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PADRE'S CORNER

Lest We Forget

By Padre Capt Steeve Arsenault, Wing Chaplain, 12 Wing Shearwater

This year, Canada and all Commonwealth nations marked the 106th anniversary of the Armistice; at the 11th hour, on the 11th day, of the 11th month.

The question we must all ask ourselves as Canadians is 'why'? Why do we need to commemorate and care enough to remember the sacrifice of those who laid down their lives for our democracy? The reasons are many, of course, but let me attempt to cite a few for your reflection.

First, this day brought an end to the First World War through the signing of a peace treaty between Germany and the Allied Forces. Without this treaty, how many more lives would have been lost? How many more mothers and fathers would have received the devastating news that their loved ones had died in battle?

Today, no veterans of the First World War remain with us, and the number of

those who served in the Second World War continues to grow smaller each year.

As the years pass, it can become harder for us to fully grasp the cost of their sacrifice. The more we distance ourselves from tragedies of such magnitude, the more important it becomes to consciously remember those who secured our democracy. We owe our way of life, our precious freedom, to them, and we must remember what they have done for us so that we do not repeat the same mistakes in the future, lest we become casualties ourselves.

Conflicts and unrest continue to rise across the globe, in case you haven't noticed. It's a fact we cannot ignore or wish away without confronting it with courage and resolve. I'm grateful that Canada continues to value both peace and preparedness. We now have a moral duty to teach future generations of Canadians that freedom and democracy come at a price, and that price is to always "Stand on guard for thee."



Wreaths laid at the Grand Parade Cenotaph during 2025 Remembrance Day ceremonies in Halifax.

S3 ANGELA MORRISON





Honouring those who have served

A Candlelight Vigil commemorating Veteran's Week was held once again this year at Camp Hill Veteran's Memorial Building, with currently serving Canadian Armed Forces members, Cadets and others joining the veterans who call Camp Hill home for the occasion. A ceremony saw Rear-Admiral Josée Kurtz, Commander Maritime Forces Atlantic and Joint Task Force Atlantic, accept the Torch of Remembrance from 105-year-old veteran Elias Gaudet, who served in the Second World War and Korea, before passing it to Air Cadet FSgt Harshvi Yadav, who read the Commitment to Remember. Attendees also placed candles on the cenotaph outside the facility.

CPL BRIAN LEVESQUE



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SNMG2 launches new operational phase in the Mediterranean

International task group includes HMCS *St. John's*, deployed since July as part of Operation REASSURANCE

By NATO Maritime Command

Standing NATO Maritime Group Two (SNMG2) has launched a new operational phase in the Mediterranean Sea, departing Taranto, Italy after a scheduled port visit. As one of NATO's four permanent multinational maritime task groups, SNMG2 forms a vital element of the Allied Reaction Force (ARF), maintaining a continuous and ready Allied presence in the region.

It operates under NATO's Allied Maritime Command (MARCOM), based in Northwood, UK, and provides the Alliance with an immediately available, high-readiness maritime capability to respond rapidly to crises or emerging threats.

Since 4 July, command of SNMG2 has been held by the Italian Navy, under Rear-Admiral (RAdm) Francesco Iavazzo, supported by an international staff of officers from Bulgaria, Greece, Italy, Romania, Spain, Türkiye and the United Kingdom. The group currently comprises the Italian flagship ITS Carlo Bergamini, the Canadian frigate His Majesty's Canadian Ship St. John's, and the Spanish Logistic Support Ship ESPS Cantabria.

SNMG2 is deployed in the Mediterranean, where it helps maintain maritime security, ensure freedom of navigation,

and uphold stability in a region of vital strategic and economic importance to the Alliance. NATO's maritime presence also serves to strengthen cooperation with regional partners and enhance maritime domain awareness across the Mediterranean basin.

