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the **Aurora**

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November 5, at Rideau Hall in Ottawa, Warrant Officer Fernando Bianco, S.C., C.D., and Sergeant Bradley Nisbet, S.C., C.D, were presented the Star of Courage, and CH149 Cormorant aircraft commander Captain Jeremy Appolloni, M.S.C, C.D., flight engineer Sergeant Daniel Domonkos, M.S.C, C.D. (now posted at 19 Wing Comox), and pilot Captain Sean Finn, M.S.C, C.D., were presented the Meritorious Service Cross; by Her Excellency the Right Honourable Mary Simon, Governor General and Commander-in-Chief of Canada, for their roles in the 2021 high seas emergency aboard the *Atlantic Destiny*. From left are Finn, Domonkos, Appolloni, Chief of the Defence Staff General Jennie Carignan, Simon, Nisbet and Bianco.

MS Anne-Marie Brisson, Rideau Hall

# 'Bold action' recognized with bravery, meritorious service medals

**Sara White,**  
Managing editor

Left aboard the foundering *Atlantic Destiny*, search-and-rescue technicians Warrant Officer Fernando Bianco and Sergeant Bradley Nisbet were being tossed "like cats" on a deck awash with ocean water and hydraulic fluid. With nothing to do but wait, they went into the galley.

"It was pitch dark and we were sitting on the couch,

water up to our knees, eating cookies," Bianco says. "I thought, 'this is sketchy.' We couldn't even see each other, just hearing, 'munch, munch, munch.'"

November 5, at a ceremony at Rideau Hall in Ottawa, Bianco and Nisbet were presented the Star of Courage, and CH149 Cormorant aircraft commander Captain Jeremy Appolloni, flight engineer Sergeant Daniel Domonkos (now at 19 Wing Comox) and pilot Captain Sean

Finn were presented the Meritorious Service Cross; by Her Excellency the Right Honourable Mary Simon, Governor General and Commander-in-Chief of Canada, for their roles in the March 2, 2021 high seas emergency aboard the *Atlantic Destiny*. The Star of Courage recognizes acts of conspicuous courage in circumstances of great peril. The Meritorious Service Cross recognizes a military deed performed in an outstandingly professional

manner that brings considerable benefit or great honour to the Canadian Forces.

The men's Bravery Decoration and Meritorious Service Decoration (Military Division) citations include commendation for "selfless courage," "extraordinary leadership and actions," "commitment and professionalism" and "steadfastness."

While Bianco and Nisbet were eating cookies, their crewmates – Appolloni, Finn

and Domonkos – were labouring aboard their CH149 Cormorant helicopter. With six *Atlantic Destiny* crew aboard in the first hoist, a flight control hydraulic malfunction ended everything.

"We'd been pushing the limits already: the boat was moving, the hoisting wasn't fast enough, everything was up and down on the waves, the basket was swinging away from the flight deck and we could hear Dan back there struggling on

the hoist," says Appolloni. "We could smell hydraulic fluid the whole time – from the ship? From us? Was it a smell, or a fire? On the ship, or us?"

Appolloni made the call to get the Cormorant to shore with his crew and the six rescued fishermen they had; "direct into headwinds all the way. I was watching the GPS to Yarmouth: '59 minutes,' then '62 minutes....'"

Continued on page 2...



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## 'Bold action'...

...cover

“I was worried, yes.”

Aboard the *Atlantic Destiny*, Nisbet managed the movement of 27 crew from the galley to a rotation of rescue helicopters arriving after their own Cormorant retreated, while Bianco supervised the hoisting operations. When the cables of the last hoist on the last helicopter snapped attempting to retrieve the final four crew and the two SAR-Techs, “we knew it was the end of airlift for a couple hours,” Nisbet says.

“We talked to the captain: ‘You’re in charge, here’s what we’re thinking – how long before there’s a tough decision?’”

They dropped two life rafts over the side of the *Atlantic Destiny*, preparing for “best options.” Bianco says. Within the hour, the captain of the ship called it, and the last aboard, including the SAR-Techs, were evacuating to the arriving Canadian Coast Guard Vessel Cape Roger.

Looking back, Appolloni says there was never a commitment for rescue crews to engage, even from the first distress call.

“We got the call; we went to take a look. We knew we were the only hope they’d have tonight once we got there. We had a lot of input from every

person on the crew to make the decision and Brad said, ‘Well, we get on the hook.’”

Their crew’s first step mobilized the call into a full-blown, international, multi-platform rescue mission.

“Our training has us process one thing at a time,” says Finn. “It’s about having a plan. Having a back-up plan. Having a contingency. That’s usually enough to keep the fear at bay.”

Bianco says “getting on the boat” for the first time from his dangling cable hoist was the hardest part – “there’s no control over what I can do on the hook.

“But there was no chance I wasn’t going.”

Nisbet agrees.

“We knew our crew and our leadership and our squadron – everyone was going to move heaven and earth we’d be looked after. You could be worried about taking a bold action, but the whole squadron has your back. That was on display that night, layering in the resources - from the JRCC to every office in the squadron busy to fuel trucks on the airfields to people keeping our own loved ones in the loop to the Cape Roger that rescued us.

“Being a part of that is a positive thing.” ➔

## Fire, wing, high seas rescue an international ‘layering’ of resources

At 9 p.m. March 2, 2021, the Halifax Joint Rescue Coordination Centre (JRCC) received a distress call from the 43-metre *Atlantic Destiny*, a fishing vessel 240 kilometres south of Yarmouth. On fire and taking on water, it was awash in freezing spray and six- to nine-metre waves, with 40- to 60-knot wind gusts. Thirty-one crew were aboard.

A CH149 Cormorant (Rescue 907, 9:48 p.m.) and CC130 Hercules (Rescue 343, 9:21 p.m.) were dispatched from 413 (Transport and Rescue) Squadron at 14 Wing Greenwood. JRCC requested assistance from any U.S. Coast Guard assets in the area and the Lahave, a fishing vessel, was also standing by.

Rescue 343 located the *Atlantic Destiny*, which had lost all power and steering control. A backup generator provided emergency power for radios. The ship’s crew had extinguished one fire in the engine room, but smoke was still visible from a second location. Rescue 343’s crew succeeded on a second attempt at dropping a dewatering pump to help keep the ship afloat. Rescue 907 (with Bianco, Nisbet, Appolloni, Domonkos and Finn) arrived just after midnight and began hoist operations in treacherous conditions.

The first SAR-Tech lowered to the ship had to be hoisted back after slamming into the ship’s railing. After determining he was OK, he was re-lowered to the ship and secured a guide line, helping the second SAR-Tech and a rescue basket reach the deck. On the first attempt to rescue two crew members, the hoist cable became entangled in the ship’s rigging and frayed.

Rescue 907’s flight engineer switched to the second hoist cable and brought the first two *Atlantic Destiny* crew members on board the helicopter. R907 made two more extractions for a total of six crew members before a serious flight control hydraulic malfunction forced the helicopter into a “land as soon as possible” emergency.

By now, one of two U.S. Coast Guard (USCG) MH-60 Jayhawk helicopters (CG6032) and an HC144 “Ocean Sentry” aircraft (CG2313) had arrived on scene. CG6032 took over hoisting, while the Rescue 907 headed to Yarmouth. The second USCG helicopter (CG6039), still en route, diverted to escort them back to land in case it had to ditch in the ocean. With the arrival of the HC144, Rescue 343 also turned to

*With files from the November 2022 Leonardo presentation of the Cormorant Trophy Award to the Royal Canadian Air Force and U.S. Coast Guard for the rescue of 31 crew from the Atlantic Destiny.*

escort Rescue 907 back to base. Rescue 907’s crew jumped on Rescue 343 and returned to the scene, providing guidance to the USCG helicopters.

CG6032 lowered a second pump to the *Atlantic Destiny* and, with the aid of the SAR-Techs still on the ship, was able to hoist eight more crew. During the rescues, three of CG6032’s four guide lines were broken or torn out of the hands of SAR-Techs. At the end of its on-scene fuel, CG6032 left to refuel in Yarmouth with six rescued crewmembers as CG6039 arrived.

CG6039 lowered a third pump and continued with multiple basket hoists of 13 crew, before hitting minimum fuel levels. Escorted by Rescue 343, CG6039 headed for Yarmouth, leaving four crewmembers and the two SAR-Techs on board. When CG6039 landed in Yarmouth, authorities said they had exhausted their supply of jet fuel so the two USCG helicopters were unable to return to the scene. They had successfully hoisted 21 *Atlantic Destiny* crew.

A second 413 Squadron CH149 (Rescue 904, 4:29 a.m. March 3) was escorted to the rescue scene by Rescue 343, which resumed overhead coordination. Rescue 904 commenced hoisting the remaining crew, but the first hoist cable snagged on the ship and snapped. Rescue 904 switched to its second hoist cable and lowered the rescue basket to the deck and was lifting two crew members when the ship hit a large wave. The loaded basket slammed into a rail with enough force to snap the second hoist cable. Unable to recover any crew, Rescue 904 dropped additional supplies to the ship and departed, while Rescue 343 remained overhead. The Canadian Coast Guard (CCGC) Vessel Cape Roger was 30 minutes away.

