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TRIDENT

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Punching above her weight

Sailor 1st Class Victoria Croney, a Marine Technician (MARTECH) posted to HMCS Montreal, was awarded the CFL Sailor of the Quarter award on October 22. She was credited as a leader in the daunting task of overhauling the ship's entire black water system, a critical function. Commodore Christopher Robinson, Commander, Canadian Fleet Atlantic and Chief Petty Officer 1st Class Jamie Haas, Fleet Chief, presented the award on board the ship.

MONA GHIZ, MARLANT PA





From left, MS Mike Oliver, MS Lindsay Hansen and MS Gus McIsaac are instructors at the D-BMQ course currently taking place at 12 Wing Shearwater.

JOANIE VEITCH, TRIDENT STAFF

Leading D-BMQ is hard work, but rewarding, instructors say

By Joanie Veitch,
Trident Staff

When Master Sailor Gus McIsaac heard about an opportunity to take the General Military Training Instructor (GMTI) course last summer, he jumped at the chance.

"I've always wanted to instruct at Basic Training. I remember when I went through it myself and the influence my instructors had on me... it really stayed with me," he said.

Now the lead instructor at the Atlantic De-centralized Basic Military Qualification (BMQ) course at 12 Wing Shearwater, MS McIsaac said it's a tough job, but one of the best experiences he's had in the military since he joined in 2007.

"Excluding deployments, this is probably the hardest I've worked while I've been in the Canadian Armed Forces. You're up at 5 a.m. and the days are long but... to deliver a lesson on something, and then see them applying the knowledge and skills you taught them, it's incredibly rewarding," he said.

While BMQ normally happens at the Canadian Forces Leadership and Recruit School in Saint-Jean-sur-Richelieu in Québec, training was de-centralized last fall to continue to recruit and train new personnel in a "persistent" COVID-19 environment.

This September the fourth D-BMQ course started at 12 Wing Shearwater, with naval recruits arriving from all across Canada and going through two weeks of isolation before beginning the 10-week course that includes classroom instruction, parade drill, field training, weapons training and range practice, along with first aid, basic fire fighting skills and physical fitness training and testing.

It can be challenging to adapt the program through various COVID posture changes at Maritime Forces Atlantic Formation (MARLANT) but overall the East Coast D-BMQs have been success-

ful as everyone works to accommodate and adapt with each new course, said Lt(N) Kieran Higgins, Company Commander BMQ at Naval Fleet School (Atlantic).

"The first D-BMQ was definitely a steep learning curve but we've learned a lot and continue to make improvements as we go. We're exceeding our target goals for the number of recruits trained and that's a testament to the excellence of our instructors," said Lt(N) Higgins.

There are 52 recruits going through Basic Training at 12 Wing Shearwater this fall, which works out to a one to six ratio of instructor to students. The target number for each d-BMQ is 55 recruits, said Lt(N) Higgins.

Like MS McIsaac, Master Sailor Lindsay Hansen was eager to sign up for the GMTI course last fall. Now having taught three of the four BMQ courses held over the past year at Shearwater, she said she loves seeing how the recruits' mindset begins to shift as they get to the mid-point of the course.

"Around about week five or week six you see them really start getting it. You watch them go from not understanding the military lifestyle at all to start functioning as a team. It's seeing that transformation from being an ordinary civilian to being a military member. I love when I see that cohesiveness happen and know I had something to do with it," she said.

As the only female instructor at present, MS Hansen said she enjoys watching how the female recruits — there are nine in the current session — bond as they go through the course.

"There are so few of them, they come together and really work as a team. I like to see that," she said.

De-centralized BMQs are taking place on both the east and west coasts for naval recruits. Having Royal Canadian

Navy recruits being taught by RCN staff has been a definite bonus to the new model, said Lt(N) Higgins.

"It's great exposure for them, right from the start they get to meet senior sailors, some of whom they will be working for down the road. It gives them a picture of what life will be like in the Navy," he said.

As a new recruit with plans to work as a Marine Technician, Zane Clarke said he had visions of the boot camp scenes from Full Metal Jacket running through his head when he arrived at Shearwater, but now more than half-way through the program, those worrisome thoughts are far behind him.

"It's been good, really good. It's a much healthier environment than I was expecting," said Clarke. "It can be stressful at times, yes, but not in a bad way. The instructors are fair but firm. Every week the standard is raised and it's clear that they want you to succeed."

For Master Sailor Mike Oliver, an instructor who has taught three courses of D-BMQ, finding success as an instructor comes from experience, and learning to tailor his leadership style to the student in front of him.

"GMTI sets you in the right direction but it's teaching that first course where you really learn how to do this," he said. "In this course we have a lot more younger recruits so you have to be able to adjust how you approach each candidate. For some, being more direct is what works but others need a more

compassionate style. For a lot of them, it's their first time away from home and they're like a deer in the headlights when they first get here."

Admitting she's a "sucker for a good challenge," 22-year-old Rebecca "TJ" Long said she's thoroughly enjoying her experience and credits the instructors for their ability to motivate and make the course fun, even when it's tough going.

"The instructors are great. They work with you and help you work through problems when you're struggling. They know your growth zone and your panic zone and how to help you bring it back in when you're feeling overwhelmed... and there's a good dose of humour there too," she said.

Graduation is scheduled for November 12.



Multiple rotations of the Atlantic De-centralized Basic Military Qualification (BMQ) course have taken place on both Navy coasts since fall 2020.

RCN PA



**Their memory shall endure.
Lest we forget.**

DARREN FISHER, MP
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Remembering Vimy, the last military police working dog

By MPU Halifax

It is with great sadness that we announce the passing of the last military police working dog, Vimy, on the morning of September 13, 2021.

Vimy was named to commemorate the great battle of Vimy Ridge during the First World War, which was situated in the north of France. The battle spanned from April 9-12, 1917, and saw more than 10,000 Canadian troops either killed or wounded. The name “Vimy” represented a military nexus to policing, along with a call to service within the Military Police Branch.

