



THE GARRISON COMMUNITY COUNCIL

London & Region

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JANUARY 2014 NEWSLETTER



Meet and Greet: 8 Jan. 2014 -11:30 hrs (lunch service begins)

Meeting Start: 12:00 hrs

Speaker: Lieutenant Colonel Rick Phillips

Lunch Menu: Coffee, Chef's Choice

MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

On behalf of the Board of Directors I would like to wish you all a Happy New Year, and welcome to GCC 2014. I know you will enjoy the great lineup of guest speakers that have been arranged, and the comradeship of our monthly meetings. I look forward to seeing you at the Officers Mess on Wed. January 8th when our speaker (see details below) will be Lt. Col Rick Phillips, who will talk about his experiences in Pakistan during the withdrawal of the Canadian troops from Afghanistan

Sincerely,

Jan Delaney, President

Garrison Community Council

SPEAKER: 8 JANUARY 2014

Lieutenant Colonel Rick Phillips

Pakistan and the MTTF (Mission Transition Task Force) 2011

Lieutenant Colonel Phillips will introduce some of the geo-political issues in which Pakistan exists before discussing the mission in Afghanistan and his role from the Canadian High Commission in Pakistan. The MTTF mission was to count, clean, pack and ship all the Canadian materiel from Kandahar to either Kabul or back to Canada. Our footprint in Kandahar had to be completely eliminated; either by sale or donation to another country or locals, or by deconstruction and remediation. Lieutenant Colonel Phillips' role was to seek approvals for the movement of this materiel into and out of Pakistan, and to monitor its progress.



SPEAKER ROSTER – 2014

Below is the planning so far for 2014 ... more details to follow. Please note these dates in your calendar.

12 February 2014	Project Ojibwa	Dan McNeil, Rear Admiral (Ret'd) Ian Raven, E. D, Elgin Military Museum
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	LCmdr Iain Findlater
12 November 2014 (Speaker and AGM)	WW II Battle of Ortona	LCol Joe Murray

2014 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



31 CANADIAN BRIGADE GROUP- UPDATE



31 Canadian Brigade Group entertained a very special guest at Wolseley Barracks on the 29th of November 2013. For that day, an intensive training schedule was prepared and executed for a VIP guest sponsored by the **Children's Wish** program. Our guest started his day by being sworn in as an honorary member of the Brigade, after which he was fully kitted with CAPDAT camouflage uniform, boots and environmental gear suitable for the weather that day by the superb staff of the Clothing Stores.

After being inducted into the CAF, a short period of instruction to introduce the rank structure and drill completed his basic training. On to the infantry corps, the Regimental Quartermaster's staff of 4RCR showed our guest and his family the wide variety of weapons and field equipment used by the infantry soldier. Next came vehicles, led by the surprise arrival of a new model Light Armoured Vehicle by the generous staff of General Dynamics. After the LAV and an IMP lunch, our VIP was introduced to the very important roles of the Service Corps by NCOs of 31 Service Battalion, with a tour of a field kitchen and drives in both the MSVS and the G-Wagon. The vehicles dropped the family off at the Royal School Building, where weapons training continued in the Small Arms Trainer (SAT) under the tutelage of 31 CBG Battle School staff. The rapidity and consistency with which he hit balloons, falling plates and vehicles on the screen attest to a certain determination with his weapon (and possibly some video game experience). Finally, with our day winding to a close, our VIP guest finished his day with a brief tour of The Royal Canadian Regiment Museum. He was last seen heading towards the family car with a grin that was starting to look permanent.

As the year slowly comes to a close and the holiday season overtakes the training schedule, units turn their focus, however briefly, to **traditional unit activities**. In many regiments and units of the Canadian Armed

31 CANADIAN BRIGADE GROUP- UPDATE (continued)

Forces, and within 31CBG no less than elsewhere, the traditions of units sports and Christmas dinner form the last functions of the year. Sports at Christmas are often the opportunity to highlight the ever-present and good-natured rivalry between rank groups and the respective Messes. In the London garrison, this is the **annual game** between the Warrant Officers' and Sergeants' Mess and the Officers' Mess. Dedicated over the past four years to an ardent fan and supporter of the sport, the **4th Annual WO Yves Gagnon Memorial Hockey Challenge** was played on 13 December at Carling Arena.