As it became clear the *Atlantic Destiny* would have to be abandoned, the two SAR-Techs directed remaining crew to launch life rafts. CCGC Cape Roger arrived and launched a rescue craft to recover the remaining four crew and two SAR-Techs who, by 8 a.m., were able to evacuate the ship using guide lines and rescue slings. The *Atlantic Destiny* sank just two hours later, at 10:36 a.m.

## In-field ex chance to work out the tech quirks, glitches, challenges

Sara White,  
Managing editor

Day one: two teams from 14 Operations Support Squadron’s Communications and Information Systems Flight pack up cables, generators, tents and tables, antennae, tools and lunch. Both head out, one to the Granville range; the other to the backwoods of 5th Canadian Division Support Base Detachment Aldershot. How soon can they be talking to each other over a complex network of military communications? Day two: repeat, but switch locations.



**Aviator Brandon Haines works on the power and connections of a radio tower October 2, during an in-field Exercise Mercury Tread challenge at 5th Canadian Division Support Base Detachment Aldershot.**

S. White

Exercise Mercury Tread, this year October 1 and 2, is an annual way for CIs Flight to get everything into play, running untrained and newly-qualified aerospace telecommunications and information systems technicians (ATIS techs) through the basics of their trade. The two-day, in-field test is a good warm-up for the larger end-October international Noble Skyway challenge.

“The entire purpose of these two days is just to familiarize the trainees and the lower ranks with deploying, setting up and properly setting up the equipment,” says Sergeant Daniel Davidson, “so it’s not a foreign concept when they do deploy, potentially on short notice.”

ATIS techs could be out the door on exercises or deployments “all the time,” Davidson says, required to set up anything from a command post or an office, indoors or in the field, on base or around the world; with drastically different requirements.

“The goal of Mercury Tread is to just get the techs used to the kit and the different

means of communications. Sometimes it doesn’t always work – there are usually technical glitches and quirks with the equipment: you make do and do what you can. And, that’s when you have the more senior techs mentor everyone through it.

“The end result would be establishing a comms cell, but it’s the process and the principles we’re looking for here - and how to overcome challenges.” ➔

**Aviator Brandon Haines, left, and Aviator Xavier Champigny walk their way down the length of a 38-foot whip antenna during the set-up of an in-field comms hub October 2 at 5th Canadian Division Support Base Detachment Aldershot.**

S. White



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# 'Why didn't I do this decades ago?'

## Years, small steps and 'non-events' help Backhouse become her authentic self

Sara White,  
Managing editor

Moving through age, a career, family life, hobbies and personal development, Major Michelle Backhouse always “aimed for the middle. Just get through. Step up, plateau and find a comfort level and be happy with that for a while. Stepping out, then retreating very quickly. Then, step up. “It’s been a lot of time and energy. “Years.”

From nine years old, then later as a teen, with no one home on the Alberta family farm, putting on her sister’s barn clothes to do chores “so the pigs would see me as a girl.” Moving away from home and just taking a short walk around her new block in women’s clothes, or experiencing “a small snippet” of what it’s like to walk through a mall as a woman. “I wasn’t part of any ‘scene,’ I couldn’t find the ‘community.’ I was just an individual.” Seeing an article while on a German farm exchange about three young women getting their Grade 12 while working at Lufthansa, and being inspired to join the Royal Canadian Air Force in 1989; and her parents asking, in a roundabout way, “how are you going to handle it?”

Sharing in early marriage days with her wife she was a cross-dresser – “my truth then. I wish I could have known, and talked then about my whole truth.” Searching the internet and starting a personal blog of her experiences and thoughts, something “real and truthful.” In the more recent years of her career, bringing a change of women’s clothes for night shifts, when everyone had left for the day. Finally, in 2019,



Now-Major Michelle Backhouse, in 1990 at the end of French language training.

the first time 14 Wing Greenwood raised the pride flag. “I’d asked a friend, ‘should I make an announcement?’ She said, ‘No, just show up.’ I wore 3Bs and a sweater and, that Monday morning, I took over the duty desk as ‘Michelle.’ It was the biggest ‘non-event’ I’d ever experienced.

“You grow up thinking you’re going to be judged – everyone does. It took me a long time to come to grips with who I was.

“Why didn’t I do this decades ago?”

In the workplace, Backhouse feminized her daily use name to “Michelle,” from her middle name, “Michael;” and it’s been over three years since she last expressed herself as a male in or around the workplace. She moved from Wing Operations to become the wing’s professional conduct and culture officer. She went out to help the women’s



Age is no barrier, as Major Michelle Backhouse determined for herself last hockey season – picking up hockey just before her 62nd birthday. For her – and anyone, too - neither is gender identity or expression. Backhouse has spent many years determining her own authentic “wholeness.”

soccer team two seasons ago and they said, “we don’t need help, we need players!” They asked what Backhouse was doing that winter, as the women’s base hockey team got back on the ice, and she gave it a shot – never having played hockey before.

“That was nine days before my 62nd birthday,” Backhouse says. “Age is no barrier – and neither is gender identity or expression. I don’t cave to peer pressure—I never

will be? It’s all anyone can hope for. You can be yourself, your authentic self, and people will accept you.”

Backhouse is also well aware, while she started her military career under CFAO 19-20 (Canadian Forces Administrative Orders 19-20 Homosexuality – Sexual Abnormality Investigation, Medical Examination and Disposal), spent 26 years of her military career as a male, is now a major and spent years working alongside military peers who are now in higher command positions: “that’s privilege.

“I can use that to make things better for those following. I know how I worried; how I stressed. Transition is completely different for every single person: how they live their lives, or propose to live their lives. There are no timelines and no checklists.”

Now, Backhouse values visibility, sharing her story and experiences, and helping educate military peers on “who is standing in front of you. That’s who they are.

“This is a bold step for me. I never thought it was something I’d ever be doing, but we want people to be open and we want CAF leaders to know about their people. It’s the first CAF ethical principal: respect the dignity of all people.”

She admits to her own regrets, missed opportunities and that “chunk of my life I’ve believed I had to live to expectations. But – you can’t linger. I’m switching it up: how can I be the change and lead by example?”

“You can have all the acceptance around you but, until you actually accept yourself, you’re not free. “That applies to anything.”



Major Michelle Backhouse is a big proponent of accepting yourself as you are. Currently the Royal Canadian Air Force culture evolution coordinator at 14 Wing Greenwood, she’s spent much of her own life and RCAF career trying to appreciate, learn and grow with that perspective.

home, and I’m not ashamed of my masculine side. I do that for my wife, and I am still that person; but I can be gardening in male khaki pants and a hat, and still be a transgender woman with a bigender aspect. We all change through our lives – our likes, our dislikes, our interests. My life has evolved, and I understand and express more of who I am. While I had no choice being born this way, I have chosen to be the best version of me I can be.

“I can appreciate how difficult this is for people to understand. It’s taken me decades to fully appreciate. And, as time goes on, who knows what the next plateau

of trans people. Transgender folk are no different than cisgender folk (those whose sense of self is in alignment with their sex assigned at birth), and are just trying to live happy lives as their authentic selves.

If you are unsure what all of this means, Canadian Armed Forces members may engage a Positive Space ambassador to speak with themselves or their unit, or join the Positive Space program. Visit the websites for Pflag Canada or Egale Canada, both with abundant resources to broaden knowledge and understanding, and with information on how to become an ally.

# Cross-Canada bike adventure 'makes you want to do more!'

Sara White,  
Managing editor

Chris Wallis says there a “few things he’d change” about his cross-Canada adventure this summer, but it wouldn’t be the experiences of a helicopter flight over the Salmon Glacier near Stewart, British Columbia; the escort along smoke-covered highways to Dawson City; ridge-riding in the crosswinds of the Top of the World Highway along the border with Alaska; or meeting up with friends – old and new – all along the way.

Wallis, 62, retired in January from the Royal Canadian Air Force at 14 Wing Greenwood. He set in motion a grand plan, seeded during early COVID-19 days watching adventure travelers’ online journals and inspired by his 2021 diagnosis – and successful treatment – of Hair Cell Leukemia. He got his motorcycle license, bought some camping gear, and plotted a 23,500-kilometre, two-month total route from Peggy’s Cove to Tofino, B.C., to the Arctic Ocean in Tuktoyaktuk – and back. He lined up visits with

military and other friends all along the way. “I’m proud of myself I’ve done it,” Wallis says. “I was always watching videos and, whatever you’ve done, someone’s done something better. It makes you want to do more!”

Wallis planned to “stay within my skill level,” and hit the road June 1 on his Honda CRF300L intending to be flexible along the way. “If someone would say, ‘You have to go here,’ I wanted to do that – and I did a few times.”

