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At 91, PPCLI veteran Pte Morley Roney reflects on the loss of a friend, Pte James Griffiths, while fighting the Germans in Italy. He now knows where his friend is buried. *Photos by Jules Xavier*

## 'Keep your head down' advises veteran

**Jules Xavier**  
Shilo Stag

A piece of advice he received as a young soldier helped Pte Morley Roney return home unscathed from the Second World War.

"I was told you 'always keep your head down,'" the genial 91-year-old war veteran told the *Stag* about surviving the German artillery barrages which occurred daily when he was fighting in Italy, and later Belgium. "I was a lucky guy. I came home with not a scratch."

Not one to be truly superstitious, Pte Roney left for the war in the summer of '42, arriving in England following his initial training in Canada. His sister provided him with a small horseshoe and lucky rabbit's foot for luck.

He carried them in his army tunic then, and still possesses the trinkets as part of his war memorabilia.

Like his medals, and even the PPCLI beret he wore in his youth.

And an 18-pounder shell which is what he trained on initially after signing up at the Brandon armoury in the spring of '42.

This training trophy now holds plastic flowers and is on display in his 70s-styled finished basement.

A lot of young men from Wawanesa, where Pte Roney was born at home with the help of a midwife in 1922, joined the army.

"It's what you did then when Canada was at war," he recalls.

"I started my field artillery training at Shilo, so I was still close to home, using the 18-pounders from the First World War. That's all they had for us."

After two months at Shilo, 19-year-old Pte Roney was shipped out for further training to a military installation in Debert, Nova Scotia.

See **INFANTRY** page 8

## No. 1 Four blooms for Base

**Jillian Driessen**  
Shilo Stag

In its sophomore year, CFB Shilo has earned the coveted top spot in the Canadian Forces Sustainable Communities competition.

Judged in August by Berta Briggs and Rose Carmichael, CFB Shilo garnered four blooms with an outstanding 813 points — a more than 50 point jump from 2012.

"You have studied last year's recommendations and have selected the points that apply and have implemented many of them," said Briggs and Carmichael in their post-judging comments.

Included in the recommendations made by last year's judges Frank Meran and Dave Hilton, were a stronger recycling program, changes to the local dump, and better maintenance of permanent floral displays.

In addition to the judge's suggestions, CFB Shilo also revamped the community garden and introduced the RHU planter box program.

See **RHU'S** page 15

Shoppers Mall

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# Remembrance Day ceremony moves outdoors Nov. 11

## Shilo Stag

Weather permitting, this year's Remembrance Day ceremony will be held outdoors at CFB Shilo.

The Canoe River Memorial park is the venue Nov. 11, with spectators asked to arrive and be seated by 10:20 a.m. The ceremony will commence at 10:45 a.m. with the playing of O'Canada.

For this year's event the wreaths will be laid soon after Last Post, around 11:03 a.m. However, only the units and war veterans will lay a wreath at the cenotaph.

Other who have a wreath to lay can do so once the Remembrance Day proceedings have ended after the parade marches off around 11:25 a.m. Prior to this, God Save the Queen will be played.

In the event of inclement weather, the ceremony will move indoors to L25.

Afterwards, post-parade receptions will be held and soldiers are invited to attend their respective messes. Officers will attend the WO's and Sgts mess.



Because of a major snow storm last year, the Remembrance Day ceremony was held indoors at L25. Plans are in place to have it outdoors this year, weather permitting.

*File photos by Jillian Driessen*



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Camp Hughes, once a bustling training ground for First World War soldiers preparing to fight in Belgium and France, is focused on during the documentary film *Warpaths: Ghost Camps*. Photo submitted

# Warpaths film focuses on 'Ghost Camps'

**Jules Xavier**  
Shilo Stag

The names inscribed on the cenotaph in Boissevain have always intrigued the RCA Museum director.

As a child, Marc George would watch from the sidelines when he attended Remembrance Day ceremonies in November or Decoration Day in June and be drawn to the soldiers who marched proudly in their community.

"I was always interested in the war growing up," says George. "I'd see the First World War veterans as a kid, or look at the cenotaph and see the names inscribed on it and wondered who they were.

"After I joined the army — he had a 25-year career with the CAF — I had to do a research paper, so I thought would do something on the men who served in the First World War from my own community of Boissevain. I did not realize the scale of it when I learned there were 400 men and women ... it became more than a project, but is now a life-long pursuit."

This pursuit grew when he partnered with Brandon filmmaker Graham Street, and they started doing *YouTube* vignettes on Camp Hughes.

"It was like a virtual walking tour what we were doing," he said of working with Street.

"Then he asked me if I would consider doing a documentary."

Jumping at the opportunity, Street and George have so far combined their creative efforts to produce two of a possible trilogy in the *Warpaths* series. The first as part of the MTS TV Stories from Home — *Warpaths: Every Town had Soldiers* — debuted in November 2012. The second in the documentary series, *Warpaths: Ghost Camps*, sheds more light on how men trained in the Great War and on what life in the training camps was like for Canadian soldiers.

The sacrifices made by Canadians in the First World War are marked by the graves all along their warpaths.

It was moving, according to George, to tell the story of the Canadians who died on their way to the Front, or while waiting to return home.

With *Ghost Camps*, George is hoping the documentary will help keep their stories alive.

The Nov. 8 showing at Brandon's Evans Theatre starting at 7:30 p.m. will be followed by a Q&A with the filmmakers. Afterwards, the first of the series — *Warpaths: Every Town Had Soldiers* — will be shown for those who could not make it to last year's premier.

George said when he was growing up the First World War veterans were reluctant to talk about their war experiences with him.

"But when I met them years later, and I was in the army, they would talk to me about their experiences," he said. "They would talk to you frankly because you were a soldier."

Looking back at the start of the documentary, George acknowledged doing something on Camp Hughes as a significant military site in Canada was paramount because it tied in with the documentary based on the First World War focus.

"When started I did envision a trilogy, with MTS on board for the first two. In the first, we did research on three of the soldiers from Boissevain.

"It was only natural that Hank [William Henry] Anderson would be profiled as his name was at the top of the cenotaph. It was a natural fit to include him."

What about Gordon Little and Cliff Mains?

"Cliff was a highly-decorated First World War soldier with DCM Fred Rodweld," said George.

"If he had died, he'd have likely been awarded a VC (Victoria Cross) for bravery.

"Hank was in the same battalion as Cliff, and they had a friendship in the army. So it was easy to follow them. And Gordon and Hank were best friends."

