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Familiar faces join for unique retirement send-off

Sara White,
Managing editor

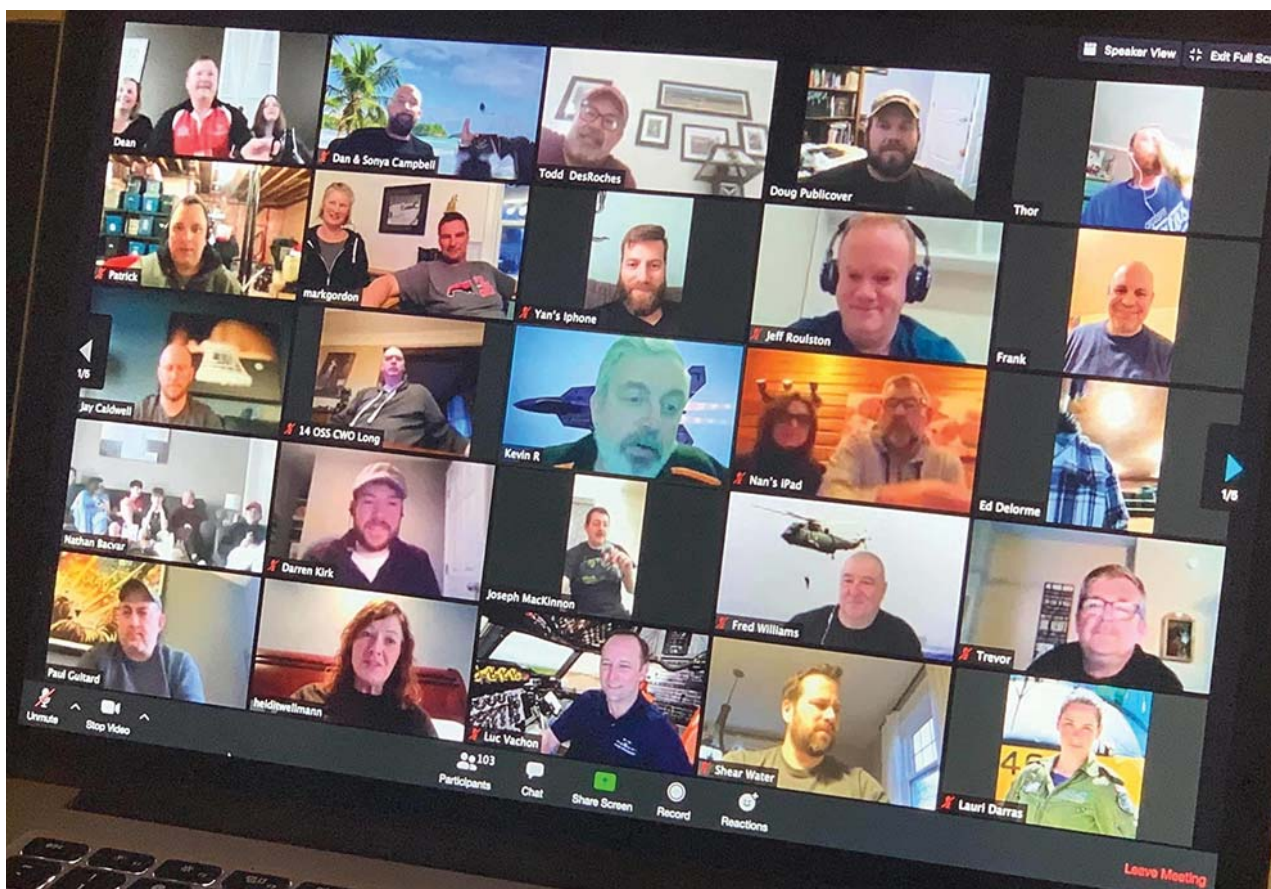
Physical distancing maybe, but social distancing – never! Over 100 people from all over the world joined a mass Zoom call April 17 to mark their friend, Chief Warrant Officer Dean Parsons', retirement from the Canadian Armed Forces.

Parsons' retirement date was planned for March 27, unexpectedly falling weeks into the COVID-19 public health emergency disrupting the in-person gatherings, handshakes and hugs typically seen as co-workers and friends traditionally "mug out" a retiring member. Up to 114 people joined the online depart with

dignity event for Parsons.

"From Newfoundland to Greenwood to Halifax to Gimli to Comox and all the way to Australia, we were all there to celebrate Dean's retirement," said his last command team partner, 405 (Long Range Patrol) Squadron Commanding Officer Lieutenant-Colonel Luc Vachon. "Dean, Crissy and the kids - you will be dearly missed."

The squadron prepared a few gifts for Parsons, highlighting his 27-plus years of service with a collection of unit and event crests, medals and a Canadian flag, all displayed in a shadow box. Vachon presented him with a framed banner depicting 405 Squadron's formal



Up to 114 people joined in the Zoom-hosted depart with dignity April 17 for 405 (Long Range Patrol) Squadron Chief Warrant Officer Dean Parsons, top left.

