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*Seasons Greetings from*  
**The RT Team**  
**204-951-9539**



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17 Wing Winnipeg / 17e Escadre Winnipeg

15 December 2021

# THE VOXAIR



The Winnipeg Military Community News Source Since 1952



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## UPCOMING EVENTS

**Snowshoe Rentals** - Contact 204-833-2500 ext 5139

**Cross Country Ski Rentals** - Contact 204-833-2500 ext 5871

**Canad Inns Winter Wonderland** - 3 Dec - 8 Jan 22

Manitoba's Largest Drive-thru light show at the Red River Exhibition Park. Subsidized tickets are available for purchase at the front desk of B90, Debit and Credit only, for \$9 and cover one vehicle with a maximum passenger load of 7 people. (\$15 at other locations or \$20 at the gate)

**Lights of the North** - 7 Dec 2021 - 2 Jan 2022 1100 hrs

Garden City Shopping Centre contact info@lightsofthenorth.ca

Come stroll, laugh and play under the twinkle of more than half-million Christmas-themed 3d light sculptures. Have fun with family and friends inside a warm and cozy indoor space that is filled with magic of lights.

**Zoo Lights** - 7 Dec 2021 - 2 Jan 2022 1730 - 2030 hrs

Assiniboine Park Zoo Admission: \$12.75 + GST (all ages 3+), children 2 and under are free

Zoo Lights are back! Experience the magic of the holiday season with over 1 million lights, live entertainment, tasty treats, and more!

**Positive Space Ambassador Training** - 15 Dec 2021 (3-Hours)

Formation ambassadeur de l'espace positif - 15 dec 2021 (3 heures)

Learn more about the positive space program.

**PSP Program Guide** - released Dec 17 watch Facebook and CAF Connection for more information

**Drop n Shop** - 18 Dec 2021 - 930 - 1530 hrs

Drop your children off for a day of

fun activities while you shop. For more information or to register visit [cafconnection.ca/winnipeg](http://cafconnection.ca/winnipeg)

**St Norbert's Market: Holiday Season Winter Visit** - 19 Dec 2021 1130 - 1230

Dress warmly from head to toe and join us for a Holiday Season Winter visit under the canopy at Saint-Norbert's Market, 3514 Pembina Highway. Learn about the market and its neighborhood. Shop or window-shop! Free. Register by December 14 by emailing [brinda.chengadu@winnipegmfr.ca](mailto:brinda.chengadu@winnipegmfr.ca)

**Managing Angry Moments** - 12 + 19 Jan 2022

Gérer les moments de colère - 12 et 19 jan 2022

Anger is a powerful emotion and this course offers ways to deal with anger in healthier ways.

**Buff-Out** - 13 Jan 2022

Écrasez-La - 13 jan 2022

If you want to quit using tobacco or cannabis, we can help. Contact Diane at 4995 or Deanne at 4160.

**Mental Fitness Suicide Awareness** - 17 Jan 2022

Force Mentale et Sensibilisations au Suicide - 17 jan 2022

Discover how you can help someone who is in distress while learning how to build your own resiliency.

**Positive Space Ambassador Training** - 18 Jan 2022 (1-Hours)

Formation ambassadeur de l'espace positif - 18 jan 2022 (1 heures)

Learn more about the positive space program.

**Blast Off the Pounds** - Starts 21 Jan 2022

À l'assaut des kilos - départs 21 jan 2022  
12 week program that mixes nutrition/healthy eating habits with fitness in one.

**Respect in the CAF** - 24 Jan 2022

Respect dans les FAC - 24 jan 2022

Exploring sexual misconduct and harmful behaviour. Learn how you can make a difference by creating a more respectful work environment.

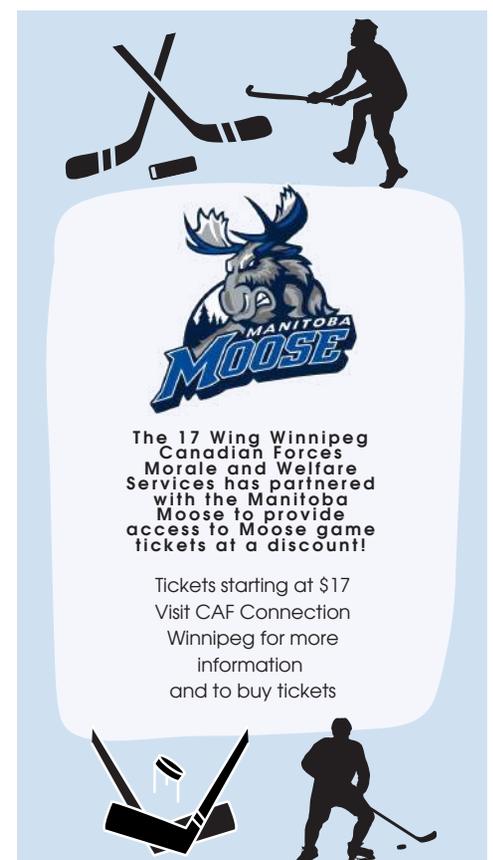
**BELL Let's Talk** - 26 Jan 2022

Bell Cause pour la cause - 26 jan 2022  
We are hosting a coffee break and Helping Professional showcase for our military community. Visit us at the Junior Ranks mess from 0930 - 1130 for a hot beverage and a snack while checking out the information tables. Lets' keep the conversation going!

**Positive Space Ambassador Training** - 31 Jan 2022 (3-Hours)

Formation ambassadeur de l'espace positif - 31 jan 2022 (3 heures)

Learn more about the positive space program.



The 17 Wing Winnipeg Canadian Forces Morale and Welfare Services has partnered with the Manitoba Moose to provide access to Moose game tickets at a discount!

Tickets starting at \$17  
Visit CAF Connection Winnipeg for more information and to buy tickets



## Wcomd Hockey Tournament

Five days of WComd Hockey Tournament was played at Canlan Sports 22 - 26 Nov, 2021.

Wing Commander Col Proteau welcomed everyone to an exciting week of hockey and started the tournament off with opening remarks and puck drop. Our RCAF talented trio singers lead us in the National Anthem.

Big shout out to Boston Pizza (2517 Portage Ave) and huge thank you! Boston Pizza generously sponsored the tournament by providing a large team pizza to each team and provided SPORTSMANSHIP PLAYER OF THE GAME Individual Gourmet Pizzas which were presented at the end of each game to a player from each team!

SPORTSMANSHIP PLAYER OF THE GAME recipients were:

Maj Treanor, LCol Perreault, MCpl Avery, OCdt Bateman, Cpl Castillo, Cpl Stirling, WO Conway, Maj Kieres, MCpl Faucher, Capt Mockford, Maj Kallenbach, WO Preece, MCpl Rowland, LCol Kotzer, Capt Machnee, Cpl Donoghue, Dave Barton, MCpl Morrison, MWO Goulding, Sgt Gore, Capt Cooper, Maj Morency, MCpl La Sage, Avr Arsenault

SEMI-FINALS: Nathan Brunel, Cpl Onswitch, Capt Rand, LCol Coffin, Pte Kotzer, Cpl Crowe, Capt Dixon, PO2 Milburn,

FINAL: WO Alex, Pte Kotzer, Maj Mitchell, Maj Pistilli

(Missing from pictures are: Maj Conway, Maj Kieres, Capt Dixon)

TEAM SPORTSMANSHIP - FIGHTING ARTICHOSES

MCDIVISION DIVISION CHAMPIONSHIP FINALS:

Champions - WING MUTTS & Runner Up - BISON

WICKENHEISER DIVISION CHAMPIONSHIP FINALS:

Champions - ACES & Runner Up - GERIATRIC JETS

# A Holiday Message from the 17 Wing Commander

As we wish farewell to a difficult 2021, we look with optimism as to what 2022 will bring us. This year has been the most challenging of our collective careers. Not only did we have to navigate the challenging path of COVID-19, we had to recognize, acknowledge and adapt to an urgent need to change our culture.

We are extremely proud of the way you are all handling these challenges. Your resilience in the face of adversity is commendable. You are uniting to evolve and change the way we conduct ourselves and execute our mandates to serve Canadians. From our response to vaccine delivery, support to forest fires, handling

of multiple high-visibility visits, adapting your ability to deliver new and existing training on top of your day-to-day job demands, you have been here to serve. You keep delivering under pressure as the professionals you are.

As we look forward to a brighter future, I want to reassure you that we are working on positive changes. Your leadership is focussed on reducing the demands to a realistic level. Gone are the days of asking you to do more with less – we will identify what can be done with the resources we have and either, reduce our demands, or provide you with what you need to deliver. We want you all to

have quality time with your loved ones, get professional development opportunities, take care of your mental health and be rested and refreshed when you come to serve this great Nation.

We're also focussing on supporting you all better in your time of need. Whether you have been affected by an unhealthy working environment or have been overworked and overstressed, we are committing to support you better as we move forward. You all deserve a healthy workplace and we will deliver on this promise.

