



THE VOXAIR

Our Military Community Newspaper, 17 Wing Winnipeg

December 17, 2008

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FREE

Season's greetings

Joyeuses fêtes

Over the course of this year, a year marked by constant challenges and significant pressures, I have had the opportunity to get out and about the Wing.

I have had the great fortune to observe you in your sections and squadrons, to talk to you in both formal and informal settings, to discuss matters of great importance and those of only trivial interest. All through I have seen teamwork at its best, I have observed a work ethic second to none, I have witnessed great personal commitment and sacrifice, and I have viewed a superb operations-focused mindset. Thanks 17 Wing for such a great year.

What a wonderful mix of people we have on this Wing!

We have men and women who lead at every turn and others who have turned into great leaders.

We have people who excel at sports and others who sport excellence. We have folks who vehemently cheer for Les Canadiens and others who have more refined tastes. We have seen guys and gals tackle jobs of incredible complexity, nearly always achieving results that are simply incredible. What more can be said?

Whether deployed or at-home, whether civilian, reserve or regular force member, whether trucker or maintainer, whether aircrew or technician, whether cook or cleaner, whether military police or firefighter – your outstanding work has been the difference in maintaining good order and great support to our numerous tasks.

Please take this upcoming holiday period to spend some quality time with your loved ones.

Spend some moments doing those little things that you really like doing but haven't had the time to do over this hectic-paced year: run the Hypothermic Half-Marathon; shoot some hoops with the kids; watch a movie; read a book; take a cooking class; sign up for ballroom dancing lessons with your spouse; or if you really like to watch pain being inflicted, watch the Toronto Maple Leafs get trounced in a game, any game!

From the Howden clan – myself, Sharon, Parker, Cole, Shelby, and Dudley (the one with a lot of facial hair) – to you and your family we wish you the greatest of holiday seasons, continued health, and a New Year filled with boundless energy, good fortune, and happy times.

Cheers one and all.

Col S.A. Howden
17 Wing Commander



17 Wing Commander, Col Scott Howden, his wife Sharon, their three children, Parker, Cole, Shelby and the family dog, Dudley.

Cpl Colin Atiken

Au cours de l'année, marquée par des défis constamment renouvelés et des pressions considérables, j'ai eu l'occasion de me déplacer dans l'escadre. J'ai eu ainsi la chance inouïe de vous observer au travail dans vos services et vos escadrons, de parler avec vous dans des situations tant officielles qu'officieuses, de discuter de questions d'une grande importance et de celles d'un intérêt accessoire. Chaque fois, j'ai été témoin d'une collaboration exemplaire, d'une éthique du travail inégalée, d'un sens développé de l'engagement et du sacrifice, et d'une excellente attitude mentale ancrée sur les opérations. Merci au personnel de la 17e Escadre pour une année extraordinaire!

Quel admirable mélange de personnes qui se trouvent à l'escadre! Il y a des hommes et des femmes qui montrent sans cesse le chemin, tandis que d'autres se sont transformés en excellents chefs. Certaines personnes excellent dans les sports, et d'autres visent l'excellence. On y trouve des partisans des Canadiens, ainsi que des gens aux goûts plus raffinés. On y voit des hommes et des femmes qui s'attaquent à des tâches fort complexes et qui, presque chaque fois, obtiennent des résultats tout à fait incroyables. Que dire de plus?

À l'escadre comme ailleurs, le travail extraordinaire que vous avez accompli a permis de maintenir l'ordre et d'apporter un excellent soutien aux nombreuses tâches que nous sommes appelés à exécuter, que ce soit en tant que réserviste ou membre de la force régulière, camionneur ou spécialiste de l'entretien, membre d'équipage ou technicien, cuisinier ou nettoyeur, police militaire ou sapeur pompier.

Pendant les fêtes de fin d'année, profitez du temps dont vous disposerez pour passer des moments de qualité avec vos proches. Prenez le temps de faire ces petites choses que vous aimez faire mais que vous n'avez pas pu faire au cours de l'année par manque de temps : participez au semi marathon Hypothermic Half Marathon; jouez au basketball avec les enfants; visionnez un film, lisez; inscrivez vous à un cours de cuisine; suivez un cours de danse de salon avec votre conjoint ou, si vous prenez plaisir à faire souffrir autrui, regardez un match de hockey pendant lequel les Maple Leafs de Toronto se font écraser!

Au nom de la famille Howden - moi-même, Sharon, Parker, Cole, Shelby, Dudley (le poilu) - je vous souhaite, à vous et à votre famille, de très joyeuses fêtes, la santé et une nouvelle année remplie d'énergie débordante, de bonheur et de moments agréables. Mes salutations à tous!

Colonel S.A. Howden
Le commandant de la 17e Escadre

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Season's greetings from the Commander

The Division Chief Warrant Officer and I would like to thank the personnel of 1 Canadian Air Division/Canadian NORAD Region for their hard work and dedication over the past year.

Air men and women across the country, along with our civilian colleagues, have demonstrated their commitment to our country and our communities time and time again. Our combined support for the Government of Canada Workplace Charitable Campaign and the many local community initiatives demonstrate that we are united in the spirit and joy of giving throughout the entire year.

In that same spirit, we must not forget the selfless efforts of our CF members overseas who, throughout the year, sacrifice so much in order to create a more peaceful world. Please have them in your thoughts and prayers during this holiday season.

2008 was a great year for the Air Force, and we celebrated important milestones such as the 50th anniversary of NORAD, the arrival of the final two CC-177 Globemasters, and the procurement of six Chinook helicopters and new unmanned aerial vehicles to assist in Afghanistan.

2009 will be an equally exciting year, as we significantly increase our Air Force role in Afghanistan. It's also a milestone year as we will celebrate the Canadian Centennial of Flight and the 85th anniversary of Canada's Air Force.

On behalf of the entire 1 Cdn Air Div/CANR Command Team, Merry Christmas, Happy Chanukah, and best wishes for a healthy and happy new year. Please take the time to celebrate this festive season with your families and friends, and relax and reflect upon a wonderful year.

*MGen Marcel Duval
Commander, 1 Cdn Air Div/CANR*

Vœux du commandant à l'occasion des fêtes

L'adjudant-chef de la division se joint à moi pour remercier les membres du personnel de la 1re Division aérienne du Canada/Région canadienne du NORAD de leur travail acharné et de leur dévouement au cours de la dernière année.

La contribution de notre organisation à la Campagne de charité en milieu de travail du gouvernement du Canada, en septembre et octobre, ainsi que les dons en argent, jouets et conserves ayant été faits au Christmas Cheer Board et à la Care and Share Foundation de la 17e Escadre, au cours des dernières semaines, démontrent que nous sommes unis dans l'esprit et la joie de donner tout au long de l'année.

Dans le même esprit, il ne faudrait pas non plus oublier les efforts désintéressés que déploient les militaires canadiens servant outre-mer, qui, à longueur d'année, font des sacrifices énormes pour construire un monde plus pacifique. Veuillez bien les porter dans vos pensées et vos prières pendant les fêtes de fin d'année.

La Force aérienne a connu une excellente année en 2008, qui a marqué d'importantes étapes, comme le 50e anniversaire du NORAD, la livraison des deux derniers CC177 Globemaster et l'acquisition de six hélicoptères Chinook et de nouveaux engins télépilotes qui serviront en Afghanistan.

L'année 2009 promet d'être tout aussi palpitante, étant donné le rôle accru que devra jouer la Force aérienne en Afghanistan. Il s'agit en fait d'une autre année-jalon, car nous célébrons l'année prochaine le Centenaire de l'aviation canadienne et le 85e anniversaire de la Force aérienne du Canada.

Au nom de l'équipe de la 1 DAC/RC NORAD, je vous souhaite joyeux Noël et joyeuse fête des Lumières, ainsi que santé et bonheur pour la nouvelle année. Pendant les fêtes, prenez le temps de célébrer en famille et avec vos amis, de vous reposer et de contempler le fruit de ce qui a été

une excellente année.

C'est avec plaisir que j'envisage la possibilité de collaborer avec vous encore l'année prochaine à l'atteinte des buts de la Force aérienne.

Je vous présente mes salutations distinguées.

*Le commandant de la 1 DAC/RC NORAD,
Major-général Marcel Duval*



Warmest holiday greetings

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Season's greetings from the Wing Chief Warrant Officer

Our strength has always been in our people, the 17 Wing team has been extremely busy this past year educating the best and brightest from across the Nation at our excellent training facilities, conducting and supporting flying operations, providing logistical support and protecting Canadians at large.

The operational and personnel tempos continue to be extremely challenging as we raise, train and equip the Canadian Forces; notwithstanding these ongoing challenges, our dedicated personnel continuously rise to the occasion as reflected in their ongoing efforts, accomplishments and commitment to see a myriad of complex tasks through to completion.