Vimy was enrolled into the Military Police Branch in July 2008 after successful completion of the Ontario Provincial Police (OPP) Canine Program with then Cpl Caron. Vimy was trained as a general service police dog for the Military Police Branch. It was a career that lasted for 12 years alongside his partner, WO Caron. Although Vimy was a general service dog, he also had a specialization in narcotic detection.

Vimy and WO Caron trained with the OPP at the beginning of their career. It was in their training that they became certified in a variety of profiles including tracking suspects/missing persons, drug search-

es, searching ships and officer protection. Vimy and WO Caron worked countless hours with partnered policing agencies such as Halifax Regional Police, Royal Canadian Mounted Police, Canadian Border Services Agency, Ontario Provincial Police and Corrections Canada. Vimy and WO Caron helped bridge many relationships with partner police agencies through the K9 program.

Throughout his career, Vimy followed WO Caron with police responsibilities to MPU Halifax (twice) and 2 MP Regiment, Det Petawawa. During the prime of Vimy’s career, Vimy and WO Caron attended, on average, approximately 130 calls of service a year. Vimy was the last serving police dog in the military police branch and retired from duty on March 31, 2020.

Vimy was described by WO Caron often as “highly energetic and highly motivated to work”. He also noted that despite the dog’s energetic side, Vimy also had an attention seeking side to him and was often looking for pets. In the latter part of Vimy’s career, the attention seeking side tended to shine through more, and was often a morale boost to members who saw Vimy on a regular basis at MPU Halifax.

There are many things to celebrate regarding how much of an asset Vimy was to WO Caron and the Military Police Branch as a whole. Vimy will be dearly missed. Military Police Unit Halifax was pleased to serve alongside Vimy and WO Caron. Anyone who would like to send messages, letters, and condolences can forward them to david.bamford@forces.gc.ca.



Formal portrait of Vimy captured in February 2018 in Halifax

SUBMITTED



HMCS *Harry DeWolf* on the west coast

HMCS *Harry DeWolf*, left, and HMCS *Vancouver* are seen departing from CFB Esquimalt on October 22. The ships were accompanied by RCN training vessels *Orca*, *Caribou* and *Moose*, along with the visiting New Zealand frigate HMNZS *Te Mana*. From there, the Arctic and Offshore Patrol ship headed south to continue its circumnavigation of North America.



A small commemoration ceremony was held at DCTF Kootenay on October 22, led by Cmdre Christopher Robinson, Commander Canadian Fleet Atlantic.

PTE CONNOR BENNETT



LS (Ret'd) Bell and Pattie Christie, daughter of HMCS Kootenay medical assistant PO2 Robert "Doc" Christie.

JOANIE VEITCH, TRIDENT STAFF

52 years on, survivors and family remember HMCS *Kootenay* tragedy at sea

By Joanie Veitch,
Trident Staff

As people gathered to remember and pay tribute at the various events commemorating the explosion and fire aboard HMCS *Kootenay* on October 23, 1969, it was clear the tragedy marked a turning point — for the crew and their families, and the Royal Canadian Navy as a whole.

"Dad never talked about what happened and for the longest time, we never really knew much... he came home a different man," said Patti Christie, daughter of PO2 Robert "Doc" Christie, the medical assistant on board *Kootenay* and first responder to the devastating aftermath.

Like many of the *Kootenay* survivors, PO2 Christie struggled with mental health issues for years following the tragedy. Just ten years old at the time, Christie said the *Kootenay* explosion marked a definite "before and after" for her father, and her family.

On the morning of October 23, 1969, *Kootenay* had just started a full-power trial as part of a training exercise off the south west coast of England when a failed bearing caused the starboard gearbox to overheat, resulting in an explosion and fire that blasted through the engine room.

Nine men died from the accident, 53 others were injured — the fact that more did not die that day is a testament to the determination and

bravery of the crew of HMCS *Kootenay*, said Commodore Christopher Robinson, Commander Canadian Fleet Atlantic, at a commemorative service on the 52nd anniversary of the disaster, held at Damage Control Training Facility (DCTF) *Kootenay*, a training facility named in honour of the *Kootenay* crew.

"These were all heroes. A lesser crew would have lost that ship," said Cmdre Robinson. "We owe a debt of gratitude and thanks to that crew, and the people who helped them afterwards."

Known as the worst peacetime disaster in Canadian naval history, the years following the *Kootenay* disaster brought huge improvements in fire prevention and damage control equipment and practices on board ship. This meant new safety modifications to ship design and improved training for sailors, most notably at DCTF *Kootenay*, which opened in 2002 on the East Coast, and DCTF Galiano on the West Coast.

The *Kootenay* disaster was a catalyst for other changes as well. Military policy at the time dictated that Canadian service personnel killed overseas would not be brought home for burial. Four of the nine *Kootenay* sailors who died were buried at sea and four more were buried at Brookwood Military

Cemetery in Surrey, England.

Petty Officer Lewis John Stringer, the ninth fatality from the *Kootenay* disaster and the only one buried in Canada, died on his return home, on board HMCS *Bonaventure*, an aircraft carrier.

"The official government policy at the time was burial in the country in which you died.... No crew members attended any of these funerals on land," said Leading Seaman (LS) (Ret'd) Allan "Dinger" Bell, in his eulogy at this year's service at DCTF *Kootenay*.

LS (Ret'd) Bell, who was only 21 years old at the time of the accident and sustained third-degree burns over nearly half of his body, has been credited for his work to ensure the story of the *Kootenay* disaster is remembered. In 2019, LS (Ret'd) Bell and 13 other survivors from HMCS *Kootenay* received the Wound Stripe in recognition for injuries endured 50 years earlier.

Many of the survivors also had to deal with debilitating post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD).

