

Although one might not know it at first glance, we have a significant mandate here at 17 Wing. As a composite formation, we conduct and support operations both domestically and internationally, while also performing a wide variety of training functions at the ab-initio and advanced levels, across a vast operational area of responsibility.

As the holiday season approaches, we can reflect on just how busy we have been on the Wing this past year. We saw a number of significant events take place on the Wing. The training and deployment of our Mission Support Squadron is one. The members of the MSS will return over the holidays, and we are proud of their work, and happy to have them back. As the very first MSS, they have exceeded all expectations placed upon them, and have set the standard for all other Wings.

Many units and members of the Wing have supported CF operations around the world this year. We helped support the re-deployment of army units and members through the Wing, and back to their home bases and families. Then there was Grey Cup, which took months of planning and preparing, but was well worth the effort. The Operational tempo remained high at all units and we have hosted numerous official visits throughout the year. At the same time we have provided support to a number of other critical Air Force units who are situated on the Wing, including 1 Canadian Air Division. Equally we have remained dedicated and vibrant members of the local community in which our families and we live. I hope we can all look back at 2006 with fond memories of a productive year.

To that end, please take the holiday period to rest, relax, and enjoy your leave. Recharge your batteries so you can come back prepared for the busy year ahead here at the Wing in 2007.

With these holiday wishes, I must also say farewell to the men and women of the Wing. When I arrived in Winnipeg, I was extraordinarily pleased to get back to Wing life, and I have been reminded how quickly time can go by at an operational Wing. As I depart for my next posting this month, I am very proud to have been a Wing Commander working with such an excellent group of people. I have seen you show just how effectively the airmen and women of a Wing can work together. I know that we ask a lot of each of you on a daily basis and, as a result this is also demanding of your families. Members here at 17 Wing have more than met the challenges in the last number of years and I expect them to continue to do so as we move confidently into the future.

It has been a pleasure.

Col K. S. O'Brien  
Wing Commander 17 Wing Winnipeg

Même si on ne le voit peut-être pas au premier coup d'œil, la 17e Escadre a un mandat important. En tant que formation mixte, nous effectuons et soutenons des opérations au pays et à l'étranger tout en accomplissant une grande variété de fonctions d'instruction de base et d'instruction avancée, dans une vaste zone de responsabilité opérationnelle.

Comme la période des fêtes approche, nous pouvons revenir sur l'année très chargée que nous avons eue. Un certain nombre d'événements importants ont eu lieu à l'escadre, notamment l'instruction et le déploiement de notre escadron de soutien de mission (ESM). Les membres de l'escadron reviendront pendant les fêtes; nous sommes fiers de leur travail et nous serons heureux de les revoir. Membres du tout premier ESM, ils ont dépassé toutes les attentes et ils ont donné le ton pour toutes les autres escadres.

Cette année, plusieurs membres et unités de l'escadre ont soutenu des opérations des FC de par le monde. L'escadre a participé au redéploiement d'unités et de militaires de l'Armée de terre, ainsi qu'au rapatriement de militaires à leur base d'appartenance et dans leur famille. Puis, il y a eu la Coupe Grey qui a nécessité des mois de planification et de préparation, mais cela valait bien tous les efforts consentis. Le rythme opérationnel est demeuré élevé dans toutes les unités durant l'année et nous avons eu de nombreuses visites officielles. En même temps, nous avons assuré le soutien d'un certain nombre d'autres unités essentielles de la Force aérienne qui sont hébergées par l'escadre, y compris la 1re Division aérienne du Canada. En outre, nous sommes restés dévoués et actifs dans la collectivité où nos familles et nous-mêmes vivons. J'espère que nous pouvons tous considérer, avec satisfaction, que 2006 a été une année productive.

Profitez de la période de congé pour vous reposer et vous détendre. Refaites le plein d'énergie afin d'être prêts à votre retour pour l'année chargée qui nous attend à l'escadre en 2007.

En plus de ces vœux, je me dois de dire au revoir aux femmes et aux hommes de l'escadre. Lorsque je suis arrivé à Winnipeg, j'ai été vraiment très heureux de renouer avec la vie dans une escadre; je me suis souvenu à quel point le temps peut passer vite dans une escadre opérationnelle. Maintenant que je dois partir pour ma nouvelle affectation ce mois-ci, je suis très fier d'avoir été commandant de l'escadre et d'avoir travaillé avec un groupe de personnes qui symbolisent

l'excellence. Vous avez montré à quel point les aviatrices et aviateurs d'une escadre peuvent travailler efficacement ensemble. Je sais que nous exigeons beaucoup de vous chaque jour et que cela se répercute sur vos familles. Les membres de la 17e Escadre ont fait plus que relever les défis au cours des dernières années et je m'attends à ce qu'ils continuent de le faire alors que nous envisageons l'avenir avec confiance.

Ce fut un plaisir.

Col K.S. O'Brien  
Commandant de la 17e Escadre Winnipeg

## Happy Holidays



## Joyeuses Fêtes

### In This Issue:

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# Commander's Awards



Capt Brian Dunsterville receives the General Campaign Star and 1 Cdn Air Div Commander's Commendation from MGen Charles Bouchard, Comd 1 Cdn Air Div.



Col Grant Smith receives his CD2 clasp for 32 years outstanding service in the CF from MGen Charles Bouchard, Comd 1 Cdn Air Div.



LCol Wayne Watson receives his CD1 clasp for 22 years exemplary service in the CF from MGen Charles Bouchard, Comd 1 Cdn Air Div.



Capt John Edelman receives his CD1 clasp for 22 years exemplary service in the CF from MGen Charles Bouchard, Comd 1 Cdn Air Div.



Maj Lorne Harding receives his CD2 clasp for 32 years outstanding service in the CF from MGen Charles Bouchard, Comd 1 Cdn Air Div.



Capt Bruce Doggett receives his Commissioning Scroll from MGen Charles Bouchard, Comd 1 Cdn Air Div.



WO Daniel Berthiaume receives his CD1 clasp for 22 years exemplary service in the CF from MGen Charles Bouchard, Comd 1 Cdn Air Div.



CWO Sam Arsenault receives his CD2 clasp for 32 years outstanding service in the CF from MGen Charles Bouchard, Comd 1 Cdn Air Div.



Lt Brian Greengrass receives the General Service Medal and the NATO FY Medal from MGen Charles Bouchard, Comd 1 Cdn Air Div.



Sgt Marilyn Kendall receives her CD1 clasp for 22 years exemplary service in the CF from MGen Charles Bouchard, Comd 1 Cdn Air Div.



MWO Jean Birnie receives her CD2 clasp for 32 years outstanding service in the CF from MGen Charles Bouchard, Comd 1 Cdn Air Div.



Capt Stuart Gullen receives the UN Medal for his service on UN Mission OP Safari in South Sudan from MGen Charles Bouchard, Comd 1 Cdn Air Div.



Sgt Rob McSorley receives his CD1 clasp for 22 years exemplary service in the CF from MGen Charles Bouchard, Comd 1 Cdn Air Div.



Capt Roy Van den Berg receives the South West Asia Service Medal and his CD1 clasp for 22 years of service from MGen Charles Bouchard, Comd 1 Cdn Air Div.



CWO Allan Gorrie receives his CWO Scroll from MGen Charles Bouchard, Comd 1 Cdn Air Div.



CWO David Martin receives his CWO Scroll from MGen Charles Bouchard, Comd 1 Cdn Air Div.

# Season's Greetings From The Wing Chief Warrant Officer | Meilleurs vœux de l'adjutant chef de l'escadre

By WCWO Glenn Wallace

My heartfelt wishes to the families that have endured countless months that loved ones have been deployed from the Wing at a time when many difficult and dangerous missions are taking place throughout the world.

I am extremely proud of the support from the various units, branches, families and our MFRC to our deployed personnel. The efforts, accomplishments and commitment of our deployed personnel are making a noticeable difference in the war on terrorism, resulting in a safer and better place in which to live.

The holiday season is a time to reflect upon the simple gifts in life that maybe we take for granted, please remember those less fortunate among us, keep them in your thoughts and prayers. A simple act of giving will bring you the greatest personal joy, it's better to give than receive.

I would like to thank our Defence Team of CF regular and reserve members, all of our civilian employees working in DND, PSP and NPF, Air Force Associations and contractors for the outstanding support and professionalism each of you provided the Wing since my arrival this past summer.

Enjoy the festive holiday season with family and friends; it has been a busy year, be wise and safe at all times and arrive back to the Wing with a renewed energy. Merry Christmas and Happy New Year.



J'offre mes vœux sincères aux familles qui ont enduré pendant les nombreux mois durant lesquels des êtres chers étaient déployés alors que de nombreuses missions difficiles et dangereuses avaient lieu de par le monde.

Je suis très fier du soutien offert au personnel déployé par les diverses unités et familles, les divers services et notre CRFM. Les efforts, les réalisations et l'engagement du personnel déployé comptent énormément dans la lutte contre le terrorisme; c'est grâce à ces hommes et ces femmes que nous vivons dans un monde plus sûr et meilleur.

La période des fêtes est l'occasion de réfléchir aux simples bienfaits de la vie que nous tenons peut-être pour acquis. Pensez à ceux d'entre nous qui sont moins chanceux et priez pour eux. Donner peut être une grande source de joie personnelle : il vaut mieux donner que recevoir.

