



# THE VOXAIR

Our Military Community Newspaper, 17 Wing Winnipeg

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FREE

# Standing Up The MSS



Photo by Avery Wolaniuk

Maj Stephane Parent and MWO Tim Rouseau are heading up the new Mission Support Squadron, the first of six MSS units forming across the country. They'll deploy to Camp Mirage with personnel from 17 Wing in June 06.

By Avery Wolaniuk

On 1 March 2006, 99 personnel from 17 Wing will leave their units to form the Mission Support Squadron (MSS) under the command of Maj Stephane Parent. This unit, the first of six that will be formed on bases across the country, is part of the Air Force's new focus on a readiness to deploy anywhere in the world at a moment's notice.

Previously, personnel from across the Air Force were deployed overseas and often met their colleagues for the first time in theatre. "It was discovered that it doesn't make for a very efficient use of people," says Maj Parent. "People get burned out, they don't get recognition for the sacrifice

they make while they are overseas, and the mission is probably not as well supported as it could be with organized troops, and this is where we come in." By deploying as an already formed unit who have trained together, the MSS will benefit both the personnel and the mission. "It will make for a better management of our resources, a better management of people, and a better quality of life all around," says Maj Parent.

After two months of training in Winnipeg, the squadron will deploy to Exercise Maple Flag 39 in Cold Lake, and after a brief return to Winnipeg, the troops will move out as

a unit to support Camp Mirage.

Members of the MSS will spend March and April in preparation, first working with the Departure Assistance Group (DAG) taking care of all documentation details, like passports. "DAG allows people to be able to get out the door quickly," says MWO Tim Rousseau, who has been appointed MSS SWO. Then it's full speed ahead, working through a compressed training that will mostly occur in Winnipeg to help keep families together as long as possible. Members will take part in training such as: an enhanced weapons

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# Grievance Board Tours 17 Wing

By Avery Wolaniuk



CFGB Board Member Gwen Hatch (right), Col Ken O'Brien, 17 WComd and Muriel Korngold-Wexler, Director of Grievance and Analysis Operations, met with personnel at the WComd's coffee break.

Employees and a Board Member of the Canadian Forces Grievance Board (CFGB) visited 17 Wing on 31 January 06, touring several units and meeting personnel around the base. Seventeen employees of the CFGB made the trip from Ottawa, including Board Member Gwen Hatch, the Director of Grievance and Analysis Operations, Muriel Korngold-Wexler and several grievance officers and legal counsel. Wing Commander Col O'Brien gave a presentation to the Board employees, who then met with Wing personnel during an informal coffee break. After a lunch at the mess with Air Force mem-

bers, they sat down to a second presentation, given by Chief of Staff 1 Cdn Air Div, Col Grant Smith, finishing the day with a visit to Wing Log and Hangar 16.

Winnipeg was this year's first stop on the CFGB schedule. At the end of February, Board Members will tour Gagetown and Greenwood. Each year the Board visits a different location, rotating through Army, Navy and Air Force bases. Most of the people who work for CFGB are civilians with no previous exposure to military life, and the tours are a way to help them better understand and appreciate military culture.

"I came to the board as a

civilian never exposed to the CF," says Director Korngold-Wexler, "I came to realize that the employees who reported to me were dealing with military grievances and they had to understand the environment, they had to understand what the military are going through. I realized that if they came to the various bases, then they would come away with a better understanding of what is going on and why certain issues, things a civilian wouldn't think about, are very important."

The tour is a "mutual

education" for the CFGB and the personnel they visit, says Board Member Gwen Hatch. "It's one thing to read a file, but when you get to meet people and hear them talk about their job, their base, it really helps me put things in perspective." At the same time, the tour gives CF personnel a chance to learn and informally meet the Board. "Most people are surprised to learn that the Grievance Board is not part of the CF," says Korngold-Wexler.

The Board is an administrative tribunal independent from the Department of National Defence. They are the second step of a two-part

grievance process. CF personnel first submit their grievance to their CO, who either acts as the Initial Authority (IA) or submits the grievance to some who can act as the IA. If the grievor is dissatisfied with the IA's decision, they may request that the Chief of the Defence Staff (CDS) review their grievance. The CDS sends the files that fall within the CFGB mandate to the Board, who make recommendations for recourse to the CDS. "We look through civilian eyes, but we also try and understand the military culture," says Hatch.

The CFGB website regu-

larly posts case summaries of recent grievance cases, which provides an overview of the Board's work and what the resulting CDS decision was. The CFGB will also be launching an electronic newsletter this summer that will be circulated quarterly to e-mail recipients (anyone can sign up via the website), the content of which will highlight recent grievance cases of interest, including those for which the CFGB has made systemic recommendations.

For further information, contact the CFGB at 1 877 276-4193 or visit them online at [www.cfgb.gc.ca](http://www.cfgb.gc.ca).

## Standing Up The MSS Continued from page 1

training package, which MWO Rousseau describes as "a little bit above and beyond the Air Force standard,;" Land, Nav and Comm training; Chemical Biological Radiological Nuclear (CBRN); Mine Awareness; and a lot of fitness training.

These personnel will be challenged physically, both with long days at Cold Lake, and then seven-day workweeks at Camp Mirage in the high summer temperatures of Southeast Asia. "Fitness is a huge part of this requirement. You can imagine working outside in the low fifties – it's extreme," says MWO Rousseau. Because of this, Maj Parent and MWO Rousseau are hoping their unit will be able to complete the Land Force Battle Fitness Test (BFT) before they deploy to Cold Lake.

In the past, The Maple Flag exercise has been an exercise for fighter pilots. This year Period One, the first of three 10-day periods, will look a little different.

"We will expand that first portion to give it a more joint flavour," says Maj Parent. Maritime Patrol Aircraft, tactical helicopters and army troops will all be joining in the exercise designed to demonstrate the skills of the newly formed squadron.

"It's a proof of concept exercise. We're going to go out there and demonstrate a number of capabilities – some of them new, some of them already existing in the Air Force – and demonstrate that the Air Force can go out in a semi-tactical austere environment," says Maj Parent. "Where we're going to deploy – it's not the Hilton." Engineers, communications, maintenance, supply, foods, administration and army troops will all participate in both the exer-

cise and the mission. "It will demonstrate that we have all the pieces to go anywhere in the world and essentially live from tents and deliver our mission from this camp," he continues. "We'll look like a mini-Kandahar."