Wallis, a British-born immigrant in 2002 and later Canadian citizen, was surprised with New Brunswick, which he called “really nice” – despite lots of less-travelled roadways, poor phone connections for mapping, and losing his glasses, spotting them on the road where he’d stopped on a hill to try and search directions a moment too late: the first car he’d seen in ages came along and “ran right over them.”

He drove through four days of rain in Quebec. If you want an idea of what “two-and-a-half days just getting across the Prairies looks like, just hit

pause on any of the video” from those days’ YouTube filings. (“And then I had to come back!”) Turning north in B.C., Wallis met a couple guys from Edmonton on bikes, and a woman from Japan who’d flown to Canada, bought her bike and set out on her own adventure.

“I met all kinds of people doing all kinds of different things – Europeans, a couple driving from Alaska to California...,” Wallis says.

Dawson City to Tuktoyaktuk covered 2,000 kilometres of gravel highway, and dipping his hand in the Arctic Ocean on a windy, wavy day from a rocky northern coastline isn’t the milestone video he’d likely envisioned. He fought wind from Dawson City to Alaska, and was over the border and back in a day. En route to Whitehorse, he was forced to a delay, and a cat with anxiety issues that *really* missed him and needed a 10-day course of medication.

“Newfoundland – that will have to be next year. “The whole trip was awesome. There was so much I hadn’t seen before, and so much I want to go back and do again. I’m also seeing things I want to do... the shortest route through the Lower 48 (states); and Nova Scotia! I haven’t really even done that! Cape Breton, the South Shore.... I’ll hopefully get a few more trips out this fall to

Aylesford by August 2. He didn’t make it to Newfoundland and Labrador, despite “take two” and then “take three” attempts: he ran into medical appointments, a wonky bike issue in Windsor on his first re-start that forced a delay, and a cat with anxiety issues that *really* missed him and needed a 10-day course of medication.

“Newfoundland – that will have to be next year. “The whole trip was awesome. There was so much I hadn’t seen before, and so much I want to go back and do again. I’m also seeing things I want to do... the shortest route through the Lower 48 (states); and Nova Scotia! I haven’t really even done that! Cape Breton, the South Shore.... I’ll hopefully get a few more trips out this fall to

Victoria, and then east through the Icefield Parkway – “absolutely beautiful – it would be nice to be a passenger on that route! I camped 150 feet from a glacial river, just gorgeous.” He met the fellows from Edmonton, and then came back across the Prairies (“...the Prairies...,” he sighs). When he hit the Niagara region in Ontario, he realized he’d have to “foot it” to be back home in



Corporal (retired) Chris Wallis in the North: crossing the Arctic Circle on one distance point of a summer 23,500-kilometre biking challenge.

Submitted

Up Chris,” or Instagram @gid-

dyupchris. If his online presence attracts enough views and is monetized, he’ll donate the proceeds to the Leukemia and Lymphoma Society of Canada. He did collect almost \$4,000 on the road. If you’d like to make a direct donation, find him on the LLSC “Light the Night” campaign page (lightthenight.ca) under the Halifax event. ➔

Submitted

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Have a coffee and a snack & meet other Veterans | **Euchre** – 7pm  
**Thursdays – Thursday Night Darts** – 7pm | **Thursday Nights Crib** – 7pm  
**Fridays – Friday Night Darts** – 7pm  
**Foot Clinic Care** – Call Heather at 902-300-3559 to book an appt.  
**OP Vet Build** – takes place on the 2nd and 3rd Fridays of the Month – 9am  
If you have any questions or you are interested in participating, please send a message or an RSVP to: rcl98.opvetbuild@gmail.com  
**KASA** (Kingston Area Seniors Association) **Fun Days** – Every 2nd and 4th Friday afternoon of the month in the Lounge – Come out and enjoy games, cards, friendly talk and light refreshments – Guests – \$2 drop-in fee.

### UPCOMING EVENTS

**No Saturday Morning Community Breakfasts** for Nov. or Dec.  
**Kingston Legion’s 2nd Annual Holiday Craft Show** – Saturday, Nov.23rd, 10am-4pm  
**Comedian Tina Randall** will be performing again at the Legion – Nov.28th. Tickets are now available at the bar for \$25 per person. (Bar opens at Noon), Open to all.  
**Dance** – Nov.30th – Jokers Right – 8-Midnight. \$10 per person. All Welcome.  
**NYE Dance** – Dec.31st – DJ High Energy – Tickets will be available late Nov. or early Dec.

Support the Kingston Legion by buying 50/50 tickets on-line at: [rafflebox.ca/raffle/rclns](http://rafflebox.ca/raffle/rclns)  
Remember to select in support of: Kingston Br.98

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## November 20 opportunity to remember victims of transphobia

Designated dates in November recognize over 46 different social causes, medical or mental health awareness campaigns and even foods (November is Banana Pudding Lover’s month).

Most of us recognize November as the month of remembrance, including the poppy campaign, traditionally from the last Friday in October to November 11; the November 5 to 11 Veterans Week, November 8 as Indigenous Veterans Day and November 11 as Remembrance Day itself.

There is another week of awareness and remembrance: November 13 to 19 is Transgender Awareness Week.

November 20 is the Transgender Day of Remembrance. While these dates may not be as well known, they are still important.

Transgender Awareness Week is a time to learn and truly understanding the needs and challenges of our trans and gender diverse colleagues. It’s not a time of parties and celebrations. The Transgender Day of Remembrance began as a candlelight vigil to honour Rita Hester, a trans woman killed in 1998. Sadly, her murder has not been solved. Now, November 20 stands as a day to recognize victims of violence driven by transphobia, an irrational fear or hatred

of trans people. Transgender folk are no different than cisgender folk (those whose sense of self is in alignment with their sex assigned at birth), and are just trying to live happy lives as their authentic selves.

If you are unsure what all of this means, Canadian Armed Forces members may engage a Positive Space ambassador to speak with themselves or their unit, or join the Positive Space program. Visit the websites for Pflag Canada or Egale Canada, both with abundant resources to broaden knowledge and understanding, and with information on how to become an ally.



Road friends Hiromi, from Japan, and Anthony and Mark, from Edmonton; camped with Corporal (retired) Chris Wallis in Inuvik. The group met along the Dempster Highway heading north, and were able to share their day’s adventures at several evening campsite meet-ups.

Submitted

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**Kings Mutual Century Centre, Berwick**

**Regular season home games**  
**November 29 vs Truro | 7 pm**  
**December 13 vs Amherst | 7 pm**  
**December 14 vs Summerside | 7 pm**  
**December 21 vs Pictou County | 7 pm**

**#DefendTheDome | #VCATS**





14 Wing parents and guardians brought several dozen newcomers to work November 7, joining a wing-coordinated tour of workspaces and experiences to pack a Take Our Kids to Work Day schedule.

Corporal L. Broly, 14 Wing Imaging

## Student tour highlights wing work, team work

Acting Sub Lieutenant  
Taylor Rhuland

14 Wing Greenwood hosted its annual Take Our Kids to Work Day November 7, welcoming approximately 40 Grade 9 students from across the region. The event gave youth a unique look at life on

a military base, showcasing the teamwork that drives 14 Wing operations. Parents and guardians who work at 14 Wing were excited to show students not only their own workplaces, but also those of their colleagues.

The day began at 8 a.m. with a warm welcome from

the command team. Colonel Luc Vachon expressed his hope the students would find inspiration in seeing how various teams work together to achieve their goals.

The first stop was 14 Wing's fire hall to learn about a number of specialized emergency response services. Students

explored a static display of fire trucks, a police cruiser and the base ambulance; and had the opportunity to speak with firefighters, Military Police officers and medics, gaining insight into the essential emergency, law enforcement and medical services on the base.

Next, the group visited 413 (Transport and Rescue) Squadron, touring the squadron's aircraft and learning about the different roles that keep the squadron running smoothly. Students interacted with maintenance personnel, flight operators and others involved in the squadron's work.

At the top of the aircraft control tower, students saw firsthand how air traffic operations are managed and how airspace is kept safe. Control tower staff emphasized the precision and teamwork required in aviation.

After a busy morning, students and their guardians enjoyed a well-deserved break with Individual Meal Packs (IMPs), warmed up by the Replenishment cell at the

Annapolis Mess.

Some of the highlights identified by students was the wide range of military trades available, and how they all collaborate to keep the base running. The experience also provided students with the opportunity to spend a day away from the classroom with their families and guardians.

Master Corporal Glen Barnes, this year's tour organizer, expressed his gratitude to everyone who contributed to tour stops and presentations, noting the day marked one of the first large-scale Take Our Kids to Work Day events held on the wing since the COVID-19 pandemic. It was a day full of learning, exploration, new connections and, of course, smiles. ➔

## Veteran, family suicide support and resources now available

With the risk of suicide for veterans 1.4 to 1.9 times higher than in the general population, and women veterans almost two times more likely to die by suicide than women in the general population, veterans and families have long identified suicide prevention as a priority and emphasize the need for additional supports for mental health and well-being.