I want to emphasize the importance of spending quality time with your families this holiday season, they are the ones that listen and comfort us when we return home exhausted,

they have been there by our side and have supported us throughout our career, be it on a deployment, posting relocation, TD or course and they are there to explain to the children when we miss birthdays, engagements, school graduations, birth of a child, recreational events and many other important celebrations over the years, so please be thankful for their limitless and essential support.

My heartfelt wishes to all the families that have their loved ones deployed away from home during the holiday season as our brave soldiers, sailors, airmen and airwomen are engaged in difficult and dangerous missions taking place throughout the world in order to make a safer and better place in which to live.

I would like to thank our Defence Team of CF regular and reserve members, all of our civilian employees working in DND, PSP and NPF, Joint Veterans Association, Cadet Organizations and the City of Winnipeg for the outstanding support and professionalism to the Wing this past year.

Enjoy the festive holiday season with family and friends; take the time to remember those less fortunate amongst us in our city and help out where possible and finally, keep our deployed men and women in your thoughts and prayers for a safe return home. Merry Christmas and have a Happy New Year.

WCWO Glenn Wallace
Wing Chief Warrant Officer



Wing Chief Warrant Officer Glenn Wallace and his assistant Sgt Shelley Matheson.

Meilleurs vœux de l'adjudant chef de la 17e Escadre

Notre force, nous la devons depuis toujours à notre personnel. L'équipe de la 17e Escadre a été extrêmement occupée cette année. Ainsi, en plus de dispenser de l'instruction à certains des meilleurs et plus brillants militaires de partout au pays, à partir de nos excellents centres d'instruction, elle a mené et soutenu des opérations aériennes et fourni du soutien logistique ayant permis de protéger les Canadiens.

La cadence opérationnelle imposée au personnel continue de poser un grand défi alors que nous continuons à donner de l'instruction et à équiper les Forces canadiennes en vue de la mise sur pied de forces. Malgré ces activités exigeantes, notre personnel dévoué continue de relever le défi, grâce notamment à ses efforts continus, à ses réalisations et à son engagement à accomplir une myriade de tâches complexes.

Je tiens à souligner l'importance de passer des moments de qualité avec vos familles pendant les fêtes de fin d'année, car ce sont les membres de nos familles qui sont à notre écoute et qui nous réconfortent lorsque nous rentrons à la maison épuisés. Ils restent à nos côtés et nous soutiennent tout au long de notre carrière, que ce soit lors d'un déploiement, au moment d'un déménagement à la suite d'une affectation ou pendant le ST ou un cours.

Ce sont également eux qui expliquent aux enfants pourquoi nous devons manquer une fête d'anniversaire, un engagement, une cérémonie de remise de diplômes, la naissance d'un enfant, une activité récréative et bien d'autres occasions importantes au fil des ans. Je vous demande donc de vous montrer reconnaissants de leur appui indispensable et sans bornes.

J'offre mes plus sincères vœux à toutes les familles qui doivent composer avec l'absence d'être chers pendant les

fêtes en cette période où nos soldats, nos marins, nos aviateurs et nos aviatrices participent à des missions difficiles et dangereuses à divers endroits du monde pour faire de ce dernier un lieu plus sûr où il fait meilleur vivre.

J'aimerais remercier les militaires et les réservistes de notre équipe de la Défense; nos employés civils du MDN, des PSP et des FNP; les membres de l'Association mixte des anciens combattants; les Cadets et la ville de Winnipeg; merci à chacun d'entre vous pour votre professionnalisme et votre soutien exceptionnel à l'escadre au cours de cette année.

Profitez des fêtes avec votre famille et vos amis! Prenez le temps de penser aux moins fortunés de notre ville et apportez leur votre aide lorsque cela sera possible! Enfin, n'oublions pas les hommes et des femmes des FC qui se trouvent à l'étranger et prions pour qu'ils rentrent chez eux sans problème. Je vous souhaite à tous un joyeux Noël et une bonne année!

Adjudc Ere Glenn Wallace
adjudant-chef de l'escadre

THE VOXAIR

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Publishing date	Deadline
January 28	January 16
February 11	January 30
February 25	February 13
March 11	February 27
March 25	March 13
April 08	March 27
April 22	April 10
May 6	April 24
May 20	May 8
June 3	May 22
June 17	June 5
July 1	June 19
July 22	July 10
August 26	August 14
September 9	August 28
September 23	September 11
October 7	September 25
October 21	October 9
November 4	October 23
November 18	November 6
December 2	November 20
December 16	December 4

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Disability awareness training helps raise understanding

By John Towns
Voxair staff

On 3 December, representatives from the Winnipeg-based Independent Living Resource Centre (ILRC) stopped in at 1 Canadian Air Division Headquarters to help raise awareness for people living with disabilities.

The event, called Disability Awareness Resource Training (DART), was designed to make the participants re-think their way of thinking about people with disabilities.

"We try to make people reflect on their attitudes toward people with disabilities, to help them figure out a better way to support people with disabilities and make this a totally inclusive community," said Doug Lockhart, the Senior Program Coordinator for the ILRC.

The ILRC, has been around since 1984 and runs over 20 programs designed to enable people with disabilities to live independently in the community.

"Our philosophy is called the Independent Liv-

ing philosophy, which enables people, no matter their disability, to have choice, take control of their lives, and make decisions and take risks, and be accountable for those risks and decisions they make," said Lockhart.

The DART workshop, which was scheduled to coincide with the UN's International Day of Disabled Persons, is a fairly new one, said Lockhart.

"We've actually just begun with this particular training," he said.

"We've realized that there's lots of different avenues for disability awareness, such as workplace accommodations, and even just general awareness, so this is just one way of working to make people more aware of challenges people with disabilities face."

The training included a seminar session in the morning, consisting of a number of presentations designed to look at what obstacles people living with disabilities still face, and how to overcome them.

"We talk about myths

and stereotypes related to disabilities, awareness and attitudes that people have," said Lockhart. "Basically, we look at where we are in society, and the progress we've made, and some of the obstacles and barriers that people currently face when they're living with a disability, and how to overcome those obstacles."

The afternoon consisted of what Lockhart called empathic modeling, where the attendees were placed in the position of a person with a disability.

They took on the role of someone with mobility issues, speech issues or visual impairment, in order to better understand the challenges faced by someone with a disability.

A panel discussion also took place between the ILRC workshop facilitators and Cpl Ryan Elrick, who lost his legs while serving in Afghanistan.

Florence Bambenek, the Civilian Human Resources support person for 1 Can Air Div HQ, arranged the presentation, and says she was



ILRC Senior Program Coordinator Doug Lockhart speaks at the DART workshop. About 20 people were in attendance for the day-long event.

very pleased that the representatives from the ILRC and Cpl Elrick were able to do the presentation.

"This is the first time that we've had them come to the base. They actually had done a session last year at CFB Gagetown, and it was recommended that they come

here today, to coincide with International Day of Persons with Disabilities," she said. She said that the presentation held a lot more weight because the ILRC representatives are people who live with disabilities themselves.

"They are persons with disabilities, so it's actually

people who are dealing with and living with disabilities all the time," she said. "So I'm very excited to have them down here, because it's not just someone giving us the theory of living with a disability, these are people who actually live with disabilities."

NORAD's Santa-tracking website opens for 2008 season

In advance of the holiday season and its 50th year of tracking Santa Claus on his annual journey around the world, the North American Aerospace Defense Command (NORAD) has activated its NORAD Tracks Santa website for 2008.

The program began in 1955 when an errant phone call was made to NORAD's predecessor, the Continental Air Defense Command (CONAD) Operations Center in Colorado Springs, Colo.

The call was from a lo-

cal child who dialled a misprinted telephone number in a local newspaper advertisement.

The commander who answered the phone that night gave the youngster the information he requested - the whereabouts of Santa Claus - and thus the tradition of tracking Santa began. When CONAD became NORAD in 1958, the new command assumed the responsibility of tracking Santa's journey around the world.

The program has grown immensely since it was first

presented on the Internet in 1998.

In 2007, the NORAD Tracks Santa website received 10,660,838 unique visitors from 212 countries and territories around the world.

On Christmas Eve alone, 1,012 Santa Trackers answered 94,743 telephone calls and answered 10,326 emails.

The website features the history of the program, information on how NORAD tracks Santa and interactive games. On December 24, be-

ginning at 4 a.m. Mountain Standard Time (6 a.m. Eastern Standard Time, 11 a.m. Greenwich Mean Time), the website will feature a minute-by-minute update on

Santa's travels around the world.

All of this information is available in English, French, German, Italian, Japanese, Spanish and Chinese.



Corporate partners Google, Booz Allen Hamilton, GlobeLink Foreign Language Center, and Meshbox help to make the program possible, NORAD officials said.

