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Volume 56 Issue 21



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November 2, 2017

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LEST WE FORGET



Before leaving for France to face the Germans in the Battle of Vimy Ridge a century ago, brothers Harold (sitting) and Bill May trained for their Great War experience at Camp Hughes in 1916. Assigned to the 61st Battalion with the Winnipeg Rifles, Bill May was wounded by shrapnel to the leg during the Battle of Vimy Ridge. His older brother was left for dead on the battlefield after a shell exploded nearby and his cheek, chin and shoulder sustained horrific wounds. Three days later, he was found in the mud alive when fellow soldiers were out picking up corpses on the battlefield. Harold May was of the first recipients of reconstructive surgery. Bill would return from the war and take a job at Camp Shilo in 1942, where he worked until retiring in 1961. For more on the May family and their connection to Camp Hughes and Camp Shilo, see page 6.

Photos courtesy grandchildren Kathleen Mowbray/Kelvin Schrot

Corporal enjoys giving back by volunteering

Sarah Francis
Shilo Stag

Volunteerism has been a large part of Cpl Isabelle Thibodeau's military career.

Her interest in the military was piqued from a drive to do more, and leave factory work.

From Saint-Georges de Beauce, Que., Cpl Thibodeau also studied accounting before looking to the military. Patriotism was the inspiration for her to join the Canadian Armed Forces (CAF) at the age 39.

The choice of career has definitely had it challenges, but she's been determined to persist.

"I'm not strong. I'm not fast. I'm not sport-oriented, but I will always — I will try to smile and just [say] 'Let's do it!' I'm not competitive, so I'm having more fun, but it pushes me [to] my limits."

Currently, the supply technician can be found working in customer accounts, when she's not out volunteering.

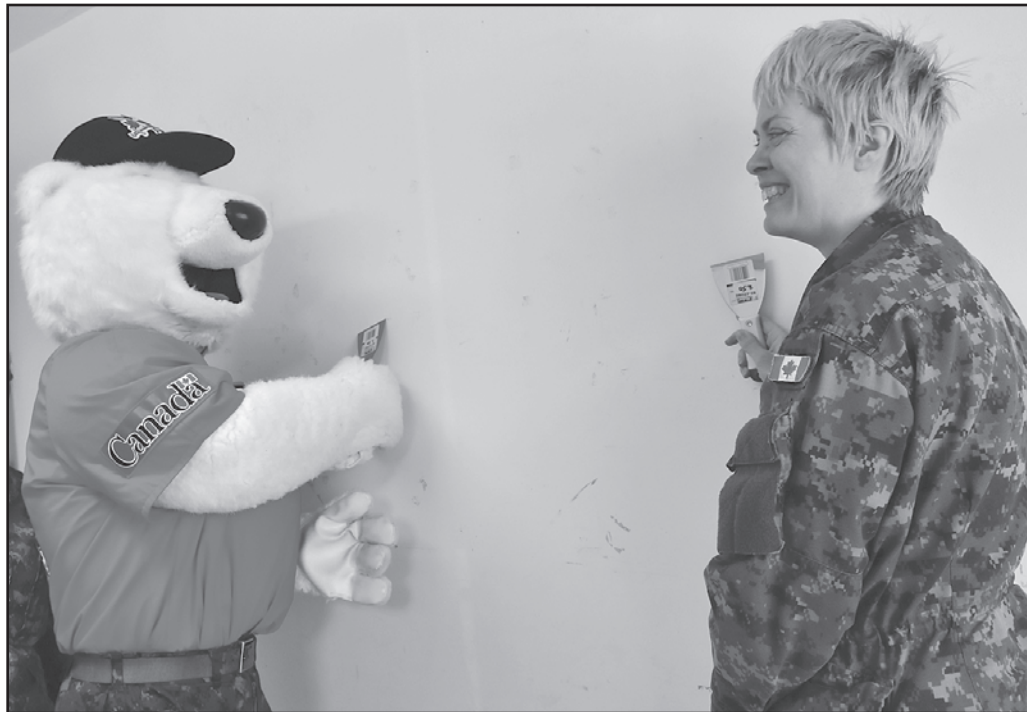
"Every time they ask for a volunteer, I raise my hand," said Cpl Thibodeau.

Recently promoted to her current rank, Cpl Thibodeau told the *Shilo Stag* her co-workers are supportive and make her volunteerism possible. She was recently acknowledged for this when 3CDSG Comd Col Scott McKenzie presented her with a 3CDSG Command Team coin for all her work she has done with the Op HONOUR team on this Base, as well as all her volunteer work she has done in the Westman Region.

"I'm grateful and thankful, but beyond the award it's all the people who allow me to be who I am," she explained. "The people I work with, in their own way, it's because of them I have this award. They're supportive. I volunteer a lot. I'm devoted, I like doing that stuff."

While she wasn't involved before her military career, Cpl Thibodeau said it's important for her to be able to take part in volunteer activities. Especially now that she is a member of the military.

"The military, they've offered me the opportunity of doing a lot of volunteering that I didn't do as a civilian. The community and the military are closer than it appears," she explained. "They depend on one another. Giving back to the community is part of being



Cpl Isabelle Thibodeau had help with painting preparation from Juno during the recent United Way Day of Caring event held in Brandon.

Photo Sarah Francis

a soldier."

She's had experiences helping with United Way Day of Caring, cadets, as well as the Amazing Race at CFB Shilo, and the Kiwanis Car Derby in Brandon.

"I was up in Cochrane [Alberta] at the Rocky Mountain Cadet Training Centre all summer long," she said.

While working at the cadet camp, Cpl Thibodeau filled in as a supervisor on a hike, and joked the cadets were probably slowing the pace for her.

"I volunteered because no one wanted to go hiking," she recalled. "I don't like hiking. I don't like camping. The cadets were outstanding and I had to follow. They go fast and it's in the mountains."

She said overall she had a blast with the group on the trip.

"I didn't have a lot of contact with the cadets, but it was nice. The team was wonderful. All the officer cadets were kind."

Part of the great opportunity of volunteering is meeting the other people involved. Many of whom she's worked with on various occasions.

Cpl Thibodeau said it was wonderful to be recognized for her hard work, however, the spotlight isn't a

natural position for her.

"I'm flattered, I'm honoured. It's always nice to be recognized for something we do."

She joked about being unsure if she would call the *Shilo Stag* back after being asked for an interview.

"I have to fight that introvert personality. That's also why I put myself out there [and volunteer] because if I was really myself, you wouldn't see me out anywhere."

