



Your source for Army news in Manitoba



Volume 56 Issue 22

Serving Shilo, Sprucewoods & Douglas since 1947

November 16, 2017

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Remembrance Day service in focus. Page 6



Soldier retires from CAF after 42 years. Page 9



Hockey action at Gunner Arena

Shilo Sentinels played host to Carberry at Gunner Arena for a Sunday afternoon Southwest League tilt. Shilo's peewee goalie was stellar between the pipes making a number of big saves (inset). He even had help from a defenceman, who toe kicked the puck away from the empty side of the net (right) during first period action. Carberry's No. 18 was assessed a tripping penalty after taking the skates out from under a forward moving up the ice.

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Base Padre cheers for Packers, Bruins

Sarah Francis

Shilo Stag

CFB Shilo's newest Base Chaplain credits a strong support system to his continued military service.

Helping military members and their families are high priority for Maj Leslie Johnston, who replaced Maj Greg Costen in September.

One focus for Maj Johnston's time at CFB Shilo is to

continue work regarding PTSD.

"A lot of my work I've done prior to coming here was with PTSD. One of my goals here is to get a little bit better networking with spouses and children of family members who are battling PTSD," he told the Stag during an interview in his HQ office.

While posted to CFB Gagetown, the Base padre served as the mental health chaplain and got to know people in the east coast community.

"Sitting many times at a kitchen table listening to

spouses [be] just heart-broken because of not knowing what resources were available for them to access.'

He received a Commander of the Army commendation for his work in New Brunswick.

"I just think it's very important and I think Shilo is such a close-knit community ... that's one of the things I would like to work towards and see support that is there for our spouses."

Maj Johnston was diagnosed himself with PTSD in 2011.

"So there's two years of hell, but here I am," he offered. "I don't like to tell people, I know how you feel, but I can certainly walk with you."

It's critical that spouses are

involved in the process related to treating a soldier's

"For me, if my wife had not been involved in my treatment plans, I definitely wouldn't be in uniform anymore. She went past the enabling me unintentionally to challenging me and forcing me to — I wouldn't say forcing, but encouraging me.

He added, "So here I am, someone who's walked through that journey and [I'm] alive and kicking and fighting and more than happy to share my story and walk [with you]."

His military interest started young as a cadet.

"I've been in uniform since I was 13. Through cadets right up into the military world. Here I am still wearing the relish," he joked regarding his issued work attire.

Growing up a Base brat when his father served in the RCAF, he was accustomed to the Base chapels. He moved around a few times, but considers New Bruns-

"I met my wife at university in New Brunswick in Fredericton. She's from St Andrews, New Brunswick, it's kind of a sea town resort," he said. "A nice idilic place. That's where we'll retire."

Both his father and sister had careers in the military, with his sister just recently retiring. Maj Johnston currently has spent 17 years in the military — Reserve and Regular Force combined.

"I've been a Reg Force chaplain since [2009]," he

As a teen, he knew a career in the chaplaincy was

the correct path for him.
"I thought the Church was full of a bunch of hypocrites, but I still felt there was something there," he said.

"I ran away from it for quite a while, then I reached a point where I had to find out if this is what I was called to be doing or not. I pursued it, and here I am."

His career with the Church started out on the civilian side, with one location where he preached on Sunday being a small fishing outport which was reached by boat in rural Newfoundland. This resulted in the minister staying overnight prior to a ride back to mainland in the morning.

"It was always a big thing to have the minister stay with you. You were treated like royalty," explained Maj Johnston.

One family he stayed with had a large Newfound-

'So middle of the night, I had to go to the washroom," he recalled. "I came back to the room and the dog was laying in the bed. Apparently when they didn't have company, that's where he slept."

And this horse-sized dog was not willing to give up his bed now. Unfortunately for the padre, this meant a night on a chair.

"[I was] trying to keep warm as I listen to this dog drool and snore on the bed."

For his time on this Base, Maj Johnston is on IR without his family. His wife works with the Department of Education in New Brunswick. However, he did not come alone to CFB Shilo.

