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Volume 53 Issue 24



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December 4, 2014

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1RCHA fill sand bags to assist with flooding. Page 9



## Santa's visit

Santa was a big hit when he arrived at L25 for the Candy Cane Christmas event. While some youngsters cried and others looked on befuddled by the jolly fellow with the white beard, St. Nick was quick to win them over once they sat on his lap. A visit with Santa also resulted in a keepsake photograph. For more from this Base family event, see page 7.

Photo by Jules Xavier



I will enjoy the season!

## Santa Visits & Photos

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2PPCLI conducted Ex KAPYONG SPEAR in the fall, with a mechanized live-fire concentration at CFB Shilo. Training culminated with a complex enhanced level 3 range (Platoon Group), with successive platoon objectives in a Cbt Tm framework, integrating infantry, artillery, engineer, air and aviation capabilities to achieve decisive effects.

Photo by Jules Xavier

## 2PPCLI experience busy 2014

**LCol Bob Ritchie**  
Stag Special

2014 has been a busy but altogether rewarding year for the warriors of 2PPCLI.

The last wave of Second Battalion soldiers re-deployed from Operation ATTENTION Rotation 3 between January and March, closing the final chapter in a storied Afghanistan campaign.

Unit soldiers performed splendidly abroad, training the Afghan National Security Forces and cultivating enduring relationships with our strategic allies.

2PPCLI soldiers conducted a helicopter rappel insertion into Ex STRIKING RAM, namely a 1 CMBG combined arms concentration at CFB Shilo in March featuring participation of 1st Regiment Royal Canadian Horse Artillery (1RCHA), 1 Combat Engineer Regiment (1CER), 408 Tactical Helicopter Squadron (THS) and RCMP K9 teams.

This event featured live-fire dismounted training, incorporating snipers, artillery, alpha jets and engineer detachments performing bangalore torpedo obstacle breaches.

Spring 2014 saw excellent bi-lateral training with 1 (UK) Royal Welsh Battle Group at British Army Training Unit Suffield (BATUS). A composite 2PPCLI Combat Team (Cbt Tm), predicated on B Coy, conducted mechanized combined arms operations in the vast plains at CFB Suffield.

2PPCLI received its first Light Armoured Vehicle (LAV) 6.0 combat vehicle in spring 2014, a formidable platform that provides the perfect blend of fire-power, mobility and protection. Soldiers attended LAV 6.0 maintenance, driver and turret operator courses throughout the year, learning the technical skills to employ and maintain our world-class

fighting vehicles.

2PPCLI demonstrated agility and operational excellence at home in summer 2014, deploying a composite Rifle Company to fight Manitoba floods in July under the rubric of Op LENTUS 14-05. 2PPCLI soldiers, as part of Immediate Reaction Unit (IRU) East led by 1RCHA, provided flood relief support to the province, reinforcing dykes and establishing sandbag barriers around critical infrastructure in the Cartier and St. Francois Xavier communities.

The unit conducted Ex KAPYONG SPEAR in fall 2014, a mechanized live-fire concentration at CFB Shilo. Training culminated with a complex enhanced level 3 range (Platoon Group), with successive platoon objectives in a Cbt Tm framework, integrating infantry, artillery, engineer, air and aviation capabilities to achieve decisive effects.

Concurrent to re-generating the unit, integrating new capability and honing our mechanized skills, 2PPCLI participated in numerous Regimental centennial celebrations and 1 CMBG athletic competitions.

Although forced to compete as a Minor Unit in Ex STRONG CONTENDER 2014 due to the balance of the unit being deployed on Operation ATTENTION, 2PPCLI was named the Minor Unit aggregate champion.

The unit paraded with the other two Battalions during the Edmonton commemoration and subsequently conducted the Memorial Baton Relay (MBR) from Edmonton to Ottawa during the period Aug. 10 to Sept. 18, stopping in towns and cities along the route to celebrate a century of distinguished service and connect with Canadians.

2PPCLI fielded the fastest team ever in Ex MOUNTAIN MAN, with the top-eight unit soldiers claiming the Major Unit award with an average course time of five hours, 24 minutes, 21 seconds.

Sgt Brian Weigelt led the team to victory, breaking his own course record with a time of four hours, 38 minutes, 55 seconds, followed closely by Lt Henderson with a time of four hours, 42 minutes, 57 seconds.

On behalf of all ranks 2PPCLI, I would like to thank the command teams and staff of CFB Shilo, 1RCHA and Base lodger units for your friendship, co-operation and unwavering support throughout 2014.

2015 will be an exciting year for 2PPCLI.

A composite Rifle Company will participate in bi-lateral training with 5 (UK) RIFLES in Germany before transitioning to Belgium and France for the PPCLI centennial Frezenberg commemoration.

