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Volume 56 Issue 7



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April 6, 2017

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Maj Joe O'Donnell was a Stag paperboy. Page 5



Royal Manitoba Winter Fair opens. Page 12



RCA Museum staff have been busy the past few days putting the final touches on their next temporary exhibit which focuses on the Battle of Vimy Ridge centennial. This is the third exhibit that focuses on the centenary of the Great War.



RCA Museum temporary exhibition unveiled April 7 Battle of Vimy Ridge centennial April 9

Stag Special

To mark the centennial of the Battle of Vimy Ridge which was fought on a chill Easter Monday in 1917, the RCA Museum will feature a temporary exhibit called In the Footsteps of Vimy Ridge

Opening April 7 and running to Nov. 30, this is the third exhibit the museum has featured since the beginning of the centenary of the Great War.

In the winter of 1917, as the home front reeled from the 25,000 casualties at the Battle of the Somme, the fully formed Canadian Corps was preparing to meet the challenge given to it by the armies allied against Germany in France.

The battleground was now a heavily fortified ridge, held by the German Army since October 1914.

Attempts to retake it by the French and the British had ended in failure.

It was coldest winter of the war, with morale at its lowest at home and new recruits arriving every day. The four Canadian divisional commanders, led by BGen Julien Byng, were deter-

mined to put to the test those innovations which were beginning to show promise for the Canadians at the end of the Somme.

New tactics for the artillery, intense training for every soldier and co-ordination from the lowest ranks to the highest positions at headquarters were honed behind the lines and in the forward trenches.

If the First World War was to finally turn in the favour of France, Britain and her allies, then Arras in the Nord-Pas-de-Calais region of France needed to be where they at last broke through the German lines.

But for the Canadian Corps, just north of Arras, the place was Vimy Ridge. The time was Z hour at 5:30 a.m. on April 9, 1917.

The successful taking of Vimy by the Canadians is considered Canada's entry on the world as a full mature sovereign nation.

This Vimy Ridge exhibit will include a large interactive of an aerial view of the battle, contemporary film and role playing experience across a large scale map of the 1st Division's objectives during the battle. Artillery guns, infantry kit and uniforms and other equipment will also be on display.

For more on the Battle of Vimy Ridge, turn to pages 6, 7 and 8.



International Women's Day speaker Dr. Allison McCulloch spoke about 'Be Bold for Change.'
Photos by Jules Xavier

Call to action for gender equality – 'Be Bold for Change'

Sarah Francis
Shilo Stag

"Be Bold for Change" is this year's call to action for gender equality for International Women's Day (IWD).

Its origins go back to 1908, when 15,000 women marched through the streets of New York City demanding better work hours and pay, and voting rights.

Feb. 28, 1909 marked the first National Women's Day. More than 100 years later, IWD is celebrated around the world in ways ranging from flowers and gifts, free entry to museums and cultural sites, protests and marches.

One notable protest was "Day Without a Woman" to recognize the value of women to our socio-economic system while receiving lower wages, experiencing harassment, job insecurity and vulnerability to discrimination. Women took the day off from paid or unpaid work, avoided shopping and wore red.

The event was organized by the group behind the Women's March on Washington, an event which mirrors the 15,000 women 100 years ago.

According to the Women's March website, more than one-million were in Washington Jan. 21 and more than five-million participated world-wide.

In the past few years, themes have been incorporated into the day — #BeBoldForChange was seen on social media in anticipation of this year's holiday.

For CFB Shilo, this year's speaker for the day was Dr. Allison McCulloch, an associate professor from Brandon University. She spoke about the involvement

of women in peace and security and the United Nations Security Council Resolution 1325.

The resolution was adopted in 2000, reaffirming the importance of women when it comes to prevention and resolution of conflicts, and peace building, negotiation and post-conflict reconstruction to name a few.

As well as to protect women and girls from gender based violence, such as sexual abuse during armed conflicts.

It calls for an increase in participation from women to create better gender perspectives.

Dr. McCulloch told the Stag, women's involvement can lead to stronger, longer lasting agreements.

"One compelling reason is that, as the UN Global Study on Resolution 1325 found, peace processes that include women are likely to last longer, so the inclusion of women can help contribute to a more durable peace. It's also the case that women make up half of society and they should have a say in the direction of their country. Peace benefits all of us."

Canada was one of the first countries to grant women the vote, with Manitoba women receiving the right in 1916, before the rest of the country followed suit.

Even then, voting rights for women had limits.

According to the government of Manitoba website on the history of the women's vote, it was women 21 and older of British descent or citizenship, and who weren't disqualified for another reason.

Disqualification included Status First Nations peoples, or who in the last three years received treaty money, some people who had mental or physical disabilities, prison inmates, people in hospitals, judges and court house employees, government and political employees and those who were attending military

college.

It would still be a long road for First Nations and Inuit women, and men, to be granted the right to vote.

Inuit peoples were officially qualified in 1950, however, due to their isolated communities the means of exercising their right was difficult.

They were able to vote in 1962 when more ballot boxes were placed in their communities, according to the Canadian Encyclopedia website.

It also states that in 1958 during Prime Minister John Diefenbaker's term, the drafting started for the Canadian Bill of Rights. It focused on equal rights for all Canadians.

In 1960, First Nations people could vote without losing their status.

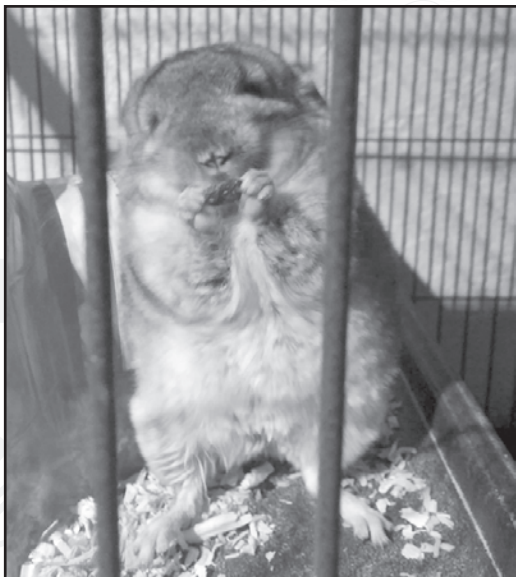
While women saw more political involvement in the last 100 years, there is still more needed globally. Dr. McCulloch said when it comes to ensuring these changes, countries such as Canada need to lead by example.