The Atlas Institute for Veterans and Families has developed a suite of suicide prevention resources, in collaboration with veterans and family members, and in partnership with the Centre for Suicide Prevention. Resources are available at [atlasveterans.ca/suicide-prevention](https://atlasveterans.ca/suicide-prevention)

"Veterans, veteran families and communities all have a role to play in building resilience and preventing

veteran suicide," says Mara Grunau, executive director of the Centre for Suicide Prevention. "If you're worried about a veteran, have an open, non-judgmental conversation. If they're considering suicide, connect them to help."

The Atlas Institute for Veterans and Families works with veterans, families, service providers and researchers to bridge the divide between research and practice, so veterans and their families can get the best possible mental health care and supports. Atlas was originally established as the Centre of Excellence on PTSD and Related Mental Health Conditions, through the Minister of Veterans Affairs' November 2015 mandate letter, with funding and budget announced in the March 2017 federal budget. ➔



## Mid-life Cormorant production underway

The Cormorant Mid-Life Upgrade (CMLU) project, approved in 2019, has reached a milestone, as production started in August on the first AW101-615 variant airframe. These aircraft will upgrade the Royal Canadian Air Force's primary rotary wing search and rescue CH149 Cormorant fleet.

The CH149 Cormorant fleet has provided reliable and crucial service since 2001, but requires upgrades to remain operationally effective. Key improvements - to become the most advanced version of the helicopter - include avionics systems, communication tools and aircraft performance through new engines; and acquiring additional airframes and parts to increase the fleet

size from 13 to 16 aircraft. This project will extend the estimated life expectancy of the CH149 Cormorant to at least 2042, address obsolescence issues, and ensure compliance with emerging regulations.

Production and modifications are being done in the United Kingdom for the first three CMLU aircraft. The remaining 13 aircraft will be produced in Halifax. The upgraded helicopters are expected to be operational in early 2027, with delivery in 2029 and fleet lifespan extension to 2042. CAE will provide a domestic flight simulator, and aircrews will no longer need to travel to the United Kingdom to train.

For information, visit [canada.ca/.../cormorant-mid-life-upgrade.html](https://canada.ca/.../cormorant-mid-life-upgrade.html) ➔



### ~ Obituary ~

**PRIEST, Aileen Patricia (Gaudet),**  
Greenwood, NS

Aileen Patricia (Gaudet) Priest beloved wife, mother, and friend, passed away on October 25, 2024 at the age of 77. Born on July 17, 1947, Aileen was a beacon of love and kindness, leaving an indelible mark on all who knew her.



Aileen worked as a stenographer in Toronto, Ontario for two years before marrying and becoming a devoted stay-at-home mother. She poured her heart into nurturing her children and embracing her role as a loving wife to her husband, Harvey Priest. Aileen's compassion extended beyond her family.

She was very active in her church, serving in the Relief Society, Young Women's and Primary organizations, teaching Seminary for 14 years, serving as a temple worker for over 20 years and an assistant to the Halifax Temple Matron for three years. She also served three missions; Jacksonville, Florida, Bay Roberts, NL and Halifax, NS. Her faith was a guiding light in her life.

An avid reader, Aileen devoured over 2,000 books throughout her life. You could often find her nestled in her favorite chair, lost in a novel or unwinding with a heartwarming Hallmark movie, savoring moments of relaxation.

Aileen was predeceased by her parents, John and Eileen, her sister, Noreen Gaudet, brother in law David Weighill and her son, Jason Priest. She is survived by her loving husband, Harvey, daughters Jennie Priest, and Jeana Hunt (Patrick), her sisters Marilyn Weighill, Elizabeth (Bob) Goddard, brother in law Len Gaudet and her brother Allan Gaudet as well as numerous extended family and friends.

A celebration of life took place on November 2, 2024. She was cremated and her ashes will be buried at a later date. In lieu of flowers, the family kindly requests donations be made to the Valley Hospice Foundation. The family would like to express their deepest thanks to the doctors, nurses and staff at Valley Hospice for providing amazing care and compassion, ensuring Aileen's final days were filled with dignity and love.

Aileen will be deeply missed but fondly remembered for her love, wisdom, and the countless lives she touched throughout her journey.



## Festival of trees Ticket auction

**Greenwood Mall**

**December 7 | 11 a.m. to 3 p.m.**

Public viewing and ticket sales  
Tickets 10 for \$5

14 Wing Greenwood squadrons, business and community partners will decorate trees with prizes and certificates **PLUS** hourly prize draws.

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## Staggering statistics

We are always told about the importance of recycling, and here are some eye-opening statistics. How long do everyday items take to decompose?

- CDs/ DVDs: around 1 million years (yes, you read that right)
- Disposable diapers: 500 years
- Fishing line: 600 years
- Plastic bags: 20 to 500 years, depending on material and structure
- Plastic bottles: 450 years
- Soda/ beer can rings: 400 years
- Styrofoam: never completely
- Batteries: 100 years (but can be taken to Valley Waste for free!)
- Rubber boots/ leather shoes: 40 to 80 years

- Hairspray cans/ metal drink containers: 500 years
- Aluminum foil/ pans: 400 years
- Glass: never fully decomposes; it will break into smaller pieces, but is never completely gone
- Lightbulbs: can sit for centuries and not decompose
- Metals: can take decades, but are easily recyclable
- Pressure treated wood: decades
- Nails/ screws/ hardware: up to 40 years
- Menstrual pads: up to 800 years
- Terracotta pots: hundreds of years
- Baby/ makeup wipes: 100 years
- Cigarette butts: up to 12 years

These stats may give you a better understanding of why we are constantly giving information on proper waste sorting and recycling, and why it is so important to do our best to put our waste in its proper place (or not buy things that generate waste at all) so the things that can be recycled get recycled. This is also the reason everyday items keep getting added to the list of things not to send to the dump: we can send them to recycling depots instead.

How about the fact recycling

one ton of glass can save about 2,000 gallons of oil, 1,500 pounds of coal and 100 cubic yards of landfill space? Millions of pounds of waste are prevented from going to the landfill just by recycling glass. One million plastic bottles are purchased around the world every minute and are scattered in every corner of our planet. These staggering statistics are the reason we can't stop talking about the importance of composting, recycling, reusing and reducing. ➔





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## Museum society's AGM records banner year

Malcolm Uhlman,  
Greenwood Military Aviation Museum Society

The Greenwood Military Aviation Museum Society held its annual meeting October 29 in the society boardroom and library.

The society is responsible for the forward direction of this vital local and nationally important historical operation. Officers and directors, all of whom were returned and elected by acclamation, include chairman – Ian Patrick, president/ CEO – Brian Handley, vice-president – Perry Matte, secretary – Bert Campbell, treasurer- Doug Butt and directors Joan Patrick, Bob Lorencz and Malcolm Uhlman.

Patrick complemented volunteers for a successful year, as the society slowly rebounds from COVID-19 pandemic years. The society's FlightEd program continued to instruct Grade 6 students in their flight education curriculum, with the 10,000th student going through the program since it started.

The most prominent restoration project was the repainting of the Dakota aircraft, now displayed in the Air Park, by 14 Air Maintenance Squadron. Taken as an RCAF100 celebration challenge, members worked for a year to bring this beauty back to pristine condition. Thank you to all involved!

Museum volunteers hosted another Wings and Wheels event in July, celebrating the 100th anniversary of the RCAF with assistance from many 14 Wing personnel. Many thanks to them! The show displayed more than 200 antique vehicles, enjoyed by hundreds of visitors. All display aircraft in the Air Park were open for visitor tours, given by museum volunteers, making the day's event most enjoyable.

Many changes and streamlining of museum interior displays have been accomplished. Most noticeable is the ongoing LED lighting update, making displays more viewer-friendly. In the workshop, restoration projects continue on the Bolingbroke, Expeditor and Link Trainer.

New museum signage on the 101 Highway and routes through Kingston and Greenwood have helped visitors find the museum. Numbers have reflected this, showing a banner year, with attendance nearing 23,000. The initiation of free summer tours of the museum and Air Park have proved popular.

In the Air Park, the Lancaster is looking sharper, with crazed/ cracked cockpit windows replaced with new Plexiglass. An unexpected benefactor has donated several authentic radio pieces for the refurbishment of the cockpit. This is in addition to radio donations from the local radio club.

Patrick's closing remarks echoed any and all organizations' welcoming of new volunteer members, with fresh ideas and perspectives. Those with an interest may approach any of the museum members, or drop into the Greenwood Military Aviation Museum. Good luck, everyone, in the coming new year! ➔



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## Appreciation event all about welcoming, thanking health care providers

Sara White,  
Managing editor

A healthy year of achievement was recognized November 2, as the Mid Valley Region Physician Recruitment and Retention Committee hosted its annual appreciation event – and formally welcomed four new doctors, one resident physician and a new dentist to roles here in the community.

14 Wing Greenwood's Annapolis Mess provided the venue for food, social time, entertainment and welcoming remarks and gifts. The wing is an active part of the recruitment and retention committee, as military families depend on community medical care while their serving member is posted to 14 Wing.

