



TOTEM TIMES

FREE

19 Wing CFB Comox

FREE

THURSDAY 9 NOVEMBER 2000

Comox Valley's Longest Running Newspaper

VOL. 42 NO. 18

Inside this issue:



Remembrance Day Supplement

Pages 7-10

W Comd's Notes

Page 4

Street proof your kids

Page 6

Xmas spending tips

Page 6

N.Z. memories

Page 2

Heritage Happenings

Page 16



The Ladies Auxillary of the Comox Legion Branch 160 gave W Comd Neumann while calling on him at the Wing. From left to right: Auxillary President, Pat Verchere 1st Vice-president, Col Neumann, LD Smith Sgt at Arms and Barb Wough Catering Chairman.

United Way Goal Exceeded

The United Way 2000 campaign has officially concluded, and the members of 19 Wing have truly outdone themselves. The fundraising goal had been set at \$18,500 based on the amount raised last year. However, Wing personnel dug deep into its pockets and raised almost \$21,000 for the Comox Valley United Way! All the funds raised in the valley will be distributed amongst 28 worthwhile local charities, thus directly helping our friends and neighbours.

This year's campaign was similar to those held during previous years, with volunteers in the various sections canvassing their co-workers for donations. They also organized all the excellent special events, some of which were barbecues, pancake breakfasts, a chilli lunch, car wash, turkey shoot and VCR cleaning. All the volunteers deserve a special round of ap-

plause for taking the time out of their busy schedules to assist in fundraising for the United Way. Without their keen efforts, it would have been impossible to reach the

fundraising goal, let alone exceed it. One person who deserves special recognition is Mr. Rob Acton of the WTIS section. His help was invaluable in setting up and main-

taining the United Way web page. Thanks, Rob!

A perennial favourite of the United Way campaign is the raffle draw. This year, in addition to the traditional holiday package from the Crystal Cove Beach Resort, a variety of other great prizes were also raffled off thanks to the generosity of local businesses and organizations.

Raffle winners this year were: 4 nights at Crystal Cove Resort in Tofino - Sgt Jacques Calmes, 19 AMS; Family Portrait package courtesy of 19 Wing Imaging section - Cpl Mike Burton, AEF; 2 rounds of golf and power cart rental courtesy of Glacier Greens Golf Course - Sgt Serge Rivard, A1 (WA); 2 ski passes courtesy of Mt. Washington Resort - MCpl Eric Niclaes, WSAMP; and a \$25 gift certificate courtesy of Razors Hair Salon - Capt Grant Humphrey, WATC.



Headquarters hosts a barbecue.



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Terry Carr

898-8668

Fumes force Aurora flyers to hospital

A strong burning odour detected shortly after take-off forced a 407 Sqn Aurora back to its base and sent five of her crew to hospital for observation Monday at CFB Comox.

The flyers, all of whom had complained of nausea and dizziness during the brief flight, were released from hospital following an examination by Wing medical staff.

Capt Travis Commandeur, the lead pilot on the Aurora, said they had just departed for a training mission when crewmembers noticed a burning smell in the aircraft's cabin. As they sought to pinpoint the source of the fumes, he declared an emergency and

turned the aircraft back to Comox.

"The fumes were bad enough that one crew member had to breathe emergency oxygen," he said. "Once we got down, an ambulance was standing by to take him to hospital. Afterwards, the other four thought they should go just to be sure."

Commandeur said the crew handled the incident well. "We're constantly training for this sort of thing," he said. "But it's still a huge confidence booster, seeing our crew work together like this."

Capt Ward Fleet, the squadron's acting Maintenance Flight Commander, said an inspection revealed

the odour was likely caused by a transformer, which heated a small amount of material left over from previous maintenance.

"We replaced the transformer, just to be sure, but I'm confident the material found nearby was the cause," Fleet said. "Our technicians have since had the aircraft powered up for hours, and we can't duplicate the smell."

Fleet said the discovery indicates the aircraft would likely have come to no harm had it been further from home. "The odour would probably have dissipated after a while," he said. "System-wise the aircraft was working perfectly."

T-Birds dog Navy off California Coast

MIRAMAR, Calif. - The skies off the coast of California are full of Canadian maple leaves this fall, as seven of 19 Wing's CT-133 'Silver Star' jets fly simulated attacks against ships taking part in a major Canadian Naval exercise. The two-seat jet aircraft, known as "T-Birds", are participating in Task Group Exercise 2-00 along with CF-188 'Hornet' fighters from Cold Lake Alta. and Esquimalt-based warships HMCS Regina, HMCS Algonquin and HMCS Vancouver.

The T-Bird crews, members of Comox-based 414 Combat Support Sqn, are using their wing-mounted state-of-the-art ALQ-503 Electronic Warfare pods to

simulate enemy missiles and aircraft, and jam the radars of the surface ships. They are also towing targets to aid in the training of naval gunnery crews.

"The T-Birds are amazingly versatile aircraft," says 414 Squadron's Commanding Officer Lt Col Yves Bossé. "They date from the 1950s, but their stealthy shape and poor radar reflectivity make them almost invisible, even to the high-tech detection equipment on modern warships."

The threat to modern naval vessels was first understood during the Falklands War, when Argentine Exocet missiles sank several sophisticated British warships. Since then, navies

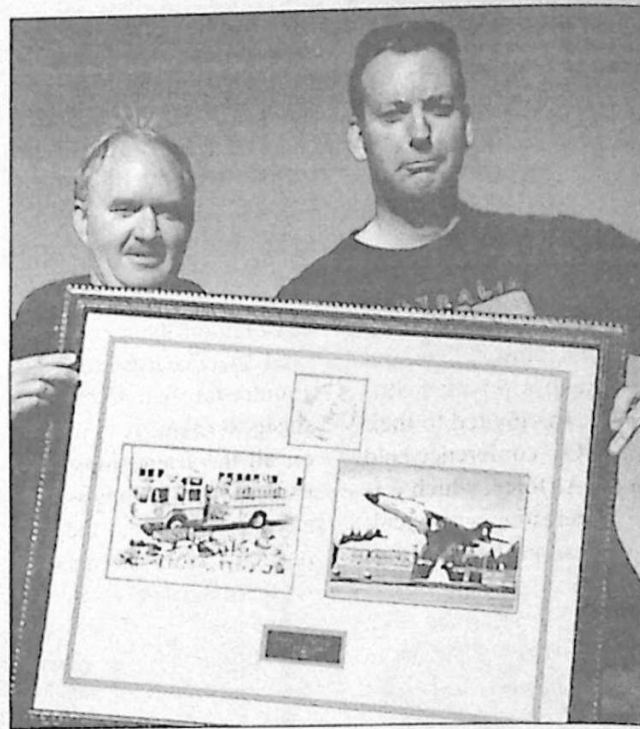
around the world have focussed their training on anti-missile defence. The T-Bird's ability to make itself appear like a missile, or to confuse ships' radar with its jamming equipment, makes it an ideal training tool for Canada's navy says Bossé. "The navy can be called upon to do anywhere at any time in support of NATO, the U.N. or unique Canadian operations. Our job is to make sure they can defend themselves once they get there."

The aircraft detachment, comprising 12 aircrew and eight technicians, is based at Marine Corps Air Station Miramar, former home of the United States navy's famed "Top Gun" school.

Down Under experience

As some of you know, I was nominated as the 651 Firefighter to go on the Canzex Exchange Program in New Zealand from 13 Aug - 24 Oct. I was employed at the Fire Section at an air base called Whenuapi (pronounced fen-noop-pie). It is situated about 15 minutes outside Auckland. The base is similar in size to Comox but with only 10,000 members in their whole military the number of people on the bases is much smaller. While at the Firehall, I had the opportunity to observe first hand their operational procedures and the day to day activities, which are very similar to ours.

Their Firemaster (Chief) is a Warrant Officer, with a Flight Sergeant as the Deputy Chief. Their crash vehicles are older models and they don't have any structural firefighting vehicles thus they respond to PMQ fires with their major foam vehicles. Their training and dedication to the trade is very professional and, as with all firefighters, they welcome you with open arms. On one occasion, the Bullseye Competition between Canada, New Zealand and Britain was happening, so we took a crash



WO Jim Goodwin presenting WO Phil Webley, the Auckland Firemaster, with a gift from the 195 CFR Flight 19 Wing Comox.

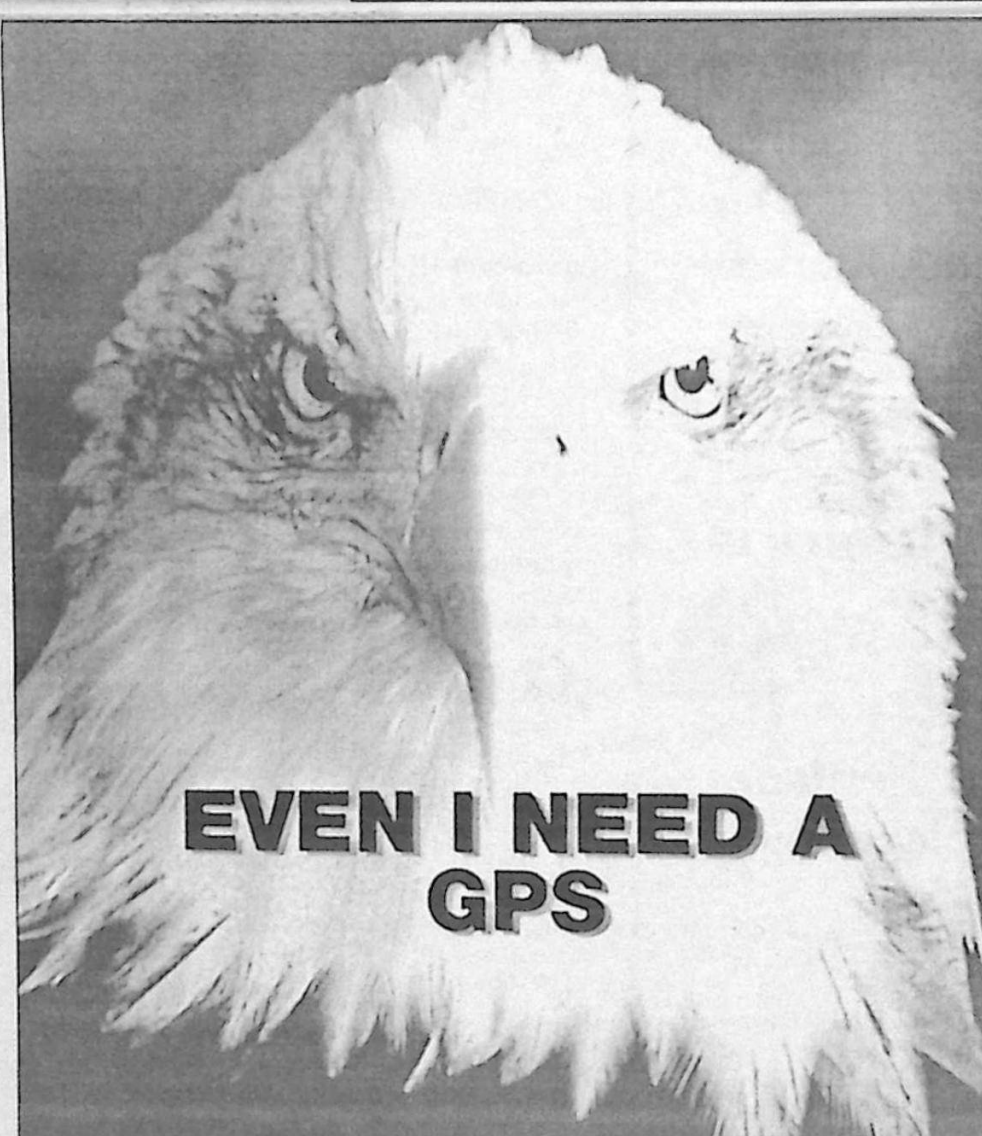
vehicle and provided crash protection at two different runways, one at Lake Taupo and the other at Whakatani, while the C-130's landed and took off.

I got the chance to spend time at all three Fire Departments, which provide support for either fighter or support aircraft. #3 Helicopter Sqn took me up on numerous flights

(Continued on page 3)

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NZ trip

(Continued from page 2)

and practised lowering and raising procedures (from 200ft. it can be a bit scary).

