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Volume 57 Issue 24



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December 13, 2018

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Bdr Alex Boucher-Dumont heads for Ottawa. Page 6



Top-three winners talk about Halloween. Page 10



1RCHA fire the C3 Howitzer at a target in the mountains as part of avalanche control in Rogers Pass, BC.

Photo SLt Michael Dery

Op PALACI underway 1RCHA look after Rogers Pass avalanche control

SLt Michael Dery
Stag Special

Every year since 1961, Canadian Armed Forces' (CAF) gunners from across Canada come together during Op PALACI in Rogers Pass, BC. Their job: to trigger avalanches using C3 105mm Howitzers in this vital choke-point in Canada's transportation corridor.

These carefully planned artillery strikes are conducted to support the Parks Canada Agency's (PCA) avalanche control program which keeps the Trans-Canada Highway and the Canadian Pacific Railway safe from large, natural avalanches.

Parks Canada avalanche technicians determine when avalanche control is needed and choose the target avalanche start zones using increasingly refined snow science.

Troop Commander Lt Kevin Little is the Artillery Officer (AO) who leads the first of two rotations, comprised of 17 members from 1RCHA, and augmented by members from various reserve artillery units.

"I think Op PALACI is exciting for all members because of its unique nature," said Lt Little, adding that the beauty of the Pass is definitely a highlight.

Seeing the majestic peaks in Rogers Pass, like towers along a

giant, snow-covered stone wall, it is no wonder this "palace" in the sky was the source of the operation's name: PALACI, the Latin for palace.

Although beautiful, these mountains, surrounding the short 39-kilometre stretch of the transportation corridor that connects BC to the rest of Canada, are home to the most active avalanche areas in the country.

The C3 Howitzers have been modified and are positioned on one of the 16 specialized rings that line the narrow highway. Space is at a premium, with gun positions just large enough for the howitzers and its transport, surrounded by deep ravines and tall cedar and hemlock trees.

The tight space is why the C3 Howitzer is the weapon of choice for 1RCHA in Rogers Pass.

"It is an excellent weapon, easy to manoeuvre, not particularly heavy, which is an advantage here, due to the small space we have to operate in," said Lt Little.

With two highly mobile detachments, the guns can be deployed at a moments notice, traffic halted, the guns put in place, fire rounds at any of the 300 predetermined avalanche trigger points, the roads cleared of snow and the pass re-opened in mere hours.

See **PARKS CANADA** page 7



A 1RCHA soldier takes aim with a foreign weapon during a visit to Wolverine Supplies in Virden.

Photo Bdr Demitry Klimenko/1RCHA

1RCHA train on foreign weapons in Virden

Bdr Demitry Klimenko
Stag Special

With summer long behind us, it must mean winter training season is right around the corner.

With this in mind this fall, 1RCHA HQ Bty sent 30 soldiers from multiple trades such as Gunners, Supply Techs and mechanics for foreign weapons training.

The bus departed the 1RCHA grounds from CFB Shilo in the early morning en route to Wolverine Supplies, which is located in the scenic Assiniboine Valley just 10 miles northeast of Virden.

The purpose for 1RCHA soldiers was not to just go out and shoot some bullets — which was great fun nonetheless — but also to educate ourselves on an unfamiliar weapons system that some personnel might come across while deployed overseas.

We were greeted by two very knowledgeable instructors: Matt Hipwell and Brent Mossy.

Right from the start our instructors made everyone feel welcome. They kept the group comfortable and maintained a relaxed learning environment.

Moving up to the range you knew people were ex-

cited to shoot various AK-74 weapons.

The RPK-74 functions much like the original AK-47 except with a longer barrel and a bipod for greater range and accuracy. The RPK-74 also uses the same 7.62x39mm ammunition also having a similar design layout to the Kalashnikov.

Each soldier involved in the foreign weapons training was told to use five magazines or a belt for the Light Machine Gun variants while on the range.

Very quickly the space around us filled up with a classic AK-47 gunfire as bullets would ricochet of the plates 200 metres away.

You could say it was a good day to use an AK. After two hours of shooting at the range, we started to do what we do after every range day in the Canadian Armed Forces (CAF) — clean weapons and pick up the brass.

The Battery Commander (BC) Maj Greg Keach from HQ Bty provided his, and the Bty's appreciation, to our Wolverine Supplies instructors for the great day of learning about foreign weapon systems.

Right before we headed back to CFB Shilo, we gathered together for a group photo featuring that day's participants.

Interested in being part of Indigenous teams?

Stag Special

The office of Military Personnel Generation is looking into the possibility of forming Canadian Armed Forces (CAF) Indigenous teams or Indigenous Members to compete in regional, national and possibly international events.

Such events may include participation at the following events:

- <http://arcticwintergames.org/>
- [http://mastersindigenousgames.ca/about/about-the-games/\(adults\)](http://mastersindigenousgames.ca/about/about-the-games/(adults))
- <https://ascnwt.ca/north-american-indigenous-games> (cutoff age 22)

If you are a CAF Indigenous member on this Base, and are interested in the possibility of representing the CAF at such events, email the following information — to the Base COS' administrative assistant Karli Allen at Karli.Allen@forces.gc.ca — SN, rank, name/initials, Base location and sports or events interested in being part of as an athlete.

MLA appreciates feedback

Cliff Cullen
Stag Special

As the calendar year winds down and the curling season picks up, my wife Marilyn and I would like to offer our warmest wishes for a wonderful holiday season, a very Merry Christmas, and a Happy New Year, from our family to yours.

I would also like to take the time to thank you, as it continues to be my honour to serve as your representative in the Manitoba Legislature.

I appreciate the feedback we have received during the past year as we continue making our province a better place for Manitobans. I have had the opportunity to assist many individual concerns the past year, and am happy to continue doing so in the future. Never hesitate to get in touch with me any time you need to ask a question or share your concerns.