While a casual reader may be think that this game omits the opportunity for the soldiers to participate, fear not. In each game, as happened this past December, each team was strengthened by the liberal inclusion of a few honorary members from the Junior Ranks' Mess. This not so minor addition offsets the WOs and Sgts' declining skills on one hand, and the officers' lack of skills on the other.

The game is a great release of tension of all sorts, and the healthy competition is culminated by the presentation of the losers' trophy at the hosting Mess that evening. This year, the WOs' and Sgts' Mess hosted the officers at the traditional "**At Home**" gathering, where the NCOs were delighted to commiserate with the officers over their deplorable loss on the ice. Similar events occur throughout the Brigade as units participate in similar competition, between Messes, or between sub-units. In each unit, award ceremonies are often included as part of the **Soldiers' Christmas Dinners**. These dinners are most often traditional Christmas turkey dinners and among the practiced traditions the Commanding Officers and Regimental Sergeants





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31 CANADIAN BRIGADE GROUP- UPDATE (continued)

Major lose their appointments for the day. The CO and RSM are replaced for the duration of the event by the youngest Private and the youngest Corporal, respectively. These two soldiers will hold the seats of honour at the table while the displaced CO and RSM lead the remaining officers and NCOs in serving dinner to the troops.

Christmas brings the opportunity for the Brigades soldiers not only to enjoy one another's company at unit events, but also to look outward. Across the Brigade, many units become involved in local efforts supporting toy collections and food banks to help the less fortunate. Among 31 Brigade units, those who have been active in this type of event include:

- The Argyll and Sutherland Highlanders of Canada competed against the Royal Hamilton Light Infantry in a Charity Hockey Game, at Copps Coliseum, Hamilton, on 15 Dec 2013. This event was open to public, for whom the admission price was a donated toy.
- The Essex and Kent Scottish led a Toys for Tots program in Windsor unit.
- 31 Signal Regiment collected and presented Foodbank contributions to the Stoney Creek Foodbank.
- 31 Combat Engineer Regiment delivered Christmas Care packages in St Thomas.
- Volunteers from London garrison units, including the 1st Hussars and the 4th Battalion, The Royal Canadian Regiment, participated in a Toys for Tots program that was, this year, coordinated from the HMCS Prevost Armoury.

Ending the year on high notes, both within their units and their communities, ensures our soldiers are ready to relax and enjoy the holidays with their families. With the return to training in January, most will be looking forward, with varying degrees of anticipation, to cold weather training which for some, will culminate in a training exercise planned for Rankin Inlet in February 2014.





Starbase London Report 2013



1. The Good News

- a) 29 Grade 6 students from John Wise Public School participated in Starbase at HMCS Prevost this year in May.
- b) Because of the teacher's "work-to-rule" shutdown it was March before the program was approved. Despite the short notice 15 schools applied.
- c) Faculty participation by GCC members was at an all time high with 10 members turning out regularly.

2. The Bad News

- a) The school curriculum has been changed. Our program was based on replacing five days of the curriculum with our hands-on approach.
- b) The school board wishes us to change our program to conform to the new curriculum with 3 of the 5 days to take place in the home classroom. Only two days would be in a military setting. Our goal of increasing the military imprint in the community would be seriously impaired by the reduced exposure.
- c) The GCC member participation would be decreased by the need to go to the individual schools for 3 days of the program.
- d) The approximately \$2500 annual costs of the program would better support the military by being directed to post-secondary bursaries,
- e) For those reasons, the Starbase London program is terminated.

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Chairman, Starbase London Committee
Garrison Community Council



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DAN McNEIL TO SPEAK TO THE GARRISON COMMUNITY COUNCIL- 12 February 2014

Retired Rear-Admiral Dan McNeil will be the key note 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 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.

GARRISON COMMUNITY COUNCIL STUDENT BURSARY AWARD RECIPIENTS 2013-2014

The GCC provided funds from membership fees to award financial support for Post-Secondary educational programs for 6 military personnel serving in one of the units in our London and area. (see next page)

2013 – 2014 Student Bursary Award Recipients



Corporal Miranda Angelini – 31 Service Battalion

Corporal Angelini works full time with the 31 Service Battalion. In her goal to become a Psychologist with the CAF she is currently enrolled in the Undergraduate Degree Program for a Bachelor's of Social Science in Psychology at Kings University College

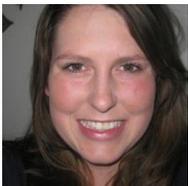
Ordinary Seaman Lindsay Baker H.M.C.S. Prevost

Ordinary Seaman Baker is a Resource management Clerk in the Ship's Office and Training Department at H.M.C.S Prevost and currently is in the last semester of a Masters of Library and Information Science degree at the Western University. In addition OS Baker works as a student library assistant at Western University and volunteers in the community.



