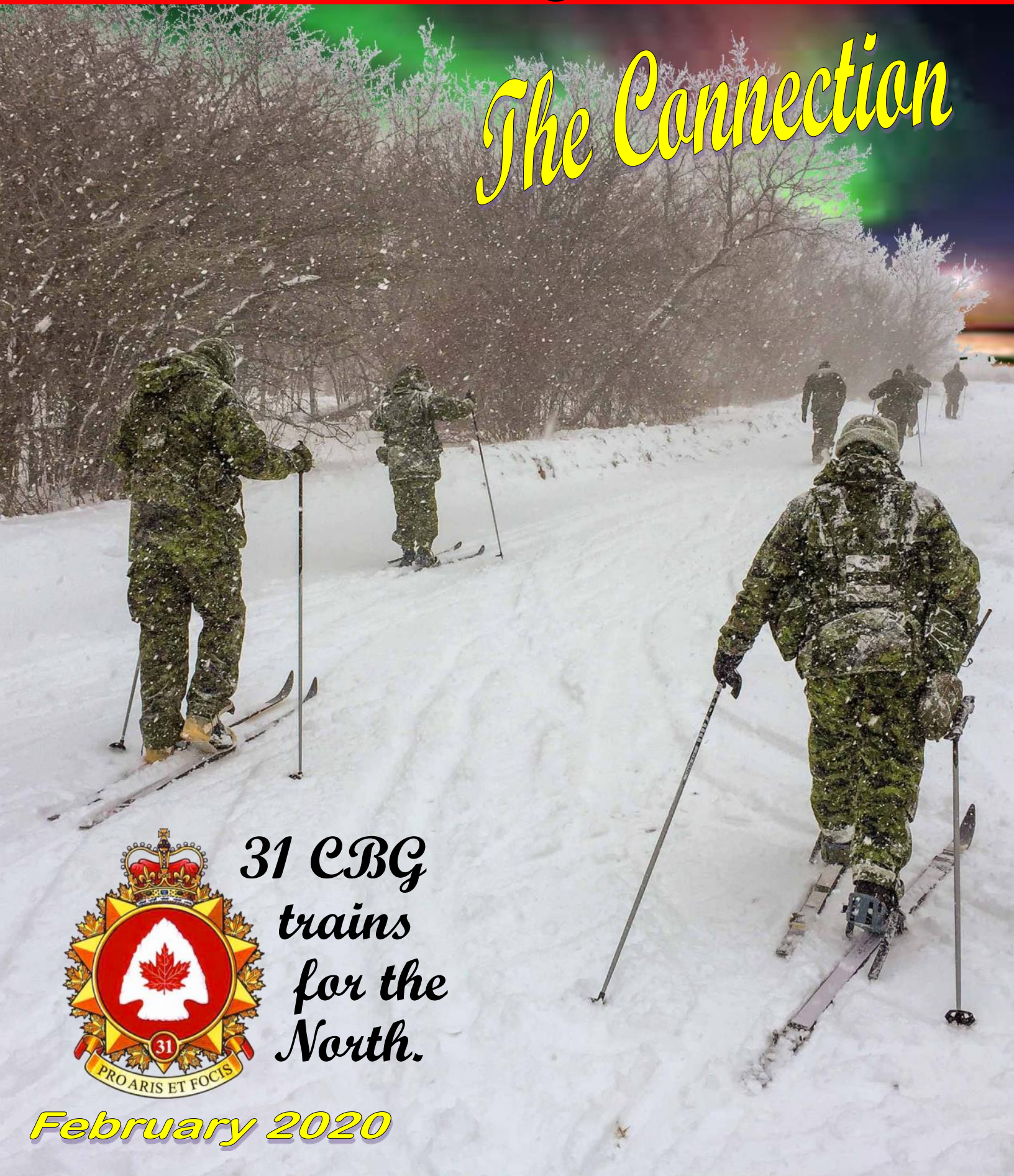




**THE
GARRISON COMMUNITY COUNCIL
London and Region**

www.gcclondon.ca

The Connection



**31 CBJ
trains
for the
North.**

February 2020



The Garrison Community Council

Building Closer Connections Between Canadians and our Military



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FROM THE EDITOR

The start of a year brings out a natural urge for creativity and initiative. From a media and communications perspective, my thinking is about how we can best use our magazine, website and any modern "ways & means" to support our *raison-d'être* of building closer connections between Canadians and our Military. May I ask all of you to give a thought to spreading-the-word and how we can better reach into the community beyond our Membership?