"She's still working and I'm here with the cat," he said, acknowledging his wife and kids thought he should have someone for company.

People are what drew him to a life in the chaplaincy. Maj Johnston told the Stag although he has taken the role of Base Chaplain, he considers himself more of a Regimental chaplain.

"I like to be out where the troops are, whether that's in the field or sleeping in a hooch or whatever ... been there done that," he said.

"I just enjoy the contact with people. Walking with people, that's a pretty important part for me. I call it loitering with intent.

Don't be surprised when you see him at various Base events. He said those are opportunities to get to know people in the military community.

"Those sidebar conversations are pretty neat. A lot of people think because you're a padre, you're there to thump your bible. That's about the furthest things from what military chaplaincy is ... that's like 10 per cent of what I would be doing."

He's been involved in sports since he was a child and throughout school. His high school years also saw him as a track champion, but his first love is football.

Maj Johnston has been a fan of the NFL's Green Bay Packers and NHL's Boston Bruins for years.

"I played football in university and some of the guys I played with went on to play for the NFL after they graduated. It's amazing for a small university. We had six or seven guys who went on to play professional football in the CFL or NFL," he recalled.

"One of my friends, a guy by the name of Bobby Lockwood, was scouted by the Packers. Started watching the Packers out of curiosity, to see if I'd ever see him. He never went past the practice squad, but I just liked the way they played."

He is also a CFL Edmonton Eskimo fan. Arriving on this Base, he couldn't help but notice the abundance of Saskatchewan fans, let alone Winnipeg Blue Bomber

His Faith Centre team on Base has made the job go smoothly so far.

"I'm very fortunate. There's a very solid team here," said Padre Johnston, who even had fellow padre Capt Troy Dennis as a student during a basic course around 2012 or 2013.



Bruins, Packers are number one when it comes to the new Base Padre Maj Leslie Johnston. Photo Sarah Francis

Cpl Zinger from 3CDSG Signals Squadron Det Shilo e-mailed this photo of his feline friend named Ozzy. 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.





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2015-A Brandon Avenue, Brandon, MB R7B 4E5 Hours: Monday - Friday 8:00 a.m. - 5:30 p.m. | Saturday 9:00 am - Noon November 16, 2017 Shilo Stag 3



Military graves receive poppies left by students visiting cemetery

Shilo Stag

A foot of snow greeted more than 700 students attending Brandon schools for the fourth annual Nov. 6 No Stone Left Alone ceremony.

Bundled up to ward off freezing temperatures and the snow, the students from Ecole Harrison, St. Augustine and Valleyview Schools placed poppies at the gravesides of about 1,200 veteran who are interred in the military section of the Brandon Cemetery.

This event was part of the No Stone Left Alone Memorial Foundation, which is a non-profit organization to help raise funds, awareness, and support for the veterans of Canada and their families.

The goal is to ensure that every soldier's headstone in fields of honour throughout the Brandon area received a poppy.

And unlike the previous three occasions, students did not cover the entire cemetery, but focused on the veterans section. They followed what the Dressing of the Graves contingent had done at the graveyard earlier, when a Canadian flag was placed at all gravesides where military are buried. Industrial arts program students from Riverheights School also laid white crosses, emblazoned with a red poppy, alongside the flags.

In 2011, Maureen Bianchini-Purvis launched the initiative in recognition of the sacrifices of Canadian service members who have lost their lives in the service of peace, at home and abroad.

By incorporating the services of Ecole Harrison in 2014, and adding St. Augustine's and Valleyview schools in 2015, along with a few soldiers from CFB Shilo, and the Royal Canadian Legion, the participants work to ensure that the

sacrifices made by these soldiers will be recognized by upcoming generations.

In 2014, the staff and students from École Harrison in Brandon were approached by parent Ryan Lawson after he heard of the foundation and the education it provided to the students.