Their military faces the same problems as ours with cutbacks, closures etc. but they keep a positive attitude. I was invited to their first WO's conference held for the Airforce, which was very interesting with excellent guest speakers and topics. It finished with an excellent Mess Dinner that followed protocol similar to ours. Our hosts arranged for us to get on flights, so we got the chance to see most of the country as their air-

craft do duty flights each week. The fishing in New Zealand was great and with a population of 3.6 million and 1 million living in Auckland there's lots of open country for their 45 million sheep to roam! As I reflect on all the friendships I've made, I would strongly urge anyone to jump at the opportunity when nominated for this exchange. As for me it has been the experience of a lifetime and I wish to personally thank all 19 Wing staff who supported and made this exchange a huge success. Chimo!

Local businesses wishing to advertise in the Totem Times should contact our advertising rep Angelika Guerin at (250) 890-0116

Little Dream Home

This is the fourth annual Little Dream Home, which is built for and raffled by the Comox Boys & Girls Club. This is the second year the playhouse has been built by MCpl Mike Stacey (442 Sqn) and his crew:

Cpl Kevin Kilmury, Capt Jen Tyldesley, Lt Rhonda Eddy (all from 442 Sqn) and Boys & Girls volunteers: Bill, Kim, Brian, Jeff and Jessie.

The building of the playhouse took place in the old gymnasium at 19 Wing Comox, and required 100 volunteer hours to complete. The materials were donated by G&R Timber and members of the Canadian Home Builders Association.

This Little Dream House is being raffled off from November 8 to December 13, at the Driftwood Mall. Tickets are also available at the Wise Owl, Cumberland Home Store, and Wonder Works. Our thanks to Sgt Eileen Redding at 19 Wing Imaging for photos, and to Cpl Rob Morrow and crew for transport to the Driftwood Mall.



Help a little child's wish come true with a Little Dream Home, and help a little club realize its dream of raising funds to support its club building at Martin Park. Buy your raffle tickets at \$2.00 each or three for \$5.00. For more information on the Comox Valley Boys & Girls Club, call Jessie Scott at 338-7582.

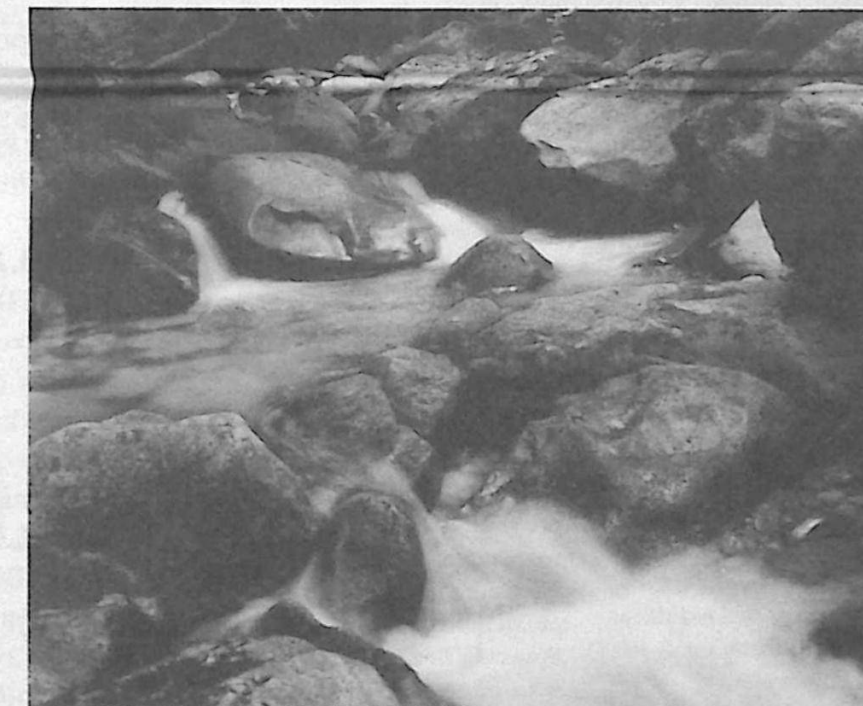
(Photos by Sgt Redding, Wing Imaging)

SOMETIMES A SMALL IDEA IS BETTER THAN A BIG ONE.

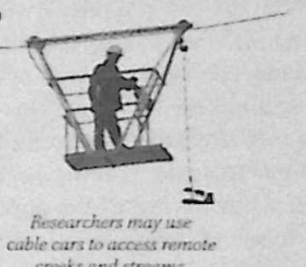
We're looking into micro hydro turbines that can generate power from steep creeks and streams. While they have minimal environmental impact, because they use small water sources that are virtually impassable to fish, the potential of micro turbines remains significant. If many suitable micro hydro sites in BC were built, they would be able to help offset growing demand for electricity in communities throughout the province.



Micro hydro turbines are powered by small water wheels.



viable, renewable sources of energy such as wind power and biomass. We are also developing hydrogen technologies that will soon change the way we fuel our vehicles.



Researchers may use cable cars to access remote creeks and streams.

That's why we are currently identifying creeks and streams throughout BC where micro hydro can be supported. Even though we are a hydroelectric company, we're also now exploring

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EDITORIAL

Saturday is Remembrance Day, so we've put together a special four page section to mark the occasion.

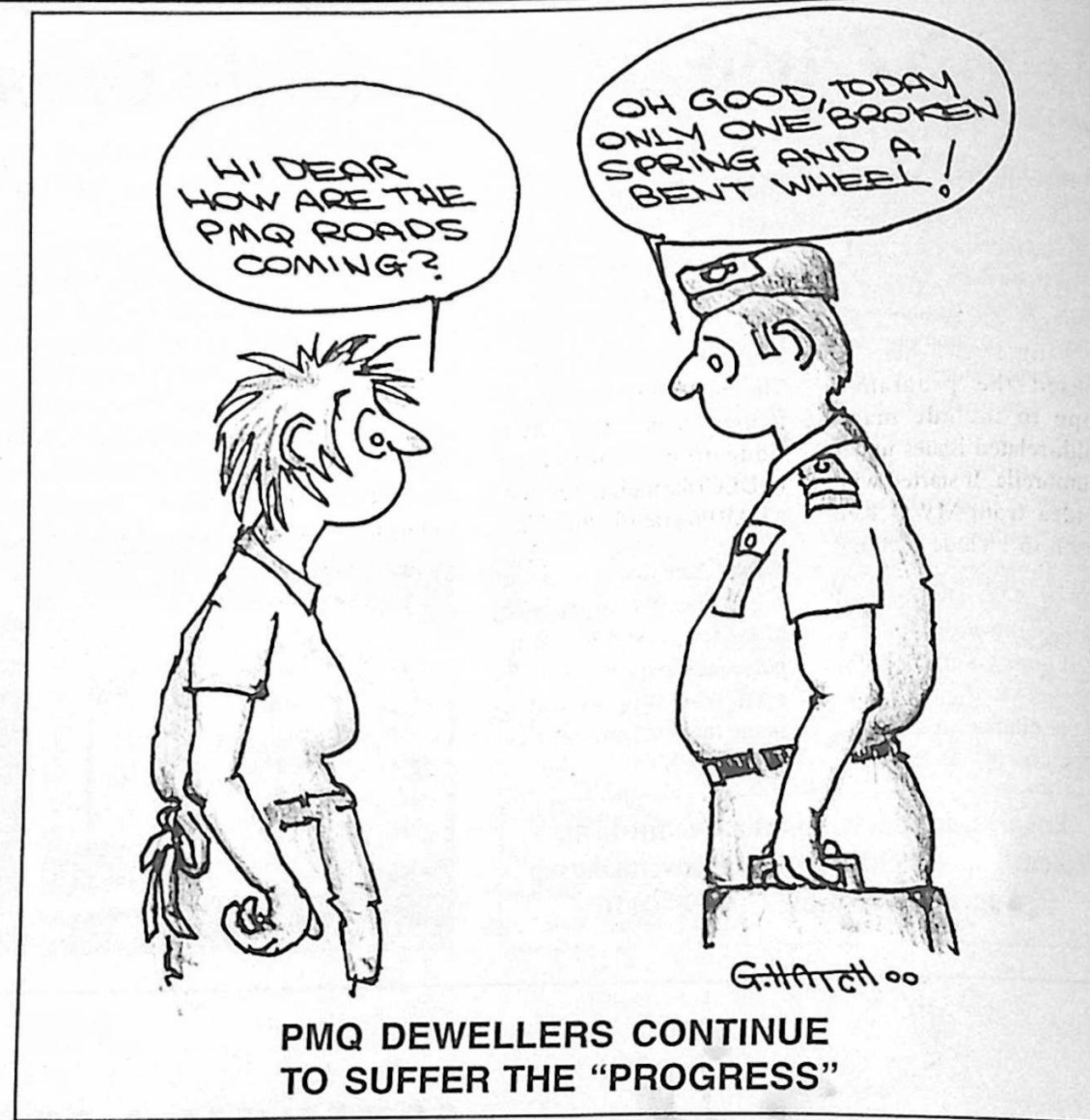
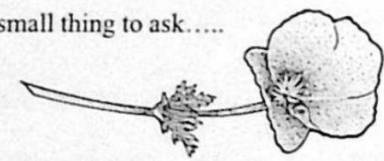
WComd (ret'd) Douglas "Duke" Warren graciously allowed us to reproduce a section from his book, *Gemini Flight*. The selection describes his close encounter with a red hot fragment during a sortie over Calais, France. Needless to say, I think it makes for interesting reading, and it is only one of many such stories in his book. These are not only good stories, though, for they are Duke's personal experiences of the war, so I am grateful he allowed us to share this one with you.

There are many veterans in the Comox Valley. In doing research for the Remembrance Day section, I came to know some of their stories. I encourage you to take the opportunity to speak with them and learn of their firsthand experiences. There is also some excellent material in the Base Museum's library.

This Remembrance Day, the Legion is again asking us all to take part in a "2 minute Wave of Silence" - two minutes out of our busy lives and schedules, whether it be part of a formal service or not, to remember. My Funk and Wagnalls defines "remembrance" as "the act or power of remembering" and defines "remember" as "to bring back or recall again in the mind or memory" or "to keep in mind carefully as for a purpose." The latter definition works for me. So let us all devote two minutes this Saturday solely to keeping in mind those who have served in war and conflict, for the purpose of honoring their service and reminding us all "never again."

Just two minutes, such a small thing to ask....

Bev Wolf



PMQ DEWELLERS CONTINUE TO SUFFER THE "PROGRESS"

WING COMMANDER'S NOTES

The series of Town Hall meetings which we held in early - mid October were again an extremely enjoyable and informative time for me. It is always a pleasure to tear myself away from the office and budget concerns, paperwork, etc, etc, and spend time with you.

In keeping with the theme of getting out of the office, the WFSO, WCWO, WGSO and others will be joining me twice monthly starting in November on Safety Rounds of various sections on the Wing. This will help us to emphasize our strong commitment to a safe working environment while giving us the opportunity to spend time with you and listen to your ideas/concerns on any issues.

The Town Halls were also an excellent opportunity for me to welcome the new members of our team. I emphasized our philosophy that work is allowed to be enjoyable. Our goal must continue to be to meet our stated missions to the best of our ability. However, it does not mean that we must say "yes" to every low priority activity or generate extra work on the backs of our people. So, welcome to 19 Wing. Let's work hard, play hard and make the best of every day on this wonderful Base!

A recurring concern from Military personnel this year has been the fact that 19 Wing did not make the list for Post Living Differential (PLD) this time around. I will continue to press this issue with HHQ, and am

currently in the process of drafting a letter to the CAS with my concerns. The difficulty I have is in the fact that we have not been able to access the full range of data, which could help us determine whether or not we really do have a case. When I read the list of locations that receive PLD, and compare such factors as differences in BSV for PMQs, it does make me suspicious that we have a case. More to follow as I pursue this issue.

Our Civilian members are obviously concerned about and are closely following the progress of UCS. The initial mapping of UCS models to positions at 19 Wing is now complete. This should have helped DND meet the 31 Oct 00, Treasury Board deadline set for this activity. The next phases of UCS implementation are expected to follow shortly, including further training for managers and employees.

