



THE GARRISON COMMUNITY COUNCIL London and Region

www.gcclondon.ca



MARCH 2018 NEWSLETTER

The March General Meeting

Wednesday

Warrant Officers' & Sergeants' / Officers' Mess

14 March

Beaver Hall, Wolseley Barracks

Meet & Greet

11:15

Lunch

11:30

WE HAVE NEW LUNCH ARRANGEMENTS

See Page 4

Please remember to advise your attendance in advance to **Beth Sayler** by e-mail (garrisoncommunitycouncil@gmail.com) or phone (519 851 0730) by **12:00 pm** the **MONDAY** prior so *The Catering Company* can provide sufficient sandwiches for purchase.

General Meeting

12:00

Speaker

Colonel (Ret'd) Patrick M. Dennis, OMM, CD

Reluctant Warriors: Canadian Conscripts & The Great War





This Month's Speaker



Colonel (Ret'd) Patrick M. Dennis, OMM, CD

Patrick M. Dennis was born in Windsor, Ontario, and completed his early education at the University of Windsor. He is a retired Canadian Air Force colonel and fighter controller who served abroad for over twenty-two years, including tours as Canada's deputy military representative to the NATO Military Committee in Brussels, Belgium, and as the Canadian defence attaché to Israel. He is a graduate of the United States Armed Forces Staff College, the NATO Defence College, and Canada's National Security Studies Course, and holds a Master's Degree in Leadership and Communication from the University of Northern Colorado.

After leaving the military, he lectured on global political-military issues at Wilfrid Laurier University in Waterloo, Ontario, and was a part-time instructor with the Canadian Forces College, Toronto, specializing in command and management and the law of armed conflict. He has written articles for *Canada's History*, the *Canadian Defence Quarterly*, the *Canadian Military Journal*, the *Canadian Military History* journal, *Air Power History*, and *Esprit de Corps* magazine.

His life-long interest in the First World War has led to his first book, *Reluctant Warriors: Canadian Conscripts and the Great War* (University of British Columbia Press in co-operation with the Canadian War Museum), published in September 2017.





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From the Past President

Greetings, Members. I am pinch-hitting for incoming President, **Doug McAndless**. He will not be back from Florida until next week and I will leave him to make his personal introductory comments in a subsequent *Newsletter*. At this point, I will simply provide an update of business conducted at the February AGM.

Three motions were passed which amended the GCC Constitution: 1) That the Constitution be re-numbered in a consistent format; 2) That the nomenclature in the Constitution be revised for consistency and currency; and 3) That language be added to provide flexibility to Executive portfolios and to corresponding Sub-Committee structure.



Doug McAndless (left) takes over as President from Doug Acton.
(archive photo)

Reports from the President, Committee Chairs, and Treasurer were received. A new Executive was accepted which welcomed two new members and is shown below.

I appreciate the comments made by Gerry Treble as I conclude my term as President. In a similar vein, I wish to thank Gerry for his service to the Executive as he transitions from Past President to the ranks of Former Presidents. His service on the Executive was exemplary and I personally appreciate his leadership and mentorship.

It has been my distinct pleasure to serve as GCC President these past 15 months and I am grateful for the support of such a superb Executive. I look forward to continuing in the service of this fine organization.

*Doug Acton
Past President
Garrison Community Council*

The Executive

Effective 14 February 2018



President: Doug McAndless
2nd Vice President: Tom Dean
Secretary: Beth Saylor
Past President: Doug Acton

1st Vice President: Geoff Hutton
3rd Vice President: Dave Barton
Treasurer: Barry Graham



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THE NEW LUNCH ARRANGEMENTS

As many Members have come to understand, the provision of lunch service as we have known it by **The Catering Company** has become untenable. They have been operating at a loss. In order to be viable, the following arrangements have evolved:

- The Catering Company will not staff lunch service. The menu selection is reduced.
- GCC will have the lunch count to Catering by noon Monday prior (an accurate count is essential)
- The Catering Company will drop off sandwich and salad lunch combo at \$10 pp.
- GCC Members will self serve. A GCC Member volunteer will monitor self-service and cash. Exact cash is appreciated. Service priority will be to Members who have responded with a count.

A reminder email will be sent the Wednesday before the meeting. Just hit **"Reply"** to that email and confirm your attendance and the number of lunches you wish (hopefully you're bringing a guest?). **Reply deadline is the Monday prior at noon.**

We want to ensure a welcoming and uncomplicated lunch meeting for our Members, but it has to be one which makes business sense. So, from all points of view, we are striving for service that is streamlined and simplified.

