was an innovative solution that hadn't before been used in a deployed naval environment: assisted, telephone voting.

Typically reserved for those members of the electorate who are unable to vote in person, due to disability for example, members on board *Winnipeg* were given the opportunity to cast their vote via telephone from Oct. 9 right up until the provincial election date of Oct. 24. The ship's Voice-over-IP telephones were



used for the purpose, and pre-registration wasn't required; in fact, several voters on board were able to register right over the telephone. Identification was required and verified over the phone, and the assisted voting officials even provided each voter with a run down of candidates in their riding.

The whole process, on average, took about 10 minutes per person.

Captain Chris Willis, *Winnipeg's* Padre, was the second person to cast their vote after Chief Petty Officer first Class Pascal Harel, *Winnipeg's* Coxswain.

"I'm very pleased that we got an opportunity to vote," said Captain Willis. "I take my democratic right to vote very seriously and try to vote whether it's municipal, provincial, or federal, whenever I can."

But while it may have been easy for *Winnipeg* sailors to cast their ballots, it took a lot of time and effort to bring the whole thing to fruition.

"I know there was a lot of leg work and a lot of effort by people in the chain of command, and that's very much appreciated," said Captain Willis. "I know people back home were working hard on this too, so Bravo Zulu for making sure we could participate."

About 120 members on board had cast their ballots by the time the final voting window for *Winnipeg* wrapped up.

*Winnipeg* is currently deployed in the Asia-Pacific region on Operation Projection and Operation Neon, to further strengthen Canada's relations with partners in the area.



Capt Chris Willis, HMCS Winnipeg's Padre, casts his vote in the provincial election via phone.

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# matters of **OPINION**

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## WHAT SAY YOU

# Making your finances a family matter

**Shannon Childs**  
SISIP Financial Esquimalt

2020 marks the 10th year of Financial Literacy month. Financial Literacy is an integral component of our learning experience, teaching us to manage, spend, and save our money. Ensuring your loved ones have a solid foundation in financial literacy will help them achieve their financial goals and set them up for success. To guide our dependents down the proper financial path, we need to lead by example, sharing our knowledge and money management skills, and including them (spouses/dependents) when it comes to:

1. Meetings with your financial advisor.
2. Paying bills or doing your taxes.
3. Sharing experiences, achievements and concerns.

A gradual introduction will take the fear out of finances and starting financial education early on creates habits and sets the stage for sound financial decisions. An easy stepping-stone is creating and maintaining a detailed budget, which can help them with their spending habits; show them where to cut back and what steps to take to start a solid savings plan. Check out the ins and outs of budgeting and download the SISIP Financial Budget worksheet.

Young adults who are new to investing can also get overwhelmed and feel pushed into making rash decisions without knowing the consequences; make sure they understand the basics of investing, the fees involved, and what questions to ask. Review together the various forms of credit, interest rates, and the financial impact of "overextending" yourself.

Working with a financial advisor you can take first steps to building credit, accumulating emergency funds, and finding the appropriate investment vehicle tailored to your specific situation. CAF members, their spouses and dependents can get the right advice from a SISIP Financial professional, at no cost. Our staff are dedicated to your financial education and wellbeing. They will take the time to guide you, helping you meet your financial goals.

Properly educating yourself and your family is instrumental in helping reduce your overall financial risk. Another important and often overlooked risk management tool is the addition of insurance to your overall financial plan. While probability of risk may be low, if something does occur it can have a significant financial impact; insurance products can help mitigate your risk by transferring the financial cost to the insurance company. Life Insurance goes beyond covering basic funeral expenses; it can also assist with survivors with:

- Paying off the mortgage;
- Elder care cost;
- Childcare; and
- Lessen the tax blow for a dependent's inheritance.

At SISIP Financial, our vision is: "Every member of the CAF community and their family has financial health and security."

Continue asking questions; enhance and share your knowledge with your loved ones. Make sure they are financially informed and prepared, thereby secured and protected.



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*Mutual Funds Provided through FundEX Investments Inc.*

## What Remembrance Day Means to Me

**Ken Levert**



I am proud to say I am a veteran of the Royal Canadian Navy.

Remembrance Day means to me, that in 1914 when some European countries decided to settle their differences with military might, our veterans answered the call for help. They endured trench warfare, toxic gases, constant death all around them, and thousands never came home.

It means that in 1939 when the world was threatened with military expansion by ruthless regimes, thousands of our veterans again stood up with our allies to preserve our way of life.