Lastly, we will improve on our diverse, inclusive and supportive culture here at CFB Winnipeg. We have many initiatives

ongoing to create a more inclusive workplace and are looking for your initiative and support to keep moving the yardsticks in the right direction.

My family and I want to wish you the very best this Holiday Season. We hope you will have the opportunity to reunite with your loved ones, take a well-earned vacation and come back with enthusiasm as we focus on how to make 2022 better.

Sincerely,  
The Proteau family.

## Un message à l'occasion des Fêtes de la part du commandant de la 17e Escadre

Alors que s'achève une année difficile, nous attendons avec optimisme de découvrir ce que l'année 2022 nous réservera. L'année 2021 aura été la plus difficile de nos carrières respectives. Non seulement avons-nous dû affronter les écueils que la COVID-19 a placés sur notre route, mais nous avons aussi dû reconnaître l'urgence d'opérer des changements dans notre culture et nous y adapter.

Nous sommes extrêmement fiers de la façon dont vous avez tous relevé ces défis. Vous avez fait preuve d'une résilience remarquable face à l'adversité. Vous vous unissez pour évoluer et changer la façon dont nous nous conduisons et dont nous accomplissons notre mandat au service des Canadiens. Qu'il s'agisse de livrer des vaccins, de participer à la lutte contre les incendies de forêt, de gérer de nombreux

visites à grande visibilité ou d'adapter votre capacité à offrir de la formation – nouvelle ou non – en plus de mener à bien vos tâches quotidiennes, vous êtes là pour servir. Comme les professionnels que vous êtes, vous continuez de supporter la pression.

Alors que nous nous tournons vers un avenir plus radieux, je tiens à vous rassurer : nous travaillons en vue d'opérer des changements positifs. Vos dirigeants s'efforcent de ramener les exigences à un niveau réaliste. L'époque où on vous demandait de faire plus avec moins est révolue. Nous déterminerons ce qu'il sera possible de faire avec les ressources dont nous disposons et, soit nous réduirons nos exigences, soit nous vous fournirons ce dont vous avez besoin pour y répondre. Nous voulons que vous puissiez

tous passer du temps de qualité avec vos proches, bénéficier d'occasions de perfectionnement professionnel, prendre soin de votre santé mentale, et vous sentir reposés et revigorés lorsque vous servez ce merveilleux pays qu'est le Canada.

Nous nous efforcerons également de mieux vous soutenir lorsque vous en aurez besoin. Que vous ayez subi les effets négatifs d'un milieu de travail malsain ou que vous ayez été surmené et soumis à un stress excessif, nous nous engageons à mieux vous soutenir à l'avenir. Nous tiendrons cette promesse, car vous méritez tous d'évoluer dans un milieu de travail sain.

Enfin, nous entendons faire en sorte que notre culture – ici, à la BFC Winnipeg – soit davantage axée sur la diversité, l'inclusion et le soutien. Nous avons en-

trepris de nombreux projets visant à créer un milieu de travail plus inclusif, et nous comptons sur votre esprit d'initiative et votre soutien pour continuer d'avancer dans la bonne direction.

Ma famille et moi tenons à vous souhaiter une merveilleuse période des Fêtes. Nous espérons que vous aurez l'occasion de retrouver vos proches et de prendre des vacances bien méritées, et que vous reviendrez gagnés par l'enthousiasme pour nous aider à trouver comment faire en sorte que 2022 soit une année meilleure.

Cordialement,  
La famille Proteau



## Christmas Greetings from the 17 Wing Chief

With the holiday season around the corner, I wanted to express my gratitude to you – the incredible people who put on the uniform every day, and the many outstanding public service employees who are part of the 17 Wing family. This past year has certainly been a challenging one

for many. COVID-19 continued to affect our personal lives and alter the way we prepared for and conducted our operations. The emerging crisis of confidence in the leadership driven by a failure to evolve our military culture became our daily concerns. Unrelenting operational

demands combined with staffing shortage has further tested our resilience. Despite all this, you all worked together and continued to deliver operational effectiveness, which is truly inspiring to me.

The holiday season brings a well-deserved pause and an opportunity to re-en-

ergize through the company of our families and friends, even if only virtually. My family joins me in wishing you and your loved ones the very best for the holiday season and the New Year.

## Vœux de Noël de l'adjudant-chef de la 17e Escadre

À l'approche de la période des Fêtes, je tiens à vous exprimer ma gratitude, à vous, les personnes incroyables qui endossent l'uniforme chaque jour, de même qu'aux nombreux employés de la fonction publique exceptionnels qui font partie de la famille de la 17e Escadre. L'année qui vient de s'écouler a certainement été difficile pour bon nombre d'entre nous. La

COVID 19 a continué d'avoir des répercussions sur notre vie personnelle et de modifier la façon dont nous menons nos opérations et nous y préparons. La crise de confiance émergente à l'égard des dirigeants, motivée par l'incapacité de faire évoluer notre culture militaire, est devenue notre préoccupation quotidienne. Les exigences opérationnelles inces-

santes et la pénurie de personnel ont mis notre résilience à l'épreuve. En dépit de tout cela, vous avez travaillé ensemble et continué à assurer l'efficacité opérationnelle. Voilà qui est une véritable source d'inspiration pour moi.

La période des Fêtes nous offre une pause bien méritée et l'occasion de nous ressourcer en compagnie des membres

de notre famille et de nos amis, même si cela doit se faire de façon virtuelle pour le moment. Ma famille et moi vous souhaitons, à vous et à vos proches, une très belle période des Fêtes et une bonne et heureuse année.

# Holiday Greetings from Commander and Chief Warrant Officer 1 Canadian Air Division / Canadian NORAD Region / Joint Force Air Component / Search and Rescue Region Trenton



1 Canadian Air Division Commander Visit to 8 Wing Trenton

With the holidays upon us, Chief Warrant Officer Campbell and I send this holiday greeting with sincere gratitude for stellar efforts to everyone across 1 Canadian Air Division, the Canadian NORAD Region, Joint Force Air Component and Search and Rescue Region Trenton.

This year saw an increase in airpower missions taking place in Canada. The daring Atlantic Destiny rescue off Nova Scotia in March and the mission to evacuate over 300 people stranded by landslides in B.C. in November was demonstrative of the professionalism and readiness of our entire SAR community, as well as the excellent cooperation with our United States Coast Guard partners.

Within the Canadian NORAD Region, 2021 saw an unprecedented level of live-fly exercises and operations across the north including deployments to Alaska,

Yellowknife, Whitehorse, Iqaluit, Goose Bay, CFS Alert and Thule, Greenland – clearly showcasing our commitment to readiness under our bi-national command.

We can be especially proud of the great efforts we made to keep ourselves and Canadians safe during this year. As COVID-19 vaccines began arriving in Canada, the RCAF had a vital role in their distribution within Canada and to our fellow CAF members overseas. An especially critical mission was supporting the inoculation or COVID support of some of the most hard-to-reach and vulnerable populations in northern Manitoba under Operation LASER and VECTOR using Hercules, Chinook helicopters and Twin Otters to access fly-in communities. The aeromedical and air mobility communities were also involved in sev-

eral missions across Canada transferring COVID-19 patients to different hospitals to relieve pressures on provincial health systems.

As part of Op LENTUS our rotary wing community and Hercules fleets supported wildfire-fighting efforts in the west this summer, as well as evacuation support to fire-threatened communities in British Columbia and Ontario. We also provided transport to troops assisting Yukon Territory with flood relief. More recently, we aided Joint Task Force North to deploy reverse osmosis water purification units to Iqaluit by CC-177 after the town's water was contaminated. We have also recently helped flood relief in BC and Newfoundland— involving aircraft and personnel from across the Air Force.

Members across the 1 CAD enterprise showed their agility and dedication, planning and executing many of the aforementioned missions simultaneously. This was perhaps best demonstrated with our mission to repatriate Canadians, friends and allies from Afghanistan during Op AEGIS. Airpower, including multiple CC-130Js, CC-150s and CC-177s, was rapidly generated to meet this critical operation, all the while continuing operations at home and abroad. While this particular mission was difficult for us, given the strong connections that many have to Afghanistan and our 14 year mission there, we were immensely proud of the skill and professionalism displayed by planners, mission support personnel, aircrew, Military Police and technicians who made this essential operation happen under the most challenging of circumstances.

Of course, these operations could not succeed were it not for the overwhelming and early uptake from our members in getting vaccinated against COVID-19. In all training, exercises and operations, our COVID-19 protocols worked well, enabling us to operate near and far confident we had done all we could to protect ourselves, our families, friends and communities.