Retention is another major issue. I am fully aware that many of our members in all MOCs and rank levels are seriously considering employment opportunities outside the AF. I do not consider this a bad thing. All bright, forward-thinking individuals should periodically evaluate their situations to ensure that they are on the best path. What I do recommend, however, is that you give the AF a fair shake when considering your options. Think about why you joined and what you have accomplished as part of the AF team. Think about how the CF has adapted

over the past few years to put greater emphasis on the well being of you and your family. Think about the adventures to be lived, the camaraderie, the challenges to overcome and the contribution that you can make to the AF. You should also do some financial planning to determine how long you will have to work in another career field to achieve the retirement security that you would gain by staying in. When you have thought of all this, and talked seriously with your peers and supervisors, you will be in a better position to take the right decision for you.

As in the past years, you have posed many intelligent and thought provoking questions and raised some important issues. It is clear to me that most of you recognize the outstanding efforts of the QOL Project Office and the NDHQ staffs who have made such amazing progress on the SCONDVA issues. In fact, even if not in so many words, people are starting to ask what they can do for the AF, not just what the AF can do for them!

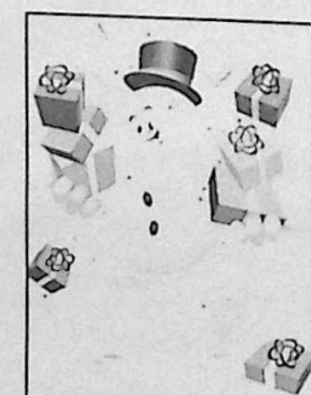
I strongly recommend that you at least scan the answers to all the questions which is available on the BBS, because some represent policy decisions that will impact more than just those who posed them. May I also take this opportunity to thank those who assisted in conducting research on some of the more complex issues.
Colonel W.J. Neumann



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HOLIDAY GIFT GUIDE - A Special Supplement to our 23 NOVEMBER edition.



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SUBSCRIPTION RATE
\$15.00 per year,
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11th Annual DAP Program Workshop - Is this the last one?

By Sgt Brian Buttner, 19 Wing Comox Drug Education Coordinator

If all goes according to plan, this will be the last Drug and Alcohol Prevention (DAPP) Workshop in name only. Since 1990, the 19 Wing DAPP has increased the program's scope to include many health-related issues under its umbrella. It started with an idea from MWO Ken Bisson to include diet and nutrition. This vision started the journey towards a more holistic approach to Drug & Alcohol Education. Over the next four years it remained the same. NDHQ then devolved the DAPP to the Command level and the Command Drug Education Coordinator became very interested in the broader health concept that was being taught in 19 Wing. In the years since then the program has steadily evolved to the point where we now include such a great variety of health programs that the name will be changing to show the reality of what is now a health promotion program. We are hopeful now that the new program with new name and focus on education aimed at health issues in general will become a reality by the summer of 2001.

Acting W Comd LCol Reaume opened this year's DAPP Workshop which was held in the new Fitness & Community Centre. Participants from Goose Bay to Vancouver Island came to a week of 19 Wing sunshine and to be schooled in the intricacies of the DAP and Health Promotion programs. The curriculum is designed to give the new Unit Drug Education Coordinator (UDECE) the tools to develop a DAP Program for their Unit

reality is of great concern to me, as the number one issue identified in the Air Force Health Promotion Survey was Workplace Stress. More than 94% of the respondents identified Stress in the Workplace as either of serious (69.5%) or moderate (24.7%) concern. From that concern, it is natu-



or Wing. Included in this year's program was Stress and Anger Awareness training and for the first time, we included the Applied Suicide Intervention Skills Training. These three areas of training are a vital focus during this period of devolution in the Canadian Forces. Quality of Life issues brought to light by the Standing Committee On National Defence and Veteran Affairs (SCONDA) Report have been partially addressed. However, we in the CF are still living on a daily basis, the very real life version of the saying, "DO MORE, WITH LESS." This

workshop was focused on Drug and Alcohol Prevention. This included how to set up an active and viable

workshop was focused on Drug and Alcohol Prevention. This included how to set up an active and viable

workshop was focused on Drug and Alcohol Prevention. This included how to set up an active and viable

DAPP, Medical aspects of Addiction Flight Safety, Current Drug Trends in Canada, and Gambling. The course participants were given the opportunity to hear speakers from Alcoholics Anonymous and ALANON. They heard first hand how the programs help recovering alcoholics deal with their lives after drinking. The families of the alcoholic need help also as they are very often in deeper stress and turmoil than the addicted person.

You may rightfully ask, why all the fuss on alcohol and drugs? There are many reasons; one obvious reason is that as a fiscally responsible employer the Canadian Forces gains by helping its members who are dealing with addiction issues. In a 30-year study by the General Motors Corporation it was found that a full 80% of all administrative problems were directly or indirectly the result of alcohol and other drug problems. GM now rules out the Alcohol/Other drug component before they go on to other possibilities. After the initial stages of recovery the member becomes a productive member of the team once more.

People under the influence of mind altering drugs such as Alcohol, Cocaine, Marijuana, Heroin and the

side effects of Steroids are a danger to themselves, to their team mates, to equipment and to the mission. So, another powerful incentive to help the member is General and Flight Safety.

However, the most important reason, and the one that I will leave you with is that the CF does care what hap-

pens to its members and wants to help. By bringing you a total Health Promotion Program that includes Alcohol and other Drugs, the CF is indeed looking after your best interests, and those of your family.

"Prevention Works, Be Part of Solution."

RMC Co-ordinator appointed

For several years, RMC has offered university courses to members of the Canadian Forces community. Because of the growth of the program and the increasing demand for student support services, the College recently awarded a contract to WJR and Associates to assist it in providing an enhanced level of service. Caroline Cannon, the CFCCN Co-ordinator for 19 Wing Comox will now also be the RMC Co-ordinator. Her office is in building 22, phone 339-8211 (8889).

With a local co-ordinator available on a regular schedule, members of the base/wing community will have opportunities to discuss earning an undergraduate or graduate degree with

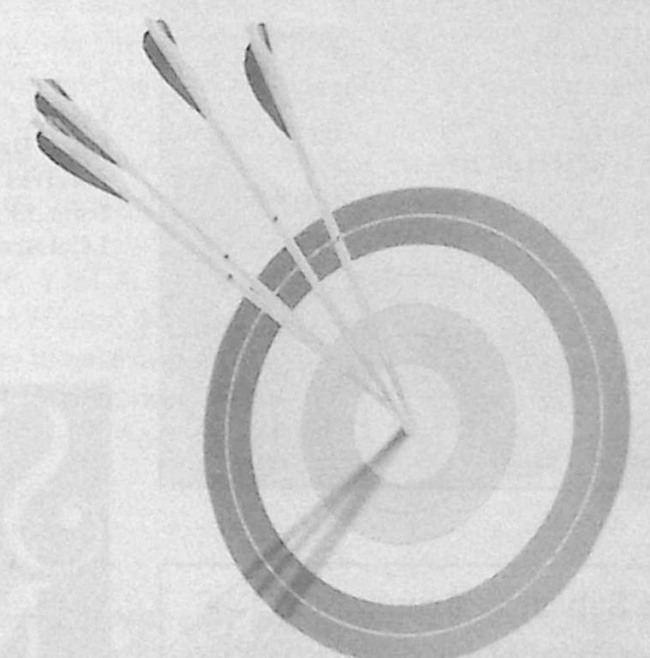
RMC or with partner universities. RMC grants a significant number of university credits for specific military training and experience.

Organizing a schedule of university courses when members of the community are available will be critical to the success of the program. Shortly, there will be a major survey undertaken to determine areas of academic interest as well as scheduling preferences and requirements.

Introduction to Issues in Peacekeeping and Peacemaking (HIE 382) is scheduled for January.

For more information and a chance to discuss the university degree designed for members of the CF community, contact Caroline Cannon.

STRATEGIC deployment



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All letters to the Editor must be signed and include a date and telephone number. Name may be withheld from publication on writer's request. Letters should be addressed to:
Totem Times, C.F.B. Comox, P.O. Box 1000 Stn. Main, Lazo, B.C. V0R 2K0 or by Fax: (250)339-5209. Readers are reminded that this column is your platform to express your opinion in your newspaper.

Next Deadline
Advertising: 15 Nov.
Articles: 17 Nov. noon



Cops Corner Protecting our children

As a matter of practicality, the police simply can't be everywhere at once; thus, crime in society will never be completely eliminated. More than ever, parents must take steps to educate their children so they can help protect themselves from persons who might wish to do them harm.

We in the Military Police wish to give parents information that will assist you in protecting your children. We suggest teaching your kids the following:

RULES FOR SAFETY

1. Before you go anywhere, always CHECK FIRST with your parents or the person in charge (babysitter). Always tell them where you are going, who you will be going with and when you will be back;

2. You should never get into a car or go anywhere with

any person, regardless of what that person says to you, unless your parents have told you that it is ok;

3. You should never accept anything from a person you don't know;

4. It is safer to be with other people/kids when going places or playing outside. Always try to use the buddy system;

5. If someone follows you on foot or in a car, stay away from them. You don't need to go near the car to talk to the people inside;

6. Grown-ups should not be asking children for help, they should be asking older people. No one should be asking you for directions, or to look for a lost puppy, or telling you that your mother or father is in trouble and they will take you to them;

7. If someone tries to take you somewhere, quickly get away from them and

yell and scream "This man is trying to take me away!" or "This person is not my father or mother."

8. If you are in a public place and you get separated from your parents, don't wander around looking for them. Go to a checkout counter, the security office or the lost-and-found and quickly tell a person in charge that you have lost your mom or dad and need help finding them.

Please don't hesitate to contact the Military Police should your child complain about someone acting suspicious around them or if you suspect your child has become a victim, no matter to what degree.

If you have any questions or comments, please contact the Military Police at 339-8218 or the Security Awareness NCO, Cpl Grant at local 8427.



Managing Holiday Spending

I know it's only November, and this is the Remembrance Day issue of the Totem Times, but - and I hate to be the one to tell you this - there are only 46 days until Christmas! It's tradition for financial counselors to discuss holiday spending and give advice on how to stay out of debt and still enjoy the holidays. This column is my attempt to do so.

Not everyone celebrates Christmas or indulges in serious gift giving, but most Canadians enjoy time off work and spending extra time with family. The kids are out of school for two weeks, so it's an excellent time to travel to visit relatives or take a family vacation. No matter if you're celebrating a religious holiday or just enjoying a break from work, these tips should help you get through with your budget somewhat intact!

Of course, the most practical tip is to save year round for annual expenses such as Christmas gift giving and annual vacations. Most financial institutions have automatic transfer programs where you can have a set amount per pay period set aside in a special savings account. That way, you're not tempted to 'forget' to transfer the money yourself.

First, take a look at your monthly budget and see how much you can realistically afford to set aside each month. Next, make a list of the holiday expenses you'd like to spend and add them up. Take the total and divide it by twelve. Compare that amount with the amount you determined you could afford from your monthly household budget.

Can you afford to set aside that much? If not, go over the list and prioritize the items, cut back on the individual amounts you'd like to spend, or remove items you can do without. It's not too late to start now - anything you save between now and Christmas will help.

On the other hand - it may be too late for most of us! Suddenly we realize we don't have a thing saved for gift giving, travelling, or indulging ourselves in feasting and merriment, and our budget is so tight, we can't imagine how we'll come up with the funds. That's when it's time for hard decisions. You may have to reduce the number of gifts you buy, decide to sell any unused items you have around the house, opt to make gifts, cancel plans to travel or scale down entertainment plans. Be creative. Some families have a 'lottery' type gift giving

system, where each family member buys for one family member only. Rather than buying several small gifts for everyone, you can spend less by shopping for a more expensive gift for that one person. How about giving a mechanically impaired relative free oil changes for a year, or give free babysitting one night a month for a year for the new parents on your list. Why not organize a pot-luck open house rather than footing the bill yourself? Progressive parties were all the rage in Kelowna neighbourhoods last year - kind of pot-luck in reverse! Each household makes a dish, and the neighbours move from house to house every hour, tasting a different gastronomic delight at each home.

