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# TRIDENT

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## Op OPEN SPIRIT 2026

*Chief Petty Officer 2nd Class Donald Allan of Fleet Diving Unit (Atlantic) is seen during transport to a dive location as part of Operation OPEN SPIRIT 2026 in the Bay of Riga, Latvia, on May 5. Royal Canadian Navy divers have been working alongside NATO allies to support cleanup of First and Second World War era unexploded naval mines off the coast of Latvia.*

PTE FELIX CHAGNON





HMCS Sackville was recently moved to its waterfront berth at Sackville Landing ahead of its ceremonial re-commissioning.

MONA GHIZ



Committal of ashes aboard HMCS Sackville off Point Pleasant Park during Battle of the Atlantic commemorations on May 3.

CANADIAN NAVAL MEMORIAL TRUST

## HMCS Sackville returns to service, carries veterans on final voyage

By Nathan Stone,  
Trident Staff

The world's last surviving Flower-class corvette, His Majesty's Canadian Ship (HMCS) *Sackville* K181, ceremonially returned to the Royal Canadian Navy (RCN) on May 15, 85 years to the day after it first launched.

The recommissioning marks a historic milestone for a vessel that once battled U-boats in the icy North Atlantic. It is a symbolic recognition of *Sackville's* continued importance to the RCN.

"The idea is to recognize the RCN's heritage and culture by bringing the ship back into the fold with this honorary commissioning, and to bring more emphasis to our history as a Navy," said Chief Petty Officer Second Class (CPO2)

Adam Yardy, HMCS *Sackville's* current Coxswain.

*Sackville* serves as Canada's Naval Memorial and as a floating museum on the Halifax waterfront. It is managed by the Canadian Naval Memorial Trust, the non-profit organization overseeing the ship since 1982.

Like HMCS *Haida* in Hamilton, which is also preserved as a museum and serves as the RCN's ceremonial flagship, *Sackville* will continue its memorial and educational purposes. The Canadian Naval Memorial Trust will continue to manage the vessel.

Though the ship will continue with its regular business, CPO2 Yardy says the

recommissioning will hopefully lead to a stronger link between HMCS *Sackville* and today's RCN, encouraging sailors to engage with the history of their Navy.

### Their last watch

As part of its role as a naval memorial, *Sackville* also takes part in remembrance and memorial ceremonies, including committals of ashes at sea, as it did during this year's Battle of the Atlantic commemorations on May 3.

That morning, *Sackville* was towed into the waters off Point Pleasant Park, Halifax, carrying the cremated remains of 23 sailors who had requested a burial at sea.

One by one, relatives of the deceased stepped forward to place ashes onto a ceremonial board as a chaplain offered final prayers.

"The Padre will say the last prayer," said CPO2 Yardy. "And then the side is piped out of respect for their passing. Everyone is able to salute the board as we pipe the side. We do that for each member."

Families were also given the opportunity to read biographical tributes. For

those unable to attend, CPO2 Yardy read the life stories of the deceased. Then, the remains were committed to the sea.

"Being on board during those moments of remembrance, those are my favourite moments. Helping the families," said CPO2 Yardy.

Launched on May 15, 1941, *Sackville* was one of 122 corvettes built in Canadian shipyards during the Second World War. The ships were tasked with protecting convoys of food, fuel, and munitions travelling across the Atlantic to the United Kingdom.

The ship's most memorable engagement came in August 1942, when it engaged three U-boats in 24 hours, putting two out of action. Severely damaged by a torpedo near-miss in September 1943, it was converted to a training vessel and later served as a civilian oceanographic research ship.

Paid off in 1982, it was purchased by the Naval Trust the following year and restored to its 1944 configuration. In 1985, *Sackville* was designated Canada's Naval Memorial to honour Canadian sailors lost at sea and all those who've served in the RCN.

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Members of the Stadacona Band of the Royal Canadian Navy march along Sailor's Memorial Way.

FORMATION IMAGING SERVICES



Attendees gathered at the Halifax Memorial in Point Pleasant Park on May 3 to mark 81 years since the end of the Battle of the Atlantic.

FORMATION IMAGING SERVICES



Additional Battle of the Atlantic commemorations across the RCN included a ceremony at sea aboard HMCS Charlottetown, currently deployed to Operation HORIZON in the Indo-Pacific.

