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# Raising bees on hold for BComd

## LCol Chris Wood ready to tackle COVID challenges

Jules Xavier  
Shilo Stag

A posting to CFB Shilo has meant the new Base Commander has left his bee hives in Ontario in the capable hands of his wonderful sister.

An interest in bees led to a hobby for LCol Chris Wood, who had an initial goal to have 1,000,000 bees working to produce honey out of 12 to 15 hives.

"The hobby was sort of my answer to the challenge of 'making something out of nothing,' as I figured I could be a bee-farmer without owning any land," he shared with the *Stag*. "I also thought managing hives would be a fun challenge for myself — I used to be very allergic to bee stings, so working with them would be a great exercise in self-control."

"As of mid-summer, before moving out to Manitoba, I figure I had about 400,000 bees. If you were in the honey yard on a bright day when the bees were stirred up, the bees would noticeably darken the sky around you."

He added, "That can be a little surreal, but I figure there is a certain honour amongst honey bees — they really don't want to sting you because it means they'll likely die."

Born in Cornwall, Ont., in 1974, LCol Wood benefited from a publicly-funded education, attending his primary and secondary schooling at, respectively, St. Andrew's and St. Joseph's in or around Cornwall.

He then attended the Royal Military College of Canada in Kingston, Ont., where he obtained his Bachelor of Engineering after graduating in 1997. He also has an International Master's degree from his studies in India from the University of Madras in Chennai.

What about his military training? His current military trade is RCEME (Royal Canadian Electrical and Mechanical Engineering).

"Ultimately, that means I'm part of the team that fixes things," he said.

In the early part of his military career starting in 1992, LCol Wood served in the Primary Reserves — Stormont, Dundas and Glengarry Highlanders — and when he initially transferred to the Regular Force, he was engaged to be an Armour Officer.

He then transferred to the Corps of RCEME soon after his graduation from military college.

"The Corps or RCEME is employed throughout the CAF, because, well, eventually, something breaks," he offered.

With Canada's colonial connection to the United Kingdom, there have been opportunities to train and serve with the British and other armies as well.

Following EME Officer training, LCol Wood was posted to Osna-brueck, Germany, where he served on exchange with the British Army — 1st UK Armoured Division — from 2000-02 during which time he



BComd LCol Chris Wood signs the official paperwork during the outdoor CoC ceremony held at Canoe River Memorial Park. Photo MCpl Heather MacRae/3Div

completed an operational tour in the former Yugoslavia.

As such he's received his military training in Chilliwack, BC, at CFB Gagetown, NB, plus in Ontario at CFB Borden and CFB Kingston. Moreover, LCol received additional training in Arborfield, UK, and his Staff College was completed in Wellington, India.

When it comes to operational deployments, LCol Wood has two — the first was during the winter of 2000-01 in Bosnia while he was an exchange officer with the British Army. His second was to Afghanistan supporting 1PPCLI in spring-summer of 2006.

Since 2002, LCol Wood served in various locations from CFB Esquimalt to Ottawa, and with 1 Service Battalion, JTF-2 and DGLPEM.

When it comes to professional sports, does LCol Wood have favourite teams?

"During the games of these pro leagues there are some truly outstanding individual and team plays, but I have found it difficult to keep up with the individual stories of the players themselves," he said.

"Conversely, as my kids have gotten into minor hockey, soccer and ruby, I've found myself loving the pre-pro pursuit. Getting to see the 'kids' either being creative or mimicking the pros, trying and flourishing, is pretty engaging.

"If I were to declare a favourite NHL team, I'd say it was the Washington Capitals ... my reason is they came through for me in my last [and only] time I won my hockey pool.





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Deadline for submissions is the Thursday prior to the week of publication. Submissions can be sent to the Stag via email at [stag@mymts.net](mailto:stag@mymts.net), dropped off at the Stag office located in CANEX or via Inter-base mail.

**Submitting articles and photos for print:**

- Please submit articles as a MS Word Document.
- Include the author's full name, rank, unit and contact information.
- Include photos with your articles whenever possible, however, do not embed photos in word documents.
- Please submit photos as high resolution jpegs (if scanned 300 dpi), digital images or in hard copy format.
- With photos, include a cutline which names the individuals in the photo; what's taking place; and the name, rank, and unit of the photographer.



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# Soldiers cited for mission success

## Shilo Stag

His tireless efforts supporting 1RCHA and 2PPCLI who were assisting northern Manitoba Indigenous communities did not go unnoticed last winter.

Pte (B) Emile Leclerc received a 3CDSG Command Team commendation during a visit by new 3CDSG Comd Col Robert McBride.

In response to the COVID-19 global pandemic, between December 2020 and January 2021, CFB Shilo's mobile support equipment operator tirelessly supported units who were part of Op VECTOR and Op LASER.

Pte (B) Leclerc responded to more than 10 tasking on extremely short notice, "sacrificing his leave" and providing operator duties after hours.

His 3CDSG Command Team citation stated: "Pte Leclerc stood out amongst his peers as a dedicated and selfless operator. Pte Leclerc's steadfast commitment to duty directly contributed to mis-

sion success."

CFB Shilo's acting mobile support equipment controller also garnered a 3CDSG Command Team commendation for his efforts during the same time frame.

Sgt Francois Langlais "went above and beyond" doing his job, from bus break downs to last minute flight changes.

His citation stated: "Sgt Langlais recognized the constantly changing logistical requirements and tailor-made viable solutions" for units deployed to Indigenous communities in northern Manitoba.

Working at two rank levels above his own, Sgt Langlais contributed significantly to relief efforts and enabled mission success.

Col McBride also promoted Lt James Smith to the rank of captain.

He will be moving across the hallway from his current office to take on the G8 comptroller duties from Shilo mayor and Capt Jason Smits, who is posted out this summer.



Capt Smith



Sgt Langlais



Pte(B) Leclerc



# Retired MWO trained at RCA Depot

## MWO (Ret'd) Eric Ballinger Stag Special

It was interesting to read Col (Ret'd) Peter Williams' article in the July 8, 2021 edition of the *Shilo Stag* in which he provided a brief history of 3RCHA.

