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Sir Les Downing inspects his 1RCHA CO coin from LCol David Brassard which was presented during his 100th birthday celebration in Virden by C Bty's Capt James Lee and WO Michael Jenkins. Capt Lee also presented the RCA Second World War veteran with a 105mm round casing which is awaiting engraving.

*Photo Jules Xavier/Shilo Stag*

# Centenarian celebrates with 1RCHA

**Jules Xavier**  
 Shilo Stag

Turning 100 is not as rare as it might have been when Canada turned 100 in 1967.

A Royal Canadian Artillery (RCA) Second World War veteran did just that with the advent of June, with a parade organized by Virden's Legion in compliance with current COVID-19 restrictions.

Taking a seat in a comfortable yellow lawn chair at the side of his home in Virden — across the road from Victoria Park, which opened on June 20, 1897 — Sir Les Downing shyly waved at well-wishers during the planned drive-by parade for the centenarian.

"I'm just enjoying the day," he said softly as a Second World War jeep owned by military historian Ed James rounded the corner off Seven Avenue.

It was followed by an RCMP cruiser, a school bus filled with cheering children, plus representation from CFB Shilo, with 1RCHA's C Bty arriving baring birthday accolades and artillery gifts, including a CO's coin from LCol David Brassard and a 105mm round casing.

Missing from the celebrations sadly were daughter Donna Lynne Downing, who lives in Pincher Creek, Alberta, and 95-year-old wife Louise, who resides in a nearby personal care home where she's now under care for Alzheimer's.

"It would have been nice to have Louise

here for this," he told Capt James Lee and WO Michael Jenkins, when they stepped forward after parking their military vehicles.

With Sir Downing relaxing in his lawn chair, both Capt Lee and WO Jenkins knelt down closely to carry on a conversation with their fellow artillery soldier.

"Once a soldier, always a soldier," offered WO Jenkins. "Remember, you're never alone ... you're never forgotten."

Looking back on his military service — Sir Downing enlisted for the Second World War in Brandon in 1942, but did his training at what is now Garrison Petawawa and Camp Shilo, prior to further training in Britain — he was part of D-Day's second wave to France in 1944.

See **ARTILLERY** page 4





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The Shilo Stag is produced every second Thursday.

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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# HHT, DIT protocols in place

## Posting season requires following local community conditions

**Shilo Stag**

The COVID-19 pandemic continues to impact everyday activities such as the Active Posting Season (APS).

DND has created a website page to ensure consistency in the approval of House Hunting Trips (HHTs) and Destination Inspection Trips (DITs).

By visiting this page, there are planning tools and resources for local communities in Canada which will help determine if conditions at the member's destination are acceptable for the conduct of a HHT/DIT within the current COVID-19 environment.

The information on local conditions is not all-inclusive. It is generic guidance aimed at informing/supporting Canadian Armed Forces (CAF) members to conduct a successful HHT/DIT, but not authoritative. Information will be updated as needed by local representative.

HHTs and DITs will be conducted within the constraints imposed by municipal, regional, territorial, provincial or federal restrictions.

The approval or denial of a HHT is the decision of the losing unit CO. When the CO receives an HHT application, they should contact the gaining unit to obtain information on the local restrictions, and then action the request accordingly. Updates to the local conditions matrix are the responsibility of unit OPIs.

If you have questions regarding your relocation, BGRS is the first point of contact.

Should BGRS not be able to provide a response then members are encouraged to engage their local IRP co-ordinator.

For example, here are some questions posed for those coming to CFB Shilo within 3 Div:

Would you recommend HHTs/DITs be conducted in your area at this time? Yes. With some limitations.

Manitoba continues to impose a 14-day self-isolation period with no end date announced. The Province of Manitoba Stakeholder Response Unit has confirmed CAF members can forego the requirement to conduct quarantine for military members only when conducting HHT/DIT.

This confirmation hinges on several key aspects of the member conducting their HHT/DIT: Personnel are not displaying any symptoms of COVID-19; limit the travel and interactions to only those essentials in securing accommodations; do not come to CFB Shilo unless a formal approval is obtained by the Chain of Command; respect the provincial restrictions towards restaurants usage, most preferably only takeouts and delivery; and do no visit parents/friends, and no tourism or shopping.