MS ALEX HEAGLE

## Battle of the Atlantic: Honouring a "pivotal chapter" in Canadian history

By Nathan Stone,  
Trident Staff

Despite wind-driven rain and grey skies, Canadian Armed Forces (CAF) members and dignitaries joined members of the public at the Halifax Sailor's Memorial in Point Pleasant Park on May 3, to mark the 81st anniversary of the end of the Battle of the Atlantic.

The solemn hour-long ceremony commemorated the longest continuous military campaign of the Second World War. The campaign began on Sept. 3, 1939, with the sinking of the SS Athenia. 13 days later, the first supply convoy departed Halifax for the United Kingdom. By 1944, 494 convoys totaling more than

26,800 ships had crossed the Atlantic.

The inclement weather did not deter the proceedings. The ceremony began with a parade of sailors and aviators marching along Sailor's Memorial Way, before standing at attention on the wet grass.

The names of every Royal Canadian Navy ship and Merchant Marine vessel lost during the North Atlantic campaign were recited. Following each name, a ship's bell tolled once to mark the sacrifices.

The Battle of the Atlantic claimed the lives of more than 2,210 Royal Canadian

Navy (RCN) sailors, 900 Royal Canadian Air Force (RCAF) aviators, and 1,700 Merchant Navy mariners.

In tribute to the air crews that also served in the campaign, an RCAF CP140 Aurora and a CH-148 Cyclone helicopter conducted flyovers above the memorial.

Just off the shore, His Majesty's Canadian Ship (HMCS) Sackville carried out its committal of ashes service for 23 CAF veterans who had their cremated remains buried at sea.

Among the ceremony's attendees were Halifax Mayor Andy Fillmore and Nova Scotia's Lieutenant Governor, Mike Savage. Both emphasized that while 81 years have passed since the war ended, the legacy of those who sailed from Halifax remains important to the province and its people.

"This pivotal chapter in our shared history speaks to the courage, sacrifice,

and resilience of those who served, and of the many Nova Scotians whose lives were shaped by the Atlantic theatre," said Lieutenant Governor Savage in a written statement following the ceremony. "We are reminded that the freedoms we enjoy today were secured through extraordinary endurance at sea, and it is our duty to ensure that their legacy is never forgotten."

Vice-Admiral Angus Topshee, Commander RCN, said in a written statement that the fighting spirit of those who served in the campaign remains inspirational for sailors in the Navy today.

"Their determination – alongside the vital contributions of maritime aviation, including the Royal Canadian Air Force – closed the Mid-Atlantic Gap and protected countless lives. Their legacy continues to guide us."



*HMCS Charlottetown Commanding Officer Cdr Jonathan Maurice on the ship's bridge alongside members of his ship's company and visiting sailors from the Philippine Navy.*

MS ALEX HEAGLE



*The Philippine ship BRP Miguel Malvar is photographed at sea from HMCS Charlottetown during Exercise BALIKATAN on April 27.*

MS ALEX HEAGLE



*Members of the Philippine Navy were welcomed aboard HMCS Charlottetown for a personnel exchange in support of Exercise BALIKATAN 2026 on April 25.*

MS ALEX HEAGLE



## HMCS Charlottetown joins Exercise BALIKATAN in expanded Canadian role

By Trident Staff

Members of the Canadian Armed Forces (CAF) recently took part in Exercise BALIKATAN in the Philippines for the first time as active participants, with

His Majesty's Canadian Ship (HMCS) *Charlottetown* and its embarked CH-148 Cyclone helicopter serving as a key part of Canada's contribution.

Running from April 20 to May 8, the annual multinational exercise is led by the United States and the Philippines and brings together military personnel from partner nations across the Indo-Pacific region. While Canada has participated previously as an observer, 2026 marks the CAF's inaugural active involvement in the exercise.

BALIKATAN, which means "shoulder-to-shoulder" in Tagalog, focuses on strengthening interoperability and regional security cooperation through training in areas such as air and missile defence, coastal defence, logistics and sustainment, medical support, maritime strike operations, and multinational coordination.

Commander Jonathan Maurice, Commanding Officer of HMCS *Charlottetown*, said the deployment reflects Canada's growing commitment to the Indo-Pacific region through Operation HORIZON. Speaking during a radio interview with local media in the Philippines, he said the exercise offers an important opportunity for Canadian sailors to work directly alongside regional allies and partners.