Je tiens à remercier pour le soutien et le professionnalisme exceptionnel qu'ils ont fourni à l'escadre depuis mon arrivée l'été dernier tous les membres de la Force régulière et de la Réserve des FC, ainsi que tous les employés civils du MDN, ceux des services d'utilité publique et des FNP, ainsi que ceux qui travaillent pour les associations de la Force aérienne et pour les entrepreneurs.

Profitez de la période des fêtes avec votre famille et vos amis; nous avons eu une année chargée. Faites preuve de sagesse, soyez prudents et revenez à l'escadre avec une énergie renouvelée. Joyeux Noël et Bonne Année!

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## Message From The Lieutenant Governor Of Manitoba

At this special time of year, I am reminded of the men and women who are working to ensure peace and democracy for all our armed forces. We are grateful for your service and sacrifice in defending freedom and democracy around the world.

Canadian Forces members continue to make significant contributions to the preservation of democracy around the globe, demonstrating the courage and commitment for which our forces are world-renowned. On behalf of the people of Manitoba, I thank you for representing our great nation with

such distinction and wish you the warmest season's greetings.

I know Canadians honour you at this holiday season – and always – for standing on guard for our country and for the invaluable gift of peace.

The Honourable John Harvard, P.C., O.M.  
Lieutenant-Governor of Manitoba

## LCol Mann CO Air Div HQ Message

By LCol R.B. Mann

The Air Division Headquarters has had a busy year of change and increased operational tempo in support of the new CF Command structure. Our building turned twenty this year and my staff engaged the Wing support organizations aggressively to develop a renewal plan that will allow us to continue to use the facility for another twenty five to thirty years. This has put strain on the Wing Logistics organization, particularly in WTSS and WCE as we have prioritized our 141s and TSRs to ensure that main effort is placed on safety and operations related activities first.

The HQ experienced significant increase in the frequency and number of visitors to the Air Div HQ this past year. Once again, Wing Imaging, Transport, Foods and Provost Marshall organizations stepped up to provide support to this important communications activity - educating foreign dignitaries, members of parliament, community organizations and other elements of the CF regarding the role of the Air Division in generating and employing air power to achieve the desired effects for Canadians. This month we are supporting a 24/7 Command Post Exercise VIGILANT SHIELD which has required many of you to adjust and to adapt to the Battle Rhythm of this NORAD ex. To all of the staff who have helped this HQ with these tasks in the past year - Thank You.

While the Wing deployed 17 MSS and several others, this HQ has had 10 personnel on average deployed to Afghanistan, Camp Mirage, Africa and other parts of the world throughout



the year. We paused briefly this fall to gather in front of the HQ for a "Sea of Red" photo to show our support for those who served away from their families and friends.

I hope that the Headquarters and Wing staff will be able to spend some time with your families and friends this festive season and that you will make some time to rest, reflect on and appreciate all that we are blessed with as Canadians in a free and stable country. Happy Holidays.

*continued on page 8*

### VOXAIR

DECEMBER 13, 2006  
VOLUME 54, ISSUE 22

Deadline for next  
issue: 5 JAN 07

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Monday to Thursday,  
0830 - 1600 hrs

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Printed By  
**The Daily Graphic**  
1.204.857.3427

**Visit Us Online:** www.voxair.ca

VOXAIR is the unofficial Service newspaper of 17 Wing Winnipeg and is published every two weeks under the authority of the Wing Commander, Col Ken O'Brien. Opinions and views expressed do not necessarily reflect those of the Editor, the Wing Commander or the Department of National Defence. The Editor reserves the right to edit or reject any editorial or advertising material. We will not be responsible for any loss or damage to any advertiser or third party resulting from the failure of an advertisement to appear in any of our editions or from any error or omission in any advertisement which is published.

Correspondence should be addressed to:  
**The Voxair**  
17 Wing Winnipeg,  
PO Box 17000 Stn forces  
Winnipeg, MB R3J 3Y5  
This newspaper is printed using  
environmentally safe inks.  
Publications Mail Agreement No. 1482823

Promotion of Private Businesses in articles submitted for publication is not permitted except in cases of appreciation for donations where only the company name is included. (Companies or individuals that are currently in arrears shall not be published.) Individuals or groups shall not make any offer of promotion in The Voxair Newspaper of products and/or services for exchange in donations.



Riley and his sister Katie help Santa take off his boots during the kickoff of the NORAD tracking site at the Citadel mall in Colorado Springs, Colo. The annual kickoff is an exciting time for children of all ages as they participate in the NORAD tracking Santa Program.

## NORAD's Santa Web Site Goes Live

NORAD

PETERSON AIR FORCE BASE, Colo. – In advance of holiday season and the 51st season of NORAD tracking Santa Claus on his annual journey around the world, the bi-national command tasked with providing aerospace security for North America announced that the NORAD Tracks Santa Web site [www.noradsanta.org](http://www.noradsanta.org) is now live.

The NTS program began in 1955 when an errant phone call was made to NORAD's predecessor, the Continental Air Defense Command (CONAD) Operations Center in Colorado Springs, Colo. The call was from a local child who dialed a misprinted telephone number in a local newspaper advertisement. Although the wrong number, the commander who answered the phone that night gave the youngster the information he requested – the whereabouts of Santa Claus ... thus the tradition of NORAD tracking Santa began.

The program has grown immensely since it was first presented on the Internet in 1998. In 2005, the Web site received

a whopping 912 million hits from 204 countries and territories. In addition, the NTS Operations Center, occupied by 550 volunteers on Christmas Eve, answered nearly 55,000 phone calls and nearly 98,240 emails from children around the world.

The Web site features the history of the program, information on how NORAD tracks Santa and interactive games. On December 24, beginning at 2:00 a.m. Mountain Standard Time (4 a.m. Eastern Standard Time, 9 a.m. Greenwich Mean Time), the Web site will feature a minute-by-minute update on Santa's travels around the world. All of this information is available in English, French, German, Italian, Japanese and Spanish.

The NORAD Tracks Santa Web site and program would not be possible without the support and generosity of the following organizations: Island Web Studios, America On Line, Akami, Analytical Graphics, Inc, Globelink Language and Cultural Services, Inc., Qwest Communications, Verizon and Microsoft Virtual Earth.

## Stamps For The Beatles

By Alf Brooks

In January Royal Mail will issue six stamps celebrating the music of The Beatles; each self-adhesive stamp will reproduce an album cover.

More interesting will be a miniature sheet to be issued at the same time. The sheet shows various memorabilia from the collection of Pete Best. Who? Pete Best was the drummer with the band before they became well-known, and was replaced by Ringo Starr in 1962.



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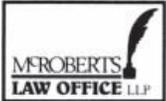


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**Happy Holidays**

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MCpl Carole Sinnott (left) and Diane Chatfield of St Alphonus Catholic Church packaging up the 122 knit teddy bears for transportation to sick children in Afghanistan. The Teddies for Tragedies program, which has volunteers knitting across the country, has sent thousands of the bears to children in hospitals in third world and war torn countries around the world.

## Teddies For Tragedies

By Avery Wolaniuk

Knit two, pearl one. Add some eyes, a nose, a smile and a scarf, and you've made a friend for a small someone in need of a friend — even if she is a little stuffed.

The ladies of St. Alphonus Catholic Church in East Kildonan have been clicking away with their knitting needles, making "Teddies for Tragedies." The colourful, lovable bears are sent overseas to children in hospitals in third world or war torn countries. "A lot of the time they can talk to a teddy bear better than to talk to a doctor or an adult," said MCpl Carole Sinnott, who knit four bears herself and brought along the three her 83-year-old mother sent from Calgary. Bears become companions, somebody to keep in the cot with the child who really doesn't have anything else. "It's a positive experience for those children who come in contact with the military to be given something positive they can take home with them," she said.

Diane Chatfield, past president of the Catholic Women's League of St. Alphonus Parish, put the notice in the bulletin at the church on Munroe Ave in Winnipeg last spring. Twenty women from the church responded, and are still go-

ing strong. They filled five boxes with 122 bears packaged up in their own bright, fun-patterned drawstring bag, also supplied by the ladies. The women are on a roll and excited to continue making the bears, said Ms. Chatfield.

The project started for the ladies at St. Alphonus last spring, when a sister church in Cambridge, Ontario was looking for knitters to donate their time and skills. The women knit the bears and mailed them to Ontario to be distributed. Already in 2006, almost 5,000 bears from Canada have made their way to sick kids in Brazil, Peru, Guatemala, Honduras, Haiti, South Africa, Pakistan and the Ukraine, as well as to a couple of Canadian agencies. MCpl Sinnott, an x-ray technologist, coordinated with the post office on the base here to have the bears shipped directly to the padres in Afghanistan. "Which is appropriate, because they are coming from the church and going to the padres," said MCpl Sinnott.

For ladies at St Alphonus, this Christmas package is just one milestone along the way. They're not ready to put down their needles just yet, and they're looking for others to help. If you're interested in knitting a bear or two, contact Diane Chatfield at the parish, at 667-9580.



Cpl Albert Storm



CWO Robert Girouard

## MND On The Deaths Of CWO Girouard And Cpl Storm

National Defence

OTTAWA, 28/11/2006 – The Honourable Gordon O'Connor, Minister of National Defence, issued the following statement on the deaths of Chief Warrant Officer Robert Girouard and Corporal Albert Storm:

"Two professional, dedicated Canadian soldiers, Chief Warrant Officer Robert Girouard and Corporal Albert Storm, made the ultimate sacrifice in Afghanistan. Our hearts and thoughts go out to their families and friends during this difficult time.