He recalled as a child growing up and attending school assemblies for Remembrance Day that the message of sacrifice does not resonate as much as kneeling in front of a grave marker with the name of a veteran engraved on the polished granite surface.

There's a real experience, he said, of reading the name and perhaps other military information that soldier asked to have engraved on the tombstone above their grave.

Each of the students kneeling in front of the stone, after clearing away snow so the poppy could be placed on the grass, were asked to take time to think about the person buried where they were in the cemetery.

Standing beside a group of elementary aged students, the Stag heard comments regarding the age of the deceased — "boy, was this guy old when he died" — to "the guy was in the Second World War and jumped from planes."

Sgt Luc Cunningham of 1RCHA was a guest speaker. His message to the students was to think about what Remembrance Day means to them.

"Every person has a different reflection of what it means to them, whether they have [military] family members that have passed away or whether they have a family member that is currently serving."

No Stone Left Alone also recognized the centennial of the Battle of Passchendaele and the role of Great War soldiers in that muddy conflict in France.

For more on No Stone Left Alone visit www.nostoneleftalone.ca



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The Shilo Stag is produced every second Thursday.

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

Submitting articles and photos for print:

- Please submit articles as a MS Word Document.
- Include the author's full name, rank, unit and contact information.
- Include photos with your articles whenever possible, however, do not embed photos in word documents.
- Please submit photos as high resolution jpegs (if scanned 300 dpi), digital images or in hard copy format.
- With photos, include a caption that names the individuals in the photo; what is taking place; and the name, rank, and unit of the photographer.



Follow the Shilo Stag on Facebook by visiting:

http://www.facebook.com/ShiloSTAG



United Way campaign ends Nov. 17 with luncheon

Shilo Stag

The last day for this year's United Way campaign is Nov. 17, with the Finish Line luncheon at L25 running from 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m.

"The Shilo and [Region] Service Club is cooking and for \$5 there will be door prizes and a luncheon with an open-face pork sandwich with fries and cole slaw," said Capt Troy Dennis, adding the grand prize draw will happen at 12:30 p.m.

"This is the marquis prize of the campaign, with a chance to win a prize package of mostly electronic goods valued at \$1,000."

Tickets for the grand prize are available from Padre Dennis, Lt Kang at 1RCHA, Maj Mitton at 2PPCLI, Base MPSS, the Faith Centre, and Shilo MFRC.

Of note the holder of the winning ticket needs to be present for the draw to claim the prize.

If not, another ticket will be pulled.

"If someone is not able to attend, they can mark and send their ticket with a trusted friend who will be present," said Capt Dennis. As chairperson for the inaugural time, but a participant in United Way activities in past years, Capt Dennis is amazed by the support from CFB Shilo.

"It is amazing to see the generosity of people here on the Base. The message that 100 per cent of donations to United Way in Manitoba goes directly back to the community is getting out and people are responding."

As funds and forms come in, organizers update the United Way tote board located by the German tank, which is located adjacent to CANEX.

Here's what's happening during the United Way campaign with CFB Shilo involvement in the Westman area:

Nov. 23 — United Way of Brandon 4 District's ninth annual community fun lunch at the Grand Salon in the Victoria Inn from 11:45 a.m. to 1 p.m. Cost is \$15.

Nov. 24 — Annual Brandon Christmas tree auction at the Grand Salon in the Victoria Inn. Doors open at 4:40 p.m., decorating begins 5:30 p.m. Auction starts 6:15 p.m., with the 50/50 draw 45 minutes later. Cost \$15. Light lunch included. Call 204-571-8929 for tickets.







November 16, 2017 Shilo Stag 5

Significant strides made in requests from Base, Military Family Services

Board apologizes following third-party investigation

Sarah Francis

Shilo Stag

CFB Shilo's Military Family Resource Centre Board of Directors are working toward a better relationship following a rocky few months that saw funding suspended by the Base and Military Family Services

MFS provides Shilo's MFRC with approximately \$850,000 in annual federal funding.