Cpl Thibodeau has also been involved in Op HONOUR initiatives at CFB Shilo.

"We did a lot of courses that empowered us to understand because — my first step to take part of Op HONOUR was to understand why. Because when I'm under pressure or someone does me harm, I just obliterate everything and put it in the wardrobe and move on.

"So I was wondering what drove those people to fight back. What they were going through and how I could help."

To her, one important step is letting people know they can speak to the Op HONOUR team if they're in need.

"It can be at work, it can be outside of work, outside on the street. [Say], 'I have something to tell you, do you have five minutes. It's not only for Base side,'" she explained.

"Of course it's aimed to military [members], because we know civilians have their own phone numbers and [resources]. Nothing prevents them from talking to us either. We're there to support. It's really an emergency support cell."

She added, the team is more of a middle man and are not in a position to give someone advice.

"You're overwhelmed with emotion and you don't know where to turn. You don't want to be judged, you don't want to confide to anyone. You don't want to be judged, rejected or labelled," she offered.

"So you can turn to us. We can listen. We can give you people you can call. We don't give you advice. We're not counsellors. It's more to help you enter into a process of having — maybe not healing, but the process to say that something happened."

Pet of the Week

BAXTER

This is Baxter. According to owner Hailey Sorenson, he's a rotti mixed with a blue heeler. He loves cuddles and also loves to run around outside. He is a caring dog that somehow knows when you are upset and will come and cuddle you until you feel better. He loves playing fetch and being chased as a game. He also loves playing and meeting new dogs. 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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Board apologizes to Shilo's MFRC executive director

To the staff of the MFRC and Shilo community:

In May 2017, there was a concern brought to our attention involving Shilo's MFRC. In response to this, Shilo's MFRC board of directors, with the best of intentions and with the knowledge we had at the time, took steps to address the concern which had arisen.

The board of directors made the decision to suspend the executive director, with no income loss, while conducting a third party investigation. Following the third party review of the concern, it was determined the actions taken by the board were unwarranted which resulted in the reinstatement of our executive director.

Unfortunately, it is clear that actions taken by the board resulted in significant impact to numerous individuals, staff, and in particular, our executive director.

The board of directors responded to the concern in good faith, and is now taking the necessary steps to rectify the situation. 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 which have arisen as a result of our actions.

Moving forward, our goal is to prevent similar incidents from reoccurring

by applying valuable lessons learned from this situation, and to re-establish a solid, effective working relationship amongst all parties, but of primary importance with the head of our operations, our executive director Williamien Van Lankvelt.

The board of directors would like to apologize for the stress and hostile work environment created as a result of board decisions. We also apologize that this got to the point where the Base and Military Family Services 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 Shilo's MFRC and funders to mend relationships, restore funding and to continue to provide the best care for our families.

The board of directors would also like to take this time to thank all MFRC staff for their hard work for maintaining the exceptional standard of services which we provide to military families.

Sincerely,
For the board of directors
Corey Morton
Acting board chairperson

Editor's note: during an evening meeting Nov. 1, the board addressed the concerns expressed by the community regarding the budget and financial statements presented at an AGM held Sept. 11. The Stag will have more in-depth coverage from this meeting in the Nov. 16 edition.



Nov. 11 ceremony at MPTF

Shilo Stag

Lest We Forget — CFB Shilo's Remembrance Day ceremony takes place indoors Nov. 11 at the MPTF.

Spectators attending the Base's ceremony are asked to be seated no later than 10:20 a.m. Ceremony will begin at 10:50 a.m., with the vigil in place two minutes later. At 11 a.m. Last Post will play, followed by two minutes of silence. The playing of the "lament" and Reveille" will follow.

Soon after John McRae's In Flanders Field poem will be read by a member of Shilo's Scout troop, followed by the laying of wreaths at the cenotaph.

According to BRSM CWO Don Askeland, only units and veterans will lay wreaths during the ceremony. External organizations may lay wreaths after the proceedings are complete.

A member of the Base's padre team will then do the benediction, followed by God Save the Queen.

After the ceremony, which is expected to be completed by 11:30 a.m., all parties are invited to attend a post-parade reception at their respective messes. Officers will attend the reception at the WOs' and Sgts' mess.

All CFB Shilo and lodger unit personnel below the rank of MWO are expected to participate in Remembrance Day activities.

Personnel that are not on parade and do not have approval to attend other ceremonies, shall be spectators.

Due to Ex IRON RAM at CFB Wainwright, numbers related to the sizes of honour guards will be reduced around the entire Westman region.



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 Editorial advisor Lori Truscott ext 3813
 Proof reader Elaine Rempel ext 3736

Fax: 204-765-3814 Email: stag@mymts.net

Mailing Address:
 Box 5000, Stn Main
 CFB Shilo, Manitoba, R0K 2A0

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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.

• • •



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Maj Stuart Smoley cooks up best chili dish

Jules Xavier
 Shilo Stag

The tote board near the German tank shows the Base's United Way campaign has raised more than \$25,000 to date — \$25,936.83 to be exact.

"With only three full weeks left, we are putting out max effort so we can reach our goal of 100 per cent face-to-face canvassing," noted United Way chairperson Capt Troy Dennis. "Our reps are canvassing their workplaces by going office to office and person to person to make sure everyone has the opportunity to support United Way."

He added, "As most are aware, 1RCHA and 2PPCLI are currently on exercise [at CFB Wainwright], and some of the soldiers from 1RCHA are also deployed [to Latvia]. It is encouraging to see how hard the units have worked to canvass their troops in anticipation of this, and to hear their plans to complete canvassing. There is no question as to the support of the commanders on the base to ensure success of the annual workplace charitable campaign."

The last day for this year's 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 coleslaw," he said, 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. To date, we have received almost \$26,000, and we know there are still events and forms to come in."

As funds and forms come in, organizers update the United Way tote board, which is located adjacent to

CANEX.

There are also other activities happening in the unit lines such as bake sales, pizza days and coffee runs. Other events on the Base are more public. Like the annual fall car care clinic.

"This is always well-supported," said Capt Dennis of the Nov. 2 to 4 event.

The annual chili cook-off happened Oct. 18 at Base headquarters, with six participants showing off their culinary skills when it came to sharing their chili recipes. Bragging rights fell to winner, G1 Maj Stuart Smoley.