"I think leading by example means that we have to commit to the same things that we encourage other countries to do. This means ensuring our own 1325 National Action Plan is fully implemented.

"This includes the adoption of a gender perspective when we consider new legislation or policy directives, making sure that we get as close to gender parity as we can in terms of decision-making [such as number of elected representatives or high-ranking civil servants], offering gender training opportunities at all levels."

For details on Resolution 1325 and Canada's action plan and approach, visit www.canada.ca under women, peace and security.

Pet of the Week



JEWEL

Jewel is owned by Gnr Erich Streberg from 1RCHA B Bty. His chinchilla, which takes sand baths, is seven months old. He likes to chase Gnr Streberg's two dogs around the house in an exercise ball. Jewel is learning to sit up and beg for raisins. 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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Reflecting branches

A section of Royal Avenue at the north end of the Base was flooded for a few days thanks to the spring thaw. Caution was needed driving through the deep water to avoid flooding the vehicle engine. When the water was flat at dusk, the nearby tree and road signs were reflected.

Photo by Jules Xavier

Special medal available to Second World War veterans

Stag Special

Since 2014, the Government of France has been awarding their highest medal, the Legion of Honour, to Canadian veterans who participated in the liberation of France in 1944.

Many veterans have now received this great honour, but many veterans may not even know it's available. The Legion of Honour is a very significant official medal which is equal to the Order of Canada.

Living Canadian veterans who saw service in France or directly supported the liberation campaign between June 6, 1944, and Aug. 30, 1944, may be eligible.

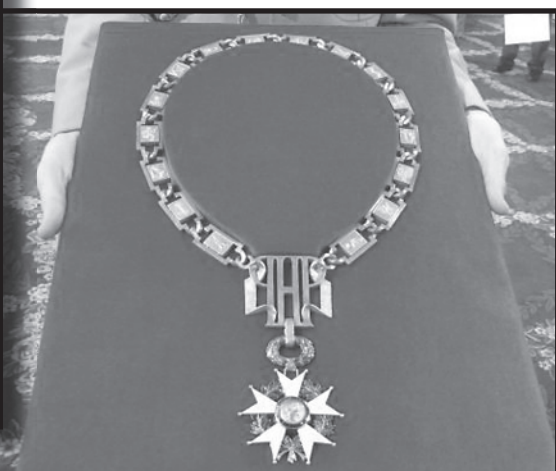
There is no cost or fee involved. If you would like to apply there is a one-page application form on the website of Veterans Affairs Canada.

Or you can contact Guy Black via e-mail at korea19501953@yahoo.com

Use the subject, Canadian Veteran, or send a letter addressed to Legion of Honour, 515 - 95 Moody St., Port Moody, BC, V3H 0H2.



Here's what the Legion of Honour, France's highest medal, looks like. It is available to Second World War veterans who helped with the liberation of France in 1944.



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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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Just promoted Lt Karen Dickie salutes her OC Maj Keith Wilson during a ceremony held at the 11 CF Health Services Centre Monday. CAF Physicians Assistants (PA) are now officers, with Lt Dickie previously a Warrant Officer. *Photo by Sarah Francis*

New officer ready for 'system shock' going to sea

Sarah Francis
 Shilo Stag

It's a big day for the Canadian Armed Forces (CAF) as its members working as Physicians Assistants (PA) are promoted to officers.

This past Monday, Lt Karen Dickie was promoted from her previous rank of Warrant Officer to Lieutenant following a decision to move the PA career to the ranks of officers.

As the position requires a university education, Lt Dickie said the change made sense.

"Civilian side, physician assistants can make a significant amount of money. We, as Warrant Officers, we're already getting spec pay, but we still had a larger turnover, a larger attrition retirement rate. They wanted to come up with some way to retain us. We already had the Bachelor of Science, so why couldn't we be an officer."

She added, "I'm not going to stay in for 25 years because of the pension aspect. It's huge as an officer. And I still get to see patients. In the past as Warrant Officers when we've been in field ambulance and those areas when we go to the field, we don't see patients the way we like to."

"This also allows us to see patients, maintain our skills and it is also allowing the military to get the best bang for their buck. They're paid a significant amount of money to get me my Bachelors degree and qualify me. So they may as well put that to use."

For about 30 seconds she wore the rank of 2Lt, then received the promotion to Lieutenant. Talk about fast-track promotion.

After her post-secondary education she decided to join the CAF and left her hometown of Coutts, Alberta and enlisted in Calgary.

She joked that her hometown is extremely close the border, "Our front yard's Montana."

She joined in 2002 as a medical technician and decided, at the rank of Sergeant, becoming a PA was for her.

"At the time when I was offered, to be promoted to Warrant Officer we had to have the PA course," recalled Lt Dickie. "So it was just for career progression. Once I started the course I realized how much I loved and enjoyed being a PA, so that's why I chose to take the commissioning because I wanted to continue to

support troops as a clinician."

PAs have an overseeing attending physician they report to, however, they can treat and diagnose, order imaging and labs, and discharge patients.

The course is run by the military, but credited by the University of Nebraska.

"It was tough ... all of a sudden here's a university level textbook. We're tested on a weekly basis. It was a tough situation. You're studying every day," she recalled.

The school required students to first have an undergrad degree before being accepted to the course.

"They had to make a presentation to Nebraska, show that we've had 12 to 15 years of experience as a med tech. That was kind of how we bypassed that undergrad."

Training for the PA course was no small feat. Getting back into the groove of school after being out for 15 years can be a challenge, according to Lt Dickie.

"You're taught in body systems. You have four tests per system, but sometimes you're already learning the next system and you haven't even finished testing on the last system."

Students wrote more than 100 tests and were required to maintain a certain grade point average.

The ability to work with patients and freedom stand out as perks of the job.

"It's independence. It's the ability to make decisions with patients and their health care. I sometimes think there is a lack of education when we treat our patients and if we can prevent them coming in multiple times for the common cold, if we educate them the first time around, then we cut down on wait times and them coming in for menial things."

As for being a military PA, that has its benefits, too.

"I'm working right now Monday through Friday seven to four," she said. "I don't have shift work. I don't have that sort of stuff. I'm not on call."

Lt Dickie is excited for the next stage in her career, which could mean learning to navigate a ship.