Risk of infection with COVID-19 exists for CAF members and their dependents while travelling on HHT/DIT. The member and their dependents can also represent a risk to others particularly if travelling from a location where the number of COVID-19 cases is high.

Members and their dependents are therefore reminded to maintain strict adherence to public health measures regard-



Posting season will mean plenty of adjustments during your move due to the COVID pandemic.  
*Photo Jules Xavier/Shilo Stag*

less of the medical threat assessment as COVID-19 remains a real threat at this time across the country.

It is highly recommended that you read the local community information in this chart for any location that you will be transiting through while traveling on HHT/DIT.

Would family members be expected to be quarantined once arriving in the local area if travelling from outside of the province?

Yes, there are requirements to quarantine from inter-provincial/domestic travel for 14 days as per the Manitoba provincial guidelines and restrictions related to COVID-19 travel.

As per CANFORGEN 035/21, it is strongly recommended that members proceed unaccompanied on HHT/DIT.

Is commercial air travel available to the normal transportation hub which supports the Base/Wing?

Yes. Winnipeg International Airport (YWG) or Brandon Municipal Airport (YBR).

Are commercial accommodations available?

Yes. Hotels/motels listed in the PWGSC accommodation directory should be contacted to determine availability and/or restrictions.

Are restaurants open or are there enough take out/delivery options available to support an HHT/DIT?

Yes. Takeout and delivery with dining room sit-in is limited to members of the same household.

Having said this, it is strongly recommended to do take-out or delivery as part of the conditions for waiving the quarantine.

For further information visit [www.canada.ca/en/department-national-defence/campaigns/covid-19/dit-hht-local-community-conditions-info.html](http://www.canada.ca/en/department-national-defence/campaigns/covid-19/dit-hht-local-community-conditions-info.html)

This site will provide you with provincial guidance, for example, if you are posted to 5CDSB Gagetown, New Brunswick or to Ontario if your next destination is CFB Borden, CFB Kingston, 4CDTC Meaford, CFB Ottawa, 4CDSB Petawawa or 4CDSG Toronto. Same thing if your posting is taking you to Alberta to be part of 3 Cdn Div Calgary, Edmonton, Suffield or Wainwright.

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# Study to shed light on female retention in military

**Peter Mallett**  
Stag Special

A team of university researchers are trying to determine why a disproportionate number of women decide to cut their military careers short.

Women's perception of the Canadian Armed Forces (CAF) as an obstacle to female retention is an independent study funded by the Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council.

Researchers want to find if there is a correlation between women's perception of CAF culture and their decision to leave the organization.

"DND has implemented several measures over the past decades to achieve a more inclusive workplace, especially for women," said lead researcher from Dalhousie University Dr. Isabelle Caron.

"Therefore, we decided to study the perception women have of the workplace, including organizational culture, to see if it plays a role in their decision to leave the organization."

Dr. Caron is currently interviewing women who have left the CAF since January 2010. Most workplace inclusiveness initiatives launched by DND focus on recruitment. Researchers feel it is equally important to explore how to retain CAF women in their jobs.

Dr. Stefanie von Hlatky from Queen's University, Dr. Stephane Roussel from Ecole national d'administration publique (ENAP) and Dr. Magali Vullierme are assisting Dr. Caron in her research.

The study was developed following the publication of Canada's Defence Policy in 2017 which aimed at increasing the percentage of women in the CAF by one per cent per annum.



**"The CAF offers a very interesting case for looking at the organizational culture, its perceptions by members, in this case women, and the impact of perception on employees."**

in human resource management in public organizations.

"From an HR perspective, I am really interested in the organizational culture and its impact on individuals who work in the organization," she said.

"The CAF offers a very interesting case for looking at the organizational culture, its perception by members, in this case women, and the impact of perception on employees. In addition, I believe the results of this study could help the CAF to better understand the challenges related to women's retention."