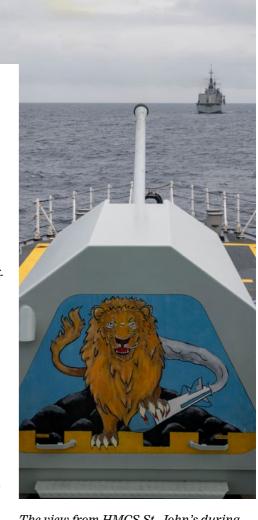
Commenting on the departure from Taranto, RAdm Iavazzo emphasized that the group's activity at sea demonstrates NATO's capability to operate as one integrated multinational force.

In recent months, SNMG2 has conducted several patrols and multinational exercises, while deepening NATO's network of partnerships with countries in North Africa. A recent port visit to Alexandria, Egypt, highlighted NATO's long-standing partnership with Egypt, a key member of the Mediterranean Dialogue. This cooperation forum, launched in 1994, brings together seven non-NATO countries (Algeria, Egypt, Israel, Jordan, Mauritania, Morocco, and Tunisia) with the goal of promoting security, stability, and mutual understanding across the Mediterranean region.

"Partnerships matter," RAdm Iavazzo said. "Egypt's regional experience and security expertise make it a valuable partner. Stability, security and cooperation in the Mediterranean are in everyone's interest. We want the Med to remain an area of stability and prosperity."

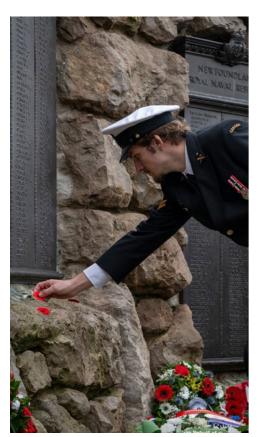
Through the Mediterranean Dialogue, NATO fosters political dialogue and practical cooperation with its regional partners. The initiative supports partners in developing defence capabilities, enhancing interoperability with Allied forces, and strengthening national security and defence institutions. Built on principles of non-discrimination, self-differentiation, mutual engagement, and complementarity with other regional efforts, the Dialogue remains a cornerstone of NATO's partnership approach in the Mediterranean.

NATO's continuous maritime presence in the Mediterranean stands as a tangible symbol of Allied unity and deterrence, ensuring that the vital sea lanes linking Europe, Africa and the Middle East remain safe, open and secure. "The Mediterranean is a lifeline for the economic prosperity of the Allied nations and for Euro-Atlantic stability," RAdm Iavazzo concluded. "The security of these waters and the security of Europe are inseparable - by protecting one, we protect both."



The view from HMCS St. John's during gunnery exercises with ITS Carlo Bergamini and ESPS Cantabria near Taranto, off southern Italy, on October 31.

CPL ANNABELLE MARCOUX



Canadian sailors mark Remembrance overseas

While ashore in Belgium and France during its ongoing Operation REASSURANCE deployment, the ship's company of HMCS St. John's took part in Remembrance Day ceremonies at Passchendaele, Beau-mont-Hamel, and Vimy Ridge. These sites are significant in Canadian history for the major battles fought there by Canadian forces during the First World War.

CPL ANNEBELLE MARCOUX





The graduating Clearance Diver class with the course staff.

RC

Hard Work and Heavy Seas:

RCN Welcomes New Clearance Divers

By RCN

After 13 months of training above and beneath the ocean waves, 12 new clearance divers are surfacing with pride.

On October 10, at Fleet Diving Unit (Pacific) (FDU(P)), 12 students from the 2025 Clearance Diver Qualification Level 1 (QL1) course will officially graduate, marking a major milestone in their Royal Canadian Navy (RCN) careers. Each graduate receives the Clearance Diver Dolphin pin, symbolizing their achievement and readiness to serve.

Among the graduating class is Sailor Third Class (S3) Thomas Fournier, who joined the RCN through the 2023 Naval Experience Program (NEP). Originally from Muskoka, Ontario, S3 Fournier successfully challenged the Clearance Diver Assessment Centre (CDAC) in February 2024.