On return to Canada, the unit will conduct an official building naming ceremony June 11, followed by a RSM change of appointment and CO change of command.

Focus then shifts to Task Force 1-16 road to high readiness training from July 1, 2015 to June 30, 2016, setting conditions for 2PPCLI to assume responsibility for contingency operations around the world effective July 1, 2016. Warm wishes for a safe and relaxing holiday season!

LCol Bob Ritchie is 2PPCLI CO

### ADVERTISEMENT MORTGAGE SALE

The building and land known as 2 Thompson Road in the Town of Spruce-woods in the R.M. of Cornwallis, in the Province of Manitoba as described in Certificate of Title No. 2631989/2 will be sold at auction on Tuesday, the 6th day of January, A.D., 2015, at 2:00 P.M., at the law office of Hunt, Miller & Co. LLP, 148 – 8th Street, in Brandon, Manitoba.

The Vendor is informed the site area is 5.01 acres, residential zoning. That there is situated on the property a detached bi-level dwelling, built in approx. 1986 with vinyl and wood siding. Total living area is approx. 922 sq. ft. There are 4 rooms, 2 bedrooms and 1 – 4 piece bathroom. Full 864 sq ft finished basement with laundry/mechanical room, family room, bedroom and a three piece bathroom. Electric baseboard heating, hot water tank. 26' x 24' double car garage, insulated and lined. Two openers. Private double gravel driveway 75 ft. 10' x 26' Breezeway. A 26' x 32' wood deck patio with hot tub/swimming pool. Vaulted ceilings in living room/kitchen, eat-in kitchen. Private well for potable water, no municipal water account. Property has a septic field/holding tank for waste management.

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Property Taxes: are paid to December 31, 2012. 2013 tax year has a minor balance outstanding, 2014 remains outstanding, plus accruing penalties and interest are the responsibility of the purchaser.

Property is subject to Caveat No's R17386/2 for Inter-City Gas Transmissions Ltd., R6500/2 for Inter-City Gas Ltd. and 92-9981 for MTS.

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# Feedback from soldiers positive, says visiting CWO Kevin West

**Jules Xavier**  
Shilo Stag

A lot has changed since CWO Kevin West joined the Canadian Armed Forces (CAF) more than three decades ago.

Still, the RCAF's Chief Warrant Officer — he was appointed to this position in November 2012 — and CDS Gen Tom Lawson's right hand man, has adapted to changes in the military.

On a cross-Canada tour of Bases to sit down with military personnel from private to warrant officer, CWO West visited CFB Shilo and spent time with more than 1,000 soldiers.

He wanted their feedback on what they think of the current CAF, and where they want to see it in the future.

"It was very encouraging what I heard," he said of Q&A sessions he held using a town hall format, or sitting down for open discussions during round table meetings with select soldiers. "Their questions were strategic ... they weren't asking about the new boots, but more on issues like global security. Where are we going next? They aren't asking to be deployed, but wonder what might happen down the road with Canada as part of Operation IMPACT."

The CAF has deployed 600 CAF personnel and equipment to the international effort to subdue Islamic State of Iraq and the Levant aggression in Iraq and nearby Syria.

"I liked that they were asking about our [military] capabilities, which is extremely encouraging to see their thought process on it," said CWO West while relaxing at CFB Shilo headquarters prior to a mess dinner.

"They were not asking about themselves, but more about the CAF as a whole."

During his conversations with sergeants, CWO West discovered the experienced soldiers had a different take on life in the military compared to the neophyte private.

"The sergeants were asking me where [CAF] is going as a military force at the development level ... what's in place and what are our initiatives," he said.

"When it comes to me, and the CDS, I emphasized my priorities which are mental health and suicides, and the conduct and behaviour of our soldiers."

He added, "What does it mean to wear the uniform? Where do we stand in Canadian society? We have a 90 per cent approval based on the polling. We're good at what we do. Canadian society believes in this uniform and, everywhere we go in uniform, it's operational excellence that gets us there."

Listening to the younger soldiers and their concerns, CWO West acknowledged they are the same as he had when

he enrolled in the Naval Reserve's in the summer of 1983 as a Naval signalman.

In January 1985, he transferred to the regular force as a Naval signalman.

"What I see in these young folks — they are adaptable, and are in a very good position. It's encouraging to see the youth of today. I'm proud of what they do, but they do have concerns."

"They want to know about future tours. Whether it be the aviator, sailor or soldier, they want to know about our military today, but are also interested in 10 to 15 years down the road."

"These people today have more knowledge than what I had at the same age coming in. They also have their concerns, which is something I did not have when I [joined]."

CWO West admitted being in the military, wearing the CAF uniform, is a different job compared to what civilians do during their 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. employment.

"We are different wearing this uniform. There are stressors we have to deal with that you don't as a civilian."