We seem to be satisfied with the form and content of **The Connection**; let's get it out beyond the GCC. Please feel free to send it to people you know who might fancy a read or have an interest in the content. And I am always looking for suggestions to make it a more interesting publication so don't hold back ear bashing.

It is difficult for any organisation to have a meaningful reach into a community without a good website; one that catches and holds the reader's attention, is easy to navigate and tells the story in a dynamic way. A modern website is on our 2020 To Do List. I would very

much like your help with this one. It's a project that will need a touch of management, a good measure of creative thinking, a dash of flair and a large lump of enthusiasm. Who would like to get involved? Come have a chat ...

See you at the AGM.

Dave Barton



You are most welcome to join us

Like reading The Connection? Perhaps you have come to a meeting as a guest, enjoyed our monthly speaker and had a chat with some of the members.

The GCC holds monthly lunch meetings that include guest speakers on a range of topics such as military history, current issues and subjects of topical interest.

For a membership application, e-mail us at -

garrisoncommunitycouncil@gmail.com



... or just come to a meeting



On The Front Cover

Soldiers of 31 Canadian Brigade Group train for Arctic deployment. See Page 10. **Page 2**



IT'S THAT TIME AGAIN



The GARRISON COMMUNITY COUNCIL London and Region

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

12 February 2020
Wolseley Barracks

Meet & Greet	11:15	Officers & Warrant Officers/Sergeant's Mess
Lunch	11:30	
Annual General Meeting	12:00	No speaker this month. Updates from Navy & Army.

We need to know the numbers to arrange the tucker (food)
Please advise your attendance to Beth Sayler by e-mail (garrisoncommunitycouncil@gmail.com) by 11:00 am the MONDAY prior so we can arrange sufficient lunches. *You also need to indicate whether you want a wrap or a sandwich.*

The GCC Executive (until 12 February 2020)

President:	Geoff Hutton	Secretary:	Beth Sayler
1st Vice President:	Tom Dean	Treasurer:	John Martin
2nd Vice President:	Dave Barton	Past President:	Doug McAndless
3rd Vice President:	Randy Harden		





From the President

The Annual General meeting of the Garrison Community Council is on 12 February 2020. While all AGMs are important for effective operation of any organization, this year's AGM is especially so.



Over the course of the last 16 months, your Executive has made concerted efforts to reinforce our mission of building the connections between the civilian and military communities. Our efforts have been focused on making certain that the relationship between the GCC and the naval and military units of London region remains positive and strong. We have also made efforts to enhance our support of the Military Family Resource Centre, an organisation that does much to support military families, especially when the soldiers and sailors are deployed. And, as is well known, the GCC provides a limited number of bursaries for Naval and Military Reservists.

While we have been diligent in our external efforts, the Executive has also been keen on updating our organization. Much of the need for modernising came to light following our tour to the Ontario Regiment Tank Museum in Oshawa last May. While all went smoothly, in doing a post event assessment, we concluded that our current structure exposed us to potential legal risks had there been an accident. Consequently, under the guidance of 1st VP Tom Dean, we are in the process of establishing the GCC as a Not-for-Profit (NFP) Corporation within Ontario. Becoming a NFP will require the GCC to restructure to reflect the requirements of the Ontario Government. Besides lessening litigation risks, there are other advantages to having the GCC as a NFP including restructuring and other matters. These will be touched on during the 1st VP Report at the AGM.

Concurrent with the work on the NFP status, a reworked budgeting and accounting system has been developed. The 2nd VP, Dave Barton, with the assistance of several others and the Executive, considered what would be the optimal way of managing our funds pursuant to the requirements of a NFP organisation as we move forward to incorporation. As a result, a revised budget planning structure has been developed. The new budget will be explained at the AGM. Concurrently, with the assistance of our new Treasurer, John Martin, a new accounting system is being put in place. Building on the past, we have taken the opportunity of the NFP activity to advance our approach to fiscal management. The membership will receive a copy of the Executive endorsed FY2020 Budget by 10 February so you can look it over prior to the AGM.