Chief Warrant Officer Girouard and Corporal Storm were killed when their armoured vehicle was attacked by a suicide bomber as they traveled on the highway to the Panjwayi area of Afghanistan. Chief Warrant Officer Girouard was a very senior Non-Commissioned Officer and a proven leader. Corporal Storm was a brave, dedicated and professional soldier. Both served valiantly against an enemy that uses arbitrary attacks to thwart any progress for the Afghan people to achieve their freedom and stability.

There are risks involved in this selfless work. However, the sacrifice of these soldiers will not be forgotten and this event will not deter us from helping Afghans reclaim their lives and build a free and democratic society."

Chief Warrant Officer Robert Girouard and Corporal Albert Storm were both members of 1st Battalion, The Royal Canadian Regiment, based in Petawawa, Ontario.

# Seasons Greetings



TO OUR ARMED FORCES & THEIR FAMILIES

from your local MLAs Jim Rondeau and Bonnie Korzeniowski,  
Premier Gary Doer & the NDP Caucus



# Operation Wish: Canadian Military And Sears Canada Team Up On Special Holiday Mission

CALGARY, AB - November, 2006 - Sears Canada is launching Operation Wish - a not-so-top-secret mission where over 3,000 Canadian troops away from home over the Holidays can still play Santa to their loved ones back home.

The program, announced today by Sears Canada in co-ordination with the Canadian Forces Personnel Support Agency (CFPSA), allows Canadian troops stationed abroad to place a customized order from the Sears Wish Book through a dedicated email address. Copies of the catalogue were flown out of 8 Wing Trenton on Thursday, October 26, to begin their journey to Canadian soldiers, sailors and Air Force personnel posted on operational missions in Afghanistan, Africa, the Balkans, the Caribbean, the Middle East, Southwest Asia and the Arabian Gulf Region, as well as those serving on HMCS Ottawa.

This program is inspired by the actions of Dartmouth, Nova Scotia Sears associate Elaine Mason and her team of volunteers, who, a few years ago, wanted to do something to connect deployed troops and their families during the Holidays. Elaine arranged to have the Sears Wish Book catalogue delivered to naval ships leaving Halifax Harbour. Soldiers leaving for operations that year were able to shop from the

catalogue and, through Sears, their gifts were delivered to their families. Elaine's effort to bring joy and happiness to troops stationed abroad and their families has grown into a national initiative this year.

"Operation Wish is our way of trying to make the season a little brighter for the men and women who are deployed around the world and who won't be able to spend this Holiday season with their families," said Dene Rogers, President, Sears Canada. "Being away from home for any extended period of time is always difficult, but being away during the Holidays is particularly hard on families."

They will receive a special discount on all orders and Sears will arrange to have presents individually wrapped and delivered to families at their home bases. Military personnel can also include a special message to be included with their gifts. To top things off, Sears is also working with Military Family Resource Centres at bases across Canada to host Holiday parties.

Sears has also contributed \$10,000 to the CFPSA's Operation Santa Claus; a program that sends gift packages to CF members who are deployed during the Holiday season. Effective with the launch of Operation Wish, the Company

also announced that it would make an additional donation to Operation Santa Claus for any order its customers make across Canada of \$150 or more from the Sears Wish Book between now and December 24. In addition, customers will receive double Sears Club points. Customers only need to quote this coupon code, 941622512, when they place their order at [www.sears.ca](http://www.sears.ca) or 1-800-26-SEARS.

The CFPSA develops and delivers morale and welfare programs, activities and services to members of the CF and their families, in Canada and overseas. These activities include sports and recreation, health and fitness, family services, retail operations, financial services and, mess management. In addition, the CFPSA deploys approximately 60 civilian personnel per six-month rotation to Afghanistan to conduct morale and welfare programs

Sears Canada is a multi-channel retailer with a network of 188 corporate stores, 182 dealer stores, 65 home improvement showrooms, over 1,900 catalogue merchandise pick-up locations, 107 Sears Travel offices and a nationwide home maintenance, repair, and installation network. The Company also publishes Canada's most extensive general merchandise catalogue and offers shopping online at [www.sears.ca](http://www.sears.ca).



## Customer Appreciation Week

For the week of January 8th until the 12th Bldg 90 gym will be celebrating our customers by having a Customer Appreciation Week.

There will be prizes, free classes and much more. Come and check us out.

## Holiday Programming

- Dec 22nd- Children's Holiday Fair
- Dec 27th- Christmas in July pool party
- Dec 28th- MTYP's Seussical - Special Ticket Offer
- Dec 29th- Glow Bowling
- Dec 29- Youth Wake-a-Thon
- Jan 2nd- Craft Afternoon
- Jan 3rd- Matinee Movie
- Jan 4th- Moose Game- Special Ticket Offer
- Jan 5th- Harry Potter Sleepover

## New Programs- Just Added!

- **Hip-Hop Dancing**  
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For more info or to sign up call Ann at 5976 or Lindsay at 2057.

## Wake-A-Thon

The Youth Advisory Council is proud to host their first ever Wake-a-Thon. CF and community youth will be staying Building 90 Recreation Centre all night long without sleeping. This

Event is open to all youth 13 to 17 yrs old.

The Wake-a-Thon will run from 7pm on Dec 29 to 8am on Dec 30. The night will be jammed packed with different activities including swimming, video game tournament on the movie screen, crazy Olympics and much more. The event will end in the morning with a pancake breakfast.

For more information contact Lindsay at 833-2500 ext 2057 or Diane at ext 4508.

## Youth Exchange

Youth from Winnipeg will be travelling to Edmonton on January 26, 2007. They will be staying in Edmonton to meet with other CF youth to discuss the challenges they face, issues effecting CF youth and to have fun! They will be returning back to Winnipeg on January 29, 2007.

Then from March 9-12, Youth will be coming to Winnipeg and we will be hosting a weekend program for them. Youth who travel to Edmonton will be the hosts when the youth come to Winnipeg.

To apply for this exchange you must submit an essay that covers the following topics:

- How you are involved in the CF community
- Why you want to go on this exchange
- What you think you will gain from going
- Fundraising Ideas
- Activity ideas for when Winnipeg hosts there portion of the trip

We will be selecting 6 Youth from Winnipeg to participate in this exchange.

Essays can be dropped off at Building 90 Gym and Recreation Centre or the MFRC. We will be accepting essays until Dec 29, 2006.

For more information contact Lindsay at 833-2500 ext 2057 or Diane at 4508.

## 2007 New Years Day Levee Timings:

0800 Officer's Mess  
0840 depart the Wing and Minto Armoury  
0900 McGregor Armoury  
1000 HMCS Chippawa  
1100 Minto Armoury  
1200 Officer's Mess  
1320 depart for Government House  
1500 return to the Wing

## THE VOXAIR

### 2007 Publication Dates

Issue Date	Deadline
17 January	05 January
31 January	19 January
14 February	02 February
28 February	16 February
14 March	02 March
28 March	16 March
11 April	30 arch M
25 April	13 April
16 ay M	27 April
30 May	18 May
13 June	01 June
27 June	15 June
18 July	06 July
15 August	03 August
29 August	17 August
12 September	31 August
26 September	14 September
10 October	28 September
24 October	12 October
07 November	26 October
21 November	09 November
12 December	30 November

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*Happy Holidays  
from us at The Voxair*

# Mission Accomplished For GCWCC 2006

By 2Lt Alexandre Cadieux, A/PAO GCWCC

Giving 112% — As it was proudly printed in the last issue of the VOXAIR, this year's GCWCC campaign was an enormous success. Thanks to all of our dedicated military and DND personnel, we were able to raise \$101,160.15 — 112.22% of our \$90,000 objective. It goes without saying that this would not have been possible if it was not for our dedicated planning committee, headed Sherry Liley and Capt Ryan Setter, all of our canvassers, our volunteer personnel who made our events possible, but mostly, thanks to all who donated and to every single person who attended our activities. Thank you for coming to the kick-off, the Herc pull, the TEME breakfast, participating in the Casual Fridays, thank you for buying books at the book fair, attending the Comedy Night, paying to put your boss in jail, or to dunk them in the tank.

To give you an idea on how our donated money was raised this year, here are some statistics: 96.7% of all personnel were canvassed at 17 Wing Winnipeg. Among the \$92,534 raised, \$18,585.15 came from events and \$82,575 was donated through canvassing. We had a 20% participation rate to our activities, an increase of 5% from last year.

We also wish to express our appreciation to the Division, Wing, and Unit's leadership for their assistance and support in our efforts to bring the military closer to their community. It is essential for our officers and senior NCMs to demonstrate an even higher level of responsibility, as they did, to ensure their unit's participation. Each unit's members reflected their adherence to our common cause. It is through the efforts of 17 Wing, Integral and Lodger Units, and members that these donations have made a difference to the com-



(from left) Co-chair of the GCWCC Sherry Liley stands with LCol Paul Conway, WAdminO, and LCol Charles Ness, AWComd, beside the GCWCC sign proclaiming an effort of 112%. The 17 Wing community raised \$101,160.15 through events and donations. Thanks to everyone who participated, planned or donated.

munity we know as Winnipeg.

Where will the money go? As an example, with this year's donations through GCWCC, the Arthritis Society could provide 852 individuals living with the frustration of arthritis with courage and understanding through participating in a six-week training course at the Arthritis Society. The lessons learned from such a program provide physical, psychological and emotional relief, which results in an improved quality of life for their patient and their family members. Beyond monetary donations, members of 17 Wing also engaged

with the community in ways that cannot be measured, but have a tremendous impact on the lives of others: from providing expertise and time in the planning and orchestration of the GCWCC kick-off, to pulling together to demonstrate our pride and commitment to Winnipeg by participating in United Way's third annual city-wide Plane Pull/Kick-Off in September.