It means that the veterans Canada sent to the Korean War,

and the peacekeeping missions in Cyprus, Somali, Croatia, Afghanistan, and others, were sent there to stand between warring parties and defend innocent civilians from crimes against humanity.

Why have we always lived in a democracy, rather than under a foreign dictator?

Why can we choose our own religion, speak our own language, have our own flag?

Because our men and women in uniform, past and present, our veterans, have, and continue to put themselves in harms way to preserve these things for us.

Some gave all their tomorrows, for our todays.

So, I urge you all, when you see a person wearing their medals or their military uniform, say: "Thank you for your service", and show your support and gratitude to them by wearing a poppy on Remembrance Day.



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## PROFILE



## PO2 SARA HARRIS: A LEGACY OF SERVICE



Petty Officer Second Class (PO2) Sara Harris, a Financial Services Supervisor aboard *HMCS Winnipeg*, joined the Royal Canadian Navy (RCN) as a Reservist at *HMCS Chippawa* as a summer occupation to help pay for university 30 years ago.

"It was either that or tree-planting to pay for university."

One of the biggest decision she has made during her employment was whether to move from the Reserve Force to the Regular Force.

"It meant having to leave the East Coast after many years there. It was quite a wrench as my parents had chosen to retire in Nova Scotia from Winnipeg just a few years earlier," PO2 Harris explains. "But there is a quote from John Wooden that I used to have as part of my work email signature block: 'Things turn out best for the people who make the best of the way things turn out.' This is one of the things I tell myself when I am facing challenges that come my way."

She decided to move to the Regular Force after spending close to a decade in the private sector, and finds the greatest contrast is the close-knit community with her shipmates.

"The best part about being in the navy is the camaraderie. The opportunity to meet and work with people from all over the country is also really great. But the main reason I switched from the Reserves to the Regular Force was to be able to

sail on a Canadian Patrol Frigate, which is what I am doing right now. This is my favorite job so far."

*Winnipeg* is currently deployed in the Asia-Pacific region on Operation Projection Asia-Pacific and Operation Neon, to further strengthen Canada's relations with partners in the area.

Though this posting is close to three decades in the making, her most memorable and life-changing experience in the navy happened at CFB Borden, ON, when she was a Reservist. That is where she met her husband, an army reservist, on a career course.

"I can't see that we would have met otherwise, as we are from different parts of the country and belong to different elements of the Canadian Armed Forces."

Her family has a long history of military service and includes service by great-grandfathers, dating back to the Boer War, all the way through to service by an uncle in the Korean War, and now her current service in the navy.

"Canada is not a super power but we have proven time and time again that we have an important role to play on the world stage."

In that light, PO2 Harris offers this quote by the American cultural anthropologist Margaret Mead: "Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful, committed citizens can change the world. Indeed, it is the only thing that ever has."



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# Art project highlights World Children's Day

## CFMWS

Thirty years ago, world leaders made an historic commitment to the world's children by adopting the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child – an international agreement on childhood.

It's become the most widely ratified human rights treaty in history and has helped transform children's lives globally.

"Around the world, children are showing us their strength and leadership advocating for a more sustainable world for all," said UN Secretary-General António Guterres. "Let's build on advances and re-commit to putting children first. For every child, every right."

World Children's Day was first established in 1954 as Universal Children's Day and is celebrated on Nov. 20 each year to promote international togetherness, awareness among children worldwide, and improving children's welfare.

Canadian Armed Forces (CAF) members help protect Canadian children's and other children's rights every day. Our military contribute to a more stable, peaceful world through support operations and peacekeep-

ing. Their work helps children have a voice, be protected from harm, have their basic needs met, and have the opportunity to reach their full potential.

### Art project - Nov. 20 deadline

With this in mind, Personnel Support Programs (PSP), a division of Canadian Forces Morale and Welfare Services (CFMWS), invites you and your children to take part in this year's national art project, *Our Shining Stars*.

"It's important to encourage dialogue between CAF members and their families. Children who take part in this art project will learn about how their CAF parent or loved-one helps protect theirs and other children's rights every day," said Ryan Cane, Senior Manager Recreation Programs and Community Services.

Celebrations include a virtual ceremony Nov. 20 at 7 p.m. eastern. Children are invited to light their lantern (this year's art project) and sing along with recording artist Matt Lang. World Children's Day offers a unique opportunity to raise awareness of children's rights, to promote and shed light on them, and turn this date into action for children everywhere.