Above all, resist the temptation to use credit cards. Credit cards lead to

overspending, and impulse shopping. Most people do not know the exact balance owing on their credit card - they just keep charging until they reach their credit limit. Save your credit cards for genuine emergencies, and find less expensive ways to celebrate the holidays. Most relatives and true friends would feel extremely uncomfortable accepting a gift from you if they knew it put you into financial difficulty. And if you talk to them openly about it, you may be surprised to find their budget is as tight as your own. They may actually be relieved that someone has finally decided to pull the plug on Christmas overspending. After all, the important thing about the holidays is not who can spend the most money, but spending time with family and friends, enjoying each other's company, and celebrating your seasonal religious beliefs.

If you need help setting up a household budget to start saving now, give me a call. You don't need to be experiencing financial difficulties to access my services. If you'd just like one meeting to get yourself on track; if you'd like to meet with me on a monthly basis to set a budget and stick to it, or you're at your wit's end and don't know how to get yourself out of severe financial problems, call me. We'll discuss your situation completely confidentially.

Janet Scotland, SISIP Financial Counsellor, CANEX Mall Building.

Phone: 339-5942
Fax: 339-6597
janet.scotland@sisip.com
or Scotland J@comox
Office Hours:
Mon & Wed 0800-1400
Tues & Thur 1100-1700
Fri 0930-1500
or by appointment.



A Tribute To Our Veterans

It is on this day, November 11, that we remember the contributions of the men and women who fought for freedom in our armed forces.

To those who are still with us, we offer our deep thanks. For those who are gone, their spirits live on in the hearts of those for whom they fought.

History of the Poppy

Why was the poppy chosen as the symbol of remembrance for Canada's war dead? As it happens, the now widespread association between the poppy and those who died in war has international origins.

A writer first made the connection between the poppy and battlefield deaths during the Napoleonic wars of the early 19th century, remarking that fields that were barren before battle later exploded with the blood-red flowers after the fighting ended. Prior to the Napoleonic wars, few poppies grew in Flanders. However, during the tremendous bombardments of that war, the chalk soils became rich in lime from rubble, allowing "popover rheas" to thrive.

When the war ended, the lime was quickly absorbed, and the poppy began to disappear again. LCol John McCrae, the Canadian doctor who wrote the poem "In Flanders Fields," made the same connection 100 years later, during the First World War, and the scarlet poppy quickly became the symbol for soldiers who died in battle.

Three years later, an American, Moira Michael, was working in a New York City YMCA canteen when she started wearing a poppy in memory of the millions who died on the battlefield. During a 1920 visit to the United States, a French woman, Madame Guerin, learned of the custom. On her return to France, she decided to use handmade poppies to raise money for the destitute children in war-torn areas of the country. In November of 1921, poppies were distributed in Canada for the first time.

Thanks to the millions of Canadians who wear flowers each November, the little red plant has never died. And neither have Canadians' memories for the 116,031 of their countrymen who died in battle.

Commissioned from the Ranks

All in the Family...Maj Bryski and Sgt Lisa Tracey promoting OCdt Tracey to his current rank. OCdt Tracey's goal is to become a CELE officer after acceptance through CFR. He is off to the BOTC in Saint Jean. All of WTIS, especially wife Lisa, wish OCdt Tracey the best of luck in his new career.



Left: CFR candidate, O Cdt David Burneau receives his new rank from 19 Wing WOpsO, LCol Arndt.

The Salvation Army
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November 27 to December 1 **ONLY**
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Local veteran Duke Warren

Douglas (Duke) Warren and his identical twin brother Bruce were born on May 28, 1922 in Nanton, Alberta. Both young men had what Mr. Warren describes as "an urgent need to fly." The brothers fulfilled that need when they enlisted in the Royal Canadian Air Force in Edmonton. Much of Duke's service during the war was over France. In the following story, reprinted from his book "Gemini Flight," this decorated pilot (who was awarded the Distinguished Flying Cross) recounts his close encounter with death while dive-bombing over Calais.

The Germans had left pockets of men in Le Havre, Calais, Boulogne, Ostende and other places. Now the Canadian army was fighting to get them out. We continued to support them with low-level attacks and bombing. We seldom saw a German fighter, as they were held back to intercept bombers or defend against the British Army. But what we were doing was dangerous, for all these places had lots of anti-aircraft guns, which we called "flak." Further, the gunners had been practicing with live targets since 1940, and were accurate. So we lost pilots all the while. One of the puzzles we thought about for some time was why pilots didn't bail out when they lost a wing. This was fairly common. If the wing was hit by flak, it would be seriously weakened and break off when the "G" built up in the pull out. The aircraft seemed to fall quite slowly, with seemingly gentle rotation. Following a number of these, the medical officers found that, when the wing

broke off, the initial rotation was so fast it flung the pilot's head sideways and broke his neck.

On my 44th operational sortie, I almost "bought it," which was the expression used when someone was killed. The squadron had been detailed to bomb heavy artillery sites at Calais. We approached at about 15,000 feet. I trimmed for the dive, and then there was a loud explosion under the aircraft, and sunlight came through a hole in the left side of the cockpit. An 88 flak gun had exploded a shell just under my left wing - a piece passing through drove the trim wheel into my leg, carried on up, bending my parachute "D" ring as it passed, and ended up in a small tin box in my upper left breast pocket.

One might ask why fighter pilots would be flying with a small tin box in their pockets. This was a special box used as part of an escape kit. If a person was shot down, and trying to evade and hide from searchers, it was difficult to

get drinking water. In the small box there was a large rubber balloon which one filled with water from a ditch or dirty pond, popped a tablet into, and shook up well. In 15 minutes one could drink. It tasted like water from a ditch, but all the bugs in it were killed. The fragments of shell had pierced the tin box deeply. But had the box not been there, they would have pierced my body and perhaps my heart.

One reads stories, and I have, about how the bible your mother gave you as you left home saved your life when a bullet struck your breast pocket. I found that a tin box is also a good thing to have in one's breast pocket.

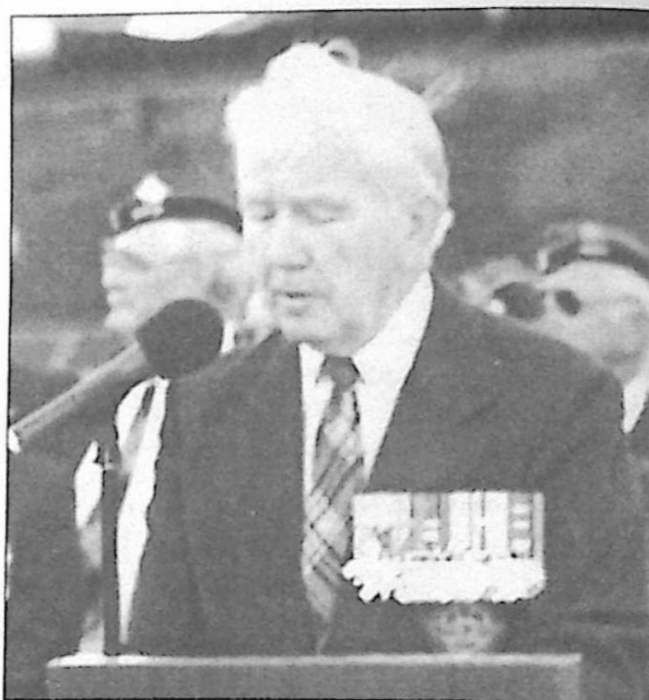
Since I had the aircraft trimmed for the dive, the aircraft was difficult but not impossible to control in level flight at normal speed. Duke realized I had been hit, but could also tell I still had control, so he proceeded with the attack while I returned to base. I could smell something burning but was not aware where it was coming from, which was rather a worry. After landing, I found that the red-hot fragment had ignited the kapok in the Mae West, and it was smouldering. I kept the fragment, "D" ring, and box for souvenirs.

Along with the tin box, we were also issued other items to help us escape if we came down on the wrong side: small compasses, silk maps, energy rations. We wore brown British Army dress, and carried Smith and Wesson revolvers. We were told that the German army had taken such a hammer-

ing from the fighter-bombers that, if we came down near German soldiers, they might just shoot us. However, if we could hide and were later picked up, they might think we were just ordinary British soldiers. We were also told that only small units might shoot us, and if we were taken to an officer it would likely not happen. Cheerful thoughts to run through your mind while waiting to take off.

Most fighter pilots were leery of flak. It seemed so impersonal. Fighting another aircraft in a dogfight, one can think it's another man in there, and I am as good or better than he. But flak was just there, and many good pilots were shot down. You could see small black puffs. When they were closer, the puffs were bigger. When they were really close, the puffs were big with red centres. And when you could hear the big black puffs with red centres exploding with a loud bang, you knew your time was limited if you didn't get out of there fast.

While part of the Canadian Army was slogging along, clearing the channel ports, another part of the army captured Antwerp. They not only captured it, but, because of wonderful work the Belgian underground forces had done, the harbour was intact. However, the Schelt was still in German hands, so the harbour could not yet be used. On the 12th September, Le Havre was taken, on the 22nd, Boulogne, and on the 30th, Calais. On the 25th, Hitler, by now a desperate man, mobilized all men between the ages of 16 and 60 into the Volkssturm.



Wing Commander (retd) Duke Warren, DFC, CD giving the address at this year's Battle of Britain Ceremony.

One of the major battles of the war took place in the period of September 17th to 28th, when airborne troops jumped at Arnhem in Holland. We escorted some of the C47s, or Dakas, as they were called, short for Dakotas. Because they flew fairly low for the parachute jump-


ers, a good number of the Dakas were shot down. Then the weather was not as good as it was predicted to be, supplies ran short, and the situation ended up being hopeless for some troops, who were then taken prisoner.




Result of a hit by 88mm flak shell over Calais on 17 September 1944. The small tin box of sterilizing kit was in Duke's upper left breast pocket and stopped the shrapnel from piercing his heart. Chunk of flak on palm of hand was red hot and smoldering for some time.



The Warren twins standing by aircraft prior to a "sweep" over France in 1942.




REMEMBRANCE DAY



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Local veteran Stocky Edwards

The following story about local veteran Wing Cdr. J. F. "Stocky" Edwards was excerpted with permission from Canadian War Aces and Heroes website: <http://www.accessweb.com/users/mconstab/edwards.htm>. Stocky has published a book of his flying days titled *Kittyhawk Pilot*, which is available at the Comox Air Force Museum.

[After] Eddie was promoted to Squadron Leader and sent to command 274 Squadron, RAF, he was flying Spitfire Vs from Canne on the east coast of Italy. Their missions were a mixture of bomber escort, dive-bombing and strafing. His last mission in Italy with 274 Squadron was nearly his last mission altogether.

Heading out on a straf-

ing mission around Rome, his aircraft developed a glycol leak over the mountains. The cockpit quickly filled with white smoke and the engine temperature began to climb rapidly. Knowing how quickly the high performance engine would overheat and seize up, Eddie began looking for a place to land in the rugged, snowy mountains. He spotted a small clearing near the top of a mountain and headed for it. He opened the cockpit, undid his harness and prepared to bail out. Banking the aircraft with a slight skid to clear the smoke, he discovered he was too low to jump and would have to crash land. Just as he approached the edge of the clearing, the engine blew up and he lost consciousness.

How he survived the crash was a mystery to everyone. The rest of the squadron circled the wreckage. Seeing no movement, one flight continued on with the mission and the other returned to base to report the crash of their Squadron Leader.

Again, Lady Luck rode with Eddie. A Gurkha gun battery located on a nearby hillside saw the crash and promptly made their way to it. Because they were raised in the Himalayas, the Gurkha's found the Italian mountains a small matter. They found Stocky thrown clear of the aircraft, still alive, and took him down the mountainside to a nearby field hospital. A doctor put 13 stitches into the back of his head, and 11 over his eye.

Eddie came to the next morning when a nurse wiped his face. A week later he hitch-hiked back to the squadron and appeared before them, swathed around the head like one of his Gurkha saviours. The squadron had given him up for dead and were dumb-founded when he strode into the mess. He was just in time, for the squadron was ordered back to England to support the D-Day invasion of Europe.