After completing basic training in 1964 at the RCA Depot in Shilo, I moved down the road to Winnipeg to become a member of 3RCHA before eventually re-mustering to administration.

I had a number of memorable experiences with the 3rd Regiment, including a tour on avalanche control in British Columbia.

While at CFB Shilo from 1969 to 1974, I even had the privilege of serving as an assistant editor with the Base newspaper *Shilo Stag*.

It is good to know the *Stag* continues its long service to

the Base community. As a young corporal I enjoyed my secondary duty which entailed travelling to Leech Printing in Brandon as an assistant editor, along with my editor, to oversee the layout of the upcoming edition of the Base newspaper.

To all serving members reading this, I encourage you to enjoy every day of your service. For one day you will be old like me.

I stopped by CFB Shilo three years ago to visit the RCA Museum and was struck by how I identified with the vehicles, weapons and uniforms on display.

It seems puttees have gone out of fashion.

I've also included two photos (above/below) from my graduation parade at the completion of basic training in the fall of 1964. In one you can see boxcars on the Canadian Pacific (CP) railway tracks, along with a Second World War era H-Hut building, several of which were still in use then. I am in both photos next to the right marker.



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# Military's posting season affected by worker shortage

## Stag Special

This year's posting season just got a little more stressful.

All of the moving companies contracted by DND have been affected by a labour shortage. The result is a chance there may not be anyone available to move you when you need to relocate.

DND and the Canadian Armed Forces (CAF) engages the services of three van lines — Atlas, Sirva and UVL — to move household goods and effect as part of the relocation package for annual postings in North America.

This year's annual posting season sees risk of some service failures during peak moving season due to a shortages in drivers and labour across the removal industry. Peak season is mid-June to early-August.

There are 58 moves here at CFB Shilo which may be affected by this situation. No doubt you have questions.

If your question isn't addressed below, then contact your Base Traffic Section during duty hours at 204-765-3000 ext 3029 or after hours at 204-573-5719.

You can also e-mail charlene.carr@forces.gc.ca

Here's a Q&A which might be able to provide further information regarding your move from this Base during the summer.

**SS: I have not yet made financial commitments concerning selling, buying or with regards to terminating or starting a lease. What are my best options?**

**DND/CAF:** "Discussions about your Report For Duty (RFD) date should be done with your gaining and losing unit. While the RFD date is normally 30 days plus/minus of your Change on Strength (COS) date, due to the peculiarities that COVID-19 has created, you may change your RFD date from 30 days prior to, or up to 90 days after your COS date, with CO approval. You could also extend your RFD by between 90 and 180 days with level one approval. Such a delay would result in greater likelihood of smooth pack/load/shipment of your household goods and effects. See CANFORGEN 028/21 and your posting message for more details."

**SS: I have already made financial commitments and have a fixed closing date, or end of lease date. How can I be flexible?**

**DND/CAF:** "You have options regarding the timing of your pack/load and unpack/unload services. You can request to have those occur on a weekend or statutory holiday. Consult with your Base Traffic Section and review the pre-move information booklet for more details."

"If your pack and load occurs earlier than normal due to a request by the van line, you are entitled to additional interim lodging, meals and miscellaneous in accordance with the CAF Relocation Directive, paragraph 5.04."

**SS: I have tried to adhere to the principle of a door-to-door move, but am being told it won't be possible due to van line capacity. What do I do?**

**DND/CAF:** "If you are separated from your household goods and effects due to a delay created by the van line, you may request additional interim lodging, meals and miscellaneous benefits as detailed in the CAF Relocation Directive."

"You remain entitled to Storage in Transit (SIT) throughout this period. You may find Base Traffic and the van lines move your household goods and effects into SIT as a mitigation measure to even out the demand on shipping resources. The above mentioned articles will cover your interim living expenses during the delay that is outside your control."

**SS: I've purchased a replacement residence, but can't occupy when scheduled because the seller cannot vacate.**

**DND/CAF:** "As above, you may request interim lodging, meals and miscellaneous expenses as detailed in the CAF Relocation Directive."

"When doing so, make sure you inform Base Traffic so they can make appropriate arrangements for SIT. The above mentioned articles will cover your interim living expenses during the delay that is outside your control."

**SS: I've made financial commitments, have tried every possible means to be flexible, and Base Traffic tells me I can't get my pack/load serviced. I have to be out of my home. How can you help me?**

**DND/CAF:** "We have some emergency options for you. These options are only permissible between June 15, 2021 and Aug. 31, 2021 in order to address this particular peak posting season."

"However, you will require a DCBA adjudication decision letter in order to receive an advance of funds and reimbursement of expense through BGRS if you take one of these options. You may try to book your own move with the local carrier of your choice. If you select this option, you must inform Base Traffic immediately, who will consult with DCBA and with DMCSS and inform you of the maximum amount claimable. You will be informed how to upload this information to show the amount claimable."

"If you can only book a local mover who does not leave your geographic area, you can hire them to move your household goods and effects to a local storage facility until such a time that the contracted van line can relocate your household goods and effects to your new place of duty."

"If you select this option, you must inform Base Traffic immediately, who will consult with DCBA and with DMCSS and inform you about the reimbursement process."

"We recognize there will be an 'up front' out of pocket cost, so DCBA will be very fast to approve your adjudication so you can claim your expense. With your successful adjudication you can request an advance from BGRS."

"You may self-move. This is likely only viable if you have a small amount of household goods and effects. If you select this option, you are to inform Base Traffic immediately, who will consult with DCBA and DMCSS and inform you of the maximum amount claimable."

"In accordance with the CAF relocation directive, you are not entitled to a kilometric allowance for a rented trailer and will continue to be limited to a maximum travel distance of 500 kilometres per day."

**SS: I've tried to be flexible, Base Traffic is unable to schedule a van line to remove my household goods and effects, and I'm fed up. I'm staying in my home.**

**DND/CAF:** "We do not recommend that. You are reminded you cannot be compensated under the CAF relocation directive for any legal expenses arising from a decision to remain in your principal or rental residence after the date of vacancy when alternate shipping options are available. As an option of last resort, we strongly recommend an option which gets your household goods and effects into local storage pending Base Traffic being able to re-schedule removal."