Wing commander Colonel Luc Vachon described Greenwood – and nearby Valley communities where wing personnel make their homes, as "special," in his welcoming remarks. He described the operational work of the wing's units and personnel, but how the community also plays a supporting part.

"This is my fifth time in Greenwood – the Valley is 'home' for me, I met my wife here and we have family here, and we want to retire here," Vachon said. "We've been a

lot of places around Canada, but this is the best place, with a different culture that is home to us. I wanted to come today to say 'welcome' to all of you."

Committee chair Don Hyslop introduced Dr. Yasmin Sadri and Dr. Luma Al-Ameri from Iraq, Dr. Thomas May-erhofer from Germany via Ontario, Dr. Nima Fomani from Iran and Dr. Segun Odebo. Dentist Dr. Osar-eniye Osayande is the spouse of previously recruited Dr. Omorede Osayande, and is the first dentist recruited by the committee. All were presented with lovely baskets, including the now-traditional handmade welcome quilt, made and donated by local quilters with the Gathering Stitches group.

Hyslop said the committee's work – and success, welcoming 10 new physicians, eight residents and increasing appreciation for all health practitioners in the community – over the past four years would not be possible without the support of local organization and business partners, and recruiter support from Nova Scotia Health. The committee, in turn, has helped raise awareness of and partnered with the work of Middleton's Soldiers Memorial Hospital and the

hospital foundation. Welcoming events, community visits and family activities, workplace appreciation lunches and treats and more are all making a difference.

Al-Ameri accepted his basket, and then thanked the committee, his new co-workers and their families present, and community supporters for his welcome to the Mid Valley region.

"I was really amazed by the organization of the recruitment committee here, and it has been a dream for me to again be in the Valley. I did one earlier placement here, 26 weeks, and, after, I'd go anywhere else and say, 'I'm from the Valley!' I am very blessed to be here." ➔



Children of a number of the more recently-recruited physicians were a big part of the Mid Valley Region Physician Recruitment and Retention Committee's November 2 appreciation event at 14 Wing Greenwood, playing the piano and singing 'O Canada,' welcoming all with French comments, and presenting a number of readings. Committee chairman Don Hyslop and vice-chair Anne Crowell had thank-yous ready to acknowledge their contributions to the afternoon.

S. White



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## Maritime patrol aviators, past and present, carry ‘crucial’ work into future missions

**Captain Emma Murphy, 415 (Long Range Patrol Force Development) Squadron**

A cloudy sky hung over attendees of the VP International memorial service October 4, lending a solemn atmosphere to a ceremony honouring maritime patrol aircrew from around the world who have lost their lives in the line of duty. The event took place at the VPI monument, located by the 14 Wing Greenwood main gate. Designated in 1993,

the monument stands as a constant tribute. VPI patron, 14 Wing Commander Colonel Luc Vachon, emphasized the ceremony's significance.

“Whether we are flying over the desert or over the water, we must not forget our roots and the brave VP aviators who came before us and who sacrificed so much.”

Vachon connected the past to the future, highlighting the ongoing importance of long-range patrol missions, as demonstrated by the numerous operations and exercises



Corporal M. Vandenbroek, 14 Wing Imaging

the fleet has participated in over the past year.

“VP crews from around the world continue to perform crucial surveillance missions, which remain largely out of the public eye, that protect the sovereignty of our territory and that of our allies and

that contribute to regional and global security.”

The memorial also brings together members of VPI from various nations. Established by three countries in 1966 to recognize P-2V Neptune aircrew who had logged over 2,000 flight hours on the aircraft, the association has grown to unite 6,000 members from 23 countries in “goodwill and fellowship.”

A focal point of the ceremony was the rededication of the Book of Remembrance, which memorializes the names of nearly 1,900 maritime patrol aircrew from 13 countries who have perished since 1942. During its rededication, Vachon called upon members to uphold the commitment made in 1997, “to guard it reverently and update it promptly.”

This responsibility was accepted on behalf of VPI by VPI headquarters president Lieutenant-Colonel Keith Fugger, who reaffirmed VPI’s pledge to honour those who have passed.

As the book was brought forth, the sun broke through the clouds, shining brightly – a final salute from our fallen comrades, forever remembered. ➔



**Photos with Santa**  
**Friday 1-4 pm & 6-8 pm**  
(Friday evenings starting November 29)  
**Saturday & Sunday 1-4 pm**



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## The power of belonging: caring for yourself and others

In workplaces, communities and personal circles, fostering a sense of belonging creates a foundation for psychological safety, empathy and engagement - which contributes to mental and emotional well-being.

A sense of belonging goes beyond merely being part of a community or group. It means being heard, appreciated and accepted for who you are. A sense of belonging fosters unity, trust and collaboration among team members. It enhances morale, mental well-being and resilience; enabling individuals to overcome challenges more effectively. Belonging also encourages open communication and mutual respect, vital in high-stakes environments. In the Canadian Armed Forces, leaders are responsible for fostering this sense of belonging.

### Why belonging matters

- Helps individuals navigate life's challenges
- Acts as a protective factor against isolation, loneliness and alienation. Loneliness and isolation worsen physical and mental health

### STRENGTHENING THE ENERGISER LES FORCES

- Enhances confidence and self-worth
- Encourages open communication, creates opportunities to discuss challenges, and promotes effective teamwork
- Facilitates asking for support without fear of judgment
- Increases innovation and problem-solving capabilities

long to different identity groups simultaneously, e.g., being a man, a black man, a black bi-sexual man. Respect others' authentic selves!

- Be a supportive ally; use your strengths to advocate for others

environment that promotes equality, respect and fairness

Remember, enhancing a sense of belonging is a process, and individual experiences may vary. A strong sense of belonging improves health and work connections and contributes to a happy and lively work atmosphere, where individuals feel valued beyond their roles and responsibilities. ➔

*Bahareh Samsamiardekani, B.Sc., M.Ed., M.HPE is part of the Strengthening the Forces team and works on promoting social wellness. Strengthening the Forces is the CAF/ DND's health promotion program providing expert information, guidance, training, tools, and leadership support to improve CAF members' health and well-being.*



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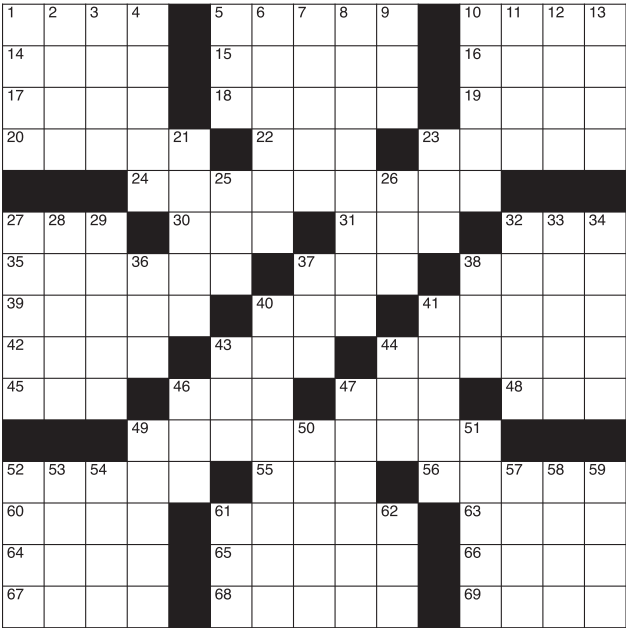




The Aurora publishes items of interest to the community submitted by not-for-profit organizations. Submissions are limited to approximately 25 words. Items may be submitted to our office, 61 School Road (Morfee Annex), 14 Wing Greenwood; by fax, 902-765-1717; or email [auroraeditor@ns.aliantzinc.ca](mailto:auroraeditor@ns.aliantzinc.ca). 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.

## crossword

solution page 13



- 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 respect
- DOWN**
49. Fonts
  52. Fencing sword
  55. Mock
  56. Vaccine developer
  60. Atmosphere surrounding a person or place
  61. Marten with a short tail
  63. Chinese temple
  64. Invests in little enterprises
  65. Popular cut of meat
  66. Charity
  67. Iron-containing compound
  68. River in Northern Europe
  69. One point east of southeast
  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

crossword brought to you compliments of



954 Central Avenue  
Greenwood  
902-765-6381

**Holiday hamper applications**  
Kingston/ Greenwood Holiday Hamper applications are now available from Sobey's in Greenwood and Pharmasave in Kingston, as well as from our Facebook page (Kingston/ Greenwood Holiday Hampers). All completed applications must be returned to Sobey's or Pharmasave by November 29.

**Adult art lessons**  
November 19, 6 p.m. to 7 p.m. 7Arts in Greenwood offers adult art lessons. Explore different techniques, media, crafts and colours. No experience necessary! Have an idea you've always wanted to try out? Let us know! Cost is \$100 for three classes or \$40 each. Email [info@7Arts.ca](mailto:info@7Arts.ca) to register.