WingCo Edwards in his cockpit a few days after WWII at Schwiverdingen (Germany) in May, 1945. (Photos: Collection of J. F. Edwards.)



A Woman's Place

November 5 to 11 is Veterans' Week in Canada, a time when Canadians pay tribute to the courage and sacrifice of the more than 1.5 million veterans who have served our country during wartime and in peacekeeping operations.

Over the last one hundred years, the role of women in Canadian society has changed dramatically. This shift was particularly apparent during the First and Second World Wars.

During wartime, Canadian women on the homefront were determined to contribute to the war effort. Tens of thousands of women literally traded their dresses for trousers as they went to work to fill the factory and farm jobs vacated by the men who went off to war. During the Second

World War, these working women became known as Rosies, after the wartime song and comic book heroine, Rosie the Riveter, who worked in a factory supplying equipment for the war effort.

The Women's Voluntary Services mobilized housewives to help out when needed, and duties ranged from tending Victory Gardens to donating blood for the troops. The Department of National Defense asked women to save kitchen fat and bones from meals to make the glycerin and glue needed to manufacture Allied planes and weapons.

Canadian women were known for their compassion during wartime, and many gathered in living rooms and church basements to knit scarves and socks that



Members of the first contingent of CWAC personnel to enter Germany, Hamm, June 12, 1945.

helped keep soldiers warm during the winter months. Care packages were assembled to supply the armed forces with coffee, tea, dried fruit and other small luxuries from home.

Moreover, many Canadian women served closer to the actual fighting. During the First World War 3,141 Canadian nurses volunteered their services and 46 gave their lives while working to ease the suffering of wounded troops.

By the time the Second World War began in 1939, the nursing service was expanded to all three branches of the military: army, navy and air force. In addition to nurses, more than 17,000 women served in the Canadian Air Force Women's Division, another 17,018 in the Canadian Women's Army Corps, and a further 6,781 in the Women's Royal Canadian Naval Service. In all, 73 women died in service during the Second World War.

Today, women regularly serve in all three branches of Canada's Armed Services, and they are valuable members of Canada's international peacekeeping forces.

During Veterans' Week 2000, Canadians have an opportunity to honour all

our brave veterans and peacekeepers and celebrate Canada's Legacy of Peace.

For more information on Veterans' Week 2000, visit the Veterans Affairs Canada web site at www.vac-acc.gc.ca, or call your nearest Veterans Affairs Canada office.



An unidentified member of the Canadian Women's Army Corps carrying a gas mask. August 1943.

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Canada Remembers with A Wave of Silence

A Salute to Those Who Have Served.

The Legion is asking Canadians everywhere to pause for two minutes at 11:00 a.m. on November 11th, as a special tribute to those who died defending Canada.

In our hectic society, silence is both rare and dramatic. We hope that all Canadians will take two minutes to pause and reflect on the sacrifices made by fellow Canadians during this century.

The tradition of observing two minutes of silence began far from large formal ceremonies. It sprang from a heartfelt need to do something to honour those who had given so much.

There have been several accounts of the origin of the two minute silence, but most agree that it began in South Africa before the end of the 1st World War. In April, 1918, the German offensive on the western front was still in full force, and there was fear, not only for loved ones, but also for the outcome of the war.

A local correspondent described the scene as the town fell quiet: "It was a most solemn and inspiring function. The effect was magical. There was always a great crowd in Adderly Street at midday, but the observance seems even more striking in the less frequented streets."

A Reuters correspondent in Capetown cabled a description of the event back to London, and from there word spread to Canada and Australia. Within a few weeks, reports were being received in London that the silence was being observed in towns across the Commonwealth.

The "2-Minute Wave of Silence" campaign is central to an important mandate of the Legion, the perpetuation of Remembrance. There are very few remaining survivors of the First World War, and the Veterans of the Second World War are dying at the rate of almost 100 per day.

The Wave of Silence campaign is being carried out at the community level, and there is national support. The CBC will incorporate the two-minute silence into its broadcast on November 11th, and many private stations will also silence their broadcast for two minutes.



Cenotaph Ceremonies

1030-1200 hours, 11 November

Comox

407 Squadron will provide a marching contingent of squadron personnel. The CO will take the salute at the reviewing stand and will lay a wreath on behalf of his squadron at the Town Cenotaph on Comox Avenue.

Courtenay

414 Squadron will provide a marching contingent of squadron personnel. The Wing Commander will be taking the salute at the reviewing stand and will lay a wreath on behalf of 19 Wing at the Cairn beside City Hall on Cliffe Avenue.

Cumberland

442 Squadron will provide a marching contingent of squadron personnel. The CO will be taking the salute and will lay a wreath on behalf of his squadron in front of Cumberland Legion on Dunsmuir Avenue.

There will be an all ranks social following the Remembrance Day ceremonies/receptions at the local town sites. This year, the function will be held at the Officers' Mess where there will be an Open House from 1200-1600 hrs. Food will be available from 1230-1430 hrs. This function will provide an excellent opportunity for both current and former serving members to reflect on and remember the past.



Glacier Greens Golf Shots Mixed Turkey Shoot

By Barb Carter

October 29 and 60 golfers started to sign up just after 8:00 a.m. Not as many as last year, but not bad considering the weather was not looking too friendly.

1st Low Gross went to Bob Edwards team with Wayne Ogilvie, Bruce Horochuk and Jack Hawkins - they came in with -17. 1st Low Net was Larry Lot, Ted Gibbon, Bill Krier and Hugh Scoullar.

2nd Low Gross with a +21 on a countback, Glen Meeres, Norm Fellbaum, Russ Englemeyer and Gillian Iddiols. 2nd Low Net - Hal Fraser, Lennie Doyle, Ralph Glass and Helen Williams, thanks to Lucky Lennie who eagled #13 to get his team to a -6 on a CB.

3rd Low Gross, also with a +21, Fred Williams, Steve Shaw, Donna Scott and Jim

Hume. -6 again took Phil Nakashima's team into the prizes, along with Vic Crisp, Glen Caslake and Trudy Lamothe for 3rd Low Net. -6 again Roy Hagg, Rick Verbeek, Carmel Horochuk and Verle Lafferty, with 4th Low Net.

KPs on #12 Larry Sawyer made the shot with teammates Duane Miles, Gord Pritchard and Lori Cameron looking on. On #15 Brian Hotsenpiller did the honours with Judd Wilson, Janet Edwards, Gussy Pritchard. On #17 John Herle did the job for his team of Nick Mykitiuk, Ron Sawyer and Ted John. All KP team members got turkeys.

October 11 was a lucky day for Barb Myatt playing with Marne and Jack Jackson. She broke 90 for her first time ever. Well done, Barb!

We would again like to thank Scott Fraser for sponsoring the Low Gross and Steve Dodd for the Low Net. Thanks guys.

Rec Centre News

By Jake Plante

Climbing Club General Meeting, Registration Night When: 16 Nov Where: FCC Conference Room (New Gym) Time: 1900hrs All interested personnel are welcome to attend and join the club. Further info may be obtained from Cpl Scott Mackenzie 8304/339-6763 or Pte Les Obbagy 8304/890-7578

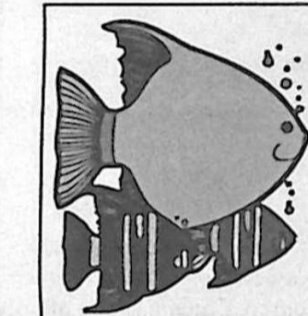
Noon Drop-in Basketball 1145hrs to 1245 every Wednesday. Remember to sign the drop-in sheet, then play some friendly hoops.

Base Badminton Playdowns Will be held the week of 20-24 Nov. Register by calling loc 8783 or e-mail Jake NLT 16 Nov. The Regionals are 9-12 Jan 01, so register now.

Volleyball coaches clinic 19 Wing Comox will host an NCCP Level 1 Volleyball Coaches Clinic 8 and 9 Dec. Cost of the clinic is \$87. Register with Jake Plante at 339-8211 loc 8783. The minimum requirement is eight.

Base Bowling Roll Offs The Roll Offs will be held 15 Nov from 0800-1130hrs and 16 Nov from 0800 to ?? Register by phone, loc 8783, or e-mail Jake Plante by 14 Nov.

Curling Playdowns The deadline to register for the playdowns is 16 Nov. The PAC Region Championships are in Comox 5-6 Jan 01. Register your team by calling Loc 8783 or e-mail Jake.



Parent & Tot Swim

Is offered every Wednesday morning from 1030-1130 hours starting Wednesday 8 November. This activity is open to all of the authorized users of the Fitness Centre. Children under 6 years of age are admitted FREE of charge BUT MUST ALWAYS BE IN ARMS LENGTH OF THE ACCOMPANYING PARENT/GUARDIAN.

Thanks Dad! WO Yvon Benoit of 414 Sqn had the pleasure of presenting his son Pte Ryan Benoit, a reservist at WFOODS, with his first hook.

CAPRICE SHOWCASE THEATRES 1650 Cliffe Avenue, Courtenay MILITARY MONDAY-ALL SEATS \$5.00 (upon presentation of proper I.D.) Give the Gift of Entertainment Caprice Gift Tickets available at our Box Office.

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Fitness Centre Hours of Operation for REMEMBRANCE DAY & STAT HOLIDAY WEEKEND 11 - 13 NOVEMBER Swimming Pool: 1300 - 1500 hrs. (Open Sqim) 1500 - 1600 hrs. (Lane Swim) Gym, Weight Room & Squash Courts: 1300 - 1700 hrs.

Fitness Centre Regular Hours of Operation Monday: 0730-2300 hrs Tues-Fri: 0730-2100 hrs Saturday: 0830-1700 hrs Sunday: 0900-2100 hrs Holiday weekends: 1300-1700 hrs

Pool Schedule Nov 00 - June 01

Table with columns: TIME, MON, TUE, WED, THU, FRI, SAT, SUN, TIME. Lists various pool activities and times throughout the week.

Jake's Trivia Corner 1. Who scored the most points in an NBA All-star game? 2. Which professional boxer scored the most knock-outs in a career? 3. Who has the most assists in NCAA Basketball? (Answers on page 14.)

Personnel Support Services

By Gail Eggiman The PSS never seem to have full staff. PO Rowsell and Cpl Waugh are away on course. Sgt Melville had the sick bug for awhile and managed to only infect a few. Denis is settling down in the Cashier cage now, I think. His eyes have lost the glassy glaze and returned to normal. MCpl Ballington hasn't done anything lately for me to write about. She has a LCol living next door, maybe I should ask him for some scoop on her. United Way activity is under way and the HQ held a barbecue with VIPs doing the cooking. There was lots of food and we all braved the weather. The tents were a nice touch. CR held their Chili and Bun day to support United Way as well. MCpl Mears has been doing a good job selling the raffle tickets for the Crystal Cove getaway for United Way. There were several brave souls who dressed for Hallowe'en and it added some fun to the day in HQ. Capt Bhaiwala dressed as a clown (I won't go there), Beth Burt was Scarlet O'Hara but John Coppard kept trying to wear her hat! Sgt Buckley-Jones was a hit as a retired air force person needing money for clothes. I swear I've seen him wearing the same clothes downtown! There were a few superheroes from FMAS and NPF, a court jester in Accommodation, and a pretty geisha girl (already taken by MCpl Labrecque). Doug Murray from Civilian Personnel gave us a real scare when he poked his face through the mailboxes! Maj Newlove brought his little guy in dressed cute as a button in a dragon outfit and Linda Sabiston's granddaughter buzzed everyone dressed as a bee. What a sweetheart, she always has a smile. She must take after her grandfather! I forgot to give a "welcome back" to MWO Raspberry (Reserve). He took over Capt Brenda Gauthier's job as D/WPSvcsO. A while back he was our D/ WPAdMO. It's nice to see these people come back but it really makes me feel old. Just last week, a former 442 Sqn PAdMO from the 70's was in HQ saying hello and "Are you still here?" Sue Gibb, WLOGO secretary, and I are most likely soon to be HQ historical material and could be put in the Museum! We remember when the Voodoo on display at the front gate actually flew. The USAF Det 5 and their "armament" were here, there was only ONE female junior rank on base (a very lucky dental assistant), and I married one of the first two army guys to be stationed (1968) at Comox in CE. At first, my air force father got his feathers ruffled but he quickly came around. Several clerks made a trip to Victoria to see the career manager. Some came back with smiles, some frowns, and some have gone into hiding! I guess we'll see some changes coming soon. The WPAdMO is in hiding again but I know he is busy with the upcoming federal election.

