



THE GARRISON COMMUNITY COUNCIL London & Region

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FEBRUARY 2014 NEWSLETTER



Meet and Greet: 12 February 2014 -11:30 hrs (lunch service begins)

Meeting Start: 12:00 hrs

Speakers: re Project Ojibwa: **Dan McNeil, Rear Admiral (Retired),**
Ian Raven, E. D. Elgin Military Museum

Lunch Menu: Garden House Salad with the Catering Company Signature Dressing
Turkey Vegetable Soup
Slow Roasted Beef with Au- Jus – Carved on site Horseradish
Red Skin Garlic Mashed Potatoes
Fresh Seasonal Vegetable Infused
Coffee and Assorted Desserts

SPEAKERS RE PROJECT OJIBWA: 12 FEBRUARY 2014

Dan McNeil, Rear Admiral (Retired)

Ian Raven, E. D. Elgin Military Museum

Retired Rear-Admiral Dan McNeil will be the keynote speaker at the Garrison Community Council meeting on February 12, 2014. Always a believer in the importance of a strong **Canadian Submarine Service**, McNeil will talk about the service's history, the important role our submarines have taken on for Canada and NATO, and directions for the future of the service that celebrates its first 100 years in 2014. As Project Coordinator of **Project Ojibwa**, he will also give a brief chronology of the **Elgin Military Museum's** project that brought





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Canada's first Oberon Class submarine HMCS OJIBWA to Port Burwell where it will be the centerpiece of the new Museum of Naval History. This incredible boat welcomed over 27,000 visitors during her first three months of operation in 2013. Dan will introduce the "Education in Depth" campaign which is designed to raise the funds necessary to build this spectacular Education and Interpretive Centre. For the first time, Ontarians will have a museum dedicated to teaching the history of the Canadian Navy with a special focus on the Cold War.

McNeil joined the navy in 1970 and served for 36 years including commands of HMCS *ASSINIBOINE*, HMCS *PROTECTEUR* and HMCS *HURON*. Promoted to Commodore in July 2000, he was responsible for Canadian Forces 'business planning' and 'capital investment' until he was seconded to the Foreign and Defense Policy Secretariat in the Privy Council Office in 2002. He was promoted Rear Admiral in 2003 and assumed the position of Senior Defense Policy Advisor in the Privy Council Office. In 2004, he was appointed Commander Maritime Forces Atlantic and with the re-organization of National Defense Headquarters and the Canadian Forces he became the first "Commander Joint Task Force Atlantic" in 2005 retiring from the Canadian Forces in September of 2006.

The Museum of Naval History: a Tribute to Canada's Cold War Warriors

In the next GCC Newsletter (March 2014), look for an excellent article on **The Museum of Naval History: a Tribute to Canada's Cold War Warriors**. The article includes several photos and has been provided by Melissa Raven, Director of Communications, Museum of Naval History, Home of HMCS Ojibwa.



Port Burwell, Ontario
Canada N0J 1T0



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SPEAKERS FOR 12 March 2014 GCC MEETING

Captain Bob & Mrs. Dayle Waring* will speak to the Garrison Community Council on the topic of Afghanistan: Logistical support experiences of ISAF Military Forces. Please join us at 11:30 am on Wednesday, 12 March when the lunch service begins. The meeting will begin as usual at 12:00 hrs.



SPEAKER ROSTER- 2014

Below is the program planning for the remainder of 2014. Please note these dates in your calendar.

*12 March 2014	Afghanistan - Logistical support experiences of ISAF Military Forces	Captain Bob & Mrs. Dayle Waring
9 April 2014	Presentation on Tunnelling	Joe Chaisson , WW I: Re-enactor
14 May 2014	London Police Services	Chief Brad Duncan
11 June 2014	Territorial Battalion Groups	L Col Joe Robinson
10 September 2014	COS 31 CBG – Present & Future	LCol Dan McLean
8 October 2014	HMCS Prevost & The Naval Reserve	LCdr Iain Findlater
12 November 2014 (Speaker and AGM)	WW II Battle of Ortona	LCol Joe Murray



31 Canadian Brigade Group



Commander's Column

An informal view of the Brigade's activities.

