

Spring / Summer 2025

From the desk of the President

Our recent move to the Grove has been well received. The Grove offers lots of free parking, a well-lit room, reliable electronic connections and good food.

At the Grove we are quite capable of having a functioning hybrid meeting – on site and on Zoom. This location is a step-up regarding hybrid meetings. Over time, we will learn how to use the available electronics to their full potential.

At our last meeting, we heard of the worthy project to construct a Veterans Monument in Springbank Park. If you are interested in donating to the Byron Springbank Veterans Monument you can forward a cheque payable to the London Community Foundation with the name Byron Springbank Monument in the memo section of your cheque. Your cheque can be forwarded to the London Community Foundation, Covent Garden Market, 130 King Street, London, Ontario N6A1C5. Donations over \$20 will receive a receipt.

Summer is a time for relaxation and exploration. Try to visit one of our fine historical military sites in the London area such the RCR Museum, the Jet Aircraft Museum and the Radar Museum at the 427 Wing.

Regarding current affairs, I was pleased to read of Prime Minister Carney's pledge to increase military spending for modern equipment for the Army, Navy and Air Force. The equipment needs of our Canadian Forces have been long neglected. It was also encouraging to learn of pay hikes for the military.

As I have said for years, membership is everyone responsibility. With a functioning Zoom component, we are free to solicit members outside the London and Area. A recent new GCC member resides in Ottawa. Potential new members for London and Region should be invited to see the Grove in person. Many residents of the London area are unaware of the Grove. Offer to bring a friend or colleague to a meeting, listen to an informative speaker, see the facility, and have a good meal. The secret of getting a new member is simply to ASK someone.

Enjoy the summer break and I look forward to seeing you on Wednesday September 17, 2025. To accommodate the Western Fair, our meeting is on the date indicated.

Tom Dean

PROUDLY CANADIAN



There is a new sense of pride in our country this year. It is more important than ever to show our pride in our serving military personnel and our veterans. One way to show our support is to find out more about our military. There are number of websites online. Here are just a few -

canada.ca/en/services/defence/caf.html

canada.ca/en/services/defence/caf/militaryhistory.html

<https://canadianarmytoday.com/>

<https://www.warmuseum.ca/>

There are a number of military museums and sites mentioned on our website gcclondon.ca/museums/. Throughout this issue a number of these locations from the website are mentioned.

I hope this summer will be one of discovery.

Kevin Patterson
VP Communications



Driving east of Toronto on the Highway of Heroes, my wife and I encountered a number of plaques on overpasses and places to honour our heroes like the one pictured left.

GCC President Tom Dean awarded the King Charles III Coronation Medal



At a recent ceremony Peggy Sattler, MPP for London West, presented Tom Dean with a King Charles III Coronation Medal. He was selected to receive the medal in recognition of his leadership as President of the Garrison Community Council in connecting the military of London and Region with the civilian community. Also mentioned were his years with the Optimist Club of Byron where he was a Past President and his many years in leadership positions at Byron United Church.



Congratulations to Past GCC President Doug McAndless and his wife Jacki on their 70th Wedding Anniversary.

2025 GCC Executive

President	Tom Dean
Past President	Geoff Hutton
Vice President	Mike Leatham
VP Communications	Kevin Patterson
VP Bursaries	Dr. Phil Dean
VP Special Projects	Eric Thomson
VP Programming	Grant Hopcroft
Secretary	Randy Harden
Treasurer	John Martin

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Connections Editors

Kevin Patterson - VP Communications
Tom Dean - President and Editorial Consultant
On site photos: Eric Thomson, Randy Harden, Grant Hopcroft
Screenshots: Gary Nash, Jim Dean, Rob Dean

Battle of the Atlantic Ceremony HMCS Prevost

The Battle of the Atlantic, the longest continuous military campaign of World War II, claimed the lives of over 4,000 Canadians. This included 1,633 Royal Canadian Navy sailors, 1,600 merchant mariners, and 873 Royal Canadian Air Force personnel. Their sacrifices were crucial in keeping vital supply lines open, ultimately securing the Allied victory.

His Majesty's Canadian Ship (HMCS) Prevost, located in London, Ontario, is home to a significant Battle of the Atlantic monument. The first phase of this monument began in 2010 with a simple memorial on a hill outside HMCS Prevost. However, the members of the naval community felt compelled to do more to honor the fallen.



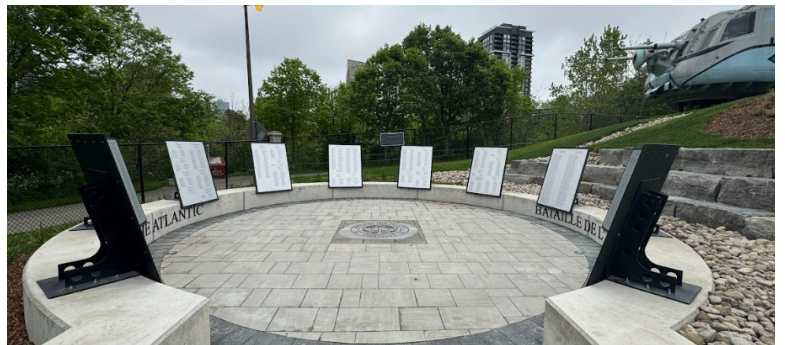
In October 2024, work commenced on upgrading the memorial, with the planning phase having started earlier that year. The unveiling of the enhanced memorial was strategically scheduled to coincide with the Battle of the Atlantic Ceremony on May 4, 2025. This event attracted distinguished guests from across Canada, including the Commander of the Royal Canadian Navy, Indigenous leaders, local dignitaries, and a large public audience.

The ceremony paid tribute to all those lost during the Battle of the Atlantic, with the names of the fallen permanently etched into metal plaques.



Indigenous leaders led the community through traditional ceremonial practices, which were conducted alongside naval traditions, creating a poignant and inclusive tribute.

The realization of the Battle of the Atlantic memorial was made possible by the tireless efforts of the Battle of the Atlantic Memorial Committee.



Battle of the Atlantic Ceremony HMCS Prevost

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A Summer Adventure

Only a few miles from London at Port Burwell on Lake Erie there is a fascinating object that is very out of place.

The HMCS OJIBWA is at Port Burwell. It is now a museum ship and is ranked as one of the most unique attractions in Ontario. The Ojibwa is a submarine far from the ocean. The ship was a spy – the best in her class!