"I'm posted next summer and I'm supposed to be tentatively be going to Victoria [CFB Esquimalt] on a ship. So I look forward to that."

She's never been on a ship before.

"That Navy is very different, I don't know how different," she pondered. "I just have been told it's going to be a system shock."

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Artillery officer once had job as Stag paperboy

Jules Xavier
Shilo Stag

Can you imagine Maj Joe O'Donnell navigating the PMQs as a kid delivering the *Shilo Stag*?

For those who know him better as the former BC of 1RCHA's A Bty, yes the amiable artillery soldier once made sure the *Stag*, currently celebrating its 70th anniversary, was delivered to the homes on his paper route.

After conferring with his mother, Maj O'Donnell, who is honing his French skills at the Base's Language School prior to a summer posting to Fort Leavenworth, Kansas, started his paper route at age nine in 1990.

"It was actually my brother Rob's [three years older and a major with 2RCHA at Garrison Petawawa] route as I wasn't old enough," he recalled. "I think you needed to be 12 years old to work. We'd divide the Base in half and take one side each."

He added, "My mother would help normally, too. I think she was the one who introduced us to the job."

There was a simple reason why Maj O'Donnell joined his brother on paper day and became a *Stag* paperboy.

"I liked making money and I think my parents wanted to instill a strong work ethic in me at an early age," he said. "As a kid, I always maintained some source of income in addition to mowing lawns, shovelling driveways and being the Dickie Dee [vendor] ... I delivered the *Stag*, *Brandon Today*, the Shilo movie flyer and *The Daily Gleaner* in Oromocto, [NB]."



Maj Joe O'Donnell

To ward of the frigid temperatures, Maj O'Donnell turned to his mom on paper day.

"Normally I would rely on my mother to drive us around if the weather was too terrible to walk," he recalled. "If I remember correctly we had a few days to complete the delivery ... maybe half a week?"

Having delivered the *Stag* for a year, his paperboy days came to an end when dad was posted to CFB Gagetown in '91.

"If we weren't posted who knows, maybe I'd still be delivering," he quipped.

Maj O'Donnell does not recall the content of the *Stag* being delivered 27 years ago.

"I doubt I ever read them paper back then," he said. "I was all business — all about delivering back then. No time for reading ... on time and on target you know."

Asked what memories does he have when he looks back on his *Stag* paperboy job, Maj O'Donnell ponders the question briefly.

"After school walks around Base, in all weather conditions. The best part of deliver-

ing was getting paid and probably spending all my paycheques on the games *Double Dragon* or *Rampage* at the old Shilo Arcade in CANEX."

Returning to CFB Shilo years later after his father was posted back, a much older Maj O'Donnell found work as a pizza delivery person, working for Pizza Hut out of CANEX. Ironically, the *Stag's* office is located on the area where once pizza and bread sticks were made.

Maj O'Donnell might have switched from newspapers to pizzas, but he looks back on the experiences fondly now that he's serving in the Canadian Armed Forces (CAF). Now he reads the *Stag* religiously, and visits

the staff with story ideas. Plus, he recalls his pizza delivery job as a blessing. Besides making great tips when the Germans were here training, but he met his eventual wife ..., who worked in the kitchen making the pizzas he delivered to hungry soldiers and their families.

Currently, the *Stag's* newspaper carrier team consists of young Brooke Brown and teenager Brian Mazsa. They have replaced Tyson Braund and William Greer, who were regular carriers for a few years starting in 2012.



Brooke Brown

Wages have gone up for the newspaper carriers compared to when Maj O'Donnell was on his route, with Brown and Mazsa earning \$45 per edition, with 600 papers split between them being delivered to the Q Patch every second Thursday.

While he can't recall the *Stag* editor's name from the early 90s, the editorial office for the community newspaper was located in the building now known as Ecole la Source.

"They also had a television channel, called Shilo Cablevision at that point," he recalled. "Maybe you guys could do that? Start a *Shilo Stag* YouTube channel and have some podcasts."

What were some of the challenges of being a paperboy on the Base? Delivering the newspaper during winter, according to Maj O'Donnell. "The cold winters were the biggest challenge ... I wouldn't have the best dexterity to grab a hold of the papers with winter mitts on."



Your source for Army news in Manitoba

he recalled. "Maybe you guys could do that? Start a *Shilo Stag* YouTube channel and have some podcasts."

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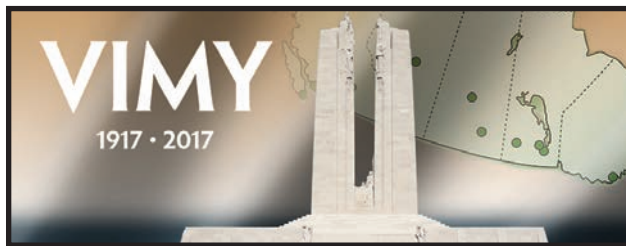
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Germans face 'Week of Suffering' thanks to artillery raining a million shells on Vimy

Stag Special

The decades since the Battle of Vimy Ridge have slipped by, but the legacy of the Canadians who accomplished so much in that important First World War battle lives on. Some say that Canada came of age as a country on those harsh April days in 1917.

The First World War was the largest conflict the world had ever seen up until that time. It came about due to the political tensions and complex military alliances of the era.

The assassination of Archduke Franz Ferdinand in the summer of 1914 resulted in an international crisis and by August, the fighting had begun. This bloody four-year war would see Britain (and her Empire), France, Russia and the United States lining up against Germany, Austria-Hungary and the Ottoman Empire.

In 1914, Canada's external affairs were governed by the United Kingdom. This meant that once Britain declared war, Canada automatically followed.

The First World War opened with great enthusiasm and patriotism on the part of many Canadians, with tens of thousands rushing to join the military in the first months of the conflict so they would not miss the action.

They need not have worried as the war would grind



Canadian machine gunners digging in during the Battle of Vimy Ridge.

Photo Library and Archives Canada

on for more than four years, killing as many as 10-million combatants in fighting that would be revolutionized by high-explosive shells, powerful machine guns, poison gas, submarines and war planes.

After the initial German advances of the war, the battle on the Western Front quickly turned into a stalemate of trench fighting, with the front line zigzagging for nearly 1,000 kilometres from the coast of Belgium to the border of Switzerland.