The impact of your donations — your investments in Winnipeg and Canada — are just the beginning of what can be done when we work together to lead by example and make a difference in the lives of our friends, family, neighbors and co-workers. 17 Wing's continued support of United Way and GCWCC is essential to the health and well-being of our community, because we live here. Thank you from the thousands of Winnipeggers and Canadians whose lives have new hope and will be changed for the better because of your generosity.

Let me caution you, we must not be blinded by this year's success. There is still much more we could do. I am confident that we will have learned from our mistakes and we will come back next year with ideas that will increase our participation rate. But we need your input to do so. If you think of ways we could attract people's attention in a better way, let us know. If you think of activities that would attract more members, contact us. We are all responsible for our campaign's success.

We achieved our goal, and for that we thank you.

For any comments or suggestions, please contact myself (Cadieux 2Lt A@Public Affairs@Winnipeg), or one of the co-chairs, Sherry Liley (Liley SA@CPSC(P)@Winnipeg) and Capt Ryan Setter (Setter Capt RL@CFANS@Winnipeg).

## Warmest Holiday Greetings



To All Our Patrons at  
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Looking Forward To Serving You Throughout 2007!



By Joanne "Rainbow" Stapleton

The 60th Charleswood Legion Beaver Colony is very keen on doing their part when it comes to community service. As we are sponsored by the Charleswood Legion Branch 100, we have made doing something for the military community an annual activity. Last year it was our participation in a veteran appreciation campfire, the year before it was pillowcases for soldiers over seas.

This year we chose to make Christmas cards for the troops serving away from home over the holiday season, which, in honour of the military, we dubbed "Operation Happy Christmas". This activity came right after Remembrance Day ceremonies at Oak Park High School, where the newly fallen were honoured in a Power-Point presentation. Because these names and faces were so fresh, we specifically requested our cards go to soldiers in Afghanistan, but we know they will end up where they are most needed.

Armed with paper, crayons, ribbons, glue, and a few other assorted craft items, the Beavers (our youth range in

age from just about 5 to 7 years old), created some amazing cards, with no two looking anything alike. An inside insert was provided with the message, "Thank you for all that you do. Have a safe and happy Christmas", where each Beaver traced his/her hand and wrote his/her name, and some added embellishments.

As a Leader I personally feel it is very important that our youth are given the opportunity to do these kinds of activities. It teaches the youth that they can make a very big difference in a stranger's life with a very small act. Part of the Beaver Promise is to help take care of the world. What better way to do that, than to bring a smile to someone taking care of our country and all it stands for!

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*To all our friends on base,  
Thank you for your support throughout  
the years. Happy Christmas!  
From Terri & Wally*

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★ 17 Wing Ceramic Club

**Christmas  
Craft Sale**

★ Saturday  
December 16, 2006  
10:00 am. - 2:00 p.m.

Finished and Unfinished  
Pieces for Sale  
Located at  
17 Wing Community Centre  
Building 33 - Room 106

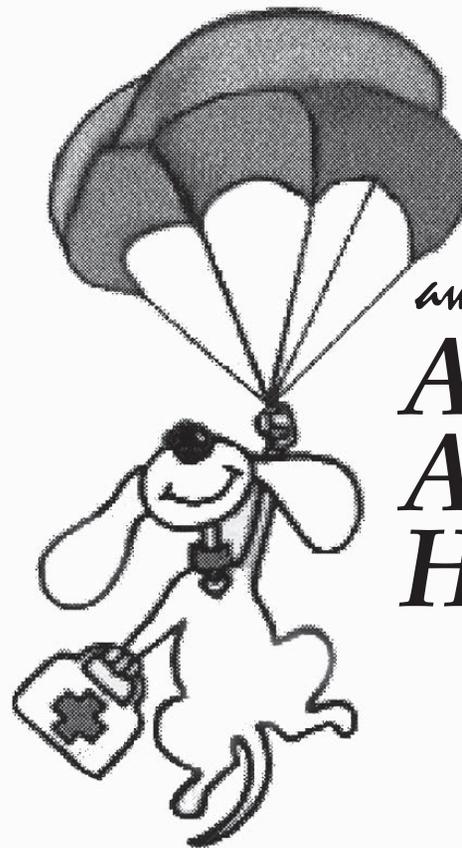
## LCol Mann Cont'd from pg. 3

Le quartier général de la 1re Division aérienne du Canada a connu une année très chargée en raison des changements et de l'accélération du rythme opérationnel attribuables à la nouvelle structure de commandement des FC. Par ailleurs, notre bâtiment a eu vingt ans cette année; c'est pourquoi mon personnel a demandé aux organisations de soutien de l'escadre d'élaborer sans tarder un plan de rénovation pour que nous puissions continuer à l'utiliser pendant encore vingt cinq ou trente ans. Cela a mis le service de logistique de l'escadre à rude épreuve, plus particulièrement l'ESIT Ere et le service GC Ere, car nous avons établi des priorités pour les demandes d'exécution de travaux (CF141) et les demandes de services de télécommunications pour que l'effort principal porte d'abord sur la sécurité et les activités liées aux opérations.

Au cours de l'année qui vient de s'écouler, le QG a connu un accroissement des visites, aussi bien en fréquence qu'en nombre. De nouveau, les services de l'imagerie, des transports, de l'alimentation et du grand prévôt ont répondu à l'appel pour soutenir cette activité importante – expliquant aux personnalités étrangères, aux députés fédéraux et sénateurs, aux organisations locales et à d'autres éléments des FC comment la division aérienne met sur pied des moyens aériens et les emploie afin de produire les effets souhaités pour les Canadiens. Ce mois-ci, nous soutenons l'exercice de poste de commandement VIGILANT SHIELD. C'est un exercice qui se déroule 24 heures sur 24, sept jours sur sept, ce qui a forcé un grand nombre d'entre vous à s'adapter au rythme de combat d'un exercice du NORAD. Je remercie sincèrement tout le personnel qui a permis à notre QG d'accomplir ces tâches au cours des douze derniers mois.

L'escadre a déployé le 17 ESM et plusieurs autres militaires. En ce qui concerne le QG, en moyenne une dizaine de ses employés ont été déployés pendant l'année (Afghanistan, Camp Mirage, Afrique et autres régions du monde). Nous avons fait une brève pause cet automne pour prendre une photo de groupe devant le QG. À cette occasion, nous portions tous du rouge pour exprimer notre soutien à l'égard de ceux qui servent loin de leur famille et de leurs amis.

J'espère que le personnel du quartier général et de l'escadre pourra passer du temps en famille et avec des amis pendant les fêtes. J'espère aussi que nous aurons l'occasion de nous reposer et de prendre conscience de la chance que nous avons, nous les Canadiens, de vivre dans un pays libre et stable. C'est un privilège à chérir. Je vous souhaite de joyeuses fêtes.



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Kim Plett (second from right), a 17 Wing Fitness and Sports Instructor, waits to receive her South West Asia Service Medal. Kim is currently deployed with CFPSA as the Fitness, Sports and Recreation Coordinator at Camp Mirage. Also pictured (L to R) is BGen Grant (Comd TFA HQ), Sherri Anne Knauer (Travel Supervisor), Sonia Dobson (Mirage Market Manager), and David Coulter (Travel Coord). Kim will be returning to Winnipeg with the MSS later this month.



On 23 Nov 06, PO1 Danyluk received his promotion to CPO2 by the Theatre Support Element Commanding Officer LCol Robert Coulthard. The Camp Mirage Logistics Officer, Maj Parent along with the Logistics Branch team congratulate him for his well deserved promotion.



MCpl Arsenault receiving his promotion from Theatre Commander BGen Grant in Camp Mirage. The members of WTIS would like to congratulate MCpl Randy Arsenault on his well deserved promotion.

# Tales From The Dunes

By CPO2 Kevin Stewart

Seems like yesterday that we walked through the exit door of the airbus and thought “wow the heat from the jet engines is pretty extreme.” Not so, it was “welcome to the desert in summer,” and as the summer progressed it only intensified. The MAMS and TAU people, who worked tirelessly in the constant 60-70c heat radiating from the tarmac, deserve kudos for their tenacity. As one person put it, when referring to walking around downtown at midday, “you have to duck into an air-conditioned building every once in a while, just to get your sense of humour back.” Now as people walk around in sweaters and long pants in the evenings, the heat seems like a distant memory and as MSS and other Roto 2 personnel start their redeployments, it’s a time for quiet reflection on the tour events.

From a cook’s perspective, I can speak as a participating observer on the efficient way all personnel travelling to and from KAF were handled. It was well coordinated, and the entire rotation of army and support personnel and equipment went off without a hitch. The spirit of cooperation was high throughout the deployment and finding willing participants

for any evolution was never a problem. Even small details like handing out ice-cold bottles of water to parched travellers required no forethought as many camp personnel came out to assist with no solicitation. I hoped that how well we did during this phase of the operation would define success, and would be how we would remember the whole deployment.