The Ojibwa is available for tours – individuals or groups. Come and see the submarine that required a lot of creative effort to move from Halifax to Port Burwell.

Port Burwell has some good restaurants, two fine beaches and an historic lighthouse.

For more information look at www.hmcsojibwa.ca.



Photo of Pres. Tom beside the Ojibwa was taken a few years ago by Gary Nash.

Two Adventures in the Hamilton area

To the east of London are other great heritage sites to visit. Canadian Warplane Heritage and HMCS Haida are amazing places to explore.

Located in Mount Hope next to the Hamilton International Airport, the Canadian Warplane Heritage features more than 40 aircraft (including the Avro Lancaster), life-sized interactive avatars, Fly Zone motion simulators and ongoing restoration work.

For more information look at www.warplane.com/.



Located on the Hamilton waterfront, HMCS Haida is the first the first-ever ceremonial flagship of the Royal Canadian Navy. Serving in the navy through several conflicts including the Second World War, the Korean Conflict, and the Cold War. HMCS Haida is the last of the twenty-seven tribal class destroyers in the world.

For more information look at <https://parks.canada.ca/lhn-nhs/on/haida>.



Go to page 19 for another Summer Adventure

GCC June General Meeting



Our speaker was RCR Museum Curator and Executive Director, Georgiana Stanciu

The Title of her talk will be

**“Finding the Lost Franklin Expedition;
1973 and the First Battalion,
The Royal Canadian Regiment.”**

While unlikely for infantry men to make archeological discoveries, a training exercise in the Arctic led to the discovery of the only human remains from the lost Franklin Expedition of 1845. Members of the 1st Battalion, The RCR, followed the route of HMS Terror and HMS Erebus in summer 1973. Learn more at our June meeting!

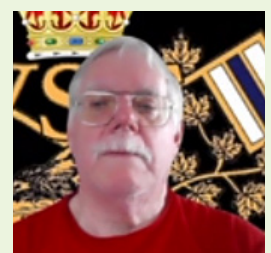
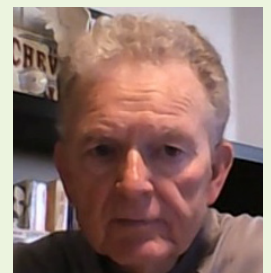
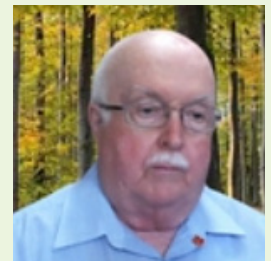


FINDING THE LOST FRANKLIN EXPEDITION

1973 and
the 1st Battalion, The Royal Canadian Regiment



Cairn with plaque marking the passing of 1 RCR Exercise Northern Quest Dated 20 July 1973.

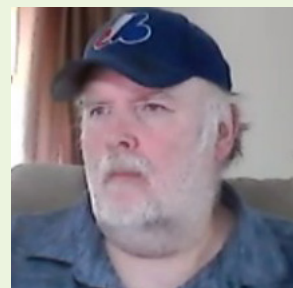


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GCC June General Meeting *Continued from Page 5*



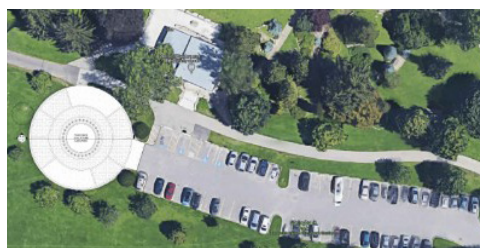
Sir John Franklin



Artist's renditions of McClintock's discovery of the "Peglar" skeleton on 26 May 1859.

BYRON SPRINGBANK VETERANS MONUMENT

Remember ~ Reflect ~ Preserve



After our speaker we had a short presentation about the Byron Springbank Veterans Monument being placed at the west end of Springbank Park.

Our Why:

The Byron Springbank Veterans Monument in Springbank Park, London, Ontario, is being constructed to honour the dedication, sacrifice, and service of all men and women who have volunteered to serve with the Canadian Armed Forces. Canadian Veterans have served throughout history in a broad range of conflicts—whether in world wars, peacekeeping missions, or crises on the home front.



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BYRON SPRINGBANK VETERANS MONUMENT

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We are committed to ensuring that the contributions of these Veterans, whether in combat or in support operations, whether on Canadian soil or abroad, are remembered and respected. Canadian Veterans have served throughout history in a broad range of conflicts—whether in world wars, peacekeeping missions, or crises on the home front. We are committed to ensuring that the contributions of these Veterans, whether in combat or in support operations, whether on Canadian soil or abroad, are remembered and respected.

Our Vision:

This monument will raise awareness in the community and across the country of the profound sacrifices made by those who fought to protect our nation, with special recognition given to those who gave their lives in service. It stands as a place where Veterans, their families, friends, and all citizens can come together to reflect on their invaluable contributions to building today's Canada. By providing a site for remembrance, the monument honours those who have returned home from service and those who continue to serve, demonstrating our collective gratitude for their sacrifices and commitment to peace and security.

Support the Byron Springbank Veterans Monument

The Royal Canadian Legion
in partnership with
The City of London.



London
CANADA

Have questions?
E-mail us at :

bsvmonument@outlook.com

Carney Commits to Hitting NATO 2% Target This Year



By James Careless

Prime Minister Mark Carney says Canada will hit its 2% GDP NATO spending target this year. The federal government will also write the Defence Industrial Strategy that the domestic defence industry has been asking for, and create a centralized Defence Procurement Agency to speed up defence purchases in Canada.

"I'm announcing today that Canada will achieve NATO's 2% of GDP target this year, half a decade ahead of schedule, and we will further accelerate our investments in years to come consistent with meeting these new security imperatives," Carney said during a speech at the University of Toronto on June 9, 2025. "We will invest in new submarines, aircraft ships, armed vehicles, and our artillery, as well as new

radar, drones and sensors to monitor the sea floor and the Arctic. Canada's Department of National Defence will immediately design a new defence policy that reflects both today's and tomorrow's threats, informed by experts, some in this room, and the experience of allies and partners including Ukraine. [And] We are in the process of creating a new defence procurement agency that will be guided by that new defence industrial strategy and overseen by our newly appointed Secretary of State for Defence Procurement. The defence procurement agency will centralize decision-making and move at pace to get our armed forces the equipment they need when they need it."