Dr. Caron said initial response and interest in the study has been strong, but she is looking to bolster those numbers with greater participation. If you would like to take part in the study contact her at [isabelle.caron@dal.ca](mailto:isabelle.caron@dal.ca)

The current percentage of women in the armed forces is still low at approximately 16 per cent.

Researchers are conducting the first phase of the study, a series of in-depth interviews with approximately 30 women, ending later this month. Then in September, they will expand their interviews to capture more women.

Interviews are conducted via Zoom with the recorded interviewee's voice intentionally distorted to protect their identity.

The study was approved by Dalhousie University's Research Ethics Board and a number of other measures

are being implemented to ensure anonymity.

Dr. Caron's area of expertise as a researcher is



2PPCLI training in the RTA four summers ago. Photos Jules Xavier/Shilo Stag

## DND release '20 report on suicide mortality

**Shilo Stag**

The Department of National Defence (DND) released its 2020 Report on Suicide Mortality in the Canadian Armed Forces (CAF).

The findings from this report helps National Defence better understand suicide in the CAF, and further refine our ongoing suicide prevention efforts. Additionally, the report will help DND make evidence-based decisions regarding investments in the CAF health and support programs.

"When we lose a Canadian Armed Forces member to suicide, it has a lasting and tragic effect on their families, friends, colleagues and the Defence Team as a whole," said Minister of Defence Harjit Sajjan.

"Suicide prevention is a top priority for the Canadian Armed Forces and we want every one of our members to know that if you are suffering, please reach out — there is help and support available for you."

The annual report is just one part of the CAF's broad suicide prevention efforts described in the Canadian Armed Forces and Veterans Affairs Canada's Joint Suicide Prevention Strategy.

DND understands that military members can encounter stressful and sometimes traumatic situations as a result of the work they do in service to our country. Suicide prevention remains a top priority for the CAF.

"In addition to reducing the stigma around mental health issues, we are constantly working to improve the high quality health care programs and services that we offer to our members," said CAF Surgeon General MGen Marc Bilodeau.

"As clinicians, we know how important it is to remove barriers to care and support those in crisis. This means encouraging an open dialogue when it comes to mental

health, and investing in the education and awareness programs required to help our members."

While CAF members have access to a comprehensive, evidence-based, interdisciplinary primary care and mental health system, the CAF continuously strives towards reducing barriers to care, including reducing the stigma around mental illness.

Numerous investments have been made to bolster CAF education and awareness programs regarding mental health and suicide, and the CAF is constantly working to enhance our health care programs and services for our members.

### Quick Facts

- The Surgeon General Report on Suicide Mortality in the CAF has been released annually since 2008, and provides information on deaths due to suicide in the actively serving CAF population. Every death due to suicide that is reported to Canadian Forces Health Services is investigated. That said, the statistical analysis in the 2020 Report on Suicide Mortality focuses on Regular Force males because the number of known deaths due to suicide in females and Reserve Force members is too small for accurate statistical analysis.

- The 2020 Surgeon General's annual Suicide Mortality Report is an update covering the period from 1995 to 2019.

- From 1995 to 2019, there was no statistically significant change in the overall suicide rate of CAF Regular Force males.

- The number of Regular Force males who died by suicide is consistent with the age-adjusted male suicide rates in the Canadian general population.

- The reasons for deaths due to suicide can be complex. There are typically multiple potential contributing factors for each death from suicide.

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Manitoba 



# Artillery veteran humbled by knighthood from France

## From the front

In the past, he's told media his commanding officers would not allow him to be on the beaches of Normandy when D-Day commenced at dawn on June 6.

It was the largest amphibious invasion in military history, and he had to wait in Britain while his artillery mates faced the Germans early that morning.

"They would only take one gun crew. A lot of those boys never made it to the shore, so it's a lucky thing I didn't go, I guess," recounted Sir Downing. "I just felt like I should be there with the rest of the boys, some of them I knew."

He was a Gunner with the 19th Canadian Army Field Regiment, and spent much of the war on the front lines after arriving in France a week after D-Day.

Asked by some among birthday well-wishers why they hear people referring to him as Sir Downing, the title is a result of not being knighted by Queen Elizabeth, but for him receiving France's highest honour given to foreign soldiers — French Légion d'honneur.