"My experience on the clearance diver course was the best year of my life," said S3 Fournier. "There were lots of opportunities for self-development, professional growth, and team cohesion. Everyone I worked with was helpful and supportive. I've developed in many ways and I'm ready to add wherever I go as a clearance diver."

Clearance Divers are the Canadian Armed Forces' (CAF) deep-sea mine disposal specialists. They operate a range of diving equipment, including the Compressed Air Breathing Apparatus (CABA), rebreathers, and Surface-Supplied Breathing Apparatus (SSBA). Their work extends both underwater and on land, where they have supported missions in Afghanistan helping to neutralize improvised explosive devices (IEDs). Clearance Divers also support Health Services with recompression treatments and submarine search and rescue (SUBSAR), as well as maintain diving equipment for all CAF diving teams, including Search and Rescue Technicians and combat divers.

Some of the new Clearance Divers

will begin their careers at the School of Diving, training the next generation of CAF divers. Others will support underwater repairs and maintenance for His Majesty's Canadian ships and take part in salvage and mine countermeasure operations with Fleet Diving Units Pacific and Atlantic.

Clearance divers are also trained in advanced conventional munitions disposal, fulfilling the CAF domestic explosive ordnance disposal mandate. This often requires divers, frequently those holding the rank of Sailor First Class, to deploy across British Columbia to recover and safely dispose of unexploded military ordnance.

S3 Fournier is prepared to deploy on various operations and exercises, including Operation REASSURANCE in the Baltic or Black Sea, Operation REN-DER SAFE in the Pacific, or Operation HORIZON alongside Canada's Indo-Pacific allies. "We're always looking for fit, smart, and motivated people to become Clearance Divers," said Lieutenant (Navy) Michael Cormie, FDU(P). "We're in a period of reconstitution, where we are focused on increasing the number of Clearance Divers available to support CAF operations. I encourage people to apply for what's arguably one of the best jobs in the Navy."

Voluntary Occupation Transfer (VOT) to the Clearance Diver trade is open to all non-commissioned members (NCMs) from all trades, with or without previous diving experience. Recent changes now allow officers, Regular or Reserve, from any trade to challenge the Clearance Diver Assessment Centre (CDAC) to become Clearance Diving Officers (CLDOs).

For more information, visit the FDU(P) SharePoint site under the School of Diving section or contact the School of Diving at ESQFDUTRG@intern.mil.ca.



REMEMBERING THOSE WHO SERVED

Thank you to all veterans and service members for your courage, dedication, and sacrifice.



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Base Service Spotlight:

Repair and Disposal Section (Base Logistics)

By CFB Halifax Public Affairs

How many people work in the Repair and Disposal Section?

There are 17 members of the Repair and Disposal Section team.

What are the Responsibilities of the Repair and Disposal Section team?

The Repair and Disposal Section team is responsible for:

- Managing and processing the disposal and repair of material classified by its repairability code;
- Working with Lead Technical Authorities to secure funding and/or push material through first, second, and third-line repair facilities to facilitate the return of serviceable material to be readily available to

- support naval operations;
- Providing comprehensive support to the Canadian Armed Forces and operational teams, including clear guidance on how material should be labelled, identified, and returned to the designated disposal point;
- Sorting all received materials by commodity and organizing each into its corresponding category to facilitate ease of sale:
- Preventing scrap metal from entering the landfill by coordinating the pickup and drop-off of metal bins for Canadian Forces Base Halifax;
- Donating gently used computers and computer accessories to the Computers for Schools program, while the remaining items are processed as e-waste. This helps divert mate-

- rials from entering the landfill and supports efforts to reduce, reuse, and recycle.
- Working with GC Surplus by posting each item to their database with all relevant information, ensuring accurate sales and visibility to customers, while supporting cost recovery efforts for the Crown; and
- Providing clothing disposal services, including demilitarization, processing for incineration, sorting, and sale of textiles/leather.

How does the Repair and Disposal Section team support the CAF and/or operations?