This builds on the commitments made last year in Canada's defence policy, Our North, Strong and Free (ONSAF), to strengthen Canada's sovereignty, security, and prosperity, and drive economic growth in this pivotal moment. This plan includes a cash increase of over \$9 billion (\$8.3 billion on an accrual basis) in defence investment this fiscal year (2025-26), bringing Canada's defence spending to 2% of gross domestic product.

As well, Carney announced that, "we are actively seeking to strengthen transatlantic security, particularly by becoming a participant in ReArm Europe. This will help diversify our military suppliers with reliable European partners and integrate the Canadian defence industry as full participants in 150 billion Euros of Europe's rearmament program to these ends."

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Carney Commits to Hitting NATO 2% Target This Year

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Following this speech, the Prime Minister's office released further details of Carney's plans for DND/CAF. They include:

- DND's investment in defence for 2025-26 will be over \$9 billion.
- Better pay for Canadian Armed Forces.
- New aircraft, armed vehicles, and ammunition, as well as support for projects currently underway.
- Developing new drones and sensors to monitor the seafloor and the Arctic.
- Repairing and maintaining existing ships, aircraft, and other assets.
- More health care funding and staff for Armed Forces personnel.
- Expanding the reach, security mandate, and abilities of the Canadian Coast Guard and integrating it into our NATO defence capabilities.
- Bolstering Canada's defence industrial capacity.
- Building capacity in artificial intelligence, cyber, quantum, and space.
- Modern and secure digital infrastructure.

Below are the planned investments for the Department of National Defence (DND) and the CAF, and the Communications Security Establishment (CSE) in 2025-26.

The figures presented below are on a cash basis, with accrual figures included in parentheses.

Foundational Investments

A Strong Fighting Force

- **\$2.6 billion** (both on a cash basis and on an accrual basis) to empower the military to recruit and retain the personnel needed to carry out its mandate.
- Accelerate recruitment and reinforce retention to bring the CAF to 71,500 Regular and 30,000 Primary Reserve members by 2030 (13,000 Regular and Primary Reserve members are needed). This would include investments in recruitment and retention efforts to ensure that the CAF has the personnel it needs to be ready to respond effectively to threats at home and engage meaningfully abroad.
- Invest in the civilian workforce to enable members of the Defence Team to support operational readiness, fleet maintenance, internal service functions, finance, policy procurement, public affairs, security, accountability, digital, and infrastructure requirements — allowing the CAF to focus on operational requirements.

Repair and Sustain – Equipment and Infrastructure

- **\$844 million** (\$767 million on an accrual basis) to repair and sustain CAF capabilities and invest in revitalizing and optimizing key infrastructure.
- Leverage Phase 2 of the National Procurement Program to increase funding for the repair and maintenance of CAF equipment. These additional resources will be allocated to critical fleets such as in land, maritime and aerospace domains.
- Invest in repairing and sustaining existing DND/CAF infrastructure in order to maximize operational readiness and support CAF members. Infrastructure repair and sustainment will ensure that the CAF can continue using existing capabilities and be ready to bring online new capabilities.

Strengthening Digital Foundations

- **\$560 million** (\$376 million on an accrual basis) to strengthen DND and the CAF's digital foundations to ensure that the Defence Team is a relevant and modern workforce in today's technological era. This funding will enable the Defence Team to be more resilient to cyber threats and leverage data strategically to improve decision-making, while keeping defence information safe and secure. This amount also includes funding for the CSE.

Expanding and Enhancing Existing and Emerging Military Capabilities

- **\$1 billion** (\$431 million on an accrual basis) to grow existing and introduce emerging military capabilities that will allow Canada to become increasingly self-sufficient in fulfilling its responsibility to defend its territory and citizens, especially in the Arctic. To do so, DND will move forward with commitments made in ONSAF, with a focus on Canadian suppliers.

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Carney Commits to Hitting NATO 2% Target This Year

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Strengthening Canada's Relationship with the Defence Industry

- **\$2.1 billion** (both on a cash basis and on an accrual basis) to strengthen the Government's relationship with Canada's defence industry to lay the groundwork for a comprehensive Defence Industrial Strategy (DIS). These actions focus on immediate needs like reducing obstacles that currently limit industry's ability to provide critical equipment and support to the CAF. As Canada cannot produce all needed military capabilities independently, the DIS will also strengthen Allied industrial partnerships and leverage joint NATO procurement mechanisms.

Planned spending for 2025-26 also includes \$135 million (\$20 million on an accrual basis) for defence-related investments of other government departments and agencies.



Developing Stronger Defence Partnerships

- **\$2 billion** (both on a cash basis and on an accrual basis) to diversify Canada's defence partnerships beyond the United States (US). Canada will take advantage of both a strategic opportunity and imperative given changes in the global environment. As part of this effort, Canada will continue to leverage partnerships with the US when it is in Canada's best interest to do so.

DAME – Domestic Arctic Mobility Enhancement



The DAME – Domestic Arctic Mobility Enhancement Project is intended to be a key enabler for achieving present and future strategic goals in Canada's North as well as enhance domestic response capabilities throughout all regions of Canada.

The Canadian Army needs a high mobility vehicle to move and survive for extended periods in the severe weather and terrain conditions found in the Arctic, in order to transport troops and equipment for safety, security and defence missions in Canada's North. The in-service Bandvagn 206 (BV-206) vehicles are nearing their end of life. As a result, the CAF is more reliant on snowmobiles and light all-terrain vehicles which lack amphibious capabilities and environmental protection for the crew, are limited in troop and cargo carrying capacity, and are not designed for

year-round use, nor are they suitable for casualty or medical evacuation, and all of that results in a greater dependency on limited and costly air medical services.

The CAF therefore needs a high mobility vehicle to transport personnel and equipment for extended periods in the extreme temperature and terrain conditions found in the Arctic.

DAME is in the Optional Analysis phase and has a projected budget of \$100 – \$249 million CAD. The DAME project will obtain a medium size, high mobility vehicle platform for the CAF that can provide the mobility, sustainment and communications required by forces employed in support of domestic operations. The platform will also provide essential mission support such as medical services and resupply. The project intends to deliver a common vehicle platform in 4 variants: Command Post; Troop Carrying; Cargo and Equipment Carrying; and Ambulance.