Life for soldiers in the trenches was miserable. They

were often muddy and cold and had to live in the midst of pests like rats, lice and fleas. In this form of warfare, soldiers faced the enemy across a narrow strip of land between the opposing trenches.

This was a harsh "No Man's Land" of mud, barbed wire and shell craters, swept by enemy machine gun fire, and menaced by artillery and snipers. This is what soldiers had to cross when they went "over the top" and launched an attack.

The dead and injured who fell in No Man's Land often could not be recovered.

By the spring of 1917, Europe had been at war for more than two-and-a-half years, with neither side being able to make a significant breakthrough. As part of an Allied offensive, a major attack was planned for April in the area of Arras, France. In this attack, the Canadians would be tasked with capturing Vimy Ridge, which is located in northern France, about 175 kilometres north of Paris.

It is a long, high hill that dominates the surrounding landscape. Germany captured Vimy Ridge early in the war and transformed it into a strong defensive position, with a complex system of tunnels and trenches manned by highly trained soldiers with many machine guns and artillery pieces. Previous Allied assaults on Vimy Ridge in 1914 and 1915 had resulted in hundreds of thousands of casualties, but had been largely unsuccessful.

See **HEAVILY** page 7

Battle for Vimy Ridge required air power

"Three more pilots lost today. All good men. Oh how I hate the Huns.

They had done in so many of my best friends. I'll make them pay, I swear."

— William Avery "Billy" Bishop, April 7, 1917

Maj Bill March

Stag Special

Every year, on April 9, Canadians commemorate the victory of the Canadian Corps at Vimy Ridge in France. The engagement, part of the larger Battle of Arras (April 9 to May 16, 1917), took place from April 9 to 12, and resulted in the decisive defeat of the German defenders.

The first time that all four divisions of the Canadian Corps had fought together, Vimy Ridge has become a potent symbol of Canadian nationalism, albeit at the cost of more than 10,000 casualties — 3,598 killed and 7,004 wounded.

The savagery of the fighting and the bravery of the combatants on the ground were matched by the war in the air. For the men of the Royal Flying Corps (RFC) and Royal Naval Air Service (RNAS) — and there were many Canadians among them — this was the start of "Bloody April."

As was (and is) often the case, the air battle began long before the first soldier went over the top.

The most potent weapon during the



In this undated photo, a British BE2 flies low over the trenches in France.

Photo Library and Archives Canada

First World War was artillery and it came to rely heavily upon aerial observation and photographs.

In the months leading up to the attack on Vimy Ridge, corps squadrons — those air units tasked to provide direct reconnaissance support to a specific army or corps (the Canadian Corps was part of the British First Army) — were in the air whenever the weather permitted, photographing and re-photographing German positions.

Locating enemy artillery batteries was of primary importance so they could be neutralized on the day of the

attack.

At Vimy Ridge, the bulk of the work fell to the RFC's 16 Squadron, flying BE2s, a two-seater biplane.

It is estimated that by early March aerial photographs had been taken of all of the German defensive positions and that 180 of 212 hostile batteries had been located and their co-ordinates plotted on Allied maps.

During the actual battle, corps aircraft would fly in support of the "shoots" meant to destroy or neutralize hostile batteries by providing near-real time corrections and photographing the re-

sults — what we now call battle damage assessment.

Needless to say, the Germans strove strenuously to deny the Allies the use of this aerial "high-ground" in much the same way as the RFC and RNAS attempted to "blind" the German Air Service.

Scout or fighter aircraft flew both offensive and defensive patrols. Offensive patrols were designed to either destroy or discourage the enemy's reconnaissance aircraft (and balloons) from doing their job, while defensive patrols were to protect friendly corps machines.

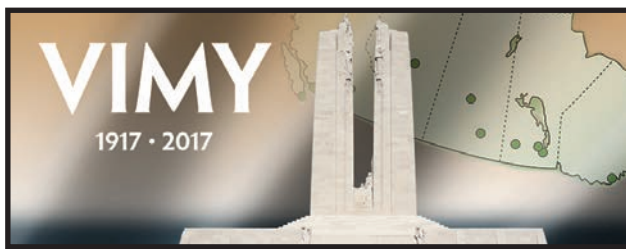
The information being brought back was so important for the preparation of the upcoming offensive that each RFC reconnaissance aircraft was often assigned two scouts to act as close escorts.

They flew in conjunction with defensive patrols of four to seven aircraft seeking to intercept the Germans before they could molest the corps aircraft.

If a target to be photographed was deemed important enough, the RFC would do whatever it took to get the image — one mission over the span of two days in late March 1917 resulted in the loss of aircraft and 14 airmen killed or missing; the required information was never obtained.

During the lead-up to Vimy Ridge, the RFC was going through a period of massive expansion that led to a shortage of squadrons at the front.

See **CANADIAN** page 8



Heavily defended ridge captured by noon

From page 6

The Canadians moved to the front lines across from Vimy Ridge in the late autumn of 1916. The Battle of Vimy Ridge would be the first time all four divisions of the Canadian Corps fought together as one formation.

The planning and preparations for the battle were extensive. The Canadians spent the entire winter strengthening the lines, preparing for the assault on Vimy and training rigorously.

Models of the trench systems were built and the soldiers drilled on what they were to do. They also raided German positions to gather intelligence on enemy defences.

Extensive "mining" operations were undertaken in which the Allies dug tunnels beneath the German lines and set large caches of explosives to be detonated when the time for the attack came.

Elaborate tunnel systems with train tracks, piped water, lights, and huge underground bunkers to stockpile supplies and arms were also established to aid the Canadians in the battle.

To soften enemy defences in preparation for the attack, the Allies made a massive and prolonged artillery barrage. The heaviest shelling was spread over a week to avoid tipping off the Germans on exactly when the assault would begin.

More than a million shells rained down during what the Germans called the "Week of Suffering." The early military aircraft of the day also played a role in the battle by sweeping enemy aircraft and observation balloons from the skies.

The Battle of Vimy Ridge began at 5:30 a.m. on Easter Monday, April 9, 1917. The first wave of 15,000 to 20,000 Canadian soldiers, many heavily-laden with equipment, attacked through the wind-driven snow and sleet into the face of deadly machine gun fire.

The Canadians advanced behind a "creeping barrage." This precise line of intense Allied artillery fire moved ahead at a set rate and was timed to the minute.

