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Shilo Stag

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INSIDE
This Issue



New Base COS arrives from 1RCHA. Page 2



Capt Don Askeland leaving BRSM position. Page 6



Patricias hone mortar skills in field. Page 10



RCA REUNION '18



Paul Gauci cuts the reunion cake (left), while a golfer (right) clears the sand trap during the Friday golf tournament. Airborne Gunners (above left) socialize in Brandon. During the Sunday morning memorial service, a retired Airborne Gunner salutes during God Save the Queen. For more on the RCA reunion, see pages 3, 7 and 9.



Photos Jules Xavier

Base COS learning new job following move from 1RCHA

2Lt Ryan Bartlette
Stag Special

There's a new COS for CFB Shilo following the posting of LCol Kathy Haire to Ottawa.

Moving over from 1RCHA where he was the 2IC for four years, Maj Howard Nelson of Prince George, BC, has moved into his office located at Base HQ. During a break from work, Maj Nelson sat down with the *Shilo Stag* for a Q&A about his new posting, and his military career.

Shilo Stag (SS): So, you've been on this Base quite a while.

Howard Nelson (HN): "I've been posted here three times within my career, so yes."

SS: Would you call this home now then?

HN: "Absolutely. When I was posted back here from Gaagetown in 2010, I took over as the BC of Z Bty at 1RCHA. My family and I moved into town and my family has lived there ever since. I have since then been on IR and on tour, but my family has been here since 2010 so definitely Brandon and area is home."

SS: In Prince George growing up what made you decide to join the Canadian Armed Forces (CAF)?

HN: "The way I actually ended up joining was I went to the University of Victoria. When I graduated from UVIC in 1998, I was just looking for things to do and I joined 5 Field [Regiment RCA]."

SS: Five Tribe.

HN: "Yes! I did that for three years before I decided that I really liked it and transferred over to the Regular Force at that time."

SS: Can you speak to any other positions you have held on this Base where people might know you from?

HN: "I was GPO and Forward Observer JTAC with 1RCHA with A, B and C Bty when it was still a gun Battery basically from 2002 through 2007. In 2010 to 2012, I was the BC for Z Bty. I started four years ago as the 2IC and just finished that now."

SS: So do you consider yourself more of a gun guy or an observer guy?

HN: "Definitely observer. Most of my time in the Regiment has been as either a FOO or the BC of the observation Battery."

SS: It's a tough job not to love.

HN: "Oh, exactly. Tough, yet rewarding."

SS: Can you think of anything from your past positions that you may use as you are just starting now



One of Maj Howard Nelson's last duties with 1RCHA was being part of the CoC parade that saw LCol Stephen Haire hand over command of the Regiment to new CO LCol Ryan Stimpson. Here, Maj Nelson (left) salutes LCol Haire at the start of the ceremony.
Photo Jules Xavier

as COS?

HN: "The one big thing is managing a military staff. So here you've got your Continental staff, your 1, 3, 4, and 8. Same thing over at the Regiment you've got your Ops O, training, etc, so just managing the staff and keeping them on task is certainly a transferable skill."

SS: For the people who are reading the Stag that don't know, what is the role of the COS here?

HN: "Managing both the military and the civilian staff that work in the Base Headquarters."

SS: When did you find out you were doing the COS role?

HN: "Around Christmas time when we have the Artillery Career Manager meetings for the west, it was pretty much set in stone. I was hoping and asking to come over as ideally I'd like to retire here in Shilo in the next four years. The long-range outlook was looking like I'd come here so the plan is to do this for two years and finish my final two off as the Regimental Major at the RCA HQ."

SS: What was your initial response when they told you that you would be COS? You were asking about it, so presumably you were excited to come?

HN: "I was happy that the plan came together."

SS: Tying into the other question as to what you had done at previous posts, do you think there are attributes which you learned as a Regimental 2IC that would help you as COS?

HN: "With respect to the financial management piece. Managing the budget over at 1RCHA was a big piece as well as managing the staff so that definitely transfers over. Making sure everyone sticks to the Op plan, that's no different. Although the Base isn't a field force unit the COS and the 2IC of the Regiment are almost the same position when you think about the actual office portion."

SS: For your future aspirations you said you plan to retire here in Shilo?

HN: "I've got four years left and because it's really home now, Brandon is home to my family. Finishing off my military career in Shilo is the plan and the hope."

SS: Is there anything you're looking forward to doing over the next two years here on Base?

HN: "Everyday I'm learning something new, so there's no average day that I can describe. The thing that's so far the most interesting to me is working with civilians. I've never worked with civilians. It's a different dynamic, and it's something new which is good."

SS: Do you have anything else that you'd like to share with the readers of the Stag?

HN: "I'm very happy to be coming over to Base and seeing the institutional side of the army. For those who are new to Shilo, take it from me, it's a great place to live. You might find that you want to stay here in the end."