Specifically, DAME seeks to acquire up to 170 utility vehicles that can operate year-round in the Arctic and can move a light infantry section (10 soldiers) and crew (2 soldiers) 300 km while being self-sufficient for 72 hours.



GCC May General Meeting

Our May GCC Hybrid (in person & on line) meeting was held on May 14 at 12:00 Noon. Our in-person portion of the meeting was held at a new location, The Grove, Western Fair District.



Our speaker for this GCC meeting was Steve Hearn. His topic: Ordinary Canadians doing Extraordinary Acts in Normandy 1944. Steve shared from his upcoming book which explores the stories of individuals in time of war collected from his research of members of the 1st Hussars who served.

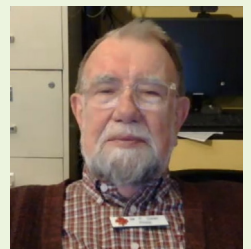
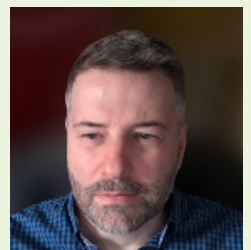
Steve is a veteran who joined The Grey and Simcoe Foresters in 1972, deployed to Egypt (on Peacekeeping) in 1975, and transferred to the 1st Hussars in 1976. Steve excelled as an armoured soldier until his retirement from the military in 1991. Following that he worked with Bruce Nuclear as their

Security Analyst managing their Armoured Vehicle Program. Steve has a History and Political Science degree from UWO and has been a key member of the Holy Roller Refurbishment Project when not enjoying his M38 Jeep!

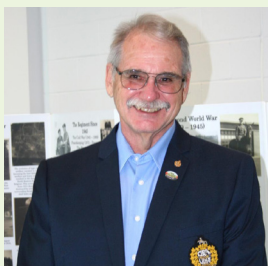


Ordinary Canadians Extraordinary Acts

German Battery Grosser Kurfurst



GCC May General Meeting *Continued from Page 10*



Honouring Our Veterans - Maryse Carmichael

For a young Maryse Carmichael, the sky wasn't the limit—it was only the beginning. She served for decades in the Royal Canadian Air Force and logged more than 3,500 flying hours.



Maryse Carmichael was born in Québec City in 1971. The youngest of four children, she couldn't help but look up to her older siblings.

Her three older brothers were all air cadets. One of them even went on to serve in the Royal Canadian Air Force. She followed in their footsteps and spent seven years as part of the Royal Canadian Air Cadets where she practiced flying gliders. From there, a pilot was born, and she received her private pilot's license at 17. "It wasn't as daunting," she says "I thought, if he can do it, I'm pretty sure I can."

In 1990, she joined the Canadian Armed Forces and finished her flight training in 1994. She spent time serving at CFB Moose Jaw in

Saskatchewan and later CFB Greenwood in Nova Scotia, as part of 434 Combat Support Squadron.

In 2000, Carmichael became the first woman to join the Snowbirds as a pilot. After a few weeks of testing, both flying solo and in formation, she was told she had made the team.

That little girl who dared to dream big was beaming.

"It was a dream come true," she says "I first saw them when I was six or seven, at the Bagotville Air Show, which must have planted a seed."

As a Snowbird, she spent half the year on the road, touring and participating in events like air shows, and the other half training near Moose Jaw, Saskatchewan. She fondly remembers flying over Parliament Hill to celebrate Canada Day.

"It was an honour for me to represent Canada at these events, both at home and overseas," she says, "Some of my best memories are from my time as a Canadian military pilot and representing Canada."

After finishing her time as a pilot with the Snowbirds she served at CFB Bagotville in Québec, before moving to 436 (Transport) Squadron, where she flew the C-130 Hercules from 2007 to 2009. In 2010, Carmichael was promoted to Lieutenant-Colonel.



Lieutenant-Colonel Carmichael flying a C-130 Hercules.

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Honouring Our Veterans - Maryse Carmichael

This was followed by another first.

Carmichael became the first woman Commanding Officer of 431 (Air Demonstration) Squadron—the Snowbirds.

She was responsible for 20 jets and roughly 90 personnel. After two years as a pilot and three years as commanding officer, she spent a remarkable five years with Canada's demonstration team.

"If I had to summarize my time as a snowbird, it's teamwork and trust: this is what it's really all about, it was a proud moment for me to return to the squadron operationally."

She retired from the Canadian Armed Forces after 22 years of service, having logged more than 3,500 hours of flying time.

This past year 2024 marked the 100th anniversary of the Royal Canadian Air Force. A time to look back on a history filled with many firsts and many trailblazers. Maryse Carmichael is one of them.

"I'm so proud of what we've done as the RCAF. From the early days, through World War II, we've continued to push the envelope," says Carmichael. "I think of the road we have all evolved on."

Following her time in the Canadian Armed Forces, she was named Honourary President of the Air Cadet League of Canada. She is also passionate about commemoration. During Veterans' Week 2024, she has been involved in activities to educate and engage youth. She attended an event organized by Veterans Affairs Canada to talk to Canadian students about her experiences as a trailblazer serving in the military.



Maryse Carmichael lays a wreath.

"It's an important time of the year, where we reflect on our past, the people we served with," she says. "I'm happy to participate in these events with other Veterans, and have [youth] see our experiences through our eyes, it's all about learning and understanding."

"My main message is about serving our community, our city and our country, and defending what we believe in." This November, and on Remembrance Day, she will be thinking about all the pilots who have lost their lives serving, including members of the Snowbirds.

Maryse Carmichael was inducted in the Canadian Aviation Hall of Fame in 2022.

Accessed through Salute magazine:

<https://www.veterans.gc.ca/en/remembrance/people-and-stories/maryse-carmichael>

Every Member should be a GCCPP

(Garrison Community Council Project Person)

Who Can Participate in the GCC? All Of Us!

The Garrison Community Council is open to any individual, or organization representative wishing to participate in any activity to raise awareness of and support for the local military community - past and present.



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

Our three fundamental tenets are
Support, Assist and Connect.

Message from New Minister of National Defence, David J. McGuinty



Defence Team,

It is a profound honour to have been appointed as Canada's Minister of National Defence.