I hope we can all take a break from our busy daily lives, and spend some time with our loved ones. I encourage everyone to celebrate heartily and responsibly during this special time of year.

Cliff Cullen is Sprucewoods MLA

Pet of the Week



RUBY & TEDDY

Christopher Hartwick has two dogs at home. Ruby, 13, is a long-haired Chihuahua, who loves to peruse life going by from the PMQ window. Ruby enjoys barking at the squirrels which visit the front yard, and also at the children walking down the street. Teddy, 11, has different interests. He spends his time eating, begging for food, and sleeping while dreaming about food. Do you have a photo of your pet — cat, dog, bird, snake, hamster — you'd like to share with our Stag readers? If so, e-mail it to us via stag@mymts.net



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DND launch spousal employment network

Stag Special

The Department of National Defence (DND) recently launched the Military Spousal Employment Network and Initiative to enable employment opportunities for military spouses and common-law partners, both within and outside of the federal public service.

Military families relocate three times more often than the average Canadian family. As a result, spouses often face professional challenges such as: acquiring or maintaining meaningful employment; under-employment and being overlooked by employers due to inconsistent work histories; inability to retain seniority; and limited job opportunities when posted to small towns and remote areas.

Spousal employment has been repeatedly identified as a stressor for military families, and often contributes towards members leaving the Canadian Armed Forces (CAF).

Providing professional support to CAF families by addressing and alleviating employment challenges that they face when relocating is in support of many of the objectives outlined in Strong, Secured, Engaged (SSE).

The Military Spouse Casual Inventory is open exclusively to spouses of serving CAF members. This inventory supports spouses and common-law partners seeking to gain valuable work experience and career development.

Covering a broad range of work streams, this new inventory will offer an abundance of skilled and experienced candidates to hiring managers, and a path to flexible and meaningful casual employment opportunities to military spouses.

With the support of various professional partners within the Military Family Services (MFS) and the Director General Military Careers, the first step of this initiative is to ensure that this initiative is broadly communicated to our families.

By providing military spouses with employment security and consistency, this inventory can positively impact the morale and financial well-being of many CAF families.

It also provides opportunities for military spouses to strengthen their own professional skill sets, and utilize them to benefit the DND.

The military spouse population consists of diverse, motivated, educated, and other various skilled, people situated across Canada.

By using the inventory, hiring managers will increase employee loyalty, job satisfaction, and productivity; expand the DND's reputation and attractiveness for future military spouses and generation of employees; and facilitate the ability to hire experienced casual workers to benefit their organization.

The MFS, a division of CFMWS, launched the new Military Spousal Employment Network, a self-directed resource where military spouses can directly access employers and employment opportunities.

Some of the tools available include an online job board and virtual career fairs with participating employers located in multiple locations across Canada.

Including the DND, employers dedicated to offering employment opportunities to military spouses include:

Advanis, Air Canada, Alorica, Bayshore Medical Personnel, Bell, BMO, Calian Group Ltd, CFMWS, GardaWorld and LiveCA.

CDS welcomes Auditor General's review

Gen Jonathan Vance

Stag Special

The Office of the Auditor General of Canada released its fall reports including an assessment of how the Canadian Armed Forces (CAF) is addressing sexual misconduct. We welcome this review and its recommendations.

During the past three years, through Op HONOUR, we have taken significant steps to address sexual misconduct in our ranks, but we still have a long way to go. The Auditor General's report identified three key areas where we must improve.

First, and foremost, we need to make victim support more coherent and clearly understood by all parties, but particularly from the affected person's perspective.

Second, we need to expand education and training for members about the causes and effects of sexual misconduct.

And third, we need to incorporate more independent external advice, guidance and authority to help us accomplish the Op HONOUR mission.

Both I, and the CAF senior leaders, acknowledge and support the Auditor General's recommendations. We are taking action, and have initiatives underway to address the issues at hand.

For example, we are placing victim support at the centre of our efforts by seeking the expansion of the role and mandate of the Sexual Misconduct Response Centre.

I would like it to be the authoritative voice on victim support and advocacy, and provide expert advice to senior leaders.

The Sexual Misconduct Response Centre will also

monitor Op HONOUR and provide independent assessments on its progress and effect. We will also issue new orders and guidance in the next few months to help personnel respond more effectively to incidents of sexual misconduct.

Sexual misconduct is a difficult and complex issue. For Op HONOUR to succeed, we must shift attitudes and beliefs to ensure we maintain the high professional standards that Canadians expect.

I want to take this opportunity to say that I am proud of the leadership, engagement and commitment to Op HONOUR that CAF personnel have demonstrated. Specifically, I would like to thank everyone who completed the second Statistics Canada Survey on Sexual Misconduct in the CAF.

As with the OAG's report, we welcome your perspectives and opinions — both positive and negative. Ultimately, it is you — our personnel — who will determine whether Op HONOUR is having a positive impact and where more concentrated efforts are needed. Statistics Canada will publish the survey results in May 2019. Until then, we will continue to press forward with our efforts to ensure we have a safe, respectful and professional workplace for all.

Gen Jonathan Vance is CDS

NEXT HOME GAME



Dec. 15 vs Saskatoon 7:30 p.m.

Dec. 27 vs Regina 7 p.m.

Dec. 30 vs Moose Jaw 4 p.m.

Jan. 4 vs Seattle 7:30 p.m.

Jan. 8 vs Portland 7 p.m.

Jan. 11 vs Red Deer 7:30 p.m.

Jan. 18 vs Kootenay 7:30 p.m.