This process is evolving. Your feedback is essential. Your understanding and cooperation is appreciated.



The business success of this model depends upon Member response.



A quick thought from **Membership Mutt**, our newest Member.


When did you last thank your membership sponsor?





Upcoming Events 2018

Garrison Community Council

 Membership Renewal 2018 *Is yours still "upcoming" ?*



General Meetings	11 April	HMCS Prevost
	9 May	Wolseley Barracks
	13 June	Wolseley Barracks

London and Region

Poles In Redcoats	11 March	Polish Combatants' Association <i>Page 7</i> 80 Anna Street, London
Battle of the Atlantic Mess Dinner	5 May <i>Page 10</i>	Naval Association of Canada (London) HMCS Prevost
Garden Party	20 June <i>See our website</i>	GCC is organising at HMCS Prevost

Program planning is an ongoing function. Suggestions from members are always welcome. Please contact any member of the Executive with ideas. Events are listed in our website: www.gcclondon.ca

The GARDEN PARTY is back!



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February's Speaker

Mr. Michael Seabrook, President & CEO, London International Airport

We thoroughly enjoyed the excellent presentation from Michael Seabrook that gave us a good understanding of how our airport fits into the dynamic and changing air transport operation in our region. The forecast growth of air travel and the impact on London International Airport was most captivating. The history of the airport was interesting too. How many of us knew about the one and only direct London to London flight by a Super Constellation?



Photo: Jim Swan

Past President Doug Acton presents Michael Seabrook with a certificate of our appreciation.



Significant Dates in March

16 March 1900	The Boer War	The Third Canadian Contingent, Lord Strathcona's Horse leaves Canada for South Africa.
16 March 1915	The Great War	McGill University approves the recruiting of a company of university students to serve in the Canadian Expeditionary Force
16 March 1945	World War II	HMCS St. John sinks the German submarine U-309 off the North East coast of Scotland.
25 March 1953	The Korean War	3rd Battalion, The Royal Canadian Regiment, replaces 1st Battalion, The Royal Canadian Regiment, in Korea.
13-23 March 1964	UN Missions	Royal Canadian Air Force Yukon transport aircraft deliver troops and supplies to the newly created peacekeeping force on the island of Cyprus as part of OPERATION SNOWGOOSE.
14 March 1974	The Canadian Armed Forces	The Canadian Forces officially adopt the 'Total Force' concept where Regular and Reserve armed forces units combine duties and equipment where possible.
31 March 1991	The Gulf War	The Gulf War between Iraq and the United Nations coalition ends.



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Poles in Redcoats

The Fascinating Story of the Polish Soldiers who Fought in the War of 1812

In 1813 several hundred Poles arrived in Canada as part of the British Army and fought at Oswego and at the Battle of Fort Erie. After the war some of these Poles settled in the Red River Colony in present-day Manitoba and a few went on to help found St. Paul, Minnesota. Who knew!

Presented by Stan Skrzyszewski, a historian and poet, committed to uncovering the secrets and mysteries of Poles in Canada, who will use history, poetry and pictures to provide a glimpse of Polish Redcoats in the War of 1812.

Everyone Welcome!





HMCS Prevost

Historic Flooding in London

by Lt(N) Cody Black

LONDON, February 21st – Significant flooding along the Thames River nearly fully engulfed the Battle of the Atlantic Memorial at HMCS PREVOST.

Here in London, we saw a month's worth of rain and mounds of melting snow swell the banks of the Thames River at the end of February. The flooding affected much of the city, including the Battle of the Atlantic Memorial, which sits on the forks of the river. Now that the water has receded, we will be able to fully assess the damage to the memorial. The refurbished memorial was unveiled last year during the April 29 ceremony marking the BOA's 75th anniversary.

Nevertheless, the Naval Association of Canada is hosting this year's **Battle of the Atlantic Mess Dinner**, right here in the PREVOST Wardroom. Friends and family of the Navy are very welcome to join the dinner. Tickets available on *Eventbrite* for \$55 and will include a catered three-course dinner, a glass of wine, port and likely sherry and champagne or prosecco. The Battle of the Atlantic Mess Dinner takes place on Saturday, 5 May 2018. Cocktails are at 1900 hours, dinner at 1930 hours. We hope to see you there!