For any United Way events coming up, Capt Dennis noted there are posters around the Base or check in on

the Stag's Facebook page www.facebook.com/ShiloSTAG/

Here's what's happening on the United Way campaign, which runs to Nov. 17:

Sept. 29 to Nov. 17 — Skate Sharpening. From now until the end of the campaign, have your skates sharpened for \$2 or \$20 for a punch card that gets your skates sharpened 10 times. Contact Karen Gero at ext 3622.

Sept. 29 to Nov. 17 — Wine Raffle. Grand prize 20 bottles of wine, second prize 10 bottles of wine. Tickets are \$5 for one ticket or \$20 for five tickets. Tickets available at IPSC (L106) beside Base HQ, or see Brandi Sheppard at the GSH or Bonnie Hildebrand at the MFRC. Draw happens Nov. 17.

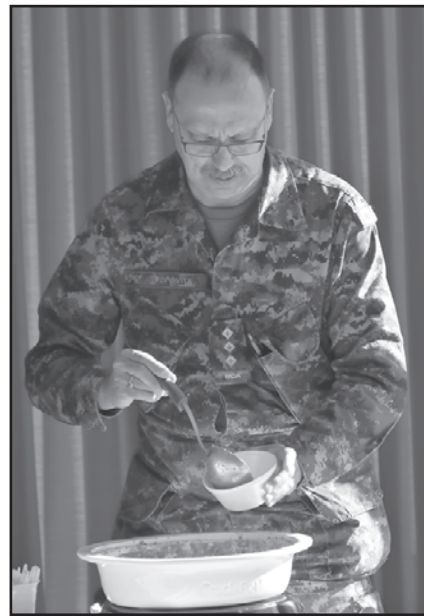
Sept. 29 to Nov. 17 — Christmas dinner basket raffle. \$10/ticket available through PSP. Draw takes place Nov. 17.

Nov. 2 to 4 — Car Care Clinic. Here's what's being offered: \$15 oil change — you must bring own oil and filter; \$15 tire rotation, with tires already on rims; \$30 tire rotation and oil change; \$25 tire balance and rotation, with tires already on rims; \$40 tire balance and rotation, plus oil change; \$40 tire mounting and balance, plus rotation; \$55 tire mounting and balance plus rotation and oil change. To make an appointment call 204-765-3000 ext 3255. Work will be done from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. Nov. 2 and 3, while Nov. 4 the hours are from 8 a.m. to noon. While waiting for your vehicle to be done, hamburgers and hotdogs will be served, washed down by water or soda pop. Or sip on a hot cup of coffee.

Nov. 23 — United Way of Brandon 4 District's ninth annual community fun lunch at the Grand Sa-

lon 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., Cost \$15. Light lunch included.



Capt Geoff Popovits (above) spoons a bowl of chili from one of six offered during the Base's United Way chili cook-off held at headquarters. Winner Maj Stuart Smoley (below) shows off his winning trophy.

Photos Jules Xavier



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Parents grateful for what CHAMP program does for their children

Stag Special

Nine-year-old Ryley McMillan and five-year-old Myles Newton spotted each other for the first time through a fence that separated their neighbouring school and daycare.

Noticing they both share something special, they would often give each other a wave. Today, the boys share a strong friendship as well as a Remembrance Day tradition.

Ryley was born a left arm amputee and Myles a right leg amputee. They are both members of the War Amps Child Amputee (CHAMP) program. War amputee veterans created the War Amps in 1918, its key tag service in 1946, and later, the CHAMP program.

Since 1975, thousands of child amputees have received financial assistance for their artificial limbs through CHAMP and have attended regional seminars where they learn about growing up as an amputee.

“Because he just turned five, he’s starting to ask, ‘Why was I born like this?’ and we tell him that while Ryley was born missing part of his arm, he was born missing part of his leg. We’re all different.”
— Rebecca Newton

For the past couple of years, Ryley and Myles have laid a wreath together at their local Remembrance Day ceremony on behalf of the War Amps Operation Legacy. By doing this, they pay tribute to the sacrifices of the war amputee veterans who started the association and remember all who have served.

Ryley’s mom, Crystal, says it is important for her son to mark Remembrance Day by laying a wreath.

“It’s to help spread the word and help people remember what the veterans sacrificed for us, and with that, the War Amps was started.”

Rebecca, Myles’ mom, agrees.

“To know that veterans were part of creating the CHAMP program, which we are so grateful for today, makes it important for Myles to have that connection.”

It was at a War Amps CHAMP seminar, an annual regional event for child amputees and their parents, that the two boys met for the first time without a fence separating them.

Ryley has attended many seminars and Crystal describes them as a powerful experience.

“It put us at ease to know that he was going to be okay,” she said. “The War Amps has supported us emotionally and supported Ryley to do things like any other child.”

But the boys’ friendship extends beyond the seminars and Remembrance Day. Rebecca says Myles looks up to Ryley, who often plays hockey on their backyard rink in the winter. To see Ryley not letting his amputation stop him from being active reminds Myles that he too can do anything he sets his mind to.



Myles (left) and Ryley lay a wreath on behalf of The War Amps.

Photo submitted

“Because he just turned five, he’s starting to ask, ‘Why was I born like this?’ and we tell him that while Ryley was born missing part of his arm, he was born missing part of his leg. We’re all different,” says Rebecca.

The two families get together as often as possible, and while Myles and Ryley play, the parents can exchange advice.

“I’m really grateful for the CHAMP seminar that brought us together and the friendship that the boys have formed since then,” says Rebecca.

When war amputee veterans started the War Amps nearly 100 years ago, they could not have predicted that their legacy would be remembered and carried on for years to come by young amputees like Ryley and Myles.

Thanks to the public’s support of the key tag service, the War Amps vital programs for amputees across Canada will continue long into the future.

OBITUARY

**Jack Lewis
1939 - 2017**

It is with heavy hearts we announce the passing of our father Jack (John) Lewis Oct. 23. Jack was born John Lewis to John and Lily Lewis in Birmingham, England on May 11, 1939, the oldest of 11 children. He embarked on a journey to Canada in May 1953 aboard the TSS Columbia and took up residency in Virden, where he farmed with his uncle until the farm was sold.

In 1959, with no real life direction and without giving it much thought, he walked into the recruiting office in Winnipeg at the age of 20 and joined the Canadian military. It would not be until 1965 that he would become a Canadian citizen. Jack would meet his future bride while on leave in Birmingham on what Jack described as a stormy night. He asked Doreen to dance and little would they know that night would be the first night of many nights dancing throughout their married life.