On 5 May 2006 the first reconnaissance group will deploy for Maple Flag, with other members following on 6 May and 8 May. The new squadron will be joined by 408 Sqn on 13 May. Period One of Maple Flag will begin 14 May and run until 26 May, after which MSS will tear down camp and head home for rest and reconstitution. Sometime in June, they will be deployed to Camp Mirage for a six-month tour.

"The message that we need to pass on to everybody on the Wing is the importance of this. The Wing Commander has stated that this is the main effort for 17 Wing for 2006," says Maj Parent. "And it's not just us leaving and going on a mission, a very important mission for the Air Force and the CF, but also the fact that the Wing is going to lose upwards of 90 people. That's a huge impact on the ability of the Wing to maintain its mission, to support itself and to support its dependencies." The 90 troops heading overseas, who will be joined by 110 others from across the force, will make up the bulk of the administration troops and all of the logistics troops for Camp Mirage.

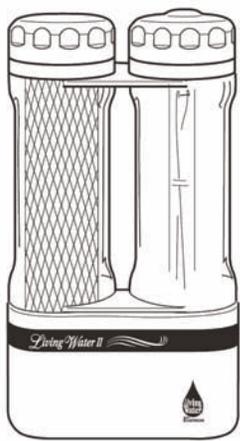
"This is a key function of Camp Mirage, to make it run and deliver its mission to Afghanistan. We're providing all the troops for that mission; that's what we're going to be training for," says Maj Parent. "We're going to be exercising in Cold Lake to deliver that mission, and then we're going to go to Camp Mirage to deliver that mission."

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# Retiring Supply Tech A 'Class Act'

By Avery Wolaniuk

Rishe Sukhan, dedicated civil servant and former military man, was honoured with the 35 years of Public Service award last summer. It joined two other awards from the Wing Commander that he has received for implementing creative and effective recycling methods in his job as Repair and Disposal (R&D) supervisor for the last 23 years. In April 2006 he'll retire, ending a long and appreciated service to the CF.



Rishe Sukhan received a 35 years of Public Service award from former WComd Col Steff Kummel last summer. Mr. Sukhan is retiring this April after a long and distinguished career with the CF.

"Rick Sukhan was certainly a class act in the eyes of this former Wing Supply Officer. As the supervisor of Supply Sqn's Repair and Disposal section, Rick's attention to regulations and disposal laws always brought a level of comfort to me," says Maj Doug O'Neill, who is Mr. Sukhan's former boss, and who is now stationed at the NORAD headquarters in Colorado Springs. "The fact that his section has produced virtually no fanfare over the years is testament of how he properly dealt with the disposal of everything from PCBs to sensitive military pattern equipment.

"He has successfully kept the WComds, WLogOs and WSupOs far from ever having to be investigated for inappropriate practices under their command – mainly because these practices simply never existed," continues Maj O'Neill. "The level of trust he was able to establish with senior management was substantial."

Mr. Sukhan joined the military in 1969 as a Supply Technician, training in Cornwallis, Nova Scotia and first posted in North Bay, Ontario. He vividly remem-

bers working during the FLQ crisis, guarding politicians who were holding meetings in North Bay. "You're green, you're just a young fella with this gun, even though it wasn't loaded," says Mr. Sukhan, explaining that they were instructed to keep ammunition in their pockets.

In the winter of 1974, he volunteered for a UN tour that took him to Ismailia, Egypt. Waking up to find the wash water frozen over in the basin was not an experience he expected to encounter in the desert. But what impacted him most was seeing the poverty of the citizens there. When he was 13, Mr. Sukhan had immigrated with his parents and four siblings from Guyana, South America, in 1963. He says the UN tour to Egypt was eye opening, demonstrating "how poor those people are and how lucky it is for me to be a Canadian."

After returning to North Bay for a couple of years, it was back to Ismailia in 1977 to experience the desert in the summer. "I was single, I was bored," Mr. Sukhan laughs. This time attached to the Transport Platoon, he had the dubious joy of expe-

riencing a sand storm in the middle of the desert. "You're driving across the desert, and you stop in a camp. You have to stop," he explains. "Sand gets everywhere, you just can't stop it. It gets all in your clothing, your hair, everywhere. Even if you close the windows— everywhere. It was an adventure."

Back in Canada at the end of his tour and promoted to MCpl in 1978, he was transferred to CFB Ottawa when his unit disbanded and worked on the 2 Air Field Maintenance Squadron. In 1980 he left Ottawa for Winnipeg, taking his release from the military in 1981. He didn't enjoy the "war games," but managed to earn the title "Crash Sukhan" for rolling two vehicles during exercises in Wainwright. But he didn't go far. While taking his accumulated time off, Mr. Sukhan was hired as a civil servant, working as a computer operator. Two years later he started as R&D supervisor, a position he held for 23 years, eventually becoming the STS 6, the highest Storeman position at 17 Wing.

Mr. Sukhan married Sherene in 1983, and had three kids who have all followed in his combat boot

footsteps. His eldest, Dennis, with the 17 SVC Bn for seven years, while his daughter Krista was briefly with the sea cadets. Youngest child Anil is a Cadet Officer with the 2701 Army Cadets. He encouraged his kids, and everybody else's, to consider the military, telling them that "You cannot beat the money and it's a great way to travel."

As R&D supervisor, Mr. Sukhan received two awards from the Wing Commander: the Wing Commander Commendation in 2002 for Haz Mat and recycling suggestions, and the Wing Suggestion Award in 1996 for disposing of combat clothes by selling them. Previously, the articles were burned. Mr. Sukhan's suggestions saved the military money at bases across the country, and protected the environment as well. "The whole environment is important, and if I can help it, I will," he says. He also volunteered for 15 years as the Supply Safety Officer, and for several years as 17 Wing Harassment Advisor.

Mr. Sukhan, currently on leave, will retire as a public servant in April 2006. He's planning to spend his retirement doing the things he loves, like cooking, reading and playing badminton, with a little fishing and gardening thrown in during the summer. He highly enjoyed his time with the military and says he'd definitely do it again. "If somebody talks about the desert now or I see it in a movie, I say 'yeah I know about that,'" he says. "Or sometimes you see a show or National Geographic and see parts of Egypt and I tell my kids 'see, I was there!'"

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# New Broadband DVPNI Lets You Work From "Anywhere"

By Marshall Ruskin, WTISS

“With Broadband DVPNI, you can securely connect to the DWAN from 'anywhere' at broadband speeds.” It's a big step forward. Approved DND/CF personnel, who are working away from their traditional locations, can get broadband connections to the DWAN from a hotel, or an airport, or many other locations. They can then access all their network resources.

Naturally, there's one major catch to all of this. There had to be.

## Getting Set Up

Broadband DVPNI works using regulation hardware, regulation software and the correct network components.

