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# the Aurora

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## Always time for training Santa, CAF partnership ensures fire-safe operations

Sara White,  
Managing editor

14 Wing Greenwood Fire Chief Captain Drew Spinney says, while he's known Santa Claus all his life, it's really only been in more recent years he's been able to work more professionally with Santa.

While Santa was in town December 2 for a festive visit with 14 Wing's families, at the base holiday party, 14 Fire Emergency Services' firefighters were on deck as his escort, transporting him and Sparky to the Annapolis Mess for a lights-flashing, sirens-wailing arrival. Spinney says, though, Santa is at 14 FES at least once a year for high-level training.

"Santa has to stay up-to-date on his fire extinguisher training, like anyone," Spinney says. While the military fire services' PFET (Portable Fire Extinguisher Training) program is a Canadian Armed Forces-specific offering, Santa's operations require a comparable high level of organized training and oversight.

"I'm responsible for hundreds of elves in a very busy and complicated workshop – and they sometimes get distracted. I have to think about barn safety for all the reindeer, and always about keeping hearth and home with Mrs. Claus at the North Pole protected," says Santa. "Where we live and work in the North Pole, we're definitely a more isolated environment. It's sometimes a big worry, but that's why we train."

"And then he also has to think about what to do if there was a fire, or any other problems, with the sleigh," Spinney says. Layering in the PFET course with military firefighters' knowledge of preparing for in-flight fire emergencies is crucial: Santa makes use of CAF firefighter training opportunities at Royal Canadian Air Force airfields as often as possible.



Aviator Colton Drover and Santa Claus load up in one of 14 Fire Emergency Services' trucks for Santa's big arrival at the 14 Wing Greenwood family holiday party December 2 at the Annapolis Mess.

Santa Claus and Sparky catch up at the 14 Fire Emergency Services station at 14 Wing Greenwood. Whenever Santa is in town, for fire extinguisher training or confined spaces exercises, he and Sparky have a chance to visit.

S. White



A special feature at 14 Wing is 14 FES' confined spaces training space, a concrete bunker of open shafts and tight tunnels the firefighters use to train for moving gear, rescued people and themselves through challenging conditions.

"The confined spaces site is great – what if Santa got stuck in a chimney?" Spinney says. Using rope work and

hoists, and also building the knowledge and confidence to keep your nerve when things get tricky, are all skills firefighters – and Santa – need to continually work on.

Spinney has the advantage of working with Santa on professional training on his visits to 14 Wing, but he also enjoys the more casual relationship Santa maintains with volunteer fire departments across

the land. Spinney, a volunteer in his spare time with the local Kingston District Fire Department, says members there really enjoy their opportunities to escort Santa through community parades and neighbourhood tours during the holiday season.

"While we do get to do that here on the wing, when Santa comes for the base holiday party," Spinney says, "it's

such a short ride from the fire hall to the Annapolis Mess. That fun is over in a flash. When Santa's is here at other times for all the joint training we do, it's strictly business."

Santa appreciates his long-time bonds with the CAF, as, really, his closest northerly neighbours.

"They train with me, get they get me out and keep me going safely." ✈



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# Santa party!

Popcorn, glitter, games and SANTA! The 14 Wing Greenwood family holiday party December 2 at the Annapolis Mess was all things merry, as the Mess, the Greenwood Military Family Resource Centre and Community Recreation teamed up to host face-painting, bouncers, a movie, crafts and more. With 14 Fire Emergency Services ensuring Santa arrived in style and on time, the morning was a hit!

S. White



The Aurora Newspaper will not publish **December 25, January 1, 18 or 15.**  
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**14 Wing Greenwood Site**  
Site de la 14e Escadre Greenwood  
www.airforce.forces.gc.ca/en/14-wing/index.page

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## CE officers put building, leadership skills to the test

Honorary Colonel  
Dan Hennessey,  
14 Construction  
Engineering Squadron

Candidates from Construction Engineering Officer Course 0006 and technicians from across Canada completed various construction projects mid-November, at the Lake Pleasant Campground during EX TIMBERWOLF SAPPER.

This exercise typically evaluates CEOC candidates on their ability to lead a flight of CE technicians to accomplish engineer-related tasks in a simulated high threat environment.

During this exercise at Lake Pleasant, they constructed new floating docks, completed various upgrades to the hard ablutions located on the camp (plumbing

upgrades and insulation), as well as constructed new decks for cabins. This opportunity allowed technicians to showcase their talents, provide guidance to the young officers on training and deliver some much needed TLC to the Lake Pleasant Campground.

Among the technicians who provided support to this exercise were several individuals from 14 Construction Engineering Squadron, a unit of 14 Wing Greenwood.

Lake Pleasant is a Personnel Support Program operation in Springfield, close to 14 Wing Greenwood. With cabins, RV and tenting sites, a main lodge, washroom blocks and outdoor spaces; the campground offers the Defence Team, veterans and the wider community



Lake Pleasant campground in Springfield hosted candidates from Construction Engineering Officer Course 0006, and technicians from across Canada, at work during EX TIMBERWOLF SAPPER. The group completed various construction projects at the campground, testing their CE and leadership skills.

Honorary Colonel D. Hennessey, 14 Construction Engineering Squadron

outdoor seasonal getaway fun. ➔

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14 Air Maintenance Squadron Master Corporal Chris Maxim, left, with Davis, centre, and 14 Wing Warrant Officer Jonathan Proulx; prepare to sign the change of command scroll and see Maxim become 14 Wing chief for a day.



Davis, right, passes the wing chief's pace stick to the most deserving member and newly-appointed 14 Wing chief-for-a-day, Maxim.

## Junior? Senior?

14 Wing Greenwood's youngest member, Aviator Joey Brochu, left, Wing Comp-troller; with Colonel Jeff Davis, work their way through ceremonial change-of-command scrolls December 12, launching the day's traditional Junior Ranks Festive Dinner fun.

Corporal S. Dlugozi, 14 Wing Imaging

# Wing visit highlights ability, determination

## International Day for Persons with Disabilities - When Hope Breaks Through

**Captain Richard Harding,**  
**Military co-chair,**  
**14 Wing Defence Advisory**  
**Group for Persons with**  
**Disabilities**

December 7 and 8, 14 Wing Greenwood was privileged to host Mike Shoreman as part of efforts to recognize International Day for Persons with Disabilities.

International Day for Persons with Disabilities is held annually and aims to promote the rights and well-being of people with disabilities in all spheres of society. On both days, Shoreman opened the screening of his award-winning documentary film, "When Hope Breaks Through," and took questions from the audience afterward. The film captures Shoreman's struggles with mental health after being diagnosed with a neurological condition, Ramsay Hunt

Syndrome, and overcoming those challenges to become the first person with disabilities to paddle board across all five Great Lakes.

During his time at 14 Wing, Shoreman visited the Annapolis Mess for delicious schnitzel, met with 415 (Long Range Patrol Force Development) Squadron personnel conducting aircraft ground testing, logged over an hour in the CP140 flight simulator at 404 (Long Range Patrol and Training) Squadron and experienced a thrilling familiarization flight on the CH149 Cormorant with 413 (Transport and Rescue) Squadron - proving disability is not in-ability.

If you are interested in learning more about the various defence advisory groups, search for the Employment Equity homepage on the DWAN and at Canada.ca. ➔



14 Wing Greenwood Wing Chief Warrant Officer Jonathan Proulx, right, joined members of the wing's Defence Advisory Group for Persons with Disabilities, welcoming guest Mike Shoreman, centre, December 7 and 8. Submitted

## SAR crews out on medevacs, sat phone checks

November 24, the Halifax Joint Rescue Coordination Centre tasked a 14 Wing Greenwood-based Hercules to conduct a critical patient transfer from Deer Lake, Newfoundland and

Labrador, to St. John's. 413 (Transport and Rescue) Squadron Hercules R344 left Greenwood at 3:41 p.m., stopped in St. John's to collect medical staff, and was back in St. John's with the

patient at 7:07 p.m. R344 returned to Greenwood at 10:24 p.m.

November 30, Hercules R344 was tasked to conduct a medevac to St. John's, and left Greenwood at 8:28

p.m. The aircraft returned to Greenwood, tasking completed, at 3:36 a.m. December 1.

December 2, Hercules R344 and Cormorant R909 were tasked to investigate a

satellite phone distress call 80 nautical miles east of Sable Island. R909 left for Halifax for fuel and stayed there pending a report from R344; R344 landed in Greenwood for fuel and left again

at 11:35 a.m. JRCC was able to contact the owner of the sat phone and found there to be no distress. R344 returned to Greenwood at 3:16 p.m., while R909 returned at 3:04 p.m. ➔

# Ombudsman lends listening ear to Valley Defence Team, families

**Sara White,**  
**Managing editor**

Gregory Lick likes to think of his office as people's "last resort" – or, better, their "first resort."

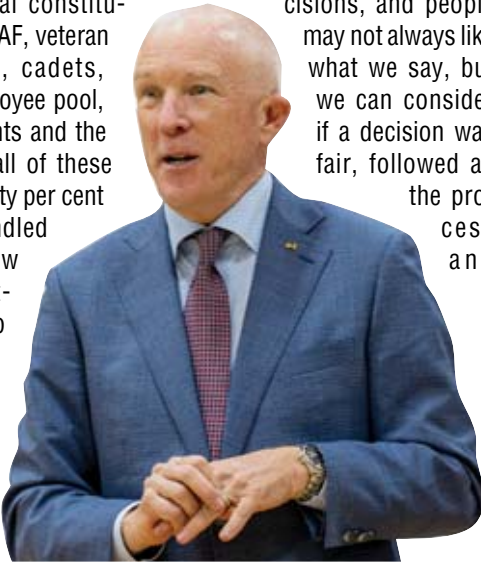
As the Canadian Armed Forces ombudsman, Lick and his 80-member team work to point people in the right direction, answer questions, head off a problem or escalate it, as needed, with neutral and confidential observations and recommendations to higher command and government.