20 Jan 2014

This short article, normally penned by a member of the Brigade staff, will offer a casual look at ongoing activities in 31 CBG. Written with an intent to avoid heavy use of military lexicon, acronyms and abbreviations, the Commander's Column supports information sharing to groups with diverse backgrounds and will, hopefully, offer a less formal view of the Brigade overall, or the examination of specific issues or events. I welcome suggestion of topics you would like to see covered in these columns.

B.A Millman

Colonel

Comd



With the return to work following Christmas break, the staff of 31 Canadian Brigade Group Headquarters and the officers, non-commissioned officers, and soldiers of the Brigade's units face a wide variety of priorities that always come together at this time of year.



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The training program for many units has now focused on Winter Warfare, developing the skills to survive and operate under arctic conditions. Training with snowshoes, cargo toboggans, and a tent group kit that hasn't materially changed in over 30 years, many 31 CBG soldiers will learn to survive in extreme cold weather. Double-walled tents, holding five or ten soldiers in very close proximity, heated by a simple two-burner Coleman stove and lit by a Coleman lantern, become the standard living quarters in such conditions. When temperatures plummet, soldiers perform "stove watch" in turn, ensuring that precious source of heat remains lit and burning throughout each frozen night. Even with the stove battling the cold, double sleeping bags and insulated hoods are a necessary comfort and the walls of the tent may still be covered in a fine layer of crystallized ice by daybreak.

This winter survival skill set will be especially important for the troops that will be deploying to the Rankin Inlet area in February on the upcoming 4 Canadian Division Exercise: TRILLIUM RESPONSE 2014. 31 CBG, in particular the Commanding Officer and staff of the Grey and Simcoe Foresters, has been planning the exercise and the Brigade will provide the majority share of exercise participants. This exercise will be conducted in and around the Nunavut communities of Rankin Inlet (populations 2,577), Chesterfield Inlet (population 332) and Whale Cove (population 353). During the exercise, as a show of appreciation for local support, a Community Relations Day is being planned which may include vehicle and equipment demonstrations in all three communities.

In parallel with Winter Warfare training, the Brigade's units are continuing to support the attendance of soldiers on courses conducted by the 31 CBG Battle School. The newly qualified graduates from these courses will be ready in time to prepare for summer employment at the 4 Canadian Division Training Centre Meaford this coming summer, or on one of the many other tasks that the Brigade's soldiers fill each year across the



country. For those who fill tasks employing their new skills, it will confirm and reinforce that new training and they will be even more prepared to fill their assigned appointments in their units on return. This renewal of trained personnel at every level each year is an essential activity across the Reserves. The Reserves continuously face a high demand to train soldiers in a wide variety of technical and leadership skills every year. Steady, and sometimes high, rates of turnover are a fact of life in most Reserve units. This is caused, in part, by the youthfulness of the target population for new Reserve soldiers. Attracting a young Canadian who is in or just completing High School means that in the coming years they may be facing education or career challenges that compete with Reserve service for their time and energy. Some, invariably, leave the Reserves when scheduling or relocation limits their options to continue serving. That steady outflow of Reservists after a few years of training means an equally steady demand for new soldiers and new qualifications as they progress in their own Reserve careers.

While the training of soldiers is always a priority within the Brigade, the command and operations staffs of the Brigade and its units are busy at this time of year with their own tasks. With the approach of the end of the fiscal year, training plans and budgets are carefully managed to achieve intended objectives with the remaining resources, both financial and materiel. Simultaneously, each staff looks to the future as they plan the next fiscal year's training cycle. By now, each operation's staff has been working with the direction received from their superior commander, and available budget projections for the coming year. During January, each unit will be reporting on their intended plans through a series of "back-briefs" to the Brigade Commander. At their back-brief, each CO will present their training plan to the Brigade Commander to show



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that they are prepared to meet his expectations and achieve all of the tasks they have been given. In turn, the Brigade Commander will provide a similar back-brief to the Division Commander.

Once each CO's back-brief is accepted, unit staffs can begin working on the details of their plans, ensuring a smooth transition from the ending of one fiscal year and the commencement of the next. It should be a seamless transition for the Brigade's soldiers who, by April, will already be starting to think about their own employment opportunities for the coming summer.