NORAD is a bi-national United States and Canadian organization, charged with the missions of aerospace warning and aerospace control for North America.

The year 2008 marks the 50th anniversary of NORAD, which is celebrating a half-century of Canadians and Americans working shoulder-to-shoulder in defence of North America. NORAD performs its mission 365 days-per-year, but on Christmas Eve, NORAD performs an additional mission - tracking Santa around the world.



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Air Reservists are an important part of 17 Wing

Submitted by 17 Air Reserve Flight

A component of 17 Wing since 1976, the 17 Air Reserve Flight (17 AR Flt) is a Primary Reserve organization comprised of an administrative/financial flight composed of six members and 100 plus Reservists fundamentally embedded in operational, support and lodger units throughout the Wing which includes Dundurn Sk.

Although a large majority of our personnel arrived to us with previous Regular Force experience they con-

tinue along with Ab-Initio Reservists to receive the same level of training as their Regular Force counterparts.

Air Reservists are typically able to merge into their units' operations in a seamless fashion often with little or no additional training.

Air Reservists continue to make significant contributions to the Air Force, the Canadian Forces and to communities across Canada. From Alert to Afghanistan Air Reservists are there to

support the CF's high tempo of operations.

This includes Reservists deployed to international operations and many more who backfill positions vacant due to Regular Force deployments. Those contributions alone are of critical importance to 17 Wing.

There are many types of employment classifications for Air Reservists. Typically at 17 Wing they are employed under three basic classifications.

Class A or part-time sees

members generally providing up to 12 days per month of service to his or her employer.

While he or she is not entitled to garner any leave days on Class A they are compensated though for each day worked by receiving a Payment in Lieu of Leave or PILL.

Class B service on the other hand is full-time employment.

Excluding the 17 AR Flt Admin/Finance component all Air Reservists at 17 Wing

occupy Class A positions, of which some are topped-up full time service for varying periods of time.

Class C service is also full-time employment but covers Air Reserve members participating in deployed or domestic contingency operations.

An important function of the 17 AR Flt administration is to canvas and enroll prospective Reserve members for opportunities as they arise by employers.

Recruiting in light of es-

calating baby-boomer and CRA attrition is challenging to say the least especially in the area of Ab-Initio recruitment.

To that end, this flight has a number of positions that are open and our hope is to provide employers personnel to fill those vacancies.

If you are interested in the Air Reserve, stop by and check it out. 17 AR Flt is located in the Wing Headquarters Building and we are open during normal working hours.

CFHA Winnipeg receives Service Innovation Award

The Service Innovation Award is awarded to the Winnipeg team for implementing practical and innovative ideas that bring significant cost savings to the Agency, and facilitating community partnerships which have built a sustainable environment for continual improvement.

The Winnipeg team has fostered a collaborative approach through the Resource Management Partnering Initiative, which has resulted in cost savings to the agency and created wins for all participants.

A partnership with the University of Winnipeg Business Computing class resulted in a new database tool that is still used today.

The joint employment of students in DCC and CFHA contributes to a strong, productive, and efficient contracting relationship with DCC.

Winnipeg has partnered with PWGSC to foster Project Management skills in the technical team.

They have also partnered with Winnipeg Technical College Re-training Program and Worker's Compensation of Manitoba.

Winnipeg's most innovative Defence Team Partnership is a result of having embraced these unique partnership opportunities in the past.

Having developed an innovative and collaborative approach to HR management, through shared staffing pools and collective experiences, they were able to partner with 17 Wing once their successful CF Return to Work Program was launched.

This allows the team in Winnipeg to share learning

opportunities and utilize the unique talents of injured or medically restricted serving CF members.

Under these remarkable arrangements and the welcoming nature of the team, the Winnipeg Team has secured, learned and retained much-valued skills and tools, which continually contribute to Agency performance.

They continue to explore more innovative partnerships.

Kudos to all CFHA Winnipeg participants for demonstrating continued innovation through current and future partnerships.



The CFHA Winnipeg team shows off the service innovation award it received.

Congratulations and keep up the great work.

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Have a safe and happy holiday season

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BULLETIN

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Location TBA

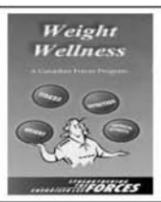
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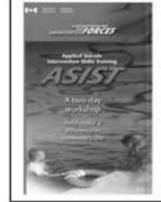
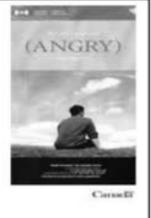
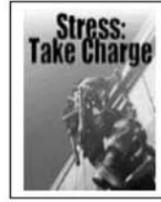
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Location TBA

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Winnipeg Airport hosts U.S. Troops bound for Iraq

By Lt Jeff Noel
Wing Public Affairs Officer

Two hundred members of the United States (U.S.) Army's 25th Infantry Tropical Lightning Division made a stopover in storm-swept Winnipeg November

7 while enroute to serve in Iraq.

The Hawaiian based troops made a scheduled refuelling stop at the Winnipeg International airport late Thursday night but due to a number of factors including

the winter storm that swept southern Manitoba last Thursday and Friday, their departure was delayed.

Staff at Winnipeg Airport Authority responded quickly to make the troops stopover here more pleasurable.

"Our team tried to think of everything," said Barry Rempel, President and Chief Executive Officer of the Winnipeg Airport Authority.

"They did a tremendous job hosting the troops by providing makeshift lodg-

ing, hot food, and working with 17 Wing in obtaining cots, blankets and pillows for added comfort. Anything to make their unexpected stopover more pleasurable," he said.

Those efforts did not go

unappreciated as many of the American troops praised the staff of the Winnipeg Airports Authority for taking great care of them during their stopover and permitting them the chance to make a real snowball.

In memoriam

Private Justin Peter Jones



On 13 December 2008, Private Justin Peter Jones was killed when an improvised explosive device detonated near an armoured vehicle during a patrol in the Arghandab District.

The incident occurred

approximately 14 kilometers west of Kandahar City at about 9:00 a.m., Kandahar time.

Pte Jones was a member of 2nd Battalion, The Royal Canadian Regiment based at CFB Gagetown, New Brunswick, and served as members of the Force Protection Company of the Kandahar Provincial Reconstruction Team.

Thoughts and sympathies are with the families, friends and comrades who are mourning the loss of Pte Jones. May they find solace in knowing that Canadians will never forget the sacrifices they made, nor the importance of all they have accomplished.

Private John Michael Roy Curwin



On 13 December 2008, Private John Michael Roy Curwin was killed when an improvised explosive device detonated near an armoured vehicle during a patrol in the Arghandab District. The incident occurred approximately

14 kilometers west of Kandahar City at about 9:00 a.m., Kandahar time.

Pte Curwin was a member of 2nd Battalion, The Royal Canadian Regiment based at CFB Gagetown, New Brunswick, and served as members of the Force Protection Company of the Kandahar Provincial Reconstruction Team.

Our thoughts and sympathies are with the families, friends and comrades who are mourning the loss of Pte Curwin. May they find solace in knowing that Canadians will never forget the sacrifices they made, nor the importance of all they have accomplished.

Corporal Thomas James Hamilton



On 13 December 2008, Corporal Thomas James Hamilton was killed when an improvised explosive device detonated near an armoured vehicle during a patrol in the Arghandab District. The incident occurred approximately 14 kilometers west of Kan-

dahar City at about 9:00 a.m., Kandahar time.

Cpl Hamilton was a member of 2nd Battalion, The Royal Canadian Regiment based at CFB Gagetown, New Brunswick, and served as members of the Force Protection Company of the Kandahar Provincial Reconstruction Team.

Our thoughts and sympathies are with the families, friends and comrades who are mourning the loss of Cpl Hamilton. May they find solace in knowing that Canadians will never forget the sacrifices they made, nor the importance of all they have accomplished.

Warrant Officer Robert John Wilson



On 5 December 2008, Warrant Officer Robert John Wilson was killed as a result of an improvised explosive device attack on their armoured vehicle during a joint patrol with Afghan National Army soldiers in the

Arghandab District. The incident occurred approximately 15 kilometers west of Kandahar City at about 9 a.m., Kandahar time.

WO Wilson was a member of 1st Battalion, The Royal Canadian Regiment from Canadian Forces Base Petawawa, Ontario.

Thoughts and sympathies are with the families, friends and comrades who are mourning the loss of WO Wilson. May they find solace in knowing that Canadians will never forget the sacrifices they made, nor the importance of all they have accomplished.

Corporal Mark Robert McLaren



On 5 December 2008, Corporal Mark Robert McLaren was killed as a result of an improvised explosive device attack on their armoured vehicle during a joint patrol with Afghan National Army soldiers

in the Arghandab District. The incident occurred approximately 15 kilometers west of Kandahar City at about 9 a.m., Kandahar time.