"For Canada, this is a very important part of the world. We're here as part of Canada's Indo-Pacific strategy, repre-

senting the Royal Canadian Navy, to really demonstrate our interoperability and strengthen our capabilities," he said. "It's a great opportunity for us to showcase our highly skilled, highly trained sailors and show what Canada brings to the table."

HMCS *Charlottetown* is a Halifax-class frigate carrying a crew of approximately 240 Royal Canadian Navy sailors and Royal Canadian Air Force personnel who operate and support the embarked Cyclone maritime helicopter.

Canadian participation in Exercise BALIKATAN also includes members of 3rd Battalion, Princess Patricia's Canadian Light Infantry (3 PPCLI), CAF Cyber Command, the Canadian Forces Health Services Group, the Canadian Forces Military Police Group, and Canadian Special Operations Forces Command. Together, the participating CAF elements bring expertise ranging from land operations and cyber capabilities to medical support, policing, and special operations.

The exercise is part of Canada's broader efforts under Operation HORIZON to support peace, stability, and cooperation in the Indo-Pacific alongside allied and partner nations.

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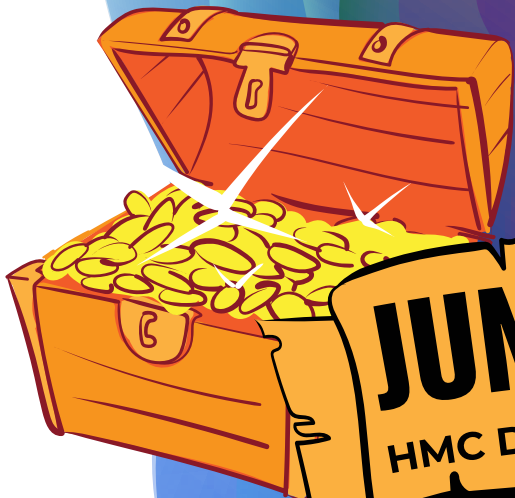


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*Metal and plastic 3D printers have been used to create models for learning purposes and to replace or repair simple shipboard equipment.*

SUBMITTED

## Small parts, big potential for 3D printing at FMF Cape Scott

By Ryan Melanson,  
Trident Staff

**Additive manufacturing technology** is beginning to find its footing in naval maintenance and training work at Fleet Maintenance Facility (FMF) Cape Scott, where personnel are exploring the use of 3D printing for applications ranging from replacement components to detailed ship models.

Though the technology is not intended for large-scale repairs or recreating major pieces of naval equipment, it has already proven useful in a range of practical situations. Simple items such as deck caps, connectors, brackets, and even toilet paper holders have all been produced using FMF Cape Scott's polymer and metal 3D printing capabilities.

Lieutenant-Commander Matthew Robins, Naval Architecture Officer with FMF Cape Scott Engineering, noted the unit began introducing additive manufacturing capabilities in 2014.

"This includes the use of laser additive manufacturing systems for component repair (e.g., shaft restoration) and broader 3D printing applications within machine shops," he said.

"The capability has expanded to include both polymer and metallic additive processes, with continued procurement and integration of new systems."

Though technology is still emerging as part of FMF's toolkit, and not yet standardized across production workflows, it is being used in support of maintenance and repair activities when possible, he added.

Two separate 3D printing labs currently operate at FMF Cape Scott: one focused on production work and another dedicated largely to research and development efforts led by Lieutenant(N) (Lt(N)) Oleg Lyubenko, the facility's additive manufacturing engineer.



*Lt(N) Oleg Lyubenko works with a metal 3D printer in one of FMF Cape Scott's additive manufacturing labs.*

RYAN MELANSON

Lt(N) Lyubenko said the technology can help solve challenges caused by the age of the Royal Canadian Navy's (RCN) Halifax-class frigates, where replacement parts can sometimes be difficult to source through traditional supply chains.

That capability extends beyond the dockyard. Deployed warships now carry compact mobile polymer 3D printers similar to those used in Lt(N) Lyubenko's lab, allowing designs to be sent electronically and produced while at sea. Personnel can also modify designs remotely and share updated files back and forth as needed.

"It can be good for small components, like a gasket or a connecting piece, that is broken and needs to be replaced," he explained. "Some of these simple parts are easy enough to print right on the ship."