As we write this, we are looking forward to welcoming our Air Task Force members home from their successful deployment supporting NATO's enhanced

Air Policing mission in Romania, our CC-130J detachment who return home from Op PRESENCE where they have been supporting UN airlift missions throughout Africa, and our Air Detachment members operating in Japan with the CP-140 for Op NEON in support of UNSCR enforcement against North Korea. We would be remiss if we did not also recognize the significant contribution of our HelAirDets deployed on RCN frigates conducting Op REASSURANCE, Op PROJECTION, Op NEON and Op ARTEMIS with HCMS Regina and Winnipeg returning just before the holiday period.

For those members overseas this holiday period with Op IMPACT, or working 24/7 operations in Canada within our search and rescue, NORAD, Air Mobility, Aerospace Control and operation and mission support communities, thank you for your continued dedication to excellence to protect Canadians and our allies. To our military families, CWO Campbell and I cannot thank you enough for your support – you are the strength that keeps us focused.

Please know that we understand the holidays can be a difficult time. We urge our Defence Team civilians and military members to reach out for support through the different mental health services available or your chain of command. You can also call the Canadian Forces Member Assistance Program/Employee Assistance Program at 1-800-268-7708 for confidential, voluntary, short term counselling if struggling. Help is also available through the Family Information Line at 1-800-866-4546 / <https://www.cafconnection.ca/National/Programs-Services/Mental-Health/Mental-Health-Programs-and-Services.aspx>

To all our members and families, much is asked of you – moves, deployments, short-notice commitments, and more. We thank you for your resilience, dedication and commitment during these challenging times. We wish all of you a safe, healthy, peaceful and restful holiday season, and soon, a Happy New Year for 2022!

Major-General E.J. Kenny

Chief Warrant Officer D.A. Campbell



# Le commandant et l'adjudant-chef de la 1re Division aérienne du Canada et de la Région canadienne du NORAD, de la Composante aérienne de la force interarmées, de la Région de recherches et de sauvetage Trenton, vous offrent leurs vœux de fin d'année.



Visite du commandant de la 1re Division aérienne du Canada à la 8e Escadre Trenton

À l'approche des fêtes de la fin de l'année, l'Adjudant-chef Campbell et moi-même, offrons nos vœux et témoignons notre sincère gratitude à tous les membres de la 1re Division aérienne du Canada, de la Région canadienne du NORAD, de la Composante aérienne de la force interarmées et de la Région de recherche et de sauvetage Trenton, pour leurs efforts exceptionnels.

Cette année, au Canada, les missions de puissance aérienne ont augmenté. Le sauvetage audacieux de l'équipage de l'Atlantic Destiny au large de la Nouvelle-Écosse en mars, et la mission d'évacuation de plus de 300 personnes bloquées par les glissements de terrain en Colombie-Britannique, en novembre, ont montré le professionnalisme et la disponibilité opérationnelle des membres de SAR, ainsi que notre excellente collaboration avec nos partenaires de la Garde côtière américaine.

Pour la Région canadienne du NORAD, l'année 2021 a été marquée par un niveau sans précédent d'exercices et d'opérations de vols réels dans tout le Nord, y compris des déploiements en Alaska, à Yellowknife, à Whitehorse, à Iqaluit, à Goose Bay, à la SFC Alert et

à Thulé, au Groenland; ceci témoigne clairement de notre engagement envers la disponibilité opérationnelle pour soutenir notre commandement binational.

Nous pouvons être particulièrement fiers des gros efforts que nous avons déployés pour assurer la sécurité des Canadiens et la nôtre, cette année. Lorsque les vaccins contre la COVID-19 sont arrivés au Canada, l'ARC a joué un rôle essentiel pour assurer leur distribution au pays, ainsi qu'aux membres des FAC affectés à l'étranger. Une mission particulièrement importante a été d'offrir un soutien lié à la COVID-19 et à la vaccination de certaines des populations les plus vulnérables et les plus difficilement accessibles, au nord du Manitoba. Dans le cadre des opérations LASER et VECTOR, des Hercules, des Chinooks et des Twin Otters ont atteint les villages accessibles par voie aérienne. Pour diminuer la pression sur les systèmes de santé provinciaux, des unités aéromédicales et de mobilité aérienne ont participé à des missions de transfert à différents hôpitaux à travers le Canada, de patients atteints de la COVID-19.

Dans le cadre de l'Op LENTUS, cet été, des flottes d'hélicoptères et d'Hercules

ont soutenu la lutte contre les incendies de forêt dans l'Ouest et ont procédé à l'évacuation des populations menacées par les incendies en Colombie-Britannique et en Ontario. Nous avons également transporté les troupes qui ont aidé les victimes d'inondations au Yukon. Plus récemment, nous avons aidé la Force opérationnelle interarmées (Nord) à distribuer à l'aide des CC177, des systèmes de purification d'eau par osmose inverse à Iqaluit, après que l'eau de la ville ait été contaminée. Des militaires et des aéronefs de la Force aérienne ont aussi secouru des victimes des inondations en Colombie-Britannique et en Terre-Neuve.

Les membres de la 1 DAC ont fait preuve de souplesse et de dévouement, en planifiant et en exécutant simultanément plusieurs des missions susmentionnées. Notre mission de rapatriement d'Afghanistan, de nos compatriotes, nos amis et nos alliés, pendant l'Op AEGIS, constitue probablement le meilleur exemple. La puissance aérienne, formée entre autres de plusieurs CC130J, CC150 et CC177, a été rapidement mise sur pied pour répondre à cette opération essentielle, tout en poursuivant les opérations au pays et à l'étranger. Bien que cette mission particulière ait été difficile pour nous, compte tenu des liens étroits que nombre d'entre nous ont avec l'Afghanistan à cause de notre mission qui y a duré 14 ans, nous sommes immensément fiers des compétences et du professionnalisme dont ont fait preuve les planificateurs, le personnel de soutien de la mission, les équipages, la police militaire et les techniciens qui ont permis la réalisation de cette opération cruciale dans les circonstances les plus difficiles.

Bien entendu, ces opérations n'auraient pas pu être menées à bien sans la vaccination massive et précoce contre la COVID-19, de nos militaires. Pendant tous les entraînements, les exercices et les opérations, nos protocoles contre la COVID-19 ont bien fonctionné et nous ont permis d'opérer tant au pays qu'à l'étranger en étant sûrs d'avoir fait tout ce que nous pouvions pour protéger nos familles, nos amis, la population et nous-mêmes.

Au moment où nous écrivons ces lignes, nous sommes impatients d'accueillir les membres de notre Force opérationnelle aérienne qui rentrent de leur déploiement de soutien à la mission de police aérienne renforcée de l'OTAN en Roumanie; notre détachement de CC130J qui revient de l'Op PRESENCE au cours de laquelle il a soutenu les missions de transport aérien de l'ONU dans toute l'Afrique; et les membres de notre détachement aérien qui opèrent au Japon avec le CP140 pour

l'Op NEON en soutien à l'application de la RCSNU contre la Corée du Nord. Nous nous en voudrions de ne pas reconnaître l'importante contribution de nos détachements d'hélicoptères de la Force aérienne, déployés sur les frégates de la MRC, dans le cadre des opérations REASSURANCE, PROJECTION, NEON et ARTEMIS, en collaboration avec les NCSM REGINA et WINNIPEG, et qui seront de retour juste avant les fêtes de fin d'année.

Nous remercions de leur dévouement continu, les militaires qui se trouveront à l'étranger pendant les fêtes, dans le cadre de l'Op IMPACT, ou qui travailleront 24 heures sur 24 et 7 jours sur 7, au Canada, avec nos unités de recherche et de sauvetage, avec le NORAD, la mobilité aérienne, le contrôle aérospatial et pour le soutien des opérations et des missions. Ils visent l'excellence pour protéger les Canadiens et leurs alliés. L'Adjudant Campbell et moi-même ne saurions trop remercier nos familles militaires, pour leur soutien. Elles sont la force qui nous permet de demeurer concentrés et de mener à bien nos missions.

Sachez que nous comprenons que les fêtes de fin d'année peuvent s'avérer difficiles pour certains. Nous encourageons fortement les civils et les militaires de l'Équipe de la Défense à demander du soutien auprès des différents services de santé mentale ou auprès de leur chaîne de commandement en cas de besoin. Vous pouvez également téléphoner au 1-800-268-7708 (Programme d'aide aux membres des Forces canadiennes / Programme d'aide aux employés) pour demander des services de consultation confidentiels, volontaires et à court terme, si vous êtes en difficulté. De l'aide est également disponible par l'intermédiaire de la Ligne d'information à l'intention des familles au 1-800-866-4546 <https://www.connexionfac.ca/Nationale/Programmes-et-Services/Sante-mentale/Programmes-et-services-en-sante-mentale.aspx>

À tous nos militaires et à leurs familles, nous savons parfaitement que l'on exige beaucoup de vous : déménagements, déploiements, engagements à court terme, et plus encore. Nous vous remercions pour votre résilience, votre dévouement et votre engagement en ces temps difficiles. Nous souhaitons à chacun d'entre vous des fêtes de fin d'année sous le signe de la sécurité, de la santé, de la paix, du repos, et, nous vous souhaitons une bonne année 2022!