Facebook

battle honours.

"I would like to take this opportunity to thank you, Vachon said, despite remembering the

first time he met Parsons at RIMPAC 2016: "he didn't really impress me at all - mainly because he took my rental

car away for the rest of the exercise!"

A year later, they spent time together at a commanding of-

ficers' course and, over the last two years, "you and I had the

Continued on page 2...

Military ask 'not off the table'

Sara White,
Managing editor

There's been no call - yet - from the Province of Nova Scotia for Canadian Armed Forces' assistance in the fight against COVID-19, but the CAF is ready.

Fifty 14 Wing Greenwood

personnel stood up mid-April as an Operation LASER local response force, ready to support any community, provincial or regional ask. There is no defined end-date for the LRF's posture: it will remain ready as long as COVID-19 issues arise and potentially strain regional emergency response

measures.

Premier Stephen McNeil said in the daily COVID-19 update April 23 he's "grateful" to know military members in the CAF's three branches are a strong presence in the province.

"We have a friend in the Canadian military, they often come to our aid and rescue -

think of the storm we had in the region just recently," McNeil said. "I know they will be here if required."

McNeil said he's reached out to Atlantic command with an assessment of what could happen if the province called upon the military; Quebec and Ontario governments

have reached out in the past week for medical personnel to help, particularly in long term care settings where the virus is causing more illness and death. Nova Scotia has 28 deaths as of April 29, with 935 total cases.

Chief medical officer of health for Nova Scotia, Dr.

Robert Strang, says the province's incident management team leading the COVID-19 response is "well aware" of what capabilities are needed.

"The need to engage the military is not off the table, but the needed supports from other parts of the health system are in place." ➔

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If you are staying close to home and do not have delivery, read The Aurora in full online at auroranewspaper.com.

MPs continue to monitor public safety, health

Sara White,
Managing editor

Making sure folks follow the rules is always the job of Military Police members, but the uniqueness of public health regulations around public physical distancing is a new challenge.

Since the declaration of a state of emergency in Nova Scotia through May 3, in response to the infectious and incurable COVID-19 coronavirus, 24 Military Police Flight Detachment Commander Captain Daniel Reid says members are doing what is required to enforce

restrictions around public gathering and physical distancing. No one should be out and about or meeting in groups of over five people not from the same household, and everyone should be keeping two metres' space between themselves and others, wherever possible.

"We want to educate people – not jump right to fines or summary offence violations," he says. "We want to keep people safe and, of course, we'll follow provincial public health guidelines.. We're a federal base property, but there's no change to our jurisdiction over military



Following the lead of other police agencies after recent tragic events April 18 and 19 in Nova Scotia, Greenwood Military Police would like to inform our community about detachment members' formal identification.

Military Police understand the importance of self-identification while approaching anyone on the base. Anyone may request formal police identification. In addition to the Military Police members presenting their ID card and badge, you may always call Military Police dispatch at 902-765-5111 or 911 if you have any doubt about the authenticity of the police member interacting with you. In any emergency situation, please call 911.

doing is an issue."

Reid says flight members are patrolling the base community as normal, maintaining most of the shift sched-

uling the detachment would have pre-COVID-19. There have been some adjustments within the office itself to limit the number of people work-

ing at a time, "but operations have not been affected. We're still able to maintain patrolling duties and education and training." ➔

Familiar faces...

...cover

chance to meet a lot of people, do a lot of cool things and go to a lot of places. You were present when the squadron was going through a difficult time, and you were there for the good time. 405 Squadron would not be where it is right now without you. I may be losing my 'command team partner,' but I am gaining a full-time friend."

Parsons, originally from Windsor, Newfoundland and Labrador, spent his teen years as an Army Cadet and then joined the 2nd Battalion Royal Newfoundland Regiment. He joined the Royal Canadian Navy Regular Force in 1993 and became a naval acoustic control



Canadian representative for the NATO 2010 summit in Portugal, which celebrated NATO's Year of the NCO. In 2011, Parsons became an instructor at 1 CFFTS in 17 Wing. In 2015, he was posted to 406 Squadron (M) OTS in 12 Wing Shearwater as the senior AES OP, finishing the last Sea King course. Between deployments, he was posted to the Helicopter Operational Test and Evaluation Facility as the unit MWO, assisting the wing transition to the CH148 Cyclone. Parsons returned to 405 Squadron as the squadron chief in May 2018.



405 (Long Range Patrol) Squadron members' gift to retiring Chief Warrant Officer Dean Parsons was a collection of unit and event crests, medals and a Canadian flag, all displayed in a shadow box.