**Kingston/ Greenwood toy drive**  
A community coalition in the Kingston/ Greenwood area will provide a holiday meal and toy hampers to families with children facing economic challenges. Volunteers will hold toy drives November 29, 6 p.m. to 8 p.m., at the Village of Greenwood tree lighting event; November 30, 10 a.m. to 3 p.m., at Canadian Tire;

## horoscopes

**ARIES - Mar 21/Apr 20**  
Aries, put aside any errant musings and give important tasks your utmost attention this week. Energy is better spent on others, so keep this in mind when you get busy.

**TAURUS - Apr 21/May 21**  
Taurus, your coworkers are all excited and fussing over a new development. Maintain an even keel as you assess the situation. You can be curious, but be guarded as well.

**GEMINI - May 22/Jun 21**  
Gemini, your love life is in a really good place this week, which enables you to spend some quality time with your special someone. A romantic dinner sounds like a good plan.

**CANCER - Jun 22/Jul 22**  
Your partner is the most important person in your life right now, Cancer. So much so that this week every bit of your attention will be focused his or her way.

**LEO - Jul 23/Aug 23**  
Leo, money could be burning a hole in your pocket, so you might want to go on a spending spree. Keep in mind that there are a few big-ticket purchases waiting in the wings.

**VIRGO - Aug 24/Sept 22**  
You don't always have to be decisive, Virgo. Sometimes you can kick back and let someone else make decisions for a change. This is a great way to rest and recharge.

horoscopes brought to you compliments of



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BRIDGETOWN • 1-902-665-4449  
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[www.frasers.ca](http://www.frasers.ca)

### Fun with Fibre group

November 20, & 27, 6:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m., join 7Arts in Greenwood for a drop-in fibre craft and chat evening (knitting, crochet, cross stitch, embroidery, felt-ing, or rug hooking). Everyone welcome! Freewill donation appreciated.

**Coffee morning**  
Fridays, November 22 and 29; 9 a.m. to noon; 7Arts in Greenwood hosts the Veteran's Lodge Buddy Check coffee. This free event is open to all Annapolis Valley veterans and serving members.

**MakerSpace**  
November 23, 12:30 p.m. to 3:30 p.m. 7Arts in Greenwood hosts MakerSpace: bring a project to work on, start something new or purchase one of our kits. Drop-ins welcome and encouraged! Cost starts at \$10. Caregivers free.

**Craft sale**  
November 23, 10 a.m. to 2 p.m., at the South Berwick Community Hall, 4518 Hwy 1, South Berwick. Freewill offering admission, Girl Guide cookies and lots of goodies from our crafting/ vending friends. Hosted by Berwick Girl Guides.

**Craft sale**  
November 23, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m., the Kingston Legion (1472 Veterans Lane, Kingston) hosts a holiday craft show, featuring a range of local crafters and busi-

nesses with homemade goods and more. Admission \$2, under 12 free. Kitchen open!

**Dance**  
November 23, 8 p.m. to 11 p.m., the Berwick Legion dance features The FisherKings. Tickets are \$15, available at the Legion bar or at the door. 19-plus.

**ArtBeat Lounge**  
November 23, 4 p.m. to 6 p.m. 7Arts in Greenwood hosts the ArtBeat Lounge, for ages 13 to 17: your ultimate playground for artistic expression! Whether you're into visual arts, music, dance, or poetry, this is your space to shine. FREE for teens. Sponsored by the Mental Health Foundation. Pre-registration not required.

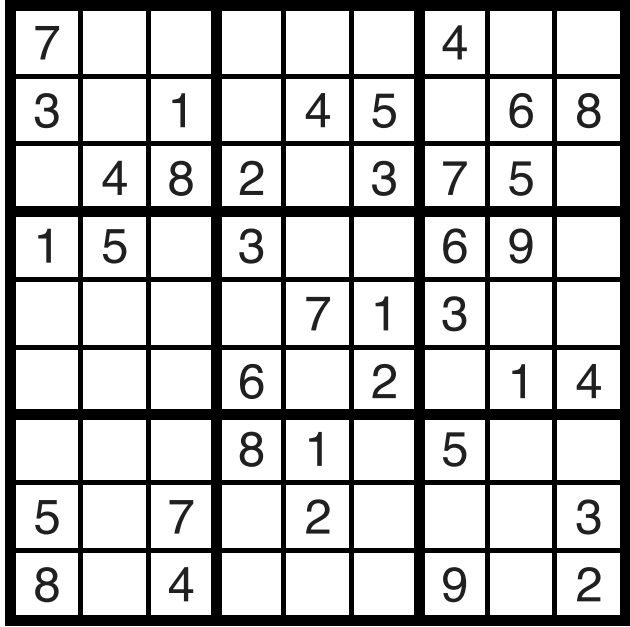
**Beginner crochet**  
November 24 and December 1, 2 p.m. to 4 p.m.: Have you ever wanted to learn how to crochet? Join 7Arts in Greenwood for crochet for beginners. Cost is \$30 per class. Register at [info@7Arts.ca](mailto:info@7Arts.ca)

**Card workshop**  
November 26, 1 p.m. to 3 p.m., 7Arts in Greenwood presents a watercolour Christmas card workshop with artist Luanne. No experience necessary. For ages 18+. Cost is \$35 per person and all supplies are included. Register by emailing [info@7Arts.ca](mailto:info@7Arts.ca)

**Veterans' hobby morning**  
November 26, 10 a.m. to 12:30 p.m., the Veteran's Lodge hosts a

## sudoku

solution page 13



**Fun By The Numbers**  
Level: Beginner  
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!

free Hobby Hangout for Veterans at 7Arts in Greenwood. There will be a variety of activity options as well as light refreshments. Pre-registration is required by emailing [theveteranslodge@gmail.com](mailto:theveteranslodge@gmail.com)

**JP LeBlanc in concert**  
November 29, 7:30 p.m., the Association Francophone de la Vallée presents JP LeBlanc – the



## 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 568-5699, 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 568-5833; email [auroramarketing@ns.aliantzinc.ca](mailto:auroramarketing@ns.aliantzinc.ca).

Les annonces classées, 35 mots ou moins, sont vendues au prix de 9 \$, taxes incluses. Chaque mot additionnel coûte 10 sous, plus taxes. Texte en caractères gras 10 \$, taxes incluses.

Les annoncées classées doivent être réservées et payées à l'avance avant 9 h, le mercredi précédant la publication. Les

### FOR SALE

STAMPS FOR SALE – Individual Canadian stamps by the sheet. 1967 thru 1976. 1952 Red



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AUTO SALVAGE  
& TOWING

We buy scrap metal



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Scrap metal, derelict vehicles, copper, brass, aluminum & batteries  
Turn your old washers & dryers etc...into cash money \$\$\$  
841 Vault Road, Melvern Square  
902-765-0974 or 902-760-1525 cell  
Weekdays 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.  
Saturdays 8 a.m. to 12



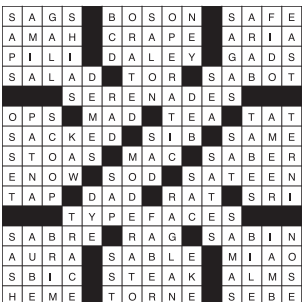
**DAN'S FIREWOOD & LUMBER**

Hardwood, \$320 a cord  
Softwood, \$300 a cord  
Cut, Split, Delivered  
Ph: 902-825-6424



• Rough & planed lumber  
• Tongue & groove  
• Wood chips  
• Clapboard  
902-825-6424  
**DAN'S FIREWOOD & LUMBER**

### crossword solution



“Baby Stevie Ray Vaughan” – at the Annapolis Mess, Greenwood. This event is open to the public. LeBlanc is a native of Bathurst, visiting straight from a Nashville recording session to present his “Mon Acadian Blues” in a bilingual show, with Clinton Fernandes. For info: [afva.ca](http://afva.ca). Get tickets here: <https://forms.gle/sy4xcrdDQAc9gqek6>



## classifieds

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 568-5699, 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 568-5833, ou un courriel à [auroramarketing@ns.aliantzinc.ca](mailto:auroramarketing@ns.aliantzinc.ca).

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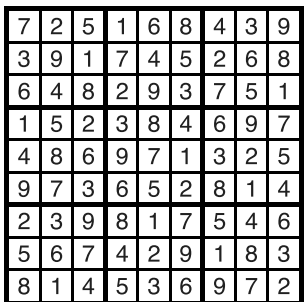
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• Rough & planed lumber  
• Tongue & groove  
• Wood chips  
• Clapboard  
902-825-6424  
**DAN'S FIREWOOD & LUMBER**

### sudoku solution



### 7Arts open house

November 30, noon to 4 p.m., 7Arts in Greenwood welcomes you to an open house. Everyone welcome!