**SS: It's moving day. No one showed up. What do I do?**

**DND/CAF:** "Call Base Traffic. They will attempt to resolve issues with the van line."

**SS: My relocation circumstances don't quite line up with the wording of the CAF relocation directive or the options suggested in this FAQ. What do I do?**

**DND/CAF:** "You should submit an adjudication to DCBA via your CAFRD co-ordinator as soon as possible. The co-ordinator is to mark all requests of this nature as URGENT 2021 SIT/SHIPPING EXPENSE in order for DCBA to prioritize the adjudication."

"When doing so, ensure to provide all relevant details. You will need to upload your approved adjudication to your member's secure website in order for the service provider to reimburse/reconcile your claims."

**SS: What else should I do?**

**DND/CAF:** "Remain flexible and positive. The CAF will do everything it can to support you during this period. You should remain in contact with your Base Traffic Section throughout the move process."

"When encountering exceptional circumstances, do not make any financial commitments or incur any expenses related to moving household goods and effects before receiving confirmation of your relocation contingency plan from your Base Traffic section."

"Remember, verbal direction is not sufficient authority to initiate expenditures. If your circumstances fall outside the scope of the CAF relocation directive, submit an adjudication to DCBA via your CAFRD co-ordinator as early as possible, clearly outlining the compensation you require in order to minimize 'out-of-pocket' expenses."



It's posting season at CFB Shilo. Just look for moving van companies parked out front of your neighbour's home. Photo Jules Xavier/Shilo Stag



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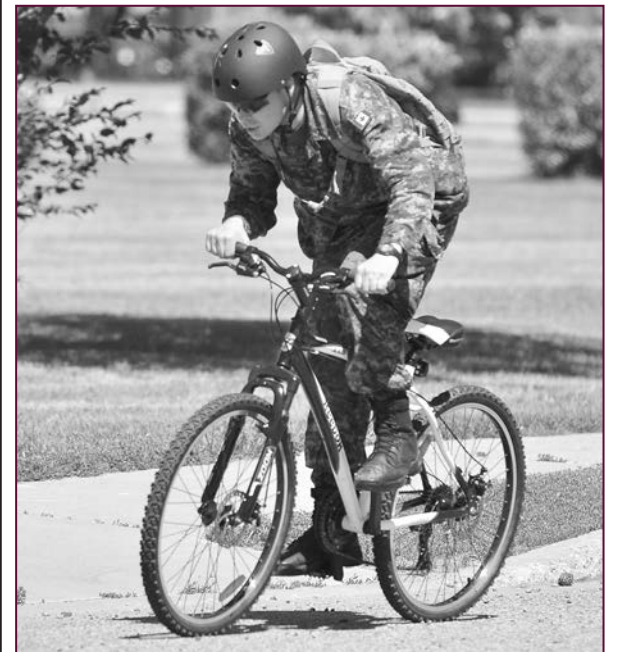
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BSO 3.6 All persons operating a bicycle within the confines of CFB Shilo shall wear a certified helmet. Bicycle passengers including those in trailers, where permitted, shall wear a certified helmet. The MP PI Comd may authorize the temporary seizure of a bicycle where the operator fails to wear a helmet.





# Poutine on menu for British officer immersed with 1RCHA

**Jules Xavier**  
Shilo Stag

When it comes to Canadian cuisine, poutine is at the top of the list for Capt Peter MacEachern Blood.

"I love poutine," the 31-year-old tells the Stag while relaxing at the RCA Museum's outdoor gun park. "It's hard to replicate back home using mozzarella cheese. We don't have your cheese curd."

Home for the captain is across the Atlantic Ocean, where he was born in South Wales, in a small town called Abergavenny. He had to cross the border to attend high school in England, then did his university studies in Edinburgh, the capital city of Scotland.

Why pursue a military career? It was only natural based on generations of his family on dad's side being involved in past wars.

"On my mom's side of the family, being rural Welsh, they stayed home on the farms," he said.

With 1RCHA's Z Bty as a FOO, Capt MacEachern Blood arrived here in January, and will hone his military skills during UBIQUE 150 celebrations until leaving this Base in August 2022.

With the Royal Regiment of Artillery in Britain, he signed up in September 2015, and commissioned as an artillery officer in August 2016.

"I was swayed to go artillery after a visit to Sandhurst," he recalled. "I liked the type of soldiers I met, and the scope of what artillery offered. The soldiers I met sold me on artillery because of the diversity being offered when it came to jobs."

Royal Military Academy Sandhurst, commonly known simply as Sandhurst, is one of several military academies of the United Kingdom and is the British Army's initial officer training centre located in the town of Sandhurst, Berkshire.

While 1RCHA relied on the trusty M777 during the Afghanistan War, Capt MacEachern Blood said his British counterparts use the AS90 Braveheart 155mm self-propelled Howitzer and L118 towed 105mm light gun on the battlefield.

Thus, he's being introduced to the M777 and its capabilities while working alongside his Canadian counterparts. Being part of an exchange program has been awesome, according to the genial officer.

"It was our Chief of Defence who wanted to expand the exchange program with British soldiers interacting with all nations like Canada," he explained. "He wanted to increase the number of exchanges as it has been three decades since Canada and the UK had done what I'm experiencing now on a year-long program, not a three-month which still occur."

Capt MacEachern Blood saw this exchange program on a job board and thought it was a great idea to pursue early on in his military career.

"I applied, why not? It was silly for me not to go for the job," he said.

And he was no stranger to Canada, though his previous visit six years ago with wife Saskia was as tourists. They arrived in British Columbia and crossed the country from west to east, finishing up in Quebec. She has family south of the border in Vermont.

In 2019, the couple returned to Canada, but this time focused their time in Quebec. Winter sports was on the agenda: he likes to ski, while Saskia enjoys snowboarding.

"But it has been challenging to move here during a pandemic," he offered. "We had to leave our dog back home, plus a lot of our appliances did not make the move because they would not have worked in Canada."

The young couple have found a comfortable abode on the Base, and he drew a lot of attention initially because of his uniform, plus the yellow/blue stable belt he wears. The accent also piqued the attention of those nearby when he



With 3RHA out of Northumberland, British military exchange officer Capt Peter MacEachern Blood stands beside a British 18-pounder gun from 1917 during a visit to the RCA Museum's outdoor gun park. He's with Z Bty at 1RCHA during his posting to Canada, learning how his artillery counterparts from Canada operate.