You provide the wired broadband Internet connection. That means Internet via Cable Modem or DSL is in. Using wireless access is out; it's prohibited for security. If a broadband connection isn't available, dial-up will connect you, but your productivity will be low. That's not the catch.

DND provides an approved laptop already set up, as non-DND or home computers are prohibited. They also provide a PKI reader, a PKI Smartcard with a password, some special software from baseline and mandatory virus updates.

## One Drawback

Since it's a special set-up, you have to log on differently

than normal. Sometimes logging on can take longer than you'd like, and be more complicated, and the baseline updates really are tedious. But the logging-on experience should improve soon with some forthcoming back-end changes. That's not the catch, either.

## Non-Traditional Workplace Decorum

Naturally, proper discipline must be maintained even when personnel are working from remote locations. Therefore, with the anticipated popularity of Broadband DVPNI, there will certainly be policy forthcoming for “DVPNI-Approved Dress”.

Will your “jam-pants” be regulation-spec? I don't think so. And don't even think about those slippers you're wearing. Requirements for “Approved pajama outfits,” likely! That's the catch!

## Facts about Broadband DVPNI

DVPNI Stands for:

Defence Virtual Private Network Infrastructure

Current Deployment: three local users testing functionality

Joining Instructions: not yet avail, will be provided by WTISSO

Planned Deployment: phased approach over time

Speed: 128 Kbs with 256 Kbs bursts

For More Information

[http://img.mil.ca/projects/common/dv\\_pni/user\\_info\\_e.asp](http://img.mil.ca/projects/common/dv_pni/user_info_e.asp)

# Countdown To PSEA

## Appointment Processes

The new Public Service Employment Act (PSEA) came into force in December 2005 which means we now have a whole new approach to staffing. Many of you have raised questions about this change. We will continue to publish “Questions and Answers” which we hope will enhance your understanding of the new legislation. In this issue, we answer questions related to appointment processes.

## Q: Will there still be competitions?

Under the new PSEA, what we used to know as open and closed competitions will be called internal and external appointment processes.

Internal and external appointment processes can be either advertised or non-advertised. In practical terms

this means that appointment processes will be open internally to either the department or interdepartmentally OR externally to members of the public. An advertised process will invite applications. For non-advertised processes, there will be no notice of a job opening. The decision to appoint from within or outside the public service or to use an advertised or non-advertised process will be aligned with the organization's Human Resources plan or be driven by operational requirements and will respect the legislative values of fairness, transparency and access.

## Does a manager need to run a closed competition before going to open competition?

When the new PSEA comes into force in December 2005, open or closed competitions will be referred to as

internal or external appointment processes. Although there will be no requirement for managers to make appointments from within the public service before seeking to fill vacancies from outside the public service, they will be accountable for all staffing decisions. This means that they must exercise judgement while considering their specific organizational needs before choosing the most appropriate appointment process.

## How will appointment processes be advertised?

Inter-departmental and some departmental advertised processes will be posted at [Publiservice.gc.ca](http://Publiservice.gc.ca). In some cases, it may be sufficient to advertise using email, bulletin boards or verbal notification. External advertised processes will continue to be posted at [Jobs.gc.ca](http://Jobs.gc.ca) and other forms of

advertising such as newspapers, trade publications or on-campus job fairs can also be used to recruit candidates.

## Q: How will I apply for jobs?

For jobs advertised at [Jobs.gc.ca](http://Jobs.gc.ca) and [Publiservice.gc.ca](http://Publiservice.gc.ca), you will have the opportunity to apply on-line or through other means as indicated on the job notice. For internal processes advertised by different means, instructions for submitting your application will be clearly defined on the advertisement.

For previous articles relating to the new PSEA, please refer to the civ news website at <http://hr3.ottawa-hull.mil.ca/hrciv/cos/communications/en/home>. Please forward your questions about the new PSEA to [Dopson.jm@forces.gc.ca](mailto:Dopson.jm@forces.gc.ca)

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## 17 Wing General Safety Office Upcoming Occupational Health and Safety Workshops

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- Effective Health and Safety Committee - Winnipeg (6 March 2006);
- Job Safety Analysis (JSA) - Winnipeg (7 March 2006)
- WHMIS "Train the Trainer" - Winnipeg (8 - 9 March 2006); and
- Effective Workplace Inspection - Winnipeg (10 March 2006);

All Workshops will be conducted at the Canadian Forces School of Aeromedical Training (CFSSAT), Building 75, Classroom 2, from 0745hrs to 1600hrs daily.

Additional information available from Ms. Julianna Fillion, WGS Administration Assistant, Local 5913 or Warrant Officer Pat Kieffert, A/WGSO, Local 4149.

# 100% Reimbursement For Safety Footwear

By Avery Wolaniuk

Civilian employees requiring protective safety footwear during the performance of related duties will now be fully reimbursed for the cost of that footwear. "Previously civilian employees were given an allowance for a percentage of the cost of their safety footwear," says Mr. Chuck Haarsma, Wing General Safety Officer.

Effective 01 Jan 2006, the provision states that, "Treasury Boards has adopted, in conjunction with the National Joint Council, a policy of fully funding the cost of protective footwear. Thus, the Department of National Defence has the responsibility as an employer to provide appropriate protective footwear to its civilian employees."

The new policy, which used to cover approximately

\$40 to \$50 of protective footwear expenses, affects federal public civil servants. Those unsure of their coverage should contact their supervisors/managers for further information. The policy does not set a maximum ceiling cost, instead indicating the reimbursement of reasonable costs associated with the purchase, replacement or repair of required safety footwear.

Mr. Haarsma says the point of the policy is injury prevention. "The most important aspect of this policy is that people that are required to wear safety footwear wear it during the course of their employment; now there's no excuse not to. Supervisors have to make sure that they're wearing it," he says. "It's a good thing that you're fully reimbursed, but the bottom

line is why you're getting it. It's to prevent damage to your feet."

The footwear an employee may require depends on their job and the hazard they are going to be exposed to. According to the provision, the requirements, entitlements and type of safety footwear are to be determined by the safety committee and the supervisor of each unit in accordance with CSA Standard Z195.1-02 Guideline on Selection, Care, and Use of Protective Footwear.

"Your foot is a very intricate part of your body. There's a lot of bones in there," says Mr. Haarsma. "You break your big toe or another part of the foot and you could have permanent damage for the rest of your life."



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Health Promotion Director Christa Zappitelli and SISIP FS representative Gord Moore launch the "MARCH 1ST, I QUIT!" Strengthening the Forces program.