Our younger soldiers want to know what's going on when it comes to our leadership. They want to know about training, operations or the capability of the new LAV 6. I tell them their issues are being worked on."

During his round table meetings, CWO West acknowledged mental health and PTSD are major concerns continually brought to his attention during open and frank discussions.

"They want to know about treatments available to them," he said.

"There is a noticeable difference with soldiers now coming forward and admitting they have issues with mental problems. The stigma attached about saying you have mental health issues is improving."

CWO West is a firm believer that if someone has mental health concerns, they need to come forward and seek help.

"This issue is not going to go away. There are treatments if you just ask," he offered.

"This is not a weakness if you are a person who wants to seek help. I've used the system twice myself. It takes courage to put your hand up and say you want help."

Collecting feedback from Shilo's soldiers was beneficial, according to CWO West. By actually visiting the Base, he was able to engage individuals in person.

"I'm very encouraged in what I heard," he said. "There is a desire to grow the jobs, though there are still frustrations on equipment, but I understand that ... overall, I was encouraged by the questions asked. The soldiers were engaging. I now know and understand their issues."



CWO Kevin West (right) received a Base Commander's coin during his visit to CFB Shilo from BComd LCol Stephen Joudrey.

Photo by Jules Xavier

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The Shilo Stag is produced every second Thursday.

Deadline for submissions is the Thursday prior to the week of publication. Submissions can be sent to the Stag via email at stag@mymts.net, dropped off at the Stag office located in CANEX or via Inter-base mail.

**Submitting articles and photos for print:**

- Please submit articles as a MS Word Document.
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• • •



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This year's annual BComd haunted house was bigger, and better, and attracted good crowds over three days.

## Base success stories abound during 2014

The days — and nights — have definitely turned colder and this year is almost done. Allow me to pass along some comments and recognition for what the people and organizations, from across CFB Shilo, have accomplished over these past 12 months.

I will confess that I no longer know what a "normal" year is, but I believe that this one had just about everything.

Let's look at operations. In the late spring, the units and sections on this Base mobilized on extremely short notice for Operation LENTUS 14 and provided support to the flooding in and around Portage la Prairie.

While many organizations played key roles, I would like to acknowledge the unified approach taken by all. Focus was always maintained on getting the job done, be that: the provision of transport resources; filling sandbags; reinforcing defensive works; or mitigating environmental impacts.

The citizens of WestMan are appreciative of your efforts.

Turning to the community, I would say that volunteerism and participation were a highlight for me.

For the first time in many years, the ward representative positions on the Shilo Community Council are all filled. I challenge each of us to make contact with our Community Council and work together to continue to make improvements to life here in Shilo.

I want to make mention of a special initiative by the Shilo MFRC. In the late spring, the MFRC hosted a three-part community speakers programme in Shilo and Brandon which was a huge success. All of us who attended were treated to an evening of food and inspirational messages from Spencer West and Theo Fleury.

Those attending will not forget those evenings.

I would like to give a big 'shout out' to the recreation staff and volunteers who put on a fantastic Hallowe'en Haunted House in the last week of October. Your efforts to incorporate suggestions and tireless work to make this better every year was appreciated by all — younger and older — who toured the house.

How about training? The spring and fall were again periods of intensive activity in the Range and Train-

ing Area (RTA). Noteworthy this year was the inclusion of helicopters and other aircraft into the training conducted by 1RCHA, 2PPCLI, 38 CBG and the Training Centre Detachment.

All of this training was supported by the 11 H Svcs C staff, organizations like Base Supply, Range Control and the 3 CDSG Sig Sqn Detachment.

Without detailed co-ordination and reinforcing a positive rapport between the units being trained and the supporting units, these activities would not have been as successful.

During this past year we have been able to increase the capacity and throughput of the Base Language School. This is a great success story and contributes directly to the professional development of our soldiers and leaders who serve the Canadian Army.

You cannot talk about 2014 without talking about money! This year saw a reduction in my and the Base's ability to provide some of the services that had become the norm in Shilo.

While this was the subject of much discussion within the community and a focus for the co-ordination of services by the Base Sections — most notably Base CE — as the year closes, I am confident that nothing significant was lost nor was any reduced level of service detrimental to the overall quality of life and work on this Base.

Looking ahead, there are a number of events and activities which will serve to make 2015 another watershed year. The planning and co-ordination for Shilo Winterfest in February are well underway.

In late June, many will gather to celebrate the RCA reunion. This will be on the heels of Lobsterfest and just before Shilo's Canada Day celebrations.

Make sure you and your families come out and enjoy what the community has to offer.

As many of us break for the holidays, I want to pass along season's greetings and thanks from the Base RSM and I. Extended to all of the military and civilian members of Base Shilo is our hope that your time off is well spent.

It is certainly well-deserved and well-earned! Let's enjoy a safe and happy holiday season and we will see you in January.