Photo Jules Xavier/Shilo Stag

spoke.

When he initially arrived at CFB Shilo his self-isolation meant he was put up in the house at 2 Kingston Road.

"That was a nice place to stay for two weeks," he said.

No sooner had he put boots on the ground at this Base, Capt MacEachern Blood was departing for the United States with his fellow 1RCHA comrades plus members from 3PPCLI based out of Garrison Edmonton. Two FOO parties were part of an exercise held in Louisiana at Fort Polk, which is the US Army's premier Joint Readiness Training Centre.

"I missed out on Ex FROZEN GUNNER at the time because we had to self-isolate in [CFB] Suffield with 3PPCLI before leaving for the States," he said. "But I'll experience it in 2022 along with Ex LIMBER GUNNER in the fall."

Acclimatizing to Canada's winters was another change for the captain, having arrived on the prairies during a frigid time thanks to an Arctic Vortex.

"I had to get used to the prairie weather extremes of -45 Celsius with your wind chill in winter, and now dealing with the heat and +36 Celsius. I've experienced -22 Celsius in Germany, but your cold is freezing cold."

While in Canada, Capt MacEachern Blood is not just learning about our military procedures — he's also taking in the cultural experiences.

"I'm here to learn the Canadian way of doing stuff when it comes to artillery," he offered. "I want to understand the roles of what is done here, then if I'm ever deployed and working alongside Canada, I will have a good understanding of how stuff is done."

He added, "It's great when you get to work in a coalition. This gives me a perspective, an idea, of what is being done, so it makes it easy to integrate."

He pointed out like Canada working with NATO allies in Ukraine or Latvia, the Brits are working alongside their NATO partners in Estonia and Ukraine.

"Being able to integrate working alongside our allies

is great. This opportunity is perfect to learn about 1RCHA's way of doing things on the battlefield, from its procedures using the M777, which we don't use. This allows me to build on my experiences dealing with a foreign nation. It's still the artillery, but I'm learning how to integrate what I learn working alongside the infantry as a FOO."

Thus far, the experience the past six months has been awesome being part of 1RCHA, and working alongside his fellow officers. And doing it during a COVID-19 pandemic.

"Sure, there have been challenges, but that was to be expected for myself and wife," he said. "I've relished every moment so far being part of 1RCHA, and what they are exposing me to."

His work docket also includes taking a LAV commander course, which he's looking forward to doing as part of his immersion in what's being offered at 1RCHA.

He's also enjoying observing the idiosyncrasy of Canadians while here. He likes ice hockey, and might lace on the skates for Z Bty this fall at Gunner Arena if intersection hockey is offered again.

"This is an opportunity of a lifetime no matter if I have to deal with the cold and heat extremes on your prairies," he said. "My hockey team is the Vancouver Canucks, but I prefer rugby over soccer."

What about Canadian beer?

"I've been experiencing Canada's vast choices when it comes to your beers," he admitted. "I'm currently sampling BC brews I find at CANEX or the Brandon liquor marts."

While there's no time to feel homesick, with Saskia here too, the captain does miss not having his Black Lab Maverick here to experience the Base's dog park. And socializing for the couple has been limited because of Manitoba's third wave and provincial restrictions during our Code Red status.

"It's about the people you meet here, which is part of the experience. But that is hard when you are in a lockdown, so hopefully this will change this summer."

Thanks to communication technology, despite the time difference, Capt MacEachern Blood reduces any homesickness by also reaching out to family and military colleagues for occasional conversations.

What about food staples he grew up with?

"I've not found a place yet where I can get good fish and chips," he said. "But I see some of the food I eat back home, like [British] Heinz beans and mushy peas or Scottish wafer biscuits on your store shelves in the international aisle."

When it comes to food his biggest surprise was the "lack of decent cheese," he said. "I like a good cheddar cheese back home, so I have to go to your foreign cheese section where that product is expensive."

Besides poutine, he's also discovered the a dessert offered by the Minary family bakery when he went for a drive to Souris with the wife.

"Those [large] apple fritters are so delicious," he said.

Before he returns home to continue his military career with 3rd Regiment Royal Horse Artillery (3RHA) out of Albemarle Barracks in Northumberland, England, Capt MacEachern Blood has one more Canadian delicacy he wants to take a bite out of — "I've not tried beaver tail yet."

Like 1RCHA's A and B Batteries celebrating its 150th anniversary in 2021, Capt MacEachern Blood's regiment also has some history. The regiment was constituted in 1939 out of existing batteries. Two of the batteries have served continuously since the 1790s. Two others have served continuously since their formation in the period 1805-1811 during the Napoleonic wars.

"It's nice to be here and being part of when the Canadian artillery is celebrating an anniversary like its 150th," he said.



# Soldiering approach is remember 'gladiator in the ring'

## From the front

"As for a CFL team, I'll say current favourite is the Ottawa Redblacks — I like to see the new kid on the block succeed."

With his outdoor Change of Command (CoC) ceremony at Canoe River Memorial Park now a memory, BComd LCol Wood participated in the *Stag's* Q&A to let our readers learn more about the individual who succeeded the late LCol Jeff Lyttle.

**Shilo Stag (SS): Why did you pursue a career with the CAF?**

**LCol Chris Wood (CW):** "Growing up on a farm in Ontario, my parents instilled a good work ethic and nurture the desire to help-out where I could. When I recall back to the time I was in grade school and considering what I might do in my future, I remember thinking I could help in the Canadian military."

"That was probably the seed. Of course, the movie *Top Gun* came out when I was getting into high school and wanted to definitely become a fighter pilot, so that started me thinking about ways to join."

**SS: What was your influence in choosing the Army/Navy/Air Force as your military career?**

**CW:** "I mentioned I would have definitely joined the Air Force as pilot, but my eyesight change in high school prompted me to find another trade."

"I did like the idea of sailing, but at that point I didn't have a great plan to deal with sharks. And so a career in the Army felt right — I would get to experience different geography and grass-root cultures. And I would always have a 'buddy or buddette' to experience it with."