For more information: [www.caf-connection.ca/ChildrensDay](http://www.caf-connection.ca/ChildrensDay)



Ordinary Seaman Addisiane Freeland joins local school children in a traditional dance at L'Espace de Fraternité in Lomé, Togo, during Operation Projection on March 6, 2019.

Photo by Corporal David Veldman

## Support tomorrow's leaders today.

## Give to the Quadra Education Foundation



### Former Victoria sea cadet wins scholarship in memory of RCN Chief Petty Officer

Sarah Miller took one more step towards her dream of becoming a registered nurse when she was awarded a \$1,000 scholarship by the Quadra Education Foundation.

The former cadet from Royal Canadian Sea Cadet Corps RAINBOW in Victoria is in her first year of pursuing a Bachelor of Science in Nursing degree at Camosun College and the University of Victoria. She also spent many summers training and serving as a staff cadet at HMCS QUADRA Cadet Training Centre in Comox.

"I will be the first in my family to get a university degree. My Sea Cadet career is one I will remember forever. If it wasn't for cadets, I would not be pursuing the degree I am today; cadets provided me with tools I will carry with me for the rest of my life."

Miller received the inaugural Keith Hunter Memorial Award named in honour of the late CPO1 Keith Hunter, RCN, (1933 - 2019) who served as staff cadet training officer at HMCS QUADRA Cadet Training Centre in the early 1990s.

The scholarship was made possible through the support of many HMCS QUADRA alumni and

Chief Hunter's family, who contributed more than \$7,200 as part of an online fundraising campaign held last spring.

"My educational pursuits would not be possible without generous support from scholarship sponsors like you," said Miller.

Since 2016, the Quadra Education Foundation has awarded more than 50 scholarships to cadets, officers and alumni of HMCS QUADRA.

To support another future leader like Sarah Miller, please visit [www.quadraeducationfoundation.com](http://www.quadraeducationfoundation.com) to give.

*This feature was made possible through generous support from Dan McLaren, Commonwealth Group of Companies and HMCS QUADRA alum.*



CPO1 Keith Hunter



Sarah Miller

[QuadraEducationFoundation.com](http://QuadraEducationFoundation.com)





Capt(N) Sam Sader, Base Commander, at Esquimalt's Memorial Cenotaph.



Sailor Third Class Andre Cormier stands on guard at the Victoria Cenotaph.

Photo by S1 Victoria Ioganov, MARPAC Imaging Services

# REMEMBRANCE DAY



Photo by LCdr Colin Dudeck

Sailpast Fisguard Lighthouse of Orca class vessel Renard during Remembrance Day.

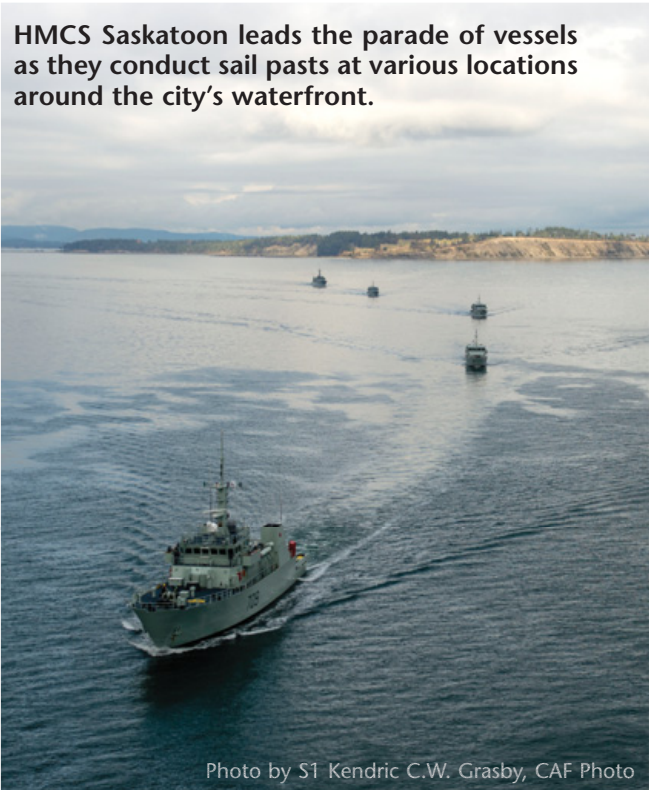


Photo by S1 Kendric C.W. Grasby, CAF Photo

HMCS Saskatoon leads the parade of vessels as they conduct sail pasts at various locations around the city's waterfront.