The two friends — both privates — would die on the battlefield at Vimy two days apart, and are buried beside each other in the Canada Cemetery No. 2 in Pas de Calais, France. George did not learn this until he was at the gravesite to film with Street.

See **SOLDIERS** page 10

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**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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# Cenotaphs list those who sacrificed their lives

**Jules Xavier**  
 Shilo Stag

Will you attend a Remembrance Day ceremony Nov. 11, whether here on the Base during an outdoor ceremony, or in Brandon, Wawanesa, Carberry or out at Camp Hughes?

This year's event is the 96th since the First World War ended officially on Nov. 11, 1918. With Canada's involvement in the Afghanistan war winding down, and all Canadian soldiers from CFB Shilo returning home by the spring of '14 following this training mission, Remembrance Day has special meaning because 20 soldiers with ties to this Base paid the ultimate price in the war against terrorism.

War is a plague on humanity which has existed as long as people have gathered together and, will unfortunately and without doubt, mar our landscape again. Not a year has gone by in recorded history where at least one civil war, revolution or insurgency has not taken place. Just look at what's happening in Syria today.

It has been said that the one constant in the history of man is war. No matter how many young men or women die or how many lives are turned upside down, war persists somewhere on our planet.

Visit a cenotaph in Brandon, Douglas, Wawanesa or other Manitoba hamlets, towns and cities and try to picture the faces of those who never returned home after losing their lives on the battlefield. Like the three Bowes brothers who died in the Great War (1914-1918), and are among 59 names inscribed on a towering cenotaph unveiled in 1920 in Boissevain which features an Italian carved statue of a stoic soldier.

The community of Glenboro saw 34 men and women lose their lives in the Great War, including nursing sister Christine Frederickson, who died on Oct. 28, 1918. In the Second World War (1939-1945), 13 died.

South of the Base in Wawanesa, the town's cenotaph has the names of soldiers who died on three sides of the towering statue. In the First World War, 12 men were killed in action: Austin, Bloom, McFadden, Leachman, Livingston, Wichtman, Stevenson, Watson, Lawrence, Sgt Geoffroy, and Lts Irvine and Fisher. From the Second World War, seven of the 12 with names engraved into the granite were with the RCAF: Ferris, Corrie, Hemmons, Lowe, Noton, Stevenson and Wilton. The other were soldiers like Ellis, Millen, Powers and Wallace. Cory was the lone PPCLI casualty. Wawanesa's cenotaph also shows the names of eight individuals who died in the service of their country. From the First World War, Clark, Dent, Reynolds, Robertson, Smith, Webster and Rumford. Blair Cory was with NATO when he died on April 29, 1983.

There is a community north of Edmonton — the hamlet of Vimy was named after Vimy Ridge in France where 11,285 Canadian soldiers perished during the First World War. Of this total, there were eight men from Boissevain who died at the Battle of Vimy Ridge on a chilly Easter Monday in 1917, including Hank Anderson and buddy Gordon Little from the 44th Battalion.

These two soldiers as well as Cliff Mains were profiled in the documentary *Warpaths: Every Town Had A*

*Soldier* last year as part of a trilogy being filmed by RCA Museum director Marc George. The second film *Warpaths: Ghost Camps* will premiere Nov. 8 at the Evans Theatre in Brandon.

We keep reminders such as a cenotaph close to our communities and in sight to remind us of the folly of war. Cities, towns and villages list their fallen on the cenotaph, with some of those soldiers who died on the Vimy battlefield having trained in trench warfare in 1916 at nearby Camp Hughes as part of the Canadian Expeditionary Force (CEF).

There are also 11 soldiers buried at Camp Hughes, but their deaths were attributed to disease during training. Pneumonia was especially cruel to young soldiers, with seven dying, including four privates who died in a 13-day span in July 1916: John Davidson (13th), John Messenger (17th), Walter Barringer (22nd) and William Perkins (26th).

In the Brandon cemetery, two buddies with the Canadian Mounted Rifles died in the spring of 1915 while training to go overseas with the CEF. They are buried together, with a family grave stone, plus their military tombstones which came later. Trooper John Bloomer, 28, went first on March 3, while Cpl Thomas

Lane followed on April 2. He was 21. The First World War was labeled as the War to End All Wars, but perhaps a more fitting name would be the war to herald a new age of warfare. Poison gas, machine guns and tanks all evolved from the bloody trenches of that era.

Now more than ever before, with the destructive forces at our command, the message behind Remembrance Day rings true; war is mankind's greatest and deadliest folly.

Walk through the Brandon cemetery and its vast military section and gaze at granite slabs above veterans who returned home from the conflicts overseas so we can enjoy our freedoms. Among the many rows is one for 2PPCLI's MCpl Timothy James Wilson, who was KIA on March 5, 2006 while in Afghanistan.

It has been 95 years since the First World War ended, and 68 since the last shots were fired in the Second World War. Our veteran population

from three conflicts, including the Korean War, grow fewer with the passage of time. Every Nov. 11, Canadians across this country pause in a silent moment of remembrance for the men and women who served our country during wartime.

Like Douglas where 13 men from the that tiny community died in the First World War and are listed on the cenotaph. Lorne and Percy Broad, Alex Campbell, William Doak, Harry Faggetter, James Leith, Joseph Madder, George McLean, WJ McGowan, Charles Rollins, Thomas Shepherdson, George Westcott and Frank Whittle never returned with other CEF veterans to Canada. Instead, their final resting place is in a battlefield graveyard, likely near where they fell.

They grow old today, like 91-year-old Pte Morley Roney of Wawanesa. His actions in the Second World War should not be forgotten, just as his comrades who sacrificed their lives and their future so that we may live in peace. Pte Roney will be thinking about a buddy he lost in Italy — 18-year-old Pte James Griffiths of London, Ont. — when his daughter Janice McDonald places PPCLI and Canadian flags at his gravesite in Coriano Ridge War Cemetery.

*Lest we forget!*

Wawanesa cenotaph

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# Soldier shares his story

## Cpl Komal Kahn Special

It was the morning of Oct. 3 and I was slowly regaining consciousness — I had been for quite some time.

We had suffered heavy losses from our previous encounters. We had underestimated the defensive strength of 1RCHA's Headquarters and Services Battery.

I thought I was the only survivor until I could slowly see my comrades in the distance. The war was still on.

We were a section less of stragglers and vengeance was what motivated us. We were highly out-numbered, but it is not that easy to destroy us. We weren't leaving without a fight.

We devised a hasty plan of attack to take down the Casualty Pick-up Point (CPP C/S 8).