During a Special General Meeting (SGM) held Nov. 1, concerns from the community were addressed

by the Board and an apology made to executive director Willemien van Lankvelt. In May, an incident regarding child safety at the daycare centre, resulted in the Board of Directors suspending van Lankvelt.

Following the suspension, with no income loss to van Lankvelt, the Board conducted a third-party investigation. It was found that the suspension was unwarranted and the executive director was reinstated, as stated in an initial statement

released by the Board via acting Board chairman Sgt

"Although the situation needed to be addressed, it could have been dealt with in a different, more effective and co-operative manner. The Board of Directors has been and continues to work diligently with staff, funders, subject matter experts, and our executive director to reduce and resolve any impacts that have arisen as a result of our actions."

The Board apologized in the statement to the community as well as the MFRC workforce, with Sgt Morton making the apology on behalf of the current Board during the SGM.

"The Board of Directors would like to apologize for the stress and hostile work environment that were created as a result of Board decisions. We also apologize that this got to the point where the Base and MFS have withheld funding and the additional stress that may have caused the staff. This was never our intention and we are committed to working with our executive director, staff of the MFRC and funders to mend relationships, restore funding and to continue to provide the best care for our families."

MFS and the Base have made recommendations to the Board and once they have been addressed, funding will be restored to the MFRC. These recommendations included updating policies and procedures,

Haunted House

experience

having a parliamentarian at the AGM as well as an apology to the executive director.

"We're gaining confidence in the Board," MFS director of family services Laurie Ogilvie told the Stag. They are moving forward and so our expectation, although it needs to progress more, is that funding can be reinstated if all of our expectations have been met."

Ogilvie also acknowledged that some of the recommendations have already been completed and others are in the works.

"It was to ensure the sustainability of the centre," she explained. "The concern really was around that

services to families could be interrupted as a result of some of the policies and practices that were in place. The suspension of funding was to reflect our seriousness to ensure the recommendations were put into place."

In a second statement the board addressed the resignation of members during the meeting.

"The Board has seen [the] majority of the executive resign and several other members. In

total in the last month, seven board members have resigned," said Sgt Morton.

Resolution was on the minds of community members in attendance at the SGM.

Patsy Marion, a community member for many years, asked the Board what their plan was to recreate trust and a sense of community and mend recent

"Right now we're looking at [completing a] policy review," explained Sgt Morton. "From there we're going to join in with the staff of the MFRC and do team building events so we can mend our relationship to actually being able to trust each other. We're taking it

step by step ... baby steps right now. We're hoping to get back to where we're able to trust."

Members in attendance also brought forward concerns about confidentiality and the use of social media. The Board chair commented, "The community's recent distasteful comments about the board and staff on social media are indicative of the fractured relationship

between the community, the staff and the board. The remaining board members remain committed to seeing the restoration of funding and reconciliation between the community, staff and the board."

Some comments stemmed from a confidential email, which was sent to the Board by a voting community member and leaked to a Sprucewoods Facebook page with screen shots.

Robert Love, the sender of the e-mail, apologized saying, "The letter was quite strong, and it was never meant for public deliberation. To those that feel this was excessive, I apologize. There were, what I consider, some very serious issues that needed to be remedied and perhaps I became to focused on them."

Love expressed his confidence in the remaining board members, Base leadership and staff of the MFRC to move forward with the necessary trust and

"So based on everything that's been happening with Facebook posts, on this and that community site, is there anything [the Board] sees that might benefit from changing that kind of policy?" asked Marion. "Especially considering the amount of comments that have been passed around. Maybe that's something [the Board] can look at in the future, how to manage that accordingly."

Sgt Morton responded by stating board members have been in discussion with the Base's Public Affairs Officer (PAO) Lori Truscott regarding social media use when it comes to MFRC business.

Currently, the Board has five members and MFS has agreed that the Board can operate with that number as opposed to the required seven on an interim basis.

"Rest assured the Board is working extremely hard to mend relationships between the board and the staff and the community and the MFRC. We're all working together as one team," offered Sgt Morton.