The Repair and Disposal Section team supports these efforts by:

- Managing materials initially designated for disposal. The team sorts and assesses items, working closely with GC Surplus to maximize cost recovery to the Crown;
- Providing advice and direction on the appropriate processes related to demilitarization codes and the procedures that must be followed. In addition, the team offers direction on degaussing gear questions and purging requirements;
- Serving as the last line of defense before material disposal. The team vets for accuracy of material in case any items were misidentified during processing; and

 Assessing certain materials for redistribution amongst the unit to reduce unnecessary procurement costs.

Where is the Repair and Disposal Section team located and how can I contact them?

The team is located at 36 Ramona Court, Unit 106. Dartmouth, Nova Scotia.

They can be contacted by email at +BLog Repair Disposal@CFB Halifax BLog MCD@Halifax (<a href="https://hrs.ncbi.org/hrs.ncbi.org/hrs.ncbi.org/hrs.ncbi.org/hrs.ncbi.org/hrs.ncbi.org/hrs.ncbi.org/hrs.ncbi.org/hrs.ncbi.org/hrs.ncbi.org/hrs.ncbi.org/hrs.ncbi.org/hrs.ncbi.org/hrs.ncbi.org/hrs.ncbi.org/hrs.ncbi.org/hrs.ncbi.org/hrs.ncbi.org/hrs.ncbi.org/hrs.ncbi.org/hrs.ncbi.org/hrs.ncbi.org/hrs.ncbi.org/hrs.ncbi.org/hrs.ncbi.org/hrs.ncbi.org/hrs.ncbi.org/hrs.ncbi.org/hrs.ncbi.org/hrs.ncbi.org/hrs.ncbi.org/hrs.ncbi.org/hrs.ncbi.org/hrs.ncbi.org/hrs.ncbi.org/hrs.ncbi.org/hrs.ncbi.org/hrs.ncbi.org/hrs.ncbi.org/hrs.ncbi.org/hrs.ncbi.org/hrs.ncbi.org/hrs.ncbi.org/hrs.ncbi.org/hrs.ncbi.org/hrs.ncbi.org/hrs.ncbi.org/hrs.ncbi.org/hrs.ncbi.org/hrs.ncbi.org/hrs.ncbi.org/hrs.ncbi.org/hrs.ncbi.org/hrs.ncbi.org/hrs.ncbi.org/hrs.ncbi.org/hrs.ncbi.org/hrs.ncbi.org/hrs.ncbi.org/hrs.ncbi.org/hrs.ncbi.org/hrs.ncbi.org/hrs.ncbi.org/hrs.ncbi.org/hrs.ncbi.org/hrs.ncbi.org/hrs.ncbi.org/hrs.ncbi.org/hrs.ncbi.org/hrs.ncbi.org/hrs.ncbi.org/hrs.ncbi.org/hrs.ncbi.org/hrs.ncbi.org/hrs.ncbi.org/hrs.ncbi.org/hrs.ncbi.org/hrs.ncbi.org/hrs.ncbi.org/hrs.ncbi.org/hrs.ncbi.org/hrs.ncbi.org/hrs.ncbi.org/hrs.ncbi.org/hrs.ncbi.org/hrs.ncbi.org/hrs.ncbi.org/hrs.ncbi.org/hrs.ncbi.org/hrs.ncbi.org/hrs.ncbi.org/hrs.ncbi.org/hrs.ncbi.org/hrs.ncbi.org/hrs.ncbi.org/hrs.ncbi.org/hrs.ncbi.org/hrs.ncbi.org/hrs.ncbi.org/hrs.ncbi.org/hrs.ncbi.org/hrs.ncbi.org/hrs.ncbi.org/hrs.ncbi.org/hrs.ncbi.org/hrs.ncbi.org/hrs.ncbi.org/hrs.ncbi.org/hrs.ncbi.org/hrs.ncbi.org/hrs.ncbi.org/hrs.ncbi.org/hrs.ncbi.org/hrs.ncbi.org/hrs.ncbi.org/hrs.ncbi.org/hrs.ncbi.org/hrs.ncbi.org/hrs.ncbi.org/hrs.ncbi.org/hrs.ncbi.org/hrs.ncbi.org/hrs.ncbi.org/hrs.ncbi.org/hrs.ncbi.org/hrs.ncbi.org/hrs.ncbi.org/hrs.ncbi.org/hrs.ncbi.org/hrs.ncbi.org/hrs.ncbi.org/hrs.ncbi.org/hrs.ncbi.org/hrs.ncbi.org/hrs.ncbi.org/hrs.ncbi.org/hrs.ncbi.org/hrs.ncbi.org/hrs.ncbi.org/hrs.ncbi.org/hrs.ncbi.org/hrs.ncbi.org/hrs.ncbi.org/hrs.ncbi.org/hrs.ncbi.org/hrs.ncbi.org/hrs.ncbi.org/hrs.ncbi.org/hrs.ncbi.org/hrs.nc