Merry Christmas & Happy Holidays



Cliff Cullen
MLA for Spruce Woods
ccullenmla@mts.net

Christmas Events at your Chapels:

St Barbara's Chapel (Prot)

23 Dec 1030h – Theme "Love"

24 Dec 1030h – Christmas Eve Service

30 Dec 1030h – Regular Service

Our Lady of Shilo (RC)

23 Dec 1030h – Regular Service

24 Dec 1830h – Christmas Eve Mass

30 Dec 1030h – Regular Service

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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, 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 caption that names the individuals in the photo; what is taking place; and the name, rank, and unit of the photographer.

• • •



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<http://www.facebook.com/ShiloSTAG>

Historic Kingston Cup first awarded in 1927

PHOTOS
 JULES XAVIER
 SHILO STAG



1RCHA's B Bty might be dominating in the Inter-section Hockey League holding down first-place, but that meant nothing when the annual Kingston Cup tilt was played at Gunner Arena versus A Bty. B Bty has won the historic trophy the past few Decembers, but for the 91st edition of the artillery hockey game, A Bty brought its A game. Goalie Tyler McCrory was stellar between the pipes, while Bdr Alex Boucher-Dumont worked his magic during the shootout, scoring the only goal to help A Bty prevail 5-4. This game has roots back to 1873. Trophy was first awarded in 1927.

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Goal crease scramble

It was a crowded crease when the Base experienced playing sledge hockey at Gunner Arena following the annual hockey game. The neophyte players had plenty of spills navigating their sleds, with the outcome of the game ending in a 1-1 stalemate.

Photo Jenna Dulewich/Shilo Stag

Survived gas attacks



With the advent of 2019, and the first edition of the Stag coming out Jan. 10, we will have a feature story on the great-grandfather of 1RCHA's A Bty BC Maj Lee Bellemore. LCpl Frederick Smythe was 28 when he enlisted in the CEF after emigrating from Britain. A painter by vocation, LCpl Smythe had just three months of training before he arrived on the battlefields of France in 1915. His first action was the Second Battle of Ypres, where he was gassed by the Germans alongside his fellow 3rd Cdn Field Engineers Coy and 1 Cdn Div. That same fall he was wounded after being hit by shrapnel in the left leg. This kept him on the sidelines for three years before he was discharged on April 15, 1918 for being "physical unfit." During the war, Maj Bellemore says this great-grandfather carried a photo of his wife Charlotte (inset).



Christmas dinner tradition

The youngest military member on the Base, Avr Tekla Johnston from Base Supply switched jackets with BComd LCol David MacIntyre prior to the Base's Christmas dinner held at L25. While the BComd's jacket had plenty of room for Avr Johnston, LCol MacIntyre found the arms to the RCAF jacket be too short, and a tight fit. For the rest of the day, Avr Johnston was CFB Shilo BComd. *Photo Jules Xavier/Shilo Stag*

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PUBLIC NOTICE

Manitoba Hydro 2019/20 Electric Rate Application

Manitoba Hydro has applied to the Public Utilities Board (Board) for a 3.5 per cent increase to all electricity rates on April 1, 2019.

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For a residential customer that has electric heat (using an average of 2,000 kilowatt-hours (kWh) per month), the impact of this rate increase is an additional \$6.30 per month.

Further details are available at: www.pubmanitoba.ca

HOW DO I SHARE MY VIEWS?

You can share your views on the proposed rate increases with the Public Utilities Board in three ways:

- **Oral presentation** – If you wish to make an oral presentation to the Board at a Public Hearing, please register with the Public Utilities Board by writing to the Board office at the address listed below, or by sending an email to publicutilities@gov.mb.ca. Presentations are limited to a maximum of ten minutes.
- **Written comment** – If you would like to comment in writing on the rate increase, please go to www.pubmanitoba.ca and provide your comment.
- **As an approved intervener** – If you want to actively participate in the public hearing as an Intervener, please go to www.pubmanitoba.ca and register to become an intervener.

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Phone: 204 945 2638
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Bdr Alex Boucher-Dumont (left) hoists the historic Kingston Cup after leading A Bty to victory. During Ex SEALFIT (right), he leads the warm-up with enthusiasm.

1RCHA's Bdr Alex Boucher-Dumont leaving for Ottawa Artillery soldier new driver for CA commander

Jenna Dulewich
Shilo Stag

1RCHA is returning to the driver seat, for Canadian Army Commander LGen Jean-Marc Lanthier that is, with the 1RCHA's own Bdr Alexandre Boucher-Dumont starting training this week.

"This is one of the top-five most powerful members in the [Canadian] military," Bdr Boucher-Dumont said to the Stag over a quick coffee break, explaining the importance of the position.

Hired on as one of the first 1RCHA drivers for the Canadian Army Commander in more than a decade, Bdr Boucher-Dumont said he feels "good" about accepting the position and is ready to leave Base mid-December to start his new life in Ottawa.

"I know I can do the job," Bdr Boucher-Dumont said, noting it will be the particulars such as figuring out where to live and moving logistics that will be slightly stressing him out the next couple of weeks.

Working the last four years out of CFB Shilo as a driver, Bdr Boucher-Dumont has completed various courses including the Driver Wheeled Common course, the Force Test Evaluator, and the Observation Post Detachment Member course in 2016 – allowing him to later become a qualified Light Armoured Vehicle (LAV) 6 driver which came in handy in 2017 when he was appointed the BC's driver and signaller in Latvia during Op REASSURANCE from June 2017 to January 2018.

"I've been getting used to driving higher rank people," the bombardier said.

Originally nominated for the Canadian Army Commander driver position earlier this year, Bdr Boucher-Dumont said he thought he missed his chance when he heard someone from the RCR was hired.

Then he was chosen by 3Div as an honoured guest for the Army Run in Ottawa this fall, when he found out the position was still open.

"They asked if I was still interested and of course I was," Bdr Boucher-Dumont said.

The bombardier was then given a two-week audition before finally being chosen to be LGen Lanthier's driver.