Cpl McLaren was a member of 1st Battalion, The Royal Canadian Regiment from Canadian Forces Base Petawawa, Ontario.

Our thoughts and sympathies are with the families, friends and comrades who are mourning the loss of Cpl McLaren. May they find solace in knowing that Canadians will never forget the sacrifices they made, nor the importance of all they have accomplished.

Private Demetrios Diplaros



On 5 December 2008, Private Demetrios Diplaros was killed as a result of an improvised explosive device attack on their armoured vehicle during a joint patrol with Afghan National Army soldiers in the

Arghandab District. The incident occurred approximately 15 kilometers west of Kandahar City at about 9 a.m., Kandahar time.

Pte Diplaros was a member of 1st Battalion, The Royal Canadian Regiment from Canadian Forces Base Petawawa, Ontario.

Our thoughts and sympathies are with the families, friends and comrades who are mourning the loss of Pte Diplaros.

May they find solace in knowing that Canadians will never forget the sacrifices they made, nor the importance of all they have accomplished.

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Monday to Wednesday

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Thursday

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Friday

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Closed Saturday and Sunday

Airman's Pub will open Fridays at 15:00 for TGIF.

*The Junior Rank's Mess will be closed during the
Christmas/New Years period from
20 Dec 08 until 4 Jan 09.*

The Junior Rank's facility can be rented out for events
by military members, or civilian employees.

For more information, contact Mess Manager,
PO2 Hughes at 833-2500 ext 4773 or by email.

Last class of Air Navigators graduates from CFANS

By Lt Jeff Noel
Wing Public Affairs Officer

As the last notes of the Maple Leaf forever faded into memory on Wednesday afternoon, so too did the name Air Navigator from the Canadian Air Forces vocabulary.

Before a large crowd of spectators and invited guests, the last graduating

class comprised of three members each from the Canadian and Portuguese Air Forces received their navigator's wings from LGen W.A. Watt, Chief of the Air Staff.

With rapid technological advancements occurring almost daily, and the introduction into the Air Force of new equipment, the traditional role of the air navigator has

evolved far beyond the traditional tasks associated with navigating an aircraft.

So much so that beginning in January 2009, air navigators will be reclassified as Air Combat Systems Officers (ACSO). A moniker it is believed that more accurately reflects their current and future roles.

"The contributions made by navigators to the defence

of our nation, the wings you now wear proudly upon your uniform, and the traditions established will be carried on by ACSOs," said LGen Watt.

"It is only the name Air Navigator that will cease to be used by the Air Force."

At the end of the graduation ceremony, navigator Maj David Proteau said that he was "proud to have been an Air Navigator but was looking forward to becoming an ACSO and exploring the many opportunities the new profession has to offer."



Marvin Seale of the Wartime Pilots' and Observers' Association, left, and LGen Watt present Second Lieutenant Tiago Andrade of Portuguese Air Force with the James R. Dow trophy. It is given to graduates of CFANS who have demonstrated outstanding Air Navigator flying excellence throughout the course.



Lt Derek Prescott, right, receives the LCol K.H. Pauls trophy from LGen Angus Watt, Chief of the Air Staff (CAS). The trophy is awarded to graduates of the Canadian Forces Air Navigation School who have demonstrated outstanding performance throughout the course.



Members of the final graduating class and dignitaries.

Community Recreation Holiday Event Calendar

December 22- Teen Skiing / Snowboarding

December 23- Family Movie Day

December 29- Glow in the Dark Mini Golf

December 30- Child Care Holiday Fun Day

January 2- Teen Guitar Hero Tournament

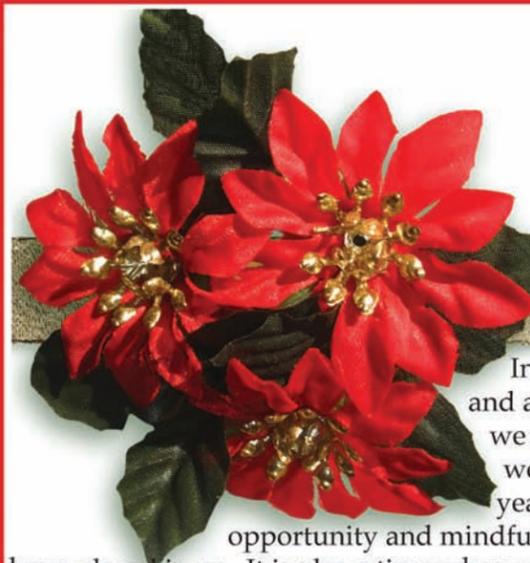
For more information or to sign up for an event call the Community Recreation Supervisor at 833-2500 ext 2057.

Winter Wonderland

Where: Red River Exhibition Grounds, next to Assiniboia Downs
When: Until January 4, 2009, 6-10 p.m. excluding Christmas Day
Admission: \$10/vehicle.

Horse-drawn sleigh rides available Friday to Sunday.
Tickets available at Building 90.
For information, call Community Recreation at 833-2500 ext 5976 or 2057

Season's Greetings



In the spirit of the season and as the New Year approaches, we are reminded of the people we have helped during the past year, grateful for this opportunity and mindful of the faith and trust you have placed in us. It is also a time when we look back on the past year, with pleasant contemplation of individual and collective successes and progress.

As we count our blessings, we thank the service men and women who are overseas defending our freedom, especially those who are in Afghanistan and wish them an early and safe return.

Merry Christmas and may the New Year bless you and your family with good health, prosperity and much happiness.

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CF members help make Christmas wishes come true

By John Towns
Voxair staff

Before the jolly old guy dressed in red can do his thing on Christmas Eve, some people dressed in green spent a snowy day collecting toys and donations to make that possible.

On Friday, 5 December, 32 members of the 17 Wing Logistics and Engineering branch were busy helping out Winnipeg radio stations QX 104 and HOT 103 with their One Big Day for Christmas at Grant Park Shopping Centre.

17 Wing personnel were on hand as the stations were

broadcasting live from the mall, encouraging the public to come down and donate food, toys or money to the Christmas Cheer Board.

"We're helping with the collections, loading up collections of clothing and toys, and basically just helping out in any way we can," said Sgt Ian MacDonald of the Transport Electrical and Mechanical Engineering Squadron.

Sgt MacDonald says that while this is his first outing for the Christmas Cheer Board since being posted to Winnipeg in the summer of 2007, he is no stranger

to other kinds of charity events.

"We've all known people that can benefit from things like this, and this is one way that we in the Forces can give something back."

Last year, One Big Day for Christmas netted \$124,000 and a 53-foot trailer of toys and food for the Christmas Cheer Board, who distributed it to families in need during the holiday season.

Sgt (ret'd) Gaston Plante, was one of the original organizers of the LE Branch's involvement in the One Big Day for Christmas four years ago.

He said that the CF's involvement not only helped out with the actual work of collecting the donations, but also helped generate the interest of bystanders.

"That first year, we did basically what we do now – help set up tents, and do anything that needs to be done with the setup and collection. But also we found it brought in a bunch of people for the Cheer Board, because people are always curious to see what's going on when



Cpl Rick Walton and Cpl Paul Kuras separate the toys from the food in the trailer.

we're out there in uniform," he said.

Olga Scheffler, a volunteer for the Cheer Board, said that the eye-catching effect of having soldiers in uniform at the event was one of the great unexpected benefits to having them helping out.

"They're a really big help, not only with the loading and unloading of donations and stuff, but even to

have these guys in uniform here seems to bring more and more people by," she said. "It's great to have them here."

Ace Burpee, host of the HOT 103 morning show, said that after finding a venue to have One Big Day for Christmas, the involvement of the 17 Wing LE Branch personnel is the most important thing they look at securing.

"Their involvement is so big. I showed up here at 5:30 in the morning and the tent was already set up along with everything else. We're so much more organized, thanks to them," he said. "And it's a little more welcoming, when people pull up and see them out front, they want to see what's going on. They're awesome, and I'd be saying that whether you were asking me that or not."



Cpl Dave Bergeron, Pte Kelly Lake and MCpl Mike Stokes bring food from the donation boxes out to the collection truck outside Safeway.

Happy Holidays

& all the best of the season



PREMIER GARY DOER
& THE NDP CAUCUS

Santa's elf- working hard to bring Christmas joy

By John Towns
Voxair staff

“This is what it’s like for me around this time of year – rush, rush rush!” he exclaims from behind his wispy white beard while pulling his thick leather belt tight around the waist of his dark red coat. The bells of his boots jingle as he strides through the Junior Rank’s mess, surveying the gingerbread houses made by the staff.