Parsons, now retired, has accepted a flying position within the National Aerial Surveillance program, with Transport Canada out of Moncton. ➔

electronic sensor operator with the Royal Canadian Air Force and was posted to 415 Squadron and then 405 Squadron, both at 14 Wing Greenwood. In 2007, he was posted to CC-NAEWF Geilenkirchen, Germany, and was selected as the

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Circulation | Circulation: **4,500 Mondays** | **Lundis Agreement No.** | Numéro de contrat : **462268**
Fax: 902-765-1717

Website | Site Web : **www.auroranewspaper.com**

The Aurora, PO Box 99, Greenwood NS B0P 1N0
L'Aurora, C.P. 99, Greenwood (N.-É.) B0P 1N0

Location | Emplacement : **61 School Road, Morfee Annex**
61 School Road, Annexe Morfee

Mail subscriptions: annual \$105 plus tax, weekly \$2.18 plus tax.
Abonnements par correspondance: 105\$ par année plus taxes , 2,18\$ par semaine plus taxes.

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www.rcfa-arc.forces.gc.ca

CAF Connection Site
Site du portail communautaire des Forces canadiennes
www.cafconnection.ca

14 Wing Greenwood Site
Site de la 14e Escadre Greenwood
www.airforce.forces.gc.ca/en/14-wing/index.page

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www.forces.gc.ca

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www.combatcamera.forces.gc.ca

Recruiting | Recrutement
www.forces.ca

Military Family Resource Centre
Centre des ressources pour les familles des militaires
www.cafconnection.ca

VPI | VPI
www.vpinternational.ca

Wing emphasizes importance of reaching out, supporting each other

14 Wing Greenwood command team members – and your peers in either military or civilian workspaces – are emphasizing the need for all members of the Defence Team to continue to “stay safe, stay healthy.”

The weeks-long disruption and isolation affecting personal, their families and the wider community because of essential COVID-19 public health precautions; was compounded for many by the tragic April 18 and 19 shooting deaths of 22 Nova Scotians.

“But let us not be socially distant,” 14 Wing Commander Colonel Brendan Cook said in an April 28 wing wide email. He included a comprehensive list of base, provincial and national resources, available in person, by phone or online, to provide helping resources to anyone feeling sad, lonely or overwhelmed by accumulating strain. He also encouraged every member of the wing – and the community – to be extra vigilant and extend a helping or supportive hand to anyone they recognize who may need it.

“Operate as One.”

26 Canadian Forces Health Services (CFHS)

26 CFHS remains open, Monday to Friday, 7:30 a.m. to 3 p.m. (excluding holidays), committed to providing health care to 14 Wing military members. Call first to determine the best way for you to receive care. All members presenting in person will be asked screening questions before entering the clinic. You will also be asked to don a mask and clean your hands with hand sanitizer.

• For *clinical services*, contact CDU reception at 902-765-1494 local 5046 and you will be managed from there. If you are unable to get through, please leave a message. Only call before 9 a.m. for sick parade. If you report to the clinic without having called, you will be asked to call in from your vehicle to be properly triaged.

• For a *medical emergency*, report to the nearest emergency department or call 911. Follow up with the 26 CFHS clinic via phone as soon as feasibly possible.

Canadian Forces Chaplain Service
14 Wing chaplains' office – 902-765-1494 local 5883
14 Wing duty chaplain or unit *Sentinels* – 902-765-1494 local 5457

Family Information Line
1-800-866-4546, seven days a week, 24 hours a day

Greenwood Military Family Resource Centre
gmfrmentalhealth@gmail.com

Young people – Kids Help Phone
All services are 24/7, free and confidential. For more information or resources, please visit Kidshelpphone.ca.
Kids Help Phone – 1-800-668-6868
Crisis text line, powered by Kids Help Phone – text NSSTRONG to 686868
Crisis text line for military children, powered by Kids Help Phone – text CAFKIDS to 686868 for service in English or JEUNESFAC to 686868 for service in French
Post-secondary students – Good2Talk: by phone 1-833-292-3638, or text Good2TalkNS to 686868
Adults – crisis text line: text NSSTRONG to 741741
Frontline workers – crisis text line: text FRONTLINE to 741741

Nova Scotia resources
NS Health Authority resource directory – 811
NS Health Authority self-referral to mental health and addictions services – 1-855-922-1122, toll-free, weekdays, 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.
Mental health crisis line – 1-888-429-8167, toll-free, 24/7; or 902-429-8167
Post-secondary students – *Healthymindsns.ca*
MindWellU - app.mindwellu.com/novascotia (a free, 5-minute, 30-day mindfulness online challenge)

Canadian Forces Member Assistance Program (CFMAP)
Canada and the USA - toll free 1-800-268-7708 (TDD 1-800-567-5803) International - dial the International Access Code of the country from which you are calling, then 800-268-7708
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To help prevent the spread of COVID-19, in-person services are unavailable at Access Nova Scotia Centres and Registry of Motor Vehicles Offices until further notice.