It is the highest French order of merit, both military and civil, and was established on May 19, 1802 by Napoleon Bonaparte. The first medal was presented on July 14, 1804.

The order is divided into five degrees of increasing distinction: Chevalier (Knight), Officier (Officer), Commandeur (Commander), Grand officier (Grand Officer) and Grand-croix (Grand Cross).

American, British and Canadian veterans who served in either the Great War on French soil or during the 1944 campaigns to liberate France may be eligible for appointment as Chevalier of the Legion of Honour, provided they were still living when the honour was approved. Sir Downing is at the top of the list, as a Chevalier, or Knight.

The French government started to recognize Allied soldiers like Sir Downing around the time of the 70th anniversary of D-Day. He received his knighthood for his involvement in the Normandy Campaign.

Sir Downing, who received his honour in January 2016, is among good company in Canada when it comes to the French Légion d'honneur:



Sir Les Downing waves at birthday well-wishers June 1 driving by his Virden home. His birthday cakes were on display nearby, including one from the Virden Legion.

Photos Jules Xavier/Shilo Stag



- Leonard Brierley, one of the first Canadian soldiers to land on Juno Beach during the D-Day invasion, was awarded the rank of Chevalier (Knight) on May 30, 2007.

- Jan de Vries, a Canadian paratrooper from the Second World War and veteran's advocate was named a Chevalier in

2004.

- Céline Dion, international celebrity, Canadian singer
- Former Prime Minister Brian Mulroney was presented the Legion of Honour in the rank of Commander, on Dec. 6, 2016.

- Second World War veteran Blair Neatby, 17th Duke of York Canadian Hussars, was awarded the Legion of Honour in the rank of Chevalier in November 2015 for his participation in the liberation of France.

- Wilder Penfield, a Canadian neurosurgeon.

- CEF veteran from the Great War Capt George Richardson, was promoted to captain as a result of being the sole survivor in the battle of Saint-Julienin No. 2 Coy.

When he was awarded his French Légion d'honneur, he deflected away accolades but humbly accepted it for those who he fought alongside, and for those who are buried in graves overseas.

"I don't feel I'm more entitled to it than the boys who are gone," he told media after learning his Virden Legion had nominated him for the French Légion d'honneur. "I was lucky to get home, and that's all I wanted."

Serving his country during the Second World War, Sir Downing saw action in France, Belgium, Holland before stopping in Germany following the surrender by the Nazis.

For much of the war, Sir Downing and artillery crews had little time off dealing with the retreating German armies. He was taken aback by the starting population in Holland when Canada's army pushed the Germans out.

"The people were just so good to us there and they had nothing, they were starving," he recalled.

Returning home following the war, he met future wife Louise. They received farmland near Reston from Veterans Affairs, and moved out and started a family. Seventy-six years later, he's enjoying life as a centenarian, two birthday cakes to his left waiting to be sampled once well-wishers dropping off cards departed.

A nice breeze from the south helped keep the outdoor festivities cool while Sir Downing relaxed in his yard, inspecting the 1RCHA CO's coin he received from LCol Brassard.

"It's nice you boys took the time to come and see an old soldier," he told Capt Lee and WO Jenkins. "I've had a good life ... I worked hard. Work never hurt you. I'm a music boy [too]. I've played for a lot of dances as a fiddle player."

With the festivities wrapping up, Sir Downing returned to his house where a short nap was in order before his birthday dinner, where he could enjoy a slice of cake provided by the Virden Legion.



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1RCHA C Bty's Capt Lee James was part of the birthday drive-by for Sir Les Downing (inset) during his 100th celebration held June 1 in Virden. Humbled by all the fuss, Sir Downing lamented his daughter in Alberta and wife Louise at a nearby personal care home were unable to attend because of COVID-19 restrictions. However, the parade and a visit from 1RCHA was exciting, he said while sitting outside his home.

Photos Jules Xavier/Shilo Stag



# Great War artillery on target facing Germans

## Gunners operate with speed, precision firing 18-pounder

**Andrew Oakden**  
Stag Specil

The Quick Firing (QF) 18-pounder field gun was a wartime game changer, a pivotal artillery system, and one of the original modern field guns in Canadian service.