**SS: What were your thoughts when you were informed you'd be taking command of the BASE?**

**CW:** "First it was: Whoo-hoo! I am a supporter of competitive processes, but I was cautiously optimistic of my chances as being chosen for the his opportunity."

"What followed was the flood of 'things to do' both professionally and personally in order to be ready to assume this Command."

**SS: What were you doing prior to being informed you would be posted to CFB Shilo with DCSEM as senior project manager?**

**CW:** "Prior to this opportunity at CFB Shilo, I worked acquiring and bringing into service all sorts of equipment for the Canadian Special Forces Command (CANSOFCOM)."

"I was the senior project manager on a team that delivered to CANSOFCOM any capability that was packaged as a major capital equipment project."

"My team were also the materiel authorities for the Canadian Forces Intelligence Command (CFINTCOM) tactical equipment."

**SS: What did you know about CFB Shilo and its history before arriving here?**

**CW:** "While I had served at other locations in the 3rd Canadian Division such as [Garrison] Edmonton and CFB Wainwright, I didn't know much about the Base intricacies at CFB Shilo."

"I had been to Shilo before for sports events and for training, but not for any great length of time. Ultimately, I knew the German military had for a number of years maintained tanks in Shilo, that Shilo was now home to both 1RCHA and 2PPCL, and that the winters were crazy cold."

"CFB Shilo had a reputation of being someplace where people either loved it or hated it. In response to this rumour, I figured I'd make up my own mind."

"One of the biggest attractions for me about CFB Shilo was it somehow retained its self-sufficient structure when most other Canadian Army garrisons were re-structured and the Area Support Units were replaced by the Canadian Divisional Support Groups. Shilo was left virtually unaltered."

**SS: What is your approach when it comes to leading sol-**



BComd LCol Chris Wood addressed soldiers at Base Transport following what will be many promotion ceremonies he will preside over during his two-year stint at CFB Shilo.

## diers under your command?

**CW:** "A leader needs to be able to wield a variety of leadership styles, and but be true in all of them. At times the leader is a facilitator, and other times they're a director."

"In this job, I consider myself both champion and servant for my unit. Amongst the units and enablers on the Base, I am the Team Captain for garrison-related issues."

"Regardless of my individual role, my intent in leading soldiers is to instill confidence in their contribution to mission success and in our collective organization."

"I want soldiers to know their respective jobs, understand how their contribution affects others upstream and downstream, and to look for ways to make our organization better."

"Some proposed solutions will be beyond the ability for that soldier to effect, but for those that are within their ability and authority, I expect them to try out their solutions and tell others how it went."

**SS: Describe your personality when it comes to soldiering — and when you are away from the job?**

**CW:** "Hmmm, that's an interesting question. Over the years I feel I've gotten to 'soldier' in a variety of environments. These environments range from domestic and international exercises, to short and long international operations, and from the field force to working directly with industry."

"If I were to borrow a phrase, I would say my approach to soldiering is to always remember the 'gladiator in the ring.'"

"Most of us don't end up being that man or woman in the ring, but I leverage that thought to keep motivated to figure something out or get something done."

"When I'm away from the job, I still like to get things done, but I think I'm a little less pressured to meet deadlines."

**SS: What makes a good commander when it comes to dealing with the day-to-day Base operations?**

**CW:** "I think that most of the components that allow the efficient and effective day-to-day Base operations are already in place. My role is to keep all those components working together towards the right goals."

"An average commander will calmly read a developing situation and give guidance either early enough or at critical junctions to allow the organization work together. This would ideally see in the right resources converging at the right place at the right time."

"In addition to what the average commander would do, a good commander will see friction points developing within the organization, will permeate confidence within the organization and facilitate a solution."

"These friction points may be due to a lack of resources, inexperience, bad luck, etc. And then a great commander would constantly train his or her replacement to take over."

**SS: What are your objectives for the Base during your two-year tenure at the helm as BComd, especially during a COVID pandemic?**

**CW:** "My primary objective are to lead the Base through what I hope is the latter portion of the COVID threat, ensuring it remains ready to be called upon when needed, and able to confidently complete the tasks that are demanded."

"The Canadian Army is an amazing organization. Certainly, I have always been impressed by and proud of the way military members react in times of crisis, but I'm also proud of the perseverance of military families and Public Servants in the Defence Team."

"As a result, concurrent to being stressed and constrained, I intend to nurture and then harness those creative approaches to the provision of support, taking the opportunity to test those approaches."

"As the COVID threat either subsides or transitions to an endemic, I expect to manage this transition into our new normal. Whether it is

opening up services, rebuilding relationships with community partners, or developing new ways to train, I will take a deliberate approach to the transition."

"Finally, CFB Shilo has unique structure within the Canadian Army. As planning occurs regarding the Army's future structure, for Force 2025 and beyond, I intend to highlight the benefits and challenges of a consolidated Base model."

**SS: Finally, what goals have you set for the men and women under your command, plus goals for yourself once you have boots on the ground at CFB Shilo?**

**CW:** "My three main goals for Shilo Defence team are one: remain ready to be called on. The Canadian Armed Forces [CAF] is the organization the government calls on when things are at their worst."

"Two: figure out where you can make improvements that not just improves the situation for you, but also for those who depend on you; and three: be the example you know you should be."

"As for goals for myself, I want to move a couple of files forward, learn from and mentor those around me, and positively contribute to the future of CFB Shilo."

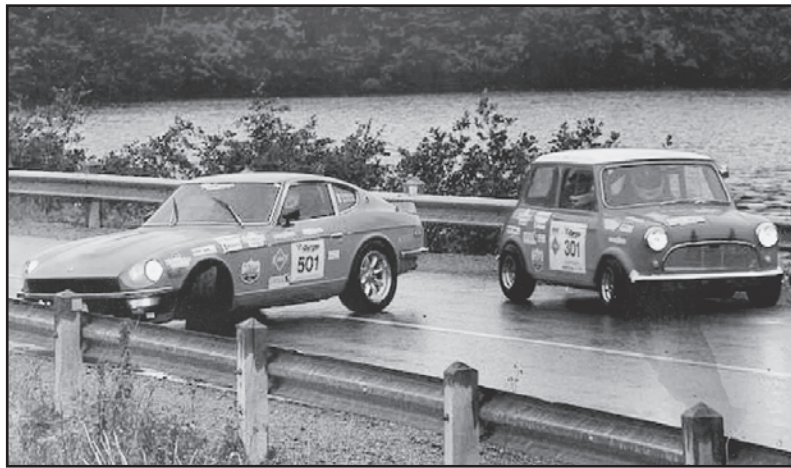
Married to Lisa, LCol Wood will reside in the BComd's house on Base, with children 19-year-old Rachel and 16-year-old Ryan."