At this time, there are extensions for:

- Driver licences with March to June 2020 expiries have 5-month extension from expiry date
- Motor vehicle inspections with March to May 2020 expiries valid until June 30
- Vehicle registrations expiring December 31, 2019 and later extended until August 31
- Temporary permits expiring March 2020 or later extended until August 31
- Blue permanent accessible parking permits valid until August 31
- Foreign licence plates and driver licences valid until August 31

If you have an urgent RMV transaction not covered by the extensions, call **1-800-670-4357**. Do not visit an office without an appointment.

Vehicle Registrations may be renewed online at: www.accessns.ca/renew.

Motor Vehicle transactions may be submitted by mail to:
Registry of Motor Vehicles, PO Box 1652, Halifax NS B3J 2Z3

novascotia.ca/closures





Warrant Officer Chiu Tsang, along with his wife, Jenny, and daughter, Bethany, spent their April 24 week-end making about 100 non-medical cloth masks of several sizes to donate to community members in need, hoping to help others stay safe. Tsang, deputy food services officer with 14 Mission Support Squadron's Replenishment Flight Food Services; took 10 in for staff in the wing's kitchen, and the remainder went to the Greenwood Military Family Resource Centre for distribution.

Warrant Officer C. Tsang



April 24, 14 Wing Greenwood pipers played "Amazing Grace" on the Bay of Fundy shore below the French Cross in Morden, part of a wing tribute to the 22 Nova Scotians lost in tragic April 18 and 19 shootings. Resident Shawna Finley captured this image: "It was lovely. Thank-you." A video of the tribute, including the pipers and a 413 (Transport and Rescue) Squadron shoreline fly past with the provincial flag, is available at The Aurora News on Facebook.

S. Finley



Members past and present of 405 (Long Range Patrol) Squadron marked a milestone April 23, the 79th anniversary of its formation at Driffield, Yorkshire in 1941. From then to now, members currently are conducting operations under the pressures of COVID-19 physical distance precautions. While flying is at a minimum to remain currencies, plans are moving to increase the program and include core exercises and further proficiencies. Maintenance crew work is a big part of this effort, including new aircraft disinfection processes both before and after every flight.

Submitted



Corporal Michael Vance, left, and Corporal Nick Sharp, below, aircraft structures technicians with 14 Air Maintenance Squadron, manufactures protective non-surgical masks to support COVID-19 protective efforts.

Corporal T. Matheson, 14 Wing Imaging



OPERATE AS ONE

UNIS DANS L'ACTION



Stay Safe, Stay Healthy

404 (Long Range Patrol and Training) Squadron's mascot, Buffalo Bill, is role modeling for squadron members the best non-medical mask wearing and physical distancing protocols. His further advice? "Stay safe, stay healthy and remain READY TO FIGHT."

Submitted

Sorority all about social, service

What were the ladies of Beta Sigma Phi doing in 2019?

The group's service project throughout the year focused on the Nicatux Food Bank. Early in June, members adopted an apple tree and, in October, enjoyed a morning picking the apples for donation to the food bank. In December, the group collected non-perishable food donations as further support.

The members enjoyed out-trips to see the Greenwood Players, sightseeing along the South Shore, including Chester and Mahone Bay; and had several opportunities to eat out as a group.

In November, members put together crisis kits for Chrysalis House in Kentville, which were much appreciated.

If you are interested in joining this social and service-orientated sorority here in the Valley, please contact 902-765-6186. ➔



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From left are youth speakers in the recent Kingston Lions’ Speak Out contest: Max Chongva, Shereen Sommerfeld, King Lion Alice Neiley, Daphnee Ouellet, Meabh Loughran and contest chairman Lion Pat Nixon.

Submitted

Lions foster youth speaking skills

Diane Mestekemper, Kingston Lions Club

If you ever wonder what public speaking can ulti-

mately prepare you for, think of communication, leadership, confidence and your ability to read and understand people.

The Kingston Lions Club supports youth with an annual Speak Out contest, open to grades 9, 10, 11 and 12. This year’s contest was held at the Kingston Lions Hall March 2, with four students speaking to an audience of over 60 people. Each speech was approximately five minutes in length and was judged on delivery, material and the speaker’s responses to questions at the end of each speech. A panel of three judges from the community rated the students on the required criteria and, later and pri-

vately, offered suggested improvements.

First prize was awarded to Max Chongva of West Kings, second prize to Daphnee Ouellet of Ecole Rose-de-Vents, third to Meabh Loughran of Ecole Rose-de-Vents and fourth to Shereen Sommerfeld of Ecole Rose-de-Vents. The top-three contestants each received a medal indicating their placement in the competition, a cheque and a certificate of participation. The fourth-place finisher, as well as the judges, all received certificates.