The matching of personnel to summer employment opportunities is a challenge that will face each unit throughout the coming months. Often, the best tasks and positions are both identified and filled months in advance of the summer training season. Vigilance and a readiness to capitalize on such opportunities are needed by both operations staffs and individuals. The benefits of effectively matching personnel to tasks will be enjoyed not only by the soldiers, but also by the units who will see the return of soldiers, NCOs, and officers who have been challenged to employ and further develop their technical and leadership skills.

Whether it be the ongoing training cycle, preparations for the transition from one training year to the next, or the emerging priority of matching of troops to tasks for the upcoming summer, January is as busy a month for the Reserve units and personnel of 31 Canadian Brigade Group as any other. Refreshing as a Christmas break with friends and family may be, the Brigade always needs to hit the ground running in January. The many priorities of the Reserve training year demand it.





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31 SERVICE BATTALION

31 Service Battalion is a unit from the Canadian Forces 31 Canadian Brigade Group, a unique element of the Canadian Forces, whose task is to augment Canada's military by providing Combat Service Support soldiers.

31 Svc Bn is committed to achieving excellence in the following four Lines of Operation:

1. Operational readiness to respond to a domestic operation within 24 hours when Canadians are in danger.
2. Ability to operate effectively in Full Spectrum of Operations, especially a Warfighting environment.
3. Provision of a high standard of Technical Services to all CAF dependencies in our area of responsibility.
4. Strengthening the Battalion with a new regimental identity, strong succession plans, and recognition of *outstanding soldiers*.

31 Service Battalion has approximately 300 soldiers, both Regular Force and Reserve Force. The Battalion is organized into a Battalion HQ, a HQ Company, three Support Companies and a Technical Services Platoon. Battalion HQ, HQ Company, Technical Services Platoon and London Support Company are located primarily in London, with the other support companies in Windsor and Hamilton. The Battalion is made up of the former 21, 22 and 23 Service Battalion as well as parts of ASU London. 31 Service Battalion is one of the largest reserve units in all of Canada and has thrived in a time of great change and challenge. The greatest strength of the Bn is the soldiers who do the dirty and dangerous work in difficult conditions both in Canada and around the globe. 31 Service Battalion's motto is "Bellum est Cras" which translates as "The War is Tomorrow"; a reflection of the Battalion's commitment to preparing for and conducting operations of any nature, anytime.

CANADIAN CADET ORGANIZATION: REGIONAL CADET SUPPORT UNIT DETACHMENT LONDON

RCSU Central Det London is located in A Block at Wolseley Barracks. It has a full-time staff of 20, made up of Regular Force officers and NCMs, Reserve Force officers and NCMs. Its mandate is to support the Canadian Cadet Organization in Western Ontario.

The Canadian Cadet Organization which includes the Royal Canadian Sea Cadets, Royal Canadian Army Cadets and the Royal Canadian Air Cadets, is one of the largest federally-sponsored youth programs in Canada.

It is a national program for all young Canadians aged 12 to 18 who are interested in participating in a variety of fun, challenging and rewarding activities, the program's purpose is to develop in youth the attributes of leadership, engaged and active citizenship and physical fitness, all within an environment that stimulates an interest in the Sea, Army and Air activities of the Canadian Armed Forces.

Cadets are youth who take part in activities at a Cadet Corps or Squadron within their local community. These fun activities are designed to help youth become more self-confident, to develop leadership skills, to improve their physical fitness and communication skills, and to teach self-discipline through challenging training.





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Currently, there are 52,890 Cadets across Canada.

Some other interesting statistics about the Cadet Program are as follows:

- Total Number of Sea Cadets in Canada: 8,490; 585 in WOA
- Total Number of Army Cadets in Canada: 18,920; 1,954 in WOA
- Total Number of Air Cadets in Canada: 25,890; 2,229 in WOA

WOA has 92 Cadet Units, 13 Sea, 37 Army and 42 Air, located from Guelph, Hamilton and through the Niagara Peninsula, west to Windsor and as far north as Port Elgin.