The Canadian infantrymen followed the line of explosions closely. This allowed them to capture German positions in the critical moments after the barrage moved on to the next targets, but before the enemy soldiers could emerge from the safety of their underground bunkers.

Canadian battalions in the first waves of the assault suffered great numbers of casualties, but the assault proceeded on schedule. Most of the heavily defended ridge was captured by noon.

Hill 145, the main height on the ridge, was taken on the morning of April 10. Two days later, the Canadians took "the Pimple," as the other significant height on the ridge was nicknamed.

The Germans were forced to withdraw three kilometres east and the Battle of Vimy Ridge was over. The Allies now commanded the heights overlooking the Douai Plain, which was still occupied by the enemy.

The Canadian Corps, together with the British Corps to the south, had captured more ground, prisoners and artillery pieces than any previous British offensive of the war.

Canadians would act with courage throughout the battle. Four of our soldiers would earn the Victoria Cross, the highest medal for military valour, for separate actions in which they captured enemy machine gun positions. They were Pte William Milne, LSgt Ellis Sifton, Capt Thain MacDowell and Pte John Pattison.

The Battle of Vimy Ridge proved to be a great success, but it only came at a heavy cost. The some 100,000 Canadians who served there suffered more than 10,600 casualties, nearly 3,600 of which were fatal.

By the end of the First World War, Canada, a country of less than eight million people, would see more than 650,000 men and women serve in uniform. The conflict took a huge toll with more than 66,000 Canadians losing their lives and more than 170,000 being wounded.

What is the legacy of this battle? At Vimy Ridge, regiments from coast to coast saw action together in a distinctly Canadian triumph, helping create a new and stronger sense of national identity in our country.

Canada's military achievements during the war raised our international stature and helped earn us a separate signature on the Treaty of Versailles that formally ended the war.

Today, on land granted to Canada for all time by a grateful France, the Canadian National Vimy Memorial sits atop Hill 145, rising above the now quiet countryside.

This great monument is inscribed with the names of 11,285 Canadian soldiers who were listed as "missing, presumed dead" in France during the First World War. It stands as a tribute to all who served our country in the conflict and paid a price to help ensure the peace and freedom we enjoy today.

Amputees find modern-day inspiration from Vimy battle survivors

Stag Special

The Battle of Vimy Ridge may have been 100 years ago, but it continues to have modern-day lessons for amputees like Rob Larman and Tiffany Ross of Toronto.

Larman, who lost his leg at the age of 14 when friends dared him to jump a train, now directs The War Amps PLAYSAFE program, while Tiffany Ross, 10, was born a left arm amputee and is now a member of the The War Amps Child Amputee Program (CHAMP).

To mark the April 9 Vimy anniversary, they laid a rose at the grave of Ethelbert "Curley" Christian at Toronto's Prospect Cemetery, in honour of the remarkable sacrifice Christian made at Vimy that continues to inspire young amputees today.

Christian lost all four limbs in

the Vimy battle and is believed to be the only quadruple amputee to have survived the First World War.

Despite his grievous injuries, he became a leading member of the newly established War Amputations of Canada and even returned to the battlefield for the dedication of the Vimy Memorial in 1936.

"Curley Christian passed away in 1954, but he continues to have a legendary status in The War Amps for how he overcame his



'Curley' Christian



To mark this important milestone, War Amps representative Rob Larman and 10-year-old Tiffany Ross laid a rose at the grave of Curley Christian, who lost four limbs in the battle. While Rob and Tiffany are from Toronto, their message of Remembrance is of national interest.

Photo supplied

amputations, particularly at a time when disability was very much a hidden and taboo subject," says Larman.

"Curley was there to offer assurance and advice to the Second World War amputees from someone who had been there, and after my accident, those veterans did the same for me. Now we older amputees pass along this support and legacy to young amputees like Tiffany."

He adds that laying a rose at Christian's grave on behalf of The War Amps is both a way to honour him as a

tremendous role model for amputees, and to put a face to the many Canadian soldiers who lost limbs at Vimy Ridge.

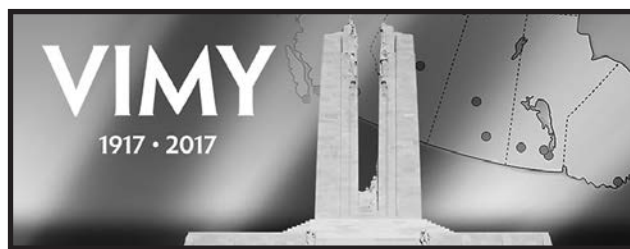
"These young men showed great bravery both in fighting for their country and in re-adjusting to their new lives as amputees," says Larman. "Through The War Amps, we will continue the work and the example left by war amputee veterans like Curley going long into the future."

Christian was a leading member of The War Amps and helped establish the legacy of "amputees helping amputees" which

has been passed down through each generation of amputees.

VIMY RIDGE
100TH ANNIVERSARY

SERVICE AT ST. BARBARA'S CHAPEL
CFB SHILO
APRIL 9 AT 10:30 A.M.



Canadian soldiers prepared diligently for attack

From page 6

To help alleviate this deficiency, four RNAS squadrons, No. 1, 8 and 10, operating Sopwith triplanes, and No. 3, equipped with Sopwith Pups, were temporarily placed at the disposal of the RFC.

All of these squadrons, especially No. 3, which was commanded by Canadian Redford Henry "Red" Mulock of Winnipeg, acquitted themselves well.

RFC aircraft were, for the most part, outclassed by German fighting machines. Where there was relative technical parity, squadrons equipped with either the Nieuport 17 or Sopwith Pup were capable of meeting the Germans on somewhat equal terms. The outcome of a fight often rested with the skill of the aircrew and survival was dictated by where the fight took place and the prevailing wind.

The continued growth, combined with losses at the front, meant many aircrew operating in the skies above the Canadian Corps had minimal training and were often unfamiliar with the aircraft they were flying. As well, the need to support the troops on the ground meant that they often found themselves over enemy territory so that if their machine was damaged in combat, or suffered from not infrequent mechanical difficulty, they ran the risk of not making it back to friendly lines and becoming prisoners of war.

To a great extent this unfortunate outcome was worsened by the prevailing winds that blew from west to east, making it that much more difficult for a flier in trouble to make it to friendly lines. But although there were many inexperienced pilots within the German Air Service, there were also experienced "killers" such as Manfred von Richthofen — better known as the Red Baron — who took a deadly toll of the Allied airmen during the Battle of Arras.