As the winner of the Kingston contest, Chongva now advances to the Zone level Speak Out and then, hopefully, on to the District level. →

Community grant supports work of Kingston Greenwood Mental Health Association

April 7, Concentra Financial announced the recipients of its 2020 Empowering Your Community grants, and Valley Credit Union is excited to be one of this year’s recipients, winning a \$25,000 grant to benefit the Kingston Greenwood Mental Health Association.

The Kingston Greenwood Mental Health Association (KGMHA) is a not-for-profit association formed in 2012 to address a recognized need for improved mental health support in the Annapolis Valley.

Since then, the group has expanded and, despite its name, now provides training across Nova Scotia and the Atlantic provinces. They host community conversations to educate and reduce the stigma associated with mental health issues and offer mental health first aid training to help people recognize and respond to the signs of mental illness or stress, and provide resources to assist those in need. The association receives no government funding and runs its programs with unpaid volunteers and donations.

Valley Credit Union believes in supporting community and, as a co-operative, engaged its staff and members early in

2019 to determine what causes they were passionate about. The results came in strong for mental health. The Credit Union provided over \$9,000 to the Canadian Mental Health Association’s Kings and Annapolis county branches in March 2019 and over \$16,000 in December for KGMHA. The Concentra grant will allow the KGMHA to provide mental health first aid training for up to 250 people and help build the resilience, strength and success of our people and communities.

Valley Credit Union is a non-profit, full-service financial institution with seven branches between Hantsport and Bridgetown, over 11,000 members and approximately \$200 million in assets. As a cooperative, it is owned by members and governed by a board of directors. Since 2011, Concentra, the wholesale bank and trust company for Canada’s credit unions, has awarded \$200,000 annually to credit unions across the country in support of community initiatives related to health, education, community development and the environment. Seventeen awards are presented each year: two awards of \$25,000 and 15 of \$10,000. →

‘Battle Buddy’ challenge is on

Peter Mallett, The Lookout

A military veteran has created a collectable coin for the ill and injured to let them know they are not alone.

The Battle Buddy Challenge Coin, says creator Leading Seaman (retired) Debbi Ferguson, is a symbol of hope and support.

Those who purchase them for themselves become part of the Battle Buddy family. Those who buy them as a gift become a Battle Buddy, demonstrating that no one gets left behind.

That idea is echoed in the design, with a soldier carrying an injured comrade to safety. On the flip side, two hands interlock in a firm grip, symbolic of reaching out for help, with a maple leaf in the background. The coin has a silver antique finish and comes with a registered number and certificate with the name of the recipient.

Ferguson has also turned the design into a Battle Buddy dog tag, as some people prefer to wear the rat rather than carry a coin.

“The purchaser of the coin is saying to the recipient, ‘I have your back and I am there for you in the darkest hour, and will be there to pick you up in your time of need. I will always have your six.’”

Ferguson created the coin and dog tag as part of her company, Delta Fox Trot Designs, which she opened after leaving the military in 1998. She served for 14 years before a medical release. She says the concept for the coin and terminology was drawn from Second World War infantry, when each soldier on the battlefield was assigned a battle buddy or foxhole buddy. This life-or-death pact required one soldier to keep an eye out for threats while their battle buddy focussed on the enemy.

Her artistry extends beyond the coins and into military-themed drawings, paintings and logo designs placed on T-shirts, ball caps and stickers. Partial proceeds from sales go to veteran charities such as the Canadian Legacy Project and Homes for He-



Battle Buddy Challenge Coin creator Leading Seaman (retired) Debbi Ferguson. The design of Delta Fox Trot’s Battle Buddy Challenge Coin includes symbolism for the soldier: “I will always have your six.”

Submitted

roes Canada.

Coin pricing ranges from \$19 to \$97, depending on the presentation package, personalization and style of display case. While most sales are domestic, she has sold to the United States and to far-away places such as Serbia, Australia and New Zealand.

“This level of interest has truly made me realize I did the right thing when I created the



coins because it helps bring our first line of defence people hope. It is saving lives,” says Ferguson. “As veterans and first line of defence personnel, we all suffer from some sort of work-related injury, and we struggle when not in uniform anymore. Yet, we all understand each other’s pain more than anyone else.”

To learn more about Ferguson’s projects, go to deltaxotrot.ca. →



horoscopes

May 3 to May 9

ARIES - Mar 21/Apr 20

Confusion may come into the equation this week, Aries. In an effort to make sense of the situation, you seek the advice of others. Don’t try to be in control; relax and let it run its course.

TAURUS - Apr 21/May 21

You are on call for the next several days, Taurus. You are ready to spring into action. Just use a little caution when choosing which projects to take on.

GEMINI - May 22/Jun 21

It may be challenging to get to the heart of the matter between friends, Gemini. As hard as you try, solving this will take time. Be patient and consider any and all information.

CANCER - Jun 22/Jul 22

Cancer, enjoy a week in which you indulge in some of your favorite pastimes that have been on the back burner for awhile. Now is the perfect time to have a little fun and let loose.