Inspired to join the Canadian Armed Forces (CAF) family through stories from his brother's older friend, Bdr Boucher-Dumont signed up in 2013 and hasn't looked back since.

"He would tell us stories and it always seemed like fun, so here I am," Bdr Boucher-Dumont said with a laugh.

And fun it has been.

The bombardier has kept busy with not only driving courses, but has also educated himself on basic parachutist, artillery communicator and combat first aider – while also entering a variety of military-sports fitness events such as Ex STRONG CONTENDER, Ex TOUGH CONTENDER and placing twice in the Ex MOUNTAIN MAN event, including securing a first-place win among 1RCHA competitors in 2016.

When explaining why he was nominated for the position, Bdr Boucher-Dumont stayed humbled.

"Oh you know, because of good work, excellency, blah, blah, blah," he said with a smile.

Going on what would have been his fifth year this

December at CFB Shilo, the bombardier said he will miss the southern Manitoba summers and people the most.

"The summers were warm and had long hours of sunlight. And I will miss the regiment – it's a good family," Bdr Boucher-Dumont said.

But enthusiastic to move closer to his family, the Drummondville, Que. native said he feels like this new position will be a good fit.

"Of course I'm excited – it'll be a good challenge," Bdr Boucher-Dumont said.

Prior to leaving for Ontario, and his new posting, Bdr Boucher-Dumont helped A Bty take back the Kingston Cup from B Bty, which has dominated the early December tilts the past few years.

Down early 2-0, Bdr Boucher-Dumont logged a lot of ice time to help A Bty battle back to force overtime following a 4-4 stalemate after three periods.

With nothing decided in overtime, it came down to a shootout for Kingston Cup bragging rights at 1RCHA from the historic hockey game.

Bdr Boucher-Dumont was the lone player to score on B Bty's goaltender, deking him with some deft moves. And with the netminder prone on the ice, he lifted the puck into the empty net to seal a 5-4 SO triumph.

He then received the Kingston Cup from 1RCHA CO LCol Ryan Stimpson, then skated around with it at Gunner Arena.

He then had his teammates pose for a group portrait, then handed it off to his goalie, who then passed on to A Bty BC Maj Lee Bellemore for post-game photographs with the historic trophy (wearing gloves).



During the annual Ex HEAVY LOADER, Bdr Alex Boucher-Dumont (left) demonstrates his athletic prowess with weights. On the ice at Gunner Arena, he scored (above) the game winner to give A Bty a 5-4 (SO) victory in the Kingston Cup.

Photos Jules Xavier/Shilo Stag



Artillery soldiers with 1RCHA have been doing avalanche control for years at Rogers Pass, including this group from the winter of 1984-85.

- Gunners use high-explosive projectiles that cause safe, controlled avalanches.
- Rogers Pass, the most avalanche-prone roadway found in North America, is a critical traffic link used by more than 4,000 motor vehicles and 40 trains per day, facilitating billions of dollars of commerce and the movement of thousands of Canadians from the Pacific coast to the rest of Canada.
- At 1,330 metres above sea level in the Selkirk Mountains and with an annual snowfall accumulation of 12 metres, Rogers Pass has more than 130 avalanche paths that cross the Trans-Canada Highway alone.
- During annual Avalanche Control (AVCON) operations, the task force is directed by Joint Task Force Pacific (JTFP), which is supported by the Royal Regiment of Canadian Artillery School (RCAS).
- AVCON operations ensure safe travels through Rogers Pass. Avalanches may be a great force of nature, but they have more than met their match with Canadian Army Gunners.

Parks Canada calls on 1RCHA's expertise

From the front

While safety is always king, speed and efficiency also rule this operation. With more than 4,000 vehicles and up to 40 trains using Rogers Pass daily in the winter, traffic quickly builds up on either side of the pass in the designated holding areas which keep vehicles out of the 134 known slide areas.

Such a complex dance of vehicles, weapons, ammunition and military and civilian personnel would not be possible without great communication and co-ordination.

"It is a very unique operation because of the relationship with Parks Canada, but they have great staff and we have a long enduring relationship supporting them," said Lt Little. "They are the experts at avalanche control and we are here to support that mission."

Rain or shine, or rather heavy snow or howling wind, the guns need to fire.

"Ubique," latin for "everywhere," is the motto of the Royal Regiment of Canada Artillery. In the field, you don't get to choose the conditions.

"At the end of the day, we are shooting the howitzer the same way we do in the field: round goes in the barrel, round comes out," said Lt Little, adding this is what they are trained to do and he believes his troop is excited for the opportunity.

"It is an opportunity for us to be seen to be serving the public, supporting Parks Canada and enabling citizens of this country to move through Rogers Pass safely."

For more information on Op PALACI visit www.forces.gc.ca/en/operations-canada-north-america-recurring/op-palaci.page



Plenty of work goes into preparing the C3 Howitzer before 1RCHA soldiers take aim at the mountains during avalanche control operations. Photos SLt Michael Dery



Mountain operators teach Gunners

SLt Michael Dery Stag Special

Whenever the Canadian Armed Forces (CAF) deploys large guns and high explosives there is a certain amount of risk involved — therefore safety is paramount.

However, when operating said guns in the most active avalanche territory in Canada during the height of winter, that risk increases quickly and must be mitigated with equipment and specialized training.

When the first rotation of avalanche control Gunners from 1RCHA arrived at Rogers Pass, BC, their first briefing was on avalanche safety provided by the Parks Canada Agency (PCA).

This training involved identifying where in Glacier National Park it was safe to stop along the Trans-Canada Highway, being issued avalanche beacons and learning how to report naturally occurring avalanches to PCS to contribute to the comprehensive monitor-

ing and snow science data that is used to forecast avalanche conditions.