"At that time there was no treatment or recognition of PTSD for survivors. You were on your own," LS (Ret'd) Bell said, in an interview before the anniversary.

Over the past 20 years, LS (Ret'd)

Bell has spent "countless hours" on the phone, connecting with other *Kootenay* survivors and their family members in his efforts to make sure the story of the *Kootenay* disaster and its aftermath is recognized. These connections have also been a source of healing for all involved.

This year, because COVID-19 restrictions meant fewer people could attend the RCN service at DCTF, the "*Kootenay* family" also held a service at Parkside Pub in Dartmouth, with representation from local RCN leadership taking part as well.

Patti Christie connected with the group in 2009 after reconnecting with her estranged father in 2003, just three years before he died.

"No one knew what PTSD (post-traumatic stress disorder) was back then, but that's what he had. We lost my dad that day and I was sad and angry about it for a long time," said Christie.

Now she acts as the unofficial archivist of the *Kootenay* family, keeping detailed notes and files on all things related to HMCS *Kootenay*.

"Meeting these men and their families, and hearing their stories — good stories about my dad — it's helped me understand him better and I feel closer to him," Christie said. "After so many years of not talking about it at all, I'm part of this *Kootenay* family now."



Message from the Surgeon General: New national COVID-19 Proof of Vaccination Credential

By MGen Marc Bilodeau,
CAF Surgeon General



MGen Marc Bilodeau

DND/MDN

CAF members,

The new national proof of vaccination credential (PVC) has been developed by the Public Health Agency of Canada (PHAC) in partnership with jurisdictions across the country, including the Canadian Armed Forces (CAF). This digital PVC is a proof of vaccination that meets national and international standards and will make it easier for CAF members to prove their vaccination status during international travel and when returning to Canada. It can also be used wherever a proof of vaccination is needed, such as to access non-essential services where vaccination is necessary.

The CAF PVC will be issued to vaccinated CAF members. Others for whom the CAF maintained vaccination records, such as many of the dependents accompanying CAF members outside of Canada, may also request it.

The paper documents issued at the clinic at the time of vaccination remain valid proofs of vaccination.

Distribution to CAF members started the week of October 26, 2021 and will be automatically sent to members' DWAN and ECN email addresses. You may receive your PVC on a different date than your colleagues; distribution to all CAF members can take up to a week. The PVC will be automatically generated and sent to you if your medical record indicates that you have received COVID-19 vaccination(s) from the CAF (or registered your vaccination with your supporting Canadian Forces Health Services (CFHS) health clinic). After you receive the PVC by email, you can forward it to your personal email address so it can be kept on your phone, or it can be printed as needed.

If you don't have access to DWAN or ECN, the PVC will be automatically created and kept as a file in your

medical record. A centralized email address to request your PVC for those without DWAN or ECN will be announced soon. You may contact your supporting CFHS health clinic if you have questions.

If you received your vaccine(s) from another provider, such as a civilian health care facility, you must bring that information to a CFHS health clinic so that it can be entered in your health record; otherwise, a valid PVC cannot be created for you. Your CFHS health clinic may contact the outside provider to verify the details in order to ensure your vaccine record is accurate.

I encourage you to speak with your chain of command if you have any questions or concerns. The COVID-19 vaccines for Defence Team members webpage will also be updated with the most current information.

Message du médecin général : Nouvelle preuve canadienne de vaccination contre la COVID 19

Par MGen Marc Bilodeau,
Médecin général des FAC

Chers membres des Forces armées canadiennes,

La nouvelle preuve canadienne de vaccination contre la COVID19 a été mise au point par l'Agence de la santé publique du Canada (ASPC) en partenariat avec diverses administrations à l'échelle du pays, y compris les Forces armées canadiennes (FAC). Cette preuve de vaccination en format numérique répond aux normes nationales et internationales et permettra aux membres des FAC de prouver plus facilement leur statut vaccinal lors de voyages internationaux et à leur retour au Canada. Elle pourra également être utilisée chaque fois qu'une preuve vaccinale est demandée, par exemple pour accéder à des services non essentiels pour lesquels la vaccination est requise.

La preuve de vaccination des FAC sera remise aux membres des FAC

vaccinés. D'autres personnes pour lesquelles les FAC ont tenu des dossiers de vaccination, comme c'est le cas pour bon nombre de personnes à charge accompagnant des membres des FAC à l'extérieur du Canada, peuvent aussi en faire la demande.

Les documents papier remis par la clinique au moment de la vaccination demeurent une preuve vaccinale valide.

La distribution de cette preuve aux membres des FAC commence la semaine du 26 octobre 2021 et celle-ci sera envoyée directement aux adresses courriel de l'ECN et du RED des militaires. Vous pouvez recevoir votre code QR à une date différente de celle de vos collègues ; la distribution à tous les membres des FAC peut prendre jusqu'à une semaine. La preuve de vaccination sera automatiquement générée et envoyée si votre dossier médical indique que vous avez reçu

un ou des vaccins contre la COVID19 administrés par les FAC (ou si vous avez inscrit vos vaccins auprès de votre clinique de santé locale des Services de santé des Forces canadiennes [Svc S FC]). Une fois votre preuve reçue par courriel, vous pourrez la transmettre à votre adresse personnelle pour la conserver sur votre téléphone ou tablette. Il vous sera aussi possible de l'imprimer et utiliser une version papier.

Si vous n'avez pas accès à votre compte du RED ou de l'ECN, un fichier de preuve de vaccination sera automatiquement créé et versé dans votre dossier médical. De plus, une adresse électronique centralisée sera annoncée sous peu et permettra aux gens n'ayant pas accès aux comptes du RED et de l'ECN de demander leur preuve de vaccination. Vous pouvez communiquer avec votre clinique de santé des Svc S FC si vous avez des

questions.