LEO - Jul 23/Aug 23

You may be concerned with some people in your immediate circle, Leo. If you suspect something is amiss, team up with a spiritual leader or another helper.

VIRGO - Aug 24/Sept 22

Virgo, this week is full of action and you may not be able to settle in to relax until later in the week. Take a step back and find some time to relax when a break arrives.

LIBRA - Sept 23/Oct 23

You probably will have to roll with the punches at least one or two days this week, Libra. Don’t take things too seriously, even when the rumor mill is in full force.

SCORPIO - Oct 24/Nov 22

Make sure your head is entirely in the game before you jump into action, Scorpio. Part of the problem is trying to juggle too many things at once and getting distracted.

SAGITTARIUS - Nov 23/Dec 21

Sagittarius, the more information that comes your way this week, the more confusing things may seem. You can ask someone to help filter extraneous messages first.

CAPRICORN - Dec 22/Jan 20

Capricorn, your fantasy world may mesh with your real world activities this week. You may experience some difficulty figuring out what is real and what isn’t, but enjoy.

AQUARIUS - Jan 21/Feb 18

Aquarius, things may not feel like they are in place lately. You may be tempted to turn off your brain and retreat into a fantasy land. Don’t avoid the situation.

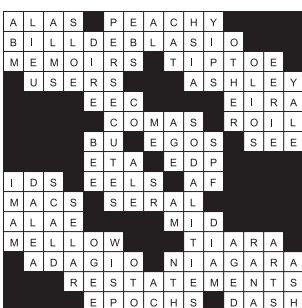
PISCES - Feb 19/Mar 20

You may embrace physical vitality this week, and go with that, Pisces. Maybe switch up your workout to incorporate something new.

classifieds

Classified advertisements, 35 words or less, are \$9 tax included. Additional words are 10 cents each, plus tax. Bold text \$10, tax included. Classified advertising must be booked and prepaid by 10 a.m. Wednesday previous to publication. Payment methods include VISA, MasterCard, AMEX, debit or cash.

crossword solution



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To place a boxed, display ad, contact 902-765-1494 local 5833; email auroramarketing@ns.alianzinc.ca.

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POSTPONEMENT OF ANNUAL MEETING

Due to the COVID-19 virus (Corona-virus), the Annual Meeting of the Kingston District Fire Commission for the fiscal year 2019-2020 will be **postponed until further notice**. Once the State of Emergency is lifted the Annual General Meeting of the Kingston District Fire Commission will be re-scheduled.

