

Fall Edition 2022

## FROM THE DESK OF THE PRESIDENT

### Hybrid Meetings

The GCC is taking steps to be able to offer in person and zoom meetings (a hybrid form of meeting) starting in January 2023.

The GCC will be returning to the Warrant Officers' and Sergeants' Mess in Beaver Hall on the grounds of Wolseley Barracks. For our new members and those members who may have forgotten where we met, we will forward a map to assist you in finding the meeting room.

My thanks are extended to our GCC special hybrid committee. A special thank you is extended to Sgt. Stan Winters, GB LAN Mgr 31CBG and Cindy Smith, Mess Manager for facilitating the hybrid system.

### Congratulations

Congratulations are extended to General Dynamics Land Systems – Canada on winning the Innovation Award presented by the London Chamber of Commerce. Well done!

The Vanier Cup has been set for Sat. Nov. 26, 2022, at Western Alumni Stadium. Retired London Police Chief and GCC member, Murray Faulkner, has been named the honorary chair of the 2022 Vanier Cup organizing committee. This will be a nationally televised university sporting event. Congratulations Murray.

### Remembrance Day

It is my understanding the City of London Remembrance Day service will be held on Friday November 11, 2022, at the Cenotaph in Victoria Park. For those who prefer not to attend in person, the service is usually locally televised by Rogers. In addition, the National Remembrance Day service from Ottawa is also televised.

A GCC wreath will be laid at the Cenotaph and at the 4RCR War Memorial at Wolseley Barracks.

With the assistance of the LCol Brett Griffiths, CO 4RCR, GCC supplied giant poppies will be placed at key points in Wolseley Barracks.

### Future Meetings

There will be a Zoom meeting on Wed. Nov. 9th at 12 noon with a special speaker. This speaker and the topic tie in very nicely with Remembrance Day.

We start the hybrid meetings in January 2023.

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## A Day of Remembrance



Generations of Canadians have served our country and the world during times of war, military conflict and peace. Through their courage and sacrifice, these men and women have helped to ensure that we live in freedom and peace, while also fostering freedom and peace around the world.

Canada's involvement in the First and Second World Wars, the Korean War, and Canada's efforts during military operations and peace efforts has always been fuelled by a commitment to protect the rights of others and to foster peace and freedom. Many Canadians have died for these beliefs, and many others have dedicated their lives to these pursuits. This willingness to stand up to protect human rights, freedom and justice remains one of Canada's defining characteristics in the eyes of the world.

Veterans Affairs Canada encourages all Canadians to learn more about the sacrifices and achievements made by those who served our country, and to help preserve their legacy by passing the torch of Remembrance to future generations of Canadians.

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...To you from failing hands we throw The torch,  
be yours to hold it high. If ye break faith with us  
who die We shall not sleep, though poppies grow  
In Flanders fields.

- From "In Flanders Fields" by John McCrae

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## FROM THE DESK OF THE PRESIDENT

*cont. from page 1*

### GCC on social media

V.P. Kevin has now created a Twitter account to compliment our existing website.

### Thank You

I extend my personal thanks to the members of the GCC Executive who have carried out their mandates in trying times. Due to their efforts and commitment to the GCC, the GCC has remained alive and active.

### Executive Members

Past Pres.	Geoff Hutton	Sec.	Randy Harden
V.P.	Mike Leatham	Treas.	John Martin
V.P.	Kevin Patterson	Pres.	Tom Dean

### Future

To ensure a good future for the GCC, it is important that that we develop a well thought out program of diversity and inclusion. Our current membership does not reflect our London and Area community, nor does it reflect the current Canadian military community. We are looking for a Garrison Community Council Project Person (GCCPP) to investigate these areas and suggest a positive course of action. If you are interested, let me know.

I have indicated that I will not be able to serve an unprecedented 4th term as your President. Some of you may be thankful! Therefore, we need someone to step up to the plate. Please contact Past Pres. Geoff or me for further information.

Tom Dean  
President GCC

## 2022 GCC Executive

President .....	Tom Dean
Past President .....	Geoff Hutton
Vice President .....	Mike Leatham
VP Communications ....	Kevin Patterson
Secretary .....	Randy Harden
Treasurer .....	John Martin

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## Connections Editors

Tom Dean - President  
Kevin Patterson - VP Communications  
All GCC screenshots provided by Gary Nash.