The AGM is always a milestone in any organization. It is no different for the GCC. After four years of being our Treasurer, Barry Graham has decided to hand in his books. He has had a long run and all of us thank him for his years of service. John Martin, a new member and an experienced bookkeeper, has agreed to assume the position of Treasurer. Concurrently with Barry leaving, our Secretary, Beth Sayler, has asked to be relieved from her post due to work pressures. Fortunately, she will help out for a short transition period. However, we must now get on with finding someone to take on the post of Secretary. Volunteers are welcome!

In accordance with our Constitution, the AGM is when Executive members change roles. The 3rd VP, Randy Harden will be moving to 2nd VP while Dave Barton shifts to 1st VP behind Tom Dean who becomes President for 2020. For my part, I become the Immediate Past President.

As this is my final letter as President, I would like to offer my thanks and appreciation to all the members of the Executive for their hard work, tolerance and understanding. I am grateful to them and to all the members for your help over the year.

All the best

Geoff
Geoff Hutton
President



A Thank You to HMCS Prevost

Her Majesty's Canadian Ship Prevost has been very good to us over the years and continues to do so. The GCC has an excellent relationship with *HMCS Prevost* and she has been very supportive of our endeavours, offering their venue to us on many occasions and is an outstanding example of progressing our prime aim of building closer relations between the military and the community. In appreciation of their support, the GCC is most pleased to donate \$200 to *HMCS Prevost*.



GCC President Geoff Hutton presents LCdr Derek Niles with a cheque for \$200.

January's Speakers

Allan Eaton & Maribel Robles Ontario's Special Investigations Unit



Think of all the police shows you have seen on TV where a Special Investigations Unit, the SIU, has made an appearance. Of course we all know there is a huge difference

between what we see on the screen and real life. After listening to Allen tell us about the role of the SIU and relate actual cases, we clearly saw just how different the entertainment world is from the one we live in. Maribel, as the Affected Person Coordinator, added yet another perspective to that understanding. It is comforting to know that we have an independent Government body that helps regulate our law enforcement system and genuinely adds value to our Province.



Geoff thanks Allan and Mirabel and presents a token of our appreciation.





LCdr Derek Niles
Commanding Officer
HMCS Prevost



Col Joe Robinson
Commander
31 Canadian



Geoff Hutton
President
Garrison Community



Bob Warring
President
Royal Canadian Legion



Ian Haley
President
Royal London

NEW YEAR'S DAY LEVÉE 2020

HMCS PREVOST (Wardroom)



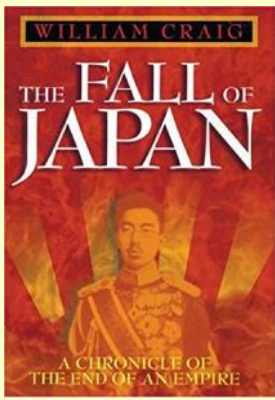
All photos by Tom Dean

This year's Levee was sponsored by *HMCS Prevost*, 31 CBG, the GCC, the RLMI and the Vimy Legion.



The word levée originated in the "Levée du Soleil" (Rising of the Sun) during King Louis XIV's reign in France (from 1643–1715). It was his custom to receive his male subjects in his bedchamber just after arising, a practice that subsequently spread throughout Europe. In the 18th century, the levée in Great Britain and Ireland became a formal court reception given by the sovereign or his/her representative in the forenoon or early afternoon. In the New World, the levée was held by the governor acting on behalf of the monarch. It was in Canada that the levée became associated with New Year's Day. The fur traders had the tradition of paying their respects to the master of the fort (their government representative) on the first day of the new year. This custom was adopted by the governor general and lieutenant governors for their levées. Today, the levée has evolved from the earlier, more boisterous party into a more informal gathering. It is an occasion to call upon representatives of the monarch, military, allies, and government. It is an opportunity to exchange New Year's greetings and best wishes for the new year, to renew old acquaintances, and to meet new friends. It is also a time to reflect upon the events of the past year and to welcome the New Year.