SS: Screaming coming in, screaming going out.

HN: "Absolutely, it's certainly a true saying."

Pet of the Week



MURPHY

During Shilo MFRC's Doggy Day BBQ Murphy won the costume event. Owner Michelle McDonald dressed her dog in a Super Dog costume. 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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Glenn Miller of Lethbridge, AB, was one of four former Gunners (below) who had an opportunity to fire a last round on a 1RCHA M777 in the training area. A reunion goer (above) checks out a display in L25 provided by the RCA Museum.

Photos Jules Xavier



RCA Reunion '18

Tears shed as Gunners say farewell to comrades

Jules Xavier
Shilo Stag

It was with sadness that John Harrison left the recent RCA reunion for home in Winnipeg.

He's attended reunions at CFB Shilo since 1985, but 2018 saw fewer of his comrade in attendance hanging out at L25 with a beer while swapping old artillery stories.

There's a reason why the veteran Gunner attends reunions.

"I missed comrades," he says. "Reunions were very happy events ... renewing old friendships and telling stories."

This changed when he looked back on Canada Day as the 2018 reunion came to an end, with visitors saying their good-byes at L25 following the memorial service held at Canoe River Park.

"At the final farewell on July 1 we all shed a tear," he says. "I am 86 years of age and at the event this year I met only 14 old buddies."

"One of them I saw in the mirror, so if I survive to the next one it is doubtful that I will attend."

Harrison acknowledged his com-

rades who he served with are also in the same situation as him. His 13 buddies are all of the same age group, so will be closer to 90 in 2021.

Harrison was 20 when he joined 2RCHA on Jan. 9, 1953.

"I had served in Arty Militia for two years and was familiar with Arty Germany where I served from November '53 to November '55."

He was with 2RCHA in Winnipeg from November '55 to October '59. Then he was posted to 1RCHA, again back to Germany for a year in November '59.

Following another overseas posting, the Canadian Army then posted him back to Canada's east coast, where he was in CFB Gagetown with 1RCHA until November '67.

Moved to 2RCHA on the same Base, he served with the artillery until July '69. Then it was off to Ottawa and NDHQ where he worked in recruiting until he released on Dec. 31, 1978.

"Life in the military was tolerable," he says about serving his country during the Cold War. "I whole heartily advise all vets to attend reunions."

He added, "In the old Fire discipline language 'Good Shooting, Stand Easy'."

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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, 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.



Follow the Shilo Stag on Facebook by visiting:

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



Photo and video opportunities abound on this Base if you are looking for ideas for the CAF imagery contest.



PHOTOS JULES XAVIER



DUST OFF YOUR CAMERAS

Be in focus with annual CAF photo contest

Stag Special

It's time to dust off your camera, whether it be Nikon D90 or a Canon video camera.

The 51st annual Canadian Armed Forces (CAF) imagery contest is underway, running from June 15 to Sept. 1. Contest organizers are looking for your best photographs and videos.

Whether you're a seasoned professional, an amateur photography lover or a hobby videographer, this is the contest for you.

The photography portion of the contest accepts images in eight diverse categories, and is open to all members of the Defence Team and their families.

There are two video categories as well. To enter the actuality category, submit your real-world, 30-second to two-minute video footage.

For Social Media entries, submit your 30-second to one-minute inspirational message videos.

Photographers and videographers are eligible to win \$10,000 in prizes from the contest's sponsors.

The CAF imagery contest will also be again welcoming nominations for the military photographer achievement award, a prize introduced in 2015 to recognize the contributions that CAF imagery technicians have made to the CAF community.

For five decades, the imagery contest has been celebrating the talented photographers who capture life in CAF communities from coast to coast.

As you take photos this summer, keep the imagery contest in mind.

Family gatherings, scenic vacations, sports tournaments, or special work events — the possibilities are endless if your camera is ready to snap a photograph, or your video camera is zoomed in on an event you are attending.

Visit www.cafimagerycontest.ca to enter and for full contest details.