HMCS PREVOST Training

PREVOST joined five other Central Region Naval Reserve Divisions in Owen Sound, ON, for a Navigation and Bridge training opportunity in a simulated sea environment. We sent six sailors to the Marine Simulator at



Georgian College over a weekend at the end of January. While there, our sailors participated in ship navigation exercises to refresh trade specific skills. Our training included the use and operation of ship navigation programs for Naval Warfare Officers; familiarization with fitted RADAR for Naval Combat Information Operators; encoding and decoding tactical radio signals for Naval Communicators; and, engineering drills for the Marine Technicians.

Central Region Naval Reserve Divisions deployed to Georgian College's Navigation and Bridge Simulator.

In February, our Junior Ranks Mess hosted a training day to review naval customs and traditions, and proper mess etiquette before taking part in a Naval Mess Dinner. The event was also a professional development day for junior ranks personnel, emphasizing defense ethics, and respectful attitudes and behavior in the workplace.

Leading up to Women's Day, 8 March 2018, PREVOST will spotlight our valued wives, mothers, sisters, daughters and friends who are also part-time sailors. Keep an eye on HMCS Prevost Facebook page to learn more about a few of the many and diverse women who play a vital role in the Canadian Naval Reserve.



Naval Communicators send tactical radio signals to outline ship maneuvering exercises.

HMCS PREVOST is looking forward to various spring exercises, to ensure the unit is "strong, secure, engaged." Be certain to keep tabs on our Facebook page for upcoming events such as the Battle of the Atlantic Mess Dinner, the Garden Party, and information on our weekly training.



Naval Warfare Officers test their navigation skills in a simulated sea environment.



Battle of the Atlantic Mess Dinner HMCS Prevost

The Naval Association of Canada (London) and HMCS Prevost are hosting a mess dinner in honour of the Battle of the Atlantic. Considered to be not only Canada's longest battle, but arguably her most important, we shall dine together and remember the sacrifice and victory of Canada's forces at sea. The dinner will be held in accordance with Naval traditions dating back hundreds of years, and promises to be an exceptional evening out! Dress is naval mess kit or black tie and equivalent. Cocktails at 1900 hours and Dinner at 1930. There will be a meeting of the membership at 1800 in the Chief and Petty Officers' Mess prior.

Saturday 5 May 7:00 PM.
HMCS Prevost Wardroom
19 Becher Street
London, ON N6C 1A4

Tickets \$55

www.eventbrite.ca/battle-of-the-atlantic-mess-dinner-hmcs-prevost-tickets





31 Canadian Brigade Group

These short articles, normally penned by members of the Brigade, offer a casual look at 31 CBG. Written without heavy use of military lexicon, acronyms and abbreviations, they support information sharing to groups with diverse backgrounds and will, hopefully, offer a less formal view of the Brigade, or the examination of specific issues or events.

*C.W. Poole
Colonel
Comd 31 CBG*

Wolseley Barracks - Here to Stay

by Capt Michael O'Leary



Anyone who has looked at the history of Wolseley Barracks knows that the place is always in some transitional state. Over the years, the attention the property has received from the Department of National Defence has ebbed and flowed with Canada's military in times of peace and war. Recurring cycles of building up and reducing the assets at Wolseley Barracks are a natural course over time. One side effect of this is the enduring possibility that any changes may be misinterpreted by outside observers.

Some readers will remember the “Keep 1RCR in CFB London” campaign of the early 1990s. Led by local Jock Shields, its rallying cry was built on the assumption that the move of 1st Battalion, The Royal Canadian Regiment, to Petawawa was the death knell of the London Barracks property itself. As we can all see, that predicted tragedy didn't happen. It was also not a singular event in the history of Wolseley Barracks, and it's not unlikely that we may see similar rumours created and shared in future.

As early as 1908, rumours circulated about Government plans to close Wolseley Barracks. This was reported in the London Free Press of 24 January, 1908. The proposal at that time was to concentrate all Permanent Force (Regular Force) elements in Ontario at a new barracks site to be constructed at Long Branch. This would involve the closing of barracks in Kingston, Borden, London, and Toronto. Obviously, that plan never came to fruition.