The BComd enjoys all sports, particularly hockey, and looks forward to seeing action with the Base team if, and when, intersection hockey returns to Gunner Arena with changes to provincial pandemic guidelines this fall."



BComd LCol Chris Wood asks a question of Sgt Russell Legge (left) during his tour of the Flatlands Dining Hall for visiting 3CDSG Comd Col Robert McBride (middle). The tour gave Col McBride an in-person view on some of the Base's 70-plus-year-old kitchen's deficiencies when it comes to feeding soldiers.





Mechanic Karl Burke enjoyed fixing (right) the Austin Mini Cooper cars which broke down or had road mishaps (above) during races.

Photos submitted



## Mechanic Karl Burke recalls his racing days

**Kimberley Kielley**  
Shilo Stag

Karl Burke is a bit of a wild child. He used to frequent race tracks three nights a week, fixing the broken cars and putting them back on the track.

A mechanic since 1971, at 72, Burke doesn't race anymore or pull pit crew duty.

"I'm getting older," he said chuckling.

Vehicle owners on the Base likely have crossed Burke's path or one of his family members at the Shilo Automotive Repair Centre. He's had the shop since 1979 and bought the building in 1989.

It is the epitome of a successful family business as son Justin, granddaughter Kennedy, grandson Jordan and nephew Jonathon work on military members' and civilian vehicles alongside their dad, grandpa and uncle.

Born in Ottawa, Burke spent two years in Saskatoon running an automotive shop which specialized in the British Leyland, an Austin Mini manufacturer at the time.

When the auto manufacturer pulled out of Canada, Burke went on a hunt for work and wound up in Manitoba at CFB Shilo's CANEX garage in 1972 to learn the petroleum business.

Racing cars which his son Justin drove at the stock car races in Souris or racing south of the border three nights a week were highlights for Burke.

"Where did I find time to do it," he asked.

But he loved it.

"The best part of my job was waiting for something to break," he said. "Sometimes you gotta make stuff. You just don't know what you're getting into."

Thinking on his feet and being the Austin Mini mechanic extraordinaire were the perfect skill set for Burke. He worked as a volunteer pit crew mechanic in the Newfoundland Targa races for five years in the mid-2000s.

Who knew? The first time Burke heard of Targa was the early 2000s.

He was in Gimli watching the races at the 95-hectare racing facility where a quarter mile drag strip, road racing course, a karting course and two-kilometre motocross strip greets racing aficionados.

One day while watching a race, Dyrk Bolger approached Burke.

"It was the first time I met him. He approached me about wanting to build a car for Targa," he recalled. "I never heard of Targa before that. He wanted to build it using his own money. I had no idea what I was getting into."

The car? A 1963 Austin Mini Cooper S from the shell in.

Meeting the road rally's safety guidelines meant Burke had to install all the safety equipment according to Targa guidelines. It was no small task.

Mechanics Andy and Rachel Nelson were Bolger's pit crew in Newfoundland the first year he recalled, adding he was the mechanic-on-the-ground here in Manitoba.

Burke joined the pit crew in 2007, with his brother Richard. That year, the Austin Mini had a major rollover right off the ferry in Argentina.

"The firefighters had to cut the roof off the car. The guys pleaded with the firefighters not to cut the roof off," he chuckled.

Since the Austin Mini was out for the rest of the race, Burke helped a team from Las Vegas after they blew their motor on the second day.

"We took the motor out of our Mini and put it in their car," he said.

From there it was an act of cannibalism in a mechanical way as parts from Bolger's destroyed car helped the Las Vegas team keep in the race.

For the next four years, Karl and his brother formed the pit crew for Bolger's Targa car. Driving the support truck and trailer across a country, and onto a ferry to drive another 12 hours, cost Burke around \$25,000 a year.

"It was a phenomenal experience. The people in Newfoundland are great."

He recalled when the Austin Mini blew a head gasket in the middle of nowhere on the road. Newfoundlanders allowed Burke to use their facilities, tools and even fed them while they toiled over the engines.

"They'd get parts for you," he said. "No charge. No nothing."

For the past 20 years, Targa Newfoundland has used this raw and unique beauty of a province as a backdrop to host one of the world's most iconic motorsports events.

It is the only tarmac rally in North America. The course is 1,600 kilometres with scenery comparable to none with its winding bay roads skirting rocky shores at the ocean's edge.

Burke has always had his hands on or in something mechanical. He continues enjoying working with German cars at his shop although he sees all makes and models come through the roll-up doors.

And he has no intention of slowing down as he explains he took one Sunday off last spring and didn't enjoy the down time. He works Sundays and hasn't been to the doctor since 1972.

With a glint in his eye and an easy grin, Burke said he'll never retire.

"You gotta be doing something," he offered. "Once you sit down, you're done."



### WARNING SHILO RANGES

Day and night firing will be carried out at the Shilo Ranges until further notice.

The range consists of DND controlled property lying approximately 32 kms SE from Brandon and N of the Assiniboine River in Townships 7, 8 and 9; Range 14 WPM, Townships 8, 9 and 10; Ranges 15 and 16 WPM and Townships 9 and 10; Range 17 WPM in the Province of Manitoba. If required, a detailed description of the Shilo property may be obtained from the Base Construction Engineering Office at Canadian Forces Base Shilo.

All boundaries, entry ways, roads and tracks into the Range are clearly marked and posted with signs indicating that there is to be NO TRESPASSING. Hunting is no longer permitted on the Shilo Ranges.