Building Manager: Mark Bowman, 782-640-2368

Disposal Supervisor: Lynn Hawboldt, 902-943-9607

Repair and Disposal Supervisor: Kim Currie, 782-640-7867

Are there any noteworthy achievements or interesting facts to share about the Repair and Disposal Section team?

The Repair and Disposal Section team has processed approximately \$120 million worth of equipment to be sold through Crown Assets in the last three years.

To view the archive of previous Base Service Spotlight features, visit https://tridentnewspaper.com/base-services-spotlights/.

Remembrance Week tribute at CANEX

The CANEX Stadacona location marked Veterans' Week with a special display cre-ated by store Sales Associate Frank Beals. The display pays tribute to both former and currently serving members of the Canadian Armed Forces. Beals said he chose to feature family members, friends, and colleagues in recognition of their past and ongoing service, including those presently serving at CFB Halifax.

RYAN MELANSON







WE HONOUR THOSE WHO SERVED



NOUS RENDONS HOMMAGE À CEUX QUI ONT SERVI



Les artilleurs du 12e Régiment de campagne, Artillerie royale canadienne, lisent le journal « The Maple Leaf », qui parle de la victoire, à Aurich, en Allemagne, 20 mai 1945.

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HMCS *Ville de Québec* celebrated after unique deployment

By Trident Staff

HIs Majesty's Canadian Ship (HMCS) *Ville de Québec* made an anxiously awaited return to Halifax on November 10, with the ship and crew welcomed home following a far-reaching mission.

The deployment was conducted primarily under Operation HORIZON, the mission aimed at supporting the defence elements of Canada's Indo-Pacific Strategy and strengthening cooperation with allies across the region. It spanned seven months and saw the ship's company complete a diverse program that spread across different regions and included work with multiple allies. HMCS *Ville de Québec* travelled across the North Atlantic to the Mediterranean, through the Red Sea, into the Indo-Pacific, and back to North America.

Notably, *Ville de Québec* became the first Royal Canadian Navy (RCN) ship to fully integrate into a United Kingdom-led Carrier Strike Group, sailing as part of the UK's Operation HIGH-MAST, said the ship's Commanding Officer, Commander (Cdr) Peter MacNeil.

"During our time with Carrier Strike Group 25 and throughout the whole deployment, the crew demonstrated outstanding professionalism and adaptability. Their efforts not only strengthened Canada's diplomatic ties across the Indo-Pacific region but also reinforced our reputation as a trusted international security partner. I am incredibly proud of the hard work and commitment shown by the ship's company."

In addition to the Op HORIZON

component of the deployment, *Ville de Québec* provided support to NATO partners as part of Op REASSURANCE earlier this spring, and also contributed to Op AMARNA, Canada's newly-named mission focused on peace and security in the Middle East, during its transit of the Suez Canal, Red Sea, and Bab-el-Mandeb Strait. Named exercises over the seven months included NATO Exercise MED STRIKE off Italy and Exercises ALON and TALISMAN SABRE near Australia and Philippines.