## A Day of Remembrance

*Continued from page 1*

Every year on November 11, Canadians pause in a silent moment of remembrance for the men and women who have served, and continue to serve our country during times of war, conflict and peace.

We honour those who fought for Canada in the First World War (1914-1918), the Second World War (1939-1945), and the Korean War (1950-1953), as well as those who have served since then. More than 2.3 million Canadians have served our country in this way, and more than 118,000 have died. They gave their lives and their futures so that we may live in peace.



*Two young beneficiaries of Canadian service and sacrifice overseas contemplate the names of those who fell.*

*Article and bw photo from veterans.gc.ca/*



## GCC September Meeting



Speaker: Major Hugh Purdon  
Brigade Operations Officer (G3)

In 2021 Major Hugh Purdon deployed to Ukraine with Roto 11 as the Liaison officer to the National Guard of Ukraine. When Russian backed troops entered Ukraine in 2014 a multinational effort was initiated to provide training for Ukrainian soldiers. The training focused on basic soldiering skills and common infantry maneuvers. Canadian advisors along with others were employed to instruct Ukrainian troops. This training has armed the Ukrainian soldier with in-ranks competencies for a much more capable and professional force. The overall plan was designed to empower Ukrainian forces with the skills necessary to defend themselves.

Major Purdon described his responsibilities and some of his experiences while in Ukraine.

### What is Operation UNIFIER ?



Op Unifiers official commencement parade  
- August 2015

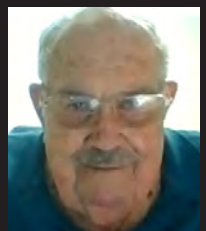
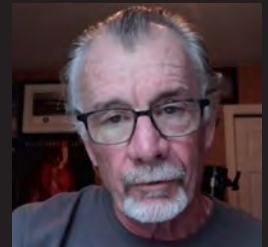
- Began in 2015 with a broad mission to improve the Ukrainian Security Forces, specifically the Army
- Expanded to include the National Guard in 2019
- Consisted of between 200-250 CAF pers at any given time conducting 'Train the Trainer' courses in Urban Combat, Sniper skills, Combat First Aid and large scale unit tactical exercises



Exercise VOLODYMYR'S TRIDENT Opening  
Ceremony - July 2021

### Roto 11

- Tasked as the Liaison Officer to the National Guard of Ukraine (NGU);
- Integrated with 3018 Rapid reaction Brigade for Battalion level Exercise;
- Saw massive changes in both military and local governance.





## 31 Canadian Brigade Group welcomes new Command Team

By Lt(N) Andrew McLaughlin



31 Canadian Brigade Group (31 CBG) conducted a Brigade change of command on June 2, 2022 at Wolseley Barracks in London, Ontario.

Command of the Brigade was passed from Colonel Joe Robinson to Colonel Christopher Brown, while CWO Mark Delarosbil handed the responsibility of Brigade Sergeant Major to CWO Mike Coit. Brigadier-General Peter Scott, Commander of 4th Canadian Division presided over the event.

Colonel Joe Robinson was born and raised in London, Ontario. From 1983 to present, he has served with The Royal Canadian Regiment; from the age of 13 as a cadet and as both a Regular and Primary Reserve officer. He deployed to Haiti with Operation HAMLET and in addition to his UN duties in Haiti he was responsible for two contingency projects for Commander Canadian Expeditionary Force Command. In 2012, He was appointed as Commanding Officer, Territorial Battalion Group 31-13 and subsequently promoted to Lieutenant-Colonel and served as Commanding Officer of 4th Battalion, The Royal Canadian Regiment from November 2012 to May, 2015. He Served as Commander, 31 CBG from August 2019 to June, 2022.

“It was an honour to command 31 CBG,” said Colonel Robinson. “However, my success was only made possible by the hard work and dedication of the soldiers, the support of the exceptional leaders of our headquarters, Regiments and Battalions, and my family,” he said. “I’m confident the Brigade will continue to prosper under the leadership of Colonel Brown.”

Colonel Christopher Brown joined the Canadian Armed Forces in 1986 as a Trooper in the Governor General’s Horse Guards (GGHG), and subsequently served in the Army Reserve for his entire career. A graduate of The Citadel, The Military College of South Carolina and the Royal Military College of Canada, he has served in various command and staff

positions during his career. This includes operational and training deployments across North America, Europe, Africa and the South Pacific.