#### STRAY AMMUNITION AND EXPLOSIVE OBJECTS

Bombs, grenades, shells, similar explosive objects, and their casings are a hazard to life and limb. Do not pick up or retain such objects as souvenirs. If you have found or have in your possession any object which you believe to be an explosive, notify your local police and arrangements will be made to dispose of it.

No unauthorized person may enter this area and trespassing on the area is strictly prohibited.

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## Employment

**CANEX needs you:** Sales associate part-time position with 13 to 32 hr /week required. Must be available days/evenings, and weekends. Starting salary is \$12.53 per hour, progressing to \$14.77 per designated pay band. Under the direction of the department supervisor, a clerk/cashier scans customer purchases, processes transactions, and accepts payment. He/she prices, stocks shelves, counters and display areas with merchandise and keeps stock in order. He/she performs cleaning duties as required. Apply in person at CANEX admin office, or NPF Human Resources office at base HQ.

## Services

**Need your taxes done?** Fast, friendly, and personal service. Located outside the gate. For all your income tax needs contact Ingrid Wasserberg at 204-763-4357. OPEN ALL YEAR.

## Services

**Looking for a job** on the Base? Submit resumes to NPF HR office via e-mail quoting competition # to [npfhrshilo@cfmws.com](mailto:npfhrshilo@cfmws.com) OR for more detailed information on the jobs offered at CFB Shilo visit: [www.cfmws.com](http://www.cfmws.com)

## Base Chapels

**St. Barbara's Chapel**  
Next service: Battle of Britain Sept. 19  
Padre Lazerte - ext 3381  
Padre Smallwood - ext 6836  
Padre Walton - ext 3088  
Padre Chang - ext 3089  
**Our Lady of Shilo Chapel**  
Sunday at 10:30 a.m.

Confessions by appointment  
Padre Nnanna - ext 3090  
Padre Augustin - ext 3698



## LETTER HOME FROM FRANCE

# Private used Lewis machine gun to fire at Fritz

*Editor's Note: During the First World War Pte Cecil Minary served in the CEF, beginning his military training at Camp Hughes prior to being shipped to England for further training. He saw his first action soon after Canada's involvement in the Battle of Vimy Ridge in France. His great-great-niece Kendra Minary has spent the COVID pandemic going thru the original letters he wrote home from England and France prior to being KIA on Aug. 28, 1918. The Lewis gunner died on the battlefield after his crew was hit by a German artillery shell. The Stag will share Kendra's great-great-uncle's letters with our Stag readers to give you a peek at what a soldier was contemplating with pencil and paper while in the UK training or in France in a trench waiting for the next attack or counter-attack. Cecil's letters are transcribed as they were written, so this includes his spelling, grammar and punctuation. Of note, from his letters home he rarely described his clashes with Fritz, instead preferring to enquire about life on the family farm or what his family and friends were doing back in Manitba. Unlike some some soldiers who would share their war stories in their letters, Pte Minary had his own distinct writing style no matter if it's his dad, sister or a relative. He also made the job of Army censors easier by not including war details which would be blacked out. That's the reason why his letters are "somewhere in France" once he left England for the Western Front.*

829297 B. Coy  
Somewhere in France  
52nd Battalion  
July 13th 1917  
Canadians BEF France

Dear Edna.

Just a few lines this time Edna to let you know that I am still alive and feeling fine as usual for there is nothing much else to write about and also to thank you for those two Boxes of June seventh for they arrived hear (sic) on the tenth and in splendid shape, that cake was a dandy it was just a fresh as the day it was cooked, the maple sugar was good too and also the dates, those handkerchiefs and soap are being used to and of course you (sic) pencil is busy at present.

There has been no mail much since I wrote you

last, I got two other parcels though a few days before yours came, a small one from home and one from Annie Prette. It seems that I am lucky in the parcel line as every one sent me so far has arrived so far when so many of the fellows never get some of there parcels at all.

We are up the line now again but back from the front a little ways, I don't remember if I told you in my last letter or not anyway I am a Lewis Machine Gunman now so ought to be able to give Fritz (sic) a few pills what do you think eh?

Say Edna that canned heat you sent will come in fine up here while we are in the front line we can't light a fire on account of the smoke so that heat will come in fine to make some tea with. We don't get non tea issue while up there and Annie Prette sent some tea in her last parcel so with that and your heart I'll be OK this trip.

The weather has been dry these last few days I guess it is just waiting untill (sic) we get up the line then its going to give us a good wash. But we should worry we are getting used to the like of that now.

I hope there is some mail for me tonight I have not had a letter for a week now so chances look good, a fellow feels kind of down in his boots if he goes while without any mail and sees the rest of them getting it but I can't kick for I get as much mail as the best of them and a lot more than the most of them gets.

Well Edna this is all for this time there are no news in this but the fact is there are none to give, I wish I could thank you for those boxes but if I get back to Canada I'll thank you in person how will that be.

So Bye Bye With love to all

Your Cousin Cecil  
829297  
Pte C.E. Minary

# CAF improving uniforms as new camouflage pattern selected

## Stag Special

CAF will do some improvements on military uniforms as it prepares to shift from one camouflage pattern to another.

The military selected a pattern for its new camouflage and the federal government recently went to cloth manufacturers to start the process of producing the material needed for uniforms.

The new pattern is called the Multi-Terrain or MT and a sample of design was provided to industry. Industry has until May 12 to submit their bids to provide the new material which will then be used for Canadian Forces uniforms.

The first order would be for 390,000 metres of the new camouflage cloth, followed by an order of 560,000 metres of cloth a year later.

Additional orders would tally up to 1.1-million metres of the camouflage cloth, industry has been informed.

The new design will replace the current Canadian Dis-

ruptive Pattern, or CADPAT, which has been in use since the early 2000s.

The CADPAT uniforms are used by Army, Navy and Air Force personnel. Canadian special forces personnel use the American MultiCam pattern and will continue to wear this camouflage.

The ordering of the cloth for the first uniforms is the next stage in the process.

"An implementation plan is currently being developed to outline how this new pattern will be rolled out, but clothing will transition to the new pattern as current stocks are depleted and contracts for production of new uniforms are awarded," said Department of National Defence (DND) spokesperson Andrée-Anne Poulin.