Plans for elections prior to the next AGM to fill the remaining Board positions will happen in the summer

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There was nothing scary about the Canadian Army's mascot Juno when kids left the BComd's annual Haunted House event held at L25. He had chips for the kids. 6 Shilo Stag November 16, 2017



ACT OF REMEMBRANCE

They shall grow not old As we that are left behind grow old.

Age shall not weary them Nor the years condemn. At the going down of the sun And in the morning ... We will remember them





Photos Jules Xavier





It was a full house at the MPTF for the Base's Remembrance Day service. The Act of Remembrance was read by Cpl Penny, while Joshua Haire handled the Commitment to Remember. More than 20 wreaths were laid at the cenotaph.







November 16, 2017 Shilo Stag 7





OPERATION RED NOSE is a way to get home safely with your car this holiday season. Volunteers will be on stand-by to provide safe transportation within Shilo, Brandon, Douglas, Cottonwoods and Sprucewoods. The service is entirely confidential. Still looking for volunteers.

Night shift 8 p.m. to 3 a.m. Nov. 24, 25, Dec. 1, 2, 8, 9, 15, 16, 31 Day shift 2 p.m. to 3 a.m. Dec. 12, 13, 14

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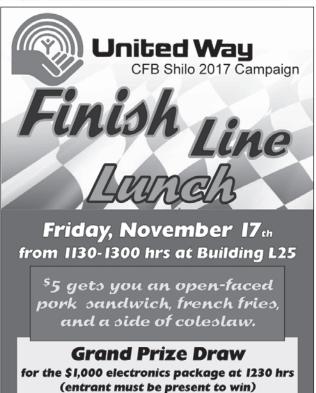


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Hamper program helps families

Stag MFRC Special

With our Base once again blanketed in snow thoughts of the upcoming holidays season occupy our minds as we prepare for the arrival of Santa, and advent of 2018.

CFB Shilo's chaplains and Shilo's MFRC are extending an invitation to those who call this Base their home, or workplace. Consider how you can be a part of our annual Community Christmas Hamper Pro-

Military units, local businesses, schools, and families have an opportunity to "adopt a family" and create a food hamper designed to bring joy to families in

There are several ways in which you can be involved. Register to adopt a family by contacting MFRC PSI co-ordinator Bonnie Hildebrand at ext 4106 or e-mail bonnie.hildebrand@forces.gc.ca

Or you can contact Padre Capt Lizzy Shanahan at ext 3698 or e-mail eliza.shanahan@forces.gc.ca

During registration you will be asked to indicate the

size of family you want to adopt. Our adopted families will only be identified by size — small, medium, large, extra-large — in order to protect confidentiality.

Registered participants will be given a list of items to include in the food hamper to ensure consistency. Deliver this filled hamper to the Faith Centre Dec. 8 between 9 a.m. and noon.

If you are unable to adopt a family, consider making a monetary donation to the Chaplain Services Fund. These donations will be used, in part, to purchase gift cards and fresh produce to be included in each ham-

The CCHP is honoured to work in partnership with the Base's chaplains, Health Services, SISIP, MPs, and Shilo's MFRC family counsellors to ensure families in need receive a hamper of good cheer.

All nominations to receive a hamper will be identified through the above mentioned services. If you would like to nominate a family, refer the family to an appropriate service.

We look forward to having you join us in sharing the holiday spirit of giving by registering your unit, business, school, or family to fill a Christmas hamper.

Road work

Residents residing on Lundy's Lane will have to wait until spring to have their new road, parking areas paved thanks to the arrival of snow.