Lick visited 14 Wing Greenwood and Camp Aldershot November 20 to 24, with a number of scheduled opportunities for Defence Team and family meetings. Retired from both the Naval Reserve and 35 years with the Canadian Coast Guard, with 5,000 people under his command; Lick had about "10 hours off" before taking on this role.

"It's like coming back home – like back where I started, getting to work one-on-one every day and trying to help people," he says. "A lot of it is listening: if I was a marine engineer, I think of our job as the 'oil' in the machine, making it work more smoothly so

people have better careers and life experiences."

When there are problems, frustrations or people feel they've been unfairly treated, the CAF ombudsman is an option for support, answers or even advocacy. Lick says information is key for everyone, at all levels: the biggest commonality in concerns his office hears relates to paperwork, process, time delays, levels of consideration and approval – and disapprovals, increased responsibilities on decision-makers, under-resourcing and backlogs. The office receives about 16,000 inquiries every year from close to three million potential constituents in the CAF, veteran community, cadets, civilian employee pool, CAF applicants and the families of all of these groups. Eighty per cent may be handled in just a few days, pointing people to helpful information and resources. Another 20 per cent of cases may need



more work, but the ombudsman's office works with the lowest, most engaged levels possible, or reaches across to other government departments and agencies as needed.

"We do have a 100 per cent response rate, and we can't do better than that – except faster," Lick says. "We make headway on a daily basis, just by getting people help and information. Canadians are working at home and around the world for us, and we – Canada – has to ensure the safety net of support is under all they do. Members are due that."

"We don't look at decisions, and people may not always like what we say, but we can consider if a decision was fair, followed all the process and



**Canadian Armed Forces ombudsman Gregory Lick met with personnel, civilian employees and the families during a 14 Wing Greenwood and Camp Aldershot round of visits November 20 to 24: "A lot of it is listening," he says.**

Sailor 1st Class J. Morris, 14 Wing Imaging

procedure, elements were documented – or if there are maybe more serious, complex concerns: we escalate them up the line."

On this Valley visit, Lick met with Reservists, families, Public Servants, civilian workers, the Transition Centre and its personnel, health centre staff, visited Camp Aldershot and more. A highlight was a portion of the evening family session spent with three youth – a first.

"Usually in the family sessions, youth don't speak up. We tried this, looking for a different perspective, and they're input was very refreshing and great to hear – we'll continue that going forward."



Lick and his visiting team also had the opportunity to visit 413 (Transport and Rescue) Squadron and "fly" in the simulators at 404 (Long Range Patrol and Training) Squadron.

The Office of the Ombudsman was created to increase openness and transparency in the CAF and the Department of National Defence, and to ensure the fair treatment of concerns raised by CAF members, departmental employees and their families.

For information on, and to contact, the ombudsman, visit [ombuds.ca](https://ombuds.ca), or call 1-888-828-3626

"What I see here, and at every base, is a passion to do the job – military, civilian," he says. "We can not forget about the basic needs of people who work within the organization." ➔

## Participate in change: defence advisory groups seek members

"Working together to see as one" exemplifies both the 14 Wing Greenwood vision of affording all civilian and military members the opportunity for a diverse and welcoming work environment, and promoting the values and prosperity of diversity in the workplace, in the interest of enhancing the operational

capabilities of the base.

To support this vision, 14 Wing Greenwood has five Defence Advisory Groups (DAGs): the Defence Aboriginal Advisory Group (DAAG), the Defence Visible Minorities Group (DVMAG), the Defence Women's Advisory Organization (DWAQ), the Defence Advisory Group

for Persons with Disabilities (DAGPWD) and the Defence Team Pride Advisory Organization (DTPAQ). These groups provide unfettered advice and grassroots insight to Department of National Defence and Canadian Armed Forces leadership on issues relevant to their respective designated group

on the implementation of employment equity and diversity across the Defence Team.

Your input is vital in identifying issues and formulating proposals that will assist in eliminating barriers and increase the sense of belonging for all Defence Team members. All civil-

ian employees and military members may participate in any of the DAGs, regardless of the individuals' ethnicity, gender, background or ability.

The Defence Visible Minority Advisory Group (DVMAG) is seeking to fill a vacancy of their civilian co-chair. You don't need to identify as a

member of a particular group to participate in change. If you are interested or seeking additional information, please contact the applicable champion, military co-chair or Major Backhouse, Royal Canadian Air Force professional conduct and culture officer, at 902-765-1494 local 1643; for more details. ➔

# Monster Find & Win 2024

*The Aurora Newspaper's weekly Find & Win contest goes monster-size to mark the new year.*

A multi-question edition of the newspaper scavenger hunt will be published in the January 29 issue.

- **Donate a product or certificate, and the value of that item will be deducted from your ad cost** (up to a \$100 prize, discount to a maximum of 50 per cent of the ad's regular cost)
- You have multiple chances of having your business highlighted in the contest questions
- Participating business/ organizations' colour logos will be included on the Monster Find & Win contest page.

**Deadline to book an ad is Wednesday noon, January 24.**

the **Aurora**







14 Wing Greenwood Commander Colonel Jeff Davis, right, was on hand October 30 to introduce the Director of Flight Safety, Colonel Frank Gauvin, and DFS Chief Warrant Officer Sebastien Robichaud, left, during the their visit of tours and presentations to 14 Wing personnel.

Corporal S. Dlugozima, 14 Wing Imaging

# 'Flight safety applies to you'

## Visiting DFS leads looking for proactive effort to protect, preserve RCAF assets

Sara White,  
Managing editor

Colonel Frank Gauvin and Chief Warrant Officer Sebastien Robichaud brought a message from the command-

er of the Royal Canadian Air Force, their own office team and peers across the RCAF to 14 Wing Greenwood personnel on their semi-annual Directorate of Flight Safety briefings.

"Do your jobs." "We have policies, procedures, checklists - follow them," Gauvin said. "A lot of the things we see are people not following what we should. Flight safety is

an enabler. We have a limited number of airframes and resources and, if we break it, we don't have it when we need it."

Gauvin is the director of the Canadian Armed Forces'

flight safety program for the air force, navy and army; he's also the air worthiness investigative authority. He and Robichaud regularly take the lessons learned in their office's work to RCAF wings across the country.

"If you're working on this wing, flight safety applies to you," Gauvin said. "Distractions, baggage you bring with you to work, pressure, supervision, communicating procedures, experience.... All the little things, the unsafe acts, lead to an incident or fatality. We're trying to nip those in the bud so we don't get to that point."

Robichaud highlighted how the RCAF training standard ensures every member is well-trained, regardless of experience – but "we try and go fast.

"We're trained to do the job: do it properly, task your personnel appropriately, learn how to prioritize the priorities and let your people do the job," Robichaud said. "Take your time; we're all allowed to ask questions."

Gauvin reviewed the flight safety's formal recognition of confidentiality and privileged information, and legal protections; and the difference between a "just culture" of

reporting and being held responsible. The DFS and air worthiness investigative offices have direct lines of communications to both the commander of the RCAF and the minister of national defence, respectively.

"We are reactionary a lot of the time, when there is an incident," Gauvin said. "We're working on pro-action: looking at past incidents to identify risk and hazards, analyzing trends and seeing what's happening."

Deputy Wing Commander Lieutenant-Colonel Dev Pacquette thanked Gauvin and Robichaud for their presentation, and the 14 Wing personnel for taking it in.

"The importance of flight safety can't be overstated," Pacquette said. "It's so important everyone on the floor, everyone flying has that culture – that flight safety is not about blame, but about protecting people, and the next generation.

"You've all had that discussion: 'Is this a flight safety?' If you're talking about it, put it in."

Gauvin seconded that approach to flight safety: "if you're not reporting it, we can't track it or act on it. Report it." →

## December 6 vigil shares powerful stories, shared experiences

December 6, 1989 was a day many will never forget. The Ecole Polytechnique de Montreal massacre occurred, with 14 deaths of young women and another 14 people injured in under 20 minutes, due to a perpetrator whose sole motive was antifeminism and misogyny. This event was one of the reasons for more stringent gun control laws in Canada.

This year, December 6, the National Day of Remembrance and Action on Violence against Women; the P.S.A.C Annapolis Valley Regional Women's Committee partnered with the 14 Wing Greenwood Defense Women's Advisory Organization to hold a vigil. Since December 6, 1989, violence on women at the hands of their domestic partners and other known males has increased.

Colleen Coffey and Jennifer Holleman were invited to speak about two very sensitive topics.

Coffey spoke about her experience as a young child growing up in an alcohol-

fueled, abusive household, and the long-term effects it left on young, impressionable children. She described the fear of what could possibly instigate her father to violence – including nothing. After a short courtship, her parents were married. Shortly after, the abuse started: on more than one occasion, her father held a gun to their mother's head. Coffey's mother suffered with the abuse, as the times considered it as "you made the bed that you laid in." One of Coffey's brothers grew up to be an alcoholic and was abusive to their family. He died after being involved in a motor vehicle accident. The other most abused brother also abuses alcohol, was also abusive and has lost his family due to the abuse and dependency issues. Coffey considers her brother alive in body, but his spirit is no longer here.

Coffey's presentation showed how the cycle of abuse does not just end: it has long-lasting effects



December 6, the P.S.A.C Annapolis Valley Regional Women's Committee and 14 Wing Greenwood's Defense Women's Advisory Organization partnered on an afternoon vigil and guest presentations, recognizing the National Day of Remembrance and Action on Violence against Women.

Submitted

on children who are often thought will "forget about it" because they are so young. After the Coffey children were grown and had left the family home, Coffey's mother left her husband. He gave up drinking, became a member of AA and sponsored others. The couple re-united, but he never abused her again while sober.

Annapolis Valley native Holleman described losing her daughter, Maddison, to human trafficking. A French immersion student, Mad-

dison was an award-winning athlete, had a loving family and friends who loved her. She was not seemingly the type of person who could have "slipped through the cracks." After losing Maddison in 2015, Holleman became an outspoken advocate and global ambassador for trafficked women, using her experiences of a mother's worst nightmare to educate others who may be struggling with similar experiences. She hopes people will learn to

recognize the warning signs she did not. Her new book, "Forever Twenty-one, Maddison's Story," was released December 5, and is already on the Amazon best-seller list for its genre.