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# Base ward system changes, with increase in members

**Jillian Driessen**  
Shilo Stag

With a restructuring from eight wards to six and the addition of positions, CFB Shilo's community council is experiencing major changes.

From a sub-committee established in early 2014, new bylaws and wards were born in order to better meet the need and activities of the council.

The biggest change impacting the community is the change to wards. With several RHUs removed during the past few years, wards were unequal thus leaving some ward representatives with only a handful of units to oversee while others had nearly 100.

The new six-ward system makes each ward nearly equal in number of units.

Also on the list of changes is the expansion of the number of ward representatives from one per ward to two. With the fluctuating operational tempos, wards often went underrepresented at council meetings with members on deployment, exercise, or courses. With these changes, council is looking to have stronger representation from the community and a more well-rounded group of members.

A list of members currently on council, including contact information, is available on the CFB Shilo community gateway website.

Shilo community council has also welcomed a new president to the table — Lt Brechin Piper now boasts the title as Mayor of CFB Shilo.

In other council news:

- The winter parking ban is now in effect. Cars cannot be parked on the road after 10 p.m.

"My biggest concern is people who park on Royal Avenue," said MP Sub-Lt Greg Ansley. "We had a 911 call and a large truck was parked there. Thankfully, we could get around it, however, it could have been worse. With the snow coming, that is only going to be more of a challenge."

Cars parked on the street can be towed at the owner's expense.

- All RHU residents are reminded of winter regulations. Residents are responsible for clearing their snow as well as for removing their campers and boats from the RHU for winter.

The regulating officer still makes rounds throughout the commu-

nity to ensure compliance with all standing orders and housing agreements.

- Sgt Bill Webb has resigned as Deputy Mayor and the position is now vacant. Nominations for the position can be forwarded to Lt Piper for consideration.

- Ward 1 reports some bulk garbage items left behind. A reminder to residents to inform CFHA of march-out pick-ups.

- From Dec. 24 through Jan. 5, 2015, Shilo MFRC will be closed for the holidays. The teen centre will have some events dur-

ing the closure. Starting in January, the MFRC will no longer be open Wednesday evenings and will proceed with being open Tuesday nights.

- Those living on Lundy's Lane who did not have assigned parking will see changes this winter. "On Lundy's Lane we have assigned two spots to each unit. Residents will be responsible for their own spots," said Jodi Laba. "There is no legal obligation for people to abide by the assignment. We hope people will be courteous and

respectful of their neighbours. We will try our best to address any issues from a CFHA and neighbour perspective as opposed to a police issue."

- Operation Red Nose will once again run this month. Those looking for a safe ride home can call 204-765-4444 on any scheduled evening. Volunteer applications can be accepted throughout the campaign for those who are interested.

- CFB Shilo is scheduled to be home to new RHUs in the new year.

"New construction is

still on schedule to hopefully start next summer," said Laba. "It has to go for final approval, but for now we are scheduled to have 12 new units built in the form of six semi-detached buildings."

Watch for further news and updates to the new building plans in the residential area.

- Snow removal is now in effect. A reminder to residents to be patient with snow clearing.

The next community council meeting is Jan. 7, at 10:30 a.m. in the Base HQ conference room.

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The Base's new Urban Ops Training Site (UOTS) is taking shape out on the RTA. This project is about 40 per cent completed, with soldiers being able to train using a simulated training area that features remote target systems. Infantry honing their machine gun skills also have a new training area (left). The demolition bunker (right) is another major RTA project which is currently underway with construction.

Photos by Jules Xavier

# RTA users will benefit with projects completed

**Jules Xavier**  
Shilo Stag

From constructing new gravel roads, bunkers, FG maintenance to an new Urban Ops Training Site (UOTS), it was a busy summer and fall from Chuck Roeder's perspective when it comes to CFB Shilo's training area.

If he's not out with his staff monitoring the barren landscape for UXO — Unexploded Ordnance — the RTA management team is working on an array of projects with internal and external agencies which will benefit all RTA users who frequent the area to hone their military skills during regular training or as part of annual exercises like LIMBER GUNNER or KAPYONG SPEAR.

"Working on projects out here is ongoing," he said while navigating his truck down the new Casino Trail. "There has been a lot happening out here in the RTA, and we will continue to be busy next year improving and maintaining existing RTA infrastructure and developing new capabilities."

Working with the G3 Base Operation Branch, Roeder is the Range and Training Area Sustainability Officer (RTASO).

A tour of the UOTS shows the project is about 40 per cent completed. Cement has been poured and building layouts in place.

This project originated as a CLS push with design and funding coming from ADM(IE) and local project management driven by Base CE and Defence Construction Canada (DCC).

"This will provide soldiers with a simulated training area; it will also provide video for AAR [After Action Review]. There will be a remote target system, sound and smoke generators which will provide a sense of realism to the training environment," said Roeder.

