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Volume 56 Issue 6



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March 23, 2017

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This Issue



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LCol Bouckaert inspires women, men. Page 5



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Cutthroat warriors

Fitness, sports and recreation manager Jim MacKenzie awaits the return volley from CANEX manager Rick Kehler during a game of cutthroat at the GSH. MacKenzie, Kehler and Chuck Roeder from Base Ops play racquetball daily during the lunch hour. MacKenzie leads in wins, while Kehler enjoys trash talking during their tilts. For more on this trio of racquetball warriors, see the Stag's feature starting on page 6.

Photo by Jules Xavier

EO Techs: laser precision in an ever-changing environment

Samantha Bayard
Stag Special

Electronic-Optronic Technicians (EO Techs) are talented professionals who keep their eye on all electronic and optronic related equipment and fire control systems in the Canadian Army.

It is their job, among other priorities, to ensure that our troops can successfully sight on and effectively deliver rounds to their targets.

CWO Andrew Rose is the Assistant Occupational Advisor (AOA) for the Electronic-Optronic Technician trade. He first joined the Royal Regiment of Canada in Toronto as an infantry reservist, and later joined the Regular Force, entering the trade based on his strong interest in science in general and physics in particular.

"It's a very diversified trade. We are responsible for maintaining a wide range of equipment: from generators and field wiring right up to fire control systems used in tanks and armoured vehicles," explained CWO Rose.

"If we were to match our trade to that of one US Army trade, it would be difficult. As their technicians are more specialized in certain fields, we would probably have to combine up to 70-odd US military trades to create an equivalent to our one."

Having served throughout Canada and internationally in the Golan Heights, Somalia, Afghanistan and the First Gulf War, CWO Rose continues to find his work intriguing and engaging. As the AOA for the trade, each day has its own unique challenges. Constantly engaging in trade-related issues, he is deeply involved in providing technical advice to ongoing projects.

He also advises the EO Technician in the field units performing complex, high-precision maintenance on items such as laser range finders, thermal night vision scopes and goggles, missile control systems, chemical agent detection equipment, portable hand-held and vehicle mounted satellite navigation gear for our vehicles in the field.

EO Techs play a major support role in artillery, armoured and infantry operations.

According to CWO Rose, usually at a first-line unit, there would be two to three technicians who go out in the field and repair equipment to the best of their ability with the tools and spare parts on hand. If the item



Cpl Kevin Martel, an electronic-optronic technician from 2 Service Battalion, Garrison Petawawa, removes a remote weapons system from an RG-31 Canadian armoured patrol vehicle during Op ATTENTION at Camp Souter, Afghanistan in October 2013.

Photo by Sgt Norm McLean, Canadian Forces Combat Camera

cannot be repaired in less than four hours, it will be sent back to a second-line supporting unit.

At a second-line workshop, usually run by a warrant officer, there could be up to 12 technicians or more ranging from craftsmen (privates) to sergeants.

"What I like about it most is that I can see that the equipment we fix ultimately being used by the soldiers," said CWO Rose. "It's satisfying knowing that what we do contributes to the success of operations."

He notes one of the more challenging aspects is keeping pace with the technology.

"It's always a learning curve. There will always be new equipment coming on line and the technicians that support it have to stay up to date. To do so, there will always be formal course, ongoing instructor cadre training, sometimes it's Train-the-Trainer and even in some cases it's self-taught."

An ideal candidate for an EO Tech would be some-

one who can work independently and is technically inclined, he said.

"If I had to do it again I would. Same trade — the passage was great."

•••

Here are some quick facts about EO Tech work:

- There are usually two or more EO Techs at every Army Operational Unit within the Canadian Armed Forces working in workshops using state-of-the-art equipment.

- During field training and on operations, depending on the unit that they support, EO techs generally work in temporary or improvised workshops or outdoors. In some cases, they would work in transportable workshop shelters. Some of these are designed to create and maintain a clean working environment for performing maintenance on dust and static sensitive optronic and electronic equipment.

- EO Techs belong to and are part of the Royal Canadian Electrical and Mechanical Engineering Corps.

- The primary responsibilities of the EO Tech is to inspect, test, identify faults in, adjust, repair, recondition and modify electrical, electronic, optronic, optical instruments, and fire control systems for various land weapon platforms.

- EO Techs repair and maintain a variety of equipment such as thermal observation and surveillance systems; hand-held or vehicle-mounted satellite navigation systems; fibre-optic and laser systems; optical, electrical and electronic equipment; portable and trailer-mounted power-generating systems using specialized tools and test equipment.

- They must be trained and qualified to drive a variety of military-pattern vehicles.

- EO techs are dedicated to the Army, but they may be called upon to support Royal Canadian Air Force and Royal Canadian Navy operations.