## "MARCH 1ST, I QUIT!"

The Strengthening the Forces Health Promotion team launched the "March 1st I Quit" Challenge on 3 Feb 06. The challenge encourages members of the CF team to quit smoking. All members of the DND/CF team, including CF members' immediate family who have reached the age of majority, are eligible to participate. The contest is retroactive to September 05, so if you quit smoking in Sept, Oct, Nov, Dec, Jan, or Feb you are eligible to win. Even non-smokers may register as supporters of members trying to quit. Participants must remain smoke-free until at least 1 Apr 06 to be eligible for the (up to) \$16,000.00 CANEX Gift Cards.

Participants can pick up and drop off registration forms at Building 90, Bldg 63, Health Services, Jr. Rank's Mess, or register online. After registering participants can pick up their gift package/survival kit in bldg 63, Rm 147/148.

The contest is sponsored by CANEX and SISIP. A local 17 Wing prize will be drawn to a successful participant in the first week of April.

GOOD LUCK TO ALL SMOKERS WHO TAKE THE CHALLENGE!

For additional information or to register contact your Health Promotion team: Christa or Penny @ local 4160/4150

# Wing Commander's Honours And Awards Ceremony

Photos by Cpl Bern LeBlanc



Cpl David Christie receives his Canadian Forces Decoration (CD) from Col Ken O'Brien, 17 WComd. The CD is for 12 years of dedicated service to the CF.



Maj Dave Bekolay receives his Canadian Forces Decoration 2 Clasp (CD2) from Col Ken O'Brien, 17 WComd. The CD2 is for 32 years of dedicated service to the CF.



MCpl Ian Arnett receives the General Service Medal from Col Ken O'Brien, 17 WComd.



MCpl Eric Cowen receives the General Service Medal from Col Ken O'Brien, 17 WComd.



Capt Brent Andrews receives the South-West Asia Service Medal from Col Ken O'Brien, 17 WComd. The South-West Asia Service Medal recognizes the participation of CF members deployed or in direct support of the operations against terrorism in South-West Asia.



Maj Patrick Douglass receives his Canadian Forces Decoration 2 Clasp (CD2) from Col Ken O'Brien, 17 WComd. The CD2 is for 32 years of dedicated service to the CF.



CWO Kirk Newhook receives his Canadian Forces Decoration 2 Clasp (CD2) from Col Ken O'Brien, 17 WComd. The CD2 is for 32 years of dedicated service to the CF.



Cpl Mark Lavolette receives the General Service Medal from Col Ken O'Brien, 17 WComd.



Cpl Charlene Williams receives the General Service Medal from Col Ken O'Brien, 17 WComd.



Cpl Darryl Marshall receives the General Campaign Star (GCS) from Col Ken O'Brien, 17 WComd.



LCol Tom Whitburn receives the General Campaign Star (GCS) from Col Ken O'Brien, 17 WComd.

The General Service Medal is awarded to CF members who deploy outside of Canada but not necessarily into a theatre of operations to provide direct support, on a full time basis, to operations in the presence of an armed enemy.

The General Campaign Star is awarded to members of the Canadian Forces and members of allied forces working with the Canadian Forces who deploy into a defined theatre of operations to take part in operations in the presence of an armed enemy.



Lt Kimberly Newman receives her Canadian Forces Decoration 1 Clasp (CD1) from Col Ken O'Brien, 17 WComd. The CD1 is for 22 years of dedicated service to the CF.



MCpl William Lynch receives his Canadian Forces Decoration 1 Clasp (CD1) from Col Ken O'Brien, 17 WComd. The CD1 is for 22 years of dedicated service to the CF.



MCpl Paul Martin receives his Canadian Forces Decoration 1 Clasp (CD1) from Col Ken O'Brien, 17 WComd. The CD1 is for 22 years of dedicated service to the CF.



CWO Mike Koropatnicki receives his Canadian Forces Decoration 2 Clasp (CD2) from Col Ken O'Brien, 17 WComd. The CD2 is for 32 years of dedicated service to the CF.



Cpl Jim Wison receives his Canadian Forces Decoration 1 Clasp (CD1) from Col Ken O'Brien, 17 WComd. The CD1 is for 22 years of dedicated service to the CF.



Sgt Gaston Plante receives his Canadian Forces Decoration 2 Clasp (CD2) from Col Ken O'Brien, 17 WComd. The CD2 is for 32 years of dedicated service to the CF.



CWO Claude Parent receives his Canadian Forces Decoration 2 Clasp (CD2) from Col Ken O'Brien, 17 WComd. The CD2 is for 32 years of dedicated service to the CF.



WO Pat Kieffert receives his Canadian Forces Decoration 2 Clasp (CD2) from Col Ken O'Brien, 17 WComd. The CD2 is for 32 years of dedicated service to the CF.



WO Marc Michaud receives his Canadian Forces Decoration 2 Clasp (CD2) from Col Ken O'Brien, 17 WComd. The CD2 is for 32 years of dedicated service to the CF.



Cpl Lawrence Martin receives the Wing Commander's Commendation from Col Ken O'Brien, 17 WComd. The Wing Commander's Commendation was awarded to Cpl Lawrence Martin for responding to a major vehicle accident.



Ms. Jeanette McLeod receives the Public Long Service Award for 25 years of service from Col Ken O'Brien, 17 WComd. The Public Long Service Award is presented to DND civilians who have attained 20 or more years of service.



Mr. John Bessas receives the Public Long Service Award for 35 years of service from Col Ken O'Brien, 17 WComd. The Public Long Service Award is presented to DND civilians who have attained 20 or more years of service.



Mr. Dennis Ward receives the Public Long Service Award for 25 years of service from Col Ken O'Brien, 17 WComd. The Public Long Service Award is presented to DND civilians who have attained 20 or more years of service.



MWO Ed Holleman receives the Wing Commander's Commendation from Col Ken O'Brien, 17 WComd. The Wing Commander's Commendation was awarded to MWO Holleman for responding to a major vehicle accident on 9 Aug 2005.



Mr. William Rudy receives the Public Long Service Award for 35 years of service from Col Ken O'Brien, 17 WComd. The Public Long Service Award is presented to DND civilians who have attained 20 or more years of service.

# The Dunking Part 1

By J.C. Hughes / Taken from *Aircrew Memories*, published by *The Victoria Publishing Company Inc.*

On 15 July 1942, 402 Squadron was stationed just south of London at Redhill. This was the secondary airfield of the Kenley wing. We were sharing it with 602 Squadron led by W/Cdr Paddy Finucane, and a Polish Squadron. At that time Paddy had more victories than any other living pilot in the RAF.