Shilo Theatre
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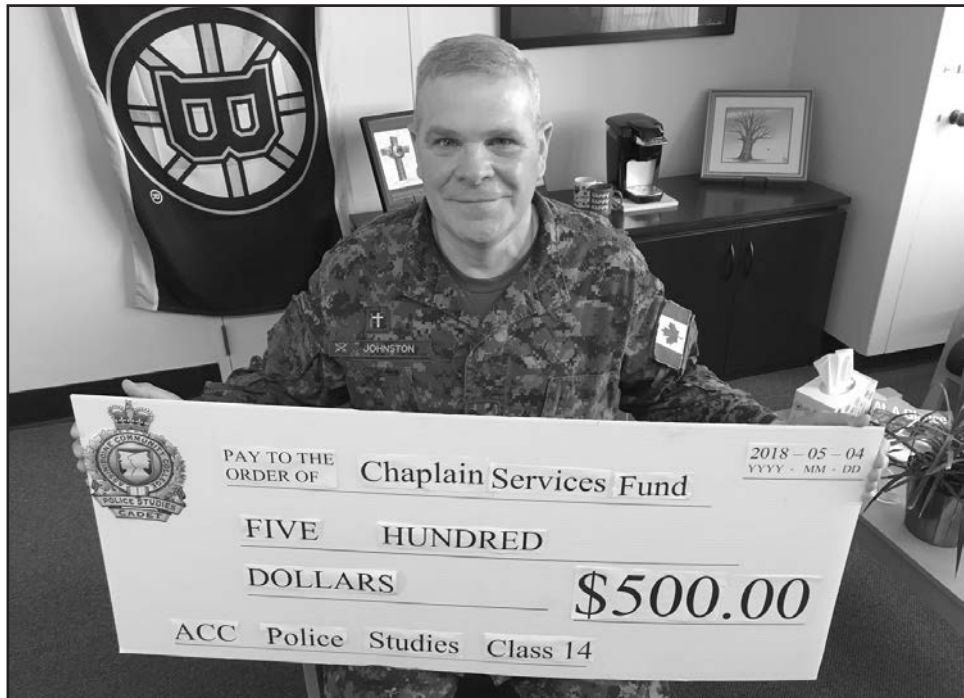
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For more info call the community recreation office at 204-765-3000 ext 3317 or 3588

Ask about slow bowling birthday parties!

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Base Padre Maj Johnston accepted a cheque from the ACC police studies graduating class for the Chaplain Services Fun for \$500.
Photo Jules Xavier

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Wood hobby club members improving carpentry skills

OCdt J.P. Reil
Stag Special

The smell of sawdust is hanging in the air while you're making clean cuts through a piece of wood as you imagine your finished project.

If you're one of those people who likes making anything out of simple pieces of lumber, then the Base's wood hobby club is for you.

The wood hobby club is located in building M127 (same as the auto club – in the covered fenced compound south of BHQ) on Aldershot Road.

The club has many tools at your disposal, from circular saws to jigsaws as well as other hand tools.

There is plenty of space in the working area with several benches to help you maintain safe control over the equipment and your project.

"The members need to go through a checklist for using the heavier tools so they know how to safely use them,"

said club member Sgt Ben Berkowski from 1RCHA.

The membership cost for the wood hobby club is \$50 per year.

You need to bring your own wood into the shop for your project as the club has limited amounts of supplies available.

"Members also need to bring their own supplies like glue, staining, and paints," Berkowski said.

Due to the hazards involved with the machinery, unfortunately there are no minors allowed in the club.

There is no specific day the club meets however, members seeking access to the club can sign out a key at the MP building.

If you just got posted in to this Base, for more information about the club visit www.CAFconnection.com.

The wood hobby club also provides an information session during the community recreation club day held in September. Also contact allan.voisin@forces.gc.ca



1RCHA's Sgt Ben Berkowski was the lone wood hobby club member working on a project when the Stag dropped in to the Base facility.
Photo OCdt J.P. Reil

REQUEST FOR TENDERS

CFB Shilo's Gunner Ice Arena Management and Maintenance Services

The Base Commander at CFB Shilo is seeking a suitable third party contractor to provide ice arena management and maintenance services at the Base's ice arena for a fixed term. Tender documents will be available as of July 3, 2018. Submissions will be accepted until midnight, local time, Aug. 2, 2018. For general inquiries and to obtain a SOR and the tender documents contact:

Mike McEwan, Senior Manager PSP/CFB Shilo
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As BRSM, CWO Don Askeland enjoyed participating in Base sports, or being part of the community taking in events in Brandon at Wheat Kings games, United Way or Chamber of Commerce events or Remembrance Day ceremonies alongside the BComd.

Photos Jules Xavier

Capt Don Askeland looks forward to new challenges

OCdt J-P Reil Stag Special

After spending 28 years as an infantryman, CWO Don Askeland is trading in his coat-of-arms for a set of pips.

With four deployments under his belt, the veteran member of the Canadian Armed Forces (CAF) has been posted to CFB Shilo since 2004, the same year 2PPCLI made the move from Kapyong Barracks in Winnipeg. Except for a two-year hiatus which saw him transferred to CFB Gaagetown, NB, CWO Askeland has held many hats during his tenure with 2PPCLI – CQ A Coy, CQ Admin Coy, CSM Cbt Spt, CSM Admin Coy, and finally Quartermaster Sergeant Instructor (QMSI).

He was appointed BRSM in June 2015, and served alongside former BComd LCol John Cochrane, and currently serves alongside BComd LCol David McIntyre.

CWO Askeland has been busy with his move preparing for his new position later this month. However, he took some time to answer some questions the *Stag* had about his tenure here on the Base and his future position.