The technology has also become a valuable training tool. FMF Cape Scott has produced detailed ship and submarine models that can be disassembled "Le-

go-style" to reveal internal systems and layouts for educational purposes. Models of Arctic and Offshore Patrol Ships and the future Protecteur-class Joint Support Ships are among the projects currently supporting training efforts.

Beyond maintenance and training, additive manufacturing has also been used to support naval heritage initiatives, including the production of ship badges, bells, and commemorative items for local units and the Naval Museum of Halifax.

Further advances and uses for the technology in the naval setting are likely. Leaders at FMF Cape Scott are also keenly aware of ongoing defence-focused metal additive manufacturing research at Dalhousie University as a potential area of future interest. Such a connection could eventually help expand the RCN's ability to manufacture specialized components domestically and reduce reliance on difficult-to-source parts.



## HMCS *Harry DeWolf* returns with a new look

*After ten months away, His Majesty's Canadian Ship (HMCS) Harry DeWolf is home. The first ship in the Royal Canadian Navy's Harry DeWolf-class Arctic and Offshore Patrol Vessels (AOPV) arrived 14 May 2026, alongside HMC Dockyard Halifax, returning from its inaugural five-year refit at Chantier Davie in Lévis, Quebec.*

*The ship returns sporting a striking new paint design featuring a narwhal along its hull, a symbol of strength, nobility, and determination. The narwhal reflects the ship's deep connection to the Qikiqtani Region of Nunavut and a shared commitment to stewardship of Canada's Arctic waters.*

MONA GHIZ



# Auracast: Bluetooth Audio that will change the world

Dr. Peter Russell,  
Hear Right Canada

## Imagine these two scenarios:

1. You are on a treadmill at the gym. There are a dozen televisions in front of you, and they are all silent with captions on. With your smartphone, you connect to an Auracast television and now can stream the audio from the television to your Bluetooth earbuds.
2. You have hearing loss and use hearing aids, and you are at the airport. The loud background noise of the airport makes it difficult to hear announcements, such as flight delays. With your smartphone, you join the airport Auracast network in a similar manner to joining a Wi-Fi network. The smartphone transmits the announcements from the airport's Auracast network to your hearing aids, so you can hear the announcements easily.

## How does Auracast work?

Regular Bluetooth allows a single transmitter to pair and connect to a Bluetooth device, such as a smartphone transmitting music to earbuds. In contrast, Auracast is a Bluetooth audio broadcast technology. The Auracast transmitter broadcasts the audio signal to an assistant device, such as a smartphone. The smartphone user joins the Auracast network, and then the smartphone transmits the audio signal to compatible Bluetooth devices such as earbuds, hearing aids, or speakers. The benefit of Auracast is that an unlimited number of devices within the range of the transmitter can receive the broadcasted audio.

Auracast is a game changer for people with hearing loss, even if they do not have hearing aids, but it can be used for more than assistive hearing. For exam-

ple, public venues such as sports bars, which use multiple, silent televisions will be able to broadcast the audio from the televisions to patrons using compatible smartphones and earbuds. During a flight, you will be able to share Bluetooth audio with another person while watching a movie or listening to music. At home, you will be able to stream music to synced devices throughout the house and your back deck.

Auracast networks are emerging. Public venues such as airports, classrooms and theatres will gradually offer Auracast. Likewise, newer smartphones and audio devices such as earbuds and hearing aids will gradually support Auracast using Bluetooth LE Audio. Auracast compatible hearing aids are currently available from major hearing aid manufacturers.

Auracast will change the world by allowing people with normal hearing and people with hearing loss to connect and share broadcasted audio for entertainment or for public announcements. For further information, go to the Bluetooth Auracast website at [www.bluetooth.com/auracast](http://www.bluetooth.com/auracast).

## About the author:

*Dr. Peter Russell Au.D. is celebrating milestones of 30 years of work as an Audiologist, graduating from Dalhousie University in 1996, and 20 years as a Doctor of Audiology, graduating from the University of Florida in 2006. He is a co-owner of Hear Right Canada Nova Scotia Inc., with locations in Dartmouth, Windsor and Musquodoboit Harbour.*

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Jessica Gillis speaks at the National Day of Mourning ceremony at Province House on April 28.