“It’s truly a privilege to take Command of 31 Canadian Brigade Group,” said Colonel Brown. “I’ve worked with soldiers from Southwestern Ontario since 1996, and it’s an organization that’s full of talent. Our Brigade is ready to deploy on domestic operations in Canada and overseas with partners and allies,” he said. “The Brigade has proven that it can serve at any given time, at home or abroad.”

31 CBG is an Army Reserve Formation of 4th Canadian Division and is headquartered in London, Ontario. The Brigade’s area of responsibility reaches from Hamilton to Windsor and north to Owen Sound and Barrie. The Brigade has nearly 3,000 members – the vast majority of whom are part-time Reserve soldiers – and deploys troops to international stability operations and in support of Canadian communities during emergencies like floods and wildfires.

The change of command ceremony was held with limited participation and spectators in attendance in accordance with Public Health guidelines and strict Force Health Protection Measures.

Photo: Bdr Julia Currie, 31 CBG Public Affairs / DND 2022.



GCC’s Mission to build a greater understanding, support and appreciation of Canada’s military.

Our three fundamental tenets are  
**Support, Assist and Connect.**

## Third AOPS Delivered to Canada



Canada has accepted delivery of the third Arctic and Offshore Patrol Ship (AOPS), Her Majesty's Canadian Ship (HMCS) Max Bernays.

Built by Irving Shipbuilding Inc. of Halifax, Nova Scotia, this is the third of six new AOPS being delivered to the RCN through the National Shipbuilding Strategy (NSS), an initiative that supports Canadian industry and jobs. Designed with a thick and robust hull, the AOPS significantly enhance the Canadian Armed Forces' (CAF) capabilities and presence in the Arctic, better enabling the RCN to assert and uphold Arctic sovereignty. With their considerable space to transport cargo and the capacity to embark a Cyclone helicopter, small vehicles, and deployable boats, the AOPS have the versatility to support a full range of CAF operations at home and contribute to global peace and security in coordination with our allies and partners.

HMCS Max Bernays will remain at the Her Majesty's Canadian Dockyard Halifax while post-acceptance work and final ship preparation work are completed. In 2023, the ship will be transferred to the West Coast, with CFB Esquimalt as its designated homeport. Construction of the sixth AOPS began with steel cutting on August 15, 2022.

In support of Canada's defence policy, Strong, Secure, Engaged, the Government of Canada continues to deliver the modern, functional, and effective ships that the RCN needs to support operations, while also rebuilding Canada's marine industry with the creation of hundreds of new jobs under Canada's NSS.

HMCS Max Bernays returning to port after completing sea trials in Halifax, Nova Scotia.

"Today we celebrate another important milestone for the National Shipbuilding Strategy and the Royal Canadian Navy with the arrival of its third new Arctic and Offshore Patrol Ship, HMCS Max Bernays. I would like to recognize the important work of our shipbuilders and the thousands of Canadians that have contributed their time, expertise, and materials to support the construction of this new ship. Well done to everyone who has helped make this delivery a success."

The Honourable Anita Anand, Minister of National Defence

"For the third summer in a row, we are celebrating the delivery of an Arctic and Offshore Patrol Ship (AOPS). The HMCS Max Bernays marks an important milestone in the AOPS project as we have reached the halfway point in the delivery of these Royal Canadian Navy vessels. On August 15th, Irving Shipbuilding officially began production of Canada's sixth and final AOPS for the Royal Canadian Navy. Our government recognizes the exemplary work being done under the National Shipbuilding Strategy by Canadian shipyards and the economic benefits it generates in communities and across Canada." The Honourable Helena Jaczek, Minister of Public Services and Procurement Canada

"Today's delivery of our third Arctic and Offshore Patrol Ship, HMCS Max Bernays, brings the Royal Canadian Navy one step closer to our full fleet of six modern, ice-capable ships. Each of the AOPS represents a new and important capability for the Navy, and we are excited that this ship will soon be officially welcomed into the RCN Fleet." Vice-Admiral Angus Topshee, Commander of the Royal Canadian Navy

"The delivery of HMCS Max Bernays - the third Arctic and Offshore Patrol Ship - is a proud and important milestone for our team of over 2000 skilled shipbuilders. Our commitment to Canada is continuous improvement. Despite HMCS Max Bernays being built during the height of the pandemic, the ship is being delivered faster with 8% fewer production hours compared to the previous ship - HMCS Margaret Brooke (AOPS 2). We wish the crew of this fine ship fair winds, following seas and a safe return home from every mission." Dirk Lesko, President of Irving Shipbuilding.