The Canadian Armed Forces and the Department of National Defence have a proud and enduring legacy of service to our country. It is a true privilege to join you in this mission. Your professionalism, dedication, and tireless efforts are fundamental to safeguarding Canada's security and upholding the values we cherish—both at home and abroad.

We are living in an increasingly dangerous and divided world. Now, more than ever, Canada must reaffirm its sovereignty and invest in its defence. The threats we face require us to be vigilant and prepared, and we must continue to defend our democracy from foreign interference and ensure Canada remains strong and free.

Canada is a sovereign nation, but that sovereignty is under new and growing pressures. As an Arctic nation, we must protect our northernmost regions and strengthen our presence in a warming Arctic. This work must be done in close collaboration with Arctic and Northern Indigenous Peoples, recognizing their leadership, experience, and rights.

At this pivotal moment in our history, we must build a modern, agile, and mission-ready military—one that reflects Canadian values and is equipped for the challenges of today and tomorrow. We will rebuild our defence capacity, rearm the Canadian Armed Forces, and invest in our defence industry to ensure it is both resilient and globally competitive. These investments will support Canadian innovation, create highly skilled jobs, and reinforce Canada's leadership in emerging defence technologies.

We will also modernize and streamline our defence procurement system to eliminate unnecessary delays, ensure that equipment is delivered when and where it is needed, and prioritize investment here in Canada—with every dollar spent wisely and effectively.

Most importantly, we will put people first. Across this country, brave individuals have put up their hands to serve. We ask a great deal of them—and in return, they deserve our full support. That means providing the right equipment and training, improving the military experience for members and their families, and making the Canadian Armed Forces one of the best workplaces in the country. It also means ensuring compensation reflects the sacrifices our people make in defence of Canada.

Our plan will put Canada on track to exceed our NATO defence spending target before 2030—because meeting this moment requires urgency, clarity, and resolve.

I would like to extend my sincere gratitude to my predecessor, the Honourable Bill Blair, for his leadership and dedication as Minister of National Defence. Minister Blair spoke often of his deep respect for the Defence Team, and I share that admiration.

I look forward to working closely with Deputy Minister Stefanie Beck, Chief of the Defence Staff General Jennie Carignan, and all of you across the Defence Team. Together, we will modernize our institutions, strengthen our capabilities, and ensure that Canada's military remains a force for peace, stability, and security in a rapidly changing world.

Thank you for your service, your commitment, and your continued dedication to Canada.

The Honourable David J. McGuinty

Minister of National Defence



GCC April General Meeting



Our speaker for April was Doug Acton, Co-Chair of the Education Committee for the JET AIRCRAFT MUSEUM (JAM) and past president of the GCC. The JET AIRCRAFT MUSEUM (JAM) is the only aviation museum dedicated solely to the restoration and flying of RCAF jet aircraft and other Cold War jets. The JAM exists to create and maintain a dynamic and living history of the modern age Royal Canadian Air Force and to provide permanent honour for those valiant Canadian men and women who flew these aircraft with distinction in periods of war, peace, and peacekeeping. In short, our mission is to "Preserve, Educate, and Soar".

Doug Acton is a graduate of the Royal Military College of Canada (Honours BA, History) and the Faculty of Education, University of Western Ontario (BEd). He was a Teacher and Principal for the Thames Valley District School Board and predecessor London Board for 32 Years. He was also a founding member of the Ontario Principals Council and served as Provincial President in 2004/05.

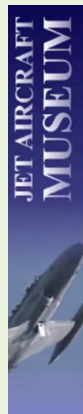
After retiring from the School Board, Doug worked for the Ministry of Education as a Student Achievement Officer, for the Faculty of Education at Western as a

Faculty Advisor, and for Thames Valley District School Board as an occasional Principal.

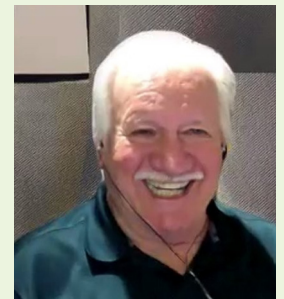
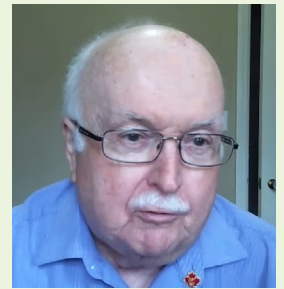
Doug is a member of several military related organisations: The Royal Canadian Legion - Vimy Branch #145, The HMCS Prevost Wardroom, The Royal London Military Institute, and the Garrison Community Council (Past President).

Doug became a member of the Jet Aircraft Museum where he has served as President and Chair of the Board and, along with his wife Marti, is Director of the Education Program which they established.

Doug enjoys traveling with his wife, golf with his buddies, and trying to keep pace with his 6 grandchildren.



J.A.M. at G.C.C.



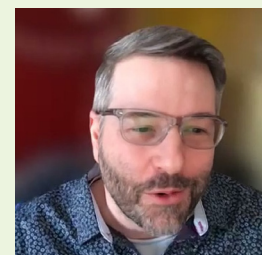
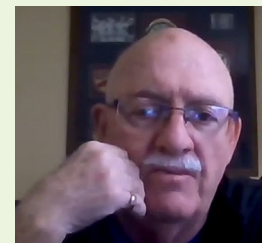
The JAM Collection - Aircraft



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GCC April General Meeting *Continued from Page 14*

The JAM Collection - Restoration



J.A.M. EDUCATION



Welcome to the
Jet Aircraft
Museum

Flight: Structures,
Mechanisms,
Matter, Society



JAM Simulators



JAM Events - Ukranian MiG 29 Premiere



Looking for Funds* to Assist with your Further Education?



STUDENT BURSARIES 2025

In appreciation of your service, London and Region's Garrison Community Council, with support from Members of the GCC, will award a number of bursaries to serving military personnel in Primary Reserve units who are enrolled in post-secondary education. Each bursary is worth \$1,000 and may be used for any educational expense.

*Tax free, by CRA regulation, when used for post-secondary education.