PROVINCE OF NS



CFB Halifax Base Commander Capt(N) Annick Fortin laid a wreath on behalf of MARLANT at the National Day of Mourning ceremony.

RYAN MELANSON

# Nova Scotia marks Day of Mourning with tribute to fallen workers

By Griffin Bjerke-Clarke,  
Trident Staff

A crowd of labour representatives, politicians, workers and others gathered at Government House in Nova Scotia on April 28 to commemorate the National Day of Mourning.

The day honours workers killed on the job or as a result of workplace conditions. In 2025, 22 Nova Scotians died at work or because of their work, including seven acute traumatic injuries and 15 chronic injury fatalities. Twenty-two Nova Scotia flags were displayed at the ceremony to commemorate each life lost.

Captain (N) Annick Fortin, Base Commander Canadian Forces Base Halifax, was on hand to lay a wreath on behalf of Maritime Forces Atlantic (MARLANT). She was joined by members of the MAR-

LANT Safety and Environment team.

Speaking at the event were labour representatives and union officials. Representatives from the province's three main political parties also addressed the crowd.

"On behalf of my entire family, including my parents, Blaine and Cheryl Ann Blackie, who are heartbroken they can't be here today, I want to extend our deepest condolences to every family that has experienced a workplace tragedy," said Jessica Gillis, sister of Skylar Blackie, a firefighter killed during a training exercise.

Blackie died during a simulation at the Nova Scotia Firefighters School in Waverley, the only fire training facil-

ity in the province. Despite indicating that the fire extinguishers used during the training were rusted, Blackie was assured they were safe for use. He later lost his life due to a propellant discharge from the equipment.

"A career in firefighting is inherently dangerous; men and women choose every day to take those risks; every shift comes with danger," continued Gillis. "But the one place the job should not be dangerous is the training facility. That is the place meant to prepare and protect them, not put them in harm's way."

The ceremony also highlighted the lasting impacts of workplace-related psychological harm, reminding attendees that not all workplace injuries are visible.

According to a 2025 report by the Canadian Labour Congress (CLC), toxic professional environments are on the rise in the country, with 70% of workers reporting bullying, harassment, or violence. The same survey found that 88% of affected workers experienced negative professional consequences after reporting toxic behaviour.

"Psychological health and safety is occupational health and safety," said Canadian Labour Congress President Bea Bruske. "We know that many physical injuries can also lead to psychological harm; we know those impacts are absolutely connected and must be addressed together."

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# Our Lady of Assumption Military Chapel supports MFRC Pantry

By Lt(N) Maxwell Ojukwu,  
BTL Chaplain, MARLANT & JTFA

This spring, Lieutenant (N) Maxwell Ojukwu and the Pastoral team of Our Lady of Assumption (OLA) Military Chapel, Shearwater, visited the Halifax & Region Military Family Resource Centre (H&R MFRC) and donated 1,000\$ to support the MFRC food program for serving military members and their families. A donation in the same amount was also made last Fall.

In keeping with its mission to care for those who serve, the OLA Chapel community exists to support the spiritual, moral, and practical well being of Canadian Armed Forces members. This donation reflects that commitment in a tangible way, recognizing that operational demands, postings, deployments, and rising costs can place real strain on military households. By contributing to the MFRC Community Pantry, OLA Chapel seeks to stand alongside mem-

bers and families during times of need with dignity, respect, and care.

Food security is a foundational need and supporting initiatives that directly help serving members is a natural extension of chaplaincy values: compassion, solidarity, and service. The Pastoral Council and the chapel community are grateful for the vital work of the MFRC and for the opportunity to partner in supporting the Defence Team community. The good thing about the MFRC pantry is that it is anonymous and confidential. Members don't need to be identified to get help.

As a place of welcome and service, OLA Chapel continues to seek meaningful ways to support those who serve Canada both spiritually and materially and we hope to continue supporting the good work done by MFRC.



Members of the OLA Pastoral team present their latest donation to Halifax & Region MFRC Executive Director Shelley Hopkins (second from right).

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Canadian Forces School of Search and Rescue (CFSSAR) candidates work on shelter construction at Crystal City in Resolute Bay, NU on February 16.

MCPL MATHIEU LAVOIE

MCpl Travis Michaud (right) and Serge Cote (left) presented components of the new clothing system to visitors at the CAF Arctic Training Centre on February 16.