Si vous avez obtenu votre ou vos doses de vaccin auprès d'un autre fournisseur, comme un établissement civil de soins de santé, vous devez transmettre cette information à une clinique de santé des Svc S FC afin qu'elle puisse être consignée à votre dossier médical; une preuve de vaccination valide ne pourra être créée pour vous autrement. Votre clinique de santé des Svc S FC pourrait communiquer avec ce fournisseur externe afin de vérifier que les renseignements figurant à votre dossier de vaccination sont exacts.

Je vous encourage à vous adresser à votre chaîne de commandement si vous avez des questions ou des préoccupations. La page Web concernant la vaccination des membres de l'Équipe de la Défense contre la COVID-19 sera aussi mise à jour afin d'inclure l'information la plus récente.



Military Police to carry Conducted Energy Weapons

By DND

Beginning in November, on Bases, Dockyards and Wings across the country, Military Police (MP) personnel will begin carrying Conducted Energy Weapons (CEW).

A CEW is an electrical impulse device, commonly known as Taser, that will assist MPs in gaining control of a subject in situations where the subject is assaultive, or where there is an imminent threat of serious bodily harm or death.

While never to be used as a substitute for de-escalation, the addition of the CEW will add flexibility to employ an applicable level force to successfully resolve an altercation while securing the safety of MP personnel and anyone being protected by them.

Only trained MP personnel are authorized to carry, deploy and discharge the CEW. All MP personnel receive initial qualification training on the CEW in accordance with standard practices by

qualified instructors which starts at the Canadian Forces Military Police Academy. In addition, all CEW users will be required to undergo a yearly re-certification.

“Military Police undergo knowledge, marksmanship and scenario based training on the CEW prior to being qualified to carry and use the weapon. MP are exposed to scenarios in which they must decide if and when it is appropriate to de-holster, display the warning arc, or discharge a cartridge into a subject. Military Police continue to use de-escalation techniques and the existing use of force training to control a potentially violent scenario,” explains Sgt Eric Kellar, CEW instructor at the MP Detachment Kingston.

The Military Police diligently serves and protects the Defence community members and the DND/CAF. The addition of the CEW will help keep both our community and MPs safe.

La Police militaire équipée d'armes à impulsion

Par MDN

À venir en novembre, les membres de la Police militaire (PM) sur les bases, les arsenaux et les escadres seront équipés d'armes à impulsion.

Une arme à impulsion est un dispositif qui émet une impulsion électrique, plus communément appelé Taser. Cette arme aidera les PM à maîtriser une personne lorsque celle-ci a un comportement violent, ou lorsqu'il y a un danger imminent de blessure grave ou de mort.

Alors qu'elle ne doit jamais servir de substitut à la désescalade, l'arme à impulsion offrira plus de latitude dans l'application d'une force appropriée pour régler adéquatement une altercation, tout en assurant la sécurité des policiers militaires et des autres personnes qui ont besoin de leur protection.

Seuls les membres de la PM formés seront autorisés à porter l'arme à impulsion, à la déployer et à l'activer. Tous les membres de la PM suivent un cours de qualification initial sur l'arme à impulsion conformément aux normes de pratique, donné par des instructeurs qualifiés à l'École de la Police militaire des Forces

canadiennes. De plus, tous les utilisateurs d'arme à impulsion doivent se soumettre à une re-certification annuelle.

« Les policiers militaires suivent une instruction fondée sur les connaissances, sur des scénarios et sur l'adresse au tir pour l'arme à impulsion avant de recevoir la qualification pour porter et utiliser cette arme. Les policiers militaires sont exposés à des scénarios dans lesquels ils doivent déterminer s'il convient et s'il est approprié de dégainer, de montrer l'arc d'avertissement et de lancer les projectiles sur une personne. Les policiers militaires continueront d'employer les techniques de désescalade et les méthodes actuelles d'application de la force qui leur sont enseignées pour maîtriser les situations de violence possible, » explique le Sgt Eric Kellar, instructeur d'arme à impulsion au détachement de la PM de Kingston.

La Police militaire sert et protège diligemment les membres de la communauté de la Défense, le MDN et les FAC. L'ajout de l'arme à impulsion aidera à assurer la sécurité de notre communauté et des policiers militaires.



Military Police in Canada have been issued a new vest capable of holstering the Conducted Energy Weapons.

La police militaire du Canada a reçu une nouvelle veste capable de porter l'arme à impulsion.

DND/MDN



Military Police Unit members armed with Conducted Energy Weapons train in accordance with standard police practices.

Les membres de l'Unité de la Police militaire munis d'arme à impulsion s'entraînent conformément aux pratiques policières normalisées.

DND/MDN

*On this Remembrance Day, I remember those who fought
for our freedoms and those who have lost their lives in their effort.*

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Russell Grosse, the executive director of the Black Cultural Centre in Cherry Brook, NS, with the museum's display on the No. 2 Construction Battalion.

JOANIE VEITCH, TRIDENT STAFF

Recognizing the legacy of the No. 2 Construction Battalion

By Joanie Veitch,
Trident Staff

When the Canadian government announced a formal apology would be made to the more than 600 men of Canada's only all-Black unit to serve during the First World War — the No. 2 Construction Battalion — and their descendants, it marked a significant milestone in the “Black Battalion” story, and the hard-won battle its members fought for recognition.

“This is about Canada recognizing this story as a remarkable legacy and an important part of our country's history,” said Russell Grosse, executive director of the Black Cultural Centre in Cherry Brook, NS.

This past March, then Defence Minister Harjit Sajjan held a virtual event — in collaboration with the Black Cultural Centre — announcing an apology would be forthcoming and that it would be done in a “meaningful

and respectful” way.

“Our most important goal now is to increase awareness of this history, to learn about their efforts and their sacrifice and to continue to identify descendants, so their story and that legacy can live on,” Grosse said.