Rear-Admiral Bob Auchterlonie, Commander of Maritime Forces Pacific, lays a wreath on behalf of the Canadian Armed Forces at the Victoria Cenotaph.

Photo by S1 Victoria Ioganov, MARPAC Imaging Services



“But the freedom that they fought for, and the country grand they wrought for, is their monument today, and for aye.”  
—Thomas Dunn English

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Elaine Bryce, daughter of Gordon Bryce, a member of the Corps of Canadian Firefighters, with CWO Bruce Paradis at the plaque unveiling to honour the Corps.

An Inscription on a plaque at the Hampshire Fire and Rescue Service in England pays tribute to the Corps of Canadian Firefighters:

*Dedicated to*  
*The Corps of (Civilian) Canadian Fire Fighters who volunteered to come to the United Kingdom in support of the men and women serving with the National Fire Service.*  
*The First contingent of what was to total 406 men arrived on June 24 1942 and the last left for home on August 19 1945.*  
*Distinctive by their style of uniform, the Corps operated from their own fire stations in Southampton, Portsmouth, Bristol and Plymouth.*  
*During their deployment three members of The Corps lost their lives.*  
*In recognition of Service, the Commanding Officer, Chief G E Huff MM was awarded an OBE, Senior Company Officer N Torno was awarded the MBE and a BEM was awarded to Senior Company Officer M W Dolman and Leading Fireman C J Diwell.*  
*Lest We Forget*

# CANADIAN FIREFIGHTERS HELPED ENGLAND FIGHT FIRES

**Peter Mallett**  
Staff Writer

If you visit the headquarters of Hampshire Fire and Rescue Service in southern England you will notice a commemorative plaque mounted in its entranceway. The flat tablet of brass is prominently displayed next to a portrait of Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II. Upon closer inspection, a casual observer will quickly understand it serves to honour the bravery and valour of the 422 members of the Corps of Canadian Fire Fighters, who volunteered for service in the paramilitary organization to help during Germany's infamous Blitz on England in the early 1940s. Canadians filled the ranks of National Fire Service and deployed across London, Southampton, Portsmouth, Bristol and Plymouth to fight the fires.

The monument also serves as a memorial to three Canadian firefighters who died during their service. Three others were seriously injured in the line duty.

**The dedication ceremony**

In February 2008, Chief Warrant Officer (now retired) Bruce Paradis led a Canadian delegation to the dedication ceremony. He served in the Canadian Forces National Defence Fire Service for 36 years and currently volunteers as the Treasurer of the Canadian Fallen Firefighters Foundation and as its Atlantic Canada Director.

"The Corps was an unknown because they did not fight as soldiers, but they served and served well. These brave Canadians worked alongside their British counterparts who had been devastated by the constant fires cause by the dreaded V1 buzz bomb," he said.

The unveiling ceremony in Hampton also served as a book launch for local author John Leete, who worked with the Hampton Fire and Rescue Service. His book *Under Fire* chronicles the formation of England's Auxiliary Fire Service in the late 1930s and eventually the emergency provisions made for a National Fire Service in 1941. He devotes two chapters to the role of Canadian firefighters who served England with distinction between 1942 and 1945.

**A Cry For Help**

The devastation from German bombings in London was immense. According to the Canadian Firefighters Museum, during a 60-day period starting September 1940, Germans pounded England with rocket attacks and caused no fewer than 17,714 structure fires in London proper. But the bombings encompassed a much larger area than just London, and included



Gordon Byrce, Canadian Firefighter in the Corps.

much of southern England and areas as far north as Manchester.

It wasn't until the summer of 1941 that the call for Canadian volunteers went out. That was precipitated by Canadian Prime Minister William Lyon Mackenzie King's visit to London in the summer of 1941. It was then that the Prime Minister saw with his own eyes the level of destruction that had occurred, says Paradis.

The number of air attacks by the Germans had greatly reduced by early 1942, but England was still under bombardment. The first Canadian contingent of firefighters arrived in June 1942 and by December all 422 personnel were in place serving the southern area of the country in London, Southampton, Portsmouth, Bristol, and Plymouth.