The entire vigil was somber,

with stories shared by people with heart and real-life experiences with the subjects.

We would like to express our thanks to Padre Lampron, sexual assault nurse examiner, and EAP for being present to assist. →

### December 6, 1989

Maryse Laganierre • Maryse Leclair • Anne-Marie Lemay • Sonia Pelletier • Michele Richard • Annie St-Arneault • Annie Turcotte • Genevieve Bergeron • Helen Colgan • Nathalie Croteau • Barbara Daigneault • Anne-Marie Edward • Maud Haviernick • Barbara Klucznik-Widajewicz

## 413 teams up for 27th Top of the Pyramid

Sara White,  
Managing editor

413 (Transport and Rescue) Squadron members spent the December 8 on the ice, playing hockey and curling in their 27th Top of the Pyramid event at the Greenwood Gardens.

This year's event took on special meaning, with the December 6 passing of a former member, Captain Andrew Mercer, from amyotrophic lateral sclerosis (ALS). The tournament was marking its fifth iteration as a memorial for the late Warrant Officer Dean Ryan, also affected by ALS; with \$655 raised for ALS. Ryan's spouse, Tara, dropped



Tara Ryan, wife of the late Warrant Officer Dean Ryan, attended the 413 (Transport and Rescue) Squadron Top of the Pyramid final to present the trophy, and accept a donation to ALS from Lieutenant-Colonel Mark Norris.

Sailor 1st Class J. Morris, 14 Wing Imaging

the puck for the championship game.

IMP's Robert "Willy" Wilen has organized the hockey tournament from its beginnings. Ryan was involved for a number of years; Wilen worked with both Ryan and Mercer.

"It's so strange, we just lost him (Mercer)," Wilen says. "ALS is a horrible disease.

"This tournament has great support from the squadron, and great commanding of-

ficers who always let it continue on."

Wilen was a busy fellow, lining up the day's hockey schedule, organizing pizza, reffing and even playing. Captain Jeff McCrae and Lieutenant Sophia King looked after the curling.

Eying the day, Wilen said it was likely going to be servicing personnel coming out on top of the hockey action: "we're all scared of the Hercules servicing team – all the young guys!" In the end, the Hercules air



14 Wing Greenwood Colonel Jeff Davis, second from right, and Wing Chief Warrant Officer Jonathan Proulx, second from left, had puck dropping honours December 8, opening the 27th 413 (Transport and Rescue) Squadron Top of the Pyramid hockey tournament at the Greenwood Gardens. Organizer Robert "Willy" Wilen, tournament organizer, was on ref duties; Hercules air crew's Captain Mike Duncan, left, and Hercules servicing crew's Corporal Evan Bouten took the ceremonial honours.

S. White

crew put in a valiant effort, but the Hercules servicing won the semi-final and headed into the Top of the Pyramid final. Never count out the search-and-rescue technicians: the SAR Techs battled out the win 4-1,

including an empty net goal to seal the deal with 1:30 left. 413 Squadron Lieutenant-Colonel Mark Norris is proud of this event.

"It's been a tradition, and it's a lot of fun," he said. "The

hockey is a little more poignant today, as we're here to support ALS – and we just lost Andrew, a person who was an amazing officer and person. That grounds us even more as a squadron." →

## 2023 holiday hours at 14 Wing Greenwood facilities

### 14 Wing Greenwood Fitness & Sports Centre

December 18 to 22, 7 a.m. to 9 p.m.  
December 23, 8:30 a.m. to 7 p.m.  
December 24, 8 a.m. to noon  
December 25 and 26, closed  
December 27 to 29, 7 a.m. to 9 p.m.  
December 30, 8:30 a.m. to 7 p.m.  
December 31, 8 a.m. to noon  
January 1, closed  
January 2 to 5, 7 a.m. to 9 p.m.  
January 6, return to normal hours

### Fitness & Sports Centre - indoor pool

December 21, noon to 1 p.m. – adult/ military lane swim; 6:45 p.m. to 7:45 p.m. – lane swim (age 15+)  
December 22, noon to 1 p.m. – adult/ military lane swim; 1:15 p.m. to 2:15 p.m. – youth lane swim; 2:30 p.m. to 5:30 p.m. – public swim  
December 23, 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. – public swim, 1:15 p.m. to 2:15 p.m. – lane swim (age 15+)  
December 24 to 26, closed  
December 27, noon to 1 p.m. – adult/ military lane swim; 2:30 p.m. to 5:50 p.m. – public swim  
December 28, noon to 1 p.m. – adult/ military lane swim; 2:30 p.m. to 4:30 p.m. – public swim; 6:30 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. – lane swim (age 15+)  
December 29, 10 a.m. to 11 a.m. – parent and tot; noon to 1 p.m. – adult/ military lane swim; 1:15 p.m. to 2:15 p.m. – youth lane swim; 2:30 p.m. to 5:30 p.m. – public swim  
December 30, 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. – public swim; 1:15 p.m. to 2:15 p.m. – lane swim (age 15+)  
December 31 and January 1, closed  
January 2, winter swim schedule starts

### 14 Wing Greenwood Community Centre - office

December 18 and 19, 8:30 a.m. to 4 p.m.  
December 20 to January 1, closed  
January 2, closed  
January 3, normal office hours resume

### Greenwood Gardens Arena public skates

December 21, 1:30 p.m. to 2:30 p.m.  
December 22, 4 p.m. to 5 p.m.  
December 23, 3 p.m. to 4 p.m.  
December 27, 12:30 p.m. to 1:30 p.m.  
December 28, 4:30 p.m. to 5:30 p.m.  
December 29, 4 p.m. to 5 p.m.  
December 30, 3 p.m. to 4 p.m.

### Greenwood Military Family Resource Centre

December 21 to January 3, closed  
January 4, normal hours resume

*If an emergency should arise, families are encouraged to contact Wing Duty Operations at 902-765-1494 local 5457 or the Family Information Line at 1-800-866-4546.*

### 14 Wing Greenwood Community Centre – programs

December 21, 5:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. - drop-in pickleball  
December 22, 1:30 p.m. to 4:30 p.m. – family gingerbread decorating  
December 27, 1:30 p.m. to 4:30 p.m. – drop-in traverse wall and gagaball  
December 28, 1:30 p.m. to 4:30 p.m. – family board games and open gym  
December 29, 5:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. - drop-in laser tag

### Greenwood Bowling Centre

December 21, 5 p.m. to 9 p.m. – casual bowling  
December 22, 5 p.m. to 10 p.m. - Christmas glow bowl party  
December 23, booked parties  
December 24 to 26 closed  
December 27 and 28, 1 p.m. to 5 p.m. - casual bowling  
December 29, 5 p.m. to 9 p.m. - glow bowl  
December 30, 1 p.m. to 5 p.m. - casual bowling  
December 31 and January 1, closed  
January 2, league play resumes  
January 4, 5 p.m. to 9 p.m. – casual bowling  
January 5, 5 p.m. to 9 p.m. to 9 p.m. – glow bowl  
January 6, 1 p.m. to 5 p.m. – casual bowling

### 14 Wing chapels

*St. Mark's Chapel*  
December 24, 3 p.m. – Christmas Eve service with carols, the Christmas story, hot drinks and cookies  
*Queen of Heaven Chapel*  
December 21 & 22, 7 p.m. – confessions  
December 24, 11 a.m. – Sunday service  
December 24, 4 p.m. – family Mass  
December 24, 10 p.m. – evening Mass  
December 25, 11 a.m. – Christmas Day service  
December 31, 11 a.m. – Sunday service  
January 1, 11 a.m. – New Year's Day service  
January 6, 7 p.m. – Saturday service: the epiphany of the Lord  
January 7, no Sunday mass

*During silent hours over the holidays, the duty chaplain will be available on call 24/ 7 and may be reached through Wing Operations at 902-765-1494 local 5457.*

### Health Promotion

December 23 through January 7, closed





Wishing you a  
*Merry Christmas*  
& Joyous New Year

## Sounds of the holidays

14 Wing Greenwood's band members hosted their Christmas concert December 10 at the Annapolis Mess. Approximately 300 people enjoyed the evening of music, which featured the Canadian Military Wives Choir Greenwood and the Kingston & District Elementary School choir, which showed a lot of enthusiasm singing, "I Want a Hypothalamus for Christmas!" As a result, people left the event with the song still in their head! The concert was a great and successful event, also collecting 480 pounds of food and \$535 in cash for the Upper Room Food Bank in Kingston.

Corporal D. Ouellet

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## Toys on the move

December 5, above, a pile o' toys made their move from the Kingston Lions Hall to the All Saints Anglican Church, with the assistance of 14 Wing Greenwood volunteers, organized by Master Warrant Officer Rod Colbourne. Holiday hamper preparation is underway, as community partners make magic happen.

Submitted

Left, Deputy Wing Commander Branch Second Lieutenant Manet Lam, left, and 404 (Long Range Patrol and Training) Squadron Captain Rob Albert met up at 14 Wing Greenwood's headquarters lobby December 6 to consolidate their units' collection for the Kingston/ Greenwood toy drive. Forty-nine toys were added to community efforts to provide local families with holiday hamper essentials.

S. White

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# Happy Holidays Joyeuses fêtes

## Message des Fêtes 2023 de l'équipe de direction de la 14e Escadre Greenwood

Colonel Jeff Davis et adjudant-chef Jonathan Proulx

En cette période des Fêtes, alors que nous réfléchissons à ce qui s'est passé à la 14e Escadre au cours de la dernière année, nous vous félicitons de la façon dont vous êtes restés inébranlables dans votre travail et votre mission. Vous y êtes parvenus tout en accueillant les nouveaux venus et en permettant aux personnes qui ont changé de poste de s'installer rapidement dans leur nouveau rôle.