It used a fixed cartridge, loaded from the breech, and had a 20th-century recoil system. It was the standard field gun used by the Royal Canadian Artillery (RCA) during the Great War and was in Canadian service from 1907 to 1945.

The RCA Museum has one QF 18-pounder MK II dated 1918 on display inside our Base venue. Late 19th-century artillery systems, such as the 12-pounder BL, the forerunner to the QF 18-pounder, incorporated wheel breaks and a spade under the trail.

These additions helped with the recoil of the gun after firing, but they did not stop the gun from jumping after firing. Modern artillery systems, such as the QF 18-pounder, included hydro-spring cylinders or hydro-pneumatic recoil mechanisms, to act as counter-recoil, which pushed the barrel to the starting position after firing.

It represented a giant leap in technological design and operation. The French 75mm field gun Model 1897 was the first modern artillery system with the British QF 13-pounder and QF 18-pounder coming soon after.

The 1st Canadian Contingent left for England with 54 18-pounders. In early 1915, the Canadians joined the British in the trenches of France and Belgium. Canadians participated in battles across the Western Front.

The artillery directed bombardments against enemy trenches, machine-gun nests and fortifications. Gunners fired a selection of rounds, including armour piercing, gas, high explosive, incendiary, shrapnel, smoke and star.

These were anti-personnel weapons designed to deliver large volumes of high-explosive shells. The 18-pounder could fire projectiles over six kilometres at a sustained rate of four rounds per minute.

Gunners operated with speed and precision, while the guns were accurate and reliable. In April 1917, the Battle of Vimy Ridge set a new standard for artillery support to deal with strong enemy positions and counterattacks.

Canada had four divisions with Brig E.W.B. "Dinky" Morrison directing the Canadian artillery. The pivotal gun for the battle was the 18-pounder.

Canada had 156 18-pounders, and a smaller number of other field guns, medium guns, heavy guns and mortars.

They also had significant British artillery support.

In total, for the campaign, the Allies deployed 480 18-pounders, 138 4.5-inch howitzers, 96 two-inch trench mortars, 24 9.45-inch howitzers, and 245 siege and heavy



Canadian Gunners load a round into an 18-pounder, circa 1914-1919.

mortars.

The Canadian Corp also planned for the battle, stockpiled ammunition, dug trenches and built support roads and subways systems to the front.

The campaign started with a preliminary attack from 20 March 20 to April 9, 1917.

was no longer in short supply for the Allies, which led to a massive stockpile and issuing of artillery shells for the battle — the Allies allotted 1.6-million rounds of ammunition.

During the Last 100 Days in 1918, the Canadian Corps also used the 18-pounder for short-range, mobile artillery support.

resistance.

On April 12, Canadians retook the strategically imperative high ground from the Germans.

At the Battle of Vimy Ridge, all four Canadian divisions of the Canadian Corps fought together for the first time.

It became a symbol of nationalism and Canadian pride — a Canadian military success story built on tactical innovation, extensive planning and substantial artillery support.

During the Battle of Vimy Ridge, about half the guns involved belonged to the British, which increased the firepower of the Canadian Corps.

By 1917, ammunition

It is worth noting, alongside the infantry in forwarding units, the field artillery selected targets of opportunity over open sites, such as machine-gun nests.

By the end of the war, the Canadian Corps had five divisional artilleries, each with two brigades.

Each brigade had three batteries of six 18-pounders for a total of 180 guns. It was common to have three batteries of 18-pounders for every one battery of 4.5-inch howitzers.

They also had medium, heavy, and mortar batteries, but in smaller numbers. Canada used the 18-pounder more than any other gun during the First World War.

The 18-pounder was a key component of Canada's success. It proved to be an effective weapon in modern warfare and formed the backbone of the Canadian Corps.

It was one of the most famous artillery systems, if not, the most significant



Canadian Gunners (above) on an 18-pounder firing platform, circa November 1918. Sir Robert Borden (below) reviews the artillery in Bramshott, England, circa 1917.