From our previous intelligence reports we knew the CP was heavily defended by double wire obstacles and a Quick Reaction Force (QRF). If that was not enough, there were defensive positions set up, machine gun trenches and not to mention this was in fact the HQ & Svc Bty that belonged to an entire regiment of artillery.

My comrade and I were to attack the gate on the north to entice the QRF to our direction which would then leave CP wide open for exploitation by my comrades. Once we had the CP, we would have won.

We started to move into our positions; I knew that



1RCHA EX Limber Gunner photos by Cpl J.R. Gradwell

after this O-Group, everything had to go as planned as we had no communications.

All I could think of was where the radios and signallers were when you need them. We took every precaution knowing we had to complete our objective which was to take out the gate guards and their field phone.

This was the indicator for my comrades to move into position as the QRF would move into our position lured by our faint attack. Everything went well. We stuck to the tree lines, used the sound of vehicles as cover for moving through the woods and stayed low. We reached our objective — taking out the sentries was almost easy as they never saw us coming.

I was relieved until I saw that soldiers of HQ & Svc Bty were in their defensive positions. This was a surprise. I quickly realized they were expecting us.

My comrade and I were able to get through two trenches, but EN (enemy) fire got to us before we could proceed any further. I later found out that my comrades had mistaken other shots fired to the north of us as our indication of reaching our objective. We suffered heavy losses. Some of us tried to escape, but we were caught. The vigilance of HQ & Svc Bty was underestimated. The Battle of Trig Hawk may have been won by the EN, but the war is still on.

Cpl Komal Khan is with 1RCHA's Sig Tp HQ & Svc Bty



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MCpl Timothy Wilson, 30, Grande Prairie, AB, 2PPCLI, KIA on March 5, 2006

# LEST WE FORGET

These 20 soldiers from CFB Shilo paid the ultimate sacrifice for their country while deployed to Afghanistan. They shall not be forgotten.

...

*In Flanders fields the poppies blow  
Between the crosses, row on row,  
That mark our place; and in the sky  
The larks, still bravely singing, fly  
Scarce heard amid the guns below.  
We are the Dead. Short days ago*

*We lived, felt dawn, saw sunset glow,  
Loved and were loved, and now we lie  
In Flanders fields.*

*Take up our quarrel with the foe:  
To you from failing hands we throw  
The torch; be yours to hold it high.  
If ye break faith with us who die  
We shall not sleep, though poppies grow  
In Flanders fields.*

— **John McCrae**



Capt Nichola Goddard MSM, 26, Calgary, AB, 1RCHA, KIA on May 17, 2006



Cpl Andrew Grenon, 23, Windsor, Ont., 2PPCLI, KIA on Sept. 3, 2008



Cpl Michael Seggie, 21, Winnipeg, 2PPCLI, KIA on Sept. 3, 2008



Sgt Prescott Shipway, 36, Saskatoon, SK, 2PPCLI, KIA on Sept. 7, 2008



MCpl Joshua Roberts, 29, Prince Albert, SK, 2PPCLI, KIA on Aug. 9, 2008



Cpl Jim Arnal, 25, Winnipeg, 2PPCLI, KIA on July 18, 2008



Capt Richard Leary, 32, Brantford, Ont., 2PPCLI, KIA on June 3, 2008



Pte Terry Street, 24, Surrey, BC, 2PPCLI, KIA on April 4, 2008



Sgt Jason Boyes, 32, Napanee, Ont., 2PPCLI, KIA on March 16, 2008



Pte Chadwick Horn, 21, Calgary, AB, 2PPCLI, KIA on Sept. 3, 2008



Pte Garrett Chidley, 21, Cambridge, Ont., 2PPCLI, KIA on Dec. 30, 2009



Pte David Byers, 22, Espanola, Ont., 2PPCLI, KIA on Sept. 18, 2006



Cpl Shane Keating, 30, Dalmaney, SK, 2PPCLI, KIA on Sept. 18, 2006



Cpl Keith Morley CD, 30, Winnipeg, 2PPCLI, KIA on Sept. 18, 2006



Cpl David Braun, 27, Raymore, SK, 2PPCLI, KIA on Aug. 22, 2006



Bdr Jeremie Ouellet, 22, Matane, Que., 1RCHA, KIA on March 11, 2008



Capt Jefferson Francis, 37, New Brunswick, 1RCHA, KIA on July 4, 2007



MCpl Jeffrey Walsh, 33, Regina, SK, 2PPCLI, KIA on Aug. 9, 2006



Cpl Paul Davis, 28, Bridgewater, Nova Scotia, 2PPCLI, KIA on March 2, 2006

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Jules Xavier Photos



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Here are the lucky charms Pte Morely Roney carried with him throughout his time overseas during the Second World War.



Dressed in his army kit, a young Pte Morley Roney (above) stands by the ack-ack gun he would use against the German air force when he first arrived in England. When he was dispatched to Italy, Pte Roney joined the PPCLI, and still has his original beret he wore in the mid-40s.



## From artillery to infantry

# Infantry experience like 'going out deer hunting'

### From the front

It was here that he honed his ack-ack skills — anti-aircraft weaponry — while waiting for his voyage across the Atlantic Ocean where troop and supply ships were harassed by German U-boats.

"I arrived in England the day the Dieppe raid landed," he recalls. "I was sent to the south coast of England to Camp Borden, where I manned an ack-ack gun."

With the Battle of Britain underway, he was kept busy with the constant arrival of the German Luftwaffe wanting to bomb the Brits into submission, as Hitler's armies had done in France, Belgium and Holland.

"When the Brits had beaten the Germans [in the air], we were no longer needed, and soldiers were required to fight the Germans in Italy, so I was dispatched with PPCLI. They needed soldiers, so off we went."

While more than 70 years has passed since he was on the battlefield, he can still conjure up the hell that war is, from the sounds of incoming artillery shells — even imitating the whistling sound he heard often — to bullets whizzing by your head as two armies fought for control of territory inch by inch.

"The whistle sound told you the shells were incoming, and you got to know where they would be landing. But it was the [friendly fire] shells from your own guns that fell short that were terrifying. You had to let the guys at the back know so that they would change

the arc, but it was not easy because of the communications we used this. Often the telephone line was cut, so you had to send somebody back."

Pte Roney described his infantry experience as going out deer hunting.

"But the deer there were shooting back at you," he says laughing.

"It was all about the advance ... you take ground, which was the name of the game. I was lucky, I got to Italy in the last half of that campaign."

Then put on a cattle barge, Pte Roney and the rest of the PPCLI soldiers were off to France, en route to more fighting in Belgium.