**National Association of federal Retirees Western Nova Scotia Branch Christmas dinner**  
December 3 is the deadline to RSVP for the National As-



## classifieds

Cross, one sheet, 1947 Bell, one sheet. Definitives and Commemorative(s). Serious inquiries only. Please call 902-765-8598. (4532-4tp)

**FLEA MARKET**  
SOMETHING FOR EVERYONE  
**INDOOR FLEA MARKET – 812 King St., Kingston, N.S. Behind Tim Hortons and Freemans ESSO. Now open Monday, Thursday, Saturday and Sunday, 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, books, old tools, tea towels,**

association of federal Retirees Western Nova Scotia Branch Christmas dinner, which will be December 10 at 11:30 a.m. at the Kingston Legion (1472 Veterans Lane, Kingston). Enjoy turkey dinner and all the trimmings at a cost of \$15, with music by Frank Dobbin. Bring a potential member along who hasn't joined the associa-

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## the Aurora find & win

**Three easy ways to enter.**

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

**ONE ENTRY PER PERSON**

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

Complete the following questions from ads in the current 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. Who is collecting food bank donations December 6?
2. When is the Kingston Legion's 2nd annual holiday craft show?
3. How much are tickets for Pygmalion?
4. Who is seeking a part-time accounting clerk?
5. What business has an online virtual Christmas room?

**Congratulations to this week's winner: JEANNIE JONES**

sociation of federal Retirees Western Nova Scotia Branch Christmas dinner, which will be December 10 at 11:30 a.m. at the Kingston Legion (1472 Veterans Lane, Kingston). Enjoy turkey dinner and all the trimmings at a cost of \$15, with music by Frank Dobbin. Bring a potential member along who hasn't joined the associa-



## classifieds

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. (4532-4tpb)

**APARTMENT FOR RENT**  
FOR RENT – Kingston Lincoln Shire Apartments – two bedroom, two appliances starting at \$1150-1200 per month plus utilities. Available December 7th. Please call 902-840-0683 or visit our website at [www.bandnproperties.ca](http://www.bandnproperties.ca) and apply online. (4535-1tp)

tion yet so they can learn what we can do for them! If you wish to attend, please email [naf75@gmail.com](mailto:naf75@gmail.com) (emails preferred) or call Carolyn/ Bill at 902-765-8590 after 1 p.m., by December 3.

**Greenwood Players on stage**  
December 3 to 7, 7:30 p.m., the Greenwood Players Theatre Group present “Pygmalion:

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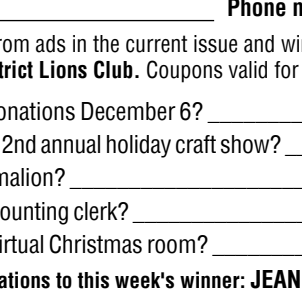
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Softwood, \$300 a cord  
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Ph: 902-825-6424



• Rough & planed lumber  
• Tongue & groove  
• Wood chips  
• Clapboard  
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### crossword solution



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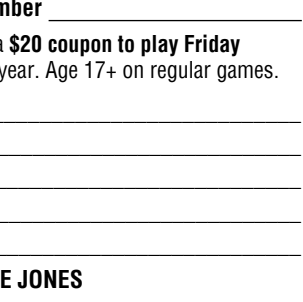
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### crossword solution



The Original My Fair Lady,” by George Bernard Shaw. Directed by Rene Doucet Cottreau, produced by Zofya Handley Armstrong. Onstage at the Morfee Centre. Doors open at 6:30 p.m. and curtain up is 7:30 p.m. Tickets are \$5 at the door, or contact 902-824-2435 or [rendoucot@gmail.com](mailto:rendoucot@gmail.com) to reserve.



## classifieds

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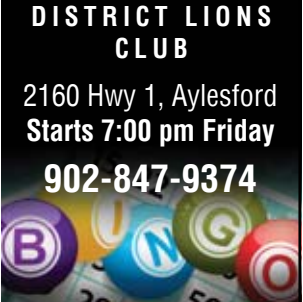
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### crossword solution





# Kingston/ Greenwood toy drives will help local families

A coalition of concerned community members, community service groups and local faith organizations in the Kingston/ Greenwood area have come together to provide a holiday meal and toy hampers to families with children facing difficult economic challenges.

Applications for the 2024 hamper program are now available at Sobeys in Greenwood, Pharmasave in Kingston and as a printable option from our Facebook page (Kingston/ Greenwood Holiday Hampers). All completed applications must be returned to Sobeys Greenwood or Pharmasave in Kingston by November 29.



Volunteers will be holding toy drives in the community November 29, 6 p.m. to 8 p.m., at the Village of Greenwood tree lighting event; November 30, 10 a.m. to 3 p.m., at Canadian Tire;

December 5 and 6, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m., at Walmart; and December 13, 6 p.m. to 8 p.m., at the Kingston rink, in conjunction with "Santa Comes to Kingston." Toys are also being collected at

the Kingston and Greenwood village offices, Exit Realty and OK Tire. Community support is greatly appreciated. Please visit our Facebook page for updated information. ➔

Submitted

# November 29 TGIF, 14 Wing tree lighting event

November 29, join the 14 Wing Community Council, Community Recreation, the Annapolis Mess and the Greenwood Military Family Resource Centre for a family TGIF and tree-lighting event.

- 5 p.m. to 6 p.m. - Family TGIF, tree decoration making station and a special guest visit at the Annapolis Mess
- 6 p.m. to 6:15 p.m. - Parade & tree decorating opposite wing headquarters
- 6:15 p.m. - Tree lighting
- 6:30 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. - Free family skate, hot chocolate and treats, and special guests at the Greenwood Gardens Arena
- 7:30 p.m. to 0 p.m. - Free glow bowling at the Greenwood Bowling Centre

For information, contact Community Recreation at 902-765-1494 local 568-5341. ➔

# 29 novembre TGIF et illumination de l'arbre de la 14e Escadre

Le 29 novembre, joignez-vous au conseil communautaire de la 14e Escadre, aux loisirs communautaires, au mess d'Annapolis et au Centre de ressources pour les familles des militaires de Greenwood pour une activité familiale TGIF et l'illumination de l'arbre.

- 17 h à 18 h - TGIF familial, poste de fabrication de décorations d'arbres et visite d'un invité spécial au mess d'Annapolis.
- 18 h à 18 h 15 - Défilé et décoration de l'arbre en face du quartier général de l'escadre
- 18 h 15 - Allumage de l'arbre
- 18 h 30 à 19 h 30 - Patinage familial gratuit, chocolat chaud et friandises, et invités spéciaux au Greenwood Gardens Arena
- 19 h 30 à 0 h - Quilles lumineuses gratuites au Centre de quilles Greenwood.

Pour d'informations, contactez le service des loisirs communautaires au 902-765-1494 local 568-5341. ➔

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# Local makes a BIG difference

Sara White,  
Managing editor

14 Wing Greenwood Colonel Luc Vachon, left, and Wing Chief Warrant Officer Jonathan Proulx were more than happy to accept a \$141,915 cheque for Wing Fund, presented October 17 during CAF Sports Day fun.

The wing's CANEX and SISIP Financial operations generated the sum in the past year, through both retail sales and financial counselling, loans and investment services.

The contribution will add to Wing Fund's ability to support morale and welfare programs and services to wing personnel and their families.

"It's important to use SISIP and spend money at CANEX," Vachon said. "This cheque is the reason, as a percentage of loans and CANEX revenue comes back to the wing. You see the amount of money in this cheque, returning to the wing – all of us. All of you are benefitting from this." ➔



14 Wing Greenwood Colonel Luc Vachon, left, and Wing Chief Warrant Officer Jonathan Proulx were more than happy to accept a \$141,915 cheque for Wing Fund, presented October 17. With Vachon and Proulx are CANEX supervisor Laura Walsh, second from left; SISIP's Alison Reid, centre; and Personnel Support program senior manager Nicole Peppard. S. White

# Pay allotment

Join Combined Charities' pay allotment program

Support over 60 Valley and regional non-profit groups OR Designate your donation to your favourite non-profit

**One-time donation or per pay**

To donate: [uwco.ca/GCWCC/donate](http://uwco.ca/GCWCC/donate)

Contact your unit Combined Charities representative to participate

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présenté par

Combined Charities  
programme de Charité combiné

# Megachit Coupon-monstre

Month of December | \$25  
Mois de décembre | 25 \$

- Ball caps
- Civilian attire everyday for the month of December
- Casquettes de baseball
- Tenue civile tous les jours du mois de décembre

Contact your unit Combined Charities representative to participate  
Contactez votre représentant de charité pour participer

Presented by  
présenté par

Combined Charities  
programme de Charité combiné

# ~ Welcome ~

## From your Greenwood Canadian Tire

### We will NOT be under sold on tires

- Price Match Guarantee
- No fee, no interest payment plan
- Industry best nation wide warranty

See store for details

10% Military discount off  
Automotive Service Work  
Greenwood location only

See store for details. Some exceptions may apply.  
Military ID required for discount at time of purchase.