RCN leadership says missions like these have led to deepening ties with allies, partners, and international organizations in the Indo-Pacific, along with contributing to the Canadian Armed Forces' persistent presence in the region.



Cdr Peter MacNeil waves from the ship as HMCS Ville de Québec comes alongside.

CPL MITCHELL PAQUETTE



Stormy weather didn't stop a large crowd from gathering to welcome home the ship's company of HMCS Ville de Québec on October 10.

CPL MITCHELL PAQUETTE

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Will BrienIntelligence Officer
Royal Canadian Navy

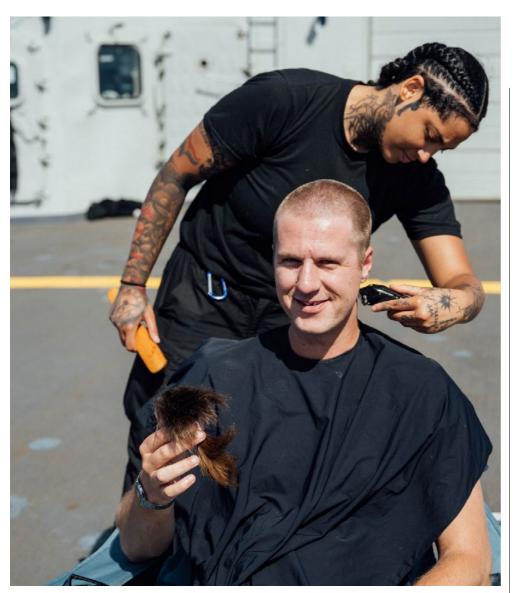


Ryan Chute Infantry Officer (Retired) Canadian Army

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HMCS *Ville de Québec* raises money for charity while at sea

By Capt Christine MacNeil

During its recent deployment on Operation HORIZON, His Majesty's Canadian Ship (HMCS) *Ville de Québec* demonstrated that generosity travels far beyond home waters. The ship's company raised more than \$7000 for two National Defence Workplace Charitable Campaign (NDWCC) organizations: the Alzheimer's Society of Canada and The Make-A-Wish Foundation of Canada.

Throughout the final months of the deployment, sailors organized a series of creative fundraising events. Each initiative was led by a member of the crew, who also chose which charity their efforts would support, making every dollar raised a personal contribution to causes close to their hearts.

The fundraising kicked off with A Special Haircut, organized by Master

S1 KYLE MAGUIRE

MCpl Soucy receives the finishing touches on his haircut from S2 Tyanah Beals..

S1 KYLE MAGUIRE

Corporal (MCpl) Nick Soucy, a Meteorological Technician aboard *Ville de Québec*. Having grown out his hair for months, MCpl Soucy invited the crew to bid on what style he would end up with. A \$300 bid secured a mullet, \$750 a fauxhawk, and so on. In the end, donations poured in, raising an impressive \$2,500 for the Alzheimer Society of Canada. Sporting a new buzz cut, MCpl Soucy said, "My grandmother has dementia, so this is impactful for me personally. It hits home, and I want to support it for others who may be experiencing this in their families."

Next came Escape the Ship, a raffle organized by Petty Officer 1st Class (PO1) Francis Légaré in support of the Make-A-Wish Foundation. The prize? A rare chance for a few lucky sailors — and their chosen "plus ones" — to enjoy extra time ashore in Pearl Harbor, Hawaii, while the rest of the crew carried out the busy work of coming alongside. The idea was an instant hit, raising more than \$3,700. "It's always fun to see the excitement spread across the ship," said PO1 Légaré. "HMCS Ville de Québec has been supporting Make-A-Wish for quite some time, and I'm proud to be part of that effort."

Finally, the ship wrapped up the campaign with a *Ball Cap Silent Auction*. The Commanding Officer donated eight new ball caps collected from ships and agencies VDQ had worked with during deployment. Bidding sheets were posted in the flats, and competition was fierce — especially in the final minutes before closing. In the end, everyone walked away happy, and the event raised another \$834 for Make-A-Wish.