The expansion of the RFC, and to a lesser extent the RNAS, increased the demand for personnel. Although there were a number of Canadians serving in both flying services, most had come via direct recruitment in North America or through voluntary secondment from the Canadian Expeditionary Force (CEF).

In an effort to tap into a perceived pool of eager young Canadians, the RFC established a large training organization in Canada in January 1917. In the months following the Battle of Arras, through the RFC Canada, thousands of Canadians would take to the skies over Europe via the RFC Canada. But during "Bloody April," the Allies had to rely on available airmen, regardless of their level of training and experience.

With this in mind it should come as no surprise that in the four days between the start of the RFC's air campaign on April 4, and the Canadian Corps' assault on Vimy Ridge five days later, that 75 British aeroplanes fell in action with a loss in personnel of 105 — 19 killed, 13 wounded, and 73 missing.

In addition, there was an abnormally high number of flying accidents in which, in the same period, 56 aeroplanes were wrecked and struck off the strength of the squadrons.

Casualties resulting from accidents were not reported as "combat" losses. To put this into a modern context, a Canadian fighter squadron has approximately 12 aircraft on strength which means that in a four-day period the equivalent of almost 11 modern squadrons were lost.

And then the ground battle began — the officers and men of the Canadian Corps had prepared diligently for the attack. Maps indicating objectives and potential enemy strongpoints had been updated to the very last minute, using the latest aerial photographs obtained at such a high price.



The Royal Flying Corps, which included many Canadian flyers, carries out aerial reconnaissance and photography of enemy positions leading up to the Battle of Vimy Ridge and provided artillery spotting before and during the battle. Several Canadian airmen were killed in the days before and after the battle. In this undated file photo, CF100 Canucks fly over the Canadian War Memorial at Vimy Ridge in France. *Photo DND Archives*

Royal Canadian Artillery (RCA) gunners had practiced with RFC observers to work out procedures and wireless (radio) protocols to engage German batteries and silence them quickly and effectively.

Assaulting bodies of infantry — including the PPCLI — in addition to their already substantial burden of equipment, carried extra flares and signal panels with which to highlight their positions to friendly aircraft above. This was extremely important.

Contact flights, where aircraft were sent to locate the positions of friendly troops, were vital both to provide an accurate picture of what was happening to higher headquarters and to prevent occurrences of "friendly fire."

But then the "gods of chance" intervened. Although there had been perfect flying weather on April 8, by the time the whistles blew to signal the attack early the following morning, low clouds and a mix of rain and snow showers had restricted aerial activity — on both sides.

Except for brief periods, the lousy weather continued for almost the entire period of the assault on Vimy Ridge. While this made it difficult for 16 Squadron to carry out counter-battery work, it made the need for contact patrols even more important.

Flying low over weather-obscured bodies of troops was always dangerous; in the height of battle soldiers on the ground often assumed that low-flying aircraft were hostile and therefore to be shot at.

But when aircrew deliberately called attention to themselves with blaring klaxons, they were often met with a fusillade of ground fire rather than a positional flare from friendly troops.

The divisional and battalion diaries of the Canadian Corps contain numerous entries noting the presence of, and reports from, these contact flights.

And while the air war may have been relatively quiet at Vimy Ridge, it continued unabated over the

Arras battlefield. During this period, Lt Billy Bishop became an "ace" while flying a Nieuport 17 with 60 Squadron, RFC. He claimed his fifth victory on April 8, 1917. By the end of the month he would claim total of 17 enemy aircraft destroyed or forced down.

Other Canadian airmen were equally effective, including Lloyd Samuel Breadner of Carleton Place, Ont., who would become Chief of the Air Staff of the RCAF, and Joseph Fall of Cobble Hill, BC, with No. 3 (Naval) Squadron of the RNAS. Both scored triple victories during an engagement on April 11, 1917.

Others paid the ultimate price during ferocious air battles. In Bishop's squadron alone, Canadians C.S. Hall (address unknown) and J.A. Milot of Joliette, Que., were killed, respectively, on April 7 and 8.

The trials of 60 Squadron continued as it lost 10 of its complement of 18 aircraft from April 14 to 16. J. Elliott from Winnipeg was wounded during this period.

By the end of "Bloody April," the British had lost 285 aircraft and 211 aircrew were killed or missing, with another 108 taken prisoner. The number of Canadian aircrew casualties during this period has never been tabulated.

The Germans lost 66 aircraft due to combat or flying accident. Richthofen and his squadron accounted for more than a third (89) of British losses.

From a Canadian air power perspective, the battle for Vimy Ridge could be characterized as the first Canadian "joint" engagement. Encompassing a much larger area than the Vimy Ridge battlefield, the air campaign began long before the initial assault on April 9.

Although primarily a land battle, the contributions of the RFC and RNAS were crucial — if not for the ultimate victory than at the very least for reducing the number of casualties to the Canadian Corps.

Aerial reconnaissance enabled advance planning and rehearsal prior to the attack on April 9 and, although limited by weather, made important contributions to the conduct of the engagement — primarily in the realm of command and control. At the same time offensive aerial patrols kept the Germans from enjoying the same advantages.

Vimy Ridge is a prime example of the effectiveness of joint operations when air and land power cooperate to achieve a common goal.

As we commemorate the 100th anniversary of Vimy Ridge, it behooves the men and women of the Canadian Armed Forces (CAF) to remember that lesson as well.



Capt William A. Bishop in the cockpit of his Nieuport Scout, on August 6, 1917, while with No 60 Squadron. Then-Lt Bishop flew during the Battle of Arras, which the Battle of Vimy Ridge was part of, during "Bloody April." *Photo DND Archives*

One key piece of information.
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The Canadian Armed Forces (CAF) is currently recruiting for its Joint Task Force X (JTF X), and have a number of advertisements out to attract individuals who want to serve their country. And serve in Canada's human intelligence unit. There is a recruitment stop at CFB Shilo April 19 at the MPTF.

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Soldiers needed for human intelligence unit

Shilo Stag

Do you have a goal of one day serving your country as a member of Joint Task Force X (JTF X)?

If so, recruitment is underway, with a stop at CFB Shilo scheduled for April 19, with two sessions starting at 2 and 7 p.m. in room 13 at the MPTF.