In February 1963, Doreen and Jack were married in Edinburgh, Scotland. They would return to Canada and settled in Winnipeg, where their first child was born. Jack was a wonderful photographer and his capturing of his son’s first year of life was evident in the family photo albums. Jack and Doreen would go on to have three more children.

During his time in the Canadian military, he was posted to Germany, Winnipeg and CFB Shilo. He was also a part of two peacekeeping missions to Egypt and Cypress. Dad retired from the Canadian Forces in 1989 and worked for a couple of years at odd jobs until he fully retired.

It was in the early 70s that Jack found the hobby that kept both Doreen and himself busy for three decades. Jack’s love of square/round dancing and calling took both Doreen and himself across the province, Canada and North America as they taught and led many a square and called at many a jamboree. They met many friends during this time and built some wonderful memories.

Jack also enjoyed his summers at the trailer at Pelican Lake, where he tinkered with whatever needed doing. Jack was well known for his ability to scrounge, barter and trade. He was also a collector of things and nothing gave him greater

joy than building a bike for a child who needed it and giving it to them expecting nothing in return.

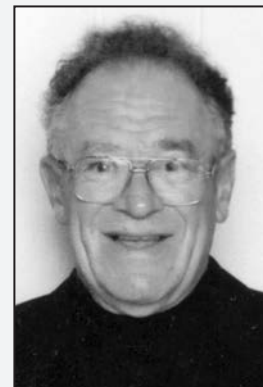
Jack’s life was a life well-lived. He was able to travel extensively and talked most fondly about the times he spent cruising on the ships his son’s worked on. He took great pleasure in sitting at the captain’s dining table and helping out with the on-board dance classes. Jack took an active role in looking after his granddaughter Sarah, as the two spent many hours together learning from each other. He was always willing to offer a helping hand and was known for his outgoing persona.

With his health declining, Jack moved to Carberry, where he lived in the lodge for a few years before his final move to the personal care home. Jack never complained about his situation and as long as there was a hot cup of coffee available and a place to have a smoke he was content.

Jack was predeceased by his father John, mother Lily, brother Steven Paul and his wife Doreen. Left with empty places in their hearts are his children Jamie (Katie), Elaine (Michael), Andrea (Gord) and Adrian (Holly). He will also a special place in the hearts of his grandchildren Kyle and Quinn (Marc), Sarah and Baylee, Shya and Bodhi and great-

grandson Jordan. Also left to cherish his memory are his siblings George, Anne, Michael, Bernard, Christine, Jane, Peter, Tom and Simon and their spouses and children.

Cremation has already taken place and a celebration of life will be held at a later date. In lieu of flowers, the family ask that you make a donation on behalf of Jack to a charity of your choice. The family is extremely grateful for the staff and medical professionals at the Carberry PCH and hospital for looking after Jack so well and we are forever thankful for his last few years with you. We would also like to thank those in the community of Sprucewoods that helped prolong his time in his own home. Your kindness, generosity and genuine interest in Jack’s well being has never gone unnoticed nor will be forgotten. White’s Funeral Home in Carberry in care of arrangements. Call 204-834-2629. Visit www.whitesfh.ca



Grandchildren share grandfather's Great War scrapbooks

Jules Xavier
Shilo Stag

A veteran of the Battle of Vimy Ridge a century ago left his descendants a treasure trove of black and white photographs and memories he kept in scrapbooks.

Using his trusty Kodak film camera, Bill May took photos at the now defunct Camp Hughes when it was a hive of activity as Canadian soldiers trained on the prairies before heading overseas as members of the Canadian Expeditionary Force (CEF) during the Great War.

Each photograph tells a story as best Pte May could compose with the camera equipment of that era. Once printed off — usually in a postcard format where you could mail it after writing on the back, and placing a two cent stamp featuring King George V on it — he added to his First World War scrapbook.

One book called "One Man's Memories of WWI," May left remarks or identification of individuals he served with alongside the photo, or on the back. The scrapbooks also include postcards he sent home to the family farm in Millwood, the words scrawled in pencil or ink, that soldiers could purchase at Camp Hughes. These cards were taken by photographers working with Advance Fotos out of Winnipeg, or at the time Camp Sewell before it was renamed after MGen Sir Sam Hughes.

As you turn the pages it's like going back in time as you look into the faces of soldiers long gone, whether they died on the battlefields of Belgium or France, or returned home to raise a family and die as grandfathers on Canadian soil.

Like May, who died on Aug. 8, 1974 in Binscarth where he retired after leaving CFB Shilo. He was 82.

"He was meticulous in how he kept his scrapbooks," said grand-daughter Kathleen Mowbray (nee Schrot) of Minnedosa. "[Aunt] Margaret has held on to a lot of the scrapbooks, and photos, from her dad,



Cpl Bill May looks at his brother Harold having his hair cut in the Vimy sector at Houdain, France. He scrawled on the photo "Shorty cuts em down to size."

and we're now starting to share them with other family members."

Brother Kelvin Schrot thought it would be nice to share his grandfather's story with the *Stag* to coincide with Remembrance Day.

"I've learned things about my family I did not know since [the *Stag*] started looking at my grandfather's life, from being in the army to working on this Base for all those years," he said.

Born on April 8, 1892 in London, England to a family of eight brothers and a sister, Bill May was one of the first employees hired in Camp Shilo by the YMCA in 1940.

With his brother Harold, they arrived in Manitoba after their journey across the Atlantic Ocean brought them to Canada. With outset of the First World War, May first married Grace Murdoch and started a family.

Brother Harold enlisted first, with the Winnipeg Rifles, and began training at Camp Sewell. In a postcard letter sent to his brother written on July 23, 1915, he wrote: "You got the [address] all right, but you did not put 'Man' on it and it went way down to Montreal. What do you think of the picture taken outside the tent?"

The postcard shows seven soldiers, including Harold, standing in front of military-issued blankets on the ground outside of their tent.

May would join his brother at the renamed Camp Hughes that same year as Canada prepared its soldiers for overseas, including the Battle of Vimy Ridge in 1916 that was being planned for April 1917. Both served with the 61st and 44th Battalions, the latter part of the scout section.

Writing postcard letters was the norm for May after he arrived overseas, with brother Harold and him posing for photos to send home to his wife "Betsy". In one written on Dec. 7, 1916, he wrote: "Just received three letters from you, written in Oct and 3rd Nov, a little late but nevertheless very welcome, will write as soon as possible in the meantime what do



This photo featuring Cpl Bill May (right) and his brother Harold (sitting) was taken just after Vimy Ridge was taken by the Canadians after the battle started April 10, 1917. The brothers often posed for the postcard portraits with the intention of using them to send letters back to Canada.

you think of your old pal, notice the aggressive attitude the same old ready for a row look eh, well dearest old girl hope you are all in the best of health and spirits, and that you have ... time at Xmas. I am glad you got the photos."