When the First World War broke out in 1914, Black men across the country responded to the call but were turned away by recruiters. While there was no official policy at the time stating they could not enlist, it was viewed as “a white man's war” and most were rejected.

“Determined to serve, Black Canadians rallied for equality,” Grosse said, with members of the Black community lobbying and holding protests until approval was granted for a segregated battalion.

“These men, many of them were still

in their teens, they had to fight for the right to fight in the war... just think about that,” said Grosse. “When you look at the Canadian Armed Forces today, the members of the No. 2 Construction Battalion were trailblazers,” Grosse said.

On July 5, 1916, No. 2 Construction Battalion was formed. Initially established in Pictou, NS, and later transferred to Truro, more than 600 Black men volunteered for service — with about 300 from Nova Scotia and the rest from other parts of Canada, the United States and even some from the British West Indies.

Part of the Canadian Expeditionary Force, the battalion was a non-combat unit, tasked with building and maintaining roads and railways, digging trenches for troops in training and maintaining the water supply system at various camps — work that would now be considered engineering, but at the time was seen as “lesser work,” Grosse said.

“They performed a vital role, but it was not the role they had wanted when they first signed up, and they felt marginalized as a result,” he explained.

Not unlike many veterans of the era, very few members of the No. 2 Construction Battalion spoke about their time at war. Much of what has been preserved of their story is thanks to the work of former senator Calvin W. Ruck, who grew up in Cape Breton and in 1987 wrote *The Black Battalion 1916-1920: Canada's Best Kept Military Secret*, and Captain George Borden,

who served with the Royal Canadian Air Force from 1953 to 1985 and was an active advocate in telling the story of the No. 2 Construction Battalion for many years, right up to his death on November 29, 2020.

Although Captain Borden died before an apology was made, it was his years of “tireless efforts” and an open letter he wrote to the federal government that got the current process started, Grosse said.

In October 2020, when he knew his health was failing, Captain Borden met with members of the Black Cultural Centre. “He said to us: ‘Don't let the story of the No. 2 die.’ He entrusted us with this task,” Grosse said.

Meanwhile, a national advisory committee — composed of members with a connection to the story of the battalion — was formed to guide the process leading up to the apology.

A member of the national advisory committee and the civilian co-chair of the Defence Visible Minorities Advisory Group (DVMAG) at Maritime Forces Atlantic (MARLANT), René Gannon said this time of reflection and planning is an opportunity to raise awareness and, as Canadians, to think deeper about our shared history.

“As a member of the African Nova Scotian community, I want Canada to make a real commitment to change,” Gannon said. “It's time. We want our history — and the history of our Indigenous brothers and sisters — to be known and shared, not just on special days but all year round.”



The Canadian government plans to make a formal apology to the members of the No.2 Construction Battalion and their descendants.

CITADEL ARMY MUSEUM

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LEST WE FORGET
Remembrance Day - November 11

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Defence Team members, their families and members of the public invited to attend a free Veterans' Week concert in downtown Halifax

By CFB Halifax

The Stadacona Band of the Royal Canadian Navy, in collaboration with Camp Hill Veterans' Memorial Building, will present its free 2021 Veterans' Week Concert - **'When Duty Called'** (formerly known as the *'Til We Meet Again* Remembrance concert) - on Sunday, November 7, 2 p.m. at the Spatz Theatre. Members of the public can secure their free tickets online at www.spatztheatre.ca. Attendees will be required to adhere to the [Spatz Theatre COVID-19 policy](#). For those who are unable to attend in person, the concert

can be viewed live online via the CFB Halifax Facebook page (www.Facebook.com/BaseHalifax).

For almost two decades, the Stadacona Band has performed the *'Til We Meet Again* concert during Veterans' Week. This year, the show is being reimagined (and renamed) to better reflect those who have served in times of war and peace. The versatility and talent of the band's professional musicians will be on full display, performing significant and exciting works to commemorate Canadian and allied

veterans.

This year, the band will recognize and honour diverse communities whose members have answered the call to serve their country. Nova Scotian Indigenous artist [DeeDee Austin](#) will join the band on-stage to perform an original composition and will be accompanied by Mi'kmaq drummers with her moving tribute to Residential School Survivors, 'Buried Truth'; a special tribute and original composition by former long-time Stadacona Band member PO2 Nevawn Patrick

will honour Pictou, Nova Scotia's own No. 2 Construction Battalion of the First World War, Canada's first and only all-Black battalion; and the service and contributions of women in the Canadian Armed Forces (CAF) will be recognized with the performance of the Woman's Royal Canadian Naval Service March, 'Passing By'.

This special concert will be smudged in by Honorary Captain Navy Debbie Eisan followed by a special poem reading by Camp Hill resident and Second World War veteran, Irene Nash.

Les membres de l'Équipe de la Défense, leurs proches et le grand public sont invités à un concert gratuit qui aura lieu au centre-ville d'Halifax à l'occasion de la Semaine des vétérans

Par BFC Halifax

À l'occasion de la Semaine des vétérans 2021, la Musique Stadacona de la Marine royale canadienne, en collaboration avec l'Édifice commémoratif des anciens combattants Camp Hill, présentera un concert gratuit intitulé **When Duty Called** (anciennement le concert *Til We Meet Again* du jour du Souvenir) le dimanche 7 novembre, à 14 h

au théâtre Spatz. Les membres du public peuvent réserver leurs billets en ligne à www.spatztheatre.ca. Les participants seront tenus de respecter [la politique relative à la COVID-19 du théâtre Spatz](#). Ceux et celles qui ne sont pas en mesure d'assister au concert en personne pourront le voir en direct sur la page Facebook de la BFC Halifax (www.Facebook.com/BaseHalifax).

[BaseHalifax](http://www.Facebook.com/BaseHalifax)).