If you can't make the CFB Shilo sessions, there are two planned the following day at 17 Wing Winnipeg at the Netherlands Theatre. Sessions are also at 2 and 7 p.m.

"Canadian Armed Forces (CAF) members interested in attending these info sessions must be prepared to present their military IDs upon request," noted JTF X Recruiting and Selection Officer Capt Alain Bileau.

"Due to the sensitive nature of some discussion subjects within this info brief, families and friends of CAF members are not permitted to attend."

JTF X is Canada's human intelligence (HUMINT) unit, responsible for the provision of strategic, op-

erational and tactical HUMINT resources in support of Department of National Defence (DND) and CAF programs and operations.

To achieve its mandate, JTF X must select and Force generate source handlers and interrogators from within the CAF. Additional info can be found at the JTF X DWAN webpage.

The aim of the recruitment and information sessions: To provide information to prospective candidates interested in becoming source handlers, interrogators, or a variety of support positions within the unit; the application, selection and training process; a broad overview of the HUMINT function and activities; and personal and professional advantages of a posting to JTF X.

Relevant CANFORGENs are available by visiting the following websites:

<http://vcds.mil.ca/apps/canforgens/default-eng.asp?id=034-17&type=canforgen>

<http://vcds.mil.ca/apps/canforgens/default-eng.asp?id=033-17&type=canforgen>



Flooding reflection

With spring thaw underway, a section of Kingston Avenue was flooded, with the intersection stop sign reflected in the pooling water.

Photo by Jules Xavier

CFB Shilo
14th Annual **BASE COMMANDER'S** Downhomer
LOBSTERFEST

Saturday June 3rd Community Centre (Bldg L25)

Following the March sales blitz to the members of the Finance Team, any remaining tickets will be available on April 19th to the general public at the CFB Shilo CANEX general store.

\$40/ea Price of the ticket also gets you into the draw for a one week trip to Mexico!
Doors open at 5:30 pm;
Meal from 7 - 9 pm
Band starts at 9 pm

FREE Knight-Line transportation!

Buses depart from the CFB Shilo bus stops near McDonald's (Richmond) at 5 & 7 pm and downtown (8th & Rossier) at 5:45 & 7:45 pm * Return trips at 10 pm and 11 pm. Knight-Line taxis also available to reserve/book at 204-717-6570

For group reservations (12 and over) or more information call 204-765-3000 ext 3073. Limited reservations accepted until 12 May. Plenty of rush seating available.

ONLY 800 TICKETS AVAILABLE!

Appearing Live...
OUTH BOU TROUBLE

Improved CF Appreciation website launched

Stag Special

Since 2011, the CF Appreciation program has offered a variety of discounts to currently serving members of the Canadian Armed Forces (CAF), veterans, and their respective families in recognition of their sacrifices and dedication.

To help the entire CAF community to save on a daily basis, no matter where they are, www.CFAppreciation.ca has been updated with a modern "look and feel" that will allow users to find customized offers around them.

Users will be able to access the website wherever they are and on any hand held device from Smartphone to tablet to computer.

The site will also feature a new, more intuitive design making searching easier, by keyword, location, and company name, offering users customized search results.

In addition, users will be able to access their CFOne Card on their Smartphone, ensuring users always have their ID on hand.

Special features include: Mobile-friendly browser support; geo-location functionality and easier to find what you're looking for.

"I am excited to see first-hand the launch of the CF Appreciation mobile-friendly website. Whether in Canada or abroad, you can now easily see all the discounts and savings around you, on your tablet or phone in the area where you will be traveling," said Commodore Sean Cantelon, Director General Morale and Welfare Services.

"On behalf of the [CAF] community, I am grateful for all industry partners that are part of the CF Appreciation program. I look forward to continued growth in this regard."

With the aim of expanding its audience of users, new industry partners, including those local, regional, and national, have been approached to offer discounts, while some existing industry partners have chosen to enhance their offers, further increasing benefits to the CAF community.

At home, on the road, or abroad, www.CFAppreciation.ca wants to ensure you will have easy access to all discounts at your fingertips. Saving together will never be so easy.

Visit www.CFAppreciation.ca to see for yourself, or connect with the CF Appreciation team at 1-855-235-3099 for more information.

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See the complete line of this world famous single-lens reflex — exclusive at Brown's!

PENTAX SIA — Black or Chrome	\$159.50
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SPOTMATIC — Newest of all — with 1.4 Lens, 1-1/1,000 Shutter, Cross-coupled CDS Meter built into prism	\$299.50



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A FULL LINE OF LENSES to fit the Pentax as well as every other popular SLR Camera from 35 mm wide angle to 400 mm and telephoto PLUS... these lenses can be doubled by adding our 2X Converter at only

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An advertisement for cameras from Brown's Drug Store in Brandon from a circa 1969 copy of the *Shilo Stag*.

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Wawanesa house on the River - \$177,500



4-bedroom home with a spectacular view of the Souris River. This character home is located in lovely Wawanesa. Very large fenced yard backs onto the river. Sit on the back deck and enjoy the warm summer days, or head inside and appreciate 1,550-sqft of this air-conditioned home. Enjoy the country life while having all amenities Wawanesa has to offer: arena, pool, water park, daycare, public school. Only 15 minutes away from CFB Shilo or about 40 minutes to Brandon. It offers a basement, original hardwood floors, wood burning fireplace (currently not operational), and a single car garage. This could be your opportunity for home ownership. Don't wait, call today to schedule your private viewing.

\$329,900 - Carberry Gem



Custom built 3-bedroom bungalow, a treasure that must be seen. New siding, windows and doors. Heated attached garage has room for two big cars plus bikes, tools and toys. Dining room opens on to the over-sized deck for summertime enjoyment. Yard is home to a vegetable garden and large storage shed built on a cement pad with electricity. The finished basement offers another bedroom, office and large rec room. Too many upgrades and features to list! Call Kevin Gregory today to arrange your private viewing before it's gone.

\$159,900 - Cheaper than rent - MLS 1705227



Your opportunity to own your own home for less than you pay for rent. This charming house offers 2 bedrooms, 1 remodelled bathroom. So much character in this home, including original hardwood and trim. Updates include new shingles, gutters, soffits, sidewalk and exterior paint in 2013. Hot water tank, deck, light fixtures, interior paint, main water stack, new plumbing, washer and dryer plumbed in 2015 and 2016 saw the yard professionally landscaped front and back with Kentucky blue sod, parking pad and chain link fence. Several windows have been replaced. Single car garage is insulated. Very low taxes - \$832 after rebate. Close to schools.