The photo in question on the front of the postcard has Bill May standing with a cigarette in his right hand, his brother Harold in a fur coat and a cigarette in his left hand, with a seated comrade wearing an army long coat.

Besides serving in the Battle of the Somme, both brothers fought at the Battle of Vimy Ridge, where Bill was wounded in the leg by shrapnel, while Harold received a nasty blow to his cheek, chin and shoulder after a bomb went off near him. According to Mowbray, he was passed over when the medics came for the wounded, thinking his

wounds were mortal.

"Three days later, he was found in the mud alive," she recalled. "He was taken to the hospital and was one of the first recipients of reconstructive surgery. [Harold's] zest for life remained until his death [on Nov. 10] in 1951."

May would recuperate from his war wound in the "massage department" of the military convalescent hospital at Woodcote Park, Epsom.

In a letter he wrote home, dated Aug. 8, 1918, there was not much information shared about his wound with wife "Betsy" as he recuperated: "... let you know I'm still kicking around here. Will soon be on [leave] pass am going up to see Scotts for a day or so. Up to Corsock."

May was referring to his road trip to the Village of Corsock in Scotland while he recovered from his shrapnel wound.

Following the war, after returning to the family farm, May would raise a family of seven, including three sons who all enlisted in the Second World War. Son Harold, 23, was KIA in Holland on Feb. 8, 1945. Eldest son Walter died in 1971 after saving a co-worker's life.

See **SCRAPBOOKS** page 8



Pte Bill May poses for a photograph with his wife "Betsy" and son Walter prior to leaving for the Great War overseas following his training at Camp Hughes.

Photos courtesy May family



Letter mailed from Belgium

Trooper Harold May KIA four months after writing family back home

"We are the Dead. Short days ago We lived, felt dawn, saw sunset glow, Loved and were loved, and now we lie in Flanders Fields."

— John McCrae

Jules Xavier
Shilo Stag

Trooper Harold May (H77402) from Millwood was in D Squadron, 18th Armoured Car Regiment with the 12th Manitoba Dragoons when he enlisted in the Second World War at Russell in June 1941.

The son of Bill and Grace May, he was born on May 24, 1921. He was working on the family farm with his father, a veteran of the Great War and participant 100 years ago at the Battle of Vimy Ridge. (See separate story on William "Ning" May on adjacent page).



HAROLD MAY

Prior to going overseas, the then 19-year-old May did his military training in Winnipeg, Camp Shilo, Victoria, BC, Camp Borden, Ont., and Debert, Nova Scotia. He headed overseas in August 1942 aboard the HMT Letitia. May arrived in Britain on Aug. 31.

Continuing his training at Bramley Park, May saw action on the battlefields of France, Belgium and Holland. It was during the battles near the Maas River, Wamel, Holland he was killed in action. He was in a slit trench with fellow troopers Bruce Sneesby and A.G. Fleet when a German mortar shell scored a direct hit.

All three soldiers were killed instantly, with Lt B.R. Goodday reporting to his parents back in Manitoba of his death on the battlefield. Lt Goodday told May's parents that "Harold was one of an exceptional group of men who served with the 12th Manitoba Dragoons.

May was buried with his comrades in the Groesbeck Canadian War Cemetery. May Island in northern Manitoba was named after him on Feb. 28, 1995. Prior to his death in February 1945, May wrote a letter to his sister Dorothy while "somewhere in Belgium" that was mailed on Oct. 29, 1944 following a check by Canadian military censors. The envelope also included a photo of Nicky, a woman he met in Belgium and called his "latest heart throb."

It would be the final letter home before his death four months later. He does not go into any detail regarding what he or his fellow Canadian soldiers are doing overseas. Military censors would blacken out any reference to troop movement overseas. That's why the reference to telling his aunt he was "somewhere in Belgium." Good penmanship, though there's a lack of punctuation.

The letter is in the possession of Dorothy's children,



Trooper Harold May met Nicky, his Belgium "heart throb" while serving with the 12th Manitoba Dragoons in the fall of 1944 during the Second World War. In a letter home, he enclosed a photo of Nicky (above) which he wanted placed in his photo album "for future reference." May would not make it home after the war, when he was killed instantly along with two comrades after a German mortar made a direct hit on his cover in a slit trench while fighting in Holland in February 1945. He's buried (below) in the Groesbeck Canadian War Cemetery.

Photos courtesy Schrot family



Kathleen Mowbray (nee Schrot) and Kelvin Schrot. She married their father Arthur Ewald Schrot, who is mentioned in the letter because he was also with the 12th Manitoba Dragoons' C Squadron.

After the war Schrot returned home and eventually found a job as a firefighter on this Base.

Son Kelvin, who turns 75 this month, has been on and around this Base for six decades, including 30-plus as a firefighter.

Schrot would have turned 100 Oct. 25, but died age 74 on June 7, 1992 and is buried in the military section of the Brandon Cemetery.

In the three-page handwritten letter May wrote:

Dear Dothy (sic). I'm in sort of a hurry so cut your name down a bit to save time. Looks good eh. Thought it was time I wrote to you again. Had a letter from Aileen same day as yours arrived. She's doing OK working in the post office at an airfield. I didn't write to her for about three months. Then started up again. She didn't ask any questions either so everything hunky dory. Told her you were asking after her but don't suppose either of you will write. They have six girls and four guys in the P.O. Told her I pitied the poor guys. Not sure wether (sic) I answered your letter or not, if I did, theres (sic) gonna be a lot repeated in this one. Will send you a photo of my latest heart throb, she isn't as young as she looks in the picture and her name is Nicky. Last name Bonamie or some such thing. Real French mademoiselle, but met her in Belgium. Can't understand English. Action speaks louder than words with her. Cute tho, don't you think. Put her in my album for future reference. Have a few more so might as well place that one away for safe keeping. Still haven't seen Ewald around must be hiding, I think. Binks and I meet now and again, and compare notes. Get all the gossip straightened out from home, till we meet again. Haven't met anybody else from around home but Robert Fowle (sic) and that was some time ago. Garnett was around at the time, but we didn't catch him when we arrived, he'd just pulled out for the front. Heard from chap once since he arrived over. If he had written about a day or so after his arrival could have seen him, but it so happened he didn't and I didn't. So neither of us got very far. He hasn't had a leave yet apparently, which is not so hot. I like the sound of the new teachers, must try and get back to see them, if for no other reason. My God what an increase in the population around there, eh. Well, old thing, suppose I'd better allez vous son and get some shut eye. Be kinda glad of it. Don't suppose Walt has found a homestead yet eh. Wish him luck. You might slip up behind Dick Heap when he isn't looking and kick his backside for me. You could tell him if he can write, to write to me. Don't think he can so won't worry about having to answer it. Well, cheerie, pip pip and all that good old Limey stuff ya know. If Kelly says Hello Joe to me he'll probably get it right back as that's what we say too.