MAJ CHELSEA DUBEAU

## The Great Equalizer: What the High Arctic teaches about survival, readiness, and trust

By DND

Canada's High Arctic is often spoken about in abstract terms: sovereignty, strategy, capability.

But in Resolute Bay, Nunavut, the abstract disappears quickly. In temperatures plunging below minus 50°C, the Arctic strips away comfort, hierarchy, and assumption, replacing them with a single, uncompromising reality: survive or fail.

In February, Search and Rescue (SAR) Technician candidates from the Canadian Forces School of Search and Rescue (CFSSAR) travelled north for the Arctic

phase of their year long course, widely regarded as one of the most demanding training pipelines in the Canadian Armed Forces.

With them came a small group of personnel from the Directorate of Air Requirements (DAR) and Director Soldier Systems Program Management (DSSPM). Their mission was broad: test cold weather clothing and equipment, evaluate mobility systems, and, most importantly, experience this harsh environment firsthand.

Over two weeks, participants learned

that sweat kills faster than cold, that thirst becomes invisible even as dehydration speeds up, and that every task, building shelters, making water, operating equipment, demands exponentially more effort. Candidates constructed igloos, snow trenches, and ice caves. They wrote exams by candlelight in dug-out snow caves. They slept in structures built from the landscape itself, while enduring constant wind, limited daylight, and an isolation that overwhelms.

For those shadowing the course, the experience was no less revealing. Testing new merino wool base layers, survival toboggans, tents, heating systems, and personal equipment stopped being a technical exercise and became a matter of consequence. Gear that performs well down south fails quickly in the North. Footwear, handwear, goggles, hydration systems, and layering compatibility emerged as critical gaps, not on paper, but on numb fingers and whitening toes.

The Arctic teaches more than survival mechanics. It teaches how people matter.

Rank dissolved quickly in the cold. Leadership belonged to those with experience in the moment: SAR Techs, Rangers, medics, and instructors whose quiet abilities prevented small mistakes from becoming serious injuries. Safety was absolute. There was no judgement,

only correction, humour, and care. In a place where a minor miscalculation can escalate rapidly, trust became the most valuable currency.

The presence of Canadian Rangers underscored another truth. Long before policies and programs, Inuit communities learned not only how to survive here, but how to thrive. Their knowledge, of snow, weather, movement, and restraint, remains foundational and irreplaceable, reminding all involved that Arctic capability is not new, and never isolated from culture or history.

For Canada, the implications are clear. Search and rescue cases in the North are increasing. Medical evacuation is uncertain. Infrastructure is sparse. Capability here cannot be assumed, it must be earned, tested, and sustained.

What emerged from Resolute was not just data, but conviction. Those who design, procure, and advocate for equipment gained something indispensable: perspective. Experiencing even a fraction of what SAR Technicians endure sharpened priorities, exposed shortcomings, and reinforced why this work matters.

In the Arctic, the margin for error vanishes. What remains is preparation, teamwork, and an unshakeable commitment to one another.

*That Others May Live* is not a slogan here. It is a promise tested against the cold itself.

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# SPORTS & FITNESS



Wally Buckoski is seen emceeing at the 2025 PO2 Craig Blake Memorial Fitness Challenge.

CPL SAMUEL MARTELL

## Shearwater's Wally Buckoski recognized for decades of service

By Trident Staff

If you've spent any time at all at 12 Wing Shearwater, you probably know Wally Buckoski.

After more than 40 years supporting military members, families, and community events at 12 Wing Shearwater and Canadian Forces Base Halifax, the "Shearwater Swatter" has received national recognition through the Canadian Forces Morale and Welfare Services (CFMWS) Exceptional Achievement Awards. Buckoski was named this year's recipient of the Client Service Excellence Award, which honours individuals who consistently exceed expectations in supporting the morale and well-being of our members, their families, and the broader Canadian Armed Forces community.

For generations of personnel posted to Shearwater, Buckoski has become one of the most recognizable faces on the Wing. Although his official title is Sports Stores Technician at the Shearwater Fitness, Sports and Recreation Centre, his influence stretches far beyond the equipment counter.