The second part of their training came from three infantry sergeants that specialize in mountain operations from the Canadian Army Advanced Warfare Centre based in CFB Trenton, Ont.

"Basically, mountain operations is a skill-set that allows us to move through complex terrain, over mountainous terrain, even through terrain with a lot of exposure to cliffs, gullies and rivers," explained Sgt Randy Verheye.

These experts instructed the Gunners in how to avoid getting in the path of an avalanche and how to maximize their odds of survival if they do.

Lastly, they showed the artillery soldiers how to search for individuals trapped under the snow after an avalanche using beacons, probes and shovels.

"This training is a requirement for them to be out here doing avalanche control," said Sgt Verheye. "It has come a long way, since before Parks Canada conducted the training, but now we are in a position to

provide that."

Once the Gunners are trained, the mountain Ops sergeants take a few days to further their own professional development with the PCA, going to tall peaks and skimming ridge-lines, which helps hone their skills in how to move through the area without causing an avalanche.

Moving through snow with skins that allow them to grip snow attached to their skis, they can cover large areas of terrain and gain elevation, despite the rucksacks on their backs, before removing the skins and skiing down the mountains. Skiing with that extra weight can be a challenge.

"Once you add your equipment, full fighting order and rifle, it makes it a lot harder," said Sgt Verheye. "It is a lot easier to get off balance if your body position isn't right."

Op PALACI is a great opportunity to train Gunners in order to support the PCA and for Parks Canada to help train mountain operators in the combat arms on how to better navigate mountainous terrain.

Mess Christmas parties



Your source for Army news in Manitoba

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The *Shilo Stag* is looking for another sales consultant for its team. Help us sell the Brandon business market on advertising in the *Stag*. They have a captive audience — especially with people here who are new to the community after being posted here from elsewhere in Canada. Where do you shop for new glasses; groom your dog; take the wife out for an anniversary dinner; buy a new car or have winter tires put on the van with the advent of winter; shop for back to school clothes and supplies? Working on commission, you can set your own hours. The more you hustle and sign advertisers up to promote their business in the *Stag*, the more you earn. Drop by the *Stag's* office in CANEX and see Jules about the job. Or call 204-765-3000 ext 3013/3093. Be part of the award-winning *Shilo Stag* team.

Where's Willie?

Somewhere on the pages of this *Shilo Stag* is a picture of Willie, the Wheat Kings mascot.

Tell us on what page, in what particular advertisement Willie was found and correctly answer the following skill-testing question for your chance to win two tickets to an upcoming Wheat Kings home game in Brandon.



Entry Form

Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____

Page #, ad: _____

Answer skill-testing question:

Who is Bdr Alex Boucher-Dumont the driver for following his recent posting from 1RCHA's A Bty to Ottawa?

Cut out your entry form and fax it to 204-765-3814, or scan it and e-mail to stag@mymts.net or drop it off at the Stag's office at CANEX. Draw will be made on the Monday prior to game day.



WOs/Sgts' and Junior Ranks mess were a hive of activity for Base children during their annual Christmas parties.



Photos Jenna Dulewich/Shilo Stag



Recently released CAF members can now request new Veteran's Service Card

Stag Special

The Government of Canada recognizes the service of our women and men in uniform and our veterans.

Veterans who released from the Canadian Armed Forces (CAF) between February 2016 and this past September can now request the Veteran's Service Card at the following website www.canada.ca/veterans-service-card

Approximately 26,000 honourably released veterans are now eligible during the second stage of the distribution.

The Veteran's Service Card provides a tangible symbol of recognition for former military members and encourages an enduring affiliation with the CAF.

This card is for former and releasing CAF members who have completed basic training and have been honourably released. The previous NDI75 was only available to veterans who served more than 10 years in the CAF.

"Through our defence policy, Strong, Secure, Engaged, we are ensuring that the women and men of our Canadian Armed Forces receive the professional, customized and personalized support they need as they transition to post-military life. We introduced the Veteran's Service Card in September and the distribution for stage two begins today, on schedule," said Defence Minister Harjit Sajjan.

"We owe a lot to our women and men in uniform, and the Veteran's Service Card is an important acknowledgement of their service to our country."

The Veteran's Service Card is being distributed in three stages. The first stage began this past September. All newly releasing CAF members now receive their card upon release.

Another estimated 450,000, who have honourably released prior to February 2016, will be able to request their card during stage three, next summer. This staged approach allows the Department of National Defence (DND) and Veterans Affairs Canada to ensure that the necessary resources are in place to verify, produce, and distribute the Veteran's Service Cards.

"Veterans and their families have told me at dozens of town halls, meetings, and round tables that they wanted a Veteran's Service Card. We listened and we took action. We work every day at improving how Canadian Armed Forces members transition to life after their military service," said Veterans Affairs Minister Seamus O'Regan. "The stage two distribution of the Veteran's Service Card marks another milestone in recognizing their service to Canada and gives these veterans a valuable link to VAC programs."

The introduction of the Veteran's Service Card is being put in place to help ensure a smooth transition to post-military life.

It responds to expressed concerns by CAF members and veterans, and is in consideration of the recommendation from the Veterans Ombudsman in his report Honouring and Connecting with Canada's Veterans: A National Veterans Identification Card.

To apply for the card visit www.canada.ca/veterans-service-card

75th anniversary Op HUSKY June 2019

Trip provides sergeant chance to trace grandfather's footsteps

2Lt Ryan Bartlette
Shilo Stag

Like many military members, service runs in the family for Sgt. Matthew Watson of Kenora's 116 Independent Field Battery.

His grandfather was a member of the 48th Highlanders which made landfall on Italy's Pachino beach during Op HUSKY. This coming June marks the 75th anniversary of the landings, and several Canadian Armed Forces (CAF) soldiers were able to retrace some of Canada's most memorable moments from the Italy campaign.