HOW TO APPLY

Relevant information and Applications Forms etc. are available on the GCC website under Bursaries at <https://gccclondon.ca/bursaries-page/>

Applications must be submitted in electronic format only and sent by e-mail to: garrisoncommunitycouncil@gmail.com

Reservists serving in the following units and are eligible to apply for a GCC Bursary:

HMCS Prevost	London
31 Canadian Brigade Group HQ	London
1st Hussars	London, Sarnia
31 Combat Engineer Regt. (The Elgin's)	St. Thomas, Waterloo
31 Signal Regiment Detachment	London
4th Battalion, The Royal Canadian Regt.	London, Stratford
31 Service Battalion	London, Windsor, Hamilton
31 Military Police	London

**The submission
deadline for
applications is
31 October 2025**

RAAF salutes dedication to WWII graves



CAPTION: Chief of Air Force Air Marshal Stephen Chappell meets local man Erik Adriaensen at the graves of fallen aviators from 464 Squadron at Eindhoven, Netherlands. Story by Flight Lieutenant Grace Casey-Maughan.

A Dutch family who tend to the graves of Australian aviators have received personal thanks from Chief of Air Force Air Marshal Stephen Chappell.

In southern Netherlands, at a town called Eindhoven, lies the Woensel General Cemetery.

It is the final resting place for Sergeant Farquharson Proctor and Sergeant Mervyn Lionel Vivian Hass, Royal Australian Air Force aviators from 464 Squadron, who died on 6 December 1942 during Operation Oyster.

Operation Oyster was a bombing raid on Sinterklaas day (Saint Nicholas day) against the Philips radio valve company at Eindhoven.

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RAAF salutes dedication to WWII graves

Continued from Page 16

464 Squadron inflicted significant damage on the target, losing three aircraft to anti-aircraft fire during Operation Oyster.

Sergeant Proctor from Brighton, Victoria, was just 21 years old when he was killed.

Sergeant Hass from Oakey, Queensland, was 27 years of age.

Air Marshal Chappell travelled to Eindhoven in April to meet local man Erik Adriaensen.

Mr Adriaensen and his family have kind-heartedly adopted and cared for the graves of Sergeant Hass and Sergeant Proctor.

Mr Adriaensen's family moved to Eindhoven in 1983, to a home that was close to the site where a 464 Squadron aircraft had crashed during Operation Oyster.

He had always had a strong interest in WWII, and started to investigate what happened at Eindhoven.

When he discovered that the crash was close to where he lived, he decided to adopt and care for the 464 Squadron graves.



CAPTION: Erik and Christine Adriaensen are presented with a gift and coin by Air Marshal Stephen Chappell.

The graves are maintained by the Commonwealth War Graves Commission, but the Adriaensen family visit the graves on special days.

"We visit the graves on the birthdays of the air crew, Liberation Day, All Souls' Day, and Christmas Eve," Mr Adriaensen said.

"On Christmas Eve we light candles on the graves, and on special days we drink whisky at the grave and 'give some' to the air men, by tipping a little on the grave."

For the Adriaensen family, caring and visiting the graves has been an important way to educate their children on what happened during World War 2.

They believe that each grave should have a picture of the individual, to help people remember and connect with the personal stories of those who gave their lives.

When Mr Adriaensen received an email from the Chief of Air Force's office, he admitted he was quite shocked.

"I wondered, 'How did they find us?' I was very honoured to be asked to meet [the Chief], and although recognition is not why we do what we do, it felt very special," he added.

Mr Adriaensen was joined at this meeting by his wife Christine, his brother Reiner Adriaensen, who is a Royal Netherlands Air Force Officer, and his sister-in-law, Marjan Adriaensen.

Air Marshal Chappell presented Mr Adriaensen with a gift and his coin, and told the family the story of the coin.

He thanked them for their efforts and service.

"It was a great privilege to meet Erik and Christine Adriaensen in Eindhoven to thank them personally for the care they have shown to the graves of our fallen aviators," Air Marshal Chappell said.

"It was poignant for me as Chief of Air Force to have had the opportunity to meet them a few days after Anzac Day.

"To know that the graves of our Australian service personnel, on the other side of the world, are so well cared for is a source of great comfort to both families and the Australian Defence Force."

Note: Sadly the Royal Australian Air Force has learnt of the passing of Erik Adriaensen since this meeting occurred. His kindness, generosity, and ongoing support to our fallen servicemen will not be forgotten.



CAPTION: Air Marshal Chappell met with the Adriaensen family to thank them for the dedicated care they have shown to the graves of the fallen Royal Australian Air Force aviators.



By Scott Taylor

On Monday June 9, Prime Minister Mark Carney did the unthinkable. He promised to immediately boost defence spending to meet the NATO spending objective of 2 per cent of Gross Domestic Product (GDP) within the current 2025 - 2026 fiscal year.

The original defence budget tabled for this same timeframe was \$40 billion or roughly 1.3 per cent of Canada's GDP. With Carney's new directive, spending on defence and security is to balloon to \$62.7 billion prior to April 1 2026.

Now before all those amateur mathematicians start simply subtracting the former from the latter to determine the increase, we need to keep in mind that some creative accounting is being employed by the Carney team.

While there will be \$9 billion in 'new' spending the rest of the boost will come from rolling spending from other government departments into the Department of National Defence's accounting ledger. The most prominent among those moves will see the Canadian Coast Guard becoming essentially a fourth branch of the Canadian Armed Forces (CAF) rather than reporting to the Department of Fisheries.

Other announced spending increases include a 20 per cent pay raise for service members, retention bonuses and special allowances for training exercises. It was also announced that DND will hire an additional 1400 civilian workers to take some of the strain off our overstretched and understaffed combat forces.

Carney also announced that additional medical staff will be hired to improve access to healthcare for CAF members. However given the state of Canada's health care facilities nation-wide, I'm not sure exactly where he believes those personnel are to be found.

In that same June 9 speech Carney repeated his previous statements that Canada needs to move away from our current heavy reliance on the US for our military equipment purchases.

ON TARGET: Canada Needs to Buy European Defence Hardware: Not U.S.

This is of course in light of President Donald Trump's continued threats to annex Canada into becoming the 51st State, through economic measures such as crippling tariffs. "We should no longer send three-quarters of our defence capital spending to America," Carney said. "The transformation of our military capabilities can help with the transformation of our economy."

For the record, Carney also ordered a review of the acquisition of 88 F-35 fighter jets from Lockheed Martin.

At present Canada has only contracted to purchase the first 16 of those F-35's.

A clear way to demonstrate to Canadians that Carney is not simply posturing would be to cancel our order for the remaining 62 F-35's on the order book and instead purchase a similar number of SAAB Gripen fighter jets. The Gripen was the last remaining challenger to the F-35 in the competition to find a replacement for Canada's aging fleet of CF-18's.