- Like all military occupations, the training starts with Basic Military Qualification followed by three years of concentrated classroom and on-the-job education. EO Techs spend up to 40 weeks at the Royal Canadian Electrical and Mechanical Engineers School at CFB Borden, near Barrie, Ont. When they are done, they are posted to a centre that specializes in on-the-job training that is similar to an apprenticeship program.

Samantha Bayard is with Army Public Affairs

Pet of the Week



HARLEY

Harley is owned by Gnr Erich Streberg from 1RCHA B Bty. This pitbull is aged two. Gnr Streberg says his second dog is super friendly, and loves to give doggie kisses. In the winter, he likes to lay spread-eagle in front of the hot air vent. 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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Consider tolerance, duty to accommodate versus the right to Freedom of Conscience

Padre Matthew Ihuoma
Stag Special

The horrible murder of six worshippers in a Quebec City mosque Jan. 29 has been described as one of the darkest moments of our national history.

Never has such a deadly attack and massacre occurred in a place of worship in Canada. The fatal incident shocked most Canadians, and brought much pain to Canadian Muslims and non-Muslims alike.

Canadians, from coast to coast to coast, denounced the tragic killings, expressed sincere condolences, and matched in solidarity to indicate that such attack on any Canadian is an attacked on all of us.

It has once again reawaken our national consciousness to the fatal dangers of extremist and hateful ideologies, as well as the fact that our communities and people are not immune from the threats of radicalization.

In the wake of the Quebec City mosque tragedy, many political, community, and religious leaders have not only expressed outrage and condemnation, but have also called for unity.

The Chaplain General of the Canadian Armed Forces (CAF) issued a statement in which he emphasized the need to build bridges of love, unity and togetherness, while condemning the tendency of erecting walls of hatred, violence and intolerance.

He suggested that one of the ways of countering the roots of such hatred and violence includes reaching out to each other as individuals and communities, and learning from each other as brothers and sisters.

That heartbreaking incident also brought to the forefront such discussions as how to ensure harmonious coexistence in an increasingly diverse society.

It would be fair to state that the idea of achieving a general consensus on all sensitive issues, beliefs, and values will always constitute an illusion.

Thus, faced with the challenges associated with tolerance and accommodation, there is the constant temptation to retreat to our respective ideological enclaves and echo chambers, where we only listen to familiar opinions, and dance to the sound of our own tunes.

Fortunately, many have chosen the route of engagement. The Quebec City mosque incident has reignited

conversations and debates regarding such quintessential Canadian values as tolerance and openness to diversity on the one hand, and the right to freedom of speech and conscience on the other.

While intolerance has led to such evils as political and religious persecution, hate crimes, discriminations, genocide, terrorist acts, and all other forms of human cruelty, the virtue of tolerance has been identified as one of the essential characteristics of democratic societies.

However, tolerance is not synonymous with homogeneity. It does not in any way guarantee that we will always agree on all issues.

In fact, tolerance and genuine respect for diversity dictates that we remain aware of our differences, while committing ourselves to continued conversations about them, and listening to each other.

This is because in its essence, respect for diversity encapsulates, and must make room for vigorous debates about our differences, without fear of being immediately labelled a racist, homophobe, sexist, etc.

Such labelling may be part of the reasons why people retreat to partisan and ideological enclaves where their views and thoughts are not engaged.

Therefore, so long as they are nonviolent, debates and conversations about our differences should not only be encouraged but ought to be deemed a moral responsibility, and an essential ingredient of intellectual honesty.

The presumed notion that human beings must agree on all issues, values and beliefs in order to peacefully coexist is not consistent with most of our lived experiences.

For instance, even members of the same religion or oven church do disagree on certain values and issues, but they still share communion from the same altar on Sunday mornings.

Likewise, we do not disown or murder family members whose beliefs, values, or political leanings differ dramatically from ours. A mindset that considers another person to be inferior on the bases of race, gender, ethnicity, religion (or the lack thereof), etc is disrespectful of the person's human dignity, and thus prejudicial.

That is not whom we are. Intolerance is rather a sign of weakness, while tolerance is a sign of strength, because it requires courage and moral rectitude. That is the strength of Canada and CAF; and it is part of the gift we offer to this world.

The Chaplain General of the Canadian Armed Forces (CAF) issued a statement in which he emphasized the need to build bridges of love, unity and togetherness, while condemning the tendency of erecting walls of hatred, violence and intolerance.



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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.
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Canadian Army improves promotion criteria for members with new directive

Devon Atherton
 Stag Special

Maintaining a high standard of physical fitness and health is important for members of the Canadian Armed Forces (CAF), with Canadian Army (CA) leadership focusing on a new directive, now in place, that removes barriers to promotion which were based on a member's medical status.

The directive also encourages personnel to seek medical help as soon as they need it.