Major-général E.J. Kenny

Adjudant-chef D.A. Campbell

# Happy Holidays from 2 Canadian Air Division

It goes without saying that our formation is small, but if this past year has proven anything to us, it is that 2 Canadian Air Division is undeniably mighty! As we head into the Holiday season, we want to thank each one of you who has worked within our formation and in support of 2 CAD for your tremendous commitment, dedication, and reliability during these challenging times.

We sincerely hope this is the last Holiday message that will include mention of COVID-19. As we cannot be certain of that however, we'd like to reflect on the important successes and lessons that came out of 2021 rather than allow conditions largely out of our control to bring us down.

As your Command Team, we are immensely proud of every one of you. Despite the setbacks that we have inevitably met with force generation activities, you have adapted without hesitation to reduce training backlogs and to ensure curricula are updated and integrated at the ab-initio level with the goal of ensuring everyone is treated with the respect and dignity they deserve. Making use of technology and telework, you navigated

around geographical roadblocks and optimized training delivery to move as many future aircrew members and air technicians through the training system as possible. Together, we are moving forward to make sure that all our members are supported in their career progression as we do our part to ensure that the RCAF members and leaders of tomorrow belong to an inclusive, considerate, and flexible workplace.

This past year, our eyes were opened to the importance of enhancing and deepening relationships with Indigenous communities, we took important steps to reaffirm our commitment to stand strong against discrimination, and we celebrated diversity and inclusion in our workplaces. Thank you to our numerous Advisory Groups and Committees for their invaluable counsel and initiative as they continue to make headway in their efforts despite pandemic-related restrictions.

In the spirit of keeping connections alive with fellow Canadians, Wings and Units sought out opportunities to connect with community and business leaders, illustrating the power of teamwork and collaboration. Furthermore, in a true

demonstration of resilience the Canadian Forces Snowbirds were able to complete their 50th Anniversary Season and fully carry out Op INSPIRATION 2021, bringing joy to so many North Americans in the process.

Our Division was established to generate, train and develop the members of the RCAF, but our mission is growing. Looking forward to the coming months and years, we will face an evolving mission set as we lead reconstitution efforts in the RCAF. Being entrusted with this responsibility is a direct reflection of the trust and confidence your Chain of Command has in you and to your continued focus, dedication and commitment to the future of our organization. That said, technology and telework culture have blurred the lines of what were once standard business hours. Everyone deserves to live a balanced life and your Command Teams and Directors will be working diligently to ensure we, as a formation, do not exceed our capacity as we take on important (and exciting) new responsibilities.

Finally, remember that now more than ever, it is important to recognize and share each other's individual and collec-

tive accomplishments. While we have all grown tired of seeing photos of our members wearing masks and being spaced apart receiving honours and awards in photos, we need to stay focused on the amazing things all of you do every single day. In true RCAF fashion, we adapted and overcame, creatively seeking ways to not lose who we are in the face of global chaos and uncertainty. Let's celebrate that.

However you choose to celebrate the Holiday season, may 2021 end on a high note and make way for a fresh and bright 2022.

Our families join us in wishing all members of 2 CAD, your families, and loved ones a safe and joyful holiday season. Thank you for your continued service and support to RCAF training and education, to Canadians, and to each other.

Brigadier General D.P. O'Reilly, Commander 2 Canadian Air Division

Chief Warrant Officer M.A. Shillingford, 2 Canadian Air Division Chief Warrant Officer



## Joyeuses Fêtes de la 2e Division aérienne du Canada

Il va sans dire que notre formation est petite, mais si cette dernière année nous a prouvé une chose, c'est que la 2e Division aérienne du Canada est indiscutablement formidable! À l'arrivée du temps des fêtes, nous voulons remercier chacun de vous qui avez travaillé dans notre formation ou en appui de la 2 DAC, pour votre engagement, votre dévouement et votre fiabilité extraordinaires pendant en cette période difficile.

Nous espérons sincèrement que ce message du temps des fêtes est le dernier du genre dans lequel nous mentionnons la COVID-19. Étant donné que nous ne pouvons pas nous en assurer, nous aimerions réfléchir sur les leçons et sur les réussites importantes que nous a apportées 2021, au lieu de laisser les conditions hors de notre influence miner notre humeur.

En tant que membres de l'équipe de commandement, nous sommes immensément fiers de chacun de vous. Malgré les revers que nous avons inévitablement connus dans nos activités de mise sur pied de la force, vous vous êtes adaptés sans hésitation pour réduire les retards dans l'instruction, pour mettre à jour et intégrer les programmes d'instruction dès le début de l'instruction, et pour faire en sorte que toutes les personnes soient traitées dans le respect et la dignité auxquels elles ont droit. Faisant bon usage de

la technologie et du télétravail, vous avez contourné les obstacles géographiques et optimisé la prestation de l'instruction afin que notre système d'instruction puisse former le plus grand nombre possible de membres d'équipage et de techniciens. Ensemble, nous allons de l'avant pour soutenir la progression professionnelle de nos membres, et ensemble, nous oeuvrons pour que tous les membres de l'ARC et les leaders de demain fassent partie d'un milieu de travail inclusif, prévenant et flexible.

Dans la dernière année, nous avons ouvert les yeux sur l'importance d'améliorer et d'approfondir nos relations avec les communautés autochtones. Nous avons pris d'importantes mesures pour réaffirmer notre engagement à lutter contre la discrimination, et nous avons célébré la diversité et l'inclusion dans nos milieux de travail. Nous remercions les nombreux groupes et comités consultatifs pour leurs conseils inestimables et leur initiative; ils continuent d'avancer dans leurs efforts malgré les restrictions liées à la pandémie.

Dans l'esprit de garder vivants leurs liens avec les communautés, les escadres et les unités ont cherché des occasions d'établir des rapprochements avec les communautés et les chefs d'entreprises, pour illustrer la force du travail en équipe

et de la collaboration. De plus, dans une véritable démonstration de résilience, les Snowbirds des Forces canadiennes ont réalisé une 50e saison avec succès, et ont mené à bien l'opération INSPIRATION 2021, pour apporter de la joie à de nombreux Nord-Américains par le fait même.

Notre division a été établie tout d'abord pour mettre sur pied, instruire et développer les membres de l'ARC, mais notre mission s'élargit. Dans les prochains mois et les prochaines années, nous allons avoir à tenir compte de l'évolution d'un ensemble de missions, alors que nous menons des efforts pour reconstituer l'ARC. Cette responsabilité qui nous est confiée est le reflet direct de la confiance qu'a la chaîne de commandement en vous et en votre dévouement et votre engagement incessant envers l'avenir de notre organisation. Cela étant dit, la technologie et la culture du télétravail ont brouillé ce qui était précédemment les heures normales de travail. Chacun a droit à une vie équilibrée, et vos directeurs et équipes de commandement travailleront diligemment pour voir à ce que nous, en tant que formation, n'excédions pas nos capacités, malgré les nouvelles responsabilités importantes et emballantes qui nous sont confiées.

Finalement, maintenant plus que jamais, il est important de reconnaître et

de célébrer nos réalisations individuelles et collectives. Bien que nous sommes fatigués de voir des photos nos membres qui portent un masque et qui respectent la distanciation sociale lors des remises de prix et de distinctions honorifiques, nous devons continuer d'insister sur les importantes tâches que vous réalisez au quotidien. Cette année, nous nous sommes adaptés, nous avons surmonté les obstacles et nous avons trouvé de nouvelles méthodes créatives d'arriver à nos fins devant le chaos et l'incertitude mondiale. Célébrons ce fait.

Peu importe la manière dont vous allez célébrer le temps des fêtes, que 2021 se termine sur une bonne note et que 2022 amène une nouvelle année pleine de promesses.

De la part de nos familles, nous vous souhaitons sécurité et bonheur pendant le temps des Fêtes. Nous vous remercions et nous remercions vos familles et vos êtres chers pour votre service et votre soutien continu à l'égard de l'instruction et à l'éducation de l'ARC, à l'égard des Canadiens et à l'égard de l'un et l'autre.

Brigadier-général D.P. O'Reilly, Commandant 2e Division aérienne du Canada  
Adjudant-chef M.A. Shillingford, Adjudant-chef 2e Division aérienne du Canada

# RCAF Band “The Homefront -- A Salute to Our Veterans” Concert

by Martin Zeilig, Voxair Photojournalist



RCAF Band Christmas Concert photo (Photo Credit: Martin Zeilig)

For Wing Commander Colonel Dave Proteau, the RCAF Band concert on November 2nd to mark Remembrance Day was a fantastic opportunity to see the band's first live performance after too a long time without such a concert, and what a crowd pleaser it turned out to be judging by the sustained applause and shouts of approval by the audience of 160.