"I tell my kids that was my all-expense paid Mediterranean trip," he quips.

With Hitler and his armies vanquished by the allied forces, Pte Roney did not return home until November 1945. Why return back to Wawanesa?

"This is the best place in the world. I will stay here until I die," he says, adding, he will be interred in the nearby Wawanesa cemetery where his wife Jean (nee Scott) was laid to rest, and he's dug a few graves himself.

Returning to Manitoba, Pte Roney built the house he still calls home in 1957 on property his grandfather once owned, adjacent to the community water park. Even at 91, neighbours will see the war veteran out manicuring his impeccable front yard lawn.

With a wry sense of humour and only a sixth grade education, Pte Roney called himself a ditch digger for his vocation after soldiering. He turned down a

request to volunteer for the Korean War — "one war was good enough for me" — and set up his trenching business in Wawanesa.

And by age 35, he finally married, meeting his future wife Jean at the Wawanesa hospital where she worked as a nurse. Two daughters and a son later, it was not until he was a grandfather that he started to share his war stories.

"Dad didn't really talk about his war experiences with us," said daughter Janice McDonald, who also still calls Wawanesa home. But he did tell war stories for a grandson, who was working on a school project that entailed him interviewing a war veteran. So grandfather sat down and shared some of his memories.

"It was hard to talk about it because I did lose a lot of guys I fought alongside in the war," he says. "That's why I enjoyed going to our reunions in Brandon, but because a lot of us have died over the years, we don't have it anymore. There's very few of us left to hold a reunion."

So, Pte Roney takes solace in the relationships he's forged with young soldiers who call Wawanesa home, but work at CFB Shilo. They are always welcome at his home for a visit and a shot of rum at 4 p.m.

Or he travels to CFB Shilo and attends 2PPCLI functions. He follows the adage, "Once a Patricia, always a Patricia."



Pte Morley Roney was still a teenager when he enlisted and went overseas during the Second World War.



Pte Morley Roney, 91 and still a resident of Wawanesa where he was born in 1922, was photographed with fellow Manitobans who went overseas (left) during the Second World War. Enjoying his retirement at home adjacent to the Wawanesa water park, Pte Roney is a fixture at 2PPCLI events on the Base. While out on a garage sale expedition, he came across an ack-ack shell he was familiar with during his early soldiering with the Canadian artillery in the south of England.

Photos by Jules Xavier







**Jules Xavier**  
Shilo Stag

A chance meeting with a distant cousin during a family reunion has snowballed into what should be a memorable day Nov. 11 during a ceremony at an Italian cemetery where 427 Canadian soldiers from the Second World War are buried.

During this reunion Corrin Fraser and Pte Morley Roney met by chance. In conversation, the 91-year-old Second World War veteran learned Fraser lived in the vicinity where he served with PPCLI near Carpi, Italy.

"I told her I was familiar with the area, and that I had a friend who might be buried there from the war," he recalls.

That military buddy happened to Pte James Griffiths, who was killed in action on Sept. 20, 1944, just a few days after turning 18. At the time, Pte Roney had no idea where his friend was buried because PPCLI had moved on to its next objective fighting the Germans.

With the passage of 69 years, then 22-year-old Pte Roney can still picture the guy he got to know over six months die on the battlefield as though it was yesterday.

"There was a flash of light that lit the sky as though it was lightning, and in came the German artillery where we had dug in," he recalls. "You hear the whistle sound coming in, so you know there's a round heading your way. You want to get down quickly when it hits, advice we were told 'always keep your head down' ... there's chunks from trees flying all around, as well as rocks and shrapnel.

"Jimmie was unable to get down quick enough and he was hit, with half his head taken off in the explosion. I never knew what happened to him afterwards ... where he was buried. You did not have time to mourn because as soldiers you move on to your next objective."

Pte Roney acknowledges being part of the PPCLI you often did not have a chance to get to know the soldiers you fought alongside.

"When I was ack-ack, you knew the guys you were with because you spent so much time with them. With PPCLI, I went from C Coy to D Coy. I moved around so I was fighting and travelling with strangers. But it was different with Jimmie, because you looked out for the young guy, so I got to know him pretty good over six months."

Even Pte Griffiths family had no idea where he was, for at age 15, he left his home in London, Ont. He joined the Canadian Army at age 17, and following basic training, went directly to PPCLI in Italy.

In her conversation with Pte Roney, Fraser offered to take photos of places he recalled and send them back to Canada.

"Months passed and I decided to celebrate Remembrance Day by taking a drive and getting some photographs for the lovely Mr. Morley Roney," wrote Fraser on her website [www.facebook.com/flagsfromhome](http://www.facebook.com/flagsfromhome). "I ended up two hours away at Coriano Ridge War Cemetery. The kids and I spent a lovely afternoon walking amongst the gravestones of the 1939 Com-

monwealth soldiers buried there and, although Morley had never mentioned this cemetery, I sent photos back to him and his daughter Janice McDonald.

After seeing the photos McDonald became curious about the cemetery and started doing some research.

"Social media has played a big part in this," says McDonald. "This Facebook page, using Twitter, going to the ancestry website. It has brought two families together after all these years, and has brought a lot of comfort to my dad."

Fraser then received word from McDonald that her father's buddy was buried in that same cemetery she had happened upon by chance.

"It was an incredible coincidence and I was thrilled to be able to help Morley find his lost friend James E. Griffiths," she says.

For Remembrance Day 2012, Fraser and her kids, with homemade wreaths in hand, drove back to that same cemetery where she managed to locate Pte Griffiths' grave.

"We were able to sign the guest book in Morley's honour and place wreaths on his friend's grave. It was quite emotional for everyone. Myself included," says Fraser.

The story only gets better, according to Fraser. She received an e-mail from a relative of Pte Griffiths, Jo Parker, whose mother Anna Parker was the great-niece.

Working on her family history using [www.ancestry.com](http://www.ancestry.com), Jo Parker received a message from an online user of the ancestry website to tell her a family friend may have known her great-uncle Jimmie Griffiths.

"It was like reading something from a dream. Jimmie has been gone for 69 years, and we virtually had no hope of finding out too much about him, other than his death certificate that I did find on ancestry.com," she says.

The Parkers were introduced to McDonald and Pte Roney via cyberspace, and have since talked using Skype technology.

"Janice e-mailed me a lot of pictures and information, including [the] little ones making the wreath for Jimmie. When I started looking through those pictures I really couldn't believe my eyes," she says.