Then one day a C-130 pulled in from KAF, it was no different than any other flight with the exception of a wooden box draped with a Canadian flag that carried the body of one of our fellow servicemen, Cpl Boneca of Thunder Bay. Hearts swelled with sombre pride for the sacrifice this soldier made; we all stood to attention and thought random thoughts of mortality as the bagpipes played “Amazing Grace” in the background, and then again with the “last post” as we placed him aboard the Airbus. We all thought that was it for the duration, but as the days and weeks passed, we collectively held our breath when we heard of any firefights or incidents. The profound effect on personnel became amplified as several “Fallen Soldiers” were colleagues in past units. The sombre pride became mixed with a feeling of anxiety. The ceremonies became harder, especially when seeing a griev-

ing widow or a single tear running down the cheek of a fellow soldier. My heart still swells with pride when I hear the national anthem and my memory of the deployment if nothing else will be that we preserved the dignity and honour of these great heroes throughout our time in theatre. We will remember you.

My area of expertise is food and the impact we have on the morale factor of the camp is far more audible than what I mentioned above. We believed it was our obligation to expose Canadian personnel to local cuisine. We conducted O groups to think of ways to change up the nightly fare to make it memorable and on many occasions succeeded in wowing the throng, or maybe we just satisfied ourselves. We cooks were creatures of experimentation, borne out of the variety of restaurants we visited. The opportunity to sample foods of the world, presented how they are suppose to be presented. Granted, many of the establishments weren’t on the map and certainly wouldn’t pass any Canadian hygiene and sanitation codes, but if you are looking for authenticity they are the places to go. With no consideration for European tourist blandness, they contained the full bouquet of flavours and spiciness that, on occasion, would catch you by surprise. For many of the cooks it was a learning experience, and infused their cooking with a bit more élan.

As we wrap up our tour we will certainly remember the rough patches, but I will relish the camaraderie and talks about personal growth and aspirations over a plate of Sri Lankan curry. I could say we all made sacrifices but outside of our mess hall is a cairn erected by Roto1 that carries the names of all the fallen, this was our cenotaph during Remembrance Day observances. Theirs was the sacrifice.



WComd Col Ken O'Brien gets his flu vaccine from Lt Tammy Dunnett during the coffee break hosted by 23 Health Services. The flu is a viral illness spread from person to person by coughing or contact with nasal fluids. Onset is usually sudden and symptoms include fever, headache, cough, muscle aches, runny nose, sore throat and exhaustion and usually last two to seven days. You can protect yourself from the flu by washing your hands often and keeping your hands away from your eyes and nose. The most important way to protect yourself is by immunization. Eligible CF members can get their shot Tues-Thurs at Bldg 62, room 216, from 0930 hrs to 1130 hrs until 15 December.



HCol Ben with LCol (ret'd) Tom Bailey at BOXTOP in Thule. The HCol has been up to BOXTOP half a dozen times, cheering on the resupply at Alert.



HCol Ben greeting Gen Rick Hillier, CDS, on 20 Oct 06 at the Hubbell Awards Dinner.



HCol Ben with his wife Arlene, WComd Col Ken O'Brien, and Capt Melanie Dove at the Blue Bomber's CF appreciation night on 21 Oct 06.



Even when HCol Ben couldn't be present in body, he made sure he was there in some form or another. Instead of him, Arlene sat beside his picture at the Wing Commander's Change of Command Parade when Ben was away at Nijmegen.

# After 12 Years HCol Ben

By Col D.C. McLennan

Honourary Colonel (HCol) Ben Van Ruiten will be retiring from his post at 17 Wing in a few weeks, and when I was asked to write an article for the *Voxair* to help everyone say goodbye, I eagerly accepted. In order to help me say everything that I wanted to express, I asked another Ex-WComd to help me by giving me a few of his stories and anecdotes, most of which I can repeat, some of which I will not in this forum. More importantly, though, BGen (Ret'd) Joe Sharpe was the WComd when Ben started his tenure in 1994, so I also wanted his perspective as to why he chose Ben as the Wing's HCol. I certainly received what I wanted, as he was happy to honour Ben, not only as a superb HCol, but as a wonderful Canadian, and a true gentleman, loved and respected by the men and women he served.

BGen Sharpe stated that, "I was very pleased to have had Ben selected by my predecessor as the HCol because he was simply the greatest fan the Canadian Air Force could ever have, and one of the most respected, upstanding members of Winnipeg society." One of Ben's first functions on the Wing was to act as the speaker at our Air Force mess dinner. He accepted willingly and then became very concerned about what he was going to say — can you imagine the Ben we all know so well as being concerned about talking to a group! At any rate, he chose to talk about what the Air Force meant to him as a young Dutch resistor, and when he had finished talking to the roomful of rowdy, half inebriated officers, you could have heard a pin drop. There was not a dry eye in the house — including mine — as this white haired, distinguished gentleman told of laying in a hay field, hiding from Germans and watching the Canadian Air Force flying over head — fighting and dying — to save his country. I still get emotional thinking of it. When he had finished, he turned to me and said very quietly, just before the room broke into wild applause, "...did I do OK?" Absolutely, Ben, no question.

Ben's enthusiasm for his role as HCol is evident to all, as he always has a smile on his face, and a kind word for everyone he meets, from the civilian workers throughout the Wing to any and all military personnel, and especially the staff at the Messes. To show how much Ben is respected and admired, the Officers' Mess kitchen asked if they could bake him a cake for his 75th birthday. They baked a fantastic cake with the 17 Wing crest on it in icing (which he still has) and it was the hit of his surprise birthday party. He still claims they added ten years to the total but Arlene, his loving wife, an exceptional lady in her own right, and Ben's co-pilot during his tour, refused to collaborate his story.

Ben would fly wherever and whenever we would let him, from numerous trips to BOXTOP in Thule to show his support for the men and women of the Wing who did such a fantastic job re-supplying Alert, to SAREX, side by side with the SARTEchs and crews from all of our SAR Squadrons, and at home with the Wing's Squadrons and Schools. One of his many early adventures with the Navigator WComd was in Greenland during BOXTOP, and of course he remembers it a bit differently than some of us. In a very short summary — the rest remains classified — Ben was complicit in allowing his Wing Commander to fall into the frigid waters off Thule — something about an iceberg (?). Fortunately for all, except for a long and very cold ride back to base, all ended well. Ben, however, captured some photographic evidence that is still in play. Despite this, his Wing Commander, following firm direction from Arlene, stayed close to him to monitor both his solid and liquid diet. Forbidden were such things as too much bacon, too much beer, and especially too much popcorn. It was during this deployment that I learned that wise old saying, spoken with a slight Dutch accent, "It's good for you."

Ben also flew at home, experiencing his first jet ride in a Tutor with LCol Mike Spooner, then Commandant of Central Flying School. While there were some concerns about strapping his body into a Tutor jet (for the pilot mind you, not him) Arlene assured all that this would be the highlight of Ben's time as an HCol, and that the pilot would just have to deal with it. It was one of the best familiarization flights possible. The WComd flew on his wing looking on somewhat nervously — not looking forward to explaining to the Commander Air Command why seeking permission for the flight might have been just too conventional for the 17 Wing HCol. The mission ended and Ben dismounted the trusty jet looking like a kid that had spent two hours unsupervised in a candy store. For TWO weeks he didn't wash his face, fearing that he would lose the mask marks. I think Arlene may have intervened in the end.

Ben is well known in Winnipeg as the HCol, a man who, every chance he gets, promotes the Canadian Forces and the men and women of the Wing in the most positive, straightforward way. He and Arlene attend a great number of functions with the WComd or as his representative. During the Christmas holiday season, when we had as many as five events per day, Ben would always be there, from the South Side Messes to the Legislature downtown, to the reception at the RCMP "D" Division building. Everywhere we went, people knew Ben, and would come up to him and congratulate him for being the HCol. Ben would say, with his typical humility, that it was he who is honoured, and he would mean it, adding again in that Dutch accent, "It's good for me, it keeps me young." Ben and Arlene opened doors for the WComd throughout the city and province, whether at their annual Air Force party, the Assiniboia Downs races, or through their many contacts at the Tattoo, the RMI, the business community, St Charles or numerous other foundations or institutions. We are absolutely convinced that the personnel from the Wing and all Military units in Winnipeg and throughout Manitoba had their lives enriched on a daily basis by the work of Ben and Arlene.

Ben will be retiring soon as HCol, and he and Arlene will be greatly missed in that capacity by everyone on the Wing and throughout Winnipeg. While many of the stories about Ben are humorous, and are most definitely true, there is an underlying theme throughout everything that he has done during his tenure — a truly honourable man with a sense of duty and a dignity that is terribly hard to find anywhere else in our lives. Ben has always said that it is Canada that has given him many of the things that he has and has experienced in his life, and that is true. As well, though, it is Ben that has given us so much for our lives, all of us at the Wing and throughout the land. Take care, Ben and Arlene, and stay in touch with your extended family. I join BGen Sharpe in mourning the end of Ben's term as the first and best 17 Wing Honourary Colonel. PER ARDUA AD ASTRA

# Retires: We Thank You, Ben

**From CWO Ray Elphick, M.M.M.,  
CD June 1994 – June 1995**

I first met Ben in the summer of 1994 when I assumed the position of Wing Chief Warrant Officer at 17 Wing. What struck me most when I first met him was that he was so humbled and honoured that Canada's Air Force wanted to have him as one of its HCol. I also vividly remember him coming to my office on more than one occasion to ask questions on dress or protocol for some upcoming function to ensure that he was absolutely correct in his appearance and did not in any way embarrass the Air Force or himself. He also was not above pulling your chain, however — like threatening to wear an orange tie and wooden shoes with his uniform to a Change of Command Parade!! The twinkle in his eye and his laugh always gave him away though.