Maj Jeff Manley and Maj Peter Bishop, both CA Personnel Policy writers and analysts, are part of the team responsible for making sure the implementation process for the directive runs smoothly.

Maj Manley explained that the directive ensures members no longer need to have perfect physical fitness immediately in order to move up a rank.

Now, instead of having to complete physical fitness testing and career courses prior to promotion, CAF members have a flexible timeline to meet promotion criteria while being promoted to an acting rank.

This change is intended to help ease anxiety about seeking medical treatment earlier, and allows members sufficient recovery time without negatively affecting their careers.

"We feel members should have confidence that the CAF is modernizing," explained Maj Manley.

Maj Bishop added, "Changes to promotion requirements will improve the Forces' health overall and ensure that members are promoted based on their merit."

Maj Bishop pointed out that physical fitness is extremely important within the CA specifically. "If you think about it comparatively to the Navy and Air Force, the Navy fights with ships and the Airforce fights with aircraft. But from the Army perspective, we fight with our soldiers. They are the weapons."

Maj Manley acknowledged the Army places such an emphasis on physically demanding work that applying the directive will require much consultation and co-ordination between career managers and unit command teams. However, he added that, "making this policy work, regardless of the challenges, is perfectly within the Army's scope."

The CA's most senior medical officer, CA Surgeon Col Annie Bouchard, said the earlier a patient seeks treatment, the more effective it will be.

"Health Services Group has high hopes that this will decrease the stigma around consulting the medical clinic in a timely manner," she said. "Particularly in the case of mental health disorders, consulting early improves those outcomes."

Maj Bishop was part of a working group held in November 2016 and tasked with finding solutions to medically-based promotion barriers. He said there were some concerns early on, but the directive does not lower existing promotion standards, which remain merit-based.



A new directive, now in place, removes barriers to promotion based on a member's medical status, encouraging personnel to seek medical help as soon as they need it.

Photo montage by Joanna Gajdicar, Army Public Affairs

"The discussion around delinking medicals from promotion started with a shared concern among the working group members that the change would lower promotion standards," he said. "But universality of service still applies, because in order to be substantively promoted, a member still has to meet the requirements of the promotion."

Under the directive, those members with a medical condition who are given an acting promotion will be evaluated regularly to determine whether they are healthy enough to complete the remaining requirements for permanent promotion.

"In this way," said Maj Bishop, "members are given a reasonable amount of time to recover and receive treatment without lowering overall fitness standards in the long run."

Additionally, when it comes to deployment, CA leadership isn't taking any chances, Maj Bishop explained. "If, for example, a member with a broken leg is due to be deployed on operations, they would replace him or her. They wouldn't send a member off on operations if he or she couldn't physically do it."

However, the directive still outlines very important changes for promotion standards, even if it does not apply to deployment.

"Normally, you're not promoted into a position for deployment except in very rare circumstances," said Maj Manley. "This means that most promotions are usually for domestic postings. Members are not often given a promotion with the intention of deploying them right away, so the directive still applies in most cases. For this reason, the majority of members facing promotion will have less reason for anxiety when revealing their medical needs."

He asked for members to be patient and understanding as the changes begin to roll out.

"This represents a great opportunity for our organization. But, as with any change, there's going to be a transition period where we, the Army, are going to have to adjust to a new system. That's a very natural and healthy part of policy modernization, and we need to keep the bigger picture in mind."

Devon Atherton is with Army Public Affairs

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LCol Krista Bouckaert with a group of Afghan girls in 2010 after the opening of a new girls' school in Kabul during her deployment as part of the International Security Assistance Force (ISAF) Joint Command Corps headquarters in Kabul, Afghanistan.
Photo provided by LCol Krista Bouckaert

LCol Krista Bouckaert aims to inspire women, men

Lynn Capuano
Stag Special

Be Bold for Change is the 2017 motto of International Women's Day, and LCol Krista Bouckaert finds it fits her personal experience as a female senior leader in the Canadian Army (CA).

"Be Bold for Change is a tremendous reminder to use my position and experience to inspire soldiers, officers and youth to find their passion in life and pursue it with fearlessness and to speak with confidence in themselves," she said.

LCol Bouckaert became the first female Commanding Officer (CO) in the history of the CA to lead a Regular Force artillery regiment last June when she took command of the 4th Artillery Regiment (General Support) Royal Canadian Artillery (RCA). She said it is "hands down, absolutely the best day of my career in the Army thus far."

The Edmonton, AB native joined the Army Reserve in 1998 as an Artillery Officer with 18th Air Defence Regiment, RCA. After earning a Bachelor of Arts in English from the University of Lethbridge in 2000, she transferred to the Regular Force and was posted to 128 Air Defence Battery in Gagetown, NB.

