



Garrison Community Council

London and Region

Connecting

Winter 20 – 21

Happy New Year

As we start 2021 in a lockdown, it is hard to imagine a Happy New Year but it is indeed a happy time as Covid vaccines are on the way. There is hope that the pandemic may come to an end and that our normal lifestyles can start again.

It has not been easy to cut off human contact with family and friends. We are thankful for services such as Zoom that permit us to see and hear each other and to share experiences. However, the best of technology cannot compete with in person meetings and gatherings.

Dr. Fauci and others have provided some possible scenarios when life can return to normalcy. In regard to the meetings of the GCC, they will continue on Zoom for now and possibly to the end of Spring.

I wish to thank all of members who have attended our Zoom meetings. Your emails of appreciation and encouragement have given us heart and helped to keep us faithful to our purpose as a voluntary association.

A special thank you is extended to the members of the GCC Executive who worked hard and performed well at our special Christmas and New Year's celebration. To have this meeting and in the format that it took was an act of faith. We were pleased that you enjoyed this unique time together.

We are determined to carry on with the Zoom format and to provide informative and enjoyable meetings on a regular basis.

As you will see from this Newsletter, the GCC has continued to operate and function on your behalf. although a lot of our time and effort has been focused on communicating with you and the use of Zoom.

We must never give up the fight in our battle with Covid – 19. We know from past conflicts that with faith, hope, determination and sacrifice this battle will also be won.

Tom Dean

President

London Garrison continues to deliver training to Canadian Army Reserve soldiers from across Southwestern Ontario

Lt (N) Andrew McLaughlin, Public Affairs Officer, 31 Canadian Brigade Group

As we stand ready to respond to potential crises, both at home and around the world, our training of new recruits who have stepped up to the task of serving Canada continues.

Here, the finer points of dress, drill and deportment are instilled in candidates on Basic Military Qualification 0889 at Wolseley Barracks in London on November 28, 2020.



Good News for 427 Wing

According to an article in the London Free Press, the 427 Wing received from the veteran's organization emergency support fund the sum of \$41,000.00. The money will be used to offset operational costs and daily expenses.

The 427Wing is in a former canteen of a Second World War flight training school at London International Airport. The building has over 100 model aircraft hanging from the ceiling. It also houses Secrets of Radar and the Spirit of Flight aviation museum. It is truly a unique historical gem in London.

The funding is important to the 427 Wing, but more support is needed to ensure the preservation of the historic canteen, artifacts and museums.

The GCC has periodically had the privilege of holding meetings at the 427 Wing where we have been graciously welcomed.

Christmas and New Years with the GCC

Some screenshots of our special celebration taken by GCC Quarter Master, Gary Nash.



FREE PUPPIES

Mother is a Kennel Club registered German Shepherd.
Father is a Super Dog, able to leap tall fences in
a single bound.

Saab Offer Includes Jobs Boost to Quebec

By Vincent J. Curtis

At the Aero Montreal Innovation Forum 2020 conference, Saab AB revealed part of its proposal for Canada's Future Fighter Capability Project. Saab's proposal will include the creation of two new innovation centres to be located somewhere in the greater Montreal area.

One center will be called the Gripen Center, while the second will be named the Aerospace Research and Development Center. The proposed Gripen Center will be devoted to the support, sustainment, and upgrade management of the 88 Gripen E fighter aircraft that Saab hopes to sell to Canada to replace the aging CF-18 Hornets. The work of the Aerospace R&D Center will be directed towards the development, testing, and production of Next Generation (NG) aerospace systems and components that may include: UAV's, artificial intelligence (AI), and "environmentally friendly aviation technologies."

Several thousand long term jobs in high technology were promised in SAAB's proposal.

For this project, Saab will partner with CAE, Peraton, GE, and IMP Aerospace and Defence.

In making the announcement, Saab President and CEO Micael Johansson, noted that Saab has been invested in Canada for nearly thirty years, and those three decades of cooperation includes such projects as the combat management system for the Halifax-class frigates of the Royal Canadian Navy. Johansson also pledged that the future fleet of Canadian Gripen E fighters would be "built, supported, sustained, enhanced, and upgraded in Canada by Canadians."



Johansson described Saab as a Defence and Security company which focusses on innovated affordable military capability. With security threats growing rapidly around the world, Saab commits twenty-five percent of its annual revenue to R&D.

Saab was tight-lipped about much of the rest of their overall Future Fighter proposal to the Canadian government. They did not specify exactly where in the Montreal area the closely related innovation centers would be located. Saab was also not willing to reveal the estimated cost of their fighter jet replacement proposal, (neither the per-unit cost nor the overall project cost). If acquired by Canada, the Gripens would be assembled by IMP Aerospace and Defence at their facility near Halifax, Nova Scotia.