Leading Seaman Kaitlin Braithwaite H.M.C.S Prevost

Leading Seaman Braithwaite has been with the Naval Reserves since 2008. Her military training has taken her to the 2010 Olympics, to relief work in Winnipeg during the 2011 floods, and to the Arctic Circle this summer. LS Braithwaite earned an Honours BA from Sir Wilfred Laurier University and is completing a Bachelors of Education at Nipissing University all while maintaining her military commitment.



Corporal Kim Phoenix – 1st Hussars

Corporal Phoenix is a proud member of the Reserves. Corporal Phoenix was deployed to Bosnia in 2003-2004 and upon redeployment has worked full time in the 1st Hussars orderly room. In 2007 Corporal Phoenix worked at Third Location Decompression Centre in Cyprus where she was part of the team tasked to help troops transition to home from Afghanistan. Corporal Phoenix is currently enrolled as a full time student in the Bachelor of Education program at the Faculty of Education at Western University.



Trooper Emily Putherbough -1st Hussars

Trooper Putherbough is enrolled as a full time student in the School of Kinesiology at Western University and intends to pursue a career in medicine. Trooper Putherbough is a competitive athlete and was active with the London Rowing Club and the London Ski Club and continues to take part in intermural teams. Tpr Putherbough is involved in community service projects in addition to her commitment to the military.



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2013 – 2014 Student Bursary Award Recipients

Corporal Stewart James Russell 31 Combat Engineer Regiment (The Elgins)

Corporal Russell is a third year PhD candidate at the University of Guelph studying molecular biology of reproduction in bovine embryos and has presented his experiments at research conferences in Brazil. Cpl Russell competes with the several ultimate frisbee teams and is striving to become part of the Canadian National team.

Corporal Russell is an effective public speaker and has been part of the reserve 31 Combat Engineer Regiment for the past seven years.



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GCC Student Bursary Programme -27 November 2013

RCN Warships and RCAF Participate In Task Group Exercise

Six Royal Canadian Navy (RCN) warships sailed from Halifax earlier participated in a Task Group Exercise (TGEX) off the Canadian Atlantic coast from November 25 to December 6, 2013.

This Task Group exercise was also a part of NORAD Exercise Amalgam Dart, proving interoperability between the Royal Canadian Navy, the Royal Canadian Air Force and the U.S. Air Force. "Such training strengthens ties and understanding amongst allies, improving our ability to successfully work together on operations." said Rear-Admiral John Newton, Commander Maritime Forces Atlantic.

RCN units participating in the exercise included Her Majesty's Canadian Ships Iroquois, Ville de Québec, Halifax, Fredericton and Kingston, and Her Majesty's Canadian Submarine Windsor. The ships were supported by CH-124 Sea King helicopters from 12 Wing Shearwater.

"Task Group exercises strengthen Canada's ability to work on a wide range of potential operations," explained Commodore Scott Bishop, Commander Canadian Fleet Atlantic. "Exercises like TGEX offer valuable training for the RCN to maintain readiness and deploy when called upon by the Government of Canada."



RCN Warships and RCAF Participate in Task Group Exercise (continued)

The Royal Canadian Air Force participated in Exercise Amalgam Dart, together with the RCN and the United States Air Force, from December 3 to 5, with the following aircraft: a CC-130 Hercules from 8 Wing Trenton, a CP-140 Aurora long-range patrol aircraft from 14 Wing Greenwood, and CF-188 Hornets from 3 Wing Bagotville, augmented by personnel from 22 Wing North Bay.

NORAD Exercise Amalgam Dart offered an opportunity to hone skills in intercept and identification procedures used to respond to any potential air threat, as well as air-to-air refueling procedures.



***We hope to see you on 8 JANUARY 2014 for
Lieutenant Colonel Rick Phillips' presentation on
Pakistan and the Mission Transition Task Force 2011.***