Grâce à votre engagement et à votre professionnalisme, nous avons persisté dans la génération de forces fiables et pertinentes qui sont prêtes à exécuter des missions de recherche et de sauvetage, et nous continuons à mener à bien les opérations nationales et internationales de patrouille à long rayon d'action.

Vous savez sans aucun doute que tout cela ne pourrait être réalisé sans le précieux soutien de l'ensemble de la communauté de la 14e Escadre – y compris les personnes qui s'occupent du soutien aux missions et aux opérations, de la maintenance aérienne, de la formation, des travaux de mise sur pied des forces, du soutien lié à la communauté et, surtout, de nos familles.

Collectivement, nous avons commencé à travailler

à l'Escadre et à la préparer pour la future mise en service de plusieurs nouvelles flottes, ce qui optimisera l'efficacité de l'équipe de l'ARC en maximisant l'utilisation d'outils et de processus numériques modernes. Nous utiliserons ou soutiendrons cinq nouveaux aéronefs ici au cours de la prochaine décennie. En travaillant ensemble et en persévérant en tant qu'entreprise collective, le chef et moi sommes convaincus que la 14e Escadre se démarquera de nos pairs et contribuera à faire en sorte que l'ARC continue de tirer un avantage opérationnel en tant que force aérienne et spatiale agile, intégrée et inclusive.

Nous tenons à vous remercier tous pour votre leadership, votre travail d'équipe et votre dévouement au cours de la dernière année. Nous sommes reconnaissants, privilégiés et honorés de servir avec les militaires et les civils de la 14e Escadre, et nous vous souhaitons de joyeuses Fêtes en toute sécurité.

Ayez une pensée pour les militaires qui sont loin de chez eux et profitez de ce moment avec vos familles et vos proches.

**Joyeuses Fêtes et soyez unis dans l'action.**

## 14 Wing Greenwood leadership team 2023 holiday message

Colonel Jeff Davis & Chief Warrant Officer Jonathan Proulx

This holiday season, as we reflect on the happenings at 14 Wing over the last year, we applaud how you have remained unwavering in your hard work and mission focus, while welcoming new arrivals and allowing those who changed seats to settle into their new roles quickly.

Through your commitment and professionalism, we've persisted to generate reliable, relevant forces ready to execute search and rescue missions and continue to achieve success in domestic and international long range patrol operations.

We're sure you know none of this could be realized without the valuable support from the entire 14 Wing

community - including those providing mission and operational support, air maintenance, training, force development work, community-related services and, most of all, our families.

Collectively, we have begun to work and prepare Greenwood for the future service of multiple new fleets, which will optimize RCAF team effectiveness by maximizing the employment of modern digital tools and processes. We will be either operating or supporting five new aircraft here within the next decade. By working together and persevering as one collective enterprise, the Chief and I are confident 14 Wing will stand out amongst our peers

and help ensure the RCAF continues to achieve operational advantage as an agile, integrated and inclusive air and space force.

We would like to thank all of you for your leadership, teamwork and devotion this past year. We are grateful, privileged and honoured to serve with the military and civilian members of 14 Wing, and would like to wish you a safe and happy holiday.

Please keep those members who are away from home in your thoughts as you enjoy this time with your families and loved ones.

**Season's Greetings, and Operate as One.**







## Great gate effort!

From the dark of early morning to the start of the work day December 1, 14 Wing Greenwood's Defence Team and base visitors put in a good day's work by 9 a.m., all in support of the annual Communications & Information Systems Flight gate food bank drive. The effort collected an amazing \$4,152 in cash and 1,200 pounds of food, packed and delivered to the Upper Room Food Bank in Kingston by midday. Volunteers thank the wing for all its support, including smiles as they worked! S. White



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Seasons Greetings



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and yours this holiday season



## Decking the halls

14 Wing Greenwood's Combined Charities' annual Festival of Trees event at the Greenwood Mall December 9 was a festive, fantastic, fundraising event. 14 Wing units and community businesses and organizations decked the mall halls with trees, prizes and holiday happiness – and public guests showed their appreciation in \$11,010 in ticket sales. The event adds to 14 Wing's national workplace giving campaign. Last year, the Defence Team donated \$41,000 to Valley school and community food programs, health services, youth sports, veterans' projects, family initiatives, animal welfare and more. With Festival of Trees in the books for another year, personnel are well on their way to wrapping another great campaign. S. White





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# Auxiliary’s helping hands make a whole lot of difference

Sara White,  
Managing editor

From 1961, Greenwood’s “Hands that Help to Heal” have been making a big difference in local health care and community support.

Volunteers with the Greenwood Health Auxiliary have, for over 60 years, raised funds in a myriad of ways: \$478,947 at their 50th anniversary milestone in 2010; \$25,000 in 2022 alone. That’s over a half-million dollars’ worth of help.

“We’re holding our own,” says volunteer Colette Way, chatting while keeping her hands busy sorting donated clothing and household items

at the auxiliary’s Opportunity Shop thrift store in the Greenwood Mall. “We’ve had a few new volunteers in the past year or so, and that’s been good to see.”

From the 1961 start, with six members – then, military wives posted with their husbands at CFB Greenwood, who realized 20 per cent of Middleton’s Soldiers Memorial Hospital admissions were military dependents; to over 80 in the mid-1980s, the auxiliary has expanded from a CFB Greenwood-affiliated group to wider community membership. The very first project was a \$500 donation to sponsor a pediatric room at SMH; by 1968, the



December 5, members of the 63-year-old Greenwood Health Auxiliary met for their holiday luncheon at the Kingston Legion, an opportunity for volunteers to celebrate the work they do and the funds they raise for local healthcare needs.

S. White

Greenwood auxiliary was the fourth-highest fundraising auxiliary in Nova Scotia, and the only one representing a Canadian Forces base.

Initially, with membership dues \$1 a year, auxiliary volunteers planned and hosted card parties, clothing drives, coffee parties, Christmas wrapping in the Greenwood Mall, special events like “Pound Days,” collecting canned food for SMH’s kitchens, and carnivals. While some of these activities continue to this day, the Opportunity Shop has been the mainstay.

The Op Shop first opened in Kingston, changed locations a couple times, moved to the Greenwood Mall in upstairs space, and is now located near a main floor rear entrance on its own

hallway. Volunteers open the shop scheduled hours every week, but are there behind the scenes sorting bagged donations for the shop shelves, and further use when possible by the Beehive Adult Services Centre in Aylesford, the Flower Cart in New Minas and other charitable programs.

“We were recycling before anybody,” says auxiliary secretary Kay Amos. “Way before Frenchies!

“We get everything – you never know; and people are looking for clothes, bedding and towels, dishes – whatever they need for that stage of their life.”

A winter coat might be \$3 or \$5; a bag of clothes is \$7. “Things are tight for many people. We don’t overprice, and people appreciate it.”

If there’s a community emergency, such as a house fire, the Op Shop opens its doors to offer no-charge essentials. Some people visit regularly looking for “finds,” or collect hats and mitts they themselves later donate to hampers or schools.

With all that volunteer effort and Op Shop thrifting, the Greenwood Health Auxiliary has been able, over the years, to support hospital equipment, renovations and programs at the SMH, Western Kings Memorial Hospital (now health centre) in Berwick, Fidelis House, the Children’s Home in Digby, the IWK, Chrysalis House, the Goose Bay Family Resource Centre and the Kings Regional Rehabilitation Centre; VON, White Cross and Red Cross programs; the Valley’s

cancer patient navigator program, palliative care, candy striper volunteer programs, school breakfast programs, the Trans County Transportation bus service – and more. In 1996, it started offering annual bursaries to local graduates entering health care fields.

If you have household goods or clothing to donate, the Opportunity Shop would love your support – and will then turn that support right back into community programs that help you. If you have volunteer time available, the Greenwood Health Auxiliary would also love to add your hands to their helping, healing efforts. For information, contact auxiliary president Mary Osmond at 902-765-3063 (or drop by the Op Shop). ➔



Shirley Robinson, centre, was recognized December 5 at the Greenwood Health Auxiliary holiday luncheon for 51 years of membership in the community organization. Mary Osmond, left, and Kay Amos presented Robinson with a few small gifts, an acknowledgment of her commitment to local healthcare programs and connecting people with the services they need right here at home.

S. White

## 14 Wing Chapel Christmas Services

**St. Mark’s Chapel**

**Sunday 24 December** | 3 p.m. • Christmas Eve Service with carols, the Christmas Story, hot drinks and cookies

**Monday 25 December** | No Service Christmas Day

**Monday 1 January 2024** | No New Year’s Day Service

*All St Mark’s Services will be in-person*

**Queen of Heaven Chapel**

**Thursday 21 December** | 7 p.m. | confessions available

**Friday 22 December** | 7 p.m. | confessions available

**Sunday 24 December** | 11 a.m. • Service

**Sunday 24 December** | 4 p.m. • Family Mass | 10 p.m. • Evening Mass

**Monday 25 December** | 11 a.m. • Christmas Day Service

**Sunday 31 December** | 11 a.m. • Service

**Monday 1 January 2024** | 11 a.m. • New Year’s Day Service

**Saturday 6 January 2024** | 7 p.m. • The Epiphany of the Lord

**Sunday 7 January 2024** | no service

*All Queen of Heaven Chapel Services will be in-person and will also be live-streamed.*

*To watch the live-stream access through the Queen of Heaven Facebook page the day of the service.*

*During silent hours over the holidays, the Duty Chaplain will be available on call 24/7 and may be reached through Wing Operations at 902-765-1494 local 5457.*