David A. Proudfoot

Barrister * Solicitor * Notary

811 Central Avenue, PO Box 100

Greenwood, NS B0P 1N0

Email: dap@davidproudfoot.com

Web: www.davidproudfoot.com

T: 902-765-3301 F: 902-765-6493



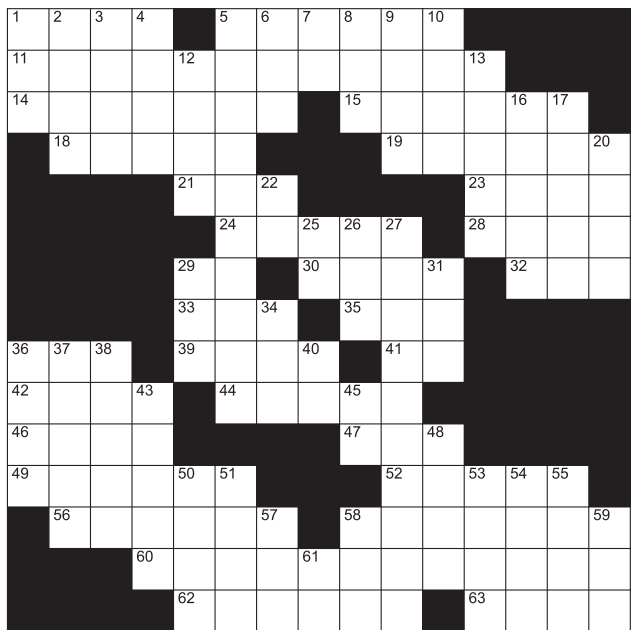
• Real Estate

• Wills / Estates

• Consultations / Referrals

metro crossword

solution page 7



ACROSS
1. Expression of sorrow or pity
5. Not bad
11. NYC Mayor
14. Essays
15. Walk lightly
18. Those who utilize
19. Actress Judd
21. One-time community of nations
23. Norwegian river
24. Unconscious states
28. Make muddy
29. Unit of volume
30. Consciousnesses
32. Envision
33. When you aim to get there
35. Electronic data processing
36. Passports are some
39. Snake-like fish
41. Military flyers (abbr.)
42. Popular computers
44. Ecological stage
46. Wings
47. Used in combination
49. Laid back
52. Princess’s headgear
56. Musical composition
58. Famed Falls
60. Reiterations
62. Eras
63. Track event
DOWN
1. Defensive nuclear weapon (abbr.)
2. Instead
3. Gifts for the poor
4. A type of gin
5. Torments
6. One point south of due east
7. Actor Pacino
8. Feline
9. Chinese dynasty
10. Short cries for help
11. Straits can sometimes be this
12. Further
13. Variety shows
14. Supernatural
15. A university in
16. Connecticut
17. Atomic #27
18. Of I
19. We all have one
20. Religious guilds
21. This can sting
22. Sunscreen rating
23. Brew
24. Religious leader
25. Indigo bush
26. Burn with a hot liquid
27. Jr.’s father
28. Ray-finned fish genus
29. Morning
30. Straight line passing from side to side (abbr.)
31. S-shaped line
32. Small bunch of hay
33. Ripened
34. Crater on Mars
35. Humanities
36. Of the ears
37. To the ___ degree
38. Wood
39. Cools your home

crossword brought to you compliments of



954 Central Avenue
Greenwood

902-765-6381

Seniors are encouraged to contact this local service for support having essentials ordered and delivered.

KINGSTON/ GREENWOOD
ISOLATION
Support Network



All deliveries will be carried out in compliance with the direction of Nova Scotia’s Chief Medical Officer of Health for COVID-19 precautions.

Do you need home delivery of

• Grocery items

• Pharmacy items

Contact Greenwood Sobeys, by email, kg.isn.heather@gmail.com, by 5 pm Sunday to place your order for delivery Tuesday.

Can you help

• Pick up and deliver orders

• Match prepared orders with volunteer drivers for delivery

Contact Heather Young, hmyoung@icloud.com

KG-ISN is a partnership of community volunteers, 14 Wing Greenwood, Greenwood Sobeys, Kingston Lions and an expanding group of organizations and businesses. The service area will include Middleton to Berwick.

If you need more information on this program, wish to volunteer, or need support in accessing the service call the Kingston Lions at 902-765-2128.

horoscopes brought to you compliments of

FRASER’S PRO Home Centre

BERWICK • 1-800-959-3727
KINGSTON • 1-902-765-3111
KENTVILLE • 1-902-678-8044
BRIDGETOWN • 1-902-665-4449
ANNAPOLIS ROYAL • 1-902-532-1500
www.frasers.ca

Food for Thought from the Upper Room Food Bank

During the provincial state of emergency, clients attending the Upper Room Food Bank in Kingston will have noticed procedures have changed, but volunteers are doing their best to continue serving those in need. Due to the COVID-19 virus and the requirement for physical distancing, procedures may continue to change from time to time to reflect the new normal and keep everyone safe. Regular board meetings have been put on hold, but decisions regarding the operation of the facility are still being made with remote input from board members.

During March, the Upper Room Food Bank served 172 families, consisting of 299 adults and 159 children, with 15,259 pounds of product going out and 14,831 pounds coming in. The incoming total includes 1,734 pounds provided by the Feed Nova Scotia network and 2,235 pounds purchased with local cash donations. The remainder is from local donations, including several local businesses. Food donations have declined, likely due to many church and service group closures, while cash donations have been higher than normal during this time, partially due to a large donation from the Nova Scotia government

through Feed Nova Scotia.

Volunteers would like to remind clients no one other than volunteer workers is allowed inside the building, as there is no protocol in place to ensure it remains virus-free. This means everyone. Unfortunately, this policy prevents the use of bathroom facilities during your visit, so please plan accordingly.

Clients will be interviewed through the window; then, volunteers will bag up the order and deliver it to the parking lot to be picked up. There will be no contact between clients and volunteers. There will be no use of any carts outside the building.

Donations are being accepted as usual with drop off at the door only. Processing of donated food items will continue in accordance with directives from Feed Nova Scotia and provincial health authorities. Cash donations may be dropped off as well, or call the office and someone will arrange to pick it up.

For the duration of the provincial state of emergency, food donations may be reduced, so clients should be aware selection may become more limited than usual during their visits. Manager Harley Hazelwood has been buying in bulk to make up the difference but, given the

intense buying of some items, he may be purchasing in smaller lots more often. Some businesses he deals with have allowed us to place orders ahead for larger purchases of sale items to avoid competing with the shopping public.

Regular hours for the Upper Room Food Bank are Mondays, 10 a.m. to noon, and Thursdays, 7 p.m. to 8:45 p.m. The office number is 902-765-0303, or email upperroomfoodbk@hotmail.com. →

New snow clearing equipment for RCAF

A federal Snow and Ice Control Capability Recapitalization project for the Royal Canadian Air Force (RCAF) announced March 5 \$41.6 million in new equipment for six RCAF bases, including 14 Wing Greenwood.