Even after the events concluded, donations continued to come in, bringing the final total to over \$7,700. "I am proud of our sailors who dedicate their time and effort to organizing fundraisers, and those whose generosity fuels these causes," said Commander Peter MacNeil, Commanding Officer of *Ville de Québec*. "Together, they embody the spirit of altruism and create meaningful impact."

Reminder:

NDWCC Escape Room runs until December 16

By CFB Halifax Public Affairs

Something old, something new... something puzzling for you!

The wedding bells are ringing at Canadian Forces Base Halifax with an all new NDWCC Escape Room, running from November 4 to December 16, at St. Brendan's Chapel (Stadacona Building S7, 2710 Admirals Way).

Gather your eight-person team and get ready to solve puzzles and help the NearlyWeds get to the altar during one of our three daily one-hour games at 9 a.m., 11 a.m., or 2 p.m. (excluding Friday afternoons).

If your team is smaller than eight people, you might be combined with another small team for the purposes of the game. Non-Defence Team members (ages 18 +) such as family and friends are also welcome to play. Your participation fee (\$20 per person) will go directly to the 2025 Halifax Region National Defence Workplace Charitable Campaign!

Ready to book? Email our coordination team at <u>Joseph.Abando@forces.gc.ca</u> and <u>Leah.Coughlin@forces.gc.ca</u>.



Winners of the ball cap silent auction show off their new caps. Note: The caps were worn solely for the photo and are not normally permitted for wear while in uniform.







Naval Reserve sailors help kick off new PEI CAF/RCMP 5K

The 21st annual Prince Edward Island Marathon took place over the weekend of October 17-19, and for the first time, a special 5-kilometre race category was introduced for current and former members of the Canadian Armed Forces (CAF) and Royal Canadian Mounted Police (RCMP). Congratulations to all who took part, including several current members of His Majesty's Canadian Ship (HMCS) Queen Charlotte, the Naval Reserve Division in Charlottetown.

Top finishers in the CAF/RCMP category included:

Mer

Sgt Clayton Goodine: 16:31 Lt(N) Michael-Lucien Bergeron 18:51 S3 Landon Brown: 20:56

Women

MS Rachel McCarthy: 19:17 MS Laura Deighan: 21:33 Lynnea Lobert: 24:00

Race organizers say the CAF/RCMP initiative has been added with the hope of boosting camaraderie and highlighting mental health challenges faced by service members on Prince Edward Island.

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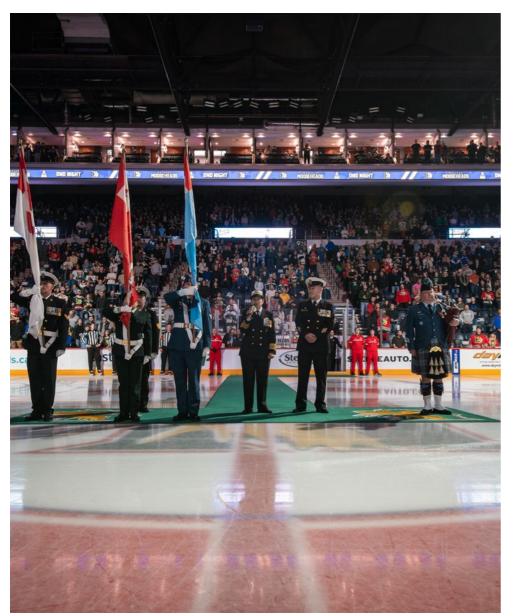
Clash of the Titans charity game returns to Halifax Forum

Four military hockey squads brought intense competition to the Halifax Forum on October 2 during the latest edition of the Clash of the Titans charity event. The evening opened with the Ottawa-based military attaché team, the Lame Ducks, taking on the Esprit de Corps Commando Lites, followed by the feature matchup between the CFB Halifax Mariners and the Esprit de Corps Commandos.