His CoA was held July 12, with CWO James Doppler returning to this previous posting after serving at Garrison Edmonton as 3CDSG RSM.

Shilo Stag (SS): Looking back, how did you feel when you learned you were appointed BRSM?

Don Askeland (DA): "I'm not going to lie, at first I

was disappointed. However, that quickly passed as I realized this is a once in a lifetime opportunity. From that instant I fully embraced it. I wanted to remember and cherish every moment, as I knew it would be over in the blink of an eye."

SS: What's it like being the BRSM?

DA: "It is one of the most rewarding jobs I have ever had in the military."

SS: What are some of the challenges of this position?

DA: "Bringing the civilian and military teams together and reinforcing 'One Team'."

SS: What makes a good BRSM in dealing with day-to-day operations?

DA: "For me, it's all about being flexible. Most events are planned in advance. Those rarely change, making the day-to-day run fairly smoothly. CFB Shilo has great staff and members that do great work for us. They make my job easy."

SS: What are some of your fondest memories of Shilo, either from 2PPCLI or Base side or both?

DA: "Being part of the 100th anniversary celebrations with the PPCLI as 2PPCLI's QMSI. As the BRSM having CFB Shilo present and part of so many community events such as Royal Manitoba Winter Fair, Travellers' Day Parade, numerous United Way events like the Day of Caring and the 80th anniversary campaign, 15th anniversary of the Sept. 11 parade at the International Peace Gardens [near] Boissevain, the first ever CFB Shilo Freedom of the City of Brandon parade, and lastly being part of such a wonderful

event put on in Shilo for Canada's 150th birthday are just a few events that I was pleased to be a part of."

SS: What will you miss most about Shilo?

DA: "For sure it is the people and what they bring to our community."

SS: What is your new position and when does it take effect?

DA: "I will become the adjutant for the Cameron Highlanders of Winnipeg, and it will start shortly after my Change of Appointment (CoA) ceremony in July."

SS: What were your thoughts when you were informed you would become the adjutant of the Cameron Highlanders?

DA: "I was excited for this new chapter in my [military] career."

SS: What challenges are you looking forward to in this new position?

DA: "Showing young soldiers that the military, in particular the Regular Force, is a good life and encouraging them to serve."

SS: What goals will you have as the adjutant of the Cameron Highlanders?

DA: "I really have not thought of it yet. But the infantryer in me says I will have to conserve ammunition until I get the lay of the land. Once I get the hang of it, I will need to engage the targets one at a time, keep the objectives in focus and not let the fog of war creep in. All the while keeping in mind what an old RSM told me 'Stay off the high ground and don't rattle the brushes'."



Watching his drive at the Shilo Country Club, retired Airborne Gunner Paul Parsons (above) took part in the RCA reunion golf tournament. 1RCHA's MWO Debbie Attrux (below) poses for a photo with former colleagues, now retired, when they had an opportunity to fire the M777 in the training area.



Retired Airborne Gunner Bill Tremain (above) from Alberta swaps stories over a cold beverage at L25. A former Gunner (below) had an opportunity to fire the M777 alongside a new generation of 1RCHA Gunners.

Photos Jules Xavier



Bill Tremain enjoys catching up every three years attending RCA reunion

Retired Gunners retell stories from their youth

Jules Xavier
Shilo Stag

When you join the Canadian Army during the Cold War at 16 and 17, retired Gunners referred to themselves as "child warriors."

The term is a source of pride for St. Albert's Bill Tremain, who arrived at CFB Shilo for the recent RCA reunion from Alberta. This was his 10th, and a long time removed when he was in Neepawa in 1963. He served with the Reserves 12 Manitoba Dragoons which became A Bty of 26 Field in 1964.

He attends the reunions to renew friendships and share stories with comrades he served alongside during 25 years in RCA units.

"My wife and I enjoy the social events," he says, adding following 1RCHA's Family Day in the training area, "I attended the firepower demo and was very impressed."

Looking back on his military career where he did not see combat like soldiers with 1RCHA did during the Afghan War, Tremain has no regrets because he enjoyed what he did serving his country.

"I miss the comradeship and the structured lifestyle," he offers. "I do not miss the constant moving and living in Arctic tents."

Tremain joined the Regular Force and RCA in December '65. His basic training was done with Queens Own Rifles Depot in Calgary, AB. He was then posted to Shilo in the spring of '66, where he completed his

common to corp training and basic gunnery course.

Heading east he was posted to X Bty 3RCHA in Winnipeg in April '66. He worked as BC's Batman during the Pan Am Games that summer.

The summer of '66 saw him posted to 2 SSM Shilo in August as a Lancher number on Honest John.

"I was the number three on the last rocket fired in Canada in February '68," he recalled.

In November '67, Tremain completed his basic para course in Rivers and Shilo. Following this he was posted to 1 AB Bty Canadian Airborne Regt in Edmonton in summer '68 at the formation of this new unit.