In 1913, the Long Branch rumour of the closing of Wolseley Barracks was finally put to rest by the London Free Press on 31 July, 1913, when it stated that: “*At the militia department to-day the report that the Wolseley*



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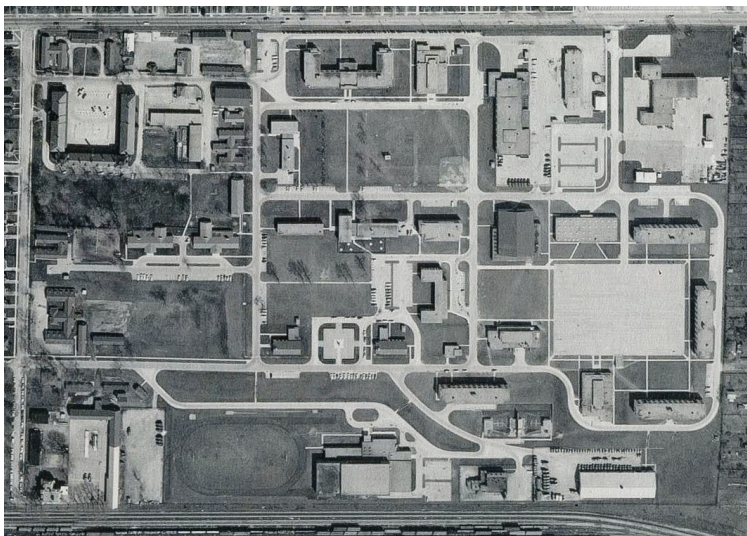
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Barracks are to be closed was characterized as wholly unfounded.” To reinforce that view, the following day the paper quoted Colonel Hodgins, the commander of the district, stating that he had no information to provide on the matter.

More recently, five years ago, similar rumours circulated when the plan to demolish buildings at Wolseley Barracks became public knowledge. Notably, the shells of the Glacis Lecture-Training Building and the Senior NCOs' and Officers' Barracks remain ready for their final demolition after the first contracts were interrupted in order to have asbestos in the buildings removed by a specialist contractor.

The way in which changes at the barracks were interpreted at that time was complicated by the closure of Area Support Unit (ASU) London. What was missed by those who propagated the rumour, was that there were two separate entities bearing the title “Area Support Unit London.” The first was the small administrative headquarters located at Wolseley Barracks and managed the property, the second was that the term had come to be recognized as meaning the property itself. Of these, the latter was better known by that title outside the military, and when the closure of ASU London was announced, some took it to mean the property itself. In the end, ASU London (the headquarters) closed, its functions reassigned to 31 Brigade, and ASU London, the base property, was renamed, once again, Wolseley Barracks.

This emphasizes one of the limitations local military elements have to contend with. To many outside observers, the Barracks is perceived as a single entity. As a result, when someone groups all of the Wolseley Barracks assets under a single title and perceived image, they fail to see the infrastructure, the headquarters, the separate units, and the various elements that make up our presence in London as separate, and separately administered pieces.



This failure to see the makeup and diversity of CAF elements within Wolseley Barracks results in people, and sometimes the media, not understanding the critical questions they could or should be asking. Rumours of the barracks closing would quickly unravel if questions focused on unique elements. Questions such as “Is anything happening to the Reserve units at Wolseley Barracks?” would home in on the important concerns. The property supports the lodging units, and the functions and capabilities of those units are the important contribution to the Canadian Armed Forces to be found here. The fate of the evolving barracks property is arguably of

lesser importance, it will evolve over time as the infrastructure change to better meet our needs. Similarly, simple queries about Wolseley Hall, a National Historic Site maintained by DND on behalf of the Government and people of Canada, would quickly refocus any suggestion that DND intends to close up Wolseley Barracks.

We may occasionally experience the effects of well-meaning ignorance and those who too readily leap on ru-



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mours of unwelcome outcomes. The best we can do is to promote education and a better understanding of what the CAF does, and how it manages its infrastructure and its formation and units. Part of that message is the important role 31 Canadian Brigade Group has in southwestern Ontario and our long held presence in this community. Wolseley Barracks itself has been a reassuring and contributing military presence in London since its acquisition and the beginning of construction in 1886. On its own and in concert with both Regular and Reserve Force units throughout its history, it has represented a local military heritage which predates it by many decades, and has honorably served Canada in peace and war since its establishment.

The local community and City of London have benefitted from the Barracks reduction in the 1990s. How many Londoners know that the Carling Heights Optimist Community Centre was once the base gymnasium, or that the Municipal Garage beside the skate park was once the 1RCR Battalion Transport garage, or that the big stone building facing McMahan Park was once an Ordnance Department building? Even as we change over time, traces of our presence remain and continue to be useful.

For today, we can safely say there is no plan to close Wolseley Barracks in the foreseeable future. Some buildings may go, but the military presence and the property will remain. Those who might share such a rumour in the future would do well to learn more about the units and other elements that occupy the Barracks property, and spend their effort sharing their stories and promoting how they serve Canada and all Canadians.