He goes by many names in many countries – Sinterklaas, Father Christmas, Saint Nicholas, and, of course, Santa Claus, and he’s making a few stops around 17 Wing this holiday season.

“I’ll be at all the parties on the base, I’m stopping in at [HMCS] CHIPPAWA, and I’ll be at a few other community events this year,” he said.

He says he’s relied on his good friend, MS Al Rose, a cook in the very mess Santa was visiting, for tips on where and when military Christmas parties are going to be held so that he can attend.

MS Rose says that he and the Jolly Old Elf met some years ago by chance, at a mall in British Columbia, where MS Rose was posted until coming to Winnipeg earlier this year.

“I saw him walking in the mall, and he was wearing this Hawaiian shirt, and I noticed he looked a lot like me,” said MS Rose, who also sports a white beard which is normally trimmed to regulation length, except in the winter when he gets special permission to grow it out to

protect from the cold.

“So I saw him, and I walked up and said ‘Hey, we could be twins!’”

From that day, you could say that the two of them have been inseparable, with MS Rose often accompanying his bearded twin on the many visits Santa makes during the holiday season.

“MS Rose is a very special and valuable person to me,” said Santa.

“He’s well connected to the military community, as well as to all the communities where he lives.”

Apart from the usual community events and Christmas parties, Santa will also be stopping in to visit the less fortunate this year, a tradition he started many years ago in BC, after meeting MS Rose.

“I’m also going down to the children’s hospital, and I hope to be doing the same things I do in Victoria,” he said.

“If someone knows of a needy family, I’ll step in to take care of them during the holiday. I see a lot of single parents, the elderly in the hospital, and sick kids. I go see a lot of shut-ins. I see people that people just forget about at Christmastime.”

MS Rose says that since he’s been associating with Santa that his outlook on life has changed dramatically.

“I know Santa very well. And I believe that Santa saved my life. He opened my eyes to a lot of the great things about my life. I don’t have problems, I have just things that happen,” he said.

“By following Santa when he goes out, I have



Santa stops in to the mess to check on some Christmas treats. He’ll be back all through December for holiday events around 17 Wing.

seen problems, and I’ve seen people with problems. And I realize now that if everybody helped just one person, the world would be a much better place.”

MS Rose is doing his part by helping out Santa during the holiday season by helping the big red guy collect toys and donations for the needy.

Because of all of his help, MS Rose is one of Santa’s highest ranking badge holding elves, a group of 97 people across the country who hold special badges that Santa bestows upon them for their service and support of

his cause. “To become a badge holder, they’ve got to work for me, and be very good with old people and kids,” said Santa.

“The elves have to be good, and helpful, and have that special twinkle in their eyes. I can usually tell who will make a great elf even by working with them just once.”

MS Rose says that his time with Santa has showed him that there’s something redeeming in absolutely everyone, and that everyone young and old, sick or well deserves some Christmas

cheer. “Since I’ve known Santa, I’ve found that there’s good in everybody,” he said.

“Sometimes you have to dig – sometimes you really have to dig, but it’s always there. There’s good in some

place.” Santa himself echoed MS Rose’s statement: “Everybody’s got some Santa in them. Everybody. Some people just don’t want to let it show.”

The Honourable STEVEN FLETCHER
MP for Charleswood – St. James – Assiniboia – Headingley

“Wishing a very Merry Christmas to our Canadian Forces & their families.”

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Sending Christmas wishes to all for a healthy and safe 2009.




Bonnie Korzeniowski
MLA for St. James

Manitoba Special Envoy for Military Affairs

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Maj Raby recognized for alternative dispute resolution initiative

By John Towns
Voxair staff

Solving conflict with your peers can be difficult at any time, but when you're halfway around the world and you're spending virtually 24 hours a day with those peers, it can become even more challenging.

That's why, when 8 MSS was going overseas in 2007, Maj Suzanne Raby, at the time OC 8 Mission Support Squadron from Trenton, decided to make sure that she and her subordinates had extra tools at their disposal for dealing with personal conflicts.

Maj Raby, who is now the 17 Wing Deputy Wing Logistics & Engineering Officer, took the initiative to work in conjunction with the Trenton Dispute Resolution Centre to ensure that all of her senior leadership staff and many of her junior ranks were trained in methods to resolve their disputes without always needing to involve either their superiors or an outside agency for assistance.

In recognition of this, on 9 December, Chris Ford, Director General of Alternate Dispute Resolution, presented Maj Raby with a Chief of Military Personnel Commander's Commendation.

Maj Raby said that after hearing from Maj Tim Gushue, Central Region Manager, Conflict Management Services and Coordinator of the Trenton Dispute Resolution Centre that when a unit



MGen Marcel Duval, Commander 1 Cdn Air Div/CNAR with Maj Suzanne Raby and Director General of ADR Chris Ford.

would come back from a deployment, they were forced to clear their calendars for weeks to deal with issues that had arisen on deployment, she made the decision to make sure her staff had the essential tools to deal with conflict as it arose on deployment.

"When I found out we were going to deploy, one of the tools that was missing was [the ability to perform] conflict resolution and alternative dispute resolution within the senior leadership," said Maj Raby.

"It just gives people extra tools in their toolkit to solve conflict at a lower level."

She said that due to the demanding nature of a deployment, it is extremely important to be able to

solve disputes quickly to avoid adding more stress to an already stressful environment.

"Everywhere you go where there's a high operational tempo – or even when there's not – there is conflict that's going to take place," she said.

"And when you're working with the same people for 18 hour days and you're living with these people, you're eating with these people, you really can't get away from them. So if there's conflict that develops in the workplace, it really is more critical to deal with it immediately in a deployed situation than it would be at home."

Training Mission Support Flights in methods of conflict resolution has since

become common practice before a deployment, thanks in part to 8 Mission Support Squadron's experience.

"The whole idea here is to help people better deal with conflict as it arises, whether it's here in Winnipeg or Camp Mirage or wherever it is," said Ford.

"It's to enable people themselves to deal with the issues rather than to have to resort to some other office or process."

Ford said that while training deploying personnel in alternative dispute resolution techniques has not yet become Air Force doctrine, it has become the best practice.

Four other Mission Support Squadrons have undergone the same dispute resolution training, with another round of training set for the 17 Wing Mission Support Flight in February or March of next year.

"[Maj Raby] delivered a post-deployment report stating that based on her observation, the skills that the MSS personnel learned contributed significantly to reducing the repatriation rates of her personnel," said Maj Paddy Douglass, Coordinator of the Winnipeg Dispute Resolution Centre.

"In a situation like this, where we are at war, people in the military need to be focused on their jobs 100 per cent of the time. When people are thinking of personal conflicts, they can't do that, so this kind of training is something that's very valuable to us."

440 Sqn promotions

By Capt C.H. Rockwell
440 Sqn SOPS

LCol Ross Wuerth, Commanding Officer of 440 (T) Squadron, Yellowknife had the honour on Friday November 28th to promote three of his Vampires. WO Simon Roberts, Sgt Shelley Traves and MCpl Francois Hamel, all members of the unit's small but very dedicated Maintenance Flight, pinned on their new rank during an

informal ceremony held in 440 hanger in "The Knife".

LCol Wuerth remarked that it was pure coincidence that the promotion ceremony was taking place on payday. Nor was it at all planned to take place on the day of the mandatory mess Christmas decorating event to be held later that day.

The Vampires are all immensely proud of these three members of the Squadron and wish them all the best at their new rank.



WO Simon Roberts, Aircraft Maintenance Officer, receives his new rank.



Maintenance Crew Chief Sgt Shelly Traves receives her stripes.



MCpl Frank Hamel, 2I/C Maintenance, receives his leaf.

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Athlete of the month enjoys the competition of sport

By John Towns
Voxair Staff

When you ask Lt Erin Copeland what sports she is involved in, be prepared to hear a list—a long list.

“Oh, where do I start?” she laughs. “I’m big into cross-country skiing, snowboarding, cycling, running, I play squash, you name it.”

Lt Copeland, this month’s Athlete of the Month, is originally from London, Ont, and joined the Forces a little over five years ago. She currently works as an administration officer for the Canadian Forces Air Navigation School, the Canadian Forces School of Aerospace Studies and the

Canadian Forces School of Meteorology.

Lt Copeland been involved in all kinds of sports all her life, but perhaps her signature sport is short track speed skating, for which she still holds the North American record for 1500-meter short track, which she set in March of 2001.

“I’ve actually been training for speed skating since I was seven, and I eventually went to Calgary to train on the Olympic Oval there,” she said.

“My mom had a lot to do with me getting started, and keeping up with it. She was really involved in it, and now she’s the head coach of the team in London.”

While Lt Copeland’s



Lt Copeland dismounts her bike to cross an obstacle in the Manitoba Cyclo-cross series.

family may have been what got her into sports, she says the competition is what keeps her involved.