Comox Military Family Resource Centre

Centre de Ressources pour Les Familles Militaires de Comox

Phone: 339-8290

Emergencies Happen... are YOU Prepared? What if...



1. Your husband is in Bosnia and you just fell off the curb and broke your ankle. You have been rushed to the hospital and must have surgery. Your children need to be picked up after school and have someone take care of them for the 3 days while you are in hospital.

3. You are a single Dad. You just received a phone call and must fly home to Toronto because of a death in the family. Bringing your 2 very young children would only create more stress to the situation. You can use your regular childcare provider during the day, but she can't take them overnight.

2. You and your husband work different shifts and share the care of your children. You have been called away to Winnipeg to assist with emergency flood relief. It's tax time and your husband is an accountant. To take time off work is not an option for him!

4. You and your husband are both in the military. He is in the Golan for 3 more months. Your boss just informed you that you must attend a 5-day course next week in place of a co-worker who was just hospitalized. You have 2 young teenagers.

5. Your wife has been away on course for 6 weeks already, and now your presence at work is critical to the military operation you are involved in. Your daughter has the measles and the daycare cannot care for her while she is contagious.

6. Your wife is having complications with her pregnancy and has just been advised by her doctor that she must stay off her feet. You have an active 2-year-old boy. You can take a few days off, but aren't able to stay away from work indefinitely. As your son sleeps for 2 hours in the afternoon, you really only need someone to come in and watch your son in the morning for about 4 hours. Then you're home from work.

These examples are all 'emergency' situations in which you would utilize the CMFRC's Emergency Childcare Program funding.

The first 72 hours of your childcare emergency is fully funded in these emergencies.

100% subsidization continues for the second and subsequent children in the family for 4 more days.

To be eligible for this funding, or for more information, call Alex Greenwood, the Deployment & Emergency Childcare Coordinator at the Comox Military Family Resource Centre @ 339-8211 local 8310.

The CMFRC has a list of Childcare Providers you can access for respite, short or long term care.

Hi everyone,
This is your Volunteer & French Program Manager (Petite Fleure). Taking over Tina's job, is another challenge for me and I am ready for it. November will be a month of reading, learning and contacting the volunteers. Please do not hesitate to stop by, I will be happy to see you again and to know you more. I will keep you posted.... Danielle (Petite Fleure)

Computer Courses Galore!

Intro to the Internet

Date: Nov. 13, 14
Time: 6:30-8:45pm
Location: CMFRC Computer Learning Centre
Cost: \$10.00

Computer Familiarization

Date: Nov. 20, 21
Time: 6:30-8:45pm
Location: CMFRC Computer Learning Centre
Cost: \$10.00

Intermediate Windows

Date: TBA
Time: 6:30-8:45pm
Location: CMFRC Computer Learning Centre
Cost: \$10.00

Intro to MS Office 97

Date: Nov. 13, 14
Time: 9:00-11:00am
Location: Computer Learning Centre
Cost: \$10.00

Death by Chocolate... and other experiences!

In this workshop participants will have an opportunity to learn how to create some amazing chocolate delicacies. These will include:

- Death by Chocolate
- Chocolate Creme Soda
- Chocolate, Pecan & Jack Daniels Pie
- Marscapone
- Chocolate Cups
- Chocolate Butterflies
- Chocolate Fondant and carving a chocolate fondant rose.

Participants will gain hands on experience creating chocolate wonders and sampling their creations! Facilitator Fred Racz graduated from commercial cooking in Saskatoon and spent 8 years working as a pastry chef for the 4 Seasons, The Ramada, the Holiday Inn and Calories on Broadway in Saskatoon. Fred has also won 3 bronze medals for Pastry Show Case at the Sask Cuisine Culinary Arts Show.

Facilitator: Fred Racz
Dates: Dec. 2

Time: 1:00pm - 5:00pm Saturday

Fee: \$10 per person

Registration: Call 339-8290

Location: 19 Wing Fitness & Community Centre Craft Room & Kitchen

Creating a Special Christmas Meal Festive Tables & Family Appreciation

This workshop will look at creating that special atmosphere for your Christmas meal. Ideas for a festive table setting will be shared as well as exploring different ways of appreciating family members and making everyone feel special and included. There will be opportunities to create personalized table settings by incorporating your families' unique personality.

Facilitator: Wanda Crowder-Hickey

Date: Monday Nov. 27

Time: 9:00am - 11:00am

Cost: \$7.00

Complimentary childcare is available for this workshop on a first come first served basis.

Raisins in the Oatmeal ~ Self Esteem Workshop ~

This workshop is all about looking for the good stuff in our lives and using that positive focus to reach personal goals and feel better about ourselves.

Facilitator: Mara Pungente

Dates: Nov. 27 & Dec. 4, 11

Time: 9:00am - 11:00am Mondays

Fee: \$10 per person for military families; \$15 per person for non-military families.

Registration: Call 339-8290

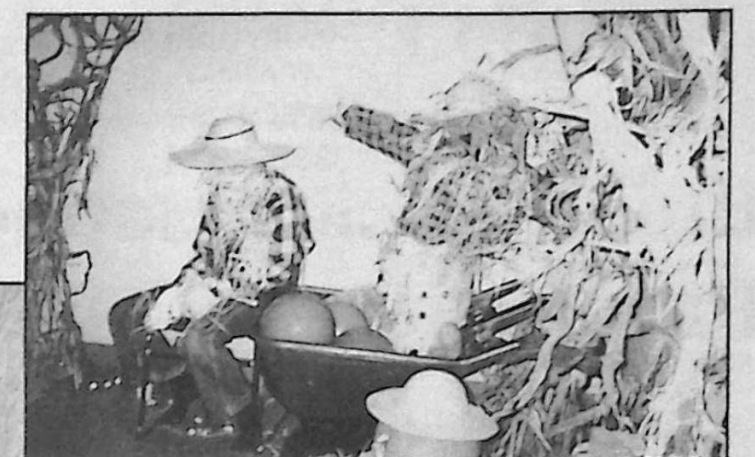
Location: 19 Wing Fitness & Community Centre

Free childcare is available for military families during this time on a first come first served basis.

Wallace Gardens Community Association News



HALLOWEEN PARTY



This year it was the Fitness & Community Centre's turn to be haunted by the little "Ghouls" and "Goblins" of our community. Approximately 60 children, accompanied by their parents, participated in the Wallace Gardens Halloween Party on Saturday, 28 October. This year festivities consisted of games for the kids, colouring contest, costume parade, a "Haunted Castle" for the smaller "Monsters" and a "Haunted House" for those who dared! Judging by the screams coming out of the small multi-purpose room, it could be deemed that the Haunted House was a great success.

Best Costume Winners:

Ages 0-3: 1st - Princess, 2nd - Monkey

Ages 4-6: 1st - Corn on the Cob, 2nd - Pirate

Ages 7-9: 1st - Leprechaun, 2nd - Gold Butterfly

Ages 10-12: 1st - Grunt, 2nd - Girl from Cumberland.

Colouring Contest Winners:

Ages 0-3: 1st - Nicole Besnard, 2nd - Kita Underwood, 3rd - Dustyn Lewis

Ages 4-6: 1st - Meagan Dumont, 2nd - Martina Doucet, 3rd - Graham Robarts

Craft Afternoon

Community Centre Craft Room
Sunday, 19 November, 1:00 - 3:00 p.m.
.50¢/member, \$1.50/non-member
For more info, call Suzanne @ 338-2584

Teen Craft Club

We're making Pinatas
at the meeting on Sunday, 26 November
from 6:00 to 8:00 p.m.
in the Community Centre Craft Room.
For more info, please call Wanda at 890-2061

Teen Dance

Saturday, 18 November
Community Centre LMPR
7:00 to 11:00 p.m.
Cost: \$1.00/members, \$4.00/non-members
For more information, please call Jim or Heather
@ 339-6148

Parents of Teens

The coordinators for the Wallace Gardens Teen Activities are requesting your help!

On the third Saturday of each month a teen dance is held in the Large Multi-Purpose Room (LMPR) of the Fitness & Community Centre. Anywhere from 40 to 60 teens participate in this event. Unfortunately, due to a work scheduling conflict, Jim will not be able to chaperone at the next few dances. He is requesting that any parent willing to donate a few hours of their time could contact him ASAP. If enough parents volunteer, they would only have to attend the dances once a year!

If you are willing to help, please contact Jim/Heather @ 339-6148.

Beach Party

Saturday, November 11, from 6:00 to 8:00 p.m. in the Fitness & Community Centre Large Multi-Purpose Room. Cost is .50¢/WGCA Members, \$1.50/Non-members. Wear your wildest beachwear! Games! Music! Fun!

Please note: as we get into fall & winter, the days are becoming darker much earlier. Due to the range in ages of the children who attend this event, our policy is as follows:

1. A parent/adult must accompany the child into the LMPR via the front entrance.

2. A parent/adult must pick up the child inside the LMPR and exit via the patio.

***No child may be allowed to leave the premises without adult accompaniment.

For more information, please call Carla @ 890-0672 or Helen @ 339-5125

Ward Representatives Required

The Wallace Gardens Community Association consists of volunteers who organize and promote projects and services to enhance the quality of life in our community. All residents 18 years of age or over, are eligible to become members of the association. Our community is presently divided into nine wards, each ward having one representative on the community council. The ward representative acts as a liaison between their respective ward and the WGCA on all matters pertaining to their ward. A ward representative is required for the following wards:

Ward 1: Blocks A & B and Houses 1 to 11 & 101/101A

Ward 2: Blocks C, D, E, F and Houses 12 to 17A

Ward 6: Houses 84 to 100A

Please note that the representative does not have to be a military member; significant others are encouraged to volunteer! A ward representative is required for each ward, and if no one volunteers for the position, one will be appointed.

If you live in any of the above wards and are interested in becoming a ward representative or if you would like more information, please call the Town Clerk at 339-8211 (8571).

Please do your part to help make your community a little better!

LADIES CRAFT CLUB

Fitness & Community Centre (Craft Room)
Sunday - 19 November, 7:00 - 9:00 p.m.

CHOCOLATE MAKING

Learn the basics of chocolate making. Melt and pour a variety of chocolate molds. These make great gifts for the holiday season!

***Note: You must pre-register for this class in order to attend. Call Jennifer @ 339-7183



Miscellaneous for sale

Dining room table, solid teak, six chairs, \$500; Mirror, bevelled, 3ft x 4ft. \$50; Tire chains, 15", \$35. 890-0008 <2/2>

Oak quilting frame \$275. 339-3486 <2/2>

"Chinook" Beanie Baby \$100. 339-3486 <1/2>

Childcare Wanted

Needed, after school childcare for my children ages 6 and 8 in MQ area. 890-0246 <1/2>

Auto Hobby Club United Way Charity Drive

Come out to the Auto Hobby Club on 8 & 9 November from 9:00 a.m.-5:00 p.m. Bring your own oil and filter. The Auto Hobby Club volunteers will change your oil, filter and check all fluid levels while you are at work or wait. There will be a donation box for the United Way at the club. Please contact Cpl Fowler at loc 8557, 338-1068 or by email. See you there.

Comox Valley

Cancer Society

14 Nov 10:00 a.m.: Breast Cancer Support Group meets at Daphne Borden's house. FMI call Daphne @ 338-7598.

14 Nov 10:00 a.m.: Breast Cancer Support Group meets at Catherine De Vrie's house. FMI call Catherine @ 339-6678.

15 Nov 2:00 p.m.: Monthly meeting of C-V Cancer Society at Copurtenay United Church.

To find out when the next meeting of the Cancer Support Group (Living with Cancer) is scheduled call the Courtenay office 338-5454.