"The site will give the training audience different scenarios they may encounter in a urban conflict. An EXCON building is also being constructed where instructors and range staff can monitor and stage the scenarios for the training audience. The UOTS should

be fully operational early in 2016.

"The original intent of this site was to support and facilitate both the WES system and CEASS, this will have to be looked at more closely once the site is operational."

He added, "We've come a long way in the past several years and we will continue to develop and modernize the Shilo RTA in a sustainable manner to meet the Army's strategic vision"

There are always logistical and fiscal challenges when it comes to adding or enhancing existing structures or maintaining the RTA, therefore, Roeder said the training area management team has had to adapt to those fiscal and resource realities.

"We must appreciate and understand the environmental impacts of what we do out here," he offered. "The trick is balancing the military impacts to the environment in such a way that it does not adversely impact the military's ability to train while remaining compliant. We're always looking at sustainable solutions in the long term."

The AGLS/C16 range and the new anti-armour range is also nearing completion.

Roeder points out this range will accommodate both weapon systems although both systems cannot be fired simultaneously.

Roeder is working closely with CADTC and ADM(Mat) to amend the HEDP template for AGLS to ensure a less restrictive template is developed. The downside to developing this range in Area B is it now becomes a Type 1 danger area which is contaminated with HEAT and HEDP munitions a combination that is virtually impossible to manage in terms of keeping clean of UXO's — this area will be restricted.

Roeder is optimistic this range will be operational sometime next summer and, if all goes according to plan, will be the first AGLS templated range in Canada.

The Essen MG range and PWT (gun fighter range) are the newest additions to the RTA training infrastructure which have received good reviews from our training troops.

With the development and modernization of the

RTA and the introduction of new weapon systems and ammunitions the landscape of the RTA must be maintained and adapted to meet these changes.

During the next few years we will focus a considerable amount of attention on the expansion of our fireguard network particularly those on the northern boundary and resurfacing of some MSR's.

A sniper training range is also on the to-do list, with a potential start spring of 2015.

"Snipers of 2PPCLI currently go off to Dundurn to train," said Roeder.

"If they have a dedicated sniper training area within the Shilo RTA, then they can train in their own back yard. We're going to tailor the training range to the Snipers' needs and fill those training gaps specific to the them."

There are two other major projects currently underway. The demolition bunker and the artillery Reduced Safe Distance(RDS) bunker — both of which should be completed in the next few months. This will now bring new and enhanced training capabilities to our training audience.

Rifle Range (RR) 1 is also on the radar and will be a priority next spring to finalize construction. RR1 will be an ATS range (automated range) out to 600 metres, which is capable of servicing 5.56 and 7.62 calibre weapons.

"Future plans will also see modernization and repairs made to both RR2 and RR4, [but] not sure if that will include ATS," said Roeder.

"There is no army plan currently for the national implementation of ATS. Shilo will not introduce additional ATS systems unless there is an Army long-term management strategy and funding support."

The RTA management team is comprised of elements from Base Operations, Base CE, B TN and augmentees who work in a collaborative and cohesive manner to ensure the Shilo RTA is and remains a viable, sustainable and relevant training environment.

"On behalf of Base Operation I want to extend a sincere thank you and appreciation all those who work tirelessly in support of the RTA and ultimately the troops," offered Roeder.





# Candy Cane Christmas



On behalf of the Shilo community, I would like to acknowledge the outstanding work put into organizing and conducting last weekend's Candy Cane Christmas event in L25. It was hugely successful and was a co-operative effort between the Shilo recreation staff from PSP, Shilo MFRC, members of the Shilo and Region Service Club and a team of volunteers who refused to leave their posts as Santa's helpers wrapping gifts. Approximately 500 people came out and enjoyed all of the activities, ate breakfast and most had their pictures taken with Santa. The turnout was far more than expected and was a wonderful way to kick-off the holiday season. Again, on behalf of the Shilo community, a heartfelt thank-you to all of those involved in making this event happen.

**LCol Stephen Joudrey**  
**BComd CFB Shilo**

*Stag photos by Jules Xavier*





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# Army family receives holiday greetings from commander

## LGen Marquis Hainse Stag Special

The holiday season is fast approaching and a new year is just around the corner. This is a special time of year when we can share the spirit of the holiday season with family and friends.

I hope you will all take time to pause and reflect back on another outstanding year of accomplishments in service to Canada. As I reflect on the tremendous events and accomplishments over the past year, a few activities come to mind.

The lowering of the Canadian flag in Kabul March 12 has marked the end of the Canadian Armed Forces (CAF) deployment to Afghanistan, of which close to 30,000 deployed members were from the Canadian Army, Army Regular and Reserve Force soldiers from across Canada.