I know from talking to his Wing Commanders and Wing Chiefs over the past 11 years that they all had the greatest respect for Ben and his work and were at times almost in awe of this indefatigable individual. No task was too onerous, time was of no consequence, and all the members of the Wing were like his own children — to be looked after and loved. His love for life and finding ways to better it for all his Air Force family made him a much-respected mentor for all of 17 Wing. Once you get to know Ben, you know that he is forever grateful to Canada for their efforts in liberating the Netherlands in World War II. I think it would now be fair to say that Canada's Air Force will be forever grateful for the contribution that HCol Ben Van Ruiten has made to Canada and the Air Force.

Ben, it has been an honour to know you, work with you, and call you a friend. You have more than earned all the accolades for a job exceptionally well done. You will be truly missed at 17 Wing. Suzanne and I wish you and Arlene all the best in your retirement. Sic Itur Ad Astra!!

**From CWO Linda Smith, M.M.M.,  
CD - June 1996 – June 2000**

I had the opportunity to serve with Ben for a five-year period. To Ben, the military came first. He took so much pride in his appointment as HCol. I am sure that he continuously wore this badge even out of uniform. He was always full of compassion and respect for all members.

On "down days," I always knew that if I phoned him or dropped over to his place for a small visit, he would always be there for me with support, comfort and exceptional advice that I would have been a fool not to accept. I remember having had quite the time with his dress. "Once again Ben, yellow golf shirts are not a part of summer dress and no matter how hard you try, it cannot be hidden under your shirt."

Notwithstanding his involvement in many activities and committees, the annual Military Tattoo was his concept, his pride and joy. It brought the military to the foreground in Winnipeg and not only highlighted what the Regular Force is about but also the Reserves, the Cadets and the Veterans. Ben, thank you and good luck. It's now time for you to follow Arlene around as she sure did a lot of background work, which you should be so proud of.

**From CWO Frank Emond, M.M.M.,  
CD – June 2000 To June 2003**

I first met with HCol Ben in June 2000. My predecessor had told me about how valuable HCol Van Ruiten was to the Wing and how well liked he was by civilians and military alike. I never doubted Linda, but what she failed to tell me is that if we went to a function and Ben wasn't there, than we'd better be prepared to answer on his whereabouts.

As HCol, he had his own schedule and could never be AWOL like soldiers are if they don't show up for duty. He was so much a part of the HQ Staff that if he didn't show up, we'd phone his lovely wife Arlene and ask of his whereabouts. In most cases, he had already left the house but had made a little stop downstairs by the Orderly Room. Ben is a people person, one who liked to stop and chat with people, especially the Privates and Corporals. To him, the junior

ranks were simply the best. To the Junior Ranks, he was like a father. Always approachable and full of energy, he was their "Mentor." I often heard people say: "When I grow up, I want to be like the Honourary Colonel." Such comment describes the effect that Colonel Van Ruiten has had on all of us, young and old, who wear the uniform.

As Wing CWO accompanying the Wing Commander to most if not all events, I can honestly say that there aren't too many occasions that the HCol wasn't with us. Even while away in Australia, I was getting emails asking that he be kept informed of the on-goings. His involvement with the building of the Garden of Memories, the Winnipeg Tattoo, the Royal Military Institute of Manitoba, the Hubbell Award Committee and all other committees that he has been part of over the year has brought credit not only to the Air Force but also to the Canadian Forces. Let us not forget the support that Ben has received from Arlene throughout his tenure as the Honourary Colonel for 17 Wing. When Ben was unavailable, Arlene would often be there to represent her dear husband. Unable to attend the Wing Commander's Change of Command parade because of his commitment to the Nijmegen March, his framed picture sat on a chair next to her — that's how dedicated this man was.

In the summer of 2002, Colonel Van Ruiten was awarded the Queen's Golden Jubilee medal and in July 2006, he was awarded the Canadian Forces Decoration (CD) for his 12 years of unselfish duty as HCol. He is probably the only HCol to have ever been awarded the CD without having served one day as a member of the Canadian Forces. He is by far the "Best and most Dedicated" HCol I have met. On behalf of all Non-Commissioned members and their families, the civilians of 17 Wing, we wish Colonel Van Ruiten nothing but the best in any of his future endeavors.

**From CWO Claude Parent, CD June  
2003 – July 06**

Col Ben,

During my tenure as 17 WCWO between June 2003 and July 2006, it was a pleasure working and sharing time with you during official visits to 17 Wing units as well as to exotic places such as: Det Dundurn, Yellowknife, Thule Greenland and Alert. I always enjoyed your company on these visits. Regardless of where we went or who we met, it seemed it was like "home coming" for you. It's as if you were our host, and a very good one may I add, all of which made it quite easy to meet and mingle with people at these locations. I congratulate you on your distinguished service as Honourary Colonel to 17 Wing for over 12 years. May you soar on the wings of eagles and share a life that is bogey-free! Enjoy your well-earned retirement! PS. There will always be room on my 4 Ball Best Ball Team. With your putting skills we are sure to always be in contention.

Claude Parent CWO CF Transformation Team CWO

**From CWO Glenn Wallace, CD July  
06 to present**

It has been my distinct pleasure serving with Honourary Colonel Van Ruiten for the past six months; in this short time I have personally benefited from his outstanding leadership, superb professionalism, dedication and selfless service to the Air Force, his presence and smile will be sorely missed at 17 Wing. Afscheid mijn vriend.

**CWO Reg Clements, M.M.M., CD  
June 1995 – June 1996, and CWO  
Bob Scott M.M.M., CD June 1990  
- June 1994**

We were unable to reach CWO Rej Clemons and CWO Bob Scott. However, we are sure that their comments would have expressed equal sentiments to Colonel Van Ruiten.



HCol Ben's first ride in a Tutor Jet happened in 1997 with pilot LCOL Mike Spooner. Rumour has it Ben didn't wash his face for two weeks, holding on to those mask marks as long as possible.



HCol Ben encouraged troops wherever and whenever he could. Here he is marching with troops in Nijmegen 2001.



Used to flying suits, HCol Ben's first experience with CAD PAT left him a little ... bare. Ben packed everything camouflage before he left for Camp Mirage. It wasn't until he went to get dressed that he realized he had two shirts and no pants!

# COS JASDF Visits Winnipeg



Visit of General Tasashi Yoshida, Chief of Staff, Japan Air Self-Defence Force to 17 Wing Winnipeg.

Photo by Cpl Tom Trainor



General Yoshida signing the 17 Wing Guest Book. (from left) HCol Ben Van Ruiten, LGen JS Lucas (Chief of Air Staff), Gen Yoshida, LCol Wh Gauthier (AWComd) and CWO GW Wallace, WCWO.

Photo by Cpl Tom Trainor

# WComd's Coffee Break



HCol Ben Van Ruiten and LCol Charles Ness at the WComd's coffee break on 6 Dec in Bldg 90, hosted by the PSP staff. On Dec 19 the HCol will retire after 12 years of service and the LCol will become the AWComd at the Change of Command ceremony.

## Upcoming Wing Commander's Coffee Breaks:



17 Jan 07	W Log/Sup-EME	Bldg 129	1000
31 Jan 07	CFANS	Bldg 84	1000
14 Feb 07	W Ops/WRTF	Hgr 11	1000
28 Feb 07	W Admin/WHQ	Bldg 137*	1000

## Song Sheet

### My True Love Sings to Me

On the 1st, 2nd, 3rd, 4th, 5th, 6th, 7th, 8th, 9th, 10th, 11th, 12th holy day...

My true love sang to me —  
 O, be of a new heart  
 Take courage  
 Restore (your) faith  
 Know your own truth  
 Find inner peace  
 Forgive yourself  
 Have compassion  
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## Season's Greetings

Once again we are nearing the end of another year and the Holiday Season. It is a great time for celebration, family get-togethers as well as a time to reflect and be thankful for the many good things in life.

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

Winnipeg is a wonderful city, located in the best country in the world. We are truly grateful to be a part of this city and that our real estate profession has enabled us to meet and serve so many nice people.

We sincerely wish to thank you for your loyalty, trust and support in making the past year such a success. Your friendship is the foundation of our progress.

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

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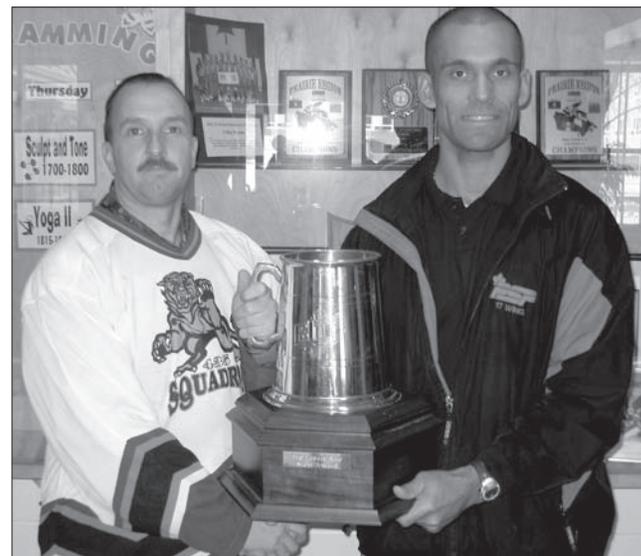


A little holiday spirit-- the Air Command Band helped everybody start celebrating the season at their Holiday Concert on 3 Dec 06 at the Burton Cummings Theatre.



Jingle all the way -- MGen Charlie Bouchard, Comd 1 Cdn Air Div, and his daughter Katrine assist the Air Command Band with one of the Christmas carols played at the annual Holiday Concert.