Our Book Review

By Dr. Paul Webb

William Craig, *The Fall of Japan – The Final Weeks of WW II in the Pacific*, 1967, Kindle edition 2016.

This is a classic account, though dated in several issues, of the end of the Japanese Empire. It is told from both the American and Japanese points of view, and gives a poignant description of the military and moral issues faced by both. Thus it is more diplomatic history than military, but it is very enlightening for soldiers

to see how their leaders have to deal with decisions resulting from years of bravery and sacrifice on the battlefield.

This is particularly relevant for the Japanese, painfully so. When Japan consciously decided to adopt Western ways in the 1860s it was to defend Japan from encroaching Western empires. This emphasized the role of the military, and hundreds of young officers trained in Europe, Britain for the Navy, and Germany for the army. Sadly, they married this training to the Samurai tradition of spartan morals, unquestioning obedience, and willingness to die for the Emperor. Most readers will be aware of how this army won many battles in the early years of war, and also how the armed forces contested every island and atoll against the Americans after 1942. There were few Japanese prisoners.

It all climaxed in August 1945. The Japanese High Command knew the war was lost. Their only hope was to fight one last Big Battle to prevent the Americans from invading, or advancing inland. Huge American casualties might force negotiations, and Japan might thereby save the Emperor, and avoid occupation. Ironically, this “Last Big Battle” was about the fifth one they had planned. None had worked.

Craig presents the internal Japanese struggle in poignant terms. We can be repelled by the Samurai faction, willing to see thousands die in futile defence, just so they could avoid the stain of surrender, but their internal tension is palpable. The army had been virtually independent since 1937, and peace minded politicians had been murdered before, so anyone who counselled accepting terms was in fear of his life. The two nuclear bombs, on Hiroshima and Nagasaki, were horrendous, and probably did push the Peace party forward. They even got the Emperor to direct his government to accept the Potsdam articles.

Most senior officers obeyed, though they planned suicide when all was done. The junior officers were not so agreeable. Still believing Japanese fighting spirit would prevail in the Last Battle, some plotted a coup. The line was that they would rescue the Emperor from the evil counsel of his corrupt advisors, and commit the country to a fanatical repulse of any American invasion. They got so far as to occupy the Palace grounds with a sympathetic regiment before some courageous senior officers put an end to it. More suicides followed. The acceptance of the Potsdam offer was radioed

soon after, but it was a near run thing. This is a very tense section, and not easy to put down.

Then came the occupation planning. The problem was that the government was not sure about the loyalty of diverse military units – would Americans be met with sporadic resistance from isolated “samurai” squadrons or troops? In

Our GCC member, Paul Webb was born and raised in London. He shared his time at Beck Secondary School with the 1st Hussars. Graduating with a BA (Honours) in history at King's College, UWO Ontario in 1966 and followed by a Masters at UWO the next year, he went on to postgraduate studies at Cambridge. He joined the Faculty at King's College in July 1970 teaching European history 1500-1945. Paul retired in 2016.



the end it went as well as could be expected. Several, almost likeable, senior officers did their duty and effected the surrender. Then suicide. One slashed his belly, and lay in his own blood for eighteen hours until he died, refusing all help.

In short, Craig provides a clear and very readable narrative of the surrender. He does not discuss the morality of using nuclear weapons, leaving it to the reader. He does not really show the nasty side of the Emperor, whom we now know was more complicit in the war than was supposed. But as a classic treatment of the end of WW II, it is more than satisfying.

Student Bursaries 2019



The GCC had a successful bursary program last year. The seven recipients were all featured in last month's issue of ***The Connection***. While all the cheques were presented last year, not all of the recipients were available for a photo before the last issue of the magazine went out. In December, Geoff Hutton caught up with **Signaler Hannah Nazar** who parades with the **1st Hussars** in Sarnia to present her with the cheque.



RLMI Notes

From Ian Haley

In December we held the annual RLMI Christmas "at home" in the Wardroom at HMCS Prevost, which was well attended. The London Garrison New Years Day Levee, also held at the Wardroom, was jointly sponsored by the GCC, RLMI, and the Vimy Branch of the Royal Canadian Legion and hosted by *HMCS Prevost*. It was a great success and RLMI fully supports the idea of a similar format next year.