Headlined as “The Homefront— A Salute to Our Veterans,” the concert was held at the Seven Oaks Performing Arts Centre (Garden City Collegiate), and was also live-streamed on Facebook.

Donations from the concert were given to the Royal Canadian Legion's Poppy

Fund. Padre Captain Paul Gemmiti was emcee for the evening. The evening also consisted of a brief presentation delivered by a representative from the Legion.

“It's their first live event in front of a crowd since the pandemic started. They've been really busy prior to this, not only in rehearsing for this concert but they've also been providing us with great online content. They're re-inventing themselves to be more of a social media platform,” Col Proteau said during an interview at the intermission.

The band, augmented by civilian and other regimental musicians, was conducted by Captain Chris Embree, the band's

new Commanding Officer and Director of Music.

In keeping with the theme, the music harkened back to the two world wars: The Awakening; The Way to Heaven (a tribute to the fighter pilots who fought/flew during the Battle of Britain (July - October 1940); The Poor Wayfaring Stranger; an emotional folksong sung by RCAF Band vocalist Warrant Officer David Grenon; and Where Never Lark or Eagle Flew, which brings to life the poem “High Flight” written by an American pilot serving with the RCAF during the Second World War.

Padre Gemmiti read the poem Sing Sing Sing by the RCAF's Big Band Jetliners. The tune was originally written by Louis Prima in 1936, but made wildly popular by Benny Goodman, to honour those lost on July 1st, 1916 during the Battle of Beaumont-Hamel where more than 700 of the 800 members of the Newfoundland Regiment were killed, wounded or missing. Come Fly With Me, sung by WO Grenon; medley of other popular tunes from the Second World War sung by Sergeant Cindy Scott and WO Grenon. Musical highlights from the television series “Band of Brothers”; the Tri-Service Salute— Heart of the Oak, Great Little Army, and the RCAF March rounded out the performance.

“I have been working with my team for the past couple of months to make this

concert happen because with restrictions being what they were, we weren't sure it would be a go,” band vocalist and concert organizer, Sgt Scott, said following the concert.

“But the closer the day came, the more we realized that it would be a very successful event and we were able to bring in a live audience which was wonderful. The students were very excited about the concert this afternoon.” (Earlier that afternoon, students at Garden City Collegiate were treated to a performance by the RCAF Band).

For the safety of musicians, the band has been conducting rehearsals by having 19 musicians in the band room socially distanced.

“We made it work,” Sgt Scott said.

Capt Embree, who also played the saxophone on Sing Sing Sing, was upbeat following the concert.

“It was outstanding,” he enthused. “It was an awesome opportunity to be back out in front of a live audience. And what a wonderful audience it was. It was an absolute joy this evening. I am so fortunate with the musicianship I have within the unit. I have two fabulous singers. I couldn't ask for more. It gives so much depth and flexibility to our possibilities when it comes musical choices. It allowed me to branch out and take on some new music that I wouldn't have chosen otherwise.”



I was so impressed with your holiday stories that I would like to continue to have your engagement with The Voxair.

Being that our next issue is January, the start of a new year and for many the start of a new you, I thought maybe you would be willing to share your New Years' Resolutions.

These are personal, I get it, so if you want to keep your submissions anonymous, that is entirely up to you, I won't judge.

And to be fair, I'll share my own...

I know we all have, at one point or other made a New Years' Resolution, they are easy to make, right?! Its the sticking to them that's the hard part. With that in mind, mine are more of things I need to do for my own personal well-being...so here goes.

1. Make an honest effort towards a fitness routine and stick with it. I'm sure everyone is now rolling their eyes, cause who hasn't said this before. Unfortunately for me it's finding the time. Life takes over and then its midnight and my elliptical is covered in dust and the only thing that's broken a sweat is my brain,

ugh. So yes, that is number one and the amount of times I wish I hadn't stopped my routine from a couple of years ago, well I could probably fill a wishing well with coins on that one.

Anyway...

2. My second resolution is kind of an extension of the first one. I have a major sweet tooth and I should really work on that, but to be fair mini eggs and nibs are sooo good. I'm trying, but there are slip ups for sure. So I guess if I can make the first resolution work for me, the second is sure to follow. At least I hope.

3. My third resolution has a few parts to it. My kids, the boys specifically are addicted to video games. I mean roll their eyes, huffing and puffing addicted, if they are asked to lift a finger or even just avert their eyes for a moment. Anyway, this summer I took them away from the video games as much as I could. They don't like hiking much, if they go to the lake they want to do water activities or hang out with their friends. Since I love hiking, not always alone though, I tried something different to engage them.

I searched up ghost towns throughout

Manitoba, with COVID and all, I wasn't sure crossing the border was the best idea, and there are actually quite a few around here. So I took them on a few road trips and we explored abandoned homes, ghost towns, an old fox fur trading building, a motel and saw some pretty interesting things along the way.

I know I'm rambling, but the ability to explore all of these places within our own backyards, was amazing. Not only for the kids, but for me as well. So this is something I want to make sure I continue to do going forward. Seeing so much of our history is so educational and being able to see it and explore it is so much better than Google any day.

The education they got from going on these road trips and seeing the history first hand was priceless, and if nothing else. it's a great way to clear your head. So, my resolution, is to ensure that I make more time for those moments, the quality time that screens don't give us.

I'm sure other resolutions will come, and likely go, because let's face it, life takes over when you least expect it, but the three resolutions I have mentioned,

those are my top. The keepers if you will.

Now, I'd like to hear yours...

Our next issue will be published mid-January, so if you could submit your resolutions, they can be in list form or you can ramble on like I did, it is entirely up to you, we just want to hear from you. Your resolutions will be published in the next issue, hopefully we are all still sticking with ours by the time it goes to print. Please send them to voxairmgr@gmail.com and please indicate whether you would like your name printed or not. I look forward to reading them and maybe even getting some great ideas for the future.

Thank you all for your holiday writing submissions, they were amazing, and I can't wait to read your New Years' Resolutions.

Wishing you a safe and happy holiday shared with loved ones.

Merry Christmas & Happy New Year!

Sincerely,

Patricia West  
Voxair Manager

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*Happy Holidays*

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I work part time. After that ... the needles are clicking. It's what I love.

I will return any shipping fees to customers who prefer to pick up from our home in the South Qs. Just leave me a note when making the purchase on Etsy.

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### SUNDAY MARKETS

Get a jump on your Christmas shopping with more than 60 vendors plus a **FREE photo with Santa!**

This Sunday from 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. at Assiniboia Downs.

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DECEMBER 18  
12:00 PM TO 3:00 PM

Make your way to the Naughty and Nice chairs to take your picture with the Grinch! No appointment necessary, no charge to take your own photos. Professional photography not offered.

# CHRISTMAS

Local Holiday Market  
Shelmerdine Greenhouse  
December 18 & 19  
11 am - 4 pm

We're having a mini local market! Meet local makers and find their artisan-made goods nestled among our fresh holiday greens. There will be different makers on different days so pop by often and support local!

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# Volunteering with the Bear Clan Patrol

by Martin Zeilig, Voxair Photojournalist



Bear Clan Patrol takes to the streets to fight against Winnipeg's Meth Crisis (Photo credit: CTV News)

Captain James Dunn, Aircraft Maintenance Support Officer at 435 Transport and Rescue Squadron, reflects on this past summer when he joined the Bear Clan Patrol one evening.

It was a memorable and revealing three hours spent in the heart of downtown Winnipeg.

It was a slice of life that he hadn't witnessed in such an intimate manner before.

Capt Dunn is one of approximately 75 CAF volunteers from 17 Wing, associated Lodger Units, HMCS Chippawa, and other military units who have been volunteering with the Bear Clan Patrol for the past several months.

The Patrol is a community-based solution to crime prevention, providing a sense of safety, solidarity, and belonging to both its members and to the commu-

nities they serve. This is achieved in a non-violent, non-threatening, non-judgmental and supportive manner primarily through relationship building and reconciliation.

The Patrol demonstrates a way of being that works in harmony with the broader community rather than in conflict and in a relationship that encourages leadership as it emerges at a local level.

Colonel Christopher Shapka initiated the link between 17 Wing and the Bear Clan Patrol.

"I have a personal relationship with one of the members of the Bear Clan Patrol," he said during a telephone interview on November 18.

"He's a fellow Canadian Football League referee. He's also a member of the Bear Clan's Board of Directors."

Col Shapka, Chief of Staff at 1 Cana-

dian Air Division at the time, brought the idea of having military members volunteer with the Bear Clan Patrol to 17 Wing Commander, Colonel Dave Proteau.

"It gave me the flexibility to work on some relationship building activities," Col Shapka said.

"Personally, it's been really rewarding for me. As a member of the Royal Canadian Air Force, we're often transient. We're going from one posting to another, making it hard to feel like members of a particular community."

Patrolling and volunteering with the Bear Clan Patrol has helped Shapka feel part of the larger Winnipeg community.