### Kingston Legion Br 98 ~ 🍁 ~ Dec 23/ Jan 24

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Sun	Mon	Tues	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<b>December 17</b> General meeting 7 p.m. BINGO 1 p.m.	<b>18</b> Legion Closed Merry Christmas	<b>19</b> Legion Closed	<b>20</b> Euchre 7 p.m. Veteran Social 10 a.m.	<b>21</b> Darts 7 p.m. Crib - 7 p.m.	<b>22</b> Darts 7 p.m. Crib - 7 p.m.	<b>23</b> Meat Draw Chase the Ace!
<b>24</b> NO BINGO Presidents Draw	<b>25</b> Legion Closed	<b>26</b> Legion Closed	<b>27</b> Euchre 7 p.m. Veteran Social 10 a.m.	<b>28</b> Foot Care Clinic Call Heather 902-300-3559 to book an appt. Darts 7 p.m. Crib - 7 p.m.	<b>29</b> Darts 7 p.m. Crib - 7 p.m.	<b>30</b> Meat Draw Chase the Ace!
*President’s Draw • Tickets are on sale at the Legion Bar for \$1 each to try and win a basket of goodies. Draw takes place at the Legion on Dec. 24th						
<b>January</b>	<b>1</b> New Year’s Eve 11 a.m. – 1 p.m. All Welcome No Jeans	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b> Euchre 7 p.m. Veteran Social 10 a.m.	<b>4</b> Darts 7 p.m. CRIB - 7 p.m.	<b>5</b> Darts 7 p.m.	<b>6</b> Breakfast 7:30 - 10 a.m. Free Will Offering Meat Draw Chase the Ace!
<b>7</b> BINGO 1 p.m.	<b>8</b> Darts 7 p.m.	<b>9</b>	<b>10</b> Euchre 7 p.m. Veteran Social 10 a.m.	<b>11</b> Foot Clinic Call Heather 902-300-3559 to book appt. Darts 7 p.m. CRIB - 7 p.m.	<b>12</b> K.A.S.A. 1-3 p.m. Karaoke with Denis	<b>13</b> Meat Draw Chase the Ace!
<b>14</b> BINGO 1 p.m.	<b>15</b> Darts 7 p.m. EXECUTIVE MEETING 7 p.m.	<b>16</b>	<b>17</b> Euchre 7 p.m. Veteran Social 10 a.m.	<b>18</b> Darts 7 p.m. CRIB - 7 p.m.	<b>19</b> Darts 7 p.m.	<b>20</b> Meat Draw Chase the Ace! Dance 8 - 12 p.m. Darrin Beaton Band Cost \$10 - All welcome
<b>21</b> BINGO 1 p.m.	<b>22</b> Darts 7 p.m. GENERAL MEETING	<b>23</b>	<b>24</b> Euchre 7 p.m. Veteran Social 10 a.m.	<b>25</b> Foot Clinic Call Heather 902-300-3559 to book appt. Darts 7 p.m. CRIB - 7 p.m.	<b>26</b> K.A.S.A. 1-3 p.m. Karaoke with Denis	<b>27</b> Meat Draw Chase the Ace!
<b>28</b> BINGO 1 p.m.	<b>29</b> Darts 7 p.m.	<b>30</b>	<b>31</b> Euchre 7 p.m. Veteran Social 10 a.m.	Are you a Veteran? Are you releasing from the Canadian Armed Forces? Join us at 1000 each Wednesday morning in the lounge at the Kingston Legion. Have a coffee and a snack & meet other Veterans. Hosted by RCL Branch 98 and the Greenwood MFRC.		
Support the Kingston Legion by buying 50/50 tickets on-line at: <a href="http://www.rafflebox.ca/raffle/rclns">www.rafflebox.ca/raffle/rclns</a> Remember to select in support of: Kingston Br.98						
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## Community dinner

You could say December 13 was turkey day, as the Knights of Columbus in Middleton/ Greenwood picked up the feature item – 40 cooked turkeys, sliced, plus gravy - in what was destined to become 350 dinners; from the 14 Wing Greenwood Annapolis Mess kitchen team. Earlier, they picked up 200 pounds of cooked, mashed potatoes from the Kingston Lions. The Knights, with a group of international student volunteers, spent the day December 12 decorating and packing small packages of rolls, cookies and a few extras. December 13, with the turkey collected and added to the veggies, 250 meals were delivered to Middleton Elementary School, Middleton High School and Kingston Elementary School. Another 50 eat-in meals, and an additional 35 take-out meals, were provided for RCMP personnel in Middleton and Kingston and paramedics at the Middleton EHS station. The Knights of Columbus serve approximately 5,000 dinners every year.

B. Graves

## Suicide crisis helpline 9-8-8 launches

Nova Scotians thinking about attempting suicide, or worried about someone else who may be thinking about suicide, now have another place to turn to for help. The new 9-8-8: Suicide Crisis Helpline provides urgent, live, trauma-informed support by phone and text 24 hours a day, every day of the year.

As of November 30, 9-8-8 is available in every province and territory in Canada, funded by the Government of Canada, managed by the Centre for Addiction and Mental Health in Toronto and delivered through mental health partners in provinces and territories. Staff from Nova Scotia Health, IWK Health and the Office of Addictions and Mental Health have been active participants in the planning and launch of 9-8-8.

An average of 12 people die by suicide every day in Canada. People who call or text 9-8-8 can communicate with trained crisis responders in either English or French. The new line will also help streamline access to other national resources. Indigenous people will be able to access the Hope for Wellness Helpline (1-855-242-3310), which provides immediate, non-judgmental,

culturally competent and trauma-informed emotional support, crisis intervention or referrals to community-based services. Children and young adults in Canada in need of mental health supports and crisis services will be able to connect with Kids Help Phone (1-800-668-6868).

Nova Scotians may continue to access the provincial mental health and addictions crisis line toll-free at 1-888-429-8167, 24 hours a day, seven days a week for themselves or someone they are concerned about. The provincial crisis line connects Nova Scotians to trained clinicians and is available to anyone across the province. For non-crisis support, people needing treatment and care for mental health and addictions can contact the mental health and addictions intake service at 1-855-922-1122 to be matched with appropriate services.

Calls and texts to 9-8-8 are confidential - no personally identifiable information will be shared outside of the 9-8-8 network, except as required or permitted by law, or in cases where emergency intervention is required for a person’s safety and well-being. ➔

## Immediate need for CVITP volunteers

The Community Volunteer Income Tax Program (CVITP) has a need for organizations to host free tax clinics, and volunteers to complete tax returns. By volunteering, you will help people in your community get the benefits they are entitled to. Organizations and volun-

teers will receive training, free tax preparation software, reference materials and a dedicated, toll-free telephone help line throughout the tax filing season.

To register, contact 1-855-516-4405 or [canada.ca/taxes-volunteer](http://canada.ca/taxes-volunteer). ➔

## ~ Obituary ~

**CROMWELL, Ronald Malcolm,**  
Halifax, formerly of Kingston, NS

It is with heavy hearts that we announce that Ronald Malcolm Cromwell, 89, beloved husband and devoted father, passed away in the loving arms of his family on December 2nd, 2023. Ron was born on October 13, 1934 in Halifax, NS. He is predeceased by his parents, Arthur M. Cromwell and Bea (MacLean), his sisters, Carolyn (Jim Miller) and Ruth (Ron Hartlen). He is survived by his wife and soulmate, Georgie, their two children, Susan (Charles Piercey) and Robert (Angela McNamara), and their five grandchildren, Matthew, William, Lukas (Piercey) and Ryan Cromwell and Jillian (Lucas Bos) and their two great-grandchildren Travis and Sonny Bos. Ron’s life was one of devotion to his family and service in the community. Happiest when helping others, he gave his time freely with patience and compassion. He was the Director of the Flowers of Hope Campaign for many years supporting people with special needs. He was a constant volunteer at his children’s school, and the organizer of the Friday Night Drop-In for Youth and the Choir Director at St. Thomas Aquinas Church. Eager to be a strong voice for his city, he was an Alderman for Ward 2 and Deputy Mayor. He was especially proud of his national position as President of the Federation of Canadian Municipalities. Ron and Georgie’s love story was full of community volunteering, adventure, and travel. They retired to Kingston in the Annapolis Valley where he quickly joined the Kingston Lions Club. He was very fulfilled serving the underprivileged and supporting youth in need. Ron and Georgie treasured their many new friendships, and pursued golf with equal passion. They entertained with pool parties and golf tournaments. They cruised the Caribbean and toured throughout Europe. Throughout it all, they were very involved with their grandchildren, teaching them all to swim and golf. They spent every winter in Vancouver with their daughter’s family. Ron had a constant smile that would erupt into peals of laughter and his big, beautiful heart made room for everyone he met. His capacity to care was endless and his loyalty would fill the sky. To be loved by him was a gift. He sang every day, enjoyed a good prank, and relished a political debate. He loved a good book, a brisk walk, a comfy spot in the sunshine, and being with his family. Ron loved with his whole being - a noble spirit with a Herculean sense of optimism and hope. He would want you all to know that he was grateful and blessed. In Ron’s memory, he would ask that you kindly give your time to someone in need, hug your family close and tell them often how much you love them.