The photos of the Griffiths' gravesite is a "treasure" to the relatives back in London, including Anna Parker, whose father George was Jimmie's elder brother. Siblings George and Donald both served in France and Belgium.

The Parkers now know a little bit more about a family member who paid the ultimate sacrifice for his country, with Pte Morley filling in a lot of the blanks because he befriended the young soldier in Italy. He shared his memories with them, including his last moments alive.

"They had no idea where he was buried," says Pte Roney. "They had no idea he was even in the army until he was dead. I just told them that he didn't suffer."

"The cemetery is beautiful ... it gives us all comfort knowing that he is resting in a peaceful and meaningful place," says Parker. "We figured he was killed in a field, as the death certificate said, and that he may

have not had a [final] resting place. Now we can see he's accounted for."

Besides Pte Roney filling in some of the blanks left with the death of the young private in Italy, Fraser has brought closure for other families by using her grave photos and social media.

"I took a lot of gravestone photos that day and after hearing how much Morley appreciated seeing them I decided to upload the others to a grave-locating site [Find A Grave.com]," she says. "Last year, I received a letter from a woman in Vancouver who is the niece of a Canadian soldier that died in Italy during World War Two. Her uncle is buried at the Coriano Ridge War Cemetery as well and not only did she send me a letter she sent me his photo."

With the Facebook page receiving plenty of traffic, and uploads, Fraser has received photo requests from families in Canada, Scotland and New Zealand.

The Flags from Home campaign has also grown, according to Fraser. McDonald concurs.

She says 2PPCLI DCO Maj Darcy Wright has been instrumental in providing PPCLI flags which will be placed at the Italian cemeteries during an inaugural Nov. 11 Remembrance Day ceremony. She leaves for overseas Nov. 7 with Maj Wright's contribution, plus additional Canada flags. She will meet up with other family members and personally deliver them to the Coriano cemetery.

The delivery of flags has been so overwhelming for Fraser at her home, that she has collected enough Canada flags to be used at three other cemeteries in Italy.

Families are also sending personal memories, from laminated photos to letters, to be placed on loved one's graves they never had the chance to visit.

"This has just touched so many people, besides my dad and myself," says McDonald.

In a letter to Pte Roney in mid-September, Anna Parker wrote: "The biggest thanks of all is to you Morley for keeping Jimmie's memory alive in your heart for the past 69 years."

The only tangible information the Parker family had on Pte Griffiths was a newspaper clipping from the London Free Press Oct. 5, 1944 edition with a photo of the PPCLI soldier and his brief war obituary.

"I remember seeing it as a young girl and we kept it for years," wrote Anna Parker. "Armistice Day, Nov. 11, has always been special to me, but this year it will be even more special."

With her father not able to make the overseas journey for health reasons at his age, his daughter will represent the Roney family when she places flags at Pte Griffiths' gravesite.

"I'll be thinking about Jimmie when I attend my own Remembrance Day ceremony in Wawanesa," says Pte Roney while showing a yellowed 1942 newspaper clipping of Manitoba-based soldiers posing for a group photo in England. "And the other guys I fought alongside who never came home."

If you want to contribute to this year's ceremony, or future Remembrance Day events at the Italian cemetery, write Corrin Fraser, Via Fosse Ardeatine 10, Carpi, MO 41012, Italy.



## Facebook page reunites families with soldiers KIA fighting in Italy



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Nov. 30  
Prince Albert Raiders  
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Dec. 4 Regina Pats  
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for our freedom*

— Mayor Shari Dexter Hirst  
City of Brandon

City of  
**BRANDON**

## Warpaths: Ghost Camps second documentary

# Soldiers train at Camp Hughes

From Page 3

Mains, who was wounded in 1918, and survived the Great War to return home, was a logical choice for another reason to be part of the opening documentary. While rummaging through used books at a Brandon bookstore, he found a copy that belonged to the soldier. It had his signature inside, with the book later being presented to next of kin as part of the documentary.

"I knew from his letters that Hank was friends with Cliff," he explained.

The Winnipeg 44th Battalion saw action on Vimy Ridge. There were assaults on the Pimple April 9, and Hill 145 the following day. And finally, April 12, 1917, the soldiers of the 44th began their offensive. By the end of the day following the early morning assault, the Canadian Corps in France did what the British and French armies had failed to do — they seized the best-defended German bastion on the Western Front, a muddy scarp known as Vimy Ridge.

"With these documentaries," said George, "when these soldiers die they take their stories to the grave. We have an obligation to keep their stories alive by producing the Warpath series. For the first film we followed the three soldiers and explained how their war went from Christmas 1916 to when they died in April 1917."

Mains survived the carnage of that day, and was home to unveil the Boissevain cenotaph in 1924. He would remain in the community until his own death while asleep at age 58. Little and Anderson were both in their early 20s.

Five other Boissevain soldiers died in the Battle of Vimy, while the town and RM of Morton combined would see 374 enlist with the Canadian Expeditionary Force (CEF). Half of this total would be casualties. In June 1916 alone 71 men enlisted.

"Back in the Great War, where we came up with the title of the first documentary 'every town had soldiers', it was a rare time in history where every town was represented," he explained. "In Manitoba, 66,000 men enlisted, or six per cent of Canada's population. Lots of Brits were living the two biggest communities in Manitoba, Winnipeg and Brandon. There was that influence because these people still had a tie to Britain."

Blending re-enactments shot at CFB Shilo, and Camp Hughes, Street and George are able to blend

their footage with additional visuals they captured on film while overseas in England and France. George also has interviewed next of kin to help breathe life into men no longer with us, and got to know Mains' wife prior to her death.

George is also immersed in the show, not as an actor, but the person who provides the historic narrative. He's able to interact with history, by firing the weapons used by the three Boissevain soldiers, or walking in their footsteps on the battlefield or Camp Hughes training grounds.

It is Camp Hughes that is the focus on the second documentary, with George, no fan of flying, taking flight to film the vast area east of CFB Shilo from the sky.

"It's the best way to see the trenches," he offered.

Camp Hughes became its own city in Manitoba when it opened in 1915, with thousands of men calling canvas tents home while they trained in the trenches before leaving for France and Belgium. Pneumonia in 1915 killed seven men at a training centre that featured 11,000 men and 1,000 staff. By 1916, this total increased to 27,500, with 1,600 staff. Eleven men died that year, with a few of them interred in the Camp Hughes cemetery.

"We're taking an in-depth look at Camp Hughes with this second documentary," said George, with the initial title for the second film — produced by Street Media of Brandon — *Making Soldiers* changed to *Ghost Camps*.