"To do something to help the work the Bear Clan does has been meaningful and rewarding for me. Late this summer, four members of the Bear Clan Patrol went flying with us to see how we operate when we evacuate northern communities. It helped both communities gain a greater appreciation for each other."

As for Capt Dunn, born and raised in suburban Winnipeg, the experience during one volunteer shift was a particularly eventful evening.

"We went out in multiple groups," he said.

"At one point, we heard what we perceived to be gunshots. We phoned the police and notified them and continued on."

They ended up at Central Park.

"We came across a woman at the fountain who appeared to be unconscious," he said.

Capt Dunn and the other less experienced volunteers observed as a couple of trained and experienced coordinators administered Narcan to her. (Narcan is used for the emergency treatment of known or suspected opioid overdoses).

"We didn't know what her condition was," Capt Dunn said.

"She did regain consciousness and the paramedics treated her. It was a successful experience there. We were then approached by another female because she had lost her infant son. She gave us a description of what he looked like. We broke up into groups. Other people joined the search and the infant was found."

But that wasn't all the excitement that evening.

"One of the more experienced volun-

teers was having a chat with someone having suicidal thoughts," Capt Dunn continued.

"It was a really crazy night with so much happening but fortunately everything turned out all right. At the end of the night, the coordinators tried to reassure us that it's not always this crazy."

"But, this was an excellent example of everything they do for the community. It doesn't always end in a pleasant way, but it was great to see that it did on this occasion."

Capt Dunn admits that, as a young adult before joining the military, he "didn't acknowledge the struggles" that so many people go through in the inner city.

"I developed my own stereotypes as a sheltered kid from Fort Whyte," he said.

"I have a personal connection to Winnipeg because I grew up here. I have strong ties to the community here."

"For me, as an adult, it was definitely an eye opening experience. I just realized the error in my ways as a youth, and wanted to do something to help out. It's been very rewarding as an adult to help out with the Bear Clan Patrol."

"Each patrol is approximately three hours long. When you arrive for your shift, hygiene products, water, food and other necessities collected through donations are loaded into a cart or in backpacks. Volunteers will then go out in their group and the coordinators will have different streets or back alleys or areas where there's known at risk people, vulnerable people," Capt Dunn explained.

"Or we'll go to an area where used needles are spotted and collect and dispose of those needles using proper equipment and gear."

The Patrol operates out of 584 Selkirk Ave in the North End, The Broadway Neighbourhood Centre at 185 Young St. in West Broadway, and 485 Sherbrooke Ave in the West End.

Currently, there are over 1500 men and women involved with the Patrol on a volunteer basis.

For more information on the Bear Clan Patrol or to get involved, please visit [bearclanpatrol.org](http://bearclanpatrol.org) or Capt James Dunn at 204.833.2500 ext 2384.

**Building 90 Holiday Hours 2021**

17 Dec - Closed between 1145 - 1600hrs  
 24 Dec (Christmas Eve) - 0630 - 1500hrs  
 25 Dec (Christmas Day) - Closed  
 26 Dec (Boxing Day) - Closed  
 27-28 Dec - 0900 - 1500hrs  
 29-30 Regular hours - 0630-2000hrs  
 31 Dec (New Year's Eve) - 0630-1500hrs  
 01 Jan 2022 (New Year's Day) - Closed  
 03 Jan 2022 - 0900-1500hrs

**Le Bâtiment 90 Fêtes de fin d'année 2021 (heures)**

Le 17 déc - Fermé de 11h 45 à 16h  
 Le 24 déc (Veille de Noël) - De 6h 30 à 15h  
 Le 25 déc (Noël) - Fermé  
 Le 26 déc (Lendemain de Noël) - Fermé  
 Les 27-28 déc - 9h à 15h  
 Les 29-30 déc - 6h 30 à 20h  
 31 déc (Veille du jour de l'an) - De 6h 30 à 15h  
 Le 1er jan 2022 (Veille du jour de l'an) - Fermé  
 Le 03 jan 2022 - 9h à 15h



# Fire Chief's Corner

The holidays are a wonderful time of year, but by their very nature, holidays can bring increased risks to your home. The best way to have a worry-free holiday season is to understand what risks you face and act to prevent them. Only then can you ensure your home, your family and your pets remain safe — from that first turkey dinner to when the last string of holiday lights comes down.

## CHRISTMAS TIPS

### Christmas Trees:

Get a freshly cut tree. It will stay green longer and be less of a fire hazard. Try to pick a tree with a strong green colour and noticeable fragrance. Always test for freshness before buying. A tree with high moisture content is safer. Very few needles should fall when the butt of the tree is tapped on the ground; needles should bend, not break; and the stump should be sticky with resin. Place the tree in a stand that will hold two to three litres of water and top it up daily. Make sure the tree is always immersed in water. If the water level drops below the trunk, the stem may reseal itself, requiring a fresh cut. Use a tree stand that has widespread

legs for better balance. Do not set your tree up near a heat source such as a radiator, television, fireplace, heating duct or sunny window. It should not block doors. Never use lighted candles on the tree. Remove the tree within 10 to 14 days. After that amount of time in a heated building, even the freshest tree can start to dry out.

### Decorations:

Choose decorations that are flame-retardant, non-combustible and non-conductive. If there are young children or pets in your home, avoid very small decorations. Avoid using angel hair (glass wool) together with spray-on snowflakes. This combination is highly combustible. Do not use metallic ornaments on the tree. If they make contact with defective wiring, they could become a shock hazard.

### Lights:

Use Canadian Standards Association (CSA) certified light strings/sets. Use the proper lights for the environment. Indoor light strings/sets should not be used outdoors because they lack weatherproof connections. Some outdoor light strings/sets burn too hot indoors. Inspect light

strings/set before use. Check for cracked bulbs and for frayed, broken or exposed wires and discard if faulty. Do not use electric light strings/sets on metallic trees. A faulty system could energize the tree and shock or electrocute anyone coming into contact. Illuminate metallic trees with colored floodlights placed at a safe distance from the tree and out of reach. Turn off all tree and display lights before retiring for the night or before leaving the house.

### Candles:

Place candles away from absolutely anything that could catch fire. Never leave burning candles unattended. Burn them only when a responsible adult is overseeing the flame. Put candles in sturdy holders on a stable surface, well away from drafts, curtains, children and pets. Snuff them out before leaving the room or going to sleep.

### Fireplace:

Never burn gift wrappings, boxes, cartons, or other types of packing in the fireplace. They burn too rapidly and generate far too much heat. Don't hang Christmas stockings from the mantel when the fire-

place is in use.

Always use a screen in front of the fireplace to protect against flying sparks. Never use gasoline or any other flammable liquids to start a fire. Use only seasoned and dried wood. Never leave the fire unattended or let it smoulder. Clean the ashes regularly. Place the ashes in a metal container and store outside away from flammable materials. Don't use Christmas trees for firewood.

### Electrical Outlets:

There is often a tendency to overload wall outlets during the holiday season. This is an unsafe practice and should be avoided even for short durations. Use a power bar if required. Inspect all cords before using them. Make sure cords are CSA certified. Look for loose connections or frayed or exposed wire. Discard any defective cords. Read the labels and manufacturer's instructions to ensure proper use. Insert plugs fully into outlets. Poor contact may cause overheating or shock. To avoid possible overheating or a fire, do not run cords under carpets or rugs.



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## Ninety-Nine Cents A Pound

by Heather Witherden

Her eyes immediately locked on the sign marked, '99 cents a pound.' She laughed to herself as she turned to push her cart toward the bin of utility turkeys and away from the premium brand. Sure, she could spend \$50 but now it was a point of pride. Why spend fifty dollars when you could get that bird for less than half.

She lived her whole life using the utility turkey philosophy. Practical, no-non-

sense and secretly knowing her choices made her as much of an underdog as that 14 pound bird she just put in her grocery cart. You see, she had learned from her dad that utility turkeys made for a dinner were just as delicious as the prime basted Butterball name brand and it was smart to save money. After all, he'd carve the bird in the kitchen and serve it on a platter, piled high. Legs, white meat, dark meat; ready to be served onto fam-

ily plates at the table. No movie scene of carving the bird at the table, just the sound of the electric knife coming from the kitchen and the clang of the metal spoon stirring up the crispy bits of stuffing that had fallen into the gravy.

She felt the cold, wrapped turkey to see which parts might be missing; typically, a utility bird had been accidentally dinged in processing, maybe losing a wing or in some cases, a minor skin tear.

It didn't affect the way it cooked or tasted, and would be the pride of the table just as much as an expensive, undamaged bird could. Every year she'd look on her golden achievement and note that utility birds were just as good as the rest.

She looked at her family around the table on Christmas Day and smiled, realizing that we are all utility birds and we too, are golden.