During her military career, she has completed two deployments: In 2002, she was Command Post Operator for Op GRIZZLY during the G8 summit in Kananaskis, AB; and from October 2009 to May 2010, she was Military Assistant to the Deputy Chief of Staff Plans and Projects as part of the International Security Assistance Force (ISAF) Joint Command Corps Headquarters in Kabul, Afghanistan.

Increasingly senior postings in Canada followed, including a 2013 posting to the Strategic Joint Staff (SJS) as part of the ISAF Joint Command Headquarters in Ottawa as the planner for the Middle East, working as part of the Coalition team that set the framework and operation design for Op IMPACT.

She earned a Master's degree in Defence Studies from the Royal Military College of Canada while attending the Joint Command and Staff program at the Canadian Forces College in Toronto from 2012-13, among a number of other training programs.

She has never let her size determine the limits of her success in the military.

"I joined No. 42 Air Cadet Squadron in 1992 with my best friend while in high school, and absolutely

loved it — the discipline, the drill, the opportunity to fly in gliders, and the chance to go away to summer camp," she said.

Her younger brother had joined the Reserves at age 16 while she was in university. When he described what he was learning and the opportunities that existed, LCol Bouckaert thought, "I could totally do that, and I can do it better than my brother!"

"So I joined 18th Air Defence Regiment, RCA as an Artillery Officer in the Primary Reserves in 1998, where I served as a Troop Commander until my graduation from university."

She still vividly remembers walking up to the large, male recruiter during a job fair at her university. She recalls him saying, "No offence, miss, but aren't you a little concerned about your ... petite stature?"

"Having been raised by my mom to never let my size determine the limits of my success, I merely smiled and told him 'Not a chance!'"

She still remembers her very first day of work as a new Troop Commander at the Regiment in April 2001; while walking up the stairs in her Battery's lines, she was mistaken for the Battery Commander's daughter. "It is surreal to walk up those very same stairs today as the CO."

"I could not be more honoured or proud to be at its helm as we enable CA operations," said LCol Bouckaert.

"As a woman leading men and women in a male-dominated work environment," she said, "I believe I also play a critical role and need to leverage my position to inspire young women as well as young men to work together."

She added, "From my perspective, especially having a 14-year-old stepdaughter, I think it is important for school-aged girls to see women in professions like my own, and to encourage them to be confident in who they are, to find their voice and use it fearlessly."

There's a bright future for female military leaders, according to LCol Bouckaert. "Women are, more and more, filling senior leadership positions in the Canadian Armed Forces (CAF). And while at times in the media I sense impatience for more women to achieve more senior positions faster and in greater numbers, I firmly believe that time and experience is required before taking more senior appointments, as respect, operational credibility and professional excellence are critical to success in command appointments."

See **COMBAT** page 8

Cliff CULLEN
MLA for Spruce Woods



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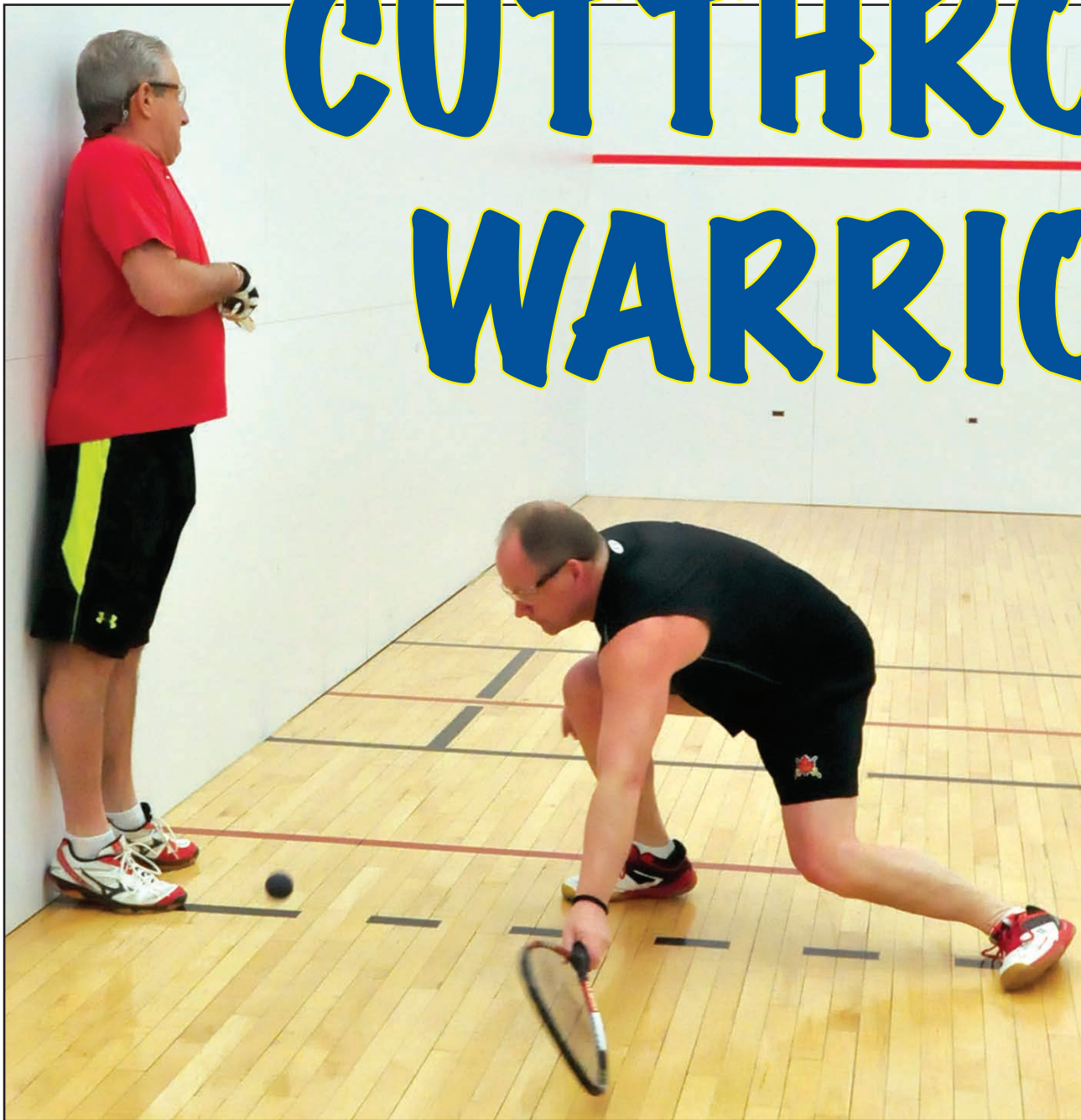