### ADDITIONAL INFO

- The AOPS are highly versatile vessels that can be used on a variety of missions at home and abroad, such as coastal surveillance, search and rescue, drug interdiction, support to international partners, humanitarian aid, and disaster relief.
- The AOPS are known as the Harry DeWolf-class, named in honour of Vice-Admiral Harry DeWolf, a Canadian wartime naval hero. The lead ship, HMCS Harry DeWolf, was delivered to Canada on July 30, 2020, and was officially commissioned into RCN service on June 26, 2021.
- The second AOPS, HMCS Margaret Brooke, was named in honour of the Royal Canadian Navy Nursing Sister Lieutenant-Commander Margaret Martha Brooke, who was decorated for gallantry during the Second World War.
- The third AOPS, HMCS Max Bernays, was successfully launched into the water on October 23, 2021. A naming ceremony for the ship was conducted on May 29, 2022. The third AOPS was named in honour of Chief Petty Officer Max Bernays, a Canadian naval hero who served as the Coxswain

*continued on page 6*



## Third AOPS Delivered to Canada *continued from page 5*

of HMCS Assiniboine during the Second World War's Battle of the Atlantic.

- AOPS four, five and six are currently in various stages of production, with the planned delivery of one new ship every year until 2025.

- The AOPS will be used by the Royal Canadian Navy to conduct sovereignty and surveillance operations in Canada's waters, including the Arctic, as well as to conduct a wide variety of operations abroad. including the Arctic, as well as to conduct a wide variety of operations abroad. as well as to conduct a wide variety of operations abroad.

- The Industrial and Regional Benefits (IRB) Policy applies to this procurement. The IRB Policy and its successor, the Industrial and Technological Benefits (ITB) Policy, require companies awarded defence procurement contracts to undertake business activity in Canada equal to the value of their contracts.



## Army Reservists command deployed Arctic JTF

By Lt(N) Andrew McLaughlin, PAO 31 CBG

The Grey and Simcoe Foresters (G&SF), an Army Reserve unit headquartered in Barrie, recently participated in an important mission to the Arctic, where their members led a Joint Task Force (JTF) of over 150 Canadian Armed Forces (CAF) members made up of Army and Air Force assets and personnel.

Operation NANOOK-NUNAKPUT was conducted from August 12-30, 2022 in the Cambridge Bay, Nunavut area. The operation enabled CAF elements to conduct presence activities in the Arctic, as well as foster stronger interoperability with northern partners; all while keeping an eye on shipping in the strategic Northwest Passage.

"This was truly a unique mission for a Reserve Regiment," said LCol David Meehan, JTF Commander and Commanding Officer of the G&SF. "It really put our organization to the test, and our soldiers were up to the challenge." The 4th Canadian Division Arctic Response Company Group (ARCG), which is led by, and is a specialized task of the G&SF, deployed forward of the JTF as a Land Task Force (LTF), and conducted successful patrols in multiple High Arctic locations.

The G&SF is no stranger to Arctic operations. As the unit with the Canadian Army Mission Task of maintaining and further developing the ARCG and associated capabilities, they

developing the ARCG and associated capabilities, they have become experts in operating in harsh climates and conducting rapid response missions. Take the Pandemic of 2020, as an example, where the unit stood up and deployed the ARCG in a matter of hours and deployed them forward to

CFB Borden for an emergency deployment that, thankfully, wasn't required in the end. "That's what the ARCG does," said LCol Meehan. "We train year round for various contingencies, which all have a common element: the ability to move, communicate and survive in the extreme environments found in the farthest northern areas of Canada; and do so safely and effectively."

The fact that the ARCG was able to adapt its force employment model to fit this important surveillance task – during the summer when most Reservists are off on training courses across Canada – and do so effectively, proves the concept behind the Mission Task, according to Meehan. "From the very beginning, we had dozens of our soldiers put their hands up volunteering for the operation. That really reflects on their dedication to this specialized role, and also to their readiness to deploy anywhere, and on short notice."



Images: Bdr Julia Currie, 31 CBG Public Affairs & Cpl Parker Salustro, 19 Wing RCAF, Comox.

More photos on page 7.



## Reservists command deployed Arctic JTF

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Images: Bdr Julia Currie, 31 CBG Public Affairs &  
Cpl Parker Salustro, 19 Wing RCAF, Comox.