Served with BTY in Cyprus during conflict in 1974. He remained there until being posted to CFB Gagetown after Olympics in Montreal in '76 to attend 6B course for one year.

In 1977, he was posted to 2RCHA at Garrison Petawawa. He served in E Bty Para and RHQ Bty.

From 1979 to 1983, Tremain served with 1RCHA in Lahr, Germany — one year with A Bty, a year with HQ Bty and 2 years with C Bty.

Summer 1983 saw Tremain posted back to Garrison Petawawa, where he served two years in D Bty before returning to serve in Cyprus with F Bty.

He also completed in AUSCON Bond in Australia for two months that year. He was finally promoted to CWO at age 37 in July 1986.

He then had to complete a French course in Ottawa prior to finishing his military career in a RSS job in Yarmouth, NS.

If he could offer changes to be made for the 2021 RCA reunion, Tremain suggests keeping the pipes, but cancel bands and DJ music.

"We come to socialize and talk not dance," he says. "We ended up leaving early the Friday night because we could not hear our selves think."

He added, "The [reunion] committee should be complimented for organizing an excellent reunion except for the live music."

What about the next generation of Gunners, and attending future RCA reunions? Tremain has advice for the current Gunners serving with 1RCHA.

"My advice is for the serving members to attend these reunions as there is a lot to learn from those attending and it helps building relationships for their future. I moved onto a second career in the field of health, safety and environmental working for PCL construction and the Alberta Construction Safety Association teaching and completing health, safety and environmental management audits.

"It was a former BSM and other leaders who provided me instruction and guidance that led me down that path. They knew my military skills such as leadership/training abilities could be easily transferred to civy street of which I am totally thankful to them for this."

Remaining healthy as he grows older by another three years, Tremain says he looks forward to the 2021 RCA reunion and rekindling friendships on a Base he's familiar with thanks to his early artillery training.



Doggy Day barbecue

Shilo MFRC offered a twist hosting a summer barbecue, allowing the outdoor event to go to the dogs. This time family canines were guests when hotdogs were served. After dinner the MFRC organized three fun events featuring agility, obedience and costume (won by Murphy). Pet service providers were in attendance, too, showcasing what they have to offer for dog owners on the Base. Dogs cooled off differently, with a puppy enjoying shared ice cream, while an older dog jumped at the water being sprayed from a pool which was popular among the bigger canines.

Photos Jules Xavier

Get involved with your Home Station Regiment



The newly-established Home Station Regiment Senate exists to advance the welfare of members who are currently in service at the Home Station Regiment, as well as retired and former serving members of the Home Station Regiment. If you'd like to get involved, contact the president, Col (Ret'd) Peter Williams, at cdnig19@hotmail.com

Grab a summer copy of your Base At A Glance magazine available now at CANEX, GSH and units

At A Glance

CFB SHILO

Visit Shilo Country Club

www.CAFconnection.ca
SUMMER 2018



CAF offer Indigenous summer programs

Stag Special

The Canadian Armed Forces (CAF) 2018 Indigenous summer programs for Indigenous applicants are unique summer employment programs that combine Indigenous culture and teachings with basic military training.

They deliver a challenging experience that develops hands-on skills, encourages teamwork, highlights physical fitness and promotes cultural awareness.

Candidates receive approximately \$4,200 in salary and in many cases come away with school credits and valuable career experience.

Participants will be provided transportation costs from their homes to the training sites and back again and will receive meals, accommodations, military equipment and clothing while undertaking the program.

These outreach programs are designed to build bridges into Indigenous communities in Canada and to raise awareness among Indigenous people of potential military or civilian careers with the CAF and the Department of National Defence (DND).

Upon successful completion and if they wish to do so, graduates can pursue a career in the CAF Primary Reserve Force, Regular Force or work in a civilian occupation with DND.

"It brings me great pride to know that each summer, our programs are a great success and have such a positive and long-lasting impact. It is clear that they offer a life-changing experience for many of the candidates. My wish is that more Indigenous people will have the opportunity to experience life in the military and to benefit from new skills, without any obligation to continue to serve," said BGen Rob Roy MacKenzie, Director General Army Reserve. "However, I truly hope that many will consider a career in the Canadian Army Reserve or within the Defence Team."

Vice-Admiral Ron Lloyd, Command-

er of the Royal Canadian Navy, added, "On behalf of the women and men of the Royal Canadian Navy, I want to thank the Indigenous youth from communities across Canada who have embraced the challenge and taken advantage of the Raven Indigenous Summer Program in Esquimalt, British Columbia.

"This incredible program provides young leaders with a range of personally and professionally rewarding experiences that will help them grow. They will be immersed in military life, develop new skills and learn about their Navy and the Canadian Armed Forces."