Canadians bombed German batteries, trenches and fortified positions. They eliminated barbed wire, notably with the introduction of the 106E MKII fuse.

During the second week, they rained artillery on German positions taking out 43,000 yards of enemy trenches, 10,000 yards of barbed wire and harassed 83 per cent of the located German guns. The Germans referred to this period as "the week of suffering."

On April 9, 1917, the Allies began the attack by firing almost 1,000 guns and mortars.

Allied counter-battery fire pounded German gun positions, creeping barrages moved up the battlefield and standing barrages focused on the key enemy positions.

Canadians pulverized the German trenches and destroyed most of the remaining German guns before the infantry advanced on the hill under creeping barrages.

Due to the destruction caused by the Canadian Corps, in many sections, the Germans were unable to mount serious

wartime gun in Canadian history.





## Promoted to CWO

With wife Jamie and daughter Grace looking on at the Base Ammo compound, MWO Michael Delarge (inset) was promoted to Chief Warrant Officer (CWO) by A/BComd Maj Howie Nelson.

*Photos MCpl Heather MacRae/3 Div*





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New flags have gone up at Canoe River Memorial Park on the Base, on Artillery Day. According to Capt Mark Staples, A Bty Capt at 1RCHA, the flags now flying will be looked after by Gunners. Because of the lights illuminating that area of the park, the flags can fly continually and do not have to be brought down at sunset. With the raising of the Canadian flag, A Bty BC Maj Matthew Stickland saluted during the brief flag-raising ceremony, with A Bty BSM MWO Jason Power to his right at the park. Raising the flags at their respective flag poles were Gnr Francis-Daniel Lacombe, Gnr Cole Hundebly and Gnr Matthew Gerdis. Ubique!

*Photo Jules Xavier/Shilo Stag*

## Prevent heat-related injuries during military training

### Shilo Stag

Thoughts of the recent Arctic Vortex are but a memory thanks to the recent spate of sizzling temperatures on the Manitoba prairies.

With this in mind, Deputy Base Surgeon/Flight Surgeon Dr. Steven Nordstrom from 11 CF Health Services Centre offered advice on how to beat the heat now and throughout the summer months.

Warm weather on the Base comes with the risk of over-exposure to high temperatures, whether you're a soldier in the RTA or mowing the lawn at home after work. Weather forecasts in early June are hovering around 30+ Celsius.

"It is important to monitor for adequate water intake and employ a work rest cycle during peak hours of the day," advised Dr Nordstrom. "Supervisors, in particular, play a vital role in reducing heat related injuries. Temperatures should be monitored and training changed or stopped altogether to meet health protection recommendations."

For those exposed to the sun's direct rays, the use of a good sunscreen with a minimum Sun Protection Factor (SPF) of 15, is strongly recommended.

On the Base, Preventive Medicine will monitor temperatures daily and provide updates in the form of advisory e-mails should the temperature warrant it.

Defence Force Health Protection's recommendations for working in hot environments — an important point to note is that five degrees Celsius must be added to the recorded temperature whenever training is being conducted in CBRN gear or when in body armour.

This can push the work rest cycle into a high or very high level, which would require a change in activities.



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## Base Chapels

**St. Barbara's Protestant Chapel**  
No Sunday service  
Padre Lazerte - ext 3381  
Padre Smallwood - ext 6836  
Padre Walton - ext 3088  
Padre Chang - ext 3089  
**Our Lady of Shilo Roman Catholic Chapel**

Sunday at 10:30 a.m.  
Confessions by appointment  
Padre Nnanna - ext 3090  
Padre Shanahan - ext 3698



## LETTER HOME FROM FRANCE

# Edna tells Pte Minary matrimony not in her plans

*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 Manitoba. 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  
Somewhere in France  
B. Coy.  
Friday June 21st 1918



Portrait of Edna

Dear Edna,

Hello "Teddy" How are you today as fine and dandy as myself I hope. Just thought I would drop around and return that chat of yours of May 19th if you remember it but if you do not you will not be offended with me this time will you Edna.

My feet are awfully dirty and all that but you will surely excuse me this time won't you "Teddy" for really it could not be helped. Some nonsense to put in a letter eh? I'll bet a nickel the censor thinks that I have gone nutty say we ask him and see what he will say.