The Esprit de Corps teams skated away with a pair of decisive wins, with the Lites the Lame Ducks 4–0 before securing a 10–5 victory over the Mariners. The action was bolstered by performances from local cadets and the Stadacona Band Band of the Royal Canadian Navy. Navy League cadets were in the stands to provide cheers alongside the RCN mascot, SONAR, adding to the sense of community support.

Now nearly a decade-long tradition, the annual event continues to raise funds for the Cadet Leagues of Nova Scotia, helping support youth programming across the province.





A CAF colour party joined the Base Commander and Base Chief on the ice during the game's opening ceremony.



The on-ice action saw the Halifax Mooseheads take a 5-3 victory over the Cape Breton Screaming Eagles.

CPL BRIAN LEVESQUE



 $Sonar,\,the\,Royal\,Canadian\,Navy\,mascot,\,joined\,in\,on\,the\,fun.$

CPL BRIAN LEVESQUE

Mooseheads salute Defence Team during 2025 DND Appreciation Night

CPL BRIAN LEVESQUE

By Trident Staff

The Halifax Mooseheads once again turned their spotlight toward the Canadian Armed Forces (CAF) on October 25, hosting the annual DND Appreciation Night before a crowd of 8,397 at Scotiabank Centre. With CAF members visible throughout the arena, some in uniform, and others attending with families and friends, the atmosphere reflected the longstanding relationship between the team and the Defence community in Halifax.

That connection was also front and centre during the game's opening ceremonies. A CAF colour party led the procession to centre ice, followed by Canadian Forces Base (CFB) Halifax Base Commander Captain (N) Annick Fortin and Base Chief, Chief Petty Officer 1st Class Troy Beazley for the ceremonial puck drop. The national anthem was then performed by a familiar voice, Petty Officer 1st Class Brad Davidge of the Stadacona Band of the Royal Canadian Navy.

Volunteers, many in uniform, were active well before the first whistle, moving through the concourses and seating sections to sell raffle tickets for the annual jersey draw. Each year's custom Mooseheads jersey pays tribute to the Canadian Armed Forces in a different way; this year's design was fully Royal Canadian Navy (RCN) inspired, with the RCN Command badge featured prominently on the front. The in-arena raffle, combined with an online auction of additional jerseys, raised more than \$25,000.

As always, proceeds raised from the event will be donated to the Camp Hill Veterans Memorial Building, specifically for upkeep and additions to the facility's Veterans Memorial Garden. The popular outdoor recreation area for residents has seen changes over the past year as part of a larger expansion project at the QEII Health Sciences Centre.

Camp Hill Director of Veteran Services Heather White noted that donations have allowed the team to adapt the Garden space alongside the changes. As Camp Hill's largest single fundraiser of the year, DND Appreciation Night will help that work continue, she said.

For the first time since prior to the COVID-19 pandemic, a small group of Camp Hill's resident Veterans were able to make the trip and enjoy this year's game in person. White added.

"For many of our Veterans, it's too difficult, but we're thrilled that some were able to join us this year. I think it makes the whole evening that much more meaningful."

On the ice, fans were treated to a high-tempo matchup between Nova Scotia rivals. The Mooseheads took a 5-3 win over the Cape Breton Eagles, led by rookie forward Oleg Kulebiakin, who recorded two goals and an assist.

Behind the scenes, staff from PSP Halifax, CFB Halifax, Events East, and the Mooseheads organization once again collaborated to bring the event together. Colby Pridham, Director of Business Development at Scotiabank Centre for Events East, said the level of enthusiasm from CAF members and the wider community, and the support to Veterans through Camp Hill, continue to make the event a no-brainer for the groups involved.

"It's a night that I think we all look forward to," Pridham said.

"There are so many reasons why this is an important event for us. To honour the men and women of the Canadian Armed Forces, and to support the Veterans at Camp Hill – I can't think of anything that would be more worthwhile."

With more than \$300,00 raised since the first DND Appreciation Night in 2004, and planning already under way for the next edition, partners say the initiative is likely to remain a highlight on the Mooseheads' calendar for years to come.