In order to ensure the proper transition, some items in CADPAT Temperate Woodland are still required until the Multi-Terrain pattern is completely rolled out, added Poulin.

The first order of material is for combat shirts and pants in both CADPAT Temperate Woodland and the new CADPAT Multi-Terrain pattern.

"Limited improvements to the clothing will also be included in this purchase as we wait for the Soldier Operational Clothing and Equipment Modernization project to deliver a modernized operational clothing that improve performance and comfort for members," said Poulin.

The combat shirts which will be purchased will include the following improvements:

- removal of pencil pocket on lower arm,
- waist suppression extended,
- placement of arm pockets,
- change from four-inch increments to two-inch increments in sizes,
- size range increased to 47 sizes from 21.

Pants will now be available in 42 sizes instead of only 21. Deliveries are expected to start in January 2022.

**"An implementation plan is currently being developed to outline how this new pattern will be rolled out, but clothing will transition to the new pattern as current stocks are depleted and contracts for production of new uniforms are awarded," says DND spokesperson.**



# Padre takes sermons outdoors for parishioners

**Jules Xavier**  
Shilo Stag

A honey bee bounced off Capt Joachim Nnanna's large bible resting on a picnic table — stunned and gingerly walking across the grassy lawn around his feet while the padre spoke during his outdoor sermon.

Once the bee regained its composure following biblical collision, it buzzed off to seek out the next flower to pollinate while Capt Nnanna continued his sermon.

Our Lady of Shilo Chapel has been hosting outdoor church services for the past few Sundays, parishioners bringing their own seating, from chairs to camping lawn chairs.

Located in a shaded area, with the church's steeple overlooking the morning proceedings, parishioners are socially distanced amongst the trees. Capt Nnanna uses a picnic table to mark the front of the outdoor, plus uses a lectern

for parts of his service. An adjacent picnic table handles the computer providing music.

During his sermon or while hymns are being sung, Mother Nature provides her own voice, with an array of birds singing from the nearby tree canopy that provides the shade for the congregation of a dozen.

A light breeze for the 10:30 a.m. service provides a respite from the summer heat currently experienced on the Manitoba prairies.

Capt Nnanna welcomes his parishioners, including new BComd LCol Chris Wood, who finds a grassy spot to place his own chair. No pews on this day.

"I was worried about the chance of rain, but it looks like we'll be okay," said Capt Nnanna while dressing for his service and looking to the heavens above. A sprinkling of drizzle falls on him thanks to the breeze, and the overnight rainfall which adhered to the leaves.

Less than one hour later, with hymns sung and sermons spoken by the genial padre, the service came to an end.

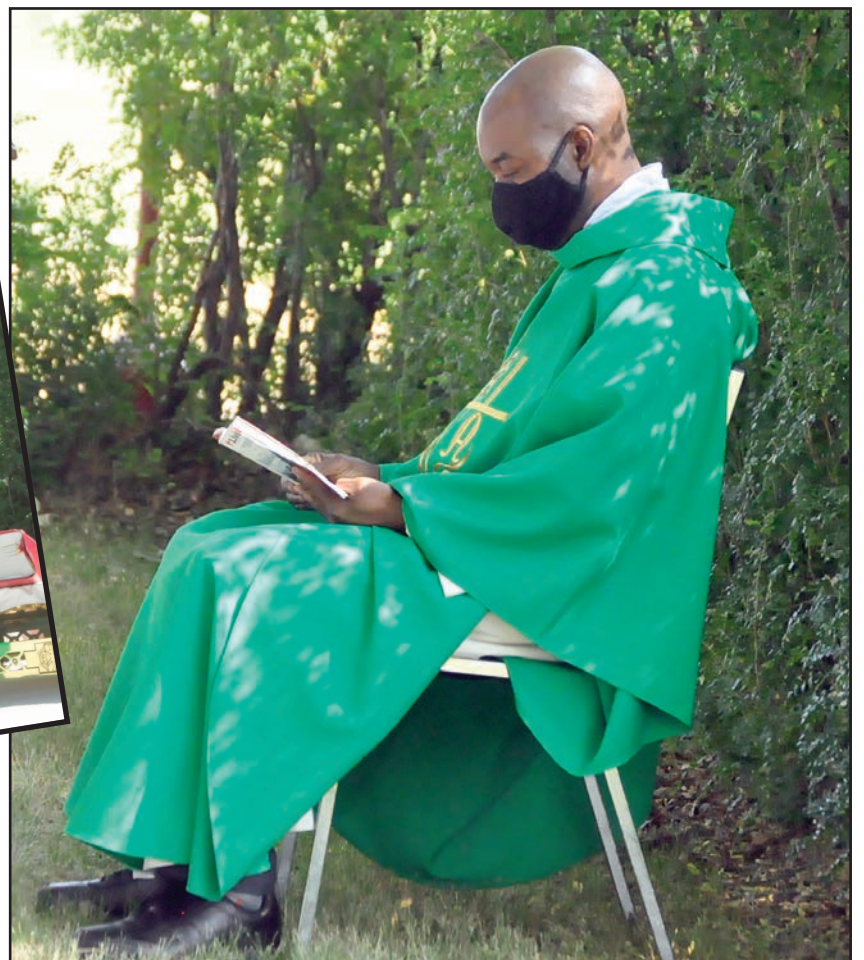
Capt Nnanna proudly announced treats would be served afterwards, a plate of cookies and quiche passed out among the socially distanced parishioners.

Capt Nnanna said the idea of holding outdoor services has been well-received, especially with the chapel closed for many months due to provincial pandemic restrictions. But the easing of some of the restrictions allowed churches to re-open with 25 per cent capacity.

With the excellent summer weather, and plenty of lawn space around the chapel, Capt Nnanna organized the outdoor services to provide something different for his churchgoers.

"It's worked out well doing this outdoors. Just look around and you see people find a spot to sit on their own chairs, and we can enjoy the fresh air," he offered. "Thankfully, the weather has co-operated."

The outdoor services will continue Sunday at 10:30 a.m. as long Mother Nature co-operates, and parishioners want this alternative to being indoors sitting in pews.



**Photos Jules Xavier**  
**Shilo Stag**



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