Like many Gunners in western Canada, Sgt Watson has spent significant time in the CFB Shilo RTA. Stories from his grandfather meant he may have recognized names like Cassino and Ortona more than your average dusty Gunner in the back of an MLVW.

In July 2017, an e-mail callout started the ball rolling. Sgt Watson was immediately interested. He was selected to be one of 18 uniformed members who would go on a civilian battlefield tour of the Italian campaign, led by a retired general.

Originally to be a paid trip, the unit Senate and RCA Senate joined forces with the Honorary Colonels of the units involved and were able to fund the trip for all uniformed members.

The trip overseas was a bit of a milk run. From Winnipeg, soldiers flew to Toronto, where they had seven-hour layover before their flight to Rome. After that long duration flight, they had yet another flight down to Catania, where they would start the tour.

The first tour stop was Pachino Beach, where Canadians landed as part of Op HUSKY in 1943.

"He landed on the west-most edge of Roger beach," said Watson of his grandfather, who was from Toronto.

Most of what his grandfather did was passed down through stories by family members, along with small excerpts of his service record. Sgt Watson is still trying to get his full service record released.

"The 48th Highlanders museum was a huge help," he noted of trying to find out what his grandfather's unit had done.

Then it was on to Grammichele, which was one of the first engagements for the Hastings and Prince Edward Regiment, commonly known as the "Hasty Ps." Driving the German Panzer Division out of Grammichele would cost the allies 25 casualties, and earn the Hasty Ps battle honours for their action in liberating the town.

There were moments on the tour which were very impactful for Sgt Watson. Among them was viewing the town of Assoro.

"To see the terrain that they were up against, was just ... horrifying," said Sgt Watson.

Young soldiers faced a 900-metre climb to the back of a Fourth Century castle, navigating difficult unknown terrain during the night.

Some of the tour members, including Sgt Watson, received a chance to follow in their footsteps and do the climb themselves. The Hasty Ps climbed through gullies and cliffs throughout the night on an exposed mountaintop.

Although not a massive victory of inflicting casualties upon the enemy, word of the Canadians will, tenacity and ingenuity spread amongst its German enemies.

Seeing the battlefields at Ortona was also impactful for Sgt Watson. Ortona Trail, in the south end of the Shilo RTA, is not dissimilar from the real Ortona with plenty of rolling hills.

"Just the valleys are a little deeper," added Sgt Watson.

Gullies 35-metres deep which Canadian soldiers would advance through in December, with no cover to be had. The task would be daunting to any seasoned soldier, but many of the soldiers who fought at Ortona were teenagers.

"[My grandfather] was 17 when they landed in Italy. Turned 18 right before the battle at Ortona," noted Sgt Watson.

That story is very common, with many soldiers lying about their age to join up and serve. At Cassino, there is a grave marker of a Canadian soldier there who died in combat at age 16.

When asked what the biggest takeaway from the tour was for him personally, Sgt Watson responded, "It was really humbling to see the willingness to fight for other people's freedom. Canada didn't have to be there, but we were. Fighting for Italy's freedom [from Germany]. The sheer hell that some of those soldiers went through ... is surreal."

Sgt Watson will prepare an essay for the Artillery Senate on his experience in Italy. He would like to bring to light some of the Canadian stories of valour from the Italian campaign.

"Normandy grossly overshadows Italy," Sgt Watson said of the Canadian perspective. "A lot of people may not know there were 100,000 Canadians in Italy a year prior [to D-Day]."

He also will speak of the stories of the 48th Highlanders, who went from being a very young, very green fighting force to one of the most battle tested units of the Italian campaign.

The RCA Museum is planning an exhibit detailing Canadian contributions, including the Italian campaign and the 75th anniversary of D-Day in 2019.

Next time the sand fills your lungs on Ortona Trail, think of the Canadian teenagers who charged German machine guns on foreign soil during the Second World War.

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At A Glance

CFB SHILO

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WINTER 2018

CANNABIS

by the numbers

Cannabis consumption is prohibited by a CAF member during the following periods:

Period of Prohibition	Duty
8HRS Cannabis consumption during the 8 hours before any known or expected performance of ...	<ul style="list-style-type: none">any duty (defined as any duty, training, exercise, parade or service that is military in nature.)
24HRS Cannabis consumption during the 24 hours before any known or expected performance of ...	<ul style="list-style-type: none">operation or handling of a loaded weapon, ammunition, explosive ordnance or explosive;operation or handling of a weapon system;a scheduled base emergency response duty, including firefighting or medical first response by military police, a firefighter or a medical technician assigned to medical first response duty;a scheduled operational exercise or collective training;operation of a wheeled or tracked vehicle, or mobile support equipment;servicing, loading, testing or involvement in maintaining a military aircraft or a component of a military aircraft;training as a candidate for the basic military qualification or basic military officer qualification and not restricted from leave;parachuting, rappelling or fast roping activities;maintenance or packing of parachuting, rappelling or fast roping equipment;operation of a laser of class 3B, 3R or 4, as classified under the American National Standards Institute Z136.1, Safe Use of Lasers; oroperation of a fuel farm or handling of bulk petroleum.
28DAYS Cannabis consumption during the 28 days before any known or expected performance of ...	<ul style="list-style-type: none">operating in a hyperbaric environment, i.e. diving, submarine service or use of a hyperbaric chamber;high altitude parachuting from a height of or above 13,000 feet (3,962 metres) above mean sea level;service as a member of a crew of a military aircraft as a pilot, air combat systems officer, flight engineer, airborne electronic sensor operator, observer, loadmaster, jumpmaster, search and rescue technician, air technician, air gunner, air marshal, tactical aircraft security officer, flight test engineer, flight attendant, flight steward, flight surgeon, flight nurse or aeromedical evacuation technician;controlling or directing an aerospace platform or asset; oroperation of an unmanned aerial system.
 Enduring and total prohibition on cannabis consumption during the entire period of ...	<ul style="list-style-type: none">an international operation, exercise or collective training, other than any period of authorized leave in Canada; oran OUTCAN posting, other than any period of authorized leave in Canada.