This second film will show what at the daily training and life was like for the young CEF volunteer recruits, blended in with recent archaeology digs at the Camp Hughes site by Brandon University anthropology staff and students this past summer. This dig produced an array of every day items which will assist on what camp life was like for a raw recruit who spent a few months training, before going to the Western Front and facing the realities of the Great War.

If there's a third documentary, it will tie in with the centennial of the Great War. George is tentatively looking at focusing on Mrs. Bowes and the three sons from the 44th Battalion she lost overseas.

The Silver Cross mother even went overseas in 1919 to find her sons' graves, according to George.

"It was a brutal experience for her back then, working from letters and documents to find their graves. For her oldest son, they never did find his body [for burial]."

The *Legion Magazine* has been running a series called Letters from the Bowes Brothers, written "somewhere in France." Mrs. Bowes received one written on March 1, 1917 by son Cliff, following the death of her son Pte Jim Bowes on Feb. 28, 1917 after being seriously wounded by a German rifle grenade. Brother Pte Fred Bowes was wounded at the same time, but did not succumb to his leg, arm and head wounds until March 8.

Son Cliff would survive his time on the Vimy battlefield in April 1917, but fall in battle on Oct. 28 that same year while fighting in Passchendaele. While the military said his body had been buried in a marked grave, when she was seeking information on the location they were unable to help her find it.

Perhaps the final piece to the Warpaths trilogy will answer these questions and more related to the sacrifices made by Mrs. Bowes of Boissevain in 1917 with the loss of three sons.



Camp Hughes cemetery on a fall afternoon.

Photo by Jules Xavier

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# Think healthy with Good Food Box

## MFRC

The Good Food Box is a community-based program designed to encourage healthier eating through promotion of fresh fruits and vegetables.

It is a bulk-buying program which aims to lower your grocery bill by buying bulk fresh fruits and vegetables from local distributors.

Stock depends on which are in season or available at the best value. The boxes are prepared monthly.

Orders can be placed at the MFRC front desk or print off an order form from our website.

What is the cost? A small box for an individual is \$10, while a medium box for one to three people is \$15. The large box, which can accommodate three to five people is \$20.

It is the individual's responsibility to pick up their box from the public lounge in the MFRC building on the specified date between 3:30 and 4:30 p.m., otherwise the food will be donated to a food bank.

Bring reusable bags or shopping bags to take your produce home in.

For future dates coming up visit the MFRC website [www.family-force.ca](http://www.family-force.ca)

Meanwhile, the MFRC's pre-kindergarten program will be selling its annual cookie-grams.

Order forms will be available by the end of January at the MFRC and through parents of the students in the pre-kindergarten program.

A cookie-gram includes a decorated sugar cookie with a message of your choice and is accompanied by a personal note. They will be hand-delivered Feb. 14.

Watch for more details on the Shilo MFRC website or its Facebook page.



## Pumpkin carving contest

It was no easy task judging the top-three pumpkins when the **Stag** took on the task for CANEX management. A good turnout of young and old, with parents helping the youngsters with the carving instruments, and the winners had distinctively different creations once they were done. The winners were Chantal Riel (1st middle), Kyle Roux (2nd right) and Colin Gallou (3rd left). Honourable mention went to Caleb Manning.



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## 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 to skill-testing question:

What is the title of the Warpaths documentary featuring Marc

George? \_\_\_\_\_

Cut out your entry form and fax it to 204-765-3814, scan it and e-mail it to [stag@mymts.net](mailto: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.

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To celebrate 50 years of service to Manitoba communities, Westoba Credit Union has awarded five \$10,000 Community Grants.

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## Power maintenance

Hydro crews were on the Base doing maintenance on the power poles. Here, a pole is worked on adjacent to the Junior Ranks building. *Photo by Jules Xavier*



## It's flu season...

# Get the shot, not the flu!

Protect yourself. Protect your friends and family.

The annual seasonal flu shot is available to all Manitobans at no charge. It will offer protection against three seasonal flu strains.

An annual flu shot is especially important for those at increased risk of serious illness from the flu, their caregivers and close contacts.

**This includes:**

- seniors age 65 or older
- children age six months to five years
- those with chronic illness
- pregnant women
- residents of personal care homes or long-term care facilities
- or as determined by your primary health care provider
- health care workers and first responders
- individuals of Aboriginal ancestry
- people who are severely overweight or obese

If you are 65 or older or have a chronic illness, you should also get a pneumo shot. One pneumo shot may give you a lifetime of protection.

For more information, contact a QuickCare Clinic, public health nurse, doctor, pharmacist or call Health Links-Info Santé at **204-788-8200** or toll-free **1-888-315-9257**.

manitoba.ca



## Promotion

MCpl Pyke received her promotion from BComd LCol Stephen Joudrey during the quarterly parade. *Photo by Jules Xavier*

## Appreciation



Marriott's Greenhouse, and owner Peter Heath, received a certificate of appreciation for his dedication and excellence in the up-keep of CFB Shilo's floral displays. Heath was instrumental in the success of this year's Communities in Bloom effort. He processed a large number of requests to plant and care for additional flower displays outside his original mandate at the start of spring. These additional flowers added to his workload throughout the summer, which included the replanting of deer-damaged displays and the continuous need to water the large number of flowerbeds and baskets. Working up to seven days a week when necessary, Heath provided the Base with superb displays, thus enhancing CFB Shilo's community pride.

*Photo by Jules Xavier*



## FAMILY SUPPORT CELL CONTACT INFORMATION



<p><b>2PPCLI Family Support Cell</b></p> <p><i>Cpl Jonathon Gosse</i> jonathon.gosse@forces.gc.ca 204-765-3000 ext. 3635</p> <p><i>Cpl Joshua Preston</i> joshua.preston@forces.gc.ca 204-765-3000 ext. 3638</p>	<p><b>Reception:</b> 1-204-765-3000 ext 3638 Taskforce 2-13 Family Support Cell duty cell number: 1-204-573-5857 Family Support Cell Bldg T114 P.O. Box 5000 Stn Main Shilo, MB R0K 2A0</p>	<p><b>1RCHA Family Support Cell</b></p> <p><i>Bdr Kevin Brophy</i> kevin.brophy@forces.gc.ca 204-765-3000 ext. 3633</p> <p><i>Gnr Mann Forbes</i> mann.forbes@forces.gc.ca 204-765-3000 ext. 3638</p>
<p><a href="https://facebook.com/pages/Shilo-Task-Force-2-13-Family-Support-Cell">facebook.com/pages/Shilo-Task-Force-2-13-Family-Support-Cell</a></p>		
<p><b>Officer In Command</b> <i>Capt Rob Parker</i> charles.parker@forces.gc.ca 204-765-3000 ext. 3632</p>	<p><b>Second in Command</b> <i>WO Eric Grulke</i> eric.grulke@forces.gc.ca 204-765-3000 ext. 3629</p>	<p><b>Ops Sergeant</b> <i>Sgt Murray Bard</i> murray.bard@forces.gc.ca 204-765-3000 ext. 3639</p>



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CFB Shilo residents should drive for the conditions with the advent of winter. Posted speed limits on the Base have changed in a number of areas, the maximum going up from 30 to 50. School zones remain at 30 km/hr, with the MPs being out in these areas to enforce the speed limits.