Photo Jules Xavier



For some, this Christmas may not be joyful because of the death of a loved one, separation; health, or setbacks. In this service, we acknowledge that Christmas may be "blue" for some. We pray that you will find hope and comfort in knowing that you are not alone. St. Barbara's Chapel **Jules Xavier** · Dec 6, 7:00pm

Job Opportunity with MFRC

For more info call Padre Dennis ext 3088

Blue Christmas

A Service of Remembrance and Hope

The Children Services area of Shilo's Military Family Resource Centre (MFRC) is looking for individuals who have experience with children and love a fast-paced environment. Put some FUN in your parttime job. No weekends or evenings for



our casual childcare positions, and we will go around other schedules if needed. Wage is \$12.13/hour. Submit resumes to director of Children's Services Dana Thompson, Box 5000 Station Main Shilo, MB, R0K 2A0 or use e-mail dana.thompson@forces.gc.ca. Resumes can also be dropped off at Shilo's MFRC reception desk.

Op RED NOSE needs volunteer drivers

Shilo Stag

It's looking like we'll be enjoying a white Christmas with the Base already bathed a blanket of snow thanks to Mother Nature.

With thoughts of Christmas and shopping occupying our time now that Halloween is but a memory, don't forget there's another Christmas-related event which requires volunteers. Yes, that means Op RED NOSE is back.

"With the holidays quickly approaching, I am pleased to announce that Operation Red Nose will be continuing this year within CFB Shilo," offered Lt Geoffrey Chandler, the new Platoon Commander at 1MP Regt Shilo Pl.

"This program is aimed to encourage community members to make responsible decisions when it comes to abstaining from drinking and driving during the holi-

Operation Red Nose volunteers provide drivers to ensure that clients arrive home safely at no cost, and in the comfort of their own vehicles. The financial benefits derived from this program are redistributed to youth organizations in the

According to Lt Chandler, in order to make this program a continued success, volunteers are required in a variety of roles.

But before you are assigned these roles there's a little paperwork required besides the application. Background checks are required. This paperwork can be obtained and dropped off for processing at the MP's venue located at 134 Royal Ave. For the 2017 campaign, Op RED NOSE will be operating on the following days,

and times: 8 p.m. to 3 a.m. Nov. 24, 25, Dec. 1, 2, 8, 9, 15, 16 and 31. For the Dec. 12, 13 and 14 timings volunteers will be out from 2 p.m. to 3 a.m.

Lt Chandler has planned a kickoff for Op RED NOSE at the El Prado Club Nov.

23 starting at 11 a.m. Potential volunteers and community members are invited to

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On 60th birthday Capt Popovits turns in his army work uniform

Jules Xavier

Shilo Stag

It was bittersweet that Capt Geoff Popovits turned in his work uniform on the day he turned 60.

"It will be different after all these years not putting on the uniform, or wearing my beret," he said while putting away items from his first-floor headquarters office into his car. "But when I show I up for work on my last day, it will be in civy clothes because what I'm wearing now will be turned in [Nov. 9]."

It took about about 15 minutes at Base Supply, when Capt Popovits handed the neatly folded work clothes he's worn since August 2013 when he transferred over to be CFB Shilo's Base Personal Services Officer, a position he held until his 60th birthday.

Born in 1957 in London, England, Capt Popovits and his family emigrated to Canada in September 1965, settling in Winnipeg initially, then moving west to Brandon in April 1967.

"I never left, "he said of his time establishing roots in Brandon, attending Crocus when it first opened. He has the distinction of being in the first graduating class, and daughters Samantha and Michelle have also followed in their dad's footsteps and graduated from the same high school.

A member of the Canadian Armed Forces since Feb. 1, 1975, Capt Popovits has been a Reservist for just shy of 43 years. His reserve time as been with 26 Field Regiment RCA

Regiment RCA.

"I have held numerous jobs on Base in this go around on Class B service since Sept 2003," he recalled, adding in his last job he was "basically the second in command of the G1 Branch."

Capt Popovits was just 17, and still in high school, when he enlisted.

"I liked things military, little knowing that it would last this long," he said.

While he did not see action during the Afghanistan War, Capt Popovits did deploy to the 1976 Summer Olympics in Montreal, and did Flyover training with 1RCHA in 1982.