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CUTTHROAT WARRIORS

Chuck Roeder from Base Ops flattens himself against the wall as CANEX manager Rick Kehler reaches low to return a ball hit by fellow cutthroat player and fitness, sports and recreation manager Jim MacKenzie.

Photos by Jules Xavier



Trio battle for racquetball bragging rights

Jules Xavier
Shilo Stag

A nagging knee injury might slow Jim MacKenzie on the racquetball court, but it does not keep him from adding to his winning total during cutthroat games played at the GSH.

Why has the fitness, sports and recreation manager enjoyed success battling the likes of Chuck Roeder from Base Ops or CANEX manager Rick Kehler since this group of 50-something warriors began playing during their lunch hour?

"Hustle and the 'do not give up attitude,'" MacKenzie says regarding his strength on the court playing cutthroat.

Having ended his PERI trade with the Canadian Armed Forces — last date of operation was March 31, 1997 — MacKenzie enjoyed other sports during his military career, but his new love is racquetball for simple reasons.

"I enjoy the cardio aspect as well as the esprit de corps we have amongst ourselves."

On this day, with a new brace on his hyper-extended knee, Kehler wins the opening match of the three they will play.

There is plenty of ribbing among this trio, the occasional curse after a missed shot or missed opportunity to take a stranglehold on scoring the 15 points required for victory.

"It's a great physical activity which can be squeezed into a lunch hour," explains Kehler why he leaves CANEX for the quick jaunt across his

parking lot to the GSH. "[Playing] cutthroat just adds complexity to the [game] strategy."

Rather than play singles, with Kehler versus MacKenzie, this trio likes the battles that come with playing cutthroat, where all three are on the court.

For Roeder, playing racquetball provides him with the physical activity he misses from his earlier

military career, plus he likes the challenge of trying to best his buddies.

With happy feet and a penchant for lots of running on the court, Kehler says his strength as a player is his constant movement on the court.

This falls into MacKenzie's game-plan when it comes to exploiting the weaknesses of his opponents.

"I attempt to make them run the whole court," he says.

Kehler has a different approach to exploiting an opponent's weakness.

"I'm definitely not the hardest hitter, so I try to use other methods to combat their hard shots ... so will keep the ball to their backhand so they can't kill the ball," he says.

He laughs when describing his own weaknesses which MacKenzie and Roeder are quick to pounce on once the ball comes off the racquet during serves.

"I have so many weaknesses, I just have to show up [to play]," he says.

While he is the undisputed champion among this trio, MacKenzie has his own game weaknesses which Kehler and Roeder are quick to exploit if they are looking to score.

"For Chuck, because he hits the ball so hard, when I hit to his forehand, I ensure I give him most of the court as don't want to be hit by the ball," he explains. "Rick at times tries to keep the ball in play as much as possible so I end up making the first mistake."



Chuck Roeder from Base Ops prepares to serve one of his rockets in the direction of CANEX manager Rick Kehler.