**SERVICE HOURS**  
Monday - Friday 8 am - 5 pm

**Store Hours**  
Monday - Friday • 9 am - 7 pm | Saturday & Sunday • 9 am - 6 pm | Open 7 days a week

**'The Valley's Premier Hunting & Firearm Shop'**

730 CENTRAL AVENUE • GREENWOOD • 902-765-6338

# UPCOMING EVENTS

## SANTA'S DRIVE THROUGH KINGSTON

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 6  
STARTING AT 6:00PM

CHECK OUT OUR VILLAGE OF KINGSTON FACEBOOK PAGE FOR THE MAP AND LIVE TRACK

SANTA'S LOCATION  
COLLECTING FOOD BANK DONATIONS ON ROUTE

## SANTA COMES TO KINGSTON!

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 13  
6:00-8:00PM

FREE EVENT  
KIDS BINGO, POPCORN, SKATING!

CREDIT UNION CENTRE ARENA  
1490 WESTWOOD ST.

## NEW YEARS EVE FIREWORKS

7:00PM

VIEW FROM THE SUPERSTORE PARKING LOT

## HAPPY HOLIDAYS

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VILLAGE OF KINGSTON, NS

PROGRAMS AND EVENTS ARE SUBJECT TO CHANGE

e-mail Liz with any questions:  
[recreation@kingstonnovascotia.ca](mailto:recreation@kingstonnovascotia.ca)

# Free Skates

## December:

Sunday 8	4:00 - 5:30 pm
Sunday 15	4:00 - 5:30 pm
Sunday 22	4:45 - 6:15 pm
Monday 23	12:30 - 2:00 pm
Friday 27	1:30 - 3:00 pm
Saturday 28	12:15 - 1:45 pm
Sunday 29	4:45 - 6:15 pm
Monday 30	12:30 - 2:00 pm
Tuesday 31	3:30 - 5:00 pm

## January:

Thursday 2	4:00 - 5:30 pm
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## Skate helpers, skates & helmets available to loan for free!

1490 Westwood St.

## Learn to Skate

For beginners

Sun., December 22	3:30 - 4:30 pm
Fri., December 27	12:00 - 1:00 pm
Sun., December 29	3:30 - 4:30 pm
Thu., January 2	12:00 - 1:00 pm



# 'Canadian Comfort'

## Graphic display of art, shared stories now on at Greenwood museum

Sara White,  
Managing editor

Come see and hear a story of life after change, as the Greenwood Military Aviation Museum hosts a special, month-long exhibit, "Canadian Comfort."

The first part of the exhibit comes as a gift from the Canadian Museum of Immigration at Pier 21, Halifax. In 2022, the Consulate General of the Kingdom of the Netherlands published a graphic journalism anthology, "Destination: Canada," telling the story of 10 Dutch immigrants to Canada, illustrated by 10 comic book artists. More than one million Canadians have Dutch ancestors.

Pier 21 adapted the story of George Zwaagstra in 2023. Born in rural Friesland, in the northern Netherlands, in 1933; his family ran a grocery store. German soldiers banged on the store's door May 11, 1940, wanting food. His family and members of the community became involved in the local Resistance: at 10, Zwaagstra was delivering groceries – and messages – by bicycle back and forth between his uncles, aunts, nearby homes hiding evacuees and farms as far as 11 kilometres away. April 16, 1945, Canadians liberated



**Greenwood Military Aviation Museum volunteer Ian Patrick, left, and Kingston/ Greenwood area volunteers with Quilts of Valour, Mary Ewing and Bruno Losier; met November 1 to complete the "Canadian Comfort" display of graphic panels, a story of a Dutch immigrant and former Royal Canadian Air Force member; and beautiful quilts, destined to recognize the contributions of injured Canadian Armed Forces members and veterans. The exhibit is on display to December 6.**

S. White

Zwaagstra's village.

Life in the Netherlands after the Second World War was difficult, and Zwaagstra and a brother convinced their parents to follow another brother to Canada. The family immigrated in 1951: Zwaagstra was 17 when he stepped through Pier 21 in Halifax for the first time.

In 1954, Zwaagstra joined the Royal Canadian Air Force. He wanted to fly but, after training, worked as an electrician posted to the Central Experimental and Proving

Establishment at RCAF Station Rockliffe in Ottawa. He became a Canadian citizen in 1956 and married another Dutch immigrant, Geraldine, in 1957. Zwaagstra identifies the RCAF as part of what makes him Canadian. Zwaagstra lives in Dartmouth and is a Pier 21 volunteer, continuing to share immigration stories just like his.

The six-panel story of Zwaagstra was illustrated by the Netherlands' Aimee de Jongh, an award-winning

graphic novel author and animator. She was also one of the two co-art directors of the full "Destination: Canada" book of immigrant stories.

GMAM display lead volunteer Ian Patrick says the Pier 21 exhibit is a unique opportunity for the museum to share the story of a wartime experience, Dutch immigrant and RCAF volunteer.

"Mr. Zwaagstra's story represents another side of our air force: he was Dutch, became a citizen and then was an air-

man," Patrick says. "His life includes major events that affected Greenwood, and the art of the graphic panels is one way – a different way – to tell a story."

### Comfort in cloth

With the Zwaagstra panels are panels of another sort: handmade fabric panels in the form of quilts, designed and crafted by volunteers with the Kingston/ Greenwood area branch of the national Quilts of Valour.

Local volunteers Mary Ewing and Bruno Loisier gathered a number Canadiana-themed designs – maple leaves, red, black and white colour combinations; on display to showcase the work of quilters just like themselves, working across the country to show their appreciation for injured Canadian Armed Forces members, past and present. With every presentation of a Quilt of Valour, a military member or veteran receives all the comfort of warmth, care and colour found in a handmade quilt.

The Kingston/ Greenwood group meets monthly at the Kingston Royal Canadian Legion to work together, and welcomes volunteers to help cut and iron fabric, piece quilts, sew, bind and back finished quilts. Presentations are made as nominations of recipients are received, often done right here at the Greenwood Military Aviation Museum. ➔

*"Canadian Comfort" is on display at the Greenwood Military Aviation Museum until December 6. The museum is open Wednesday to Saturday, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Admission is free. Ask at the museum's reception desk for access to "Canadian Comfort," located in the museum's extension.*



## Canada's Aviation Book of the Year !

### The Royal Canadian Air Force: 100 Years of Service, Volume 1

By Larry Milberry and Hugh A. Halliday

The RCAF's 1924-2024 Centennial has been highlighted by airshows, dedications, commemorative coins and book launches. Adding to the list and having long ago produced the RCAF 60th Anniversary history in 1984, CANAV Books introduces its 2-volume Centennial set *The Royal Canadian Air Force: 100 Years of Service*.

Beautifully produced, "100 Years" begins with Canada's earliest aerial experiments, covers WWI where Canadians excel in the air including on long-range coastal operations (convoy patrol, SAR, etc.), then moves to the birth of the RCAF in 1924. The RCAF gains renown in training, photography, forestry and fisheries patrols, and daunting northern expeditions. Its float planes and flying boats operate many of the basic missions still done by the Aurora.

Our story moves through the 1930s, when events gradually see the RCAF modernize just as war re-erupts in Europe. New Shark and Stranraer coastal patrol planes equip East and West Coast squadrons. Vol.1 covers it all from the British Commonwealth Air Training Plan to the U-boat war plus everything overseas from the UK to the Far East. All the action and heroism are here, much of it for the first time in any book. Solid coverage of coastal operations with the Catalina, Sunderland, Hudson and Liberator; and SAR with the famous Walrus. Come war's end, the RCAF shrinks to a shadow of its wartime self, but new world troubles arise – a hint of things to come in Volume 2 (1946-2024), due for publication by the end of Centennial Year (April next). "100 Years" is based on archival records, logbooks, scrapbooks, photo albums, published histories and interviews. Anyone keen on Canada's great military heritage will revel for years in this incomparable tribute to the RCAF!

**Our readers know when a book "hits the mark":** \*Best tribute to RCAF 100th that I have seen. Congrats to you, Hugh and the team. \*I have no idea how you manage to do a book like this. It is an incredible achievement. \*Your book arrived today -- it looks fantastic! I'm impressed as always by the richness and diversity, and the abundance of photos you come up with! Unbelievable! \*The perfect antidote to wean aviation enthusiasts off their smartphones for the written word -- CANAV style. \*Having spent my career in aviation, I appreciate the dedication and talent you have put in to producing the book which details such an important part of Canada's aviation history.

Larry Milberry (Member, Canada's Aviation Hall of Fame) has published nearly 40 aviation books. A retired Canadian War Museum historian, Hugh A. Halliday is renowned for his in-depth RCAF research and authorship.

### Specifications (Volume 1)

- 384 pages, 9 x 12 inches hardcover
- Dust jacket, 20 chapters, 300,000 words and 800 photographs (a massive book)
- Maps, Glossary, Bibliography, Index
- ISBN 978-0-921022-46-6
- Retail price \$75.00 + shipping and tax = \$100.00 all-in. Delivery in lots of time for Christmas.

### Ordering ...

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