

Please note that our 10 May GCC meeting will be held at the Wardroom, HMCS Prevost

- *Meet and Greet: 11:15 hrs*
- *Lunch service begins at 11:30 hrs*
- *Speaker 12:00 hrs*

May 2017 NEWSLETTER

Meet & Greet:

11:15 hrs 10 May H.M.C.S. Prevost, Officers' Mess

11:30 hrs lunch service begins (*Please bring a guest*)

Regular Meeting:

12:00 hrs meeting starts

Speaker:

Speaker: **Canadian: Captain(N) J.A.Offer, CD NAVRES Eastern Region Captain(N)**
(see page 2 for details)

Lunch Menu:



- Chef's choices will include:
 - Soup and Salad;
 - Soup and Sandwich;
 - Hot Entrée;
 - Dessert



Speaker: May 10 GCC Meeting - Wardroom H.M.C.S. Prevost

Speaker: Captain(N) J.A. Offer, CD NAVRES Eastern Region Captain(N)

A native of Prince Edward Island, Captain(N) Alan Offer began his career as a Naval Reservist at Her Majesty's Canadian Ship BRUNSWICKER in 1988, enrolling as a Maritime Surface Officer while pursuing a Bachelor of Arts degree at the University of New Brunswick in Fredericton, NB. Upon completing his initial qualification training and attaining his Bridge Watch-keeping Certificate, he returned to part-time Reserve service while attending university.

He returned to full time service in 1993, serving as a Company 2I/C at the Canadian Forces Recruit School in Cornwallis, NS. This was followed by sea-going tours including Deck Officer and Operations Officer in HMCS ANTICOSTI. During this time, he completed the Navigating Officer and Basic Mine Warfare qualifications and participated in an exchange posting with the Royal Navy's 10th Mine Counter Measures Squadron.

In 1996, Captain(N) Offer was appointed as Executive Officer, HMCS GLACE BAY. As Executive Officer for commissioning, he was responsible for all aspects of GLACE BAY's acceptance from the shipyard, fleet integration, and initial operational certification.

He was subsequently appointed Commanding Officer in HMCS GLACE BAY and HMCS KINGSTON in 2000 and 2006 respectively, punctuated by a command tour ashore in HMCS PREVOST, a Naval Reserve Division, in 2003.

Captain(N) Offer has also held a number of staff appointments ashore, including as Coastal Division Operations Officer in the Canadian Fleet Atlantic Headquarters, where his duties included the planning and coordination of the force generation and employment of multiple units within the Coastal Division over a wide spectrum of activities, including domestic operations and international exercises. In addition to this experience, Cdr Offer served with NORAD-US NORTHCOM Headquarters from 2009-12, where he worked in a demanding multi-national environment alongside regular and reserve force personnel from all four US Armed Services.

A graduate of the Royal Military College of Canada and the Canadian Forces College Joint Command and Staff Program, Captain(N) Offer's military education also includes the NATO Advanced Mine Warfare Course and the Maritime Warfare Command and Staff Course.

Posted to Naval Reserve Headquarters in August 2012, Captain(N) Offer served as the Assistant Chief of Staff for Personnel, Training, and Readiness until September 2014, then as Commanding Officer, Personnel Coordination Center Quebec. He then assumed his current duties as Eastern Region Capt(N) in July 2015.



President Thanking the April Speaker:

Dr. Ben Cecil, Chief Executive Officer, Canadian Centre for Product Validation is thanked by GCC President Doug Acton. The address was most interesting and a number of questions from the audience made for an active session.



Also from the April Meeting:



New GCC Member: Paul Culliton is welcomed “aboard” the Council



● CF Updates:

No Report at this time

GCC President's Comments

With Canada's Sesquicentennial, this will be a year of celebration and remembrance. Much of that will have a military component. April has been a case in point. By the end of April, I will have enjoyed attending three significant military events in London.

On 01 April, the Royal Canadian Legion Vimy Branch #145 put on what is believed to be the biggest event of its kind in Canada. The Battle of Vimy Ridge 100th Anniversary Gala Dinner at the London Convention Centre was a sit down dinner event for 1000 guests. This was an amazing commemoration

of a seminal event in Canada's developing national growth. It was the first time all four divisions of the Canadian Army fought together as a unit under the command of a Canadian General. The achievement was honoured and the sacrifices remembered.



It was an exceptional event with key organizational roles played by many Vimy Branch 145 Members who are also members of GCC. The GCC had two tables at the event and many GCC members were also in

attendance with parallel organizations. It was truly memorable and a fitting celebration of service. Bravo Zulu.



Vimy Legion Branch 145





Earlier that same day, an event occurred which epitomized the connection between the military and the citizenry. It was a pleasure to watch 4RCR parade and be

honoured with the Freedom of the City. The Mayor honoured the Regiment in a ceremony steeped in tradition and praised the members of the Regiment for their contribution to the life of the community.



The third event is about to occur as I write this. On 29 April, HMCS Prevost and the Naval Association of Canada, London Branch will commemorate the 75th Anniversary of the Battle of the Atlantic. There will be a parade and dedication ceremony at the memorial on the grounds of HMCS Prevost in the afternoon and a Gala Dinner at the Double Tree by Hilton in the evening.

Doug Acton
President
Garrison Community Council



GCC EXECUTIVE

President: Doug Acton

Treasurer: Barry Graham

1st Vice President: Geoff Hutton

3rd Vice President: Doug McAndless

Past President: Gerry Treble

Secretary: Beth Sayler

2nd Vice President: John Cook

Garrison Advisor: LCol Dave Fearon

Next Meeting: 10 May at the Wardroom, HMCS Prevost
*Bar service at 11:15 hrs. with lunch service beginning at 11:30 hrs.,
and speaker at 12:00 hrs.*

Captain(N) J.A. Offer, CD NAVRES Eastern Region Captain(N)
will be our speaker



*The Honorary Lieutenant-Colonel
And 31 Combat Engineer Regiment (The Elgins)
request the pleasure of your company at the*

*Change of Command Parade
and
Dinner*

from

Lieutenant-Colonel Scott Smith, CD

to

Major Blair Ashford, CD

*to be held at the
St Thomas Armoury
40 Wilson Ave
St Thomas, Ontario*

*Dinner - Saturday, May 13th, 2017
1830 for 1900 hours*

*Parade - Sunday, May 14th, 2017
Guests Seated for 1030 hours*

Parade Dress

Military: DEU #1A

*Civilian: Business Suit with Medals or
Business Casual*

Dinner Dress

Military: CADPAT

*Civilian: Regimental Blazer or
Business Casual*

Parade RSVP

By 28th April

519-631-3316 ext. 7513

Email: Rodney.Milburn@forces.gc.ca

Dinner RSVP

By 28th April

519-631-3316 ext. 7513

Email: Rodney.Milburn@forces.gc.ca

Dinner tariff - \$40

*Please mail your payment by April 28th to:
31 Combat Engineer Regiment (The Elgins)
40 Wilson Ave
St Thomas, ON N5R 3R2*

Cheques made payable to 31 CER Officers Mess

Seating is limited. Please reply early.