The weather was bad. A low-pressure system off the west coast. We had ten-tenths cloud, rain, and a ceiling less than 1000 feet. Lousy weather, but ideal for rhubarbs. 602 Squadron and the Poles would fly into France on the deck and go a-hunting. In this weather, the enemy would take advantage of the cover to keep the railways, canals, and roads busy. There would be lots of targets! If things got too hot, we could just pop up into the cloud and fly instruments for a while.

We had been assigned to handle defence. We were standing by for take-off in squadron strength to repel any enemy attack. The Germans knew all about rhubarb. They knew we just loved to drop in for tea and blow up a few locomotives on the way.

At about 1100 hours Paddy and his crew taxied out on to the runway and were off into the mist. We were now at fifteen minutes readiness instead of immediate readiness. I wandered out to my aircraft to gather my gear and chew the fat with the ground crew. We were discussing available entertainment in London for leave when it happened. Two red flares. "Scramble!"

We leapt into action. In no time I was strapped in, helmeted, with engine running. The CO came barrelling along the taxi strip, and I pulled in right behind him as his No. 2. We swung on to the runway and were off. The boss reported "airborne" and air control replied, "Buster 180 deck" (Maximum speed due south below cloud). We crossed the coast and dropped down to the Channel. Our controller came on the blower and advised us that some of our friends were in the water and the rescue boats under attack by ME109s. We were to see what we could do about it.

We were about seven miles off Le Touquet. I could only see the CO, but the rest were on their way. As we approached the French coast we could see a big break in the overcast several miles across. The Germans must have been waiting there for our Spitfires coming out of France low on ammo and fuel. I could see several boats burning and ME109s diving in pairs to attack them. There must have been about twenty of them. The CO attacked the nearest pair and they broke off the attack. The 109s then joined up to assess the new threat. They had been sent out to destroy the boats and had done a pretty good job. They must be low on ammo by now.

Our CO gave the order to circle the boats to port and form a defensive circle. The enemy formed another circle outside ours, circling to starboard. It was obvious they were not very interested in the boats now and we were the targets. I didn't like it one bit. We had given the enemy the initiative and



J.C. Hughes

Jack was born in Dauphin, Manitoba, in 1919. He enlisted in the RCAF in 1941 and was accepted for pilot training. He was awarded his wings in September of that year and left for Britain. He joined 402 Squadron to fly Hurricanes and later Spitfire Vs over France. By October 1942, Jack had moved to Malta (249 Squadron) where he stayed until July 1943. In March 1944, he was posted to 401 (RCAF) Squadron flying Spitfire IXs and covered the D-Day operations. Jack finished his tour in Holland and was demobbed in 1945.

were now purely defensive.

Then another enemy squadron, Fw190s, got into the act. These boys were not short of anything. The ME109s reformed and were prepared to leave when a pair of them broke off and made a pass at the boats. I decided to have a go. I was in position and dove to intercept the 109s line of flight and fired a short burst of cannon. I made a couple of hits and he broke off. I was ready to finish the job, but first took a glance back and I was looking down the barrels of a FW190s cannon less than 100 yards away. I slammed everything into the corner to make a break, but I was too late. I saw the rounds coming out of his guns like a volley of red-hot tennis balls.

The Spitfire Vb had a landing light in the leading edge of the port wing, and the quadrant to aim it was located about six inches above the throttle. The first round from the 190 hit the quadrant; it smashed a hole in the port side of the fuselage that I could stick my leg through, and another hole on the starboard side where the whole kit and caboodle exited. My hand on the throttle picked up a splinter of steel and was slammed across my body. I glanced down; blood was coming in spurts through a slit in my glove. The next round exploded on the corner of the instrument panel. The flying instruments were smashed. There was broken glass everywhere. I was looking at a regular fireworks display of sparks in the black hole where the panel had been. My left leg felt as if a baseball bat had hit it and there was a strong smell of cordite. Another round hit somewhere in the engine; glycol coolant was being sucked into the cylinders and blown out the exhaust as white smoke. Time was running out. I called the boss.

"Red Two, hit and bailing out."

"I see you. Try to get away from the coast; we'll cover you."

It was good to hear my leader's voice. I shed the canopy, throttled back and set the prop in coarse pitch to get the most of what was left of the engine. I was too low to jump and tried to pick up some height. I was down to about 180 mph. I looked back to starboard and saw an aircraft coming up; it was very comforting. Then I checked to port and there was another aircraft coming up and fast; it had a big yellow spinner. It was an FW190. I stuffed the nose down and hauled the Spit around to meet it. He pulled straight up into the clouds. He had done his job. They had me boxed in, and he had drawn me into attack so his buddy could close and blast me from behind. I slammed the Spit to starboard to meet the attack.

At my speed, I could turn around on a nickel. I am sure the Fw pilot didn't realise how slow I was going. He was barrelling along trying to bring his guns to bear on me, and over-shot. I had turned inside him. He was committed to the attack, and it was too late to break off. He couldn't turn sharply enough to bring his guns to bear on me and would pay for his error. I turned to meet him and opened fire as he approached. He must have passed less than 100 yards from my guns. My windshield was oiled up but I saw several

flashes as the cannon shells found their mark. The Fw vanished into the cloud.

The whole operation had started in a large break in the overcast. I was back to overcast and less than 1000-ft ceiling. The Spitfire has a firewall between cockpit and fuel tank. However, the controls passed through it, and it only had a delaying effect I saw the fire sucked through the floor by the draft from the open cockpit, and soon it was everywhere. I was well covered: gauntlets, boots, heavy glass goggles, and a slow-burning wool scarf.

I had to move fast. It is suicide to jump from an aircraft at low altitude and hit the water at over 100 mph. I decided to reduce my ground speed by pulling up in a loop so that when I had negative g I could pull the pin and pop out like a cork from a bottle. We had a saying, "When in trouble, do something, even if it is wrong".

I had run through this in my mind a hundred times. Full fine pitch, full throttle, it may blow up, but what the hell! Back on the stick and up we went. I had a routine: right hand pulls oxygen fitting, down to radio and pull the plug, down to seat lever and drop the seat, pull the pin on seat harness, stand on the seat, and kick the stick forward.

It's amazing how little things come to mind. The RAF provided radio plugs and cords in one side only, with about seven feet of cord. I guess this was so the bomber boys could go to the 'can' and still hear the music. For single-seat fighters, two feet would have been adequate. We solved the problem by folding the wire back on itself, wrapping the rest around the folds, and pulling the plug through the end loop. We called it a "hangman's knot" - how appropriate!