Our next meeting will be Monday February 10, 2020 at 7:00 for 7:30pm at the Wardroom, HMCS Prevost. Our speaker will be BGen (Ret'd) G.J.P. O'Brien OMM, MSC, CD who will speak on the Topic "Afghanistan 2006". Canada contributed more than combat troops. BGen O'Brien will comment on his role as the Deputy Commanding General for Political Military Integration in the Combined Security Transition Command from March to December 2006. What were his observations at the time and what, if anything has changed since. Join us.

Elections for the new Executive were held at the November meeting of the RLMI for a two year term.

President: LCol Ian Haley
Past President: Lt. Gerry Treble
1st Vice President: LCol Brian Harris
2nd Vice President: BGen Gary O'Brien
Secretary: MWO Gail Sneddon
Treasurer: LCol Barry Graham



Speaker Nick Wells in *An Evening with Major, Canon Frederick George Scott, CMG, DSO, RFSC*



The NAVY



HMCS Prevest



HMCS Prevest participated in the week long National Orca Sail out in the Strait of George, British Columbia between Jan 6-11 2020

MS Tony Van Deven was promoted to his current rank on 22 Jan 2020 achieving a milestone in his career as he is now presented with his first leadership opportunity.



LS Bishop was awarded the 'Marksmanship Badge' for scoring highest out of all Prevest participants during this year's C7 qualification shoot.



The ARMY



31 Canadian Brigade Group

The images and narratives provided here offer a glimpse into the world of 31 Canadian Brigade Group, with a central focus on the London Garrison's activities. Provided with the goal of keeping the GCC membership informed as to what the Army in Southwestern Ontario is up to, we offer these accounts in an effort to cover our events, our exercises, and our contributions to operations domestically and around the world. We are a dynamic formation with a diverse and growing number of soldiers, whose service to their community goes beyond their military occupations and their units' activities. We hope you enjoy their stories, as they are an inextricable link to the community we share.

*Joe Robinson
Colonel*

Commander, 31 Canadian Brigade Group



31 CBG Preparing for Deployment to the Far North

*By Lt(N) Andrew McLaughlin, PAO, 31 CBG
Photos: 31 CBG*

As we prepare for NOREX 20 – a major winter exercise that will see Canadian Army Reserve soldiers from across 31 CBG, and led by the Grey & Simcoe Foresters' Arctic Response Company Group (ARCG) deploy to Northern Ontario – our members are honing their cold weather operating skills to ensure they are ready to safely execute their tasks.

Canada's North has one of the longest, most lightly defended borders in the world. Recent events have influenced a need to protect these borders, and cooperation between the federal government and local communities in the Far North is critical to Canadian sovereignty. The ARCG, with support elements including the 3rd Canadian Ranger Patrol Group, will engage local leadership and citizen groups in a cooperative and supportive presence operation, in order to foster the lines of communi-





cation required to respond to crises in isolated communities; like natural disasters and numerous other contingencies.

Multiple exercises have recently been completed to support readiness for this exercise, with many more ongoing and upcoming, all across Ontario. 31 CBG troops have conducted training locally in London and across our area of responsibility, and at Garrison Petawawa, 4th Canadian Training Centre (Meaford), and CFB Borden – to name only a few locations.

Exercising critical cold weather capabilities continues to build confidence in the use of winter equipment, communications and transportation procedures, medical and first aid protocols, cold weather safety and survival, operating tent groups and toboggans, building and operating from snow shelters, the construction of snow shelters, and many other skills that our soldiers will employ on NOREX 20, which begins on March 1, 2020, near Geraldton, Ontario. Watch for our extensive coverage of the exercise on social media and in the news!





The CADETS



Waxing Skis and Sharpening Pencils ...for Cadets, Both Can Lead to Dreams Coming True!

By Lt(N) Terri-Leigh Saunders, RCSU(C) Unit PAO

As Sea, Air and Army Cadets headed back to school following Winter break, the second half of the Cadet training year also got into full swing. Thanks to the cooperating snowfall, Cadets have been busy competing outdoors in area Biathlon competitions with the hopes of moving onto the Regional Competition being held in Sault Ste. Marie in February. Top finishers there will then head to the National Cadet Biathlon Championships in Valcartier, Quebec in early March. Combining the physical fitness component of skiing, Cadets also work on their shooting skills as they complete a series of races.