Furthermore, your exemplary service did not go unnoticed — Canadians consistently told us they are grateful for and proud of their Army. Throughout the year, communities across Canada continued to honour our fallen soldiers with naming ceremonies and dedications.

This year was also significant for the Canadian Army as we marked 100 years since the start of the First World War. We also celebrated the centennials of four storied regiments which were stood up to fight in the Great War — Princess Patricia's Canadian Light Infantry (PPCLI), Royal 22e Régiment, The Royal Montreal Regiment, and Le Régiment de Hull (RCAC).

It is also worth noting that we have welcomed four of our five division Commanders this year. Their vision and priorities remain steadfast in the preparation and modernization of the Army of Tomorrow, and in fostering engagement with Canadians and in-



ternational partners as we continue to meet Canada's defence objectives.

Our Canadian Army signature event in Ottawa, the Canada Army Run was our largest and most successful to date with 25,000 people running, walking or rolling in support of our soldiers — it was truly a case of "no ordinary runners, no ordinary race."

Indeed, we had a very busy but successful year. The coming year will bring us as many challenges, but also as many opportunities. We are poised to acquire new capabilities that will help us be faster, safer

and more lethal in meeting future challenges. I know that I can count on all of you to continue to move the Army forward.

As I remember our blessings of this past year, I also remember those who will celebrate the holidays while deployed. I remember, too, all those soldiers who have sacrificed their lives or their physical and emotional health in service to our nation. We owe them all an incredible debt.

I also think of our extended Army family who support our efforts — without that backing and personal sacrifice, we could not do everything the Army does for Canada.

The senior Army leadership would like to thank you for your dedication and commitment to the Army agenda and mission.

If you are planning to attend holiday parties or will be travelling, I ask you to be vigilant in looking after yourself, your family and your fellow soldiers.

It remains the greatest of privileges to be your Commander and to continue to ensure we remain a Strong, Proud and Ready Army.

The Army Sergeant Major and I wish you and your families a Happy Holiday and a prosperous 2015.

*LGen Marquis Hainse is Commander Canadian Army*

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## Artillery continue to deliver

**LCol Stewart Taylor**  
Stag Special

The 2014 campaign year has seen 1RCHA continuing to deliver the Gunner guarantee on many fronts.

As we prepare to celebrate a richly deserved holiday season and usher in a New Year, I cannot help but reflect on the unit's successes of 2014 with a great sense of pride and accomplishment.

On the international stage, this past year marked the return of our remaining members from Task Force 2-13 who assisted with the close out of Op ATTENTION, Canada's training mission in Kabul, Afghanistan.

It also saw two members from the regiment deploy with the Disaster Assistance Response Team (DART) as part of the CAF contribution to Government of Canada relief efforts in the Philippines in response to the devastation caused by Typhoon Haiyan.

Our international engagements were capped off with two successful Reciprocal Unit Exchanges (RUE) with 5th UK Regiment, in Catterick, North Yorkshire and 7 Para Royal Horse Artillery (RHA), in Colchester, UK.

I was certainly inspired to witness RSM Rice and his son, Pte Rice from 3PPCLI, being dispatched from a CH-146 Griffon Helicopter during a jump exchange that occurred in Shilo as part of the RUE with 7 Para RHA.

Domestically, there are numerous achievements

which deserve mention. Most notably, was the unit's deployment on Op LENTUS to support provincial and municipal authorities conducting flood relief operations centered on Portage la Prairie.

At the national level, the Regiment was engaged on Ex EAGLE's NEST in Muskeg Lake, Sask., in support of the Canadian Armed Forces (CAF) Aboriginal Youth Leadership program.

Only weeks ago, 1RCHA deployed a gun troop to Roger's Pass in Glacier National Park, Alta., to conduct avalanche control operations in support of Parks Canada as part of Op PALACI.

Institutionally, we have worked closely with The Royal Regiment Canadian Artillery School to deliver a number of advanced artillery courses, including a DP 1.2 Artillery Officers course.

The unit has also remained actively engaged in several important force development initiatives on behalf of the Royal Canadian Artillery and the Canadian Army in the domain of Surveillance Target Acquisition, digitization and precision munitions.

I believe that one of the highlights of these initiatives was the Regiment's successfully firing of the first GPS-guided Excalibur round on Canadian soil in support of a Director Land Requirements trial hosted by Defence Research and Development in Suffield, Alta.

Throughout the year the Regiment continued to collaborate with our affiliated Primary Reserve units from across 3rd Canadian Division and in support of numerous Area Cadet organizations.

See **ARTILLERY** page 10



1RCHA soldiers filled plenty of sandbags during Op LENTUS to help with flooding. Photo by Jules Xavier

The following is a paid advertorial for SISIP Financial Services

## SISIP's Debbie Hoddinott understands military life



As a veteran military spouse, Debbie Hoddinott well-understands the challenges that Canadian Armed Forces families overcome every single day.