Depuis près de deux décennies, la Musique Stadacona présente le concert *Til We Meet Again* pendant la Semaine des vétérans. Cette année, le concert a été repensé (et renommé) afin de mieux refléter les personnes qui ont servi en temps de guerre et de paix. Les musiciens professionnels de l'ensemble musi-

cal, qui interpréteront des œuvres importantes et passionnantes pour commémorer les vétérans canadiens et alliés, montreront toute l'étendue de leur polyvalence et de leur talent.

Cette année, la Musique Stadacona saluera et honorera diverses communautés dont les membres ont répondu à l'appel pour servir leur pays. Accompagnée de joueurs de tambour mi'kmaq, l'artiste autochtone néo-écossaise [DeeDee Austin](#) interprétera, avec l'ensemble musical, une composition originale intitulée *Buried Truth*, un vibrant hommage aux survivants des pensionnats autochtones. Également, en guise d'hommage spécial, la Musique Stadacona interprétera une composition originale du maître de 2e classe Nevawn Patrick, ancien membre de longue date de l'ensemble musical, en l'honneur du 2e Bataillon de construction de la Première Guerre mondiale, qui était basé à Pictou, en Nouvelle-Écosse; il s'agit du premier et seul bataillon canadien à avoir été composé uniquement de soldats noirs. Enfin, pour saluer le service et la contribution des femmes dans les Forces armées canadiennes, on interprétera la Marche du Service féminin de la Marine royale du Canada *Passing By*.

Aura également lieu, dans le cadre de ce concert spécial, une cérémonie de purification par la fumée dirigée par le capitaine de vaisseau honoraire Debbie Eisan, cérémonie qui sera suivie par la lecture d'un poème spécial par Irene Nash, résidente de l'Édifice commémoratif des anciens combattants Camp Hill et vétérane de la Seconde Guerre mondiale.





Third AOPS in the water

The future HMCS Max Bernays, the third of six Arctic and Offshore Patrol Ships being built for the Royal Canadian Navy, was successfully launched by builder Irving Shipbuilding on October 23. The ship was brought to the Bedford Basin via barge and lowered into the water, a process that took multiple hours and involved hundreds of members of Irving's workforce. The future Max Bernays will be the first AOPS to have a west coast homeport at CFB Esquimalt.

IRVING SHIPBUILDING



DARRELL SAMSON
Member of Parliament
Sackville-Preston-Chezzetcook

"Lest We Forget"

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Halifax Regional Council thanks Veterans and active military personnel for their service and sacrifice.

Each November, we wear poppies to honour them.
Lest we forget.



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Padre's Corner: Tried, tested and true

By Padre Capt Troy Dennis,
Senior Base Chaplain, CFB Halifax



Annual Remembrance Day commemorations are upon us once again. I've attended these ceremonies since I was child and they never fail to choke me up. As we remember the bravery of the air personnel, sailors and soldiers, we cannot help but be inspired. After all, courage is not the lack of fear. It is, rather, the ability to keep from turning when every natural instinct says to flee.

There is always a cost for freedom, and many have

paid the ultimate price. Our serving members and veterans deserve our honour and gratitude, and the fallen need to be remembered. Lest We Forget. We Will Remember Them.

Combat is not the only situation which requires bravery. It is an obvious setting, but we always need courage to stand against wrong and to protect the right, to tell the truth when it isn't to our advantage, to look out for those who can't do anything for us, or to lead

where people have failed in the past.

The word "character" comes from a Greek word which means to be approved through testing. It makes me think of the expression, "Tried, tested, and true." I think the word is losing its power in our culture. We speak of someone being "a character," meaning they don't fit normal social conventions, but we rarely hear people talk about "having character." And yet, it is so important. Can

we trust someone to do the right thing under pressure? Character and courage are two sides of the same coin.

On November 11, bugles will sound the haunting tones of Last Post and Reveille. As the echoes fade and flags rise, we'll be reminded of so many examples of courage. But bravery is not for the past - it is for each one of us. May Remembrance Day inspire us to live with character, courage, and honour.

Canada's Naval Memorial ~ HMCS *Sackville*



We Remember



Marking the 80th Anniversary of the commissioning of HMCS *Sackville*, we remember those lost during war and peace time, protecting our country. We honour the commitment and sacrifice of all those, from all generations, who go to sea in service to Canada.

Visit our website: www.canadasnavalmemorial.ca to learn more about the Canadian Naval Memorial Trust and HMCS *Sackville* or contact: membership@canadasnavalmemorial.ca for information on memberships or donations.

Canada Revenue Agency - Charitable Org # BN11883 4720 RR0001.

Canadian Naval Memorial Trust - HMCS SACKVILLE
PO Box 99000, Station Forces, Halifax, NS B3K 5X5