## ~ Obituary ~

**HUTCHINGS, Norman Franklin,**  
Greenwood, NS

Hutchings, Norman Franklin (WO Ret.) of Greenwood, NS passed away December 11, 2023, after a strong fight with multiple illnesses. He passed away at Valley Regional Hospital, Kentville, NS. Norm is survived by his loving wife, Donna; his children, Melissa (Dan) and Stephanie (Justin); grandchildren, Alexandria, Landon, Zoe-lynn and Owen. Norm was born in Newfoundland on August 20, 1961. He joined the Canadian Armed Forces January 1978 and was posted to Greenwood where he met the love of his life; Donna. They married July 17, 1982; welcomed two beautiful children, travelled from posting to posting until they made it back to Greenwood in 1996; where he retired March 2014. Norm was a caring and generous man with a heart of gold; helping anyone in need. In retirement, he spent time on road trips with Donna as well as travelling to British Columbia to spend time with Melissa’s family. He spent his time in British Columbia watching his grandsons Landon and Owen play hockey (and teaching them a few moves while they played road hockey). In Greenwood, he would spend time with Stephanie’s family; watching his granddaughter Alex dance and having very imaginative play dates with Zoe (those two were always on an adventure). He was Donna’s rock, always there no matter what. He will be deeply missed by his family, friends and all who knew him. There will be no funeral service at this time, as per Norm’s wishes. In lieu of flowers, the family kindly requests donations to Support Our Troops or Wounded Warriors Canada. Arrangements have been entrusted to Middleton Funeral Home, 398 Main Street, Middleton, toll free 1-855-825-3448. The online guestbook may be signed by visiting: [www.middletonfuneralhome.com](http://www.middletonfuneralhome.com)



Norm was born in Newfoundland on August 20, 1961. He joined the Canadian Armed Forces January 1978 and was posted to Greenwood where he met the love of his life; Donna. They married July 17, 1982; welcomed two beautiful children, travelled from posting to posting until they made it back to Greenwood in 1996; where he retired March 2014. Norm was a caring and generous man with a heart of gold; helping anyone in need. In retirement, he spent time on road trips with Donna as well as travelling to British Columbia to spend time with Melissa’s family. He spent his time in British Columbia watching his grandsons Landon and Owen play hockey (and teaching them a few moves while they played road hockey). In Greenwood, he would spend time with Stephanie’s family; watching his granddaughter Alex dance and having very imaginative play dates with Zoe (those two were always on an adventure). He was Donna’s rock, always there no matter what. He will be deeply missed by his family, friends and all who knew him. There will be no funeral service at this time, as per Norm’s wishes. In lieu of flowers, the family kindly requests donations to Support Our Troops or Wounded Warriors Canada. Arrangements have been entrusted to Middleton Funeral Home, 398 Main Street, Middleton, toll free 1-855-825-3448. The online guestbook may be signed by visiting: [www.middletonfuneralhome.com](http://www.middletonfuneralhome.com)

Rest In Peace, you beautiful soul.

Arrangements have been entrusted to Middleton Funeral Home, 398 Main Street, 1-855-825-3448. A Celebration of Life will be held at a later date in the spring of 2024. On-line guest book may be signed by visiting: [www.middletonfuneralhome.com](http://www.middletonfuneralhome.com)





The Aurora publishes items of interest to the community submitted by not-for-profit organizations. Submissions are limited to approximately 25 words. Items may be submitted to our office, 61 School Road (Morfee Annex), 14 Wing Greenwood; by fax, 902-765-1717; or email [auroraeditor@ns.aliantzinc.ca](mailto:auroraeditor@ns.aliantzinc.ca). Dated announcements are published on a first-come, first-served basis, and on-going notices will be included as space allows. To guarantee your announcement, you may choose to place a paid advertisement. The deadline for submissions is Wednesday, 9:30 a.m., previous to publication unless otherwise notified.

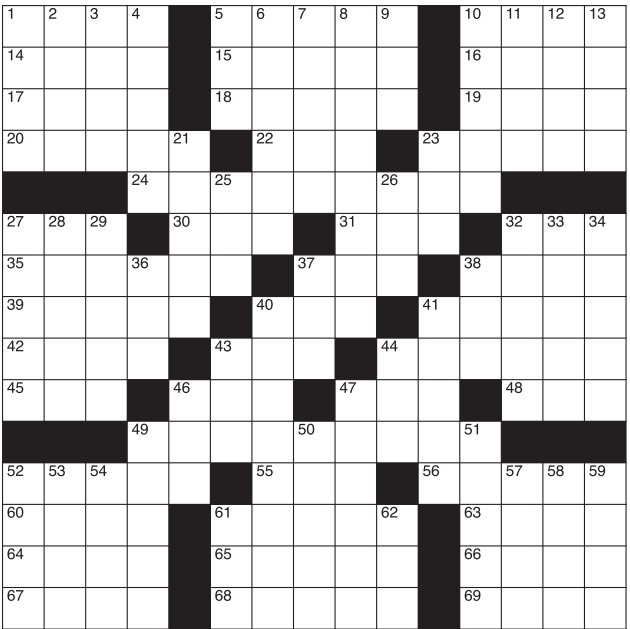
Le commandant publie des avis d'intérêt public soumis par des organisations à but non lucratif. Ces avis doivent se limiter à environ 25 mots. Les avis peuvent être soumis à nos bureaux, au 61, School Road, (annexe Morfee), 14e Escadre Greenwood, par fax au 902-765-1717 ou par courriel à l'adresse [auroraeditor@ns.aliantzinc.ca](mailto:auroraeditor@ns.aliantzinc.ca). Les annonces avec date sont publiées selon le principe du premier arrivé, premier servi, et les avis continus seront inclus si l'espace le permet. Si vous voulez être certain que votre avis soit publié, vous voudrez peut-être acheter de la publicité. La date de tombée des soumissions est à 9 h 30 du matin le mercredi précédant la publication, à moins d'avis contraire.

**Blood donation clinic**  
December 18, 4:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m., and December 19, noon to 3 p.m. and 5 p.m. to 8 p.m., Canadian Blood Services will hold a blood donation clinic at the Morfee Centre, School Road,

Greenwood. Book your appointment at blood.ca.  
**Blood donation clinic**  
December 20, noon to 3 p.m. and 5 p.m. to 8 p.m., Canadian Blood Services will hold a blood donation clinic at the Berwick Lions

## crossword

solution page 17



- ACROSS**
1. Droops
  5. Subatomic particle
  10. Not in danger
  14. Nursemaid
  15. Black band worn in mourning
  16. Long song in opera
  17. Edible seed of a Philippine tree
  18. Chicago political family
  19. Pursues pleasure from one place to another
  20. Appetizer
  22. Hill (Celtic)
  23. Simple shoe
  24. Songs to one you love
  27. Secret activities
  30. Upset
  31. Popular hot drink
  32. Body art (slang)
  35. Fired
  37. Blood relation
  38. Identical
  39. Porticos
  40. Partner to cheese
  41. Type of sword
  42. Enough (archaic)
  43. Surface layer of ground
  44. Cotton fabric woven like satin
  45. Choose for a post
  46. Father
  47. Tell on
  48. Indian title of
- DOWN**
1. Exhausts
  2. Genus of fish related to gars
  3. Impudent behavior
  4. Adherents to Islam
  5. They come after A
  6. Spoke
  7. Room to receive guests
  8. About opera
  9. End-blown flute
  10. Heroic tales
  11. Member of a Semitic people
  12. Dog's name
  13. Opposite of west
  21. Political divisions in
  23. Ocean
  25. Cool!
  26. Young woman about to enter society
  27. One from central Caucasus
  28. Indian city
  29. A way to serve ice cream
  32. Emaciation
  33. Escort aircraft carrier
  34. Italian city
  36. Mythical settler of Kansas
  37. Unhappy
  38. High schoolers' test
  40. Measured in pace
  41. Satisfies
  43. Gullible person
  44. Enclosed space
  46. Substance used to color something
  47. Shirt type
  49. Discover by investigation
  50. -Castell, makers of pens
  51. Semitic Sun god
  52. Grads wear one
  53. French river
  54. Part of a cap
  57. Digestive fluid
  58. Metrical foot
  59. Body part
  61. Very fast airplane
  62. Supplement with difficulty

Hall, 250 veterans Drive. Book your appointment at blood.ca.  
**Blue Christmas service**  
December 21, 7 p.m., there will be a Blue Christmas service for those who feel alone at Christmas, battling feelings of loneliness, illness or loss. Join us for a service of understanding, empathy, love and hope at the Wilmot Baptist Christian Fellowship Centre, 208 Dodge Road. Call 782-492-0265 for more information.

**Christmas bird count**  
December 21 is the Kingston & Area Christmas Bird Count. Bird watchers: if you live in the Mid-dleton to Aylesford area, from the Bay of Fundy to the South Mountain, you may take part by watching all the birds you see at your birdfeeders. For information on how to participate, contact Sheila Hulford, 902-765-4023 or [hulfords@eastlink.ca](mailto:hulfords@eastlink.ca).  
**Christmas Eve breakfast**  
December 24, 6:30 a.m. to 10:30 a.m., come for Christmas Eve morning breakfast at the Kings-ton Lions Hall. Freewill offering! Scrambled eggs, sausage, ham, hashbrowns, pancakes, coffee, tea, juice, muffins and toast. Come on out, bring your family and friends to this cherished community tradition! Santa and Mrs. Claus will be there, along with one of their elves!

## horoscopes

### ARIES - Mar 21/Apr 20

This week you may be interested in unusual art forms or creative things in nature. Aries. Therefore, try to enjoy outings that may bring you to exhibits by local artists or craft shows.

### TAURUS - Apr 21/May 21

Taurus, an old friend may come to visit for the holidays and you can rekindle your relationship after many years. Even though it's been some time, you'll be glad to see one another.

### GEMINI - May 22/Jun 21

An unexpected invitation comes your way, Gemini. It may include a short trip to visit someone or a brief vacation to a place you've always wanted to see.

### CANCER - Jun 22/Jul 22

New career opportunities are available to reawaken your ambition, Cancer. You might come across some possibilities this week that you hadn't imagined.

### LEO - Jul 23/Aug 23

The excitement of making arrangements for a journey may actually excite you more than the trip itself. However, once you get to the destination, your enthusiasm will grow.

### VIRGO - Aug 24/Sept 22

After a visit from a friend or family member who you haven't seen in a while, long-forgotten memories are recalled. This will be an interesting trip down memory lane.

horoscopes brought to you compliments of

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**www.frasers.ca**

### Holiday free skates

December 27 and 29, 1 p.m. to 3:30 p.m., and December 31, 4:30 p.m. to 6 p.m., join the Kingston Lions for free holiday skating at the Credit Union Centre Arena. Complimentary hot chocolate and coffee will be provided.

### New Year's Eve dance

December 31, 9 p.m. to 12:30 a.m., join friends at the Berwick Legion for a New Year's Eve dance, featuring Joker's Right. Cash bar and buffet. Help celebrate the end of Berwick's 100th birthday year! Tickets available now at the Legion bar.

### New Year's levee

January 1, from 11 a.m., visit friends at the Berwick Legion's New Year's Day levee. Everyone welcome.