Love & kisses Brother (his nickname)

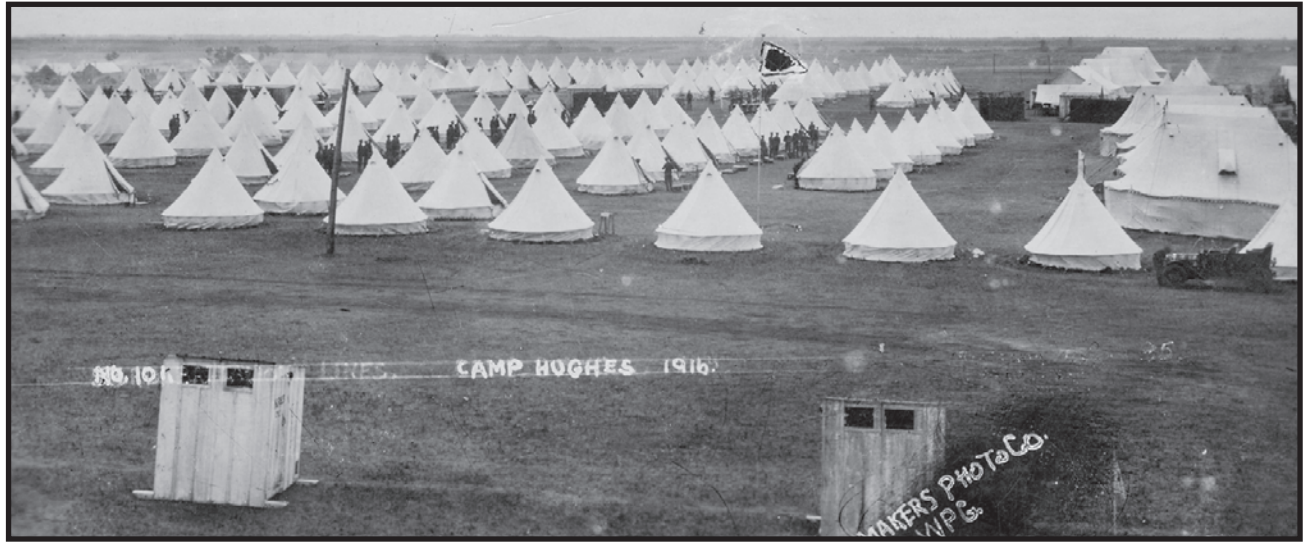
[PS] - Take care of Nicky (enclosed photo)



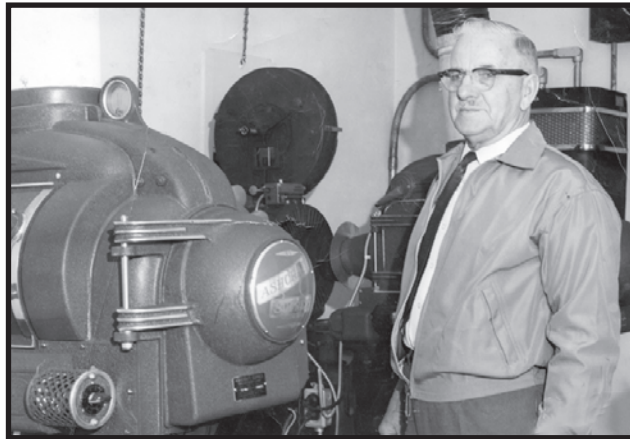
EWALD SCHROT



Nov. 3 7:30 p.m.
vs Kootenay
Nov. 4 7:30 p.m.
vs Kootenay
Nov. 11 7:30 p.m.
vs Saskatoon
Nov. 14 7 p.m.
vs Calgary
Nov. 19 4 p.m.
vs Swift Current
Dec. 6 7 p.m.
vs Regina
Dec. 8 7:30 p.m.
vs Medicine Hat

Bill and Harold May spent parts of 1915 and 1916 training at Camp Hughes before leaving for the Great War.



Bill May stands beside one of his projectors he operated at the Ubique Theatre (now L25) prior to his retirement in 1961. He had seven children, with his son Harold (second right) dying in the Second World War.



Both holding cigarettes, Bill (left) and brother Harold May, in his fur jacket, stand beside a comrade for another postcard portrait. Bill May takes a sip of water at Vimy.



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Scrapbooks tell story of Bill May's life

From page 6

After moving to Camp Shilo, his remaining sons worked the farm, while daughters Margaret, Joyce and Dorothy joined their parents in the new PMQs being built for military families after 1947.

In charge of the YMCA, May helped the soldiers training for the Second World War with movies, library, sports equipment, canteen service and the Legion. During this time, Camp Shilo also housed German POWs — they were tasked with cleaning on the army training base.

May's children attended the first Shilo school, with dad a member of the school committee. Enrolment that first day was 16. By 1948, enrolment was up to 130. Daughter Margaret was among the first Grade 12 graduates.

After the war, according to Mowbray, Maple Leaf Services hired her grandfather to manage the Ubique Theatre — now L25 — in 1946. Besides the projectionist, he was also the Base's Justice of the Peace starting in 1952.

Retiring on Oct. 12, 1961, and moving to Binscarth, May never slowed down. Mowbray said her grandfather was thrifty, and never owned a car. On the

Base he would walk or ride his bicycle. If he needed a car, he had friends who would lend one.

During Canada's centennial in 1967, May received the Order of the Crocus "in grateful recognition of this contribution to the welfare and development of Canada."

"It's a wonderful acknowledgement of what my grandfather did for his country, serving in the [Great War] and helping soldiers at Camp Shilo who were going off to fight another war," said Mowbray.

"He walked to church every Sunday, where he took up the offering. At the theatre, he often ran Rosie the Rivitor and Bless Them All reels. He enjoying singing old war time tunes, and simulating the bugle with his mouth. He was a strict disciplinarian and greatly admired. He had a fine sense of humour."