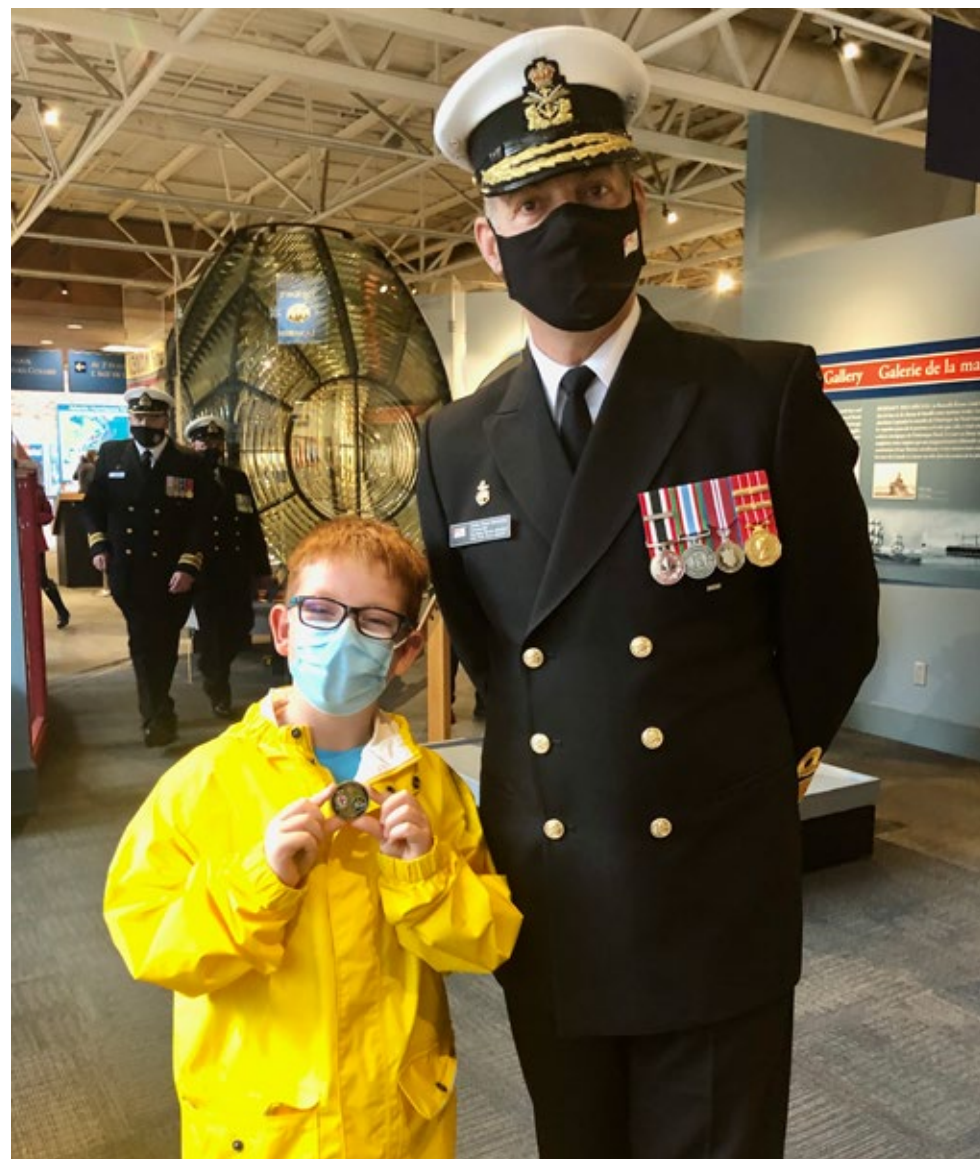


Photo Credit: Top Left - John M. Horton, CSMA, FCA.
Top Right - CNMT



From left, RAdm Brian Santarpia, Commander Maritime Forces Atlantic, Cmdre Christopher Robson, Commander Canadian Fleet Atlantic, and Capt (Ret'd) Earle Wagner, Merchant Navy veteran.

JOANIE VEITCH, TRIDENT STAFF



Eight-year-old Daniel Drover, who was visiting family in Nova Scotia from Ottawa, was thrilled to watch the ceremony at the Maritime Museum of the Atlantic on October 14, commemorating the sinking of the Newfoundland ferry SS *Caribou*. Pictured here, Daniel met with RAdm Santarpia.

JOANIE VEITCH, TRIDENT STAFF

79th anniversary of the sinking of SS *Caribou*

By Joanie Veitch,
Trident Staff

Barely tall enough to see over the second-level railing at the Maritime Museum of the Atlantic, eight-year-old Daniel Drover stood riveted to the scene unfolding in the lower-level gallery below, as naval officers and veterans gathered on October 14 to commemorate the 79th anniversary of the sinking of SS *Caribou*.

After standing ramrod straight through the playing of the Last Post and two minutes of silence that followed, the young boy was up on tiptoes to watch as Rear-Admiral Brian Santarpia, Commander Maritime Forces Atlantic, and Captain (Ret'd) Earle Wagner, Merchant Navy veteran, laid a wreath at the Merchant Navy Memorial.

Held each year in remembrance of the 136 people who perished in the sinking of the Newfoundland ferry SS *Caribou* on October 14, 1942, the ceremony also pays tribute to thousands of Canadians who volunteered their service during the Second World War.

Approximately 12,000 men and women served in Canada's Merchant Navy

during the war.

According to Royal Canadian Navy information on the Battle of the Atlantic, 59 Canadian-registered merchant ships were sunk by enemy or probable enemy action, and 2,000 RCN members, 1,600 Canadian merchant seamen and 752 Canadian airmen lost their lives.

Opening his talk with a reading from *The Sea Is at Our Gates*, a book about the Battle of the Atlantic, written by Tony German, RAdm Santarpia spoke of the constant danger faced by the Merchant Navy as they "fought and won" the longest battle of the Second World War.

"It's fitting that we chose today, as a nation, to commemorate the efforts of the Merchant Marine – the 14th of October – because on that day in 1942, SS *Caribou* was sunk... marking the greatest loss of life in the Battle of the Atlantic in Canadian waters," he said.

SS *Caribou* was a steamship ferry that operated between Nova Scotia and Newfoundland. On the evening of October 13, 1942, the vessel left Syd-

ney, NS with 237 people on board: 46 crew members, 118 military personnel and 73 civilians, including 11 children. Escorting *Caribou* as she crossed the Cabot Strait was HMCS *Grandmère*, a minesweeper.

Travelling overnight, the ferry was torpedoed and sunk in the early morning hours by a German submarine less than 40 kilometres southwest of Port aux Basques. Of the 237 people on board, 137 died — 57 military personnel, 49 civilians and 31 crew members.

One of the survivors, Nursing Sister LCdr Margaret Brooke, received a Member of the Order of the British Empire for her efforts to save her friend, Nursing Sister SLt Agnes Wilkie, who died following the sinking. LCdr Brooke was the first Canadian woman to receive the award.