"I've been a military spouse for more than 20 years. I've done the postings, taskings, and tours. I've had to quit my job to move places and shift

our kids to a new place. I am aware of how this life can change your finances and how that can affect you," says Hoddinott.

Several years ago, Hoddinott found herself working as the administrative assistant at Shilo's SISIP outlet. With it being the only position open at SISIP, she took it hoping to work her way into financial planning.

"I like to give back and be involved with this community. As an admin assistant, I got to see people come in stressed and leave the financial counsellor with a solution and a smile on their face. That got my attention," says the qualified financial counsellor.

"I knew that's what I wanted to do."

In 2011, Hoddinott got her chance and scooped the fi-

nancial counsellor position at SISIP.

"I enjoy being able to give back to my community and help them," she says.

"I've seen people who just didn't have the knowledge to handle their situation. I love when I can give them the tools to manage. It's great when they come back to tell you how it helped them."

Hoddinott says she is not about short-term solutions.

"I always like to tell my clients that I'm not about band-aids. I am about the whole solution. I like to help people be on track," she says.

"Everyone's situation is different. There is no cookie-cutter solution."

Working for SISIP affords Hoddinott the freedom to advise people on what is truly best for them without worrying about commission-based pressures.

"Here I have the opportunity to tell people I am just trying to do what's best for them. I don't have any pressure for sales. That is one of the biggest things that attracted me to SISIP," says Hoddinott.

"At SISIP, it is more what can we do to support military members and their families?"

While Hoddinott is often the one to help bail people out of financial struggle, many people make a visit to her office well before they find financial hardship.

SISIP is also a major contributor to personal development sessions in Shilo and offers several briefings and

budgeting counselling to units each year.

"We try to get education in before people find themselves in a compromising situation," says Hoddinott.

Much of her position as a financial counsellor is serious business. But Hoddinott is not one for all business and no fun.

The counsellor's office is adorned with an impressive lego collection and at CFB Shilo she is best-known for her contributions to the community at large.

Having been posted to Shilo with her husband and sons for several years, Hoddinott has served on various boards and committees including holding the position as board chair at the Shilo MFRC for several years.

Today, Hoddinott focuses her volunteer hours on programs geared toward children.

"I am on the committees for archery and karate. I also do junior rifles. I have been in the gun club, an MFRC volunteer, and I've done ceramics club as well," she says.

"This year, I am just trying to slow down a bit but I enjoy working with the kids."

Hoddinott maintains a busy schedule, but she enjoys the rewarding experience of serving her community both at work and at home.

To book an appointment with Debbie Hoddinott, call 204-765-7120 or visit [sisip.com](http://sisip.com) for further information.

You can also visit SISIP on Facebook at [facebook.sisip.ram](https://www.facebook.com/facebook.sisip.ram).



# Infantry block

2PPCLI's Pte Maxx Bonnefoy goes up to block a 1RCHA spike during Strong Contender exhibition volleyball action at the GSH. 2PPCLI won 2-1.

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Photo by Jules Xavier



The British observed 1RCHA in action with the M777 as part of Ex LIMBER GUNNER. Photo by Jules Xavier

# Artillery maintain close partnerships

From Page 9

It was equally refreshing to observe 1RCHA maintaining close partnerships with CFB Shilo and 2PPCLI in a variety of operations and training activities and events.

The Regiment was also actively involved in a host of community relations events throughout the greater Westman area, including the 60th Threshermen's Reunion and Stampede in Austin.

Once more, the unit was privileged to support several high profile commemoration events from the Afghan Memorial Vigil and the opening of the Manitoba Provincial Legislature to the PPCLI Centennial celebrations.

Underlying our success has been the steadfast support of the families and friends of the Regiment. This Regimental family spirit was certainly apparent by the overwhelming turnout for the 1RCHA Family Day hosted by the unit in the Shilo ranges this past June.

I am confident that we will replicate this success when the Regiment hosts the Royal Canadian Artillery reunion next June.

I have been continually impressed by this unit's remarkable ability to take on all challenges and execute all of its missions and tasks with the utmost pride, professionalism and devotion to cause.