“I love the challenge. I’m a very competitive-natured person, so I really like the challenge,” she said. “I’m

always training for something.”

Since coming to Winnipeg last year, Lt Copeland has become active on the local sports scene, bringing home first place at the Lindenwoods Fall Classic 5km run in October. In the fall she also participated in the Manitoba Cyclo-cross series, where she brought home four first place and three second place finishes.

Cyclo-cross is a unique sport that mixes road cycling with mountain biking, where the riders occasionally have to dismount their bikes and carry them over a number of obstacles on the course.

“It’s basically a mix between road riding and mountain biking,” said Lt

Copeland.

When she’s not busy competing in events herself, Lt Copeland fills her time coaching young speed skaters, something she started not long after coming to Winnipeg, and she says is very rewarding.

“It’s been going great. I coach the provincial team, which is like 14 to 17 year olds, and just the satisfaction of being able to give back after so many years of getting so much is great,” she said.

Lt Copeland is currently getting herself ready for the cross-country skiing season, and says she will be continuing to run and train for the CF National Running Championships, which will take place in Ottawa in June.

Wing Commander’s hockey tournament a success

By Chris Merrithew

Congratulations to 1 Cdn Air Div Aces and the Make B-Leafs hockey teams who were victorious in their quest to win their respective divisions at the 2008 Wing Commander’s Ice Hockey tournament.

The tournament, held 3-5 Dec 08, consisted of six high calibre teams all vying for the opportunity to win the coveted Wing Commander’s Hockey Cup.

The tournament consisted of two divisions with the top team from each division receiving a bye directly to the championship final.

The B division championship final was set between the undefeated Make B-Leafs team and the optimistic MP team.

Each team pressured to score the all important first goal. At 34:00 of the game,

the swift skating Cpl Paul Vilefaure blew past the MP defenders and dented the twine behind the fallen MP goaltender.

The Make B-Leafs team was boiling with excitement as they wanted their tournament to continue on with a championship victory.

The powerful MP team quickly answered with one of their own when Cpl Jamie Anderson received a superb pass and fired it past the surprised Make B-Leaf goaltender to tie the game at 1-1.

Less than four minutes later, the Make B-Leafs scored the go ahead goal on the power play goal scored by 2Lt Danny Gonthier assisted by Sgt Scott Ballam and Sgt Ed Marshall. MWO Guy Pelletier scored the third goal as the Make B-Leafs defeated the MPs 5-2 to win the WCOMD B

hockey championship.

Cpl Paul Vilefaure was voted the Boston Pizza Player of the Game as he contributed two goals and two assists in the B division championship final.

The highly anticipated A division championship final was set between the 1 Cdn Air Div ACES and the 16 HGR Dogs.

The game was very fast paced with end to end action as it featured some of the best players that 17 Wing has to offer.

The 1 Cdn Air Div team got off to a quick start scoring at the 52:20 mark of the game on a power play.

Lt Col Matt Halpin received a pass from Lt Col Gord Reid and 2Lt Dan Ennis and snapped a quick snapshot past the 16 Hgr Dogs goaltender to take an early 1-0 lead and set the tone for the game.

2Lt Dan Ennis scored the second goal of the game 10 minutes later to take a 2-0 lead.

The 16 Hgr Dogs quickly responded with one of their own on a beautiful goal by Cpl Lance Browne. MWO Greg Fleet from 1CDN AIR DIV received a clever pass from OCDT Trevor Keefe to take a 3-1 lead with 14:45 left in the game.

The 16HGR team applied extra pressure and responded with a rebound goal by Cpl Chris Murray assisted by Cpl Steve Baziuk.

The 1 CDN AIR ACES countered with a goal and the Hgr Dogs scored two goals of their own to tie the

game at 4-4 with five minutes left in the game.

With the clock ticking down, MWO Fleet received a pass in the slot and lifted it into the Hgr Dogs net for the potential winning goal.

The Hgr Dogs were not going to give in easily as they bombarded the Aces goaltender with shots and were rewarded at 1:34 as WO George Lake blasted the puck into the top corner of the Aces net to send the game into overtime.

The action was end to end in overtime as both teams were trying desperately to score the winning goal and clinch the A division championship.

In dramatic fashion, Lt Col Gord Reid fired the winning goal over the fallen Hgr Dogs goaltender to be crowned the A Division WCOMD hockey champions.

1 Cdn Air Div Aces team captain, Lt Col Dave Mason received the championship trophy and 2Lt Brian Robar was awarded the Boston Pizza Player of the Game for his outstanding performance in the final.

After the 1 Cdn Air Div Aces claimed their championship trophy, 2Lt Dan Ennis summarized the 2008 hockey tournament:

“It was great. The Hgr Dogs had a good group of guys that brought a ton of intensity. We played three clean, hard games that ended up being decided by one goal in the dying seconds of the final game. I think that this year’s WCOMD Cup



A division champions, back row, from left: Lt Col Matt Halpin, 2Lt Dan Ennis, Sqr Ldr Terry Fascione, MCpl Tom Baker, MWO Jim McKenzie, and Col Gord Reid. Front row, from left: MWO Greg Fleet, OCDT Trevor Keefe, Lt Col Dave Mason, Capt Tom Tulloch, Maj Doug Lawrie, CWO Colin Stewart and 2Lt Brian Robar.

was a huge success with a strong showing of the camaraderie built amongst these hockey teams. It just shows that there are a lot of talented young players and veteran players on this base that will make strong contenders for the regional teams this year.”

The finals were a great crowd pleaser and the tournament offered some exciting hockey over the three day event.

The WCOMD representative, Lt Col Fairley and the

WCWO, CWO Wallace presented prizes following the game to the winners in each of their respective divisions. Thank you to the officials, timekeepers and the Highlander Sportsplex for their assistance in making the tournament a great success.

Thank you also to Boston Pizza for their donation of Player of the Game awards and our main sponsor for the tournament, Labatt’s, for their continued support and generous contribution of prizes.



B division winners, back row, from left: Cpl Justin St-Onge, Sgt Brent Mason, Sgt Stacey Kohanski, Cpl Paul Vilefaure, Sgt Ed Marshall, MWO Guy Pelletier, Pte Ken Keating, Pte Joel Clarke, Sgt Scott Ballam. Front row, from left: Maj Dan Whittaker, Cpl Jamie Upshall, MCpl Mike Quirion, Cpl Tabatha Morris, Cpl Shelley McCammon, 2Lt Danny Gonthier.

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**Saturday,
February 21st**

Delta Winnipeg - 350 St. Mary Avenue
Cocktails 6:00pm ~ Program 6:45pm ~ Dinner 7:00pm

\$85.00 per person*

Dress: Mess Kit, Formal Attire
*Includes a charitable receipt for \$40.00
Payment methods accepted are cash, interac & cheque.
Ticket sales begin November 3, 2008

Let's Go!

Do your children have more energy than your four walls can handle? Join us Thursday afternoons for a chance to let loose and get moving! Children and parents will have the opportunity to play together with large muscle toys. There will also be parachute and cooperative games, music, movement and a lot of fun.

Date: Thursdays January 15-February 12

Time: 1:15 - 2:15 pm

Place: 17 Wing Recreation Centre (multi purpose room), 680 Wihuri (Whytefold) Road

Cost: \$10/5 weeks per family, drop in rate: \$3/family

For information or to register, call Shannon 833-2500 (2491)

Casual child care

This service provides care for children 18 months to 5 years old, by caring experienced staff in a safe, warm environment. Care must be booked at least 24 hours ahead and is on a first come, first serve basis.

When: Tuesday 1-3:30 p.m. and Thursday 9:30 a.m. to 12 p.m.

Where: Westwin Children's Centre (building33)

Cost: \$8/child per session or \$12/family per session

Register: 833-2500 (2491)

Please provide a peanut free snack for your child.



Where's Soldier Bear?

Like a newcomer posted into Winnipeg the MFRC's Soldier Bear is exploring 17 Wing. Soldier Bear will be photographed at various locations around 17 Wing until the end of December, and his photo will be published in Voxair. If you think you know where Soldier Bear had his picture taken stop by the MFRC to fill out a ballot. Draws for your chance to win your very own Soldier Bear will be held on October 1, October 29, November 26 and December 23. A grand prize draw for the chance to win a \$100 gift certificate to the Keg will be held on December 23. Each person is eligible to enter twice a month and it is possible to win more than once.

Mom's Night Out

Do you need a night with some fun, food and friends? Join us at the MFRC once a month for some chit-chat with other mom's and NO Kids. Each month we will have a different theme and activity. Come sit and relax for an evening. Group will meet from 6:30-9:30pm.

Jan 13

Feb 10

Mar 10

Registration is required.