# WCOMD Hockey Tournament 2006



On behalf of 435 Sqn, Sgt Pierre Thibault receives the WCOMD Cup from Sports Coordinator James Follette.



Officials Major Alex Lloyd and Captain Steve Nagy talking strategy before the game.

By James Follette BPE, PFLC

Congratulations to 435 Sqn who were victorious in their quest to win the 2006 Wing Commander's Ice Hockey Tournament. They triumphed over a very talented Mixed Nuts (Old Timers) Team. The tournament, held the 29-30 Nov 06, consisted of five high calibre teams all vying for the chance to win the coveted trophy.

The three other teams who participated in the WCOMD Tournament were the Geriatric Jets, Make-B-Leafs, and WCE. The 435 Sqn team opened the Championship game with three unanswered power play goals, and then the Mixed Nuts responded by scoring two unanswered of their own. The turning point in the game was when Cpl Don Cormier scored on a break away while being short-handed with 15 minutes left. 435 Sqn's goalie MCpl Shemko turned in a strong performance by allowing only two goals in the game, while CPO2 Mike Fairfax of the Mixed Nuts contributed on both markers by his team with a goal and an assist. The final score was 435Sqn five and the Mixed Nuts two. The trophy was presented to the captain of 435Sqn, Sgt Pierre Thibault.

I would like to express my thanks to the officials, time-keepers, and the Highlander Sportsplex for their assistance in making the Tournament a success. I especially want to thank our sponsor for the tournament Labatts for their support and generous contribution of prizes.

*Seasons Greetings*  
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# 17 Wing Comptroller

By Joanne Stapleton

If change is the only constant in life, then the Wing Comptroller Branch is definitely par for the course. Like many other units on the Wing, the Branch has experienced a number of staff changes over the past few months. In the interests of customer service, we thought we would provide a current list of our personnel and a brief description of the financial services they offer:

The Wing Comptroller, Maj June Zuurro, came to the branch this past summer with a wealth of knowledge, experience and energy. In addition to being our fearless leader, she is the Wing Commander's advisor on all things financial.

MWO Sandra Spragg, the Branch MWO, is also new to the branch this past summer. Well, not really new ... she was once here as a Private, so she's more of a repeat offender. As the Branch MWO she has many functions: Fin advisor to several committees, approves Section 33 for all KR's and SA's and assists in many financial areas. Should you require MWO Spragg's expertise, you may contact her at local 5153.

The Branch then breaks down into three sections: Financial Services, the RACS Team, and Financial Management.

Financial Services is headed up by PO1 Heidi Sorrell. After four months of intensive French training, we were fully expecting her to return to the unit. However, a sudden seven and a half month trip to Sudan came her way, so she will be departing in January.

MS Peggy Steele, whose usual duties include the FMAS Sampling, has been away with MSS and due to return ... well, she'll be back in the city mid-Dec, but with all that leave probably not back to the unit until end-Jan/early Feb.

Cpl Cathy Young is the RGDF Cashier and handles all issuing of vendors numbers for companies that do not accept credit cards for payment. She is also back up for acquisition cards when Carol is unavailable. Please call local 5827 for Cpl Young's assistance

Cpl Marnee Mierau is also newly posted into the section. She takes care of FMAS Sampling, Delegation of Authorities, and FMAS helpdesk. You can reach Cpl Mierau at local 2012.

If it's acquisition card assistance you need, then it's Carol Fernie, at local 5119 that you need to speak to. Carol has been with the branch for over 10 years. Her duties include maintaining and controlling the distribution of the Wing's acquisition, fuel/vehicle maintenance and travel cards, as well as FMAS training duties.

Melisa Chudobiak is responsible for Post Payment Verification, FMAS Training, FCOR (Financial Coordinator), and RGDF Back Up. You can solicit Melisa's FMAS expertise by calling local 5196.

The newest addition to the Branch is Josée Basson, who is our new Fin Admin Support Clerk. Josée's duties include distribution of Civilian Pay, as well as various internal administrative support tasks, and general customer assistance. If you are unsure of who to contact in the Branch for assistance, call Josée at local 6327 and she can help.

The RACS (Resource Analysis and Compliance Services) Team would like to stress - "We are not auditors!" RACS conducts compliance and efficiency reviews and management studies to meet 1 Cdn Air Div and local Wing needs. The team works together to meet a common goal, so all their duties are intertwined. Ron Decock, the RACS Officer, is currently on paternity leave. Please forward all concerns and queries to Alan until his return in the summer of 2007. Alan Kusno, RACS Team Leader, is the newest addition to the RACS team, joining DND in October of this year. Alan can be reached at local 5839. Rita Miranda, the RACS Jr Analyst, can be reached at local 5112.

Finally, Financial Management is lead by Capt Jennifer Setter, who has been with the Comptroller Branch since June 2002. Specifically, she can be contacted for all queries relating to the quarterly cash forecasts that units have grown to know and love, the Resource Management Working Group, unit hospitality requests, and all budget management issues. She can frequently be heard telling anyone who will listen how much fun finance and spreadsheets really are (and yes, she truly believes this, it is not a lack of sleep on her part!). Your best bet is to send an email, but if you really want to speak with Capt Setter, her local is 5379.

Joanne Stapleton is the final newbie to the Comptroller Branch. As Financial Management and Services Supervisor, she can be contacted for any concerns involving budgeting and planning, as well as general FMAS queries. Local 5118 will get you to Joanne.

Sgt Dave Moroz has also been over with MSS at Camp Mirage, and, like MS Steele, will be making a reappearance in the office sometime early in the new year. He is usually employed as the AVPOL Supervisor, but with PO1 Sorrell's departure, he may be sharing her duties with MWO Spragg.

MCpl Darby Bevan has been with the Branch for four years. Anything AVPOL is her area of expertise, with a smattering of QOL. MCpl Bevan can be contacted at local 4010.

AND DID YOU KNOW? ... The Comptroller Branch has a very informative website that is regularly updated and includes How-To pages, financial management info such as the status of unit expenditures by fund ... all at the click of a mouse button: [http://17wing.winnipeg.mil.ca/wcompt/index\\_e.htm](http://17wing.winnipeg.mil.ca/wcompt/index_e.htm). If you would like to come and see us, we are located in Building 137 on the second floor in the Gold lines (the colour of money...). We welcome your questions and comments.

## Mr. Carpenter's Visit To 1 Cdn Air Div

By Kelly D. Smith, Maj, USAF

Major General Charles Bouchard, Comd 1 Canadian Air Division, recently had the pleasure of hosting Mr. Charles Carpenter, Directorate Head of NORAD / USNORTHCOM Programs and Resources (N/NC J8) from Colorado Springs, Colorado. Mr. Carpenter is a member of the U.S. "Senior Executive Service" and is a two-star equivalent as a Directorate Head.

The J8 Team leads N/NC collaborative resource allocation processes as the Commands' single voice for programs and resources. They analyze and advocate for capabilities and resources to ensure that the warfighter has the required capabilities within acceptable levels of risk. Although this is primarily a U.S. organization, they are also responsible for NORAD's commitment here at the Canadian NORAD Region (CANR) HQ.

Although the inaugural visit by Mr. Carpenter was only a day long, we packed it full with MGen Bouchard spending much of his time one-on-one with the J8. The focus was to educate the J8 on all the duties and responsibilities of the 1 Cdn Air Div — both in the NORAD and Canadian

context. With this understanding in place, we talked about our capabilities, status, shortfalls, vision, goals and requirements. We are doing everything we can to become even more effective in our ability to operate seamlessly in the U.S. and Canadian area of operations while ensuring the safety and security of North America.

Mr. Carpenter and his travelling staff were amazed at the scope of responsibility and level of effort throughout the Canadian Air Forces as they deter and defend one of the largest areas of air, land, sea and space. He mentioned that many people down at Peterson Air Force Base (Colorado Springs) would also be very much surprised at what is going on north of the border. He indicated pride and appreciation at MGen Bouchard's endeavours to keep North America safe.

At the end of the day, we let them go with a briefcase full of notes and briefings. Mr. Carpenter, much more confident about the way forward for our two commands, expressed his appreciation for the time of the commander and his staff that put on the program. Both parties learned a lot that day and we look forward to the next time we can further our cooperation and relationships.

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# VIP Service For Veterans

By Avery Wolaniuk

Veterans Affairs Canada estimates that providing home care service for 10 veterans and enabling them to remain independent in their own homes is equivalent in cost to long-term care for one person.

That's what the needs-based Veterans Independence Program (VIP) is designed to do — allow veterans to stay in their homes longer by taking care of the day-to-day tasks the individual is no longer able to do, like shovel snow or cook supper.

"It's the Cadillac of home care programs," said Ron Labbe, Director of the Manitoba District. VIP clients receive services depending on their individual circumstances and needs. Most receive either grounds keeping — snow removal and lawn care — or housekeeping, or both. But there are a lot of other services offered alongside of those.

There's Meals-On-Wheels, bringing the food to the client, and Wheels-to-Meals, bringing the client to a meal and some socializing. There are personal care services, assisting clients with personal needs such as bathing, dressing, eating, and nail care, and there are social transporta-

tion costs, helping veterans to get around and get out of the house. One of the services available but not used by a lot of clients is home adaptation, like widening doorways and lowering kitchen counters. "People are just getting by," said Mr. Labbe, "and there are things we can do to renovate that home to make it more usable."