\$215,900 - Indoor Pool and Hot Tub - MLS - 1705313



This exceptionally well built home has lots to offer. Recent upgrades include new high-end laminate, drywall and paint in the basement, tiled back splash in the kitchen, all new doors on the main floor. It boasts cathedral wood ceilings in the living room, kitchen and dining area. The master bedroom has his/her closets, and a two-piece en-suite. Indoor swimming pool and hot tub just off living room. Outside is a car port and a carpeted/roofed patio. The huge backyard is fenced. Great for storing your toys, or letting your pets enjoy all the open space. The finished basement has lots of room and a fourth bedroom. Located in Killarney.

\$639,900 - 58 Acres - MLS - 1704296



Check out this great acreage only a few minutes west of Brandon. This bi-level boasts just under 1,500 sq. ft. plus a fully finished basement. The dream kitchen features granite counter tops, maple cabinets, and double wall ovens. The driveway and house are surrounded by over 1,450 trees which can be enjoyed on the 24x24 composite deck. This great house is situated on 58 acres. Perfect as a hobby farm, rent out to farmers, or for house lovers. Don't miss this opportunity for a little piece of paradise.



New Sunday hours starting April 30

Effective April 30, CANEX Supermart will be extending the regular Sunday hours of operation from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. Currently, the store's Sunday hours are noon to 5 p.m. "I am confident that these newly extended hours will enhance the welfare and convenience of the Shilo military community," offered CANEX manager Rick Kehler.

Photo by Jules Xavier

Shilo Theatre

(Located in the General Strange Hall)

April 7 *Monster Trucks* Rated PG

April 14 *NO MOVIE*

April 21 *Secret Life of Pets* Rated G

Children aged 10 and younger require adult supervision at all times.

All movies start at 6:30 p.m. Doors open at 6:15 p.m.

FREE GSH popcorn — h2o from CANEX

For more info, contact the community recreation office at 204-765-3000 ext 3317/3588



GSH Bowling Alley

Open bowling for all ages
Saturday 2 to 4 p.m.
Sunday 2 to 4 p.m.

Adult: **\$2.50** per game
Youth: **\$2.25** per game
Child: **\$2** per game
Shoe rental: **75 cents**

Prices subject to tax

Ask about Glow bowling birthday parties!

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



The Keystone Centre was the venue for a volunteer appreciation event hosted by PSP prior to a Brandon Wheat Kings game. Sponsored by CANEX and Base Fund, 112 attended this event out of 162 volunteer names submitted to PSP organizers, who want to thank the financial contribution from Base Fund and CANEX. Pizza was served following the presentation of certificates to the volunteers. *Photo by Jules Xavier*



We want you on our team

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

Learn about real estate while enjoying a coffee

MFRC Special

Would you like the opportunity to meet military/spouse-friendly employers face to face?

Perhaps ask questions, or submit your resume?

CFB Shilo's MFRC plays host to an employer coffee break from 10 to 10:30 a.m. the second Thursday of every month.

April's coffee break will feature Sutton-Harrison Realty — join us at the MFRC to obtain first-hand information about being a realtor.

The following month, we're featuring West Can Human Resource Solutions.

Hope to see you there.

Watch our newsletter and Facebook page for information and employment opportunities.

To subscribe to our newsletter, visit www.cafconnection.ca

For additional information contact CFB Shilo MFRC employment counsellor Christine Helgason at 204-765-3000 ext 3352.

CLASSIFIED ADS

Email: stag@mymts.net • Phone 204-765-3000, ext 3013 • Fax 204-765-3814

**\$10 for first 20 words,
10¢ for each additional word**
Deadline for next issue:

April 13 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



**St. Barbara's
Protestant Chapel**
Sunday at 10:30 a.m. with
Sunday school & nursery
Padre Costen - ext 3381
Padre Dennis - ext 3088
Padre Lee - ext 3090
Padre Neil - ext 6836

**Our Lady of Shilo
Roman Catholic Chapel**
Sunday at 10:30 a.m.
Faith Studies Tuesday 18:30
Confessions by appointment
Padre Ihuoma - ext 3089

Services

Greg Steele Canadian Fire-arms Safety Course Instructor/Examiner Offering Red Cross first aid training. Manitoba Hunter Safety instructor. Courses offered at least monthly, more often with demand. Firearm/hunter safety courses planned seasonally. Restricted and non-restricted. Call 204-725-1608. E-mail gsteele4570@gmail.com

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

NEED YOUR TAXES DONE? Fast, friendly, and personal service. Located outside the gate. For all your income tax needs contact Ingrid Wasserburg at 204-763-4357. OPEN ALL YEAR.

Employment

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

Employment

CANEX WANTS YOU: Clerk/cashier part-time position with 13 to 32 hr /week required. Must be available days/evenings, and weekends. Under the direction of the department supervisor, a clerk/cashier scans customer purchases, processes the 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. Starting salary for this CAT 1 position is \$11.68 per hour, and after two-month probation increases to \$11.94. Apply in person at CANEX admin office, or NPF Human Resources office at Base HQ.

Tree Planting

1st Shilo Scouts are looking for acreages to plant trees on in the spring. If you are interested contact Linda Levesque at 204-765-3000 ext 3396 for more information.

Automobile For Sale

2010 Red Chevrolet Impala LT Stow N Go Crew, 103 K, safety-checked, 3.6 litre V6, automatic, front-wheel drive. Comes with winter tires, heated front seats & steering wheel, tilt/telescopic steering column, adjustable pedals, power windows, door locks, fog lights, 220 V power inverter, electronic information centre, in-floor storage, fuel economy mode, aluminum wheels, rear back-up camera, rear passenger climate control, roof luggage rack, clean vehicle. Asking \$16,000. Dial 204-763-4357.

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Opening ceremony of the 110th edition of the Royal Manitoba Winter Fair (#RMWF) at the Keystone Centre, with CFB Shilo involved along with the Lord Strathcona's Horse Mounted Troop out of Garrison Edmonton, plus air, sea and army cadets from the Westman. Leading the parade was Maj Lindsay Jackson. *Photos by Jules Xavier*



MILITARY SALUTE

Royal Manitoba Winter Fair