"Joining the Reserves lets you do things you couldn't imagine, such as commanding a 105 or calling down fire," he said when asked what advice he would give to a young person thinking about the Reserves as a career. "It gives you leadership skills, as well as planning and organizing skills and instills in you a sense of discipline accomplishment. Skills that will last you a lifetime. It can also be a springboard to the Reg Force, the professionals who do it every day."

Looking back on his military career, he's glad the CAF keeps a thorough dossier on its soldiers.

He completed Basic Military Training in April 1975 and Qualification Level 3 Artillery on this Base in August 1975. He was promoted Bombardier in February 1976, Master Bombardier in April 1978, and Sergeant in September 1980.

Capt Popovits was either an instructor or Troop Sergeant Major (TSM), Firing Troop at summer National Rank and Qualification School (NRQS) Shilo between 1977 and 1982. He did a flyover with 1RCHA in Germany, where he was a 2IC and Detachment Commander on call sign 15E with a M109 self-propelled Howitzer in August 1982.

In March 1983, he became the full-time (Class B) Motor Transport Non-commissioned Officer (MT NCO) at 26 Field. During this period, 26 Field Regiment was the operationally tasked Battery to 3RCHA. He was the MT NCO until March 1986 when the full

time position was eliminated.

In April 1989, Capt Popovits was promoted to WO and, in September 1992, became Battery Sergeant Major (BSM) of 71 Field Battery (71 Bty).

Up to this point in time, Capt Popovits had held every Non-commissioned Member position within the Battery except Signals NCO. In March 1994, he took the Tasker position with the RCA Battle School and from there, the Class B training co-ordinator also within the RCA Battle School. He held this position until August 1998, and during this time included the transition of the RCA Battle School to Western Area Training Centre, Artillery Detachment Shilo.

At this time, he decided to finish his Business Administration diploma, and graduated with honours in June 1999. Upon receiving his diploma, he enrolled in the Chartered General Accountant program (CGA) and he has completed Level 3 and had started working on Level 4.

From June 1999 to September 2003, he held various positions within 26 Field Artillery Regiment, RCA including stints as Operations Officer, and assistant Adjutant. During summer taskings at Western Area Training Centre, his jobs included Exercise co-ordinator, and TSM Firing Troop.

In Sept 2000, he again became BSM with 71 Bty and was promoted to MWO in February 2001.

Capt Popovits was appointed RSM of 26 Field Artillery Regiment, RCA in March 2002, promoted to CWO in August 2004, and became the RSM of the 38 Canadian Brigade Group Artillery Tactical Group (ATG) when it was stood up in March 2005.

He relinquished the position in December 2006, and was appointed Battery Commander (BC) of Headquarters and Services Battery. In November 2008, he became the BC of 71 Bty, a position he held until September 2013. He was commissioned Captain in August 2007.

In September 2003, he accepted the Class B position of assistant Regimental Adjutant at Regimental Headquarters RCA (RHQ RCA), the full-time position that was supposed to last nine months, but end lasting

almost nine years.

In between, he did his first short stint as Base Adjutant in the summer of 2009. This position came to an end in March 2012, but he became the Platoon Commander at the Integrated Personal Support Centre (IPSC) where his staff looked after ill and injured soldiers and supported their transition needs.

Besides his role as Base Personal Services Officer, he was concurrently the acting Base G1 for several periods, and for a year from April 2016 to March 2017, the Base Adjutant.

He was awarded the Queens Golden Jubilee

Medal in December 2002, the second clasp to his Canada Decoration (CD) in February 2007 and third clasp (42 years) this month.

Photo Jules Xavier

Capt Geoff Popovits on his last official day of work in uni-

With more than four decades in the Canadian military, there are a few highlights that come to mind when asked by the Stag.

He enjoyed his time as Det Comd of a 105, and having the same position while in Germany on a M109 "when not too many reservists were given that opportunity"

He was also BSM with 71 Battery and RSM of 26 Field Regiment. A trip overseas brings back memories. He went to the Netherlands to dedicate a 25-pounder in a small town to commemorate the 75th anniversary of their liberation.