I have been busy these last few days as there has been two or three very good Canadian mails and of course heard from all my correspondents and I guess you will have an idea how much writing that means for me. I had two letters from home the one today was dated May twenty sixth and everything was fine and dandy only that Bruce and Alf Patterson had to report for Military duty in Brandon on June the fifth, so I guess they will be learning the mysteries of forming fours by this time, Alf took his car in with him or rather is going to, so I guess Bruce and he are going to be some sports while they are there eh? Annie said that Vic had to register and they expect that he will be called up about the

first of July.

The government must have an idea that they can do without the farms for awhile what do you think Edna? Chesley played a game of ball on the twenty fourth and won eleven to nothing so I guess they can play ball yet, Annie said that it would be there last this year as to many of the Boys had to leave.

We are just doing the same as usual over here working hard at doing mostly nothing and it looks as though we are in for the same for some time to come yet, we are still playing a few games of Ball winning some and losing a lot, but having some fun anyway.

The weather has turned some cooler lately [sic] so is a trifle more comfortable in the day times.

Say Edna I'm awfully curious to know what this surprise is that you just merely mentioned in the letter, my first thought was I'll bet she has fallen in love and is going to get married Ha Ha. But then you knocked that idea out by saying in the next line that you are not doing anything so foolish. I have thought so many different things since that I could never begin to tell you the half of them so I think I will just wait and see what happens.

This is enough of this scribble is it not Teddy. So will close with heaps of love and best wishes to all.

From your make believe Brother.  
Cecil Minary

# RCAF posted here can wear their pride on their sleeve

## Stag Special

The rules governing RCAF personnel wearing badges or insignia on their operational uniforms have changed.

For those in the RCAF stationed at CFB Shilo, an amendment to the Canadian Air Division Orders (CADO) on operational dress will allow aviators who wear flight suits and Enhanced Combat Uniforms (ECUs)/CADPAT to add certain optional Velcro-backed badges and insignia on their sleeves.

This change in the CADO is intended to enhance squadron and tactical unit morale and esprit de corps. The spirit of the RCAF unit is centred on the members and how well they work together. Part of this spirit comes from the symbols they wear — the badges and crests of the unit.

The CADO amendment will allow badges, especially a

unit's heraldic badge, to be embroidered in full colour as well as low visibility green.

All other badges can be embroidered in full colour, which will be up to the unit as part of their design process. Yes, a unit can design their own patch.

So, what other kinds of patches can there be?

Units can now create and wear badges to mark a special anniversary or participation in an exercise or operation. Courses could have their own patch as well.

In addition, personnel at wings, squadrons and tactical units will soon be able to wear blue t-shirts with an embroidered logo at the neck—or, on a Friday, their own squadron coloured t-shirt.

LGen Al Meininger, Commander RCAF, and CWO Denis Gaudreault, RCAF Command CWO, "recognize the fundamental importance of our squadrons and tactical units within the RCAF.

"As such, this forthcoming direction will serve to enhance esprit de corps and identity."


RCAF aviators are encouraged to "take the opportunity to embrace and contribute to this next chapter of our traditions."

Each new patch design must be endorsed by the Chain of Command and approved by 1 or 2 Canadian Air Division or the RCAF Aerospace Warfare Centre as applicable.

Some items will be available through the Canadian Armed Forces (CAF) supply system, while others will be available through unit kit shops or through CANEX.

This change could mean that some badges currently in use may become obsolete. For example, the multi-colour (low-visibility green and colour mix) heraldic badge will be phased out during the coming year, to be replaced with the full-colour heraldic badge and/or the low-visibility green heraldic badge.