### Winter speed skating sessions

January 8, the Annapolis Valley Speed Skating Club starts its10 week winter session: learn to speed skate, skills development, recreational and competitive programs. Activity takes place Monday evenings at the Credit Union Centre in Kingston. Free speed skates rental for your first season. Come out to a practice for a free trial. Contact [valleyspeedskating@gmail.com](mailto:valleyspeedskating@gmail.com) for information. New year, new sport!

### Drum circle

January 9, 1:30 p.m. to 2:30 p.m., 7Arts in Greenwood hosts Health RHYTHMS, a community drum circle for female-identifying music enthusiasts over the age of 17. If you are looking for a community to make music and chat with, register by emailing [mindfullymore@gmail.com](mailto:mindfullymore@gmail.com).

### Community luncheon

January 9, noon to 1 p.m., the Kingston Lions hold their monthly community luncheon. Enjoy a full roast beef dinner with dessert, coffee and tea. Pick-up and dining-in meals, \$15. Delivered meals \$16. Pre-order pick-up and delivered meals January 2 and 3, 9 a.m. to 11 a.m., by calling 902-765-2128. No pre-ordering required for eat-in diners: just come on in and grab a seat!

### Youth & teen art lessons

January 9, 16, 23 and 30; 7Arts in Greenwood offers youth and teen art lessons. New artists and projects each week. Ages seven to 12, 4:30 p.m. to 5:30 p.m. Ages 13 to 17, 6 p.m. to 7 p.m. \$25 /lesson or \$80 for four lessons. Register at [info@7Arts.ca](mailto:info@7Arts.ca).

### Fibre arts social

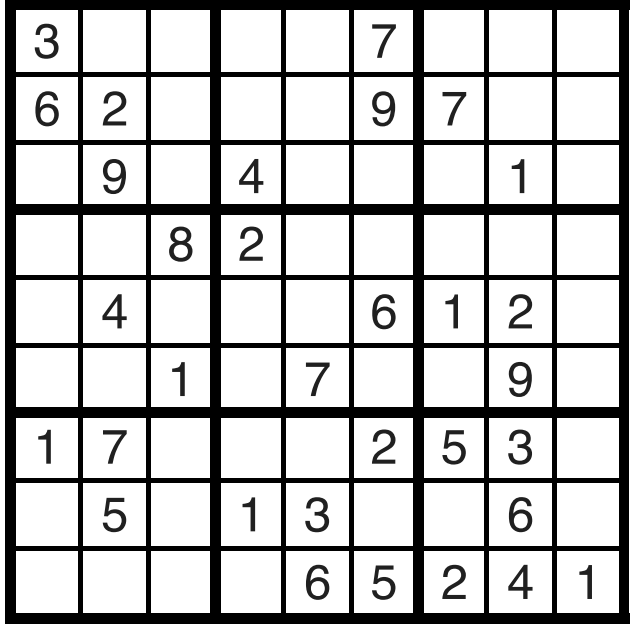
January 10, 17, 24 and 31, 6:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m., 7Arts in Greenwood invites female-identifying fibre craft artists (knitting, crochet, cross stitch, embroidery, felting, or rug hooking) over the age of 25 for their craft and chat group. Bring your own materials or purchase a kit from us!

### Seniors' drum circle

January 11, 1 p.m. to 2 p.m., 7Arts in Greenwood hosts HealthRHYTMS, a community drum circle, free to seniors! Reserve your seat by emailing [mindfullymore@gmail.com](mailto:mindfullymore@gmail.com).

## sudoku

solution page 17



Level: Beginner

### Fun By The Numbers

Here's How It Works: Sudoku puzzles are formatted as a 9x9 grid, broken down into nine 3x3 boxes. To solve a sudoku, the numbers 1 through 9 must fill each row, column and box. Each number can appear only once in each row, column and box. You can figure out the order in which the numbers will appear by using the numeric clues already provided in the boxes. The more numbers you name, the easier it gets to solve the puzzle!

### MakerSpace

January 12, 19 and 26, 12:30 p.m. to 3:30 p.m.; 7Arts in Greenwood hosts an open MakerSpace. Bring a project to work on or purchase one of our kits. Drop-ins welcome!

### Breakfast

January 13, 8 a.m. to 10 a.m., join the Kingston Lions for breakfast: sausages, scrambled eggs, pancakes, ham, hashbrowns and drinks. Adults \$12, 12 years and younger \$8.

### HoliStay raffle benefits

#### Valley hospice

January 13, winners of the Valley Hospice Foundation's HoliStay Raffle will be announced – get your tickets now for "experiences that make a difference." Play to win Nova Scotian retreats, culinary getaways, breezy beach visits, nature tours and more. Tickets are \$50 each (limit of 1,000), with \$12,000 in prizes. A \$2,500 bonus prize includes VIP status at Air Show Atlantic. See the full prize list and get your tickets at [valleyhospice.ca](http://valleyhospice.ca) (902-679-3471).

### Learn to paint

January 17, 1 p.m. to 3 p.m. (continues January 24, 31 and February 7), learn how to paint using watercolours with Luanne in 7Arts' four-week program, Greenwood. No experience necessary. Cost \$140, includes all supplies. Pre-registration required by emailing [info@7Arts.ca](mailto:info@7Arts.ca).

### Breakfast

January 20, 8 a.m. to 11 a.m., come for breakfast at the Aylesford United Church, 2414 Highway 1. Freewill offering. Made-from-scratch pancakes, ham, pork and apple breakfast sausages and scrambled eggs. Tea, coffee or juice.

## Food for Thought from the Upper Room Food Bank

During November 2023, the Upper Room Food Bank in Kingston served 194 families, consisting of 334 adults and 234 children, with 22,370 pounds of product going out and 22,895 pounds coming in. The incoming total includes 8,500 pounds provided by the Feed Nova Scotia network and 1,959 pounds bought with local cash donations. The rest is from local food bank sharing and donations, including regular arrangements with local businesses.

Our Christmas wrapping booth fundraiser at the Greenwood Mall December 4 to 10 was organized by Sharon Hatt and her team of volunteers. Thank you to all who volunteered.

Clients needing service must call ahead to the food bank to arrange an appointment during normal operating hours. If calling outside of food bank office hours, leave a message and someone will get back to you to arrange a time. When ready, the order is placed in the designated area for client pickup. No one other than approved volunteers is allowed in the building. This process limits personal contact, while also reducing waiting time for clients. When requesting service, your best option is to call the office directly, and leave a message if no one is there. We can answer quick questions through the Facebook page, but we cannot plan for pick-up

or new clients; that must be done through the office.

Please make every effort to call our office early to arrange your appointment. Volunteers will do their best to help last-minute drop-ins during open hours, but you should come early, be prepared to wait and they will fit you in where they can. Understand volunteers may also leave early when there are no more appointments or clients waiting - but they don't want to miss anyone in need, either. We understand it is not always possible to call ahead, but clients will find the process easier with a scheduled appointment.

Donations may be dropped off at the food bank found behind the library at 669 Main Street, Kingston (during open hours) or at the Kingston village office, 655 Main Street. Processing of donated food continues following directives from Feed Nova Scotia and the Nova Scotia Health Authority. Cash donations are also always accepted.

Our regular hours are currently in effect, with the food bank open for clients Mondays, 9 a.m. to noon, and Thursdays, 6 p.m. to 9 p.m. We will be closed for the holiday season after December 21, and will re-open January 4. Appointments continue to be a requirement. Our office number is 902-765-0303, or email us at [upperroom-foodbk@hotmail.com](mailto:upperroom-foodbk@hotmail.com). Be sure to follow us on Facebook! ➔

## services & trades

Call 902-765-1494 local 5833 for info

## the Aurora

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Fuel for Less, 1-888-338-0331  
Waterville, N.S. 902-538-0677  
Bridgetown, N.S. 902-665-5293



## 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 9 a.m. Wednesday previous to publication. Payment methods include VISA, MasterCard, AMEX, debit or cash. The Aurora is not responsible for products and/or services advertised. To place a classified, contact 902-765-1494 local 5699, visit the office, 61 School Road, Morfee Annex, Greenwood; email [auroraproduction@ns.aliantzinc.ca](mailto:auroraproduction@ns.aliantzinc.ca) or fax 902-765-1717.

To place a boxed, display ad, contact 902-765-1494 local 5833; email [aurora-marketing@ns.aliantzinc.ca](mailto:aurora-marketing@ns.aliantzinc.ca).

publication. Les modes de paiement acceptés incluent VISA, MasterCard, AMEX, débit ou comptant. L'Aurora n'est pas responsable des produits et/ou services annoncés. Pour faire publier une annonce classée, vous pouvez nous appeler au 902-765-1494 poste 5699, visiter notre bureau au 61, School Road, annexe Morfee à Greenwood, nous envoyer un courriel à [auroraproduction@ns.aliantzinc.ca](mailto:auroraproduction@ns.aliantzinc.ca) ou nous transmettre un fax au 902-765-1717.

Pour faire paraître une publicité dans un encadré, appelez-nous au 902-765-1494 poste 5833, ou un courriel à [auroramarketing@ns.aliantzinc.ca](mailto:auroramarketing@ns.aliantzinc.ca).