"From the mouth of the Prime Minister of Canada to the deployment in the UK, it is remarkable that it took only six months to call for volunteers from our existing Canadian departments and have just over 400 men on the ground in the U.K.," says Paradis.

Their job, upon the sounding of the air raid sirens, was to leave their quarters and proceed into the deserted streets while the populace took shelter.

"This allowed them to be tactically deployed in the event that a lucky bomb found their home station, and allowed them to spot fires caused by the bombings," he says.

They worked in perilous conditions conducting search and rescue operations and extinguishing or controlling fires started by the bombings. The Corps was commanded by Gordon E. Huff, a former Fire Chief of the Brantford, ON, Fire Department.

Before they could return to Canada in late 1944, a parade was held in London in their honour, from Trafalgar Square to Canada House. For their efforts, the corps received The Order of the British Empire, British Empire Medals, and the Royal Humane Society Testimonial on Parchment and Vellum along with special badges for individual service.

By the end of the war, 997 firefighters from Canada and England died in their service to the war effort.



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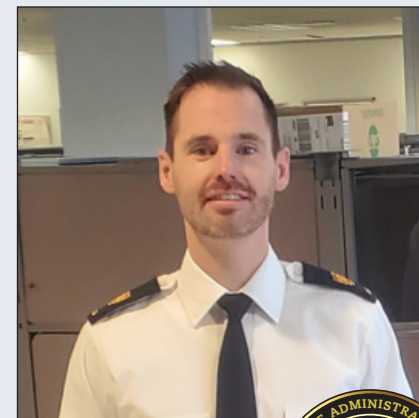
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## PROFILE

## CPO2 Grimard - Senior Human Resource Manager

**2Lt Jamie Boparai**  
Base Administration



A career road is rarely a straight line. For Chief Petty Officer Second Class Mark Grimard, his journey to become the Base Administration's Senior Human Resource Manager began in the army as a Primary Reserve armored soldier with the Sherbrooke Hussars.

A few his friends joined the regiment right after high school while CPO2 Grimard took the college route, studying computer sciences before signing up.

"My original intention for joining was to pay for school, but it eventually turned into a long and rewarding career."

When college concluded he went to work at CF Recruiting Centre Detachment Sherbrooke.

Two distinct realizations came out of this posting that led him down his current path. First, his education was better suited for employment as a Human Resource Administrator. At the time the trade was a combination of Finance and Human Resources (RMS Clerk) before being separated in 2016 into two distinct trades (Fin and HRA).

Second, he wanted to wear the navy uniform and deploy on a warship.

He moved into the RMS Clerk Trade while still in the army and began his three months of training in 2001.

Much of what he learned is still relevant today, he says, although it is done in quite a different fashion with the emergence of technology in the workplace.

"Back then we used hard copy binders to find policies and benefits. We also had to ensure the information was not dated or superseded by visiting various websites. We still do the same job today, but it's much simpler. Everything is online and in one location. It makes life easier, quickly finding information while ensuring accuracy."

In 2005, he chose the navy uniform when he transferred to the Regular Force. RMS Clerks are considered a "purple trade," meaning they can conduct the same work within the air, land, and sea elements.

He honed his educational background and administrative skillsets through two army postings, one of which led to a 2010 deployment to Afghanistan. Attached to a first line artillery unit, he says, "Being an HRA [RMS Clerk] gave me a feeling of still belonging to the army, although supporting in a different capacity" than his previous trade.

In 2015, 10 years after donning the naval uniform for the first time, CPO2 Grimard finally received a posting to Canadian Forces Base Esquimalt.

In 2017, he was able to achieve his longstanding goal with a posting to HMCS Winnipeg and a deployment on Operation Projection.

Although a great experience, naval deployments are quite different than the army from an HRA perspective.

"In the army you deploy to a single location and that's where you stay. Ships travel to different locations and we need to follow the rules and regulations of each country."

This complicates matters as members are required to enter and leave various countries throughout a deployment.

"There are so many moving parts required to sail; being on board a ship provides a depth of knowledge and awareness that enables you to have a better perspective on how the navy operates."

An HRA's main role preparing for a naval deployment is ensuring members DAG (departure assistance group) and are fit from an administrative standpoint.

All of his experiences have prepared CPO2 Grimard for his current position as the Senior Human Resource Manager of Base Administration.

"Being on a naval base, having experience working in the fleet aboard ship gives you a better perspective on the operational requirements to support, not only base operations, but also the fleet."