For anyone about to argue against Canada operating a mixed fleet of fighter aircraft, the RCAF used to do just that only a couple of decades ago. During the transition from CF-104 Starfighters to the CF-18 Hornets, Canada also had several squadrons of CF-116 Freedom Fighters. One also only needs to look at the Australian example. With a smaller population and GDP than Canada, the RAAF presently operates 24 F-18 Super Hornets and 72 F-35 Lightnings.

It has also been argued that the operating and maintenance cost of the Gripen are far less than those of the F-35. While the F-35's are built entirely in the US, SAAB of Sweden has offered an option for Canada to assemble the Gripen's under licence. A similar arrangement was successfully implemented in Brazil.

Now before anyone gets their elbows too far up over this proposed solution, keep in mind that the engines for the Gripen are still manufactured in the US.

In other words, Trump would still be getting a chunk of cheese, just not the whole damn thing.

Also, the review that Carney has ordered into the F-35 purchase is being conducted by the very same Air Force officers who have steadfastly maintained that they want the F-35 and only the F-35 since the outset. Do not expect a different outcome this time around. They are simply going through the motions to appease Carney and stall for time until the current spat with Trump blows over.

Summer Adventure in Niagara

Sitting on the western shore of the Niagara River are a group of structures whose origins date back the the 1800s. Including blockhouses, officers' quarters, artificers shop and guard house and a powder magazine, Fort George represents the British Army's presence in North America.

This is where I began my interest in the military and taking journeys into history more than 40 years ago. In July 2012 (the 200th Anniversary of the War of 1812) it was time to return to the fort for a new adventure.

The original fort was built between 1796 and 1802 and served as the headquarters for the Centre Division of the British Army during the 1812 conflict. The fort played a critical role in the defending of Upper Canada. Fort George saw action during the Battle of Queenston Heights. The fort was heavily bombarded and captured in May 1812. It would be months before the British regained control of the Fort George.

Reconstruction took place in the 1930s, the goal was to restore the fort to its state before its destruction by American forces.

Fort George is located in Niagara-on-the-lake. You can find the visiting hours on the following websites -

parks.canada.ca/lhn-nhs/on/fortgeorge
www.friendsoffortgeorge.ca/fort-george/



Image taken from Brock's bastion the fort's most strategic artillery battery.



Infantry musket demonstration.

Roshel Unveils Canadian-Made Counter-UAS Vehicle at CANSEC 2025



Roshel, Canada's leading manufacturer of armoured vehicles, is proud to unveil its latest innovation at CANSEC 2025: the Senator Counter-UAS Vehicle, a highly advanced mobile platform designed to detect, track, and neutralize Uncrewed Aerial Systems (UAS) threats. Built entirely in Canada and based on Roshel's combat-proven Senator Pickup MRAP, this platform integrates Leonardo's world-renowned Falcon Shield CUAS system, protecting its operators from known and emerging threats on the modern battlefield.

With over 1,800 Senator vehicles deployed in Ukraine alone, Roshel has earned a reputation for delivering highly survivable, adaptable platforms that perform reliably under the most demanding conditions.

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Roshel Unveils Canadian-Made Counter-UAS Vehicle at CANSEC 2025

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With over 1,800 Senator vehicles deployed in Ukraine alone, Roshel has earned a reputation for delivering highly survivable, adaptable platforms that perform reliably under the most demanding conditions.

The vehicle – designed, engineered, and manufactured at Roshel's vertically integrated facility in Ontario – is tailored to meet the growing needs of Canadian and allied forces. It features STANAG 4569 Level 2 ballistic and Level 3 blast protection, a bolted capsule for ease of maintenance, and mine-protected seating. It is fully interoperable with NATO C2 systems and supports joint missions through advanced meshing, autonomy, and sensor fusion capabilities.

“As a Canadian manufacturer, we are proud to deliver a solution that not only reflects our engineering excellence and battlefield experience but also strengthens Canada's industrial and defense sovereignty,” said Roman Shimonov, CEO of Roshel.

“By integrating Leonardo's advanced Falcon Shield CUAS system into our Senator platform, we're offering an immediately deployable, highly mobile solution that's ready for today's rapidly evolving threats.”

Leonardo's Falcon Shield system, operationally proven with the Royal Air Force and Canadian Armed Forces, brings unmatched detection and defeat capabilities. It includes multi-spectrum radar, electro-optical tracking, AI-based classification, electronic attack, protocol manipulation, and a highly automated C2 suite. Now adapted for use on a vehicle, Falcon Shield Mobile is fully operational while on the move, offering convoy protection, self-defense, or remote deployment flexibility.

“This collaboration brings together the best of Canadian manufacturing and European CUAS innovation,” said Chris Axcell, Senior Vice-President of the Integrated Sensing and Protection business in Leonardo UK.

“Falcon Shield has proven itself in service to be a highly capable and rapidly deployable system, effective against current and emerging UAS threats. We are now offering this level of protection on the move with Falcon Shield Mobile, integrating best of breed technologies onboard Roshel's Senator platform to detect, track, and identify UAS at range, before defeating them with kinetic or non-kinetic effects”.

The Counter-UAS vehicle represents a strong UK–Canadian industrial collaboration, leveraging the strengths of both nations' defense industries. The platform is designed with open architecture for future upgrades and rapid integration of additional sensors or effectors. The system can operate as part of a distributed network with fixed-site CUAS installations, manned units, or autonomous assets.



TRILLIUM VENTURE images

Exercise TRILLIUM VENTURE is an emergency response exercise with local partners held annually across Ontario. It is led by Joint Task Force Central, headquartered in Toronto and includes approximately 1500 members of the CAF from the Canadian Army, Royal Canadian Air Force, and the Royal Canadian Navy.

approximately 1500 members of the CAF from the Canadian Army, Royal Canadian Air Force, and the Royal Canadian Navy.



Canada joins new NATO Defence Investment Pledge

The world is increasingly dangerous and divided, with the rules-based international system under unprecedented pressure and global conflict becoming more frequent and volatile. To meet this moment, Canada and its Allies are building their defence capabilities to strengthen our collective security.