The RCN's second Arctic Offshore Patrol Ship, HMCS *Margaret Brooke*, is being named in her honour.

Cdr Nicole Robichaud, Commanding officer of HMCS *Margaret Brooke*, read the Commitment to Remember at the commemoration event, following

Capt (Ret'd) Wagner's reading of the Act of Remembrance.

After the ceremony, military personnel, veterans and other visitors gathered for an informal talk and tour — led by museum staff — of the naval heritage exhibits on the museum's ground floor.

"It is an honour to be here... to continue to share the story of LCdr Margaret Brooke and hear stories from Capt Wagner," said Cdr Robichaud.

Capt (Ret'd) Wagner served with the Merchant Navy during the Second World War. An active member of the Canadian Merchant Navy Association, he has worked determinedly on behalf of Merchant Navy veterans.

Joining the museum tour, Daniel Drover and his dad Steven said they got a lot more from their visit to the Maritime Museum of the Atlantic than they had expected when they set off that morning.

"It was really cool to meet everyone and to see all this," Daniel said.



Meet our Corporate Partners: BMO continues to give back

By PSP Corporate Services

As the official bank of the Canadian Defence Community, BMO has long been a dedicated supporter of Canadian Armed Forces members and initiatives across the country.

At CFB Halifax and 12 Wing Shearwater, things are no different. Along with providing important banking services to our members, BMO's local team have supported and been on site for many of the signature events hosted by Personnel Support Programs (PSP) Halifax over recent years, including the always-popular DND Family Days.

"And BMO has also been very important for us during this COVID-19 period. We've had to pivot away from large events and find unique ways to showcase this partnership, and they have been right there with us," added Missy Sonier, PSP Halifax Corporate Services Manager.

This included throwing support behind the development of the new memorial at the Shearwater Aviation Park, honouring the lives of the RCN and RCAF personnel lost in the STALKER 22 Cyclone helicopter crash in April of 2020. Work is ongoing on the memorial to beautify the space and create an appropriate setting to remember these six members of our community.

In addition, staff at BMO have worked to fur-

ther simplify banking matters for CAF clients through the pandemic, with the goal of reducing stress in one small aspect of their day-to-day lives, said Lee Winchester, BMO's Head of Divisional Operation for the Atlantic provinces. This was one reason for his team's visit to 12 Wing on October 1 with the BMO Mobile Banking Truck, where they spoke to unit COs and other members about some of the free, discounted and advantageous services offered through the Canadian Defence and Community Banking Program, including employee pricing and penalty-free mortgage breaks.

"We learned about all those extra difficulties that families were going through with COVID-19, especially if you have a member off deployed and away from home," Winchester said. "It's just about making things easier and less complicated. If we can allow the financials to be taken care of, they can focus on family and career and the important things."

Winchester was joined in Shearwater by other BMO representatives including local Branch Manager Daniel Worthington from the Russell Lake location on Baker Drive in Dartmouth. He noted that his staff includes a military spouse and others with CAF connections, and made it clear his clientele from the Defence Community are a top priority.

"We want it to be known that we're here for you, whether you're at home or away, and we're here to stay. This partnership has been ongoing for more than 10 years, and we're very proud of that."



Representatives from BMO were at 12 Wing Shearwater with their Mobile Banking Truck on October 1, meeting with local members of the defence team and providing information on special services offered to CAF members and their families.

PAUL DARROW FOR BMO

Support our
veterans.
Wear a poppy.



Official bank of the
Canadian Defence Community



Lest We Forget



CAF Sports Day in Halifax kicked off with more than 200 participating in a 5K walk/run through HMC Dockyard and along the Halifax boardwalk.

MONA GHIZ, MARLANT PA



Activities at Stadacona on October 21 included the morning walk/run, soccer at Porteous Field, and Ball Hockey at the Fleet gym.

FORMATING IMAGING SERVICES

CAF Sports Day 2021 in Halifax

By Trident Staff

For the second year in a row, Personnel Support Programs Halifax hosted a pared-down version of the Canadian Armed Forces’ annual celebration of sport. Military members at Stadacona kicked off CAF Sports Day on October 21 with a morning run, and others signed up for soccer or ball hockey through the morning. On the other side of the harbour, Hartlen Point Golf Course hosted a longest-drive competition for those more inclined to break out the golf clubs. PSP staff at 12 Wing Shearwater followed up with their own Sports day on October 29.

“It’s great to see people out participating, even if numbers are lower than in other years,” said PSP Fitness and Sports Coordinator Kevin Miller. “We know sports hasn’t been at the top of people’s minds, so this is a good way to remind them of our programs, that we’re here and sports will be back,” he added. All Sports Day activities complied with COVID-19 health restrictions, including proof of double vaccination being required for participation.



PSP also hosted a longest-drive competition at Hartlen Point Golf Club as part of CAF Sports Day.

12 WING IMAGING



At 12 Wing Shearwater, 406 (MH) Squadron hosted their own unit Sports Day on October 8, with members seen here during a softball game on the Shearwater Sports Field, and another Sports Day for all of 12 Wing took place on October 29.

12 WING IMAGING



The Wanderers played to a 0-0 draw against Forge FC.

MONA GHIZ, MARLANT PA

Halifax Wanderers host DND Appreciation Match

The Halifax Wanderers Football Club of the Canadian Premier League hosted their second DND Appreciation Match on October 23 at the Wanderers Grounds in downtown Halifax. Along with the CAF and DND personnel in the crowd, CFB Halifax Base Commander Capt (N) Sean Williams was on hand to kick off the game along with LCol Rowena Williams and their son Alexander.

MONA GHIZ, MARLANT PA



The day included a number of military highlights, including performances from the Stadacona Band and 12 Wing Pipes and drums, as well as CAF vehicle displays.

MONA GHIZ, MARLANT PA

WE REMEMBER  **NOUS NOUS SOUVIENDRONS**

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