He now has a wide range of responsibilities that include pay and records, releases, foreign duty, and relocations services. To handle this enormous responsibility, he has a team of 40 military and civilian employees.

"It takes a bit of adjustment in managing so many personnel. You have to be personable, approachable, and a good listener."

Mentorship and guidance are other important functions when working in a large department. "Personnel are constantly being posted in and out and we need to develop newcomers while preparing outgoers for their new roles."

The position has afforded the opportunity to display his traits of open-mindedness, adaptability, and flexibility to change, especially since the arrival of COVID.

"We now need to be flexible and push innovation that caters to the reality of our new environment in order to support our clients and the mission at hand."

For example, CPO2 Grimard and his staff are working constantly to lessen the requirements of customers physically coming in to the Base Orderly Room.

"We try to communicate by phone and email; physical documents are moving to e-docs at a rapid pace, which inherently speeds up processes. Even out-routines are all online now."



## Veteran Affairs Canada: Faces of Freedom

### Private (Retired) Vicky Luscombe

#### Veteran Affairs Canada

Private (Retired) Vicky Luscombe was born in St. John's, Newfoundland, during the summer of 1925. As the Second World War commenced, she had plans of enlisting to support the Canadian war effort. At 16, she was turned away due to her young age. But two years later, just a day after her 18th birthday, she was accepted by the Forces and joined the Canadian Women's Army Corps (CWAC).

Born Emily Victoria Goodyear, but known to everyone as Vicky, she was the middle child in a family with five. She spent much of her childhood helping her mother raise her younger brothers before she joined the CWAC against the wishes of her parents.

Her career with the Forces began in Kitchener, ON, where she enrolled in a driver's course. Upon completion of the course, she was assigned to Chilliwack, BC, as a member of the CWAC. Her duties included driving officers around and delivering important messages from site to site. She was assigned her own Jeep to complete her day-to-day tasks.

"She loved serving her country, and reveled in the independence and fellowship that came with it," said Rob Luscombe, one of her children. "She was

full of vim and vigour."

On May 8, 1945, Victory in Europe (V-E) Day was declared. The war in Europe had concluded, but the conflict in Asia and the Pacific continued to rage on.

Aug. 14, 1945, began as a regular day for her. She was driving through downtown Vancouver stopped at a red light, while delivering various messages throughout the city. Little did she know the Second World War was about to end.

"She was downtown and couldn't figure what all the cheering and noise was about," says Rob. "A couple of people ran by and shouted that the war was over."

Residents and fellow Forces members in Vancouver caught wind of this, and approached her Jeep in excitement, with many waving flags in celebration. A photographer, from the now defunct Vancouver Sun, captured the moment of pure joy.

The next day was declared Victory over Japan (V-J) Day, and officially marked the end of the Second World War.

"The day the Jeep picture was taken, she was nervous about getting in trouble for allowing all those people to jump on the jeep with her, especially when she saw the photographer taking pictures," Rob says. "But relaxed a little when she learned the war was over."



Pte Vicky Luscombe at the wheel of her jeep with jubilant folks after hearing of the war's end.

Following the emotional moment in Vancouver that marked the conclusion of the Second World War, Private Goodyear released from the Forces in February of 1946. She was awarded the Canadian Volunteer Service Medal and was set to return home to Newfoundland. She travelled by train from Vancouver to Sydney, Nova Scotia, and boarded a ferry home.

On the ferry, she met her future husband William "Bill" Luscombe, who was

returning home from fighting overseas. Bill had enlisted with the North Nova Scotia Highlanders in 1943, before serving in Britain, France, and Belgium, and during the Liberation of the Netherlands. His fellow infantry gave him the nickname "Lucky". He too was discharged in February of 1946, and for his service was awarded the 1939-45 Star, the France and Germany Star, and the Canadian Volunteer Service Medal and Clasp.



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# Virtual exercise – using all opportunities to train

**Lt(N) Pete Bigelow**  
NPTG(A)

Working remotely or virtually may be new to many people this year because of the pandemic, but the Canadian Armed Forces and their international Allies have been exercising this capability for years.

Virtual exercising was strengthened recently with Exercise Coalition Virtual Flag (CVF) 21-1. Virtual Flag is an annual United States Air Force-led exercise that ran for nearly two weeks – Oct. 27 to Nov. 5.

While the exercise was hosted at Kirkland AFB in Albuquerque, New Mexico, 3,740 kilometres away from the entrance of building S17 in Halifax, NS, Royal Canadian Navy and Royal Canadian Air Force members did not have to leave their area code to participate.