## The SNDF

by MCpl / Cplc Ralph McQueen

Shh! Don't say a word! What I'm about to tell you is highly classified! There would be GRAVE consequences should anyone find out what I've told you, but, I just can't keep the secret anymore about what your government is doing! I know it will sound crazy but every word is true. Here is my story:

In 2000, I started work as a military postal clerk, thinking it would be different. Little did I know what was about to be revealed! An acronym kept showing up, SNDF. Having been in the army for a few years, I was used to talking in acronyms but anytime I asked about it, I was either brushed off or, very definitively told, not to ask. I, being a good little soldier, listened and obeyed. However, when I transferred to the Regular Force, I became a postal clerk full time and that's when it happened. I was brought into the sergeant's office where he sat me down and said, "It's time you learned about the SNDF." I remembered this term from last year and I immediately became very interested. "What is the SNDF?" I asked, trying to hide my excitement.

"When you were a reservist, you were not cleared to hear this; otherwise, you would have learned about it during your training," the Sgt confessed, "but now that you have joined the Reg's you are now a part of it."

"So what is it?" I asked, anticipating some major part of our national security. "The Saint Nicholas Delivery Force," he stated with a straight face.

"The what?!" I was thinking this was some hazing thing with all the other people in the office jump in to the office and yell "GOTCHA" But he repeated matter of factly: "The Saint Nicholas Delivery

Force, The SNDF for short."

"Now I know this sounds like a joke. I thought it did too when I first heard about it, but it's very real and we have an important role in this group. I know you have a million questions and I will answer them as well as I can."

Now I was still thinking this was some elaborate prank, but I played along just to see how far it would go. "So how does everything get done in one night?" He looked at me with a half-smile. "We're the military. All the logistics and coordination? This is the type of mission we were created for. We've had lots of practice but it boils down to three basic facts. #1 Not everybody celebrates Christmas on December 25th. #2, Some people don't even celebrate Christmas at all. #3, We were able to coordinate much better when we instituted Standard Time."

"In other countries, too?" I asked.

"Yes, this is a global operation where all governments are involved. They had to create the United Nations to help coordinate everything. We also included a secret addendum to the Geneva Convention called the Santa Clause. The last thing we needed was wars over this," he stated with as straight a face as you would see on any professional poker player.

"But most people in Canada celebrate, even being pretty far apart. How do we do it?"

"Yes, we have challenges. The railway was the best benefit we had, along with the development of Standard Time. After that we had to train a main force for delivery, occasionally creating temporary militia regiments."

"Temporary Regiments? How did you know they would keep the secret?" I

asked.

"Nobody wanted to deal with the consequences if they didn't!" he replied. "Before you ask, the pay was good and no one ever wanted to explain to their kids why Santa didn't deliver any presents to them."

That made sense.

"As time went on we have evolved our system to what it is today," he proudly stated.

Still doubting, I questioned, "So how do we know who's been good and who's been bad?"

"That is CSIS's job, at least in Canada. Every country has its own intelligence service to handle that." Since I joined, social media has helped, too. True, Snowden almost blew the whole thing and WikiLeaks is giving us some trouble, but we are holding steady."

I continued to press. "This seems to be a massive and expensive operation. How much does it cost?"

He returned to the smirk. "Most of it is corporate donations but the government has to cover some of the costs. Usually, we just hide it in other expenses. You didn't really think we were dumb enough to pay \$5000 for a hammer, did ya?"

"So what is our part?" I asked, starting to think he was either telling the truth or he was crazy.

"Canada runs the Northern Coordination Centre at CFB Alert. It was agreed that it was isolated enough and would fit the myth very well. Our job is to ensure all the letter-mail makes it up there and gets reviewed. Along with maintaining all the records, of course. Obviously, we must have those to maintain peace!"

My head was still spinning a little bit.

It was a lot to take in. I knew the regular mail was going to arrive soon but I figured I had time for one more question. "This is a little complicated. Why go through the hassle when most people have stopped believing in Santa?" I asked, expecting to get an answer like 'Ours is not to wonder why, etc'.

But the sergeant sat back in his chair with a look of what took you so long to ask? "First of all, it's not a little complicated; it's extremely complicated to accomplish! It's about simple hope and kindness. You remember how you felt on Christmas morning when you discovered what Santa left for you? The look your parents had when watching you opening them? Now imagine that all over the world. That kind of goodwill gives people hope and contentment that can last all year, making it much easier to run the world!"

One of the other corporals knocked on the door and let us know the mail had arrived. I left the office with my head still spinning a little bit. As I was sorting the mail, I looked at the other members and they gave me a 'Welcome to the club' kind of look back. As I have gained experience in the world, I've learned the SNDF is not just about keeping people happy and maintaining order, it's about keeping the human spirit alive and well. We all see darkness at times as we toil through life's challenges, and we need this one time of year to feel good and special.

Remember! You have to keep this secret. Otherwise, you will have to deal with angry children from all over the world; and .....we know who's been good and bad!



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**Sunday 26 December 3 p.m.**  
**Saturday 1 January (2022) 11 a.m.**  
**Sunday 2 January 3 p.m.**

**Ste Marguerite Bourgeoys Communauté de foi catholique romaine**

**Messes de Noël et Épiphanie**

**le samedi 25 décembre (2021) 11 h**  
**le dimanche 26 décembre 15 h**  
**le samedi 1 janvier (2022) 11 h**  
**le dimanche 2 janvier 15 h**

### 17 Wing Chaplain Services

**17 Wing Spiritual Well-Being Centre**  
 2235 Silver Avenue, Winnipeg, Manitoba

General Information Line: 204-833-2500 ext. 6800  
 Emergency Duty Chaplain (after hours) :  
 204-833-2500 ext. 2633 via Military Police Dispatch  
 Email: 17WingChaplains@forces.gc.ca



### Services d'aumônerie de la 17<sup>e</sup> Escadre

**Centre de Bien-Être Spirituel de la 17<sup>e</sup> Escadre**  
 2235 avenue Silver, Winnipeg, Manitoba

Renseignements généraux : 204-833-2500, poste 6800  
 aumônier de service d'urgence (après les heures ouvrables) :  
 204-833-2500, poste 2633 par l'entremise du centre  
 de répartition de la police militaire  
 Courriel : 17WingChaplains@forces.gc.ca

# The Power of Holiday Blessings

by Padre (Capt) Antin Sloboda, 17 Wing Chaplain



Water Blessing on The Ottawa River; view from Gatineau, QC. January 2013. (Photo credit: A. Sloboda) Eastern Christian faithful extend the tradition of blessing during Christmas holidays also to all creation through the sanctification of water which is an essential element for all life. The blessing of water takes place on the Feast of Theophany that is celebrated either on January 6th according to the Gregorian calendar or on January 19th according to the ancient Julian calendar. The water blessing often happens on or near the local river.

There could be many reasons why we enjoy celebrating winter holidays. Winter or Christmas holidays for many people, are associated with gifts, decorative lights, festive meals, and often with specific religious customs. For most this is an opportunity to spend quality time with immediate and extended family and close friends. During the ongoing pandemic, our experiences of holiday celebration have been slightly different and on a smaller scale than before, however, their significance cannot be diminished by any external factors since they are primarily a spiritual reality.

Regardless of the meaning we attach to the origins of our winter holiday traditions, most of us would agree that there is something that unites us during this special season...the wishes of happiness and blessings that we share with one another.

Some might feel that to give and to receive blessings, one must be a person of strong religious faith. Nevertheless, when we explore the etymology of the word "blessing" in other languages, we might realize that it has much wider application than a simply religious one. For example, in Slavic, Romance and Greek languages, the verb "to bless" and noun "blessing" consist of an adjective "good" and a verb "to speak" or a noun "word" thus "to bless". In that perspective, it is

largely about wishing someone well and about saying good things of others.

Blessings and sharing of good words have an immense power because positive transformation in society, and even within ourselves are much easier to achieve if we feel blessed and we bless one another. In contemporary culture, we often refer to "the power of positive thinking" – something that is very close to a blessing – however, "the power of blessing" is more real because it is not simply about the way of thinking or subjective perception of things but is about verbalizing aspirations and about making our hopes more tangible.

For Christians, the winter holidays are always centered on the celebration of the birth of Jesus Christ, Son of God. In the Gospel of John, its author refers to Jesus as "The Word became flesh and made his dwelling among us" (John 1:14). To them the incarnation of Jesus is the most powerful blessing that has ever happened to humanity. Through the prism of this mega blessing, we can also understand better the power of our blessings and how our good words can start dwelling in our communities bringing positive changes.

Wishing you a Blessed Christmas, Blessed Winter Holidays, and a Blessed New 2022 Year!

Be blessed and be a blessing to others!

Good Shepherd  
Protestant Faith Community

Christmas & Epiphany Services

Friday 24 December (2021) 7 p.m.

Sunday 26 December 1 p.m.

Sunday 2 January (2022) 1 p.m.