See **CANEX** page 7

CANEX manager says playing physical part of his game plan

From page 6

There are few mistakes on the court when it comes to MacKenzie's game, and he's been known to start out slow, but rallies and will comeback from a deficit to steal a victory. He did this in the second match, and almost stole the third before Roeder held on for a close victory.

Who has the best serve on the court?

Roeder believes he does, and Kehler concurs, saying his opponent scores a lot of points off his serve. MacKenzie agrees, especially if Roeder is on his game that day.

When it comes to controlling the game following the serve, Kehler believes MacKenzie has the best volley game. Roeder agrees. MacKenzie is in agreement with his opponents.

Not the easiest of strokes to use playing cutthroat, Kehler believes his backhand is one of his few strengths playing racquetball. Roeder agrees, while MacKenzie has a reason why the CANEX manager's backhand is strong.

"[Rick] only because he has to use it a lot," he said laughing.

Chuck is unanimous when it comes to smashing bragging rights, according to the three cutthroat combatants.

Besides the ribbing on missed shots or kudos on a great play during their matches, trash talking is also comes into play for three guys who face each other at the GSH, but also will do battle during tournaments played in Brandon.

Kehler a trash talker?

"I seem to get under their skin at times with my trash talk," says Kehler. "With Jim, he gets shaken when he's challenged on a court call or violated regulation. Chuck gets riled when I pick on his lack of skills."

MacKenzie sees it differently. "I don't believe anyone is good at the trash talk, but Rick does the most because he sucks!"

With three bodies and swinging racquets going after a small ball bouncing and ricocheting off four walls and the ceiling, space sometimes becomes cramped. The occasional ball will leave a deep bruise on unprotected flesh, whether coming off a wall or directly from the racquet.

Yes, there's a physicality to this game when you are looking for an edge in positioning. Kehler says he's guilty of being physical with his opponents. Roeder sees MacKenzie as a physical player.

"Rick is because he thinks he owns the middle of the court," says MacKenzie.

Each player has a game plan when it comes to the strategies of racquetball, and on any given day either of them can reign supreme. On this day, then left the court with each having won a match. In most cases, MacKenzie and Roeder excel facing Kehler. He admits they tend to take more wins, so when you see him back at work in the afternoon and there's a smile on his face and an extra skip in his walk around the mall, you know he triumphed facing his buddies.

Kehler's strategy going into a match to best his opponent means he wants to wear them down, make them move for well-placed balls and aggressive counter-attacks.

MacKenzie keeps it simple: "Keep the ball in play and mix up the type of shots."

With two squash courts at the GSH — one is designed to accommodate both squash and racquetball — all three players believe soldiers would benefit from the physical play taking up a racquet sport as part of their military PT versus always playing ball hockey or shooting hoops.

"It builds camaraderie and one must control one's emotions to stay competitive," offers Kehler.

MacKenzie adds, "It's a lot of fun ... [playing] enables individuals to develop foot speed, co-ordination and when played at a competitive level, it's a great way to develop an individual's cardio system."

See the GSH front desk if you want to book a court and try your hand playing squash or racquetball. This trio of warriors are always looking for new challengers on the court during the lunch hour.



The action on the court is sometimes fast and furious as CANEX manager Rick Kehler (black), Chuck Roeder (red) of Base Ops and fitness, sports and recreation manager Jim MacKenzie (yellow) play cutthroat during their daily lunch hour matches. During his opening match, Kehler broke his racquet (left). He hugged Roeder (right) after winning his match. Roeder serves (below) as Kehler and MacKenzie await the ball.

Photos by Jules Xavier



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LCol Bouckaert (second from left) with fellow Artillery officers graduating from the Joint Command and Staff Programme with a Masters of Defence Studies at the Canadian Forces College in June 2012. They are also joined by former Artillery officer Capt (Retired) Fred Allen (third from left), a Second World War veteran and dear friend of LCol Bouckaert. Current 1RCHA CO LCol Stephen Haire (third from right) graduated with LCol Bouckaert.

Photo provided by LCol Krista Bouckaert



Combat Arms not for faint of heart

From page 5

She noted, "BGen Jennie Carignan was the first woman to command a Regular Force combat arms Regiment — in her case a Combat Engineering Regiment — and performed brilliantly both here at home and on deployed operations in Afghanistan.

"I am now the second woman to command a Regular Force Combat Arms unit, and the first woman to command a Regular Artillery Regiment, but I would be remiss if I did not point out that this will quickly become the norm in the RCA.

"Some brilliant female Artillery officers are slated for command in the near-term. The Artillery is, from my perspective, extremely progressive and leading the charge to diversity in a very male-dominated trade.

"I also believe it is important to acknowledge the true trail-blazers like LGen Christine Whitecross, Rear-Admiral Jennifer Bennett and BGen Carignan paving the way for those of us reaching the unit command levels," she continued. "I consider myself extremely fortunate to have their incredible examples to emulate, as well as the professional and personal support of some superbly talented colleagues, both male and female alike."