The contracts were awarded to Global Ground Support, Olathe, Kansas for \$8.1 million; Airport Technologies, Southport, Manitoba for \$24.6 million; and Fresia s.p.a, Millesimo, Italy for \$8.9 million. Together the contracts will deliver 22 runway snow blow-

ers, 27 runway snowplows, 28 towed runway sweepers (with a separate request for proposal for three more), and nine aircraft de-icer trucks with an option for three more.

The project will replace approximately 30-year-old equipment.

The first of the equipment is expected to arrive at both 3 Wing Bagotville and 14 Wing in October. 4 Wing Cold Lake, 8 Wing Trenton, 17 Wing Winnipeg and 19 Wing Comox will also receive as the contracts deliver equipment.

Single day, double SAR call

April 22, just after 1:30 a.m., a 14 Wing Greenwood-based search and rescue aircraft left after a call from the Halifax Joint Rescue Co-

ordination Centre to assist in locating an overdue hunter in the vicinity of Nain, Labrador. The 60-year-old man on his snowmobile was separated from a hunting party and was then 15 hours overdue. The snowmobiler was found by a Gander-based crew, so the Greenwood aircraft was stood down and returned to base around 2:30 p.m.

April 22, just after 11 p.m., a Cormorant was tasked to assist in the search for a 93-year-old man who had wandered away from a Glace Bay seniors' facility. The helicopter was stood down just after 8 a.m. April 23, as provincial assets took over the search. It refueled in Sydney and returned to base.



THE MUNICIPALITY OF THE COUNTY OF KINGS

181 Coldbrook Village Park Drive
Coldbrook, NS B4R 1B9

NOTICE TO RESIDENTS

PERSONAL TAX EXEMPTION 2020/2021

The Council of the Municipality of the County of Kings directs, by policy, that an exemption be granted for the taxation year 2020/2021 pursuant to Section 69 of the Municipal Government Act, in an amount not exceeding \$316.00; upon property owned and occupied by a person who is a resident of the Municipality of Kings, and;

Whose total gross income from all sources for the year 2019, excluding any allowance paid pursuant to the War Veterans Allowance Act (Canada) or pension paid pursuant to the Pension Act (Canada), but including the income of all members of the same family residing in the same household, is less than **\$36,000** gross income, and;

Where property is jointly owned, only one tax exemption shall be allowed and the sharing in such exemption shall be on the basis of ownership in such joint property.

Applications for such tax exemption will be received at the Municipality prior to December 31, 2020.

Paula Delorey, Tax Clerk
pdelorey@countyofkings.ca

Tel: (902) 690-6144 Fax: (902) 679-2820
Toll Free 1-888-337-2999
www.countyofkings.ca

CHANGES TO TAX & WATER BILLS

In response to the economic impact of COVID-19, the Municipality of the County of Kings is implementing the following changes:

MORE TIME

This year, the Municipality is spreading out the two tax bills as much as possible to provide relief for those who are out of work or facing financial hardship due to the COVID-19 pandemic.



EXTENDED

DUE DATES

The interim tax bill will be issued May 1, 2020 and payment will not be due until July 31, 2020.

The next water bill will be issued in April 2020 and payment will not be due until July 31, 2020.



NO INTEREST CHARGES

Effective immediately, the Municipality will not be charging interest on all tax and water accounts. Interest will resume for the month of July for those accounts not paid by July 31st, 2020.



QUESTIONS?

If you have questions about your property tax or water bills, Municipal staff can be reached through the general office at (902) 678-6141 or 1-888-337-2999 or by emailing inquiry@countyofkings.ca.

www.countyofkings.ca

For information on Novel Coronavirus (COVID-19) including social distancing, self isolation, when to get help and more, please visit novascotia.ca/coronavirus.



MUNICIPALITY OF THE COUNTY OF KINGS



Chris d'Entremont

Member of Parliament for
West Nova/Député - Nova-Ouest

During this difficult time and to prevent the spread of COVID-19 our office will remain closed. We are available by phone or email.

*We are all in this together
Stay Safe!*

**1-866-280-5302 (Toll free/ Sans frais);
chris.dentremont@parl.gc.ca**

the Aurora find & win

Three easy ways to enter.

1. Through our website: www.auroranewspaper.com
2. Fax: 902-765-1717
3. Drop into our office located at 61 School Road (Morfee Annex)

Full name

Phone number

Complete the following questions from ads in this week's issue and win a **\$20.00 coupon to play Friday Night BINGO** from Aylesford & District Lions. Coupons valid for 1 year. Age 17+ on regular games.

1. Who offers wheel lift and flatbed towing? _____
2. What annual meeting has been postponed? _____
3. Where may vehicle registrations be renewed? _____
4. What 3 provinces have government-run auto insurance plans? _____
5. Who is available by phone or email while their office is closed? _____

Congratulations to last week's winner: NORMA BRYSON

**Entry deadline:
Noon, May 6, 2020**



AYLESFORD & DISTRICT LIONS CLUB

2160 Hwy 1, Aylesford
Starts 7:15 pm Fridays

902-847-9374