Open sources indicate that the Gripen E would be powered by the same GE F414G engine that motivates the Super Hornet.

While several hundred Gripens have been produced since the JAS-39 was introduced in 1993, Saab admitted that fewer than ten of the E model have actually been produced anywhere in the world. The Saab plant in Brazil began building Gripen E and double seat F models in the summer of 2020. They are to build 36 Gripens for the Brazilian Airforce.

Indicating that it well knows the politics of Canadian defence procurement, Saab is offering lucrative incentives for the Montreal, Quebec based aviation sector should Saab be selected to supply the 88 replacement fighters for the CF-18 fleet.

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FOUR NEW MEMBERS

The GCC was pleased to welcome four new members. They are

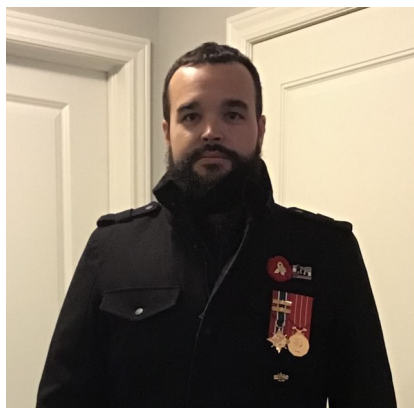


Jeff Topping
Executive with McDonald's
Canada



David Wyatt
Retired

Tobin Simcox
Retired M/Cpl



Matthew Wilson
Real Estate Lawyer
Siskinds



Web Site

The GCC Executive along with our consultant, Past VP Dave Barton, met, via Zoom, with Kevin Patterson our Website Manager, to review and initiate steps to update the GCC Website.

The new site is to have a modern look and feel.

It is also to be inviting and non-threatening to the users.

Kevin was authorized to proceed with the initial steps and to report back to the Executive.

The Bursaries

For some years now the Garrison Community Council with the support of General Dynamics Land Systems has been providing a bursary program for Reservists of the London area units of 31 Canadian Brigade Group and HMCS Prevost who are attending or intend to attend post-secondary educational institutions.

The response to our call for applications was significant. There was a total of 18 applications. These were forwarded to a panel of eight judges for evaluation. Based on the comments from the adjudicators and the time taken for the assessments, the quality of the applications, and thus, of the Reservists themselves, was extremely high. Notwithstanding, the judges had to make decisions. Regrettably, we had only four \$1,000 bursary awards available.

Associated with the Bursary Programme, we have two other awards that can only go to bursary award winners. The Tom Lawson Award of \$100 was established in honour of Col Tom Lawson, a founding member of the GCC and a well-known figure in London. The award recipient must have made a noteworthy contribution to charitable work in the community. The second award of \$100 is named after Dr. Don Bondy, a noted and retired medical professor emeritus at Western. The award is given to a bursary award recipient who, while pursuing post-secondary studies, demonstrates a commitment to future service in the Primary Reserve and/or Regular Forces.



Bursary Recipients



2Lt Niall Murphy - The Elgins



A/Slt Emma Pearson - HMCS
Prevost



NCdt June Chen - HMCS
Prevost - Col. Tom Lawson
Award & Dr. Don Bondy Award



NCdt Noya Ali—HMCS Prevost

Presentation via Zoom to Prevost Bursary Recipients

Through the imagination and efforts of CPO Amy Rooney and LCdr Derek Niles, we were able to present the bursary cheques to the three recipients from HMCS Prevost on a Zoom gathering. (Past Pres. Geoff had earlier delivered the cheques to the Prevost)

This was a unique way for the bursaries to be presented. Pres. Tom and Past Pres. Geoff spoke on behalf of the GCC. GCC representatives wore ties (first time for a long time)!

The presentation was well organized and was appreciated by the GCC.



GCC Meeting of Nov. 4

To avoid any conflict with Remembrance Day, our Nov. meeting was advanced to Wed. Nov. 4. Our speaker was Dr. Graham Broad, an Assoc. Professor in the department of history at Kings University College. He presented an informative talk on the home front during World War II.

Some screenshots from this meeting are below.



Meeting—January 13, 2021

Chief Neal Roberts heads up the Middlesex-London Paramedic Service.

The service provides 24 hour emergency and non emergency pre-hospital medical care and transportation to individuals experiencing injury or illness.

The service has a complement of 37 ambulances serving London and Middlesex.

Relevant to today's world.



GCC Meeting on Wed. Feb. 10

Our guest speaker will be Mr Jean-Francois Joly. Regional Director Incident Management, at the Canadian Coast Guard

Note: This meeting will also be our Annual General Meeting (AGM) following the presentation of Mr. Joly



Kinda starting to understand why pets try to run out of the house when the front door opens



In other news...the Seven Dwarfs have been advised that they can only meet in groups of six. One of them isn't Happy.