Photo by Jules Xavier

## Drive with care during winter

Ready or not — here it comes. Winter is staring us down, and once again it is important all drivers take a few moments to change driving habits as well as prepare your vehicles for winter.

For those in our community new to CFB Shilo, you have surely heard of the aggressive winters that can face us. These winters include significant snowfall, high winds, and extreme cold.

It is important that you are prepared for all the potential situations of winter for the safety of you and other road users.

Manitoba winters, despite the challenges, do provide brilliant sunshine through many months. Keep a pair of sunglasses handy in your vehicle.

Personal vehicles should be equipped with winter tires. Studs and chains may also be appropriate depending on where your vehicle will operate. Winter tires in Canada are denoted by a mountain logo covered by a snowflake.

We always recommend carrying a first aid kit and high-visibility markers in your vehicle as an emergency kit, and this advice is even more important in the winter.

Keep your vehicle in a good overall state of repair to avoid the chance of breakdown. Use of winter appropriate fluids is recommended. Check your vehicle's mechanical status regularly.

Slippery roads are a constant threat during the winter. However, road conditions may not always be intuitive.

The closer negative temperatures are to zero degrees, the higher the slip factor of the road. Manitoba Public Insurance notes

that ice at minus-one C is twice as slippery as ice at minus-18 C.

For those travelling to CFB Shilo for work, a reminder that a Storm Line is available at 204-765-3853 which is updated as required with weather conditions and the operating status of the Base.

Several units also have a fanout system for when weather prohibits safe travel.

Social media sites, including Shilo Community Police, are updated as information is known about inclement driving conditions and/or unit stand down/delayed reporting times.

On the Base all roadside parking in the Residential Housing Area (RHA) is now prohibited from 10 p.m. to 6 a.m. daily until May 1 in order to provide snow and ice control as required.

Vehicles parked contrary to this order, found in Base Standing Order 8, will be towed and ticketed at the owner's expense.

Snowmobiles are authorized for use in the same manner as off-road vehicles. This includes use of designated trails and on-road use via the most direct means to a designated trail. Ensure safety equipment is worn and licensing is available when required.

Have a safe winter driving season.

Capt Dane Nicholson is Platoon Commander 1 Military Police Regiment at CFB Shilo

## CANADIAN MP The Military Police NOTEBOOK

# CLASSIFIED ADS

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**\$10 for first 20 words,  
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**Deadline for next issue:  
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Free ads (non-commercial only)  
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### Services



**St. Barbara's  
 Protestant Chapel**

Sunday @ 10:30 a.m. with  
 Sunday school & nursery

Padre Lee - ext 3088  
 Padre Neil - ext 3090  
 Padre Olive - ext 6836  
 Padre Costen - ext 3381

**Our Lady of Shilo  
 Roman Catholic Chapel**

Sunday 10:30 a.m.  
 Wednesday 12:05 p.m.

Confession by appointment  
 Padre Inienwe - ext 3089

**Nad's Simply Clean** For all of your cleaning needs weekly, bi-weekly, and monthly. Also available for offices, contract cleanup and single occasions. Receipts provided.  
 204-573-1509.

**We buy and sell** good used furniture/appliances and we deal in coins and coin/stamp supplies. People's Market Place, 32-13th St., Brandon, 204-727-4708.

### Services

**Greg Steele, Canadian Firearms Safety Course Instructor/Examiner** • Restricted and Non-Restricted • Manitoba Hunter Safety Instructor. Courses offered at least monthly and more often by demand. Nov 8, 9, 10 Shilo • Examinations by appointment • 204-725-1608 • E-mail: ggs57@wcgwave.ca.

### For Sale



**Air Conditioner** Looking to keep your PMQ cool for the summer of '14. If so, two-year-old powerful AC must go. Asking \$175. Call 204-721-4259.

### Employment

**Clerk/Cashier** at CANEX. Full-time gym attendant GSH. Visit www.cfmws.com or contact npfhrshilo@cfmws.com for salary, job details.

### Homes for Sale

**Wawanesa Homes for sale:**  
 Lovely 1755 sq ft, 3 bedroom, 3 bath bungalow with oversized attached garage. New shingles, geo-thermal heat, main floor laundry on a private, large lot. Enjoy the open kitchen and dining area with garden doors leading to deck. Large master with ensuite and walk-in closet. MLS # 1321476

Great 1160 sq ft 3+1, 2 bath bungalow with insulated double attached garage on a private corner lot. Many updates including windows, bathrooms, flooring and vinyl siding. Air, 2 decks, and an extra single garage for all your storage. MLS # 1315809

Well maintained 104 sq ft 3+1, 2 bath bungalow with insulated and heated double detached garage. Many updates including shingles, carpet, flooring, jet tub, windows, and bathrooms. Situated on large lot with extra storage shed. Close to all amenities. MLS # 1311181

**NOBLE LAKE** - two building lots priced for quick sale. Call Bob Daymond, Sutton Harrison Realty for more info on these excellent homes and lots. 204-571-5918

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**Legion**



## Soldier of the Quarter MCpl Cameron

MCpl Cameron received this quarterly award for his dedication and professionalism. He has enabled SPV section to complete numerous Range Training Area horizontal construction projects throughout the summer, namely the reconstruction of Ridge Trail. On Base side, his efforts can be seen in the rebuilding of the roadbeds and the reshaping of roadway shoulders. MCpl Cameron's professional conduct is an example to his subordinates. His calm demeanour and get-it-done attitude brings a sense of pride to all of SPV's tasks.

Photos by Jules Xavier



# Send your veteran photos

### Stag Special

The Royal Canadian Legion is building a Virtual Wall of Honour and Remembrance to honour all deceased veterans.

The appearance of this virtual wall coincided with the recent National Remembrance Day ceremony, organized by the Legion on behalf of and for all Canadians.