I followed the fixed routine until it came to standing on the seat; I couldn't get up. I glanced down and saw the hangman's knot was jammed between the lever and seat, and the cord was holding me back. Time had run out and the aircraft was stalling. I crouched down, got my feet on the seat, hands on the edge of the cockpit and heaved with every bit of strength I could muster. The oxygen mask ripped off my face and the earphones popped out of their rubber cups. I was clear of the aircraft and hanging flat on my back looking at it. I prayed it wouldn't fall back on me; it fell off on its port wing.

Then I made another mistake. I hooked my left thumb in the D ring, straightened my arm, and pulled the ripcord. I felt the 'chute being pulled from its bag. It should be flowing up my back and opening over my head. But it wasn't - it was all going down below.

When I left the aircraft, it was doing about 150 mph straight up and so was I. If I'd had my wits about me I'd have waited until I started to fall before pulling the cord. There was a downward pull on the shoulder straps and I did a back flip. I was hanging head down looking at the mess of 'chute and shrouds. I prayed I would not dive into the 'chute. I fell beside it and eventually was pulled head up. The 'chute was OK. I worried about my bleeding left hand and made a couple of wraps of the ripcord around my wrist.

Then I hit the water. The instructions were to release the harness before entering the water, but I was too busy with the ripcord. I went a long way down but found the release buckle, and pressed it with my right hand. Three straps fell away but not the one on my left leg. I reached for it and there was a sudden jerk as the parachute started to drag me. I wore pull-on flying boots. I kicked off my left boot. I was free. I pulled the CO2 bottle lever to inflate my Mae West. I popped out of the water and enjoyed a deep breath.

A strong wind was blowing and big swells from the west were about 7 feet high and 150 feet apart. There was a strong cross wind from the south building up quite a chop and about every third wave was breaking. There was a fine rain, mist, and a low ceiling. I must have been about seven or eight miles off shore and well into enemy territory. I hadn't given a Mayday and couldn't expect to be picked up. I thought that was just as well. The enemy monitors all such calls and would have sent out a boat or an Me109 to eliminate me. I had just seen how they dealt with enemy pilots in the water.

Continued in the next issue of *The Voxair*



OCdt Nguyen was a ROTP student who graduated from the University of Manitoba on 15 Dec 05. OCdt Nguyen received his new rank of 2Lt from LCol Conway, WAdminO. 2Lt Nguyen was posted to the Armoured School in Gagetown on 9 Jan 06.



## 17 Wing Recreational Library

Westwin Community Centre, Bldg 33, North of Bldg 90  
Contact Michelle for more information 833-2500 loc 2490  
Wohlgemuth.Mke@forces.gc.ca

### Hours

Sunday: 1300 - 1600 pm  
Monday: 0900 - 1100 & 1500 - 2000  
Tues - Thurs: 1430 - 2000

### Library Winter Programming

- Adult Book Club - Meets the third Thursday of each month. Contact Michelle for information regarding dates and times.
- Harry Potter Fan Club - Third Monday of the Month from 1830 - 2000. Open discussion on all of the Harry Potter books and movies. Open to Wizards and Muggles of all ages.
- Youth Book Club - First Monday of the month from 1830 - 2000. Book discussions on your book lists.
- Youth Creative Writing - second and fourth Mondays of the month from 1830 - 2000. Be prepared to write; bring pen or pencil and your paper.

### Computer Lab. Located in the Westwin Community

Centre, Bldg 33.  
Contact Chris @ 833-2500 loc 7018

### Hours subject to change.

Monday to Thursday 1600 - 2100  
Friday 1600 - 1900  
Sunday 1300 - 1600

## So you want to be a Swim Instructor / Lifeguard...

If you are interested in becoming a lifeguard or swimming lesson instructor the following is a list of all the courses that you are required to take along with the pre-requisites. If you have any questions regarding these courses or any aquatic programs that are currently being offered at 17 Wing, please contact Brianna Fay, the Aquatic Supervisor at 833-2500 ext 7013 or by email at fay.b@forces.gc.ca

### Lifeguard

Course	Prerequisite
Bronze Medallion	13 years of age, or Current Bronze Star
Bronze Cross	Bronze Medallion
National Lifeguard Service (N.L.S.)	16 years of age, Bronze Cross, Standard First Aid

### Swim Instructor

Course	Prerequisite
Assistant Water Safety Instructor	15 years of age, ability to perform Red Cross Swim Kids 10 skills and distances
Water Safety Instructor	16 years of age, Assistant Water Safety Instructor



## February is 'I Love to Read Month'

This is the month to demonstrate your love of reading with family members and friends. Attached is a list of things you can do every night of the month. Pick one idea for each day and share it with your family or friends.

- Read to a friend
- Exchange books with a friend
- Talk about a book you read
- Tape a story for someone
- Find a quiet spot to read
- Write a receipt for your favourite food and share it
- Read the sport page out loud with someone
- Write a story of your family
- Read a book under the blanket with a flashlight
- Read a book about a different country
- Read to someone
- Read to a younger person
- Read a heart today
- Have someone read to you
- Read a book with someone
- Write a story
- Send or share a book with someone
- Go to the library
- Write a message in the snow
- Take a parent to the bookstore
- Draw pictures for your story
- Reread an old favourite book
- Write a poem
- Read or write a joke or riddle
- Read the comics together
- Share stories and lunch with loved ones
- Read about someone in history
- Read about Flintabattay Flonatin

A book is more when shared.  
Enjoy a Book!

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- Undertake the unusual
- Personal challenge
- Get to know other cultures
- Meaningful experience
- Work in foreign places

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## Military Family Resource Centre

*Are you and your partner prepared to become a military family?*

Check out this quick quiz below...

Making the Transition from Civilian to Military Spouse and Partner... True or False?



1. New military members do not deploy. (True/False)
2. You get to choose where you move and when you move there. (True/False)
3. Your military partner's pay is guaranteed each pay period. (True/False)
4. Unit schedules are unpredictable. (True/False)
5. Your military partner is guaranteed to be home for the birth of your first child. (True/False)
6. Your military partner is guaranteed to be home for all family emergencies. (True/False)

Military 101

Coming in April to the MFRC.

A workshop for new-to-the-CF families. We explore a variety of experiences, which make the Military Family Lifestyle unique and rewarding.

6. False, 5. False, 4. True, 3. True/False, 2. False, 1. False

## Kids In the Kitchen - World Tour

Does your child like to cook? If yes, then, Kids in the Kitchen is the program for them. Kids in the Kitchen teaches children the joy of cooking in a safe, fun atmosphere. This program runs for six weeks and the program fee offsets the cost of supplies. Pre-registration is required.