The VIP program also recognizes the importance of the primary caregiver, and offers ambulatory care, a service that provides respite for a day or a week at a time to give them a break. "We're worried about the caregiver burden because if the caregiver burns out, then the veteran can't stay in their home," Mr. Labbe said.

It's been around for 25 years, and the basic services VIP offers have remained the same since then. What has changed over time is who is eligible to receive the home care services. It is generally available to veterans of WWII and the Korean War, to former prisoners of war and to disabled former service members who are not eligible to receive the same services federally or provincially, and who do not live with a child or spouse who is capable of the services required.

Once clients are assessed by a service agent and approved for service, they can receive their care in a couple of ways. For example, you could hire the boy next door to shovel your walkway, pay him and then submit a receipt, or you can contact a service provider off a list of contractors already working with the VIP program, which saves you from spending money out of pocket. The contractor is paid directly by the program. Anyone interested in becoming a service provider for the VIP program can call 1-888-865-4500 for details.

About 4800 people receive the service in Manitoba, and about 95 000 nationally, compared to about 80 000 using the services 10 years ago. That increase can be accredited to the aging veteran population (the average age of a WWII vet is 85, of a Korean War vet is 76) as well as to the widening of eligibility requirements over time. VIP has also become available to the primary caregiver of a client who was receiving services at the time of death. To find out if you are eligible for services, call 1-800-522-2122 for service in English, or 1-800-522-2022 for service in French. If you're receiving the VIP services and feel your needs have changed, you can call to change your services to meet your needs. For more information on the VIP, visit [www.vac-acc.gc.ca](http://www.vac-acc.gc.ca).

# Food Recalls / Alerts

From Preventive Medicine Dept, 23 CF Health Services Centre

The information contained herein is authored by Canadian Food Inspection Agency (CFIA) and will not be withdrawn unless subsequent statements are made to withdraw said item. Historically, this has never happened, once on a recall list, all items are considered on permanently

Please do not contact the Preventive Medicine Dept or other DND/CF personnel with regards to the items mentioned in this e-mail, direct all queries to the persons mentioned at the bottom of the recall, within the text of that recall.

Direct Quote from CFIA: HEALTH HAZARD ALERT - CERTAIN COOKED HAM AND TURKEY PRODUCTS DISTRIBUTED BY HONEYBAKED FOODS INC. MAY CONTAIN LISTERIA MONOCYTOGENES

OTTAWA, November 28, 2006 - The Canadian Food Inspection Agency (CFIA) is warning the public not to consume certain The Honey Baked Ham Company brand Cooked Ham and Turkey products, described below, because the products may be contaminated with Listeria monocytogenes.

This CFIA alert has been initiated in response to the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) confirmation of direct sales to Canadian consumers of products recalled by HoneyBaked Foods Inc., Holland, Ohio.

The Honey Baked Ham Company brand products affected by the alert are:

- Sliced & Glazed Fully Cooked Half Ham, 6 to 11 pound packages, EST. 15875 Package code between 6261 and 6310
- Sliced & Glazed Fully Cooked Whole Ham, 12 to 16 pound packages, EST. 15875 Package code between 6261 and 6310
- Sliced and Glazed Cooked Boneless Turkey Breast, 3 pound (approximate) weight per package, P-15875 Package code between 6248 and 6258 Product code 30505 02099
- Sliced & Glazed Fully Cooked Smoked Boneless Turkey Breast, 3 pound (approximate) weight per package, P-15875 Package code between 6248 and 6258 Product code 30504 02099

These products have been available to Canadians through internet and telephone catalogue sales. There have been no reported illnesses associated with the consumption of these products.

Food contaminated with Listeria monocytogenes may not look or smell spoiled. Consumption of food contaminated with this bacteria may cause listeriosis, a foodborne illness. Listeriosis can cause high fever, severe headache, neck stiffness and nausea. Pregnant women, the elderly and people with weakened immune systems are particularly at risk. Infected pregnant women may experience only a mild, flu-like illness, however, infections during pregnancy can lead to premature delivery, infection of the newborn, or even stillbirth.

For more information, consumers and industry can call the CFIA at 1-800-442-2342 / TTY 1-800-465-7735 (8:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m. Eastern time, Monday to Friday).

For information on Listeria monocytogenes, visit the Food Facts web page at <http://www.inspection.gc.ca/english/fssa/concen/cause.shtml>.

For information on receiving recalls by e-mail, or for other food safety facts, visit our web site at [www.inspection.gc.ca](http://www.inspection.gc.ca).



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## TAROSCOPES

BY  
NANCY

**Aries (March 21 - April 19):** Thinking about past relationships with regret motivates you to strive for deeper connections now. Put effort into positive communication and into opening up to new people you are instinctively drawn to. Offer your true feelings in a caring way to build stronger bonds.

**Taurus (April 20 - May 20):** Key issues are surfacing. Be sensible, deal with the problems now or you'll be dealing with the fallout. Everything isn't as beautiful as you'd want it to be but it's not all bad either. Trouble is brewing but it can be minimized. Control your temper and handle challenges with savvy.

**Gemini (May 21 - June 21):** There could be hardships brought on by miscommunication. Your words change as they are passed along. Seek to dispel myths about yourself by revealing your ability to accept and adapt. Be open-minded and move on to make the most of what you have. Celebrate small victories.

**Cancer (June 22 - July 22):** Twists and turns in your life have taken you to a place far from expected. Hoping to avoid difficulties you've become involved in emotional games, but there are consequences to compromise. Stop volunteering to help out others who are in constant crisis. Enabling them isn't helping.

**Leo (July 23 - August 22):** Success follows discipline. Timing and sensitivity to others counts. Create a strategy to deal with the details, and develop skills. You need to have the ability to back up the trust others have put in you. If mistakes happen, accept that this is part of life, apologize and move on.

**Virgo (August 23 - September 22):** You could find yourself rushing around, trying to fit in and be everywhere and do everything at once but you'll end up not really experiencing anything fully. Relax. You will not miss out on opportunities. Enjoy each event as it comes up. More fun is on the way.

**Libra (September 23 - October 23):** Surprisingly, what looks like too much effort right now, could be worth it in the long run. The key is to be open to, and accepting of change. Don't resist letting go and moving on, even if it seems like you are giving up. Something special is coming in the near future.

**Scorpio (October 24 - November 21):** Consult an expert to find out the best way to organize your assets. Something from the past pops up again because you procrastinated. Deal with it this time by making a decision and acting on it. Even if it is only a "quick fix," you'll feel better than if you let it slide.

**Sagittarius (November 22 - December 21):** The path to follow has always seemed so straight forward but now you see there are crossroads, decisions and elements you'd not factored in. You're exposed to someone so completely different, through the media or in person, that you are questioning your beliefs.

**Capricorn (December 22 - January 19):** Your mind is busy with fears about other people and whether or not they are trustworthy. Observe how this affects you and your interactions. It's important not to doubt your ability to assess a situation and to trust your gut. Also, remember there are few certainties in life.

**Aquarius (January 20 - February 18):** Be on the lookout for people to assist you in your creative endeavors. You must be in charge at this time though, so don't promise more than you can deliver to please others. If there are strings attached to a deal, leave it be. A better one will come along.

**Pisces (February 19 - March 20):** Instead of trying to understand others, simply respond to their behavior and see what happens next. Put your needs first, even if you get an adverse reaction. Say "no," to people who are overly dramatic and needy. Listen to music that reminds you of good times. Relax with friends.

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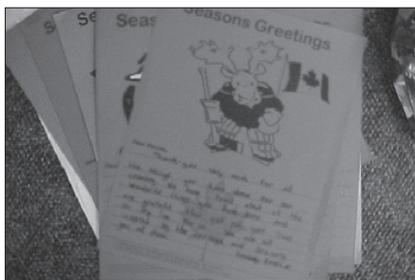


# Military Family Resource Centre

Greetings from the MFRC staff and Board of Directors for a festive holiday season and best wishes for a great 2007!



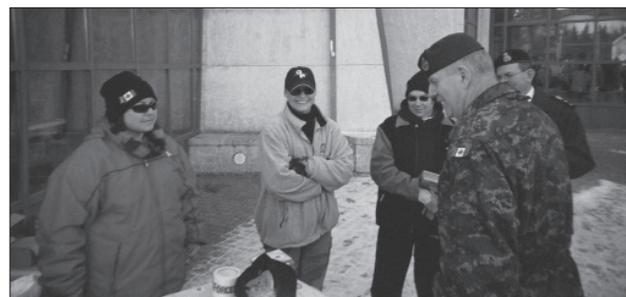
Here is a look back on some great moments from 2006



Warm greetings sent to members serving away from home.



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The CDS visits MFRC staff on site at Forks Parka Day part of the Grey Cup celebrations.



Our creative community!!



Deployed members sharing MFRC morale packages with local kids.



Working our Board members to exhaustion!!



Sgt Scott belts out the national anthem surrounded by 17Wing kids at the Oct 21st Salute to Military Families Bomber game.

WWW.MFRC.MB.CA



102 COMET ST.  
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Winnipeg, MB  
R3J 3Y5

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

Website: www.mfrc.mb.ca  
Email: 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

 CF Family Consumer  
Info Line: 989-9019



Celebrating the Volunteer contribution to 17Wing.



The Better Business Bureau promoting the CF Family Consumer Help Line at the 17Wing Learning Fair.



Special guests donning the Yellow Ribbon at Community Coffee Break

Just a reminder...

## Holiday Hampers

As in past years, the MFRC is partnering with the 17 Wing Care and Share Program to provide Holiday Hampers. The