Learn more: DAOD 9004-1, Use of Cannabis by CAF Members

Homemade decorations key to setup

Jenna Dulewich
Shilo Stag

2nd

Homemade decorations are the key.

At least that's what Bdr Kyle Cormier told the *Stag* when we asked his tricks of the Halloween decorating trade —after all, Cormier did win second-place in the annual CFB Shilo's Halloween display contest this year.

"It's always a good idea to see if you can make your decorations. Most the ones you buy are made of plastic or styrofoam, and usually deteriorate fairly easily ... but if you have that creativity, you should try and build things that are unique," Bdr Cormier explained over the phone.

And if you saw the Cormier Halloween yard of horror last month, you'll know the bombardier is someone who practices what he preaches, as the front of his home was filled with homemade spooky treasures from the homemade wooden tombstones in the graveyard scene, to the coffin containing a skeleton, to the human butcher shop, to the wooden stakes full of cobwebs leading the way to the treats — the look was definitely unique.

"It felt great. It's always nice to know your decorations are appreciated and noticed," Bdr Cormier said.

As his second win in the last couple of years — the Cormier family also placed second two years ago — the bombardier said his love for Halloween started in his early years when him and his dad would plan how to decorate their family home in Montreal.

"We always used to brainstorm throughout the year and when October came around we would start preparing," Bdr Cormier explained.

Now putting on the display, also referred to as 'haunts' by the Cormier family, the bombardier said him and his wife Jessica "love Halloween equally as much" but he is still the "mastermind" behind the planning.

"The cemetery has always been part of the haunt, but this year we wanted to add a new element," Bdr Cormier said, referring to the human butcher shop where he



Bdr Kyle Cormier greets a visitor to his PMQ which was judged second best among the many homes which decorated the exterior for Halloween.

Photos Jules Xavier/Shilo Stag

played the butcher with a blood stained 'Kiss the Cook' apron.

"It's nice to know I was scary enough, not to completely terrify the little ones, but at least scare some of the older kids and adults," he said. "And it was nice to [hear] the older kids and even some of the parents say, 'It's so scary'."

Not divulging any future 'haunt' plans to the *Stag*, the only teaser the bombardier would give is next year will "definitely have a lot more special effects" possibly with the help of the second-place winnings.

"We'll put [the money] towards something new for next year, hopefully get to the elusive first-place," Bdr Cormier said with a laugh.

Using fake blood adds realism to spookiness

Jenna Dulewich
Shilo Stag

3rd

Make your own blood — fake blood that is.

That was the advice given to the *Stag* when asked how to make an award-winning display from the annual CFB Shilo's Halloween display contest third-place winner, Michelle Keech.

"Pinterest. Pinterest. Pinterest. And make your own blood — it's way cheaper and looks better," Keech explained over the phone.

Making it to the top-three for a second year in a row, Keech said she was happy to place with her cannibal-doll themed yard of horrors.

"It felt great [to win]," Keech exclaimed. "I was worried when I saw the competition, but this is my favourite time of the year — it even tops Christmas."



Michelle Keech enjoys decorating for Halloween, and being part of the festivities when she greets the kids who arrive at her PMQ doorstep.

Setting up her annual "chop shop," the winner talked about how she was able to score boxes of glass dolls from a buy-and-sell Facebook page earlier this year, which she had almost forgotten about until she pulled out the Halloween decorations.

"I went with kind of a Toy Story meets cannibal theme ... some kids wouldn't come to the house because they were too scared," Keech said proudly.

And with good reason.

For those who missed her spooky yard this year, the lit-up front was filled with the glass dolls, skeletons, pumpkins, skulls and a hanging 'dead' body — all covered in the fake blood, and complete with fog and scary sounds.

Always a big lover of the spooky, treat-filled day, Keech explained her love for the day came from her parents who have always dressed up for Halloween, with her dad even going as far to dress-up as what appears to be a real scarecrow, only to reach out and scare people.

"I have never missed a Halloween, even the year when I was sick — I begged my mom to let me go out," Keech said. "And my husband's birthday is Halloween so it's meant to be."

Definitely a family affair, Keech explained how everyone, including her eight-year-old son and 12-year-old daughter all pitched in to help the house reach third-place status.

"They both helped paint the doll masks and my son helped with the yard set-up," she said, noting she wants to use the winnings from this year to add more horror to the yard next year. "I want more dolls, more body parts ... maybe another smoke machine."

With a whole year until the next Halloween, Keech said she is already using that time wisely and planning for the next display.

"Watch out first and second-place — I'm coming for you next year!"

Winning PMQ started with scarecrow on lawn

Jenna Dulewich
Shilo Stag

1st

It started with a scarecrow.

At least that is how Jessica and Nevan Beuckx explained how their horror-filled, harvest-themed house won first-place during the annual CFB Shilo Halloween display contest.

"At first we wanted to do a graveyard theme, but then we decided to do something different. We had one scarecrow that started it off and we went from there," Jessica explained.

For those who missed the spooky yard this year, it can be described as a mix of pumpkin patch and scarecrow field horror, with a wooden fence encasing ghosts and ghouls on wooden stakes, a hanging body, several 'dead' masked monsters in the front yard, and a cobweb canopy leading to the door where you'd receive your trick or treat.

Not bad for the couple's inaugural display that took approximately a month to fully set-up.

"We used to live out in the country," Jessica said, noting the pair has never decorated together before. "This is our first year."