It was displayed on the large video screens prior to the start of the actual ceremony last year on Nov. 11 and will continue in future years.

As a way to honour their relatives and friends who have served Canada, Canadians are invited to forward a photograph of the deceased veteran to Dominion Command along with his or her name, years of service, element or force to which the departed belonged or regiment/unit.

Photos can be sent by mail to Dominion Command, 86 Aird Place, Ottawa, ON, K2L 0A1.

Do not post original photographs as they cannot be returned.

You can also use e-mail — RememberingThem@legion.ca or ALeurMemoire@legion.ca.

Any deceased veteran — including those who belonged to the Merchant Navy and of Ferry Command — whose death was attributable to any cause before or after they served (Second World War, Korea, peace support missions, Afghanistan, accidental death in Canada) will be honoured.

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# RHU's new planter box program earns kudos from CIB judges

## From the front

The RHU planter box program earned this Base a special nod for its beautification and unification of the community.

As the man responsible for co-ordinating the judges tour and the campaign, Shilo's mayor, Maj Reg Sharpe, is more than pleased with the Base's improvements and its four bloom win.

"Everybody does what they do because it's the right thing to do. They didn't do what they did this year to win. Look at the storm clean-ups. That was the right thing to do," he said of the first-place finish. "If anyone involved — on the tour or in the community — had done anything differently, we wouldn't have won. Everyone in Shilo played a part even if they didn't know it."

Maj Sharpe added, "This was truly a community effort."

For Maj Sharpe and the rest of the volunteer committee, the win is bittersweet. Long-term Base employee and key contributor to the Communities In Bloom (CIB) campaign in Shilo, Blake Mooney, lost his wife Diane the day Shilo's win was announced in Ottawa, Ont. Mooney retired earlier this year, but has remained informed and close to the campaign. He had attended award symposiums and events for years to prepare CFB Shilo to compete in the program.

Last year, Mooney was successful. He had the opportunity to attend the 2012 symposium with Diane at his side. "When we created the new profile book, we gave a copy to Blake and Diane. We promised Diane we would win. She had such confidence in Shilo," said Maj Sharpe. "Diane was big into family and she saw what Communities In Bloom could do for Shilo's family."

Although Maj Sharpe promised CFB Shilo and the Mooney's a five bloom win, this Base fell short of the coveted fifth bloom by only a couple points.

Despite missing the fifth bloom, the jump of 50.5 points from 2012 is a feat impressive enough. Shilo went from being in the basement of the Canadian Forces Sustainable Communities category to a Base to contend with.

"To shift five to 10 points out of 1,000 is normal. To increase 50.5 points is unheard of," said Maj Sharpe of the dramatic increase in points. "It's a culmination of dedicated people like Blake Mooney and Max Bratzke who pushed to make Shilo part of Communities in Bloom. We showed by synchronizing our efforts as a community we can compete at a national level. We really came together on the Base."

The unthinkable accumulation in points is due mostly in part of better education, organization, and preparation for the campaign. Knowing where points can be earned in various categories helped CFB Shilo capitalize on the things the Base already does well.

CFB Shilo is a leader in several categories. The Base's centrally-controlled resources and well-maintained training area garnered high praise from the judges.

The judges also offered praise for the upgrading of housing units as well as the recycling and compost programs initiated by the Base. A key for judges Briggs and Carmichael were the floral displays adorning the Base and residential areas. The floral displays at units as well as the hanging baskets lining Royal Avenue impressed both judges.

Throughout the residential sector, the flower boxes supplied by CFHA and CE proved to be an impressive feature of the community. The judges commented on the unity, beauty, and the creativity of the boxes.

CFB Shilo also came out well ahead of the 2012 scores for turf and sports fields. The Base's maintenance of the fields, grass, and naturalized areas was highly praised.

"The quality of the sport fields reflects the hard work and pride in taking care of them. The fact that national and regional tournaments are hosted on these fields speaks to their premium condition," read the judges comments. "The sand base under minimal topsoil does pose watering challenges; but the skilled grounds keepers have evidently not allowed that to be a barrier to first-class fields."

This year, CFB Shilo also maintained high scores in the categories of heritage conservation and tidiness. The judges praised the RCA Museum for its comprehensive overview of artillery history and its hosting of prominent exhibits from other museums, such as the Queen's Diamond Jubilee exhibit.

The community was also praised for its prompt

cleanup following two large windstorms earlier this summer. "The rapid response after the storms to clean up the hundreds of felled trees by the entire community is to be commended and speaks to the pride in working together to have a tidy home," said Briggs and Carmichael in their glowing comments of CFB Shilo. Although Maj Sharpe and his team of volunteers set out to take the program by storm with five blooms, he is not let down by a four bloom win.

"The goal was to get five blooms and to win. It's great that we won, but it's even better to be able to strive for that fifth bloom in our non-competitive year," he said of the 813-point win.

With planning for the 2014 campaign underway, Maj Sharpe plans to implement many of the judges comments. With an active community like the one found in Shilo, it is entirely possible to complete many of the suggestions laid out by Briggs and Carmichael. Simple things such as planting more perennials; placing more seating in parks; and incorporating the rich local history into the community, such as Camp Hughes, or the frost north of here planted by the German army, are all feasible for the Base in the next year.

In their finals comments on the Base, judges Briggs and Carmichael stated CFB Shilo embodies the slogan of Communities In Bloom: People, Plants, Pride — Growing together. The residents, staff, and military members who call this Base home, know this to be true.

The last two years have built a strong foundation for future campaigns and, with what Maj Sharpe calls "the smallest of margins" sitting between CFB Shilo and five blooms. He maintains this Base is well on its way to not only being a contender against other competing CAF Bases, but to being the top Base.

Of note, it has been three years since a Base in west-

ern Canada took the title of champion, and CFB Shilo is pleased to welcome the trophy back to the west.

In recent years, contenders for the trophy have included CFB Petawawa, 4 Wing Cold Lake, and more recently CFB Borden which took the honour in 2012.

With five blooms within reach and a group of volunteers, staff, and a community's worth of support, the 2014 campaign is sure to be as successful as 2013.

Even falling just short of five blooms, CFB Shilo can be more than proud of its sophomore campaign. Many bases have taken years of participation to earn the scores this Base has earned.

Often considered to be an inconsequential and inconveniently placed army base, CFB Shilo has proven strength doesn't always lie in numbers. Strength in community comes from spirit and unity more than size. Despite small numbers and a number of obstacles, CFB Shilo flourishes and the CIB victory only proves this for those who call the Base their home.



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