From the Canadian side, participants were from 14 Wing Greenwood, 12 Wing Shearwater, 8 Wing Trenton, and Naval Training Development Center Atlantic (NTDC(A)).

Overall, there were over 450 joint and coalition war fighters involved, as well as numerous surface and subsurface units. All these war fighters were controlled from 23 sites spanning three continents.

There has been an ever increasing employment of synthetic training within the Canadian Armed Forces and many Allied forces. CVF 21-1 and other virtual exercises allow units to maintain and refine core war fighting capabilities without being hindered by logistics and engineering issues. Participants can obtain the benefits that traditionally have only been afforded by sending ships and aircraft to sea for weeks on end, by simply showing up to a building near their home. It now becomes a regular working day and everyone returns for supper with their loved ones every evening.

Another benefit is there are less moving parts running in the background with synthetic training. On a ship or in an aircraft, things can go wrong and hinder the exercise objectives. With synthetic training, issues can arise but are easily managed by those who run the Distributed Mission Operation Centre.

The value of this kind of exercise is not limited to strengthening the battle rhythm. Virtual task group exercises with Allied countries can mimic real life war fare reaction. All the pieces don't just magically come together, however; sailors and aircrew still have to prepare as if it was actually occurring in the Pacific Ocean or whatever



theatre is chosen.

Upon the completion of a synthetic training run, participants conduct a post exercise meeting or "hot wash up" and discuss what transpired, lessons learned, and what to expect for the next day's run. This may not seem overly important but teleconference meetings before and afterwards have the added value of strengthening the personal bond between members of different units and nations. The simple act of conversing allows participants to learn from one another, better understand each other, and ultimately

strengthens the ties between Allies.

As technology improves and the need to strengthen ties with fellow NATO nations and beyond becomes more important, synthetic training will continue to expand. The ability to hold more comprehensive virtual exercises with even more participants will allow the navy and the CAF as a whole to effectively focus on shared training and tactics and procedures, enabling Canada and our allies to work even better together in pursuit of common objectives.

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# Bravo Zulu

## Base Administration

Promotion and Coin Presentation Oct. 28.

Right: SLt Linda Whitehouse receives the Commanding Officer's Coin from Cdr Jason Barbagallo for her exemplary work and dedication while employed as the assistant to Base Administration's Coxswain.

Below: MS Guy is promoted to her current rank by Cdr Barbagallo and CPO2 Rohrback.



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# Bravo Zulu

## Naval Fleet School (Pacific) Awards and Presentations

Cdr Annick Fortin, Commandant NFS(P), made awards and promotions on Oct. 30.



Lt(N) Down receives the Special Service Medal Expedition for Operation Poseidon Cutlass 2017-1 in HMCS Ottawa.



PO1 Stewart receives the Special Service Medal Expedition for Operation Projection 2018 in HMCS Vancouver.



MS Hamar receives the Special Service Medal Expedition for Operation Projection 2018 in HMCS Vancouver.



S1 Dula receives the Special Service Medal Expedition for Operation Poseidon Cutlass 2017-1 in HMCS Ottawa.



S1 Frappier receives the Special Service Medal Expedition for Operation Projection 2018 in HMCS Vancouver.



S1 Vandenberg receives the Special Service Medal Expedition for Operation Projection 2018 in HMCS Vancouver.



Lt(N) Pumphrey receives the Canadian Forces' Decoration for 12 years of service.



PO2 Russell receives the Canadian Forces' Decoration for 12 years of service.



MS Albin receives the CJOC Commendation for FDER 2018 Operaton Projection in HMCS Calgary.



PO2 Fraser receives a MARPAC Bravo Zulu for a DWP 2018 in HMCS Vancouver.



PO2 Howell receives the Platinum Incentive for achieving the Platinum level on the FORCE test.



Lt(N) Pumphrey receives the Platinum Incentive for achieving the Platinum level on the FORCE test.



Left: S1 Johnson is promoted to MS.

Right: SLt Lay is promoted to Lt(N).





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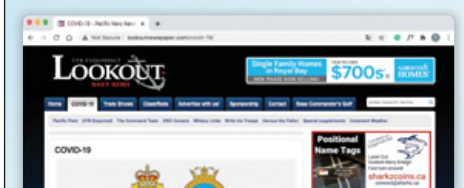
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