COURTENAY FLIGHT CENTER YOUR FLIGHT TRAINING SPECIALIST! 338-9814

or contact MWO CYRIL RODGERS LOC 8501, or CWO JOHN MERCER LOC 8723

Jake's Trivia Answers

- 1. Wilt Chamberlain, 42. 2. Archie Moore, 140. 3. Bobby Hurley, 1076.



Disposal of Unwanted Firearms

19 Wing Comox and Capt V. Ethier, WSAMPO, would like to remind all firearms owners that they must take action now to either obtain a firearms licence or dispose of their firearms. Surveys indicate that a vast number of owners, 43% or 800,000 people across Canada rarely or never use their firearms. Many of them may choose to dispose of their firearms rather than obtain a licence.

Under the Firearms Act all owners must have a licence before the end of this year (2000). There are two licences: a Possession Only Licence (POL) for those who simply want to keep the firearms they already own or a Possession and Acquisition Licence (PAL) for those who want to keep the firearms they already own and also acquire more in the future. Both these licences are renewable every five years.

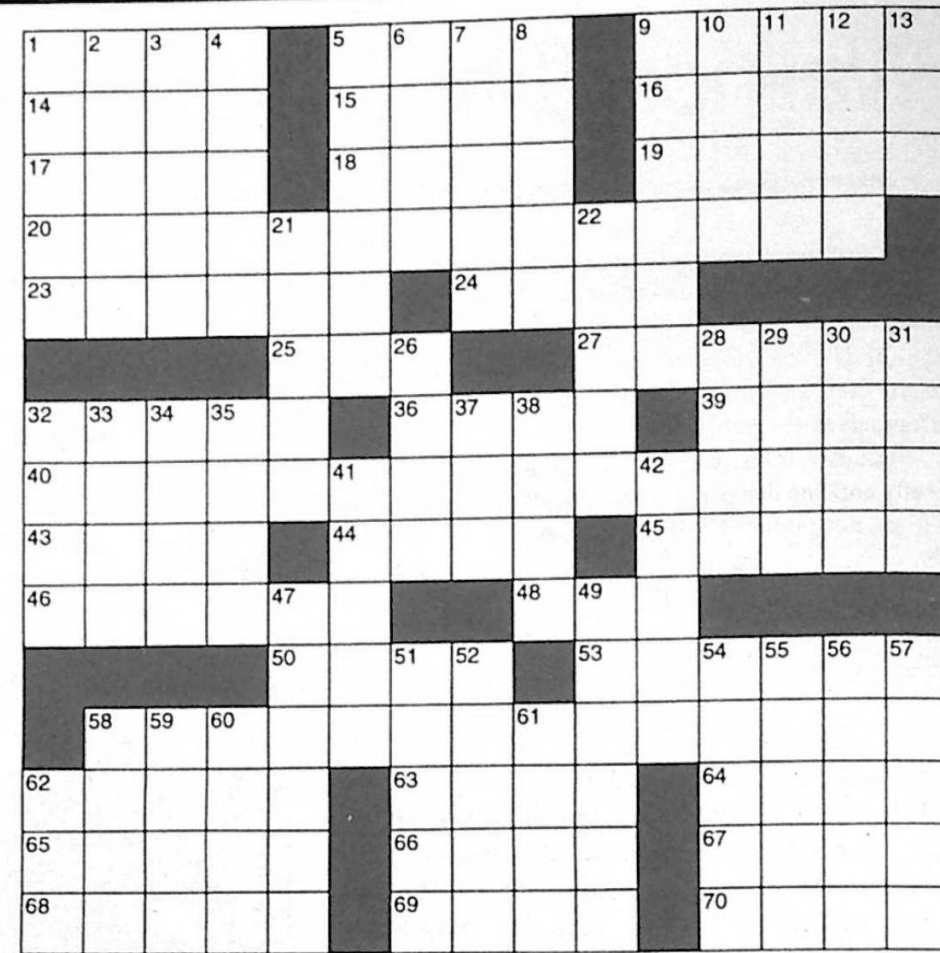
Owners who no longer want to keep firearms must take action by the end of this year by selling their firearms or disposing of them to avoid placing themselves in illegal possession. They may sell their firearms to a valid licence holder or they may turn them over to police for disposal. A phone call to the local police station will determine the procedure to follow should the owner wish to dispose of a firearm.

14 Wing Greenwood Reunion July 2001

A celebration to mark the 60th anniversary of 404 (MP&T) Sqn, 405 (MP) Sqn, 413 (T&R) Sqn, and 415 Sqn will take place 5-8 July 2001 in Greenwood, Nova Scotia. Highlights of the weekend include a Fly-in, Wing Open House, Monster TGIF, Dinner-Dance, Tours and, as a grand finale, a Massed Parade including squadron colours to conclude the weekend's events. All former and serving members are invited to attend.

As nominal roles tend to become dated very quickly, we would be delighted to receive the names and addresses of your former colleagues. For further info please contact: Maj Steve Daigle, 60th Anniversary Committee, 14 Wing Greenwood, PO Box 5000 Stn Main, Greenwood, NS B0P 1N0.

Phone 902-765-1494 ext 3282 AVNDSN: 568-3282. E-mail: mail488b@dnd.ca



CLUES ACROSS

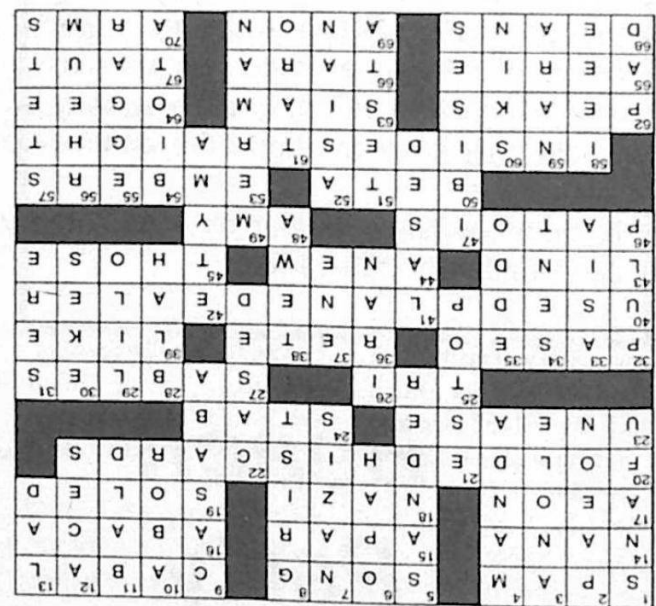
- 1. Canned meat 5. The act of singing 9. Secret plan 14. Grandmother 15. South American ar-madillo 16. Manila hemp 17. Eon (var.) 18. Fascist 19. Re ____, repaired shoe 20. Gave up the game 23. Discomfort 24. Push forcefully with knife 25. Denotes three 27. Russian furs 32. Type of Toyota 36. Network of nerves 39. Similar to 40. Jet-age merchant 43. Jenny ____, Swedish soprano 44. Afresh 45. This, that and __ 46. Dialect 48. __ Tan 50. Second Greek letter 53. Glowing pieces of coal 58. Poker hand 62. Mountaintops

CLUES DOWN

- 1. Goof 2. Hymn 3. Iguana relative 4. South-central Dravidian 5. A smoother that uses a belt 6. Talk-show host, minus the "R" 7. Plural of 18 Across 8. Food grain 9. Winter melon 10. __ t, to cut short 11. A Kojak hairstyle 12. Red Baron and Tom Cruise 13. Young boy 21. Hinder law 22. Checked out the place 26. Persia (var.) 28. Not exciting (slang) 29. Air bed 30. Gets by 31. Dry

- 32. This form of wood makes paper 33. Far East continent 34. "You must be heaven-__" 35. Root of taro plant 37. East-northeast 38. Pueblo people of New Mexico 41. Emitted coherent radiation 42. Word forms 47. Waders 49. Half man and half fish 51. __ ment, Old and New are examples 52. Japanese person 54. Period of plant and animal life 55. Lasiocampid moth 56. Dicot genus 57. Remains as is 58. Where computer nerds meet 59. Ancient Japanese religious center 60. Human's largest organ 61. Tropical, starchy, tuberous root 62. Place to hang out, home (slang)

Answers



HELP!

We are in the process of cataloguing our newspaper archives. Much to our dismay, we find that some copies have been "Swiss cheesed" in order to provide people with photos and articles. Worse, some copies are missing altogether. If you should be clearing out trunks, attics, etc., anytime and come across old copies of the Totem Times we would be delighted to receive them. We are particularly looking for a copy of our first issue, which was produced in March of 1960, as well as issues up to and including 1967 where we seem to have the most gaps.

Level I French course (Beginners)

5-week course: 13 November - 15 December Monday to Friday 0730 to 1530 hours. Interested personnel should contact Dr. Fathi at local 8828.

Central Registry

By Gail Eggiman

We finally did it! We mistakenly filed some correspondence that should have been sent on. Our apologies to Bob Allen and Capt Bhaiwala. Our only excuse could be that so few personnel file anything anymore that we took it upon ourselves to grab it early! Seriously folks, we are really noticing that CR on the distribution list of their memos, letters or reports or filing their electronic messages. Almost every day we complete a search request for correspondence and find that the originator has never PA'd a copy to CR. We feel bad that we cannot help them.

We held our Chili and Bun sale on Hallowe'en to raise money for United Way. We considered it a success since we sold out and there was no news the next day of an influx of patients attending the MIR with gastrointestinal problems. We were happy to contribute

\$162.00 to United Way. No one dared to say which one of us witches cooked the best chili! Thanks to Mr. Rose who contributed but didn't want to aggravate his stomach. LCol Spooner managed to get his usual zingers in about us "working in the dark."

LCol Reaume said he missed our chili because he had to go flying and then the flight was cancelled.... OK, sir. We believe you, some wouldn't. Col Neumann was our second brave customer. The first customer was from outside HQs and he said he had been waiting all week for it! Poor guy needs to get a life!

Diane has been grumbling a lot lately. I don't know if it is because of her new duplicating equipment or because her husband has been away for a couple of weeks. She still has to cope with a daughter in college and son in high school. The length of showers was a topic in the office. The time

for teenagers seems to average 20 to 35 minutes. When my boys are home they think that's OK, but the places they used to rent during the school year included hot water!

Vicky was ill for a couple of days. She keeps telling me that she is sick and tired of working. I don't feel too sorry for her sometimes, especially when she complains when her husband cleans or cooks a meal. He even loads the dishwasher! I keep trying to convince myself that it's my fault that my husband doesn't do housework. In the first years of our marriage he worked two jobs sometimes so, naturally, I didn't expect it from him. I don't know what the excuse is now, though. He would probably use his old lines, "lack of training and supervision on my part" or "you only have to ask."

The hunters returned and the moose are still safe and loose! A couple of

moose did have some air conditioning when some bullets whizzed by in the air from a certain unnamed hunter (not Steve) in the party. One moose liked the breeze so much he stood still for a second chance! The animals aren't safe yet though. Steve intends to go back to the mainland and harass some mule deer soon. Last week he took Tank down to fetch some geese for him. HA HA! Tank ran out, found the bird, licked it and then sat down with a look that said, "Well here it is, now you come and get this icky thing!" Tank now thinks his name is "Dud" because he's heard it so many times.

The HELPFUL HINT: If your mail is sent to your section and you no longer work there, please ensure that the Base Nominal Roll and the Outlook Address receive a correction so we can try to find you. If the mail is returned more than once, it is returned to sender.

CANEX News

Leaves have been falling everywhere and the weather is getting much cooler and we have lost an hour of daylight. Must mean that Jack Frost is almost nipping at our doors. Let's hope he doesn't knock too hard. Halloween is now over and I am sure the kids are still on their sugar highs. Soon the candy will be gone and they will return to normal but, then again, there is all the Christmas candy that is now out.

We had a Pepsi contest running here in the store and there were three lucky winners: Vince Makernan



Pepsi contest winner Jerry Therrien with CANEX staffer Julie Richards.

and Jerry Therrien both won a Pepsi T-shirt with a Star Wars cap, Rick Skrzyzala won the grand prize of a Pepsi umbrella.

Gary and Wendy Usher are the lucky winners of a



Pepsi contest winner Vince Makernan with CANEX staffer Joe Lapointe.

Toshiba DVD player. Theirs was the lucky Club Xtra number that appeared in our store during the Best Buys Sale.