Quick Facts

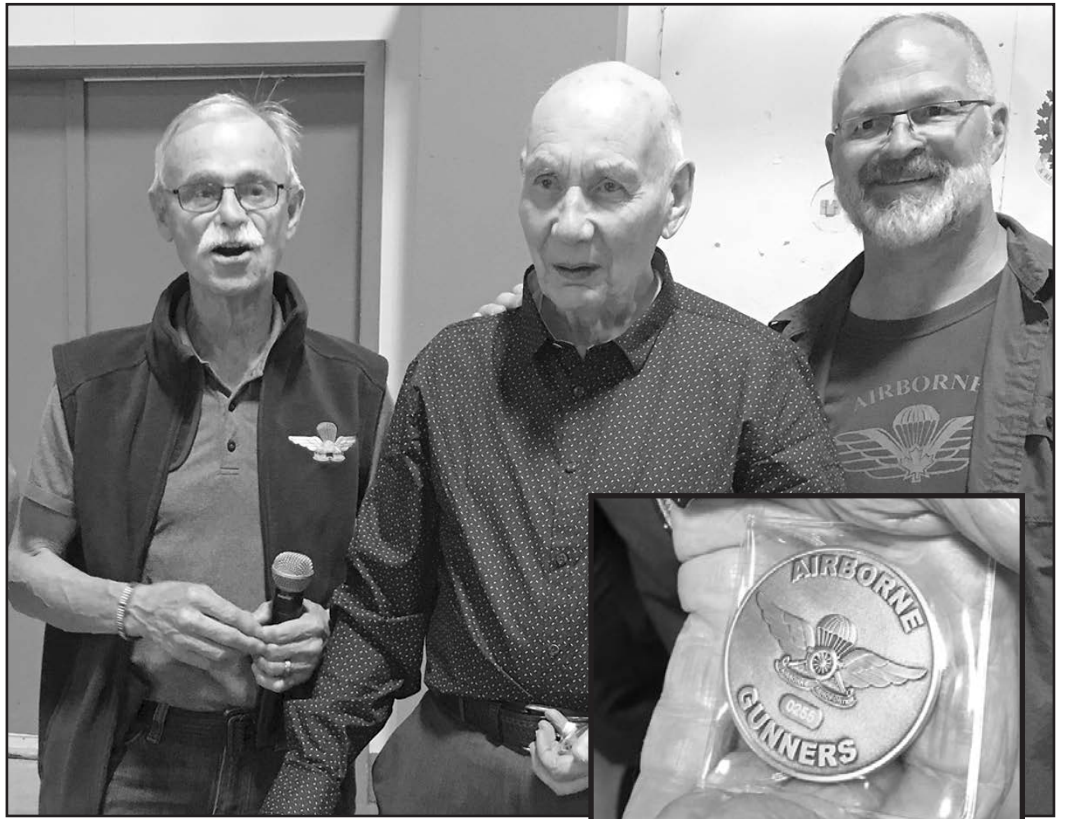
- The Indigenous summer programs have been a great success in past years. As such, the Commander, Canadian Army, has directed the creation of two new programs to be led by the 2nd Canadian Division and the 4th Canadian Division starting in 2019.

- Bold Eagle, a Canadian Army program operating since 1990 at CFB Wainwright, Alberta, is the largest of the three programs. This year, Bold Eagle runs from July 9 to Aug. 17.

- Black Bear, also a Canadian Army program originating in 2008 at CFB Borden, Ont., has also been held at 5th Canadian Division Support Base Gagetown, NB, since 2013. This year, Black Bear runs from July 3 to Aug. 8.

- The Raven program, which is conducted by the Royal Canadian Navy, was implemented in the summer of 2003 and is held at CFB Esquimalt, BC. This year, Raven runs from July 5 to Aug. 15.

- All participants are paid a salary, receive a Primary Reserve Basic Military Qualification (BMQ) upon completion of their program, and may choose to pursue employment with the CAF or DND. They may also choose to apply their new skills and knowledge in other workplaces.



At 92, former Airborne Gunner Paul Gauci of Gibsons, BC, was the second oldest RCA reunion attendee. But he was the longest serving artillery soldier, having enlisted in the Canadian Army in 1943. Besides cutting the reunion's ceremonial cake, the soft-spoken Gauci received an Airborne Gunners coin (inset) from Bill Tremain and Paul Parsons at L25. *Photos Jules Xavier*

Oldest Airborne Gunner receives coin from comrades

Jules Xavier
Shilo Stag

At 92, Paul Gauci takes pride in being an Airborne Gunner during his 27-year military career.

How he went from being a Gunner to an Airborne Gunner was revealed during the RCA reunion when he was presented with a special artillery coin by fellow Airborne Gunner, Bill Tremain of St. Albert, Alberta.