Good Shepherd  
Communauté de foi protestante

Services de Noël et Épiphanie

le vendredi 24 décembre (2021) 19 h

le dimanche 26 décembre 13 h

le dimanche 2 janvier (2022) 13 h

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17 Wing Spiritual Well-Being Centre  
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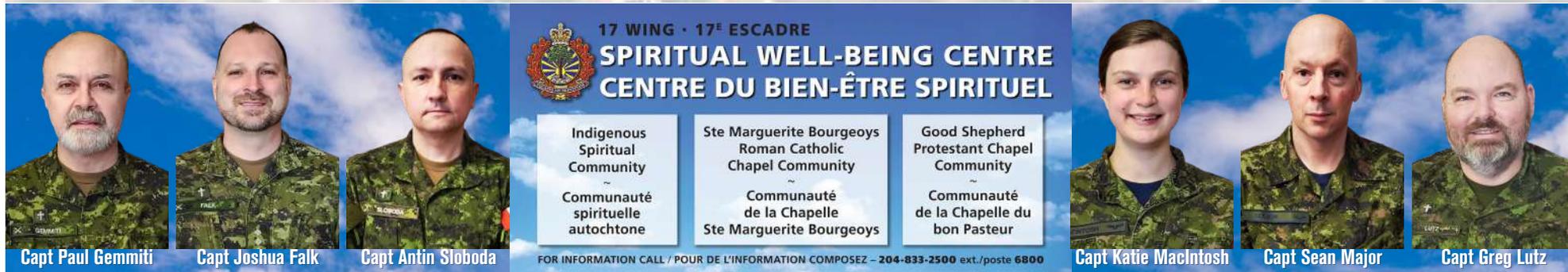
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# More than Brick and Mortar

by Captain Bettina McCulloch-Drake

Dedicated to being open to and inclusive of all members of the Defence community and their families, the once named 17 Wing Community Chapel was rededicated as the 17 Wing Spiritual

Well-Being Centre on Monday, the 22nd of November 2021.

“Words matter as do actions,” stressed Major Hope Winfield, the 17 Wing Chaplain and team lead for 17 Wing Chaplain Services. “The terms ‘chapel’ and ‘chapel annex’ is no longer an accurate depiction of the activities that take place here. Nor are they terms that communicate inclusion to our increasingly diverse community,” continued Maj Winfield who later confirmed that the renaming is just one part of a larger journey towards Truth and Reconciliation.

The original building, which makes up part of the Centre, was built in 1956 as Our Lady of the Airways. Forty-one years later the former Community Chapel became the gathering place of the Ste. Marguerite Bourgeoys Roman Catholic faith community and The Good Shepherd Protestant faith community.

More recently, in 2017, an Indigenous Sweat Lodge (the Lodge) was introduced by the 17 Wing Defence Aboriginal Advisory Group (DAAG). Located on sacred ground to the west side of the Centre, the Lodge is a space of healing and teaching. Kept by Devin Beaudry, a Canadian Armed Forces (CAF) veteran also known by his Indigenous spiritual name Walking Grey Wolf, the Lodge has specific, cultural meaning for Canada’s Indigenous Peoples.

“All are welcome around the Sacred

Fire and in the Lodge,” emphasized the Lodge Keeper and DAAG Elder on the National Day of Truth and Reconciliation commemorated for the first time on 30 September of this year. “You do not need to belong to the DAAG or be part of an Indigenous community to ask for healing or to go on a personal spiritual journey.”

Prior to the COVID-19 pandemic, the existence of the large meeting room with adjacent kitchen enabled 17 Wing Chaplain Services to expand their offerings in the areas of spiritual resiliency, mental health, and whole-of-person well-being.

“While we seek to be respectful of the sacred spaces of the spiritual and faith communities, it is our hope that this multi-purpose space will once again play host to events such as the Model Seder meal previously organized by former team member Rabbi Glogauer. It is also our hope to start running training courses for Sentinels again as well as lunch-and-learn workshops and seminars on topics such as whole-hearted living and the Indigenous Seven Sacred Teachings.”

Committed to supporting the well-being of the Defence Team at CFB Winnipeg, 17 Wing Colonel David Proteau stressed the importance of the occasion. “Creating a more welcoming, inclusive community goes far beyond the renaming of a brick and mortar building,” began Col Proteau. “It means listening to our people, especially those who are under-represented, and finding out what can be done to encourage greater cohesion.”

Col Proteau went on to acknowledge the hard work of the Defence Advisory Groups (DAGs) and reinforced the Cana-

dian Armed Forces’ commitment to eliminating employment barriers for Women, Visible Minorities, Indigenous Peoples, Persons with Disabilities, and members from the LGBTQ2+ communities. “Lasting change starts at the grassroots level and this is where the work being done by the DAGs comes in,” emphasized Col. Proteau.

“Up until about two years ago, the DAGs would communicate up to the national level within their own silos, but we discovered that issues, especially those the groups had in common, needed to be addressed in a more cohesive manner. Thus we created a steering committee, chaired by myself, where all groups and their Champions can come together once a month to discuss issues and identify potential solutions. In some instances we discover that an issue first thought to impact only one group also impacts one or more of the other groups.”

“Another idea that has come out of these and other meetings about inclusion is the creation of a ‘unity space’ where anyone may gather for the purposes of building greater understanding between all peoples,” revealed Col. Proteau. “The initial thought is to include a visual representation of the five advisory groups in a green space on the base. I do not want to divulge too much because discussions are still taking place and a final plan has not yet been approved.”

Closing out his remarks, Col Proteau added: “I think it’s important that we take time to pause and recognize that changing the name of a building is significant. By changing the label on the

outside, we are changing what happens on the inside. As partners in change, we are moving the earth in the right direction and building a more diverse, more unified world.”

Counted on for their compassion and active care of individuals and their families, Canadian Armed Forces chaplains provide support to anyone that needs it regardless of faith or belief.

“With the challenges that come with life, it is important that people feel supported while they pursue their own inner journeys,” Royal Canadian Air Force Chaplain Lieutenant-Colonel Jean-Sébastien Morin reminded those in attendance. “Spirituality is something that can be expressed inside or outside of an organized faith tradition.”

Following Lt-Col Morin’s remarks, Corporal (retired) Melvin Swan, also known by his spiritual name Lone Thunderbird, was invited to speak. Drawing upon the traditions and language of his Indigenous ancestors, he first offered a prayer to the Creator. He then went on to speak about Reconciliation and healing journeys. “Healing, like life, is personal. To help others I have to be a warrior and that’s hard sometimes because I am only human.”

To close the ceremony, the Warriors of the Royal Winnipeg Rifles, led by Warrant Officer Robert-Falcon Ouellette and including Corporals Errol McKay, Chayton Bearshield, and Kaylan Pawulski, performed a song on the hand drums relating to the spirit of the bear.

## Faith and Life

### 17 Wing Chaplain Team

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**Capt Joshua Falk**  
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**Capt Katie MacIntosh**  
Unit Chaplain (BTL)  
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Phone ext 6914

**Capt Sean Major**  
AR Flt Chaplain (BTL)  
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#### MORE INFO

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**Website**  
Those with access to the DIN can visit [17Wing.winnipeg.mil.ca](http://17Wing.winnipeg.mil.ca),  
then click ‘17 Wing’, then ‘Services’

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Faith Community  
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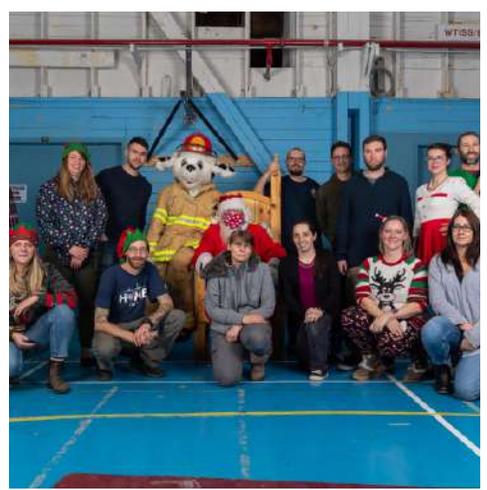
✝ Ste Marguerite Bourgeoys  
Roman Catholic  
Faith Community  
Sunday Mass: 1500 hrs, or  
check with a Chaplain



**17 Wing Military  
Community Chapel**  
2235 Silver Ave  
(West off Whytewold/  
Wihuri Road)



# Around The Wing



All ranks Christmas party, Santa photos at 17 Wing Winnipeg on December 4, 2021. Photo: Corporal Bryce Cooper, Canadian Armed Forces



The Royal Canadian Air Force Band performs at the Seven Oaks Performing Arts Centre, Winnipeg on November 2, 2021. Photo: Corporal Bryce Cooper, Canadian Armed Forces



The 2021 Wing Commanders Hockey Tournament on November 22, 2021 at CanLan Sports Complex, Winnipeg, MB



The Spin-A-Thon 2021 (SAT) took place on November 19, 2021.