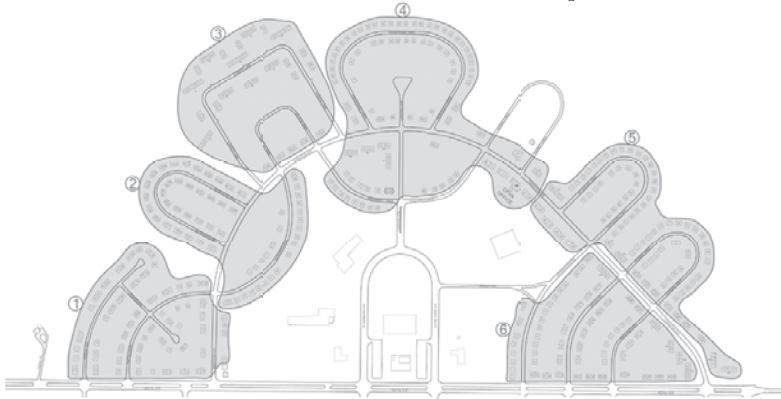
As I look ahead to 2015, the New Year sees 1RCHA focused on preserving our core technical and tactical competencies and warrior skills to ensure that the unit is postured and ready to embark on the road to high-readiness training next summer and continue to deliver excellence in operations.

Indeed, there is much to be proud of for the members and families of 1RCHA during this past year. As important as it is to reflect upon our achievements, I encourage you to take the time over the holiday season to re-load in the comfort and company of your family and friends.

As your commanding officer, I am sincerely grateful for your unwavering commitment in everything that you do and humbly extend my warmest wishes to you and your families over the holiday season and into the New Year.

LCol Stewart Taylor is 1RCHA CO

# CFB Shilo Community Council



**President - Lt Brechin Piper**  
local 3779  
brechin.piper@forces.gc.ca

**Vice-President - VACANT**

<b>Ward 1</b> <b>Sgt Peggy Steele</b> local 6038 peggy.steele@forces.gc.ca  <b>Bdr Davis Nikula</b> local 4455 davisnikula@hotmail.com	<b>Ward 2</b> <b>Capt Matthew MacKenzie</b> local 4416 maddmatt2000@hotmail.com  <b>MCpl Kyle Roux</b> local 4455 kyle.roux@forces.gc.ca	<b>Ward 3</b> <b>Cpl Jonathan Fortin</b> 204.922.1035 jonathan.fortin2@forces.gc.ca  <b>VACANT</b>
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**Dog Park OPI - Sgt Scott Aikens**  
wound\_too\_tight@hotmail.com

# 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

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



BISON DRIVER:

2PPCLI hone their driving skills on course

Shilo Theatre

(Located in the General Strange Hall)

Dec. 5 Guardians of the Galaxy Rated PG

(This movie is being played at the GSH pool, not theatre)

Dec. 12 LUCY Rated 14A

Dec. 19 The Boxtrolls 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.

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





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

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**MCpl Matthew Hall**  
**Stag Special**

In the cold months of fall, 2PPCLI conducted a Bison driver course for 11 students from various trades in the unit.

The Bison is an Armoured Personnel Carrier (APC) designed by General Dynamics Land Systems, and is currently used in many different roles within the Canadian Armed Forces (CAF).

The most common variants used today are the Mobile Repair Team (MRT), ambulances, and the Command Post (CP) variant used by Royal Canadian Corps of Signals for their CP and radio re-broadcast detachments. Students were first introduced to the Bison itself, learning about all of the features and equipment that comes with the vehicle.

There was a considerable amount of time spent on

how to properly maintain this vehicle. Everything from how to service the power train and suspension system to servicing the electrical system was covered in depth. This provided students with great knowledge and a practical skill set to keep the Bison well maintained and road worthy.

After a week of maintenance and classroom instruction, students then started driving. They were first introduced to negotiating minor obstacles, and then gradually worked up to driving cross-country.

As their confidence increased with operating the vehicle, they were confronted with more difficult and technical terrain. Once they became proficient in their driving abilities, students were then instructed on how to drive tactically.

This included everything from driving in defilade, jockeying, and bounding in an advance to contact.

Additionally, nighttime driving included driving cross-country with the vehicle's built in night vision system and using the vehicle's blackout drive option.

Once students passed all of their off-road tests, it was time for them to drive along highways and in built-up areas. It is much different driving a 13-tonne armoured vehicle through downtown Brandon than a car, and Bison driving students had to quickly adapt and be well aware of their surroundings.

After completing an in depth road test, they are now fully qualified to drive the Bison and can use the knowledge and skills they've learned in their respective jobs.

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Bdr Jon Wilson Z Bty	7	7	14				
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Z Bty	10	5	2	3	62	25	13
A/C Coy	8	5	2	1	37	16	11
B Bty	9	4	2	3	37	35	11
HQ Bty	8	3	3	2	30	16	8
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To place an ad, e-mail **hollysralph@gmail.com** or call 204-765-3000 ext 3013



# Rolling for a strike

There were plenty of strikes and spares, and the odd gutter ball, during RBC Sports Day in Canada. CFB Shilo offered free bowling and swimming, with Kai-Leigh here demonstrating her bowling proficiency in front of the foul line. The previous day soldiers took part in three-on-three basketball or played road hockey on the tennis courts.

Photo by Jules Xavier





*Season's Greetings*

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*Meilleurs vœux*

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