"When I returned to Canada after the [Second World] War we were asked 'who wants to jump?'," he said prior to a ceremonial cake-cutting after dinner at L25. "I put my hand up when they said you'd be paid an extra \$30 a month more."

As the oldest RCA reunion attendee, Gauci, who lives on the Sunshine Coast in Gibsons, BC, was asked to be part of the cake-cutting ceremony.

He would have shared the cutting of the two Gunner cakes, but 94-year-old Walter Zawyrucha of Vegreville, Alberta had to leave the reunion prior to the Saturday dinner because of a family emergency.

In 1954, Zawyrucha did his officer training at CFB Shilo. He retired as a captain, and this was his inaugural attendance at a RCA reunion.

This was Gauci's third reunion, and the soft-spoken Winnipeg-born soldier enjoyed returning to a Base where he did artillery training following his initial basic training at Fort Garry in 1943.

"It's fun meeting other jumpers, and retelling stories at these reunions," he says while surrounded by

comrades enjoying a cold beer or glass or wine while waiting for supper to be served.

With the war in Europe and the Pacific theatre still raging, Gauci enlisted so he could serve his country, just like a lot of his Manitoba friends.

From Brandon, he was then sent to Kingston, Ont., for a 10-week course that saw him learn how to use Morse code.

By the time he was sent overseas, landing in England, the war was over. Returning home, he honed his jumper skills in Rivers. He retired in 1970 and relocated to the west coast.

Knowing he will be 95 for the 2021 RCA reunion, Gauci does not know if he'll be around in three years.

"If I'm alive, and healthy, perhaps you'll see me again," he says with a mischievous grin.



RCA reunion had different experiences during the four-day event, with L25 acting as the hub. A golfer involved in the tournament at the Shilo Country Club (left) celebrates after sinking a long putt. A couple look over (right) cell phone video taken when former Gunners had a chance to fire the M777 in the field.



Cpl Tyler Graham (left) works on his mortar skills while course officer Lt Kevin Little (right) goes over a map as part of mortar training at CFB Shilo.

Photos 2Lt Ryan Bartlette

3PPCLI hone mortar skills with help from 1RCHA

2Lt Ryan Bartlette
Stag Special

It's not often you see infantrymen mulling about the gunline in sandy CFB Shilo, but that's exactly what happened during the latest iteration of a mortar detachment member course offered by 1RCHA.

3PPCLI soldiers were here because the Canadian Armed Forces (CAF) has determined that indirect fire

support is a capability which the light battalions require, and it should be internally driven.

When the ramp dropped on the A Bty Commander's LAV and this Stag reporter joined the course, I couldn't help but notice all the Patricia's cap badges adorning the hands in the meal line-up.

They belonged to soldiers of 3PPCLI, who were joined respectively by reservists from the Loyal Edmonton Regiment and the Calgary Highlanders.

By all accounts, the infantry corps are excited to receive this capability

back. Cpl Tyler Graham, a member of 3VP from Martensville, SK said "I was really excited just to get on course ... it's a big opportunity for pretty much everybody."

The 81mm mortar has long been a staple of the artillery corps. This Stag reporter had the opportunity to train and use this weapons system while deployed as a member of 1RCHA's C Bty during TF 3-09 in Afghanistan.

The flexibility and versatility of the weapons system was a real crowd pleaser among the artillery faithful, and I can't imagine it being any different for our infantry colleagues. The high volume of fire and the relatively close range serve well to get the blood pumping. Cpl Graham agreed.

"Very excited," he admitted, when asked if he was looking forward to dropping bombs. "It's something I've always wanted to do."

He's not alone. It's that promise you made when you joined, after which all you could do is wait and hope. This is one promise they'll actually deliver on.

When mortar charge increments burn, not only does a fine smoke waft out of the blast attenuating device — or "bad" as the soldiers call it — but it produces a distinct odour

as well. It's not foul, like Kandahar Airfield's most famous pond, only distinct. It hits your nose like a floor freshly mopped with JAVEX and once you smell it, you'll never forget it.

What's more, it's addicting. I couldn't help but reminisce about my own time on the tubes both as a reservist, and during deployment. The 81mm mortar provides its own set of unique challenges.

Being part of an airborne company, I asked Cpl Graham his opinion about the prospect of jumping with the mortars.

"I saw the arty guys jump them on [Ex] MAPLE RESOLVE. It looked...interesting" he chuckled, with an unmistakable airborne grin. The extra weight of a base plate or tri-pack certainly won't stop an airborne company from completing their mission. They are professionals.

Cambridge, Ont., native Lt Kevin Little, the course officer, would agree.

"They more than met the challenge" he said. "They dedicated themselves to this course the entire time they were here."

He was equally proud of his own Battery's contribution. "Ultimately, A Bty is the lead on this" offered Lt Little, who went on to mention that all the Detachment Commanders, 2ICs and support staff were all A Bty members. "The staff did an amazing job."