MFRC, 102 Comet Street  
\$25.00

Saturdays, starting 18 February 2006 1:30 to 3:30 p.m.  
Call Diane 833-2500 loc.4508

WWW.MFRC-MB.CA



102 COMET ST.  
P.O. BOX 17000, Stn. Forces  
Winnipeg, MB  
R3J 3Y5

Phone: (204) 833-2500 Ext. 4500  
Fax: (204) 489-8587

Website: [www.mfrc.mb.ca](http://www.mfrc.mb.ca)  
Email: [wpgmfrc@autobahn.mb.ca](mailto:wpgmfrc@autobahn.mb.ca)

### Our Programs

- ✓ Volunteer Services
- ✓ Personal Development & Community Integration
  - Information and Referral Services
  - The Newcomer Program
  - Employment & Education Assistance
  - Services Francophones/Second Language Services
- ✓ Prevention & Intervention Services
- ✓ Family Separation & Reunion
- ✓ Child & Youth Development
- ✓ Parenting Support

### MFRC Monthly Community Coffee Break



The 1st Thursday of EVERY month  
10-11 a.m.  
102 Comet St.

### Resources

The MFRC has Internet-ready community computers, a fax machine, tape recorders, digital camera, and video camera available for use on site during normal working hours.

### Other Numbers

MFRC: 833-2500 ext.4500  
Emergency Childcare: 935-7733  
MFRC Childcare Centre: 837-3653  
Youth Centre South: 488-8563  
Youth Centre North: 833-2500 Ext 4502



*We are on-line...*

[www.mfrc.mb.ca](http://www.mfrc.mb.ca)

### THE "Community Connections"

Your guide to all current MFRC programs and services! Published regularly, this informative handbook has everything you need to know. Program descriptions, informative articles and our calendar of events...all on-line. Or, for your convenience we can mail a copy to your home....Call to have your name added to the mailing list. 833-2500 loc. 4500

## OSI Spousal Support Meetings

The MFRC and the Operational Stress Injury Social Support (OSSIS) Family Peer Support Program have collaborated to offer monthly support meetings for spouses who have a partner suffering with an operational stress injury. The meetings are informal and open to everyone at anytime. The meetings offer a place for spouses to share experiences, support and resources.



When: Tuesdays 7:30 p.m.

Where: MFRC 102 Comet St.

Upcoming Dates: February 21/March 21/April 18/May 16/June 20

Haley Schroeder -  
MFRC Social Worker @ 833-2500 ext 4512

or

Sandra Guenther -  
Family Peer Support Coordinator @ 782-3119.

## Devenez membre du Conseil d'Administration du CRFM



Nous aimerions que vous entendre. Vos idées et vos opinions sont importantes pour nous. Le CRFM est dirigé par un C.A. qui doit être formé à 50 % par les conjoints des membres des FC. Ceci afin de s'assurer que les services offerts par le CRFM répondent bien aux besoins de la communauté. De plus en étant le porte-parole de votre communauté au sein du C.A. vous êtes le trait d'union entre vous et les membres militaires. Venez partager vos connaissances. Appelez Louise @ 4515 pour recevoir plus d'informations

Joignez-vous à nous le premier jeudi de chaque mois....

## Pause-café communautaire 10h à 11h



Prenez cette opportunité pour rencontrer d'autres familles qui vivent les même expériences que vous, soit un déménagement, un déploiement ou une séparation. C'est l'occasion idéale de prendre contact avec le CRFM et ses nombreux services.

Nos employés amicaux sont toujours disponibles pour répondre à vos questions concernant leurs programmes et services. Inscrivez-vous pour un atelier, ramasser la dernière édition du bulletin de nouvelles « Réseau » ou seulement relaxer et rencontrer de nouveaux amis. Les enfants sont toujours les bienvenus. Café et goûter à partager !

Membres militaires, vous êtes aussi les bienvenus! Venez avec vos collègues de travail et découvrez ce que nous faisons au CRFM. C'est une excellente occasion de développement professionnel et de réseautage.

Pour plus d'information, contactez Catherine au poste 4506.

## Together in Church



### CATHOLIC

#### Chaplains

**Padre Lance Magdziak**  
Roman Catholic  
Office 833-2500 ext 5272

**Administrative Assistant**  
Carol Cochrane  
Office 833-2500 ext. 5087

#### Masses

(English only)  
Sunday 1100 hrs  
Saturday 1630 hrs

#### Religious Education

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

#### 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.

#### Weddings -Marriages

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

#### Catholic Women's League

Meets in the Chapel Annex the third Monday of each month at 1830hrs.

### Protestant

#### Chaplains

**Padre Bruce MacKenzie**  
(United Church)  
Office 833-2500 ext 5417

**Padre Bob Brinn**  
(United Church)  
Office 833-2500 ext 5349

**Padre Paul Southen**  
(United Church)  
Office 833-2500 ext 4277

**Administrative Assistant**  
Carol Cochrane  
Office 833-2500 ext. 5087

#### Sunday Services

(English Only) 0900 hrs

#### Sunday School

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

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

#### 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

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

#### 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.

#### 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.

# Funding Your Education

By John Chabih - 17 Wing Education Coordinator

If financial assistance for your educational goals cannot be achieved by accessing any of the CF Educational Reimbursement programs discussed in the January 18, 2006 issue of the Voxair, do not get discouraged; the following programs may be available to you.

#### Civilian DND Employees

Civilian employees may be funded for continuous learning and professional development activities. For more information contact the appropriate office:

17 Wing and Integral Units - Glenn Arthurson - Local 4167  
1 Cdn Air Div - Florence Bambenek - Local 5251

Others may contact your Human Resource Officer.

#### Lifelong Learning Plan (LLP) - Government of Canada

The Government of Canada, through its Lifelong Learning Plan (LLP), allows individuals interested in taking courses from accredited institutions by accessing funds you have saved within an unlocked RRSP. This program allows an individual to access \$20,000 (\$10,000 per calendar year) from their RRSP without penalty for tuition. The program is available to the individual that has the RRSP and their spouse or common-law partner. Unfortunately these funds cannot be accessed to pay for a dependant's education.