## REMEMBRANCE DAY REFLECTIONS

By Charles "Duff" Sullivan

As a veteran of the Royal Canadian Air Force, I am reflecting more this year about my time in Afghanistan than I may have in years past. I had the privilege to serve my country in Afghanistan for almost 15 months, most of which was focused on trying to create a safe and more secure country for the Afghan people.

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## REMEMBRANCE DAY REFLECTIONS

*Continued from page 7*

During my time as a member of the senior leadership team in Kabul, I gathered many solemn memories of the soldiers and civilians who were wounded and killed on my watch and the scores of insurgents and terrorists we were required to target and remove from the battlefield to protect coalition soldiers, civilian aid workers, and Afghan civilians. As I came to know, being so close to the loss of human life, regardless of what side of truth one may stand, helps to better understand oneself and to hold tight the values and beliefs that guide us through difficult and challenging times.

Also revealed to me was how a mere 15 months on the ground in Afghanistan can add so many years to one's life as the transforming nature of command, leadership, and sacrifice acts as a refiner's fire to inspire insight, knowledge, and wisdom.



Also revealed to me was how a mere 15 months on the ground in Afghanistan can add so many years to one's life as the transforming nature of command, leadership, and sacrifice acts as a refiner's fire to inspire insight, knowledge, and wisdom.

I've taken so many of those lessons with me in my career outside of our armed forces. Honoring those experiences and those who serve their country is one of the aspects I'm most proud of at my current employer, The Boeing Company.

Boeing has hired more than 13,500 veterans in the last decade alone. And that focus extends beyond the walls of Boeing and into the global supply chain, with Boeing's veteran-owned business subcontracting totaling approximately \$450 million annually in recent years.

Last year, Boeing awarded more than \$14 million to 97 veterans service organizations and supported more than 800 military and veteran-specific programs and organizations globally.

Here in Canada, Boeing is proud to partner with the Veterans Transition Network in both Vancouver and Ottawa, working to strengthen the network of mental health providers serving veterans. This year, I've been personally involved in focusing Boeing's support for Veteran's House: the Andy Carswell building to further its mission to help homeless or at-risk homeless veterans.



This project is particularly important to me as it provides veterans with holistic support, including rehabilitation and recovery programs to help heal invisible wounds, as well as the visible wounds.

To the families of both those here in Canada and from the 42 nations that made up our ISAF coalition who came to know the pain and heartbreak of war, I can offer my personal assurance that your loved ones who served and made many sacrifices, including the ultimate sacrifice, truly did make a difference that will have a lasting effect in Afghanistan. The work is now on us, back home, to help those returning to civilian life to find the resources and enrichment needed to enter the next phase of their lives.

*Charles S. "Duff" Sullivan is the Managing Director of Boeing Canada. Prior to retiring from the Air Force in 2009, Sullivan served at the rank of Major-General on a 12-month tour of duty in Afghanistan as NATO's Air Component Commander and Deputy Chief of Joint Operations.*



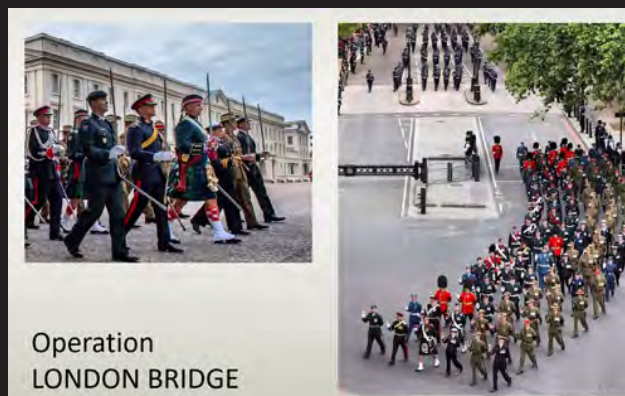


## GCC October Meeting



Speaker: Lieutenant Andrew McLaughlin RCN

Lieutenant (Navy) Andrew McLaughlin is a military-media relations professional and a digital humanities practitioner. He serves as a Public Affairs Officer in the Canadian Armed Forces, and is a Research Associate at the Centre for Community Mapping in Waterloo, Ontario. His 2017 Ph.D. Dissertation, "The Media and American Battlefield Correspondence" explores the evolution of war reporting and military-press relations in the United States. Lieutenant McLaughlin will provide details about the activities at 31 CBG over this year.