Congratulations to all winners. Also, watch for upcoming contests.

Our Best Buys Sale is now over but coming on 15 November is our Christmas Sale. Time to get out and get your Christmas shopping done early, that way you are most likely guaranteed to get everything on your list. Who wants to run around on Christmas Eve trying to find what you want and having to settle for something you would never normally buy for someone? So, come out and see what CANEX has here for your holiday wish lists. We are well stocked for your holiday needs. Only 46 more shopping days left!

Don't forget that CANEX is still offering the Don't Pay Till March 2001. Hurry in - don't let the deals slip by.



888 Wingnotes By Norm Blondel

November 11 Parade

In keeping with our policy of alternating venues for participation in Remembrance Day parades, the Wing flight will march with Comox this year. The participants' day will be a long one, beginning with the Legion Breakfast at Branch 17 Courtenay. The Lieutenant-Governor of B.C., Garde Gardom, will be guest of honour. Members should plan to be at the breakfast a little earlier than usual, 8:30 a.m. at the latest. After the breakfast, speeches and tableaux, parades to the three valley Cenotaphs (Courtenay, Cumberland and Comox) will take place, followed by the traditional Meet & Greet sessions of Remembrance Day. Parade

instructions will be published in the Wing and announced at pre-parade functions.

Our flight will form up on Beaufort Avenue, behind the Pythian Hall, at 10:30 a.m. 888 Wing will play host to participants, including pipe bands, at approximately 3:00 p.m., but will be open at noon. Lt-Gov Garde Gardom is scheduled to visit 888 Wing at 2:15 p.m.

Parading Wing/Legion members are reminded to wear full regalia (blazers, medals, poppy, et al) and wear a good raincoat, thicker than normal underwear and socks, and put a thick coat of polish on shoes: it (sometimes) gets wet and cold out there!

Alan Scott

Alan Scott, a Charter member and second President of 888 Wing, passed away on Thursday 26 October. Alan was, without a doubt, the hardest working member of 888, holding almost all executive positions during his time with the Wing. His computer skills were highly valued, especially with "Contrails," where his efforts as compositor were instrumental in gaining three successive national awards for the 888 Wing quarterly. The Wing was his life, and we have all gained from his efforts on our behalf. Alan was a Navigator with 407 Sqn prior to his retirement in 1978, the year he helped with the start

of 888 (Komox) Wing, RCAF. Our condolences go out to Joan and the Scott family. A Poppy memorial service for Alan was held in the Wing on October 30.

Contrails Deadline - November 14 - Noon

All contributors are advised to have their material ready for the December edition of Contrails in the slot by Noon on November 14. This deadline is firm! Latecomers' material may be chopped or held over to the next edition. I apologise for the few gremlins appearing in the last Contrails; we will have a better system in place for December. Dratted typos! As part of our publicity effort, we are producing a one-sheet brochure, to



Royal Canadian Legion

Branch 17 Courtenay (334-4322)

Dance: every Friday evening, 8:00 p.m. Nov 10 Moon Shadow Nov 17 Andrew Schmidt Nov 24 Double Play

Special Events: 11 Nov Remembrance Day Ceremony 25 Nov L.A. Bazaar

Branch 28 Cumberland (336-2361)

Every Tuesday, Bingo 7:00 p.m. (Hall rental: non-members \$75, members \$50, kitchen use \$25.)

Branch 160 Comox (339-2022)

Friday Night Dances 8-12 p.m.

Nov 10 NO BAND (Branch Members Night) Nov 17 Island Country Nov 24 Moon Shadow

Special Event

Nov 11 Remembrance Day Parade 10:30 a.m. Alley Cats Band 2-6 p.m. in Lounge

Next General Meeting

Thurs Nov 16, 7:30 p.m. - Branch Elections Mondays...Ladies Auxiliary Drop-in Bingo (Upper Hall doors open 6:30 p.m., Bingo 7:00 p.m.) 2nd Thurs each month LA General Meeting 7:30 p.m. 3rd Thurs each month LA Soup & Sandwich \$5.00, 11:30 a.m. - 1:30 p.m. For more info, call Branch office Mon-Fri at 339-2202



On October 27 Branch 160 Comox Legion raised their Poppy Campaign Flag to start this year's Poppy Activities. (L-R): Branch President Lloyd Lohnes, Secretary-Manager Ken Seymour and Poppy Chairperson Scottie MacLean. This was also Ken's last official branch duty as he has retired and taken up golfing as a pastime.

888 (KOMOX) RCAF WING

Air Force Association of Canada Calendar of Events

Friday Night PUB GRUB! \$4.00 each. 5:30-6:30 p.m. Menu & entertainment changes weekly! Sun 12 Nov Birthday Bash (Free) 3:00 p.m. Sat 18 Nov Medieval Night \$10.00 - 6 for 7:00 p.m. (Tickets on sale from noon, Sunday Nov 5.) Sat 25 Nov Pot Luck Decorating Party, free 6:00 p.m. REGULAR FORCE MEMBERS ALWAYS WELCOME!!! Bar Hours: Sun 1200-1800 Mon *Closed, except on holiday Mondays when open 1200-1800 Tues & Weds 1200-1800 Thurs, Fri & Sat 1200-0100 (Bar could be closed at 9:00 p.m. if no customers.)

be distributed around 19 Wing and in the new transient/single quarters, shortly. It sets out our aims and programmes, together with the all-important daily opening hours. The reverse side is an application form to join the Air Force Association of Canada, and 888 (Komox) Wing....Check us out!

October

Weather

October was slightly warmer than normal. Total precipitation was well above average but the number of days with 0.2mm or more of rainfall was below the average of 17 days.

Table with 2 columns: Weather metric and Value. Highest monthly temperature 17.8°C on 11th, Lowest monthly temperature 1.3°C on 21st, Total monthly rainfall 155.4 mm, No. of days with 0.2mm or more rainfall 14, Total hours of bright sunshine 123.9

For public forecast with 3-day outlook phone 339-5044

Heritage Happenings

By Joel Clarkston

Spitfire Milestone

A milestone achievement, that's the way the Spitfire Steering Committee described the arrival of the fuselage jig for the Y2K Spitfire restoration project. The project received a millennium grant in the amount of \$250,000 in April of this year and one of the conditions of the grant was that the fuselage of a Y2K Spitfire be built within 12 months.

Work on the fuselage began immediately but alignment jigs for the fuselage and engine mount were required if the restored Spitfire was to be properly restored. A search was made worldwide for a suitable set of jigs but those that existed were being put to good use in the restoration of other Spitfires. Thus a new jig had to be built using another as a prototype.

Ralph Hull of Hull Aero, England contracted with the Spitfire Steering Committee to construct a suitable fuselage alignment jig. He also offered to loan the committee an engine mount alignment jig and assorted tools necessary for the completion of the job. The whole lot was ready for delivery to Comox by mid October.

ICAD and 435 Sqn of Winnipeg graciously helped out with the transport of the jig and materiel from RAF Brise Norton, England. A CC130 Hercules transport departing Europe with some empty space aboard picked up the lot on Sunday, October 22 and arrived in Winnipeg at 2300 local the same day. LCol Tom Whitburn, Commanding Officer of 435 Sqn personally presented Canada customs with the necessary paperwork upon arrival and the jigs were officially in Canada.

Service Flight 82/83 was used to transport the jigs from Winnipeg to Comox on Monday, 30 October and AMU personnel delivered the same to the Tet Walston hangar on Tuesday morning, much to the relief of all of the volunteers and members of the Spitfire Committees.

The first of many milestones has now been achieved in the restoration of this unique artifact. Only time, money, the acquisition of many rare parts and extensive labour stands between the project and a successful conclusion.

For more information on the status of the project, contact the Comox Air Force Museum at 339-8162, or drop by for a visit. The main museum is open weekends and holidays from 10:00 till 4:00. Tours of the Spitfire project can be arranged for groups of five or more.

CAPA 2000-11-06

The annual meeting of the Canadian Aeronautical Preservation Association (CAPA) was held in Winnipeg on 20-22 October. Major Joel Clarkston attended on behalf of the Comox Air Force Museum and discovered many newsy (gossip) items that may be of interest to aviation buffs. Free airline travel was provided by WestJet of Calgary allowing most member museums to send representatives to the meeting. A very welcome sponsor, it is hoped that WestJet will stay with the association and allow equally successful meetings in the future.

The association has grown from small beginnings of about five members sponsored by the National Aviation Museum to a well

organized group of about 30 aviation museums dedicated to the preservation of significant aviation related artifacts. This year the meeting saw about 40 representatives of 30 museums located from coast to coast. Significantly, the association has been officially recognized by the Department of National Defence as the institution that may receive artifacts for display purposes. That is to say, if a museum wishes to bid for a surplus aircraft, it will be given preference over other museums if it is a member of the association. This is a very important qualification if one is in the aircraft collecting business.

Apart from the Comox Air Force Museum's Y2K Spitfire restoration project, there were many museums that captured the interest of participants. The AVRO Arrow restoration saw two different museum projects with the recovery of the Arrow test models by associates of the Toronto Aerospace Museum being one and the construction of a 2/3 flying scale model by the ARROW 2000 project being the other. The latter was particularly intriguing as a group of aviation enthusiasts have already constructed a proof of concept vehicle and are busy raising funds for the construction of the real flying vehicle. Judging from the enthusiasm of the representatives present, there is no doubt that the Arrow will be flying again in the near future.

The Western Canada Aviation Museum is nearing completion of their Vickers Vedette flying boat and it is a masterpiece of construction. Interestingly enough, as they



The Y2K Spitfire restoration project fuselage jig is carefully placed inside the Tet Walston hangar. The jig recently arrived from England and will be used for the construction of the Spitfire fuselage.

nearing completion, they began looking for a hand carved, four bladed, wooden propeller as used on the original aircraft. After the museum advertised in the Winnipeg Free Press asking for support in locating a propeller, a member of the public walked into the museum and donated just such a prop. It turns out that some years ago a man walked into a local pub and offered to exchange the prop for \$10.00. The bartender took him up on the offer and has had it ever since. Now the Vedette has an original propeller on it's restored

engine. Such is the nature of the restoration business.

CAPA was created by the National Aviation Museum in response to the number of Canadian artifacts that were being lost to museums and institutions located in countries other than Canada. The association has now grown to such a degree that it has a head office located Edmonton and is about to conclude a memorandum of understanding amongst its member museums for cooperation in the preservation of Canadian aviation artifacts.

British Commonwealth air training plan

On 10 November, 19 Wing will be hosting the Lieutenant Governor of BC. He will present the Wing with the British Commonwealth Air Training Plan Pennant.

DNEWS - The British Commonwealth Air Training Plan (BCATP) was created over 60 years ago, one of Canada's most distinctive contributions to the Second World War. The BCATP was a program whereby Canada would provide training for airmen from all parts of the British Commonwealth. Called the Aerodrome of Democracy by then-U.S. President Roosevelt, the BCATP was the greatest training scheme ever put into existence.

Across the country, Canadians mobilized to take part in this gigantic undertaking: an army of experts had to be assembled, airfields developed, and equipment,

including airplanes, had to be obtained. Between 1940 and 1945, approximately 151 schools had been established across Canada with a ground organization of 104,113 men and women. In Western Canada, many a prairie farmer's field quickly became transformed as runways replaced wheat fields, and huge airplane hangars were erected. Canadian factories were refitted to produce the 10,840 aircraft that were used in the training program.

BCATP students would begin their training with an eight-week posting at Elementary Flying Training School and successful graduates would continue on for several more weeks of training at Service Flying Training School with more rigorous courses in such things as instrument flying,

night flying and formation pattern flying. In addition to pilot training, other BCATP schools specialized in training aircrew as wireless operators, air gunners and navigators.

The BCATP schools in Canada had a huge impact on surrounding communities as airforce personnel took advantage of local amenities, such as movies, shopping and dances. This interaction resulted in many wartime romances and it is estimated that 3,750 Canadian women married foreign BCATP students.

By the end of the Second World War, the BCATP had produced 131,553 aircrew, including pilots, wireless operators, air gunners and navigators for the Air Forces of Great Britain, Australia, New Zealand and Canada.

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