What about women in the combat arms?

"The Combat Arms is certainly not for the faint of heart, and there are also many men who cannot do the job. During my initial training, the failure of women was much more pronounced as there were so few of us. But no one ever commented on the large numbers of men who failed to make the cut. I believe myself to have been extremely fortunate to work with groups of men who — even in the early days — progressively accepted me as one of their own.

"Perhaps it's been my farm upbringing and fearlessness of hard work or because I have served with men who have been raised by or around incredibly talented women who have challenged traditional norms and worked as highly successful engineers, police officers, fire fighters, politicians, lawyers and traders.

"Whatever the reason, I am honoured to have served and continue to serve alongside some incredible men and women who have celebrated my successes and been there to encourage me when I have faltered. I certainly wish to be judged in my capability as a Commanding Officer, not in my capability as a female Commanding Officer. From my perspective, respect is everyone's to lose, regardless of gender."

Lynn Capuano is with Army Public Affairs



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Making a splash

Base Transport's Lt Emma Sao Miguel has been training at the GSH pool in anticipation for the three-day CAF nationals being held in Markham, Ont. The veteran competitive swimmer left today for Ontario.

Photo by Jules Xavier



New digs for NPF accounting

After much anticipation, the move has happened. NPF accounting manager Tammy Power and her team, formerly located at Base headquarters, are now working out of CANEX where Westoba was previously located. Services they provide include purchasing coin orders — same day if upto 10 rolls of coin. There's a 24-hour notice required for large orders. You can also pay your rent directly at this outlet. The intrinsic value of this relocation to CANEX, according to CANEX manager Rick Kehler, is the added foot traffic that is generated. Here, NPF accounting staff Tammy Genaille (left) and Lisa Barnes catch-up on their work after spending the past few days moving from Base headquarters to CANEX.

Photo by Jules Xavier

CANEX building service station

Have you ever wondered why Shilo has such a delapidated building for a service station and why it isn't replaced?

Or why it takes several days to squeeze into one of the small service bays for an oil change?

Or why you must wait in long lines to take advantage of discount days for purchasing gasoline from one of two pumps?

Or why your son blows-up his bicycle tire because he has no way of telling how much air he is putting in?

Or why you must fight traffic trying to enter the station lot from the southbound lane of Royal?

Well, we believe we have the answer to all these problems — a new CANEX service station.

We are please to announce the signing of a contract with Central Canadian Structures Limited of Brandon for the construction of a new service station to be located directly behind the existing building.

Construction will commence shortly and will continue throughout the summer and fall months with as little inconvenience as possible to patrons and regular operation.

It is expected that the new building and facilities will be completed by Nov. 1 upon which time the existing structure will be demolished.

The new structure will be 50 feet wide by 70 feet

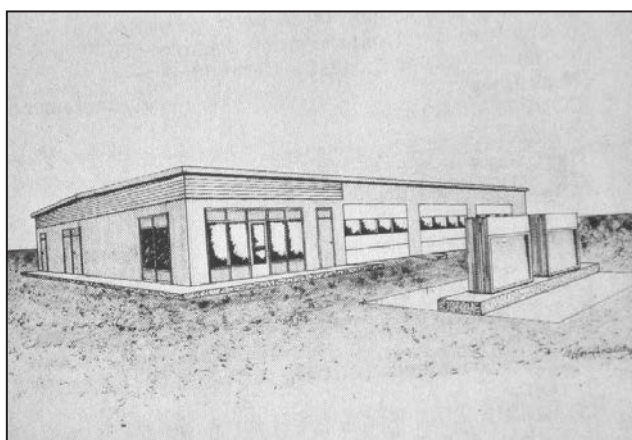


long and will include a showroom / sales area, office, public and mechanic's washrooms, equipment room, storeroom, and a four-bay shop service area complete with two electric hoists.

Other facilities which have been designed into the project include an additional two-pump service island, greatly increased parking areas, a digital air compressor outlet, a new access thoroughfare from Royal Avenue, and an aesthetic appeal which will enhance both the intersection as well as the community as a whole.

With all of these added amenities, it is hoped that the CANEX service can better serve the community of Shilo.

Shilo Stag July 12, 1979



Artist's conception of the new CANEX service station which was to open in November 1979.

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\$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.

\$116,900 - Condo Life - MLS 1705236



Live in your own condo and pay less than rent. 1 bedroom on the second level. All new flooring, fresh paint, new blinds, lights, and oven range hood. This unit is excellent for either owner occupied or as an investment property. Just Imagine, enjoying the summer from your private balcony!

\$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.



Cpl Raven Bingham of Terrace, BC is the most experienced of the 2PPCLI drum line. He anchors the line, with the rookies located on the outer edge of the line. Here, they perform during a Medak Pocket event.