Operation LONDON BRIDGE





## Graduation ceremonies for newly qualified Canadian Army Reserve soldiers

London's Wolseley Barracks held multiple graduation ceremonies for hundreds of newly qualified Canadian Army Reserve soldiers this summer.

Here, 31 CBG Battle School conducts the DP1-Infantry 0200 graduation parade at Wolseley Barracks in London on August 14, 2022.

Colonel Brown, Commander of 31 Canadian Brigade Group reviewed the successful candidates upon the completion of their course, and offered words of encouragement and recognition for their hard work and dedication to the Canadian Army Infantry Corps.

Images: Cpl Bailey Deziel, Windsor Regiment, RCAC.



## Hundreds of Army Reservists converge on Meaford for multiple exercises

*Lt(N) Andrew McLaughlin, PAO, 31 CBG*

Hundreds of Canadian Army Reserve soldiers from across Ontario and beyond participated in simultaneous infantry and artillery exercises at 4th Canadian Division Training Centre (4 CDTC) in Meaford from August 20-27, 2022.

The expansive training area offered realistic and demanding terrain and tested the troops on a simulated battlefield, where soldiers and leaders had the opportunity to hone their skills. Exercise STEEL RAIN (Ex SR) saw gun crews firing live ammunition from multiple C3 105-mm Howitzers, and Exercise ARROWHEAD GUARDIAN (Ex AG) was a concentration of soldiers practicing infantry maneuvers and tactics. In addition, a live-fire mortar course shared the training area making it a busy week around the base.

"These exercises provided an opportunity for these soldiers to continue to build on the skills they learned on their summer training courses," said Captain Will Assis of

4th Battalion, The Royal Canadian Regiment who served as Officer Commanding Bravo Company with dozens of troops under his command. *continued on Page 11*





## Hundreds of Army Reservists converge on Meaford for multiple exercises

*continued from Page 10*

“We were able to evaluate the expertise our soldiers and officers developed over months of unit-level and Reserve Summer Training (RST) during our week in the field, which included simulated battles with opposing forces.”

Ex AG included nearly 200 Canadian Army Reserve personnel from 31 Canadian Brigade Group (31 CBG), with companies formed using troops from infantry units across Southwestern Ontario. Ex SR, led by 56 Field Artillery Regiment, RCA, (56 Fd) of Brantford included a similar number of personnel from across Canada, and served as the culmination of multiple 4th Canadian Division and national-level artillery courses. Both exercises included critical support elements like signalers, truck drivers, materiel management and mechanics.

The facilities at 4 CDTC provided a realistic experience. Bravo Company, led by Capt Assis, was a grouping of recent basic training graduates who spent one of their full days conducting urban operations training. These troops were led by experienced instructors, and had the opportunity to use simulated ammunition (known as “Simunition”) during intense shooting and maneuver drills. “That was a big hit with the troops,” said Assis. The infantry spent other days practicing patrolling, various tactical manoeuvres and live-fire attacks on 4 CDTC’s numerous shooting ranges. Ex AG ended with a gruelling covert march followed by an attack on several key targets, including a mock-up enemy base and a bridge.

This method of confirming RST skills on this simulated battlefield paid off, according to Major Puillandre, of 56 Fd. “When we can converge on one place like 4 CDTC Meaford each summer, we can complete various courses with really exciting training for a large number of developing soldiers and leaders, who benefit from it the most.” On that note, he adds, “the planning for next summer’s exercise has already begun.”

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





## Windsor Regiment, RCAC presented the Afghanistan Theatre Honour

The Windsor Regiment, RCAC was presented the Afghanistan Theatre Honour by The Honourable Elizabeth Dowdeswell, Lieutenant Governor of Ontario at a Change of Guidon parade in Windsor, Ontario on September 24, 2022.

Several hundred people attended the event where veterans, local leaders and CAF members recognized the historic event.

*Photos: Bdr Julia Currie, 31 CBG Public Affairs*



## Blanket in honour of the National Day of Truth and Reconciliation



WO Jessica Miller of 31 CBG HQ knitted this beautiful blanket in honour of the National Day of Truth and Reconciliation.

A member of the Six Nations of the Grand River, she will donate the blanket to her community's Veterans Association where it will be part of a silent auction.

For more information on how to bid and support this effort, please email:

[6nationsveterans@gmail.com](mailto:6nationsveterans@gmail.com)

BZ Warrant!

## Every Member should be a GCCPP (Garrison Community Council Project Person)