In the classroom, Air Cadets were sharpening their pencils to write their qualifying exams to try and earn one of the coveted spots for summer flying scholarship opportunities. After spending

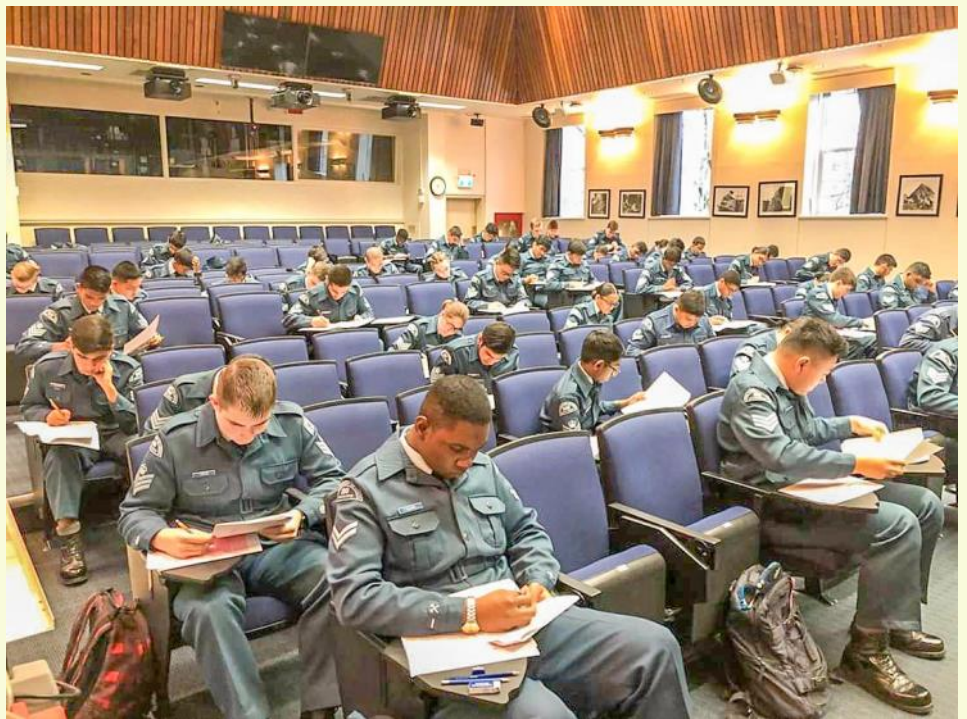


many months and countless hours working on ground school requirements, cadets who are successful in their exam will also complete an interview and application process as steps towards earning the Transport Canada Glider Pilot licence. Successful Candidates will move onto practical, hands on training at one of the Cadet Flying Training Centers in either Ontario, Nova Scotia, Quebec and British Columbia this coming summer.

Speaking of training Pilots...in other

Biathlon Skiing – Cadets put their training to good use as they participate in the skiing portion of the area biathlon competition.

news, special recognition recently went out to a Sarnia-based Reservist, Captain William Gark. Each year the Air Cadet League of Canada – Ontario Provincial Committee recognizes outstanding CIC Officers employed with the Cadet Flying Program. As the Chief Flying Instructor at Mountain View Cadet Flying Training Centre, Captain Gark received the *Ontario Provincial Committee Award of Excellence* in recognition of his unwavering support and dedication to the development and training of our current and future pilots.



Flying Exam – Air Cadets concentrate as they write their flying exams.
(Photo: 2Lt Anthony Vukojevic)



Pilot Award – Captain William Gark receives his award from Mr. Don Berrill, Past President of the Air Cadet League of Canada. (Photo: Steve Lambe)

FEBRUARY IN OUR MILITARY HISTORY

HMS Puncher

HMS PUNCHER was a Smiler class escort carrier built in the USA at Seattle-Tacoma Shipbuilding Co. On **5 February 1944** she was transferred to the Royal Navy under Lend Lease and accepted by **Commander Frederick A. Price, Royal Canadian Navy Volunteer Reserve**. In April **Captain Roger ES Bidwill, Royal Canadian Navy** took command. She was one of 19 escort carriers modified by the Burrard Dry Dock Co. Ltd., North Vancouver, British Columbia to meet Admiralty requirements. While in Vancouver, she received her full crew compliment. **The carrier operated throughout the war with a Canadian crew and British aircraft.** *HMS Puncher* served in the North Atlantic and also conducted operations off the Norwegian coast.