Whether helping athletes get properly fitted gear, organizing sports equipment, or troubleshooting repairs long after regular working hours, Wally's work has directly supported countless CAF sports programs and recreation activities over the years. He's built a reputation for always making time for others and ensuring members have the support they need to focus on performance and thrive in the gym setting.

Outside his day-to-day role, Buckoski is perhaps best known as the energetic voice behind many CAF sporting events

in Shearwater and across the Halifax region. Drawing on a background in radio broadcasting, he has spent years emceeing activities such as Navy 10K Runs, the PO2 Craig Blake Memorial Fitness Challenge, and Mini Grey Cup events, while also providing play-by-play commentary for CAF sports livestreams. His enthusiasm and storytelling have helped make CAF sports more engaging and fun for all involved.

His award nomination described him as "a legendary and beloved figure at 12 Wing Shearwater widely recognized over decades as the embodiment of exceptional client service, community pride and PSP (Personnel Support Programs) values."

"Known personally by name to generations of wing members and leaders, Wally is synonymous with the wing itself."

Buckoski's commitment also extends into the broader community. He regularly supports local youth sports initiatives and volunteers his time with the Halifax and Region Military Family Resource Centre, helping organize family obstacle course events and greeting participants personally with his trademark enthusiasm and encouragement.

"Wally's dedication goes well beyond the expectations of his role. He has repeatedly demonstrated a genuine commitment to helping others, always placing the needs of clients first and ensuring they are treated with respect, dignity, and care," said former 12 Wing Shearwater Chief Warrant Officer Kevin Wezenbeek.



## Hike Cape Split with the CAF Social League

By Trident Staff

The CAF Social League is heading back to one of its most popular destinations, with the next Cape Split Day Hike planned for Saturday, May 30.

Participants can expect a 13.2-kilometre trek through stunning old-growth and coastal conifer forests, with views of the Minas Basin and Scots Bay that can't be missed.

[Registration](#) is required and, due to high demand, this activity is open to military members only. The \$5 registration fee includes transportation to and from Cape Split. The bus will depart from Tribute Tower at 8 a.m. and will arrive back at Tribute Tower no later than 6 p.m.

For more information, reach out to [Halifaxrecreation@cfmws.com](mailto:Halifaxrecreation@cfmws.com).



# Applications open for CAF Women in Sport Program

By Trident Staff

Applications are now being accepted for the 2026/2027 cycle of the Canadian Armed Forces (CAF) Women in Sport Program, an initiative aimed at supporting greater participation and leadership opportunities for women in sports across the CAF.

The program provides funding to bases and wings to help develop local sports opportunities for female athletes, coaches, officials, and participants. Up to \$3,000 in funding is available each year per base or wing to support programs and initiatives that encourage skill development and long-term engagement in sports.

Funding can be used to support a wide range of local programs and initiatives aimed at increasing women's participation in sport, including facility rentals, introductory clinics and workshops, women-specific intramural leagues, and community-led instruction or training sessions. Previous Women in Sport initiatives across the CAF have included golf lessons, learn-to-lift sessions, swimming programs, running and triathlon training, hockey and powerskating clinics, and officiating workshops designed to introduce participants to different roles within sport. Limited equipment pur-

chases — up to \$500 per base or wing, subject to approval — may also be funded when directly connected to an approved initiative.

Military members with ideas for programs are encouraged to apply on their own or through their local PSP fitness and sports staff. All applications will be routed through a PSP Manager of Fitness, Sports and Recreation or a designated Sports Coordinator, who can also assist members with the application process and development of program ideas.

Applications are now being accepted for the 2026/2027 funding cycle, with submissions remaining open until February 27, 2027. The program supports activities taking place throughout the year, with all approved initiatives for 2026/2027 required to wrap up by March 31, 2027.

Applicants can complete the [online form](#) and find additional information through the [program page](#) on the Canadian Forces Morale and Welfare Services website.

For questions about the application process or future programming, contact your local PSP sports coordinator or Jessica Crouch at CAF Sports Headquarters: [crouch.jessica@cfmws.com](mailto:crouch.jessica@cfmws.com).



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## CAF WOMEN'S RUGBY

THE CANADIAN ARMED FORCES WOMEN'S RUGBY TEAM IS LOOKING TO RECRUIT



Players may have a chance to represent the CAF at an international test match. As an opener for the Canada Women's 15s team!

Tryouts and development camps details will be announced shortly

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