31 Canadian Brigade Group Headquarters and the Brigade's London units; the 1st Hussars, 4th Battalion, The Royal Canadian Regiment, and 31 Service Battalion, will remain a keystone of the Canadian Army's presence in southwestern Ontario. With the Army's current initiatives in recruiting and in Strengthening the Army Reserve, the future of these units will be focused on growth and building our strength to better reflect the makeup of the Canadian population we draw from. For those of us who recruit, train, and lead soldiers in Canada's Reserve Army, these are interesting times with a bright future of challenges to be met and achieved.

Pro Aris et Focis



Exercise VIRTUAL HUSSAR

1st Hussar's Train Using High-Tech Simulation

By 2Lt Connor Gray

Virtual computer exercises are one of the many ways that the Canadian Armed Forces employs technology in the modern era to train its soldiers. From 26-28 January, the soldiers of the 1st Hussar's trained at The LCol George Taylor Denison III Armoury located in Toronto using a simulated training program that included steering wheels, headsets, and computer generated graphics to execute a series of reconnaissance based missions. While there are many benefits to training in a virtual environment, it is important to note that it does not completely replace training in a field, and is used to



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augment the exercises in the local area, and in the training areas in Meaford, Borden, and Petawawa.

The computer lab in Toronto consisted of 27 work stations, each equipped with their own controls. We divided the soldiers into crews and tasked them to specific computer stations to perform Armoured Recce tasks. Each crew member had their own computer, and virtual platform to command and control. The system allows all the computers to be connected through a network controlled by the 2 main servers, which were known as the 'God' station. The software is based off the video game Arma 3, programmed with a map of CTC Gagetown Training Area, and equipped with photo-realistic terrain and water environments.

The three main benefits of training in a virtual environment that the unit experienced during the exercise were flexibility, opportunity to rapidly generate new missions, and discussions generated during the digital After Action Review (AAR) activity.

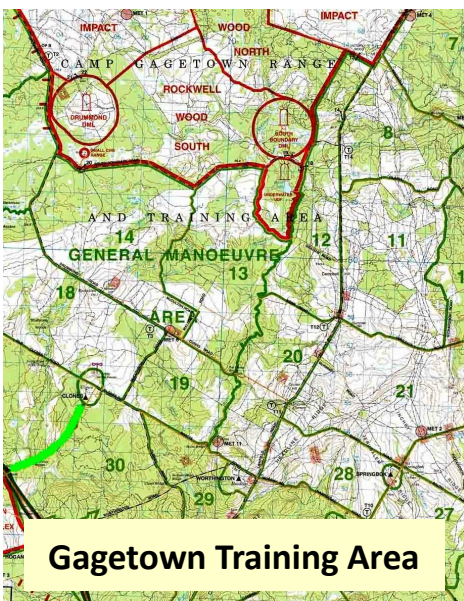
The system's flexibility allowed us to train without the restrictions that are normally experienced during training. Training areas often have rules that restrict our movement, and ability to use equipment such as pyrotechnics due to environmental hazards, or the risk of fire. In the virtual environment we were able to use all of the training area, which means we can make the best use of the ground during movement, and when taking positions for observation. The system also allowed us to switch roles easily, allowing us to conduct a trace as an armoured troop in Leopard 2 Main Battle Tanks, while conducting a delay.

The ability to rapidly complete and generate traces also improved how the Squadron trained. While speed isn't always the objective, the system allowed the soldiers to conduct multiple traces in a very short period of time. This allowed the soldiers to maximize the short amount of time and get this biggest bang out of the training experience. The system also has the feature where it can be programmed quickly to transition between tasks with very little down time. This often not the case when training in the field as a Reserve unit!

The digital AAR allowed us to track all task that were completed by the Squadron during each training mission. Typically when conducting an AAR, it usually just a verbal talk through of the task completed in order

to identify the things that went well, areas for improvement, and items that we could possibly do differently for the future. Part of the virtual battle simulator is the ability to create a digital video of the trace, which can be used to provide a detailed review of exactly what happened during each mission. This bird's eye view allowed us to further refine our skills by visually seeing what was done well, and improve upon the things that did not go so well for the next trace.

Overall virtual exercises are a great tool to augment and refine the skills of each individual soldier in a low risk, and cost effective environment. Exercise VIRTUAL HUSSAR and the simulation approach to training proved to be a great supplementary tool the soldiers of the 1st Hussars, and allows Reserve Armoured Recce Regiments to train in an effective and realistic environment.