At the conclusion of hostilities, *HMS Puncher* was the first carrier to be converted to troop carrying duties. Temporary accommodation was provided in the hanger and squadron cabins for 491 naval personnel for passage to Halifax, Nova Scotia. These were men who volunteered for the British Pacific Fleet and were entitled to leave in Canada before going out to the Far East. *Puncher* continued to ferry Canadian personnel home. Two-tier metal bunks were brought from the RCN barracks at *HMCS NIOBE* at Greenock and welded onto the metal hangar deck, increasing her capacity to 500 troops. Returned to the US Navy in 1946, she was then sold off, converted and sailed as a merchantman until 1973 when she was scrapped in Taiwan.



La Bataille de Grand-Pré

Ayant eu vent de la présence britannique à Grand-Pré, les Canadiens français décident d'attaquer. Après quatre jours de préparation, le groupe de 240 Canadiens et 20 Mi'kmaq ont avancé sur Grand-Prés. Ils traversent la rivière Shubenacadie avec dix soldats, tandis que le reste des troupes remonta le cours du fleuve pendant trois jours. Après s'être rejoints, ils poursuivirent le voyage vers Grand-Pré. Pour assurer leur sécurité, les Canadiens fit placer des gardes sur toutes les routes menant vers les Mines. Ils ont atteint l'objectif le 10 février vers midi, où ils se divisèrent en 10 groupes.

11 février 1747



Après avoir reçu le rapport de ses espions, ils ont planifié l'attaque. En raison de leur infériorité numérique, il sépara ses troupes en 10 groupes, pour pouvoir attaquer les principales positions britanniques. Ceux-ci étaient divisés en groupe de 24 soldats, logés chacun dans une maison située le long du chemin principal de Grand-Pré. Vers deux heures du matin, les militaires français mirent des raquettes et prirent le chemin Grand-Pré. Après quelques heures de combats, les Anglais se sont rendus le 12 février.



THE GARRISON COMMUNITY COUNCIL London and Region

www.gcclondon.ca

Upcoming Events

Garrison Community Council

Annual General Meeting

12 February

Wolseley Barracks

March General Meeting

11 March

Wolseley Barracks

London and Region

RLMI Meeting

10 February
1930h

HMCS Prevost

SWOMFRC

4 March

Wolseley Barracks
Beaver Hall

International Women's Day
Celebration

London Heritage Council
Heritage Fair

15 February

HMCS Prevost

International Women's Day Celebration

THIS IS AN ALL GENDER EVENT -- ALL WELCOME!

Wed March 4, 2020

At Beaver Hall, Wolseley Barracks

Doors open at 10 a.m. and wrap up at 1 p.m.

10-11 a.m. Pre-lunch: We have a few activities lined up that we hope you will enjoy. As always, we will have an opportunity to create something to take home.

11-12 noon Networking and lunch (our ever popular pitas will be back for your dining pleasure)

12-1 p.m. "Happy to the Core – Shift your mind, Change your life" with speaker Jennifer Slay www.jenslay.com

Door prize draw (please contact Kym if you have a door prize to donate)

No fee (cash donations welcome to help defray our costs) This is one of our most popular annual events – Register now!

GCC Note: If any members would like to make a small donation to this activity, please contact the SWOMFRC Program Coordinator, Kym Wolfe, tel: 519 660 5275 x5432




Free Event | All Ages | Free Parking

8th Annual Heritage Fair

REMEMBERING THEIR SACRIFICE

75 YEARS AFTER THE SECOND WORLD WAR & BATTLE OF THE ATLANTIC



SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 15, 2020
9 AM – 3 PM
HMCS PREVOST
19 BECHER STREET
LONDONHERITAGE.CA

Photos retrieved from the London Public Library's Jarry Family London Room & HMCS PREVOST