May's grandkids Kelvin and Kathleen said May was not one to share stories of the carnage from the Great War battlefields where he fought, but on occasion if he was sharing war stories with old comrades, if they listened intently they might hear something he did not readily share with the family.

Instead, his scrapbooks was something he would share thanks to the photos, postcards he collected.

Winter parking ban in effect starting Nov. 1

Shilo Stag

With the winter season approaching, G4 Ops would like to remind everyone on Base — both military and civilian — about the following Base Standing Order (BSO) about parking starting Nov. 1.

As per BSO 3.6 Vehicle Control and Movement of Personnel, the winter parking ban will be in effect from Nov. 1 to April 30, 2018.

According to Capt Patrick Sklavos of G4 Ops, this is a ban not dictated by snow accumulation.

Vehicles are to only be in authorized parking spaces. Moreover, ensure vehicles are parked accordingly. "Snow is a regular and real occurrence in Manitoba," he said.

"The Military Police will be contacted for all vehicles that are on the street. They are a major hindrance in proper snow removal."

This is what your BSO states regarding prohibitions for winter parking — the following restrictions apply:

- on-street parking is prohibited in all areas from Nov. 1 to April 30;

- recreational vehicles are not permitted to park in the Residential Housing Area (RHA) from Nov. 1 to April 30; and

• where weather conditions dictate BComd LCol Dave MacIntyre may extend winter parking and vehicle operation restrictions in writing. This notification shall be given widest distribution to all CFB Shilo organizations.

If you have concerns regarding winter parking on the Base, and want further clarification, contact Capt Sklavos at ext 3084.

An evolutionary Canadian Army

Maj Nicole Meszaros Stag Special

The Canadian Army (CA) has become more versatile in the post-Afghanistan environment.

It has been an evolutionary process to make this change and to ensure Canadians and our allies are aware of these efforts.

"We have to change the way the army is perceived by other organizations," said LGen Christian Juneau, Deputy Commander of the CA looking back over his tenure in this position.

"There is a perception that the size of our contribution to the mission in Afghanistan represents the only force employment model. In other words, some believe that the Army always deploys outside our boundaries with force packages of thousands of soldiers, hundreds of vehicles, etc. although we have the capacity to do so, the Canadian Army of today is scalable, agile, responsive, and versatile."

This means the CA can quickly deploy to meet any mandate it is assigned; it is capable of building ready-to-go teams of 10 soldiers and is also prepared to deploy a full brigade group if necessary.

For example, with Op REASSURANCE, the first rotation of CA members of approximately 120 troops was in Poland within days of the announcement of Canada's participation, which is testimony to the CA's present-day versatility.

"I am very proud of the Canadian Army's ability to deploy so quickly," said LGen Juneau. "This is a great example of our leaders being responsive and agile and of our troops' ability to be versatile."

There are more recent instances in which the CA has demonstrated its ability to adapt to specific mission requirements. We have a few Canadian Training Assistance Teams (CTAT) deployed in countries such as Jordan, Lebanon and Niger. These teams of 10 to 30 soldiers are engaged in delivering capacity building in counter-terrorism, logistics, etc.

We currently have more than 150 soldiers deployed to Ukraine. Their mission is to contribute to the Ukrainian forces capability development.

In essence, our contingent trains Ukrainian Force in individual and small unit tactics, techniques and procedures. Moreover, this summer the CA will lead a multinational Battle Group in Latvia as part of NATO's Enhanced Force Presence.

LGen Juneau has served as the Deputy Commander of the CA since July 2014 and upon promotion to Lieutenant-General April 28, he was also appointed Deputy Commander, Allied Joint Force Command Naples, in Naples, Italy this past summer.

BGen Carl Turenne, current Commander of the 5th Canadian Division, upon promotion to Major-General, was appointed as the new Deputy Commander of the CA.

For the next couple of years, LGen Juneau envisions the CA will have opportunities to increase interoperability with Canada's allies, a key objective.

"During our Afghanistan years, we worked predominantly with the Americans and the British — but with many other nations also. We developed command and control systems that worked at the time but interoperability is fleeting and must be worked at if it is to be maintained and improved."

Canada, he explained, will always work in a multinational environment and so interoperability will be key to the CA's success.

"The Canadian Armed Forces (CAF) must invest in technology that ensures our systems are compatible with those of our allies," said LGen Juneau. "This is a challenge, one that BGen Turenne will have to work at as he assumes the role of Deputy Commander, CA, under the excellent leadership of LGen Paul Wynnyk, Commander of the CA. When we buy or conceive systems, we must ensure they will work the systems our allies use."

Having served as the Deputy Commanding General for Operations with XVIII Airborne Corps in Fort Bragg, North Carolina, a highlight of his career where he was awarded the U.S. Forces Legion of Merit for his services, LGen Juneau's experience allows him to be an authority on such complex matters.

The CA will continue its high operational tempo with personnel deployed on missions around the world. This can only be maintained because of the high quality soldiers Canada produces.

"Canadian soldiers are second-to-none," said LGen Juneau, saying that they protect Canadians and their interests in a number of important ways.

He added, "Our ability to always answer the call for domestic operations such as natural disasters will remain steadfastly in place. When Canadians need us, the CA will be ready. When it comes to the service we provide to our nation, it is this of which I am most proud."

As the need for well-trained, well-led, and well-equipped soldiers remains in place, the future is bright for the CA.

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Where's Willie?

Somewhere on the pages of this *Shilo Stag* is a picture of Willie, the Wheat Kings mascot. Tell us on what page, in what particular advertisement Willie was found and correctly answer the following skill-testing question for your chance to win two tickets to an upcoming Wheat Kings home game in Brandon.

Entry Form

Name: _____

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Answer skill-testing question:
Who won the annual United Way Base chili cook-off?