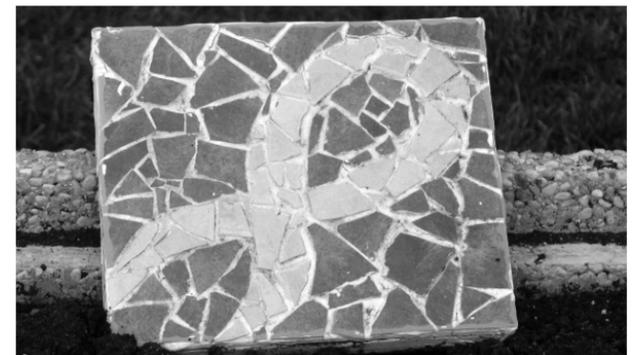
MFRC Coffee Break

The first MFRC coffee break of 2009 will be held on January 8 at the MFRC between 1000 - 1100. Drop by for a cup of coffee, visit with other community members, pick up resources, register for programs and meet the staff.

Coffee & craft get together

Relax and visit with other families of deployed CF members while we make a yellow ribbon mosaic plaque for your garden or to display in your home on Tuesday January 20, 2009 from 1 to 3 pm

. Also, if it is your first time visiting our centre I can take you on a little tour. There is no charge. Please register by calling 833-2500 Ext 4500 no later than January 13.



Christmas hours

December 22 & 23 - 0830 - 1630
December 24 - 26 - Closed
December 29 & 30 - 0830 - 1630,
December 31 - January 2 - Closed

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
JANUARY 2009				1 CLOSED	2 CLOSED 1:30 pm - Youth Centres open 6 pm - Youth Advisory Council	3 1:30 pm - Kool Kids
4	5 1 pm - Casual Child Care 3:45 pm - Afterschool Club	6 9:30 am - Creative Tot Shop 3:45 pm - Afterschool Club 6 pm - Kool Kids 8 pm - Teen Drop-In	7 3:45 pm - Afterschool Club 6 pm - Kool Kids 8 pm - Teen Drop-In	8 9:30 am - Casual Child Care 10 am - Coffee Break 3:45 pm - Afterschool Club 6 pm - Kool Kids 8 pm - Teen Drop-In	9 10 am - Parent Community 3:45 pm - Afterschool Club 5:45 pm - All Night Party 6:30 pm - MTYP 7 pm - Teen Drop-In	10 1:30 pm - Kool Kids
11	12 1 pm - Casual Child Care 3:45 pm - Afterschool Club 7 pm - Valentines for Vets	13 9:30 am - Creative Tot Shop 3:45 pm - Afterschool Club 6 pm - Kool Kids 6:30 pm - Mom's Night Out 8 pm - Teen Drop-In	14 10 am - Parent Group 3:45 pm - Afterschool Club 6 pm - Kool Kids 7 pm - Valentine for Vets 8 pm - Teen Drop-In	15 9:30 am - Mother Goose 9:30 am - Casual Child Care 1:15 pm - Let's Go 3:45 pm - Afterschool Club 6 pm - Kool Kids 8 pm - Teen Drop-In	16 10 am - Parent Community 3:45 pm - Afterschool Club 7 pm - Teen Drop-In	17 1:30 pm - Kool Kids
18 	19 1 pm - Casual Child Care 3:45 pm - Afterschool Club	20 9:30 am - Creative Tot Shop 1 pm - Deployment Group Coffee & Craft Get-together 3:45 pm - Afterschool Club 6 pm - Kool Kids 8 pm - Teen Drop-In	21 3:45 pm - Afterschool Club 6 pm - Kool Kids 8 pm - Teen Drop-In	22 9:30 am - Mother Goose 9:30 am - Casual Child Care 1:15 pm - Let's Go 3:45 pm - Afterschool Club 6 pm - Kool Kids 8 pm - Teen Drop-In	23 10 am - Parent Community 3:45 pm - Afterschool Club 7 pm - Teen Drop-In	24 1 pm - Open House
25 	26 1 pm - Casual Child Care 3:45 pm - Afterschool Club	27 9:30 am - Creative Tot Shop 3:45 pm - Afterschool Club 6 pm - Kool Kids 8 pm - Teen Drop-In	28 10 am - Parent Group 3:45 pm - Afterschool Club 6 pm - Kool Kids 7 pm - BOD Meeting 8 pm - Teen Drop-In	29 9:30 am - Mother Goose 9:30 am - Casual Child Care 1:15 pm - Let's Go 3:45 pm - Afterschool Club 6 pm - Kool Kids 8 pm - Teen Drop-In	30 10 am - Parent Community 3:45 pm - Afterschool Club 7 pm - Teen Drop-In 7 pm - Pyjama Party	31 1:30 pm - Kool Kids

Christmas is a time for traditions – old and new

By LCdr Bonnie Mason
17 Wing Chaplain

On 7 December, I attended the Air Command Band's Holiday Concert. It was an absolutely spectacular performance for which the Air Force and each of the participants should be very proud.

There is one song that continues to play in the back of my mind, I'm Dreaming of Home. Since hearing it I have been thinking of home and the many Christmases I shared with my family over the years.

I grew up in rural Nova Scotia in the small community of Barney's River Station. Up until two years ago it was at least a 20 minute drive to the nearest ATM.

There are four children in my family with a seven year spread between the oldest and the youngest. I am child number three with only thirteen months between myself and my younger brother – yes, my mother was very busy!

We had several family Christmas traditions growing up (some better defined as rules) and one of them was that on

Christmas morning we were allowed to look in our stocking but not to touch any gifts under the tree until the adults were out of bed.

This, I believe, was established following the Christmas that the three older children became so completely enthralled with our younger brother's race car set that we had it broken before he was even out of bed Christmas morning. This event also established the tradition that no sibling was to be left in bed Christmas morning but all were to check their stocking loot together.

Another tradition was that we always had cherry cheese squares as an option for dessert following the turkey dinner on Christmas day.

This was our favorite dessert and we only had it at Christmas.

Well, this one holiday season our mother made the squares and then left with myself and younger brother to run an errand leaving my two older siblings alone in the house. We returned to an empty cherry cheese square pan with the lame explanation that the dog nudged the pan off the table and proceeded to eat the squares.

To this day my older siblings continue to deny having eaten those squares.

I have received many Christmas gifts over the years but my favorite was the stuffed dog my older brother gave me when I was six years old.

That dog went everywhere with me; to school, sledding, skating... I still have that stuffed dog and with every posting I am unable to throw it away.

I think that even at the tender age of six I understood that my brother who was only 12 years old at the time and was already working in the woods on weekends had spent his own hard earned money to purchase a gift he picked out himself for his younger siblings at Christmas.

These are Christmas memories we continue to share and laugh about some 25 years following the events and that I think of when dreaming of home at Christmas.

I have since celebrated Christmas in many different plac-

es across Canada and abroad; Quebec, Ontario, Dominican Republic, and Barbados.

This will be my first Christmas in my new home of Winnipeg and although I will miss my family in Nova Scotia, I am looking forward to the opportunity of spending this time with friends and colleagues who have invited me into their homes to share their family Christmas traditions during this holiday season.

Over the years I have come to understand that home is less of a place but rather moments in time when I feel completely myself in the presence of family, friends and colleagues.

For those of you who will not be spending Christmas with the people you love most, I pray you are able to find home, even if briefly, in the presence of friends this holiday season. Cherish the Christmas memories of the past but be open to the new experiences and traditions of people who open their hearts and homes to you during this holiday season.

From the 17 Wing Chaplains I wish you a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.



Wing Chapel seasonal services

Roman Catholic:
 24 Dec 08 Christmas Eve, 1900 hrs Family Mass
 25 Dec 08 Christmas Day, 1100 hrs Mass
 28 Dec 08 Holy Family, 1100 hrs Mass & Family Day
 1 Jan 09 Mary Mother of God, 1100 hrs Mass
 4 Jan 09 Epiphany, 1100 hrs Mass

Protestant:
 24 Dec 08 Christmas Eve, 2100 hrs Holy Communion.

May peace, love, joy and hope, promised this blessed season, come and abide in your hearts throughout all the coming months. God bless you.

— The 17 Wing Chaplaincy team:
 Bonnie Mason, Bob Granholm, Jean Johns, Joe Johns,
 Ken MacRae, Lance Magdziak, Gord Mintz, David Stewart



17 Wing Defence Diversity Advisory Group (DDAG)

Please join us! We meet once every two months and exchange information and offer advice to leadership on issues related to women, visible minorities and persons with disabilities.

Wednesday, 21 January 2009
 Room 114, TECC Bldg 135

Wednesday, 18 March 2009
 Room 114, TECC Bldg 135

Wednesday, 20 May 2009
 Room 204, 17 Wing HQ Bldg 137

July - no meeting

Wednesday, 16 Sept 2009
 Room 114, TECC Bldg 135

Meetings run from 11:30 a.m to 1 p.m.