For more information on the Lifelong Learning Plan program visit url:

<http://www.cra-arc.gc.ca/E/pub/tg/rc4112/rc4112-e.html>

#### SISIP Financial

##### Education Assistance Loan Program (EALP)

If accessing RRSPs is not an option but you still wish to find another funding source to assist with your education goal, it is suggested that SISIP Financial be considered. SISIP has two financial assistance programs that may be used by CF Personnel. The Education Assistance Loan Program will provide up to \$16,000 (\$4,000 per calendar year) for any CF Member or Dependant wishing to access a full-time educational program at an accredited institution. The interest rates for the loans range from 2%-3% and can be paid back over 12-48 months.

#### Self Improvement Loan (SILP)

If you are wishing to take a part-time program that costs between \$500-\$4000, the Self Improvement Loan may be your best option. This loan is geared at improving CF member's quality of life and budgeting purposes. Reg Force and

Class C Reservists are eligible with some provisions.

For more information on these programs, contact your SISIP Representative at (204) 942-3222.

17 Wing and the Wing Personnel Selection Office also wish to assist CF personnel with their educational planning. As the Education Coordinator for the Wing, it is my privilege to assist CF members with their transition to civilian life, provide administrative support with Individualized Learning Plans and to provide honest and up-to-date educational and career counselling. I may be contacted at (204) 833-2500 Local 5247 to provide support with your lifelong learning plan and any additional information on the Educational Reimbursement Programs.

## Mark Your Calendars

presented by  
the Winnipeg Learning and Career Centre, the Wing Personnel Selection Office, the Military Family Resource Centre, and the Employee Assistance Program

#### UPCOMING LUNCH AND LEARN SESSIONS

1. Operational Stress Injuries and OSISS  
Wednesday, February 22/06  
Sandra Guenther, Family Peer Support Coordinator, Eastern Prairies and NW Ontario
2. Avian Flu  
Thursday, February 23/06  
Sgt. Brenot
3. Introduction to the Internet  
Tuesday, February 28/06  
Bev Knight, 38th Brigade

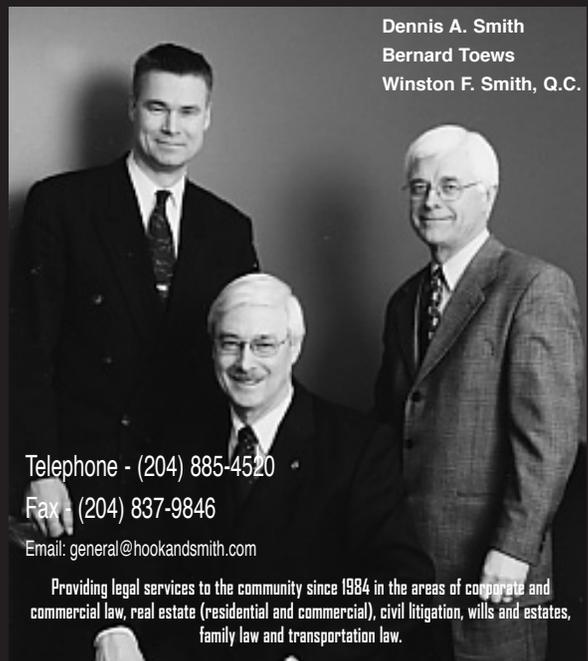
The sessions will be held in the Training and Education Building, Building 135

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\$150, Call for details 489-9271

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\$75/50/50, Call for details 489-9271

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**Manitoba Military Aviation Museum**

17 Wing Winnipeg - Building 66

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**Help Wanted:**

CFPSA is currently accepting applications for Cooks. Valid Food Handlers Certificate an asset. This is a casual position, evenings and weekends (0-13 hrs/wk). For more information, please contact the NPF Human Resources Office at 833-2500 ext. 5580.

CFPSA is currently accepting applications for Servers/Kitchen Helpers. This is a casual position (0-13 hrs/wk). For more information, please contact the NPF Human Resources Office at 833-2500 ext. 5580.

# TAROSCOPES BY NANCY

**Aries (March 21 - April 19):** Finally there's an ending to your feelings of exhaustion and having to constantly cope with crisis. As obstacles disappear the days start to fly by. The change in pace may be tiring but it's not from stress it's from enjoying so many new interests and taking part in fun activities.

**Taurus (April 20 - May 20):** It's important to be aware of your react to surprises and changes in your schedule. Are you overwhelmed or do you see a new challenge to tackle? Your response is affecting you and will indicate what adjustments you should make in your life to improve your overall wellness.

**Gemini (May 21 - June 21):** As you learn how to maintain boundaries, how to identify when it's safe to share and how much to reveal you can be yourself more often. You're not only more comfortable than you thought you'd be, but you're also able to make more satisfying connections with others.

**Cancer (June 22 - July 22):** You react emotionally around those you love, but try to restrain yourself and watch what happens. Your expectations are affecting perceptions and outcomes. Though you may be disappointed when things aren't perfect, they could actually be working well. Reality isn't so bad. Relax.

**Leo (July 23 - August 22):** You're all fired up, eager to make a good impression and make new contacts. Looking for opportunities that are more satisfying you'll let go of some worries and commitments. They took too much time and effort anyway and kept you from your real interests.

**Virgo (August 23 - September 22):** Define success for yourself. You are more secure than you realize. Don't let past experiences influence you too much. Stop putting pressure on yourself. Being responsible can mean taking a rest instead of trying to figure everything out and excelling at all you attempt.

**Libra (September 23 - October 23):** You are developing confidence in your decision making. The first step in assessing your options should be to determine your personal preference. Then list the pros and cons. Take into account life cycles and your own energy cycles. Be patience with yourself and others.

**Scorpio (October 24 - November 21):** Give yourself credit for knowing what was right for you and acting on it. Letting go took time but you've made the effort to move out of a pattern that was uninspiring. You will find yourself instinctively drawn to more meaningful associations. A wish is about to come true.

**Sagittarius (November 22 - December 21):** You may find your usual calm logic is missing and your feelings keep getting in the way when you are trying to figure out a current dilemma. If you factor in your own desires you'll see the answer to your confusion. But it will be a while before you know what to do.

**Capricorn (December 22 - January 19):** Consider the impression you give when you meet new people. You're eager and excited, full of ideas. Know when to lead and when to listen. You are a teacher to some and a student to others. Whatever the situation be enthusiastic and sincere.

**Aquarius (January 20 - February 18):** Until you're thinking more clearly watch out or you'll revamp your whole life on a whim. If offered an option that appears fantastic, delve a bit deeper before committing to it. You know effort is required to advance in life so don't let others talk you into believing it isn't so.

**Pisces (February 19 - March 20):** Be more positive about your finances. Worry won't solve anything. You are capable of being responsible and planning for your future. If you need help, call an expert. The real issue is your wish for a sense of security; but security is an illusion. Change is a guarantee.

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