While it was a first time for the Beuckx's, Nevan explained that he comes from a family who "loves Halloween" and who have also hosted a Haunted House in Lac Du Bonnet for the past couple years.

"I definitely borrowed a couple of decorations from them this year," Nevan said with a laugh.

With borrowing monsters and recycling the majority of the decorations, the total cost for the display is an estimated \$50.

"We love Halloween, but we wanted to make it as affordable as possible," Jessica said.

And now \$150 richer from their first-place win-

nings, the couple said they are still trying to figure out what to spend the money on.

"Maybe more Halloween decorations?" Jessica said with a smile.

Already brainstorming for next year's display, the pair said they are going to try find a way to make it spookier.

"Next year, we want to make it scarier — we had some kids that said it wasn't scary," Jessica explained. "But we did scare a lot of kids. One kid said we did better this year than last year which is funny because we weren't even here last year."

And when asked for tips on how people can be next year's winners, the couple responded that they have no idea.

"We weren't expecting to win — we were just having fun with it," Jessica said. "Any tips? Don't worry about overdoing it."

Striving to improve environmental stewardship often challenging

OCdt J.P. Reil
Stag Special

"Seeking to improve the environmental managing system is always a challenge," says Ross Erickson, CFB Shilo's environmental officer.

Born and raised from Snow Lake — 685 kilometres north of Winnipeg — Erickson has been at the helm since August 2008.

Prior to his tenure at the Base, he has worked for Defence Construction Canada in 1995, and with the Department of National Defence (DND) since 2001.

Erickson also had a few part-time stints working at 17 Wing Winnipeg before starting out at Defence Construction Canada.

The Snow Lake product earned a Bachelor of Environmental Science (BSES) from Brandon University.

Erickson also took on a water resource engineering technology diploma in Moose Jaw, SK.

"You need a degree or some sort of post-secondary education. It doesn't have to be just environmental science, but it can also be an engineering degree or environmental engineering, or even biology," said Erickson. "I'm more towards the water resource type of angle."

He added, "You have to be able to communicate, because you do want to get your message out there. It is also important to pay attention to detail. There's a lot of different policies and legislation you have to go through. If you can be thorough that's important too."

The Base environmental officer provides an essential link between headquarters and other units on environmental issues.

"Our environmental management system pulls the whole environmental program together," Erickson explained. "We co-ordinate with the unit environmental officers on Base to make sure they are following the environmental policies. When units go out and train in the Range and Training Area (RTA), we answer questions the environmental officers would have or if we have questions for them."

He added, "We do a lot of co-ordination with Range Control and the range control officer."

Many challenges keep the environmental officer busy.

"There's always a challenge to ensure units are in compliance with legislation," said Erickson. "We try to co-ordinate audits on the different units. There is a lot of reporting to do — halocarbon, spills [depending on the size], National Pollutant Release Inventory (NPRI), are some examples."

He added, "We business plan every year and we have a number of projects that we get funding for and get the contracts out."

"We also help out when a unit deploys either to fight fires or floods" Erickson explained. "When the unit is set up, we assist them to make sure they are set up properly to handle environmental issues."

The environment office has special equipment to help ensure the incident area is properly cleaned up.

"We have 'sniffers', which is called a photoionization detector (PID) to make sure the site is cleaned up to standard," Erickson said. "The area is sensitive because were on sand but that can be an advantage in some ways. You can see the staining of the sand, and it can tell you where to clean up."

"Depending on the size of the incident, we may have to report it to our regional authorities," Erickson explained.

Environmental stewardship is everyone's responsibility to reducing impacts on the environment.

Proper training and awareness helps improve the environmental management system, which reduces the chance of an incident happening on the Base.



Preparing food hampers

MFRC and Faith Centre staff had a busy afternoon following the arrival of food items collected across the Base from collection boxes. Items had to be sorted, then put into hampers which will be distributed during the Christmas season to families in need. Any leftover food will be distributed to food banks located in the Westman hinterland.

Photo Jenna Dulewich/Shilo Stag

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January 3 at noon

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Services



St. Barbara's Protestant Chapel

Sunday at 10:30 a.m. with
Sunday school & nursery
Padre Johnston - ext 3381
Padre Dennis - ext 6836
Padre Walton - ext 3088
Padre Smallwood - 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

Services

Greg Steele Canadian Firearms safety course instructor/examiner offering Red Cross first aid training. Manitoba hunter safety instructor. CFSC, CRFFC safety courses offered at least monthly and on demand. Firearm/hunter safety courses planned seasonally. Restricted and non-restricted. Visit social media page www.facebook.com/gregsteelehunterfirearmsafetymanitoba/ Dial 204-729-5024 E-mail gsteel4570@gmail.com

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Employment

CANEX needs you: Clerk/cashier part-time position with 13 to 32 hr /week required. Must be available days/evenings, and weekends. Starting salary is \$11.90 per hour. After two-month probation salary increases to \$12.15. 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.



CANDY CANE CHRISTMAS





NAME

TAYLOR, RAYMOND //

ENROL DATE

1986 //

RETIRED AS

MAJOR //

DEPLOYMENTS

QUEEN'S OWN CAMERON HIGHLANDERS //

UNPROFOR (CROATIA) - 1992

IFOR (BOSNIA HERZEGOVINA) - 1997

KFOR (KOSOVO) - 1999

OP ATHENA (AFGHANISTAN) - 2003 //

LOCATION

WINNIPEG //

TITLE

CLIENT ACCOUNT MANAGER //

SERVICE

2017-PRESENT //



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 COMMISSIONAIRES

2PPCLI's Drum Line, pancakes with sausages for breakfast, Christmas carols, sweet cookie-making, horse drawn rides, and of course, Santa, had L25 as a hive of activity for the annual Candy Cane Christmas event.

Photos Jules Xavier/Shilo Stag