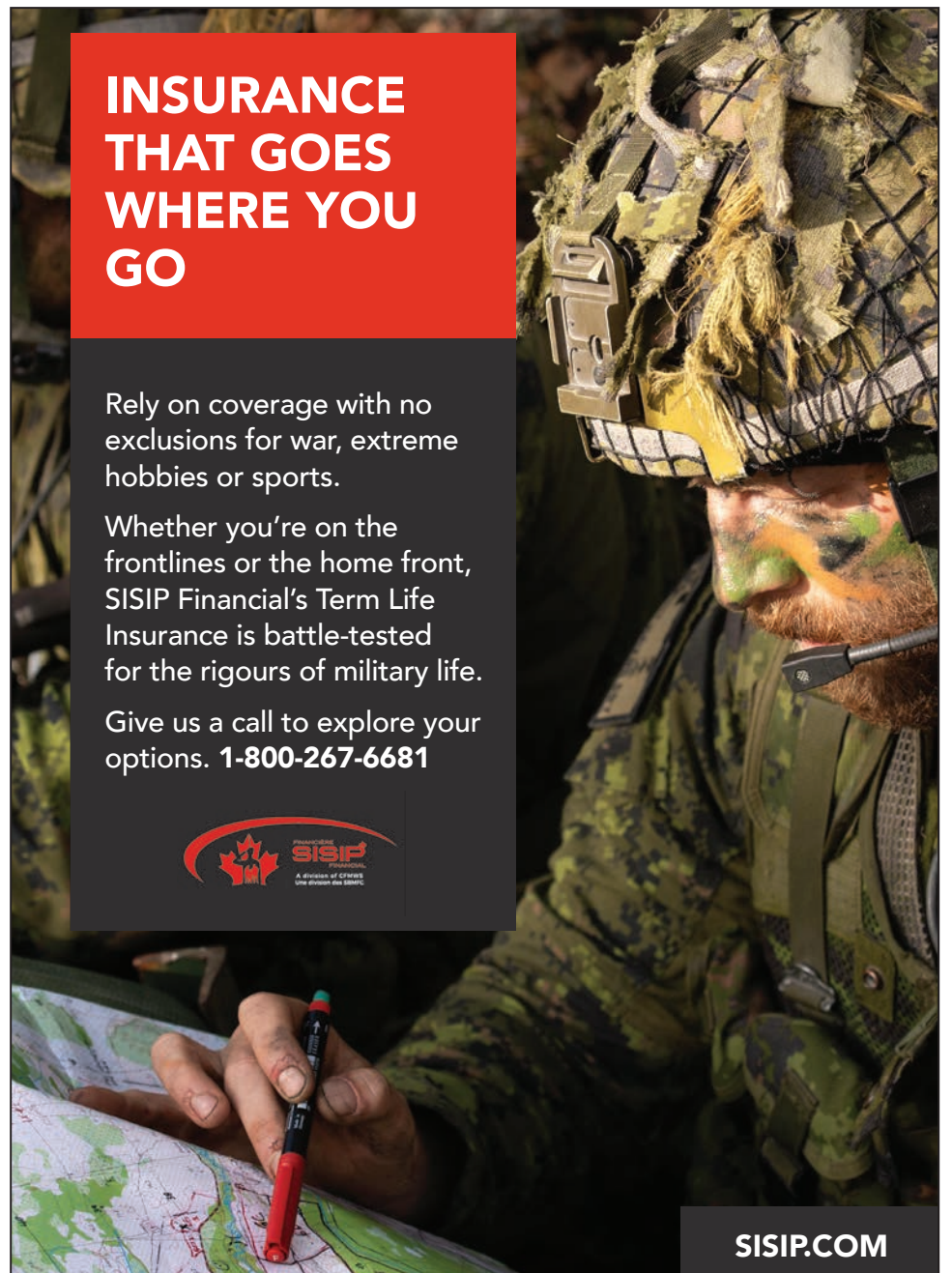
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— *Raymond Taylor,*  
Client Account Manager  
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**RPOU-W summer projects start**

Gunner Road, south of L102, to Aldershot Road was closed for a few days out front of Base HQ for water main dig maintenance, said RPOU-W Det Shilo OC Maj Duncan Cornish. This was followed by asphalt road repair. The annual CFB Shilo street sweeping operations are being conducted on Base roads/streets from June 7 to 11. Motorists, cyclists and pedestrians should exercise extreme caution when moving around the street sweeping equipment due to possible debris.

*Photos Jules Xavier/Shilo Stag*

**NOTICE TO READERS**

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