Recognizing the unique set of circumstances, Lt Little tailored the field portion as best he could to his candidate's trade, using infantry school tactics to aide him.

"We wanted to behave as best as we could as a mortar platoon" said Lt Little, who was proud of what the infantrymen were able to accomplish in three short weeks.

"The concepts of fire discipline, all those artillery concepts, they grasped that quickly and it's really rewarding to see."

This joint venture between the artillery and infantry corps demonstrates their commitment to both army doctrine and CAF policy.

Canada's defense policy, titled Strong Secure Engaged calls upon the Canadian Army to show the same flexibility that Lt. Little's course exhibited down near Yellow Quill, in the south end of the range training area. "Experience shows that highly trained, versatile and well-equipped combat forces can readily adapt to humanitarian assistance, disaster relief or peace operations" it states.

Leadership will continue to strive to meet the mandate put forth by our government.

Both Lt Little and Cpl Graham will continue to hone their skills with the 81mm mortar. Meanwhile, Cpl Graham looks forward to his PLQ and a chance at the infantry's challenging basic reconnaissance patrolman (recce) course.

Lt Little will return as course officer for a second iteration of the mortar detachment member course in July.



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.

BY ORDER
Deputy Minister
Department of National Defense

OTTAWA, CANADA
17630-77



AVERTISSEMENT POLYGONES DE TIR DE SHILO

Des tirs de jour et de nuit seront effectués aux polygones de tir de Shilo jusqu'à nouvel ordre.

Les polygones de tir sont des terrains sous le contrôle du MDN situés à environ 32 km au sud-est de Brandon et au nord de la rivière Assiniboine dans les cantons 7, 8 et 9; polygone 14 OMP, cantons 8, 9 et 10; polygones 15 et 16 OMP et cantons 9 et 10; polygone 17 OMP, dans la Province du Manitoba. Au besoin, une description détaillée de la propriété de Shilo peut être obtenue du Bureau du génie construction de la Base des Forces canadiennes Shilo.

Toutes les limites, voies d'accès, routes et sentiers menant aux polygones sont clairement marqués et ornés d'écriteaux d'ACCÈS INTERDIT. La chasse est dorénavant interdite aux polygones de tir de Shilo.

MUNITIONS ET EXPLOSIFS PERDUS

Les bombes, grenades, obus et autres engins explosifs similaires et leurs enveloppes peuvent causer des blessures ou entraîner la mort. Ne ramassez pas ces objets et ne les gardez pas comme souvenirs. Si vous avez trouvé ou si vous avez en votre possession un objet que vous croyez être un explosif, signalez-le à la police locale, qui prendra les mesures nécessaires pour l'éliminer.

Aucune personne non autorisée ne peut entrer dans ce secteur où tout accès est strictement interdit.

Par ordre du
Sous-ministre
Ministère de la Défense nationale

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CD recipient

2Lt Ryan Bartlette attended an impromptu medal presentation by 3CDSG Comd Col Scott McKenzie, who presented a CD to Base G4 Capt Vanessa Durand.

CLASSIFIED ADS

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**\$10 for first 20 words,
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 Deadline for next issue:**

July 19 at noon
 Free ads (non-profit only)
 restricted to members of the
 CAF, employees of CFB Shilo and the
 residents of the surrounding area.

Services	Services	Services	Employment
 <p>St. Barbara's Protestant Chapel Sunday at 10:30 a.m. with Sunday school & nursery Padre Johnston - ext 3381 Padre Dennis - ext 3088 Padre Neil - ext 6836</p> <p>Our Lady of Shilo Roman Catholic Chapel Sunday at 10:30 a.m. Confessions by appointment Padre Ihuoma - ext 3089 Padre Shanahan - ext 3698</p>	<p>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 gstele4570@gmail.com</p> <p>We buy and sell good used furniture/appliances. We also deal in coins and coin/stamp supplies. People's Market Place, 32-13th St., Brandon, 204-727-4708.</p>	<p>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.</p> <p>Dow Construction offers home renovations, new projects. Call 204-901-0350</p> <p>Employment</p> <p>Looking for a job on the Base? Submit resumes to NPF HR office via e-mail quoting competition # to npfhrshilo@cfmws.com OR for more detailed information on the jobs offered at CFB Shilo visit: www.cfmws.com</p>	<p>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.</p>




Canada turns 151



Shilo and District Service Club president Ian Muir (left) laughs alongside his fellow burger and hotdog cooks during the Base's Canada Day festivities. Mother Nature put a damper on the outdoor event, forcing a lot of activities indoors at the GSH and L25. A youngster who likes dinosaurs (above) had one painted on his face at the GSH. Another youngster enjoyed his burger (right) with help from mom. Bill Blair (above right) serves up two hotdogs. Edvin Sharshonov uses his cell phone camera to take a photo of his daughter Natalie and wife Jill.

Photos Jules Xavier





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