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GCC Supports JAM Education

by Doug Acton



When the Garrison Community Council London & Region began in 2000, it was largely modelled on the Selfridge Base Community Council near Detroit. One of their signature community outreach enterprises was a youth education program called *Starbase*. Under the leadership of Dr. Don Bondy, the Selfridge program was adapted to the Ontario Curriculum and developed into the GCC Starbase Program.

In line with our mission statement and supported by a number of GCC volunteers, Don delivered a highly effective five day science program to grade 6 classes in a military setting (HMCS Prevost). Starbase was very successful in its aim of connecting the civilian community with the military through a science and technology program. In spite of many years of success, the program ultimately was terminated due to the insurance requirements of the Board of Education.



At about this time, GCC Members Doug and Marti Acton were undertaking the development of an education program at the Jet Aircraft Museum. Having been one of Dr. Bondy's Starbase volunteers, Doug approached the GCC Executive with the idea of Starbase being reborn at JAM. The Executive agreed that this would allow GCC to continue to take steps that would achieve the aims of Starbase. Subsequently, all Starbase materials were transferred to the JAM Education Program. GCC provided financial support in the form of funding to start up the JAM Ed Program and has provided funding to support ongoing operating costs since.



J.A.M. Education
WHERE LEARNING TAKES FLIGHT!



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The foundation of the JAM Ed Program is a one day field trip built on the Ontario Curriculum Grade 6 Science Unit: Flight. It continues to rely heavily on program and activities derived from Starbase. With the sponsorship of the London Heritage Council, JAM now offers a one week program which deepens and expands the one day program and incorporates some military role playing. All students take on the persona of a pilot trainee coming from a NATO country to Canada during the Cold War to learn to fly jets. Students are connected not only to real life applications of the science of flight but also connect to some of Canada's military role on the world stage.

JAM Ed is now mid way though its second year of program implementation. To date, we have hosted 22 Day Programs and 10 Museum School Weeks. That's 32 different class groups taking 72 instructional days and the spring schedule is filling up. That's a lot of students impacted by GCC support of the "Son of Starbase."

London's own Ryan Kean, CF-18 Demo pilot, gears up for students.



The Snowbirds drop in at JAM.

"Graduate pilots" give thumbs up in front of The Red Knight.



Students learning to fly on JAM Simulators.



March 2018

SPECIAL ANNOUNCEMENTS

March 7, 2018

International Women's Day
Speaker: Paula @ 12:00 noon
Doors open @ 10:00 am
Lunch @ 11:15 am

March 10, 2018

Volunteer Appreciation
Afternoon
Labatt's Brewery (150 Simcoe
Street)
Tour, Appetizers & Social
2:00 pm

Teen Night-Movie at Imagine

Cinemas Citi-Plaza
Fees: \$10.00/person
Register: call Shannon
519-660-5275 x5002
Shannon.Kisslinger@forces.gc.ca

Sugar Bush Family Outing

Monday March 12, 2018
First Outing is 9:30am
Second Outing is 1:30pm For more
information please contact Shannon
at 519-660-5275 x5002 or by email
Shannon.Kisslinger@forces.gc.ca
Cost: \$5.00/person **NOTE: the
morning tour is less "muddy" than
the afternoon experience. Packages
include pancake meal.

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
				1	2	3 Building Resiliency Niagara Falls Seminar & Lunch 9:00am
4	5	6	7 International Women's Day Lunch: 11:15 am	8	9	10 Volunteer Appreciation Afternoon Labatt's Tour 2:00 pm
11	12 March Break Week	13	14 Coffee Morning Host: Kym Stay Safe Prg. 9am-2:30pm London Training	15	16 Babysitter Course 1 Day; 8:30am- 4:00pm London Training Centre	17 St. Patrick's Day
18 Babysitter Course 1 Day; 8:30am- 4pm London Training Centre	19	20	21 Spring Into Spring Host: Deb Little Troopers Playgroup	22	23	24
25	26	27	28 Easter Craft Host: Shannon Little Troopers Playgroup	29	30 Teen Movie Night TBA	31



For more information about our Programs & Services, please contact Brenda at 519-660-5366 or by email:

Brenda.Willsie@forces.gc.ca

"Building Resiliency" Seminar & Lunch Saturday March 3/18 please direct your calls or emails to 905-972-4000x6623

Donna.Pickering@forces.gc.ca