Photo by Jules Xavier

Patricias make music with soldiers honing drum skills

Jules Xavier Shilo Stag

There's a prestige that comes with being part of 2PPCLI's drum line.

Just ask the six members who initially signed on when the Patricias celebrated the 100th anniversary in 2014. Each of the three PPCLI units in Canada established drum lines.

2PPCLI's drum line featured Cpl Christopher MacEachern of Sherwood Park, AB, Pte Scott Ash of St. Catherines, ON, Cpl Brandon Gorham of Niagara Falls, ON, Cpl Raven Bingham of Terrace, BC, Pte Travis Waterman of Selkirk and Sgt Thomas Cole of St. John, NB.

The majority of the drum line are aged 20-something, while Sgt Cole, who was a drummer in cadets, is the elder with more than 27 years in the Canadian Armed Forces (CAF). He gives his input, and will ramp up weekly rehearsals prior to the group performing.

Being part of the drum line came about when the Patricias asked if anyone would be interested, according to Sgt Cole. Drumming experience was not a prerequisite. Guys who showed an interest had to audition.

Cpl MacEachern and Pte Waterman had never drummed prior to joining 2PPCLI's drum line; Cpl Bingham had lots of experience so he anchored the five drummers during a performance.

"It all depends on your skill where you are put in the line," he said.

The least experienced of the drummers, Pte Water-

man and Pte Ash, are on the outside of the drum line. "It's called a hierarchy," said Sgt Cole of the drum line placement.

2PPCLI's drum line made its debut during a Medak Pocket anniversary event held on the Base.

This is not a marching band as you might see perform in a parade or on the football field at halftime. The soldiers perform in what's called a static line. There are seven to a line during a performance.

Military operations dictates the pace of what the drum line is doing, plus soldiers are posted out or are deployed.

Cpl Bingham has the most experience among his drummers. He started playing at age seven. By the time he was 12, he was drumming with a Scottish pipe band. He also was on a drum line with air cadets.

Pte Ash has a music background, but had no experience with drums. He started on the piano, then moved to the guitar and trombone. He liked the idea of drumming and found it was easy to learn.

"You need to feel the beat ... have an ear [for music]," offered Cpl Gorham.

Cpl Bingham concurred: "Musicality does help, but it's better that you have an ear for music."

Pte Waterman was not exposed to music in his youth. When an opportunity to join the drum line was offered, he accepted the challenge and has drawn on mentor Cpl Bingham to help in the learning process.

"I was nervous for my first performance during Kapyong Day," he said. "I felt okay, and made it through despite having my peers, and the officers watching."

He added, "You must believe in yourself to succeed on the drum."

See **SOLDIERS** page 12

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Bluefins say thanks

Representing the Brandon Bluefins, Capt Victor Pak presented fitness, sports and recreation manager Jim MacKenzie with a thank-you plaque from the swim club for allowing the swim team members to practice at the GSH pool. This was done because the Sportsplex pool, home to the Bluefins, was undergoing extensive renovations. On hand for this presentation were BComd LCol John Cochrane, senior manager PSP Mike McEwan and BRSM CWO Don Askeland. The swim team features a number of Base kids.

Photo by Jules Xavier

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Besides 2PPCLI functions, the drum line have performed at Brandon events like the annual Royal Manitoba Winter Fair held in late March. The base drummer (far left) in the group has the most exhausting position, and lays down the cadence for the drum line.

Photo submitted

Soldiers in tune with 2PPCLI drum line

From page 10

Cpl MacEachern comes from a musical family, with all of his siblings playing instruments. He danced and played piano, but also honed his drumming skills with mentorship from Cpl Bingham.

"The key is to learn the routines," offered Cpl Bingham.

Sgt Cole agreed. He was with 1PPCLI drum line in the 90s

Cpl Gorham considers himself musically-inclined. He played every musical instrument, from reeds to brass, in school. Plus was with the air cadet band.

"I like percussion," he said, adding he draws on his cadet band experience when preparing for the 2PPCLI drum line.

Rehearsals are relaxed, especially with neophytes among the group.

"We're able to critique each other ... it's all about teamwork," said Cpl Bingham.

"From when we started, and listening to how we sound now, there's been lots of improvement. I find we're, what's the word, more proficient now."

Sgt Cole points out the 2PPCLI drum line will tailor their show to the location — they can add or subtract from their routines.

Dressed in the scarlet uniforms, the drum line looks sharp. The base drummer in the group has the most exhausting position, and lays down the cadence for the drum line.

Pte Waterman and Pte Ash are on the tenor drums, and will pound their instrument with a tenor mallet. They compliment the sounds created by the snare drummer, who use drum sticks.

Sgt Cole laughs when he talks about his role.

"I have the easy job," he said, "I just show up with my mace, and salute."



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