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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Doors open at 6:15 p.m. Movie starts at 6:30 p.m.
For more info, call the community recreation office at 204-765-3000 ext 3317/3588



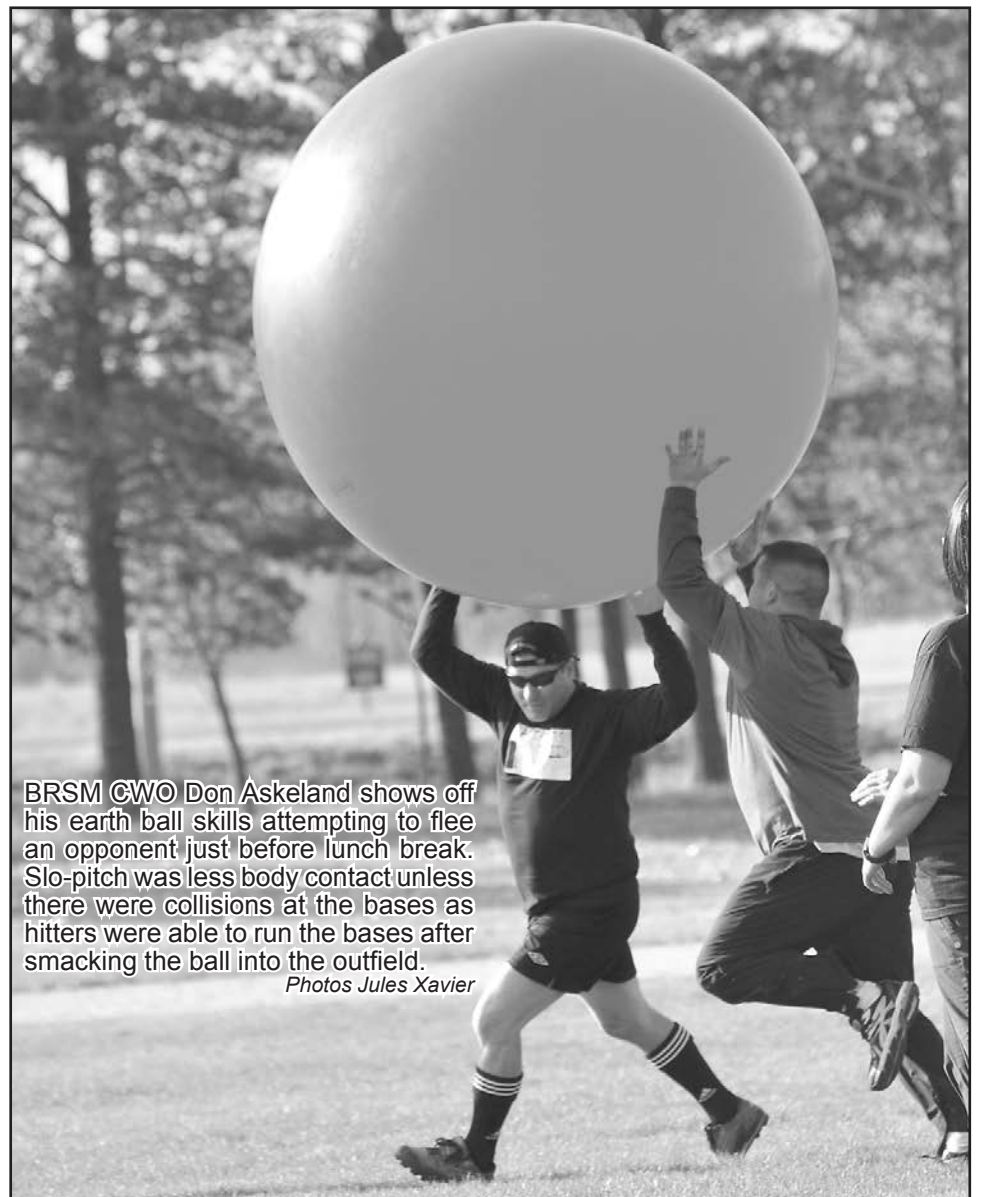
United Way
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Finish Line Lunch

Friday, November 17th
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\$5 gets you an open-faced pork sandwich, french fries, and a side of coleslaw.

Grand Prize Draw
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(entrant must be present to win)



BRSM CWO Don Askeland shows off his earth ball skills attempting to flee an opponent just before lunch break. Slo-pitch was less body contact unless there were collisions at the bases as hitters were able to run the bases after smacking the ball into the outfield.
Photos Jules Xavier

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Shilo, MB

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100 person reception to follow game at the officers mess
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Contact Ian Taylor at shilohockey@hotmail.com or text 204-721-0823 for more info



Earth ball generates laughs, bruises during CAF Sports Day in Canada

Melissa Green
Stag Special

The fifth annual CAF Sports Day in Canada was held Oct. 20 at CFB Shilo. The day started off with a five-kilometre outdoor run, with approximately 150 soldiers participating.

Weather co-operated allowing the outdoor slo-pitch and earth ball tournaments to commence, with six teams participating. Four of these were on the Base side, while 1RCHA and 2PPCLI each field a team with soldiers who were not away on deployment to Latvia or at CFB Wainwright for Ex .

A round-robin tournament had 10 games of slo-pitch and five games of earth ball resulting in a day of team cohesion, physical activity and many laughs.

Bragging rights went to Base Maintenance after that team accumulated a 4-1 win-loss record.

Melissa Green is the Base's recreation and sports co-ordinator

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Preparing for new gas island

CANEX manager Rick Kehler expects the new ESSO branded fuel pumps to reopen Nov. 6. That's not the only news coming out of your Base shopping centre. Brightside Dental Care has a new dentist, with Dr. Mather serving patients Wednesday and Thursday. A new pharmacy should be in place by Feb. 1, while the mall's corridors will have a complete overhaul starting very soon. This will involve repainting the walls, woodwork, replacing the existing lighting, the hanging ceiling through the food court area, the lighting in the vestibules, repainting the vestibules, and replacing the flooring throughout. The tones will be in a very modern grays motif. This work will start very shortly, according to Kehler. The flooring will be the biggest 'job' and will be done during the least traffic, thus least impact on our operations. It will be done mostly during the Christmas block leave time frame of Dec. 18 to Jan. 8.

Photo Jules Xavier

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 10¢ for each additional word
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November 9 at noon

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 CAF, employees of CFB Shilo and the
 residents of the surrounding area.*

Services	Services	Services	Employment
 <p>St. Barbara's Protestant Chapel Sunday at 10:30 a.m. with Sunday school & nursery Padre Johnston - ext 3381 Padre Dennis - ext 3088 Padre Lee - ext 3090 Padre Neil - ext 6836</p> <p>Our Lady of Shilo Roman Catholic Chapel Sunday at 10:30 a.m. Confessions by appointment Padre Ihuoma - ext 3089 Padre Shanahan - ext 3698</p>	<p>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 gstele4570@gmail.com</p> <p>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.</p>	<p>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.</p> <p>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</p>	<p>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.</p>
<p>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. as of Oct. 16</p>			



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