The Prime Minister, Mark Carney, announced that Canada and its North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) Allies have agreed to a new Defence Investment Pledge of investing 5 per cent of annual GDP by 2035 to ensure our individual and collective security. The commitment aligns with Canada's own strategic defence and security goals.

As part of this 5 per cent pledge, Canada will invest 3.5 per cent of GDP for core military capabilities, expanding on our recent investments. That means further investments in our Canadian Armed Forces, modernizing our military equipment and technology, building up Canada's defence industries, and diversifying our defence partnerships. An additional 1.5 per cent of GDP will be dedicated to investments in critical defence and security-related expenditure, such as new airports, ports, telecommunication, emergency preparedness systems, and other dual-use investments which serve defence as well as civilian readiness. Importantly, the progress of this pledge will be reviewed in 2029 to ensure Allies' expenditures align with the global security landscape.

At the Summit, Canada and its Allies reaffirmed their support for Ukraine and the leaders agreed on the imperative for a just and lasting peace. Canada's contributions to Ukraine's defence and its defence industries, including Canada's \$2 billion in military assistance announced last week at the 2025 G7 Leaders' Summit in Kananaskis, Alberta, are included in our NATO contributions, as the security of Ukraine is critical to our collective security.

"The world is increasingly dangerous and divided. Canada must strengthen our defence to better protect our sovereignty, our interests, and our Allies.



These investments won't just build our military capacity – they will build our industries and create good, high-paying jobs at home. If we want a more secure world, we need a stronger Canada."

— The Rt. Hon. Mark Carney, Prime Minister of Canada

"Canada is a proud founding member of the Alliance. In an increasingly unstable and unpredictable world, we are making the critical investments needed to keep Canadians safe, support our Armed Forces, and strengthen our role in Europe and on the world stage. The renewed Defence Investment Pledge to invest 5 per cent of GDP by 2035 reaffirms Canada's strong commitment to our security, to our sovereignty, and to NATO."

— The Hon. David J. McGuinty, Minister of National Defence



(DND/MARPAC Imaging Services)

ON TARGET: Canada's Sad Submarine Saga

By Scott Taylor

A recent headline in the Ottawa Citizen caught my attention as it had an update on our submarine fleet.

"Canadian submarine sidelined for at least a decade will be operational this summer, DND says."

The news article appeared to be a positive one, leading with a quote from the Department of National Defence (DND) and the Royal Canadian Navy (RCN) proclaiming that HMCS Corner Brook is now Canada's 'most advanced submarine'.

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ON TARGET: Canada's Sad Submarine Saga

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But following that patriotic sounding claim, the article revealed HMCS Corner Brook only achieved this elevated status after DND spent \$715 million in repairs and upgrades into this 34-year old boat.

For casual observers of the Canadian military it is worth recapping the RCN's history of operating submarines, as it was announced last September that Canada intends to buy a new fleet of up to 12 diesel-electric powered submarines at the staggering cost of over \$100 billion.

The first of those new submarines is not expected to enter service until 2037, but international bidders are already lining up at Canada's doorstep. According to many a Canadian naval analyst, it is imperative that the RCN does not lose their underwater capability. Their fear is that once lost, it will be forever lost.

The historical record says otherwise. In 1914, at the outbreak of the First World War, the government of British Columbia bought two submarines from a US shipyard that had originally been built for Chile. These two primitive subs patrolled the Pacific until 1917 when they transmitted the Panama Canal and came to be based in Halifax. They were used to train surface ships, and decommissioned at the end of the war.

During Second World War, the RCN did not operate submarines although Canadian volunteer-submariners served aboard British submarines.

In the 1960's Canada purchased three Oberon Class submarines from Britain for the express purpose of using these boats as training aids for the RCN's anti-submarine warfare vessels. The RCN wanted the more capable US Navy Barbel class submarine but the Canadian government preferred the more economic Oberons.

In the late 1970's, due to the sorry state of the RCN's surface capability, Canada made the decision to upgrade the three Oberons into 'hunter-Killer attack submarines.

This Submarine Operational Upgrade Program (SOUP) was complete in 1986 just in time for the end of the Cold War. This Submarine Operational Upgrade Program (SOUP) was complete in 1986 just in time for the end of the Cold War. A fun trivia tidbit is the fact that no Canadian submarine has ever fired a torpedo in anger in the history of the RCN.

In the 1987 White Paper on Defence the Mulroney Conservatives announced an ambitious plan to build between 10 -12 nuclear powered hunter killer attack submarines. With the collapse of the Soviet Union in 1990 the idea of Canada operating a large fleet of nuclear-powered submarines was thrown on the scrap heap of history.

The old Oberon's were getting older, and at the risk of losing the RCN's underwater capability for good, the Navy brain trust of the day agreed to take on four used British Upholder Class submarines. It was a case of newly elected Liberal Prime Minister Jean Chretien telling the RCN leadership it was these four used boats or nothing. The RCN should have opted for nothing. There was a good reason why the British Royal Navy would have commissioned these four Upholder Class submarines between 1990 and 1993 only to mothball all four submarines in 1994.

The Canadian acquisition team kicked the tires and pronounced the subs a good deal. A short time later the tires simply fell off. To wit; high-pressure welds had to be replaced and cracks were found in some of the valves on the four submarines. Torpedo tubes had been welded shut, steel piping needed to be replaced as the subs had been put into storage in the United Kingdom with water in their fuel tanks and HMCS Victoria had to undergo repairs after a dent was discovered in her hull.

The most serious, and tragic, incident occurred when HMCS Chicoutimi was damaged by a fire during her transit to Halifax in 2004 that killed one officer.

A May 2009 RCN report that was seemingly written by "Captain Obvious" concluded "The introduction of the Victoria class has been fraught with many issues and faced a number of setbacks."

Canada agreed to the Upholder deal in 1994 but the actual transfer of ownership took place between 2000 and 2004. The last Oberon to be decommissioned was HMCS Onondaga and that occurred in July 2000.

HMCS Windsor was the first of the renamed Victoria Class submarines to enter RCN service on June 2005. So for roughly half a decade Canada was without any underwater capability.

Critics have questioned the value of Canada's submarine fleet, pointing out that they have cost billions of dollars and have not spent that much time at sea.

For the record, HMCS Windsor is the only one of Canada's four Victoria-class submarines that has been to sea since 2021, logging 43 days in 2022 and 14 in 2023.

Which begs the question, can the RCN really lose a capability that they don't actually possess?



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