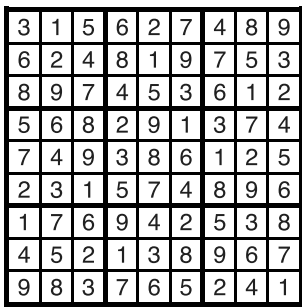
### FLEA MARKET

SOMETHING FOR EVERYONE INDOOR FLEA MARKET - 812 King St., Kingston, N.S. Behind Tim Hortons and Freemans ESSO. Sundays only 9 a.m. to 3 p.m., weather permitting. Admission \$1.00 (Adults) Children under 12 free. Everyone welcome. Christmas crafts, antiques, furniture, fire hydrant, 1920's car fenders, records,

### crossword solution



### sudoku solution



books, old tools, tea towels, knitted scarfs, hats, hanging shelves, rock hummingbird carvings, dream catchers, trees of life, toys, sport cards, filing cabinets and other interesting items. Be kind to each other. Tables available for rent call 902-847-0324. Thank you. (4445-4tpb)

### APARTMENT FOR RENT

FOR RENT - Whittington Heights, renting with seniors in mind, spacious 1125 sq ft approx., two-bedroom unit with 1.5 baths, 5 appliances, attached single vehicle garage, 6' x 10' shed, snow and lawn care included. \$1,800 per month. Available December 1. Please contact [surecutconcrete1@gmail.com](mailto:surecutconcrete1@gmail.com) for a copy of the online application. (4445-1tpb)

### BACHELOR APARTMENT FOR RENT

Bridge Street, Kingston, one-bedroom unit with 1 bath, 2 appliances, lights and heat included, storage shed. Available December 1. \$1,200 per month. Please contact [surecutconcrete1@gmail.com](mailto:surecutconcrete1@gmail.com) for a copy of the online application. (4445-1tpb)

### CHRISTMAS TREES

KANE'S CHRISTMAS TREES - We've moved! Come pick your holiday balsam tree with family on our

**ROUGH & PLANED LUMBER**

902-825-6424  
DAN'S FIREWOOD & LUMBER

**Faithful friend**  
Kingston resident Helen Swansburg was recently presented a certificate of appreciation and lifetime membership in Eta Master Chapter of Beta Sigma Phi, by president Mabel Haynes. Her sorority sisters felt this was a fitting way to celebrate Swansburg's 99th birthday, and to show their high regard. Swansburg joined the international women's sorority in 1955, and has received many commendations, and held many offices in various chapters in Nova Scotia throughout the years, and has progressed to the highest of seven degrees, Torchbearer. Swansburg and her husband, Bob, lived for many years in Melvern Square; and has always contributed greatly to the community.

Submitted

farm, 505 Canaan Road, Aylesford. Open 9-5 every day. U-pick/ we pick, \$5 a foot; bailing available. Plus: wreaths and bundled fir. Weekend warming center, with hot chocolate and mulled cider. Facebook @ Kane's Christmas Trees, or 902-825-7055. (4443-3tpb)

### DUPLEX FOR RENT

RETIREMENT DUPLEX - Available now. Completely renovated and comes with five new appliances. Two bedroom, one bath, open concept duplex with garage. Paved driveway, front and back patio deck. In floor heating, town water, so if power goes out you still have water. Snow removal and lawn care included. Transit available at end of street. Centrally located between Greenwood and Kingston. Phone 902-765-0339. (4445-2tpb)

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the Aurora

find & win

Three easy ways to enter.  
1. Through our website: [www.auroranewspaper.com](http://www.auroranewspaper.com)  
2. Fax: 902-765-1717  
3. Drop into our office located at 61 School Road (Morfee Annex)

Entry deadline:  
Noon, January 16, 2024

ONE ENTRY PER PERSON

Full name \_\_\_\_\_ Phone number \_\_\_\_\_

Complete the following questions from ads in this week's issue and win a \$20 coupon to play Friday Night BINGO from Aylesford & District Lions Club. Coupons valid for 1 year. Age 17+ on regular games.

1. When will winners be announced for the HoliStay Raffle? \_\_\_\_\_  
2. What time is the New Year's Levee at the Kingston Legion? \_\_\_\_\_  
3. What business is at 4432 Hwy 1, Berwick? \_\_\_\_\_  
4. What is Heather's Independent Grocers phone number? \_\_\_\_\_  
5. Who has French fries in their ad? \_\_\_\_\_

Congratulations to last week's Find & Win winner: WAYNE KELLEY

**AYLESFORD & DISTRICT LIONS CLUB**

2160 Hwy 1, Aylesford  
Starts 7:00 pm Friday  
902-847-9374





## EHS employees honoured for service, dedication

Eighty-one Emergency Health Services (EHS) employees with 20 or more years of service were recognized October 4 for their commitment to keeping Nova Scotians safe. The long-service awards were presented at a ceremony in Halifax.

Included in the group were, with 35 years, Jack Galley, Berwick; and, with 25 years, Charles Rodgers, Middleton; John Mosher, Coldbrook; Peter Maegerlein, Berwick; Sabine Haggerty, Kentville.

"A career in paramedicine is challenging, yet rewarding, especially when you go

home at night and know that you've helped someone," said Health and Wellness Minister Michelle Thompson. "Today's award recipients are a perfect example of what it means to put the needs of others first, day in and day out."

The recipients have a combined 1,995 years of service. Employees must have at least 20 years of service and be in good standing with the College of Paramedics of Nova Scotia to qualify. In 2022, the EHS communications centre received about 189,000 calls, an average of about 500 calls per day. ➔

## Summing up success

The first Canadian Walk for Veterans in Halifax took place September 23. Over that weekend, walks across Canada raised funds for Military Family Resource Centres: the walk in Halifax shared its proceeds between the Halifax & Region MFRC and the Greenwood MFRC. During her retirement festivities November 22, outgoing GMFRC executive director, Margaret Reid, was presented the GMFRC share of proceeds by one of the walk's organizers, 14 Construction engineering Squadron Honorary Colonel Dan Hennessey. The 2024 Walk for Veterans will take place over the weekend of September 21 and organizers hope for even larger response.

Submitted

# Season's Greetings

## Royal Canadian Legion Br. 098, Kingston



**New Year's Eve  
dance tickets on  
sale now - \$25**

**New Year's Day  
Levee  
11 a.m. - 1 p.m.**

# Warmest family wishes.

*Stay safe,  
and all the best in the new year.*



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## Winter fun with the Kingston Lions



1482 Veterans Lane, Kingston  
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### Christmas Eve breakfast

**December 24, 6:30 a.m. to 10:30 a.m.**  
Community friends are welcome for a full breakfast, with ALL your favourites (scrambled eggs, pancakes, toast, sausages, ham, hashbrowns, muffins and drinks).  
**Freewill offering.**  
Visit with Santa and Mrs. Claus

### Free skating

The Kingston Lions are sponsoring free public skating at the Credit Union Centre Arena. Complimentary hot chocolate and coffee provided!  
**December 27 & 29, 1 p.m. to 3:30 p.m.**  
**December 31, 4:30 p.m. to 6 p.m.**

### Saturday breakfast

**January 13, 8 a.m. to 10 a.m.**  
Join friends at the Lions Hall for breakfast (scrambled eggs, pancakes, toast, sausages, ham, hashbrowns and drinks).  
**Cost: \$12**  
(\$8 for 12 years old and younger).



## Get your holiday skate on!

Looking for a holiday week activity? The Greenwood Gardens has a set of public skates scheduled, open to the community (free with a PSP Plan membership or \$5 without plan).

Pick a day – or come for them all! Skates will be held December 21, 1:30 p.m. to 2:30 p.m.; December 22, 4 p.m. to 5 p.m.; December 23, 3 p.m. to 4 p.m.; December

27, 12:30 p.m. to 1:30 p.m.; December 28, 4:30 p.m. to 5:30 p.m.; December 29, 4 p.m. to 5 p.m.; and December 30, 3 p.m. to 4 p.m.

A few reminders: it's bring-your-own-skates, and helmets are mandatory for participants below age 12. Skating aids, strollers, and pylons are not permitted on the ice during public skates. ➔



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## Season's Greetings



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## Happy Holidays

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~~~ Letter to Santa ~~~



**Dear Santa**

My name is KJ and I am 22 months old. This year for Christmas I would like my very own airplane just like the ones I watch fly in the sky. As well, please ensure everyone in the world is able to have peace and love.

With love, KJ  
Greenwood, NS

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from our family to yours,  
Happy holidays from your Greenwood  
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## Breakfast time in Gander

14 Construction Engineering Squadron Major James Gannon, Master Warrant Officer Ed Hebb and Honorary Colonel Dan Hennessey were pleased to make a flying visit to 91 Construction Engineering Flight, based at 9 Wing Gander December 5 – arriving just in time for the flight’s annual holiday breakfast. Hennessey too the opportunity to share “’Twas the Night Before Christmas” from the podium, as the crowd socialized and enjoyed the meal.

Submitted

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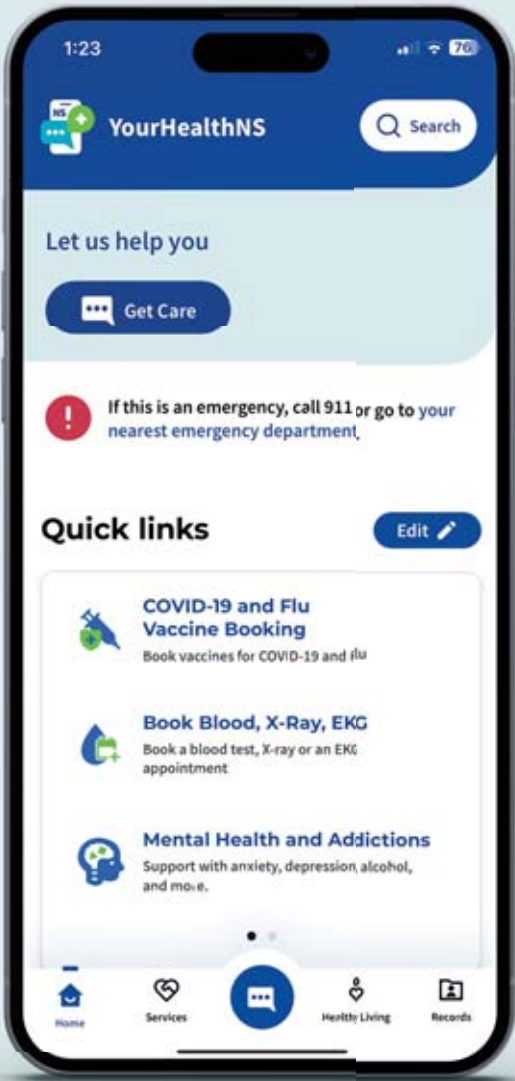


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