He also cites as a working highlight his superiors having the faith in him to carry out multiple positions and tasks throughout his military career.

With training as an accountant from his past, look-

ing forward, Capt Popovits will look at exploring this as a post-retirement career. Beside pursuing this to supplement his military pension, expect the genial artillery soldier to spend more time with his wife Lorie, and "apples of his eyes" grand-daughters Denver and Korie and grand-sons Wyatt and William.

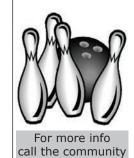
Plus, when winter returns to Brandon, he will escape the cold and snow for warmer temperatures in the Caribbean, where you will find him "laying on a palm-covered beach with a beer in my hand."

And yes he will miss work. Not the work per se, but "the old cliché, the people. That is what makes coming to work easier, and I have worked with great people over the years. I always had a saying that I would keep doing it until it wasn't fun, and I lasted to the end."

If Capt Popovits had to do his military career all over again, would he do anything different?

"Again another cliché," he offered, adding, "nothing! It has been a great 42 years, and I wouldn't change a thing."

But when he's not basking on a sandy beach, Capt Popovits has other interests to occupy his free time.



recreation office

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Ask about Glow bowling birthday parties!



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

er er

- –	 Entry Form
Name: _	
Address:	
Phone: _	
Page #, a	d:
How many	ill-testing question: years has Capt Geoff Popovits served with the CAF is final day Nov. 9 when he turned 60?

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.

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Brandon, MB

Fax: 204-728-0055 Lookmusic@wcgwave.ca





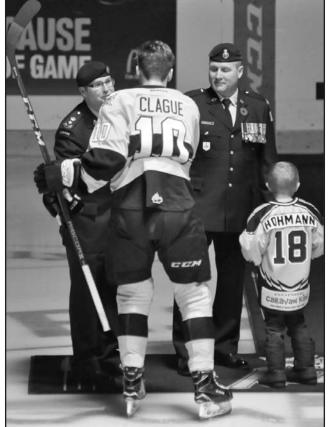


Willie entertain

Canadian Army mascot Juno helped entertain with Brandon Wheat Kings mascot Willie during the team's 3-1 win over the visiting Saskatoon Blades on Remembrance Day. After the ceremonial faceoff. BComd LCol Dave Maclntyre and BRSM Don Askeland met Wheat Kings captain and LA draft pick Kale Clague. During warm-ups forward Connor Gutenberg takes a drink. RCA Museum loaned the jeep used during the second period intermission to launch t-shirts in the arena stands.



Photos Jules Xavier





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www.rcamuseum.com Call 204-765-3000 extension 3570 CFB SHILO

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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 awardwinning Shilo Stag team.



Halloween work

While residents of the Q Patch were busy putting the finishing touches to their home decorations (above) prior to the arrival of the judges, construction workers used the ideal fall weather conditions to finish off the roof on the two-storey apartment currently under construction. It's expected to open in the spring of 2018 if there are no delays. A day after the Stag was out exploring the Base with a Nikon, Mother Nature dumped the first blanket of snow. The witches were unable to ward off the first blast of winter.

Photo Jules Xavier

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:

November 23 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 Johnston - ext 3381 Padre Dennis - ext 3088 Padre Neil - ext 6836

Our Lady of Shilo Roman Catholic Chapel

Sunday at 10:30 a.m.
Confessions by appointment
Padre Ihuoma - ext 3089
Padre Shanahan - ext 3698

Services

Greg Steele Canadian Firearms 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 needs you: Clerk/cashier part-time position with 13 to 32 hr /week required. Must be available days/evenings, and weekends. Starting salary is \$11.68 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.

CANEX POST OFFICE HOURS CHANGE

There will no longer be service at the post office Saturday from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. Instead, Monday to Friday the hours have been extended one hour, from 8 a.m. to 6 p.m.

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TO THOSE WHO HAVE SERVED FOR THE FREEDOM OF CANADIANS.

THANK YOU.