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The Naval Reserve of the RCN



[The Naval Reserve](#), headquartered in Québec City, is made up of 24 Naval Reserve Divisions (of up to 150-200 personnel each) located across Canada. Its goal is also to help generate trained individuals and teams for Canadian Armed Forces operations including domestic safety operations as well as security and defence missions, while at the same time supporting the Navy's efforts in connecting with Canadians through the maintenance of a broad national presence.

The Canadian Forces Fleet School Québec (CFFS Québec) is the only school in the Royal Canadian Navy primarily oriented toward reservists. It considers trades training as its main field of activity, but is also involved in regenerative training.

Canada's Aviation Hall of Fame

Canada's Aviation Hall of Fame (CAHF) will induct four new members at its 41st annual gala dinner and ceremony to be held in Calgary, Alberta, on Thursday, May 29, 2014. The new members are:

- Clive J. Beddoe, founder of WestJet airlines
- Lorna De Blicquy, flight instructor and trailblazing advocate for the role of women in aviation
- Robert P. Engle, founder of Canada's Northwest Territorial Airlines



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- Fred Moore, a military and civilian pilot and administrator responsible for improving air force aircraft acceptance standards, as well as the use of weapons systems simulators and, later, a senior manager at Northwest Industries and Okanagan Helicopters

Canada's Aviation Hall of Fame inductees are selected for their contributions to Canada's development through their integral roles in the nation's aviation history. This year's inductees will join the ranks of the 212 esteemed men and women inducted since the hall's formation in 1973.



St Patrick's Day Irish Pub Night March 15, 2014 / 1 H Cavalry Fund

The 1st Hussars Cavalry Fund is used to further the interests of the 1st Hussars and to support the troops and unit beyond what the government provides. The Cavalry Fund supports the Regimental Museum and Association and has supported such initiatives as the Regimental History (published in 2004), the website (redesigned in 2013) and the Normandy Exchange, which began in 2013. This exchange brings two members of the Westlake Brothers Souvenir (Remembrance) Association to Canada to participate in our D-Day services and in turn, the Regiment sends two soldiers back to Normandy for their events. All of the money generated by the St Patrick's Day Function goes toward this exchange and the Cavalry Fund makes up the difference.

See the poster at the end of the newsletter (page 20) for the 2nd Annual St. Patrick's IRISH PUB NIGHT to be held Saturday, March 15, 2014 at Beaver Hall (Wolseley Barracks) from 8 p.m. to 1 a.m. with a live band (3 *Penny Piece*), Irish dancers and much more !





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THE 2nd ANNUAL ST. PATRICK'S

 IRISH PUB NIGHT 



PRESENTED BY THE 1ST Hussars

Saturday March 15th 2014

Beaver Hall (Wolseley Barracks) 8PM - 1AM

LIVE BAND  3 PENNY PIECE

 Irish Dancers

 *Corned Beef & Cabbage Served 8pm til 11*

All Proceeds go to 1st Hussars "BACK TO JUNO BEACH"

TICKETS - SINGLE \$30.00 COUPLE \$50.00 RESERVED TABLE for 10 \$225.00



*All cheques are made payable to '1st Hussars Cavalry Fund'
Tickets available at Officers' Mess or WOs' / Sgts' Mess*

Or Contact L.Col (Ret) Joe Murray (519 472-3260); Ron Janus (519 649-1947



2014 GCC EXECUTIVE

President:	Jan Delaney	1st Vice President:	Barry Sandler
2 nd Vice President:	Jack Scott	3rd Vice President:	Gerry Treble
Secretary:	Keith Roden	Treasurer:	Lynn Coates
Past President:	Heather Broadhead	Garrison Advisor:	LCol Dan McLean



We hope to see you on 12 FEBRUARY 2014 for the presentation on PROJECT OJIBWA by Dan McNeil, Rear Admiral (Retired) and Ian Raven, E. D. Elgin Military Museum....bring a friend! ... and also a reminder to see the March 2014 GCC Newsletter for the article and photos on **The Museum of Naval History: a Tribute to Canada's Cold War Warriors** provided by Melissa Raven, Director of Communications, Museum of Naval History, Home of HMCS Ojibwa.