For more information please see <http://17wing.winnipeg.mil.ca/wadmin/diversity/ddag.htm>

Please RSVP to military co-chair Sgt Childerhose at Childerhose.DA@forces.gc.ca.

Together in Church

Catholic

Chaplains

Padre Lance Magdziak
 Roman Catholic Office 833-2500 ext 5272

Padre Jean Johns
 Roman Catholic Office 833-2500 ext 5349

Padre Joe Johns
 Roman Catholic Office 833-2500 ext 5785

Administrative Assistant
 Carol Cochrane Office 833-2500 ext. 5087

Masses (English only)
 Sunday 1100 hrs

Religious Education classes are available to all students from Preschool to Grade 6. Please call the office for information.

Confessions The sacrament of reconciliation is offered 20 minutes before mass and by appointment. Contact the chaplain's office.

Baptisms We recommend that you contact the chaplain's office for an appointment prior to the birth of your child.

Marriages Six months' notice is required for marriages, as counselling is necessary to prepare couples for Christian marriage. A marriage preparation course is also required.

Catholic Women's League meets in the Chapel Annex the third Monday of each month at 1830hrs.

Food Bank
 The Food Bank is a joint undertaking by both Catholic and Protestant congregations. Please help by giving any food you can spare. The donation box is located at the rear of the chapel.

Emergency Chaplain
 After normal working hours, the Emergency Chaplain can be reached through WOps Duty Centre, 833-2700.

Protestant

Chaplains

Chaplain Bonnie Mason
 (Presbyterian) Office 833-2500 ext 5417

Padre Bob Granholm
 (Mennonite Brethren) Office 833-2500 ext 4885

Padre Ken MacRae
 (Presbyterian) Office 833-2500 ext 5087

Padre Gord Mintz
 (Anglican) Office 833-2500 ext 5087

Padre David Stewart
 (Presbyterian) Office 833-2500 ext 4277

Padre Curtis Duclos (Baptist)
 Det Dundern Office (306) 492-2135 ext 4299

Administrative Assistant
 Carol Cochrane Office 833-2500 ext. 5087

Sunday Services (English Only) 0900 hrs

Sunday School is held during the service for children ages 3 to 12, except on the last Sunday of each month. Childcare is provided on an as-required basis for children under 3 years of age.

Marriages Contact the chaplain at least six months in advance. A marriage preparation course is a requirement.

Baptisms The Sacrament of Holy Baptism is available by contacting a chaplain. Time is required to give sufficient instruction about the meaning of baptism.

Protestant Chapel Guild meets the first Sunday of the month at 1800 hrs in the Chapel Annex. All women are welcome.

Other Phone Numbers:
 For your convenience, a phone number has been set up to provide callers with info on service times and contact with the chaplain of your choice. Phone 833-2500 ext. 6800 and follow the prompts. Those with access to the DIN visit the chaplains' Web Site at <http://17wing.winnipeg.mil.ca/main>, then click on 'Services.'

Interfaith Prayer Room
 Rm 305 in Bldg 62 is avail during reg working hrs for private prayer or meditation, or for small groups to worship in the manner of their faith.

Classifieds

For sale

Bowflex Tread Climber TC 3000. 1 year old, awesome workout. \$1800. Call Vic or Kim, 475-0622. (20)

1995 Suzuki Sidekick, 4 door, 4 wheel drive, 5 speed standard, dark green. Good condition. Low mileage. Asking \$2500. Phone 897-5495. (19)

17' trampoline. Replaced perimeter pad. Asking price of \$100 includes help with first assembly. Phone 897-5495. (19)

Blanket chest. Beautiful dark gold finish. Approx 5'Lx2'Wx2'H. Asking \$200. Phone 897-5495. (19)

Boys' BMX bike (blue). Suitable for ages 10-13. Asking \$50. Phone 897-5495. (19)

Men's Air Force Mess Kit. Excellent condition. Chest 40-42, waist 38 \$175. Includes, cummerbund, bow tie, suspenders, shirt buttons and jacket clasp. Phone 832-0155. (19)

Coming events

The Winnipeg FGBMFI chapter breakfast meeting 0900 – 1100, Sat 03 Jan 09 Fellowship, worship and inspiring testimony Men and women welcome Roger Armbruster will tell his personal story and how God is transforming whole communities. Best Western Charterhouse Hotel, 330 York Ave (at Hargrave), Winnipeg MB - \$9.

Clerks needed

The 17 Wing Air Reserve Flight is seeking Reservist clerks to fill a severe shortage at 17 Wing. You can work full or part time, and people of all ages can apply. For more information or an interview, contact:

MWO Dennis Hendrickson
17 Wing Air Reserve Flight
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(204) 833-2500 extension 5712

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Aries (March 21 - April 19): You may have been forced to slow down of late but once your energy returns, make sure you pace yourself. Down time can be enjoyable and productive instead of boring. Find ways to make it interesting. You'll be re-energized and ready to kick back into high gear afterwards.

Taurus (April 20 - May 20): Your money may not go as far as you'd like. Keep things simple instead of spending your savings. This is a phase when you should avoid a lavish extravaganza. And if you're not motivated to do as much as usual give yourself a break. Perfect is pointless if you're too tired to enjoy it.

Gemini (May 21 - June 21): A new opportunity or a new idea presents itself. This could change your situation considerably. Insure success by doing the proper paperwork and groundwork. Renewed confidence attracts others to you. You validate your own worth by holding out for what is right for you.

Cancer (June 22 - July 22): You may be focusing on the tough stuff but once you deal with issues things get better. Be more proactive. Who calls the shots in your life? Maybe it's time it was you. Ask for what you need. Those who truly love you will be there to lend a helping hand - with no strings attached.

Leo (July 23 - August 22): You're entitled to have fun but make sure you can cover the costs. Make the most of opportunities that continue to come your way by working hard. You're going to be tested and may feel tempted to take the easy way out. Consider outcomes. "What goes around comes around."

Virgo (August 23 - September 22): If you are feeling a bit under-appreciated and overworked, take heart; your hard work will be rewarded. You've managed in spite of setbacks and difficulties. If others are uncomfortable, around you maybe it's because they were taking it easy while you did the "lion's share."

Libra (September 23 - October 23): Decorate and celebrate. Dress up and go out. The time is right to party. The phone should be ringing off the hook with invitations from people who want you to come out and play. Pre-prepare, by having a few gifts and party essentials on hand to use at a moment's notice.

Scorpio (October 24 - November 21): There are so many functions and chores to fit in that you may feel quite exhausted. Moderation is the key. Avoid excess. Some things will come to a natural conclusion. Let them go. Celebrate the change instead of hanging on. Alleviate worries by dealing only with facts.

Sagittarius (November 22 - December 21): You like to enjoy the good life and seek ways to add comforts to your own. Avoid stressful situations by sending clear signals and speaking honestly. What you assume about others affects what you say and do which in turn affects them and your relationships.

Capricorn (December 22 - January 19): Faced with a challenging situation, show your sense of fairness. Weigh up the pros and cons of doing things the old way. Stretching to something new is probably the better option. You'll do well at whatever you initiate, even if it seems like you're tempting fate to try.

Aquarius (January 20 - February 18): If only the party could go on forever. You're having fun and doing things you've never done before. You could be so caught up in what you want that you don't see what's good for you. Be optimistic but not blindly so. Take care not to overdo it and/or overindulge.

Pisces (February 19 - March 20): Finish tasks; then relax. Assess if you're getting a good return for your efforts. Adjustments may be necessary. Cut back on commitments that have become a burden. Free up space. Let go of what isn't enriching your life. You'll find your energy returns and life improves.

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Christmas around the Wing



Dawson Cowan shares a moment with Santa at the Air Command Band's holiday concert.



Emma Nicole Janisse and mom Brittany Dodd visit Santa during the children's Christmas party. More than 200 children and their parents attended the event, which included bouncy rides, face painting, cookie decorating, a tour of a fire truck and, of course, presents from Santa.



Danny the Alpaca draws a crowd at the childrens' Christmas party on Sunday, 7 December. Danny is a white, blue-eyed five year old male alpaca who is owned by WO Angela Temple and her husband Jim.



Alexis Cowan shares her Christmas wishes with Jolly Old St. Nick at the Air Command Band's annual holiday concert.



Members of the Air Command Band perform during the annual holiday concert held at the Wing Theatre. Close to 300 people attended the concert. Admission was by donation, and nearly \$1,100 and a large amount of unwrapped toys were collected for the Wing Care and Share Fund.



Dottie and MCpl Hepditch from the 17 Wing Fire Department stopped by the children's Christmas party. The Fire Department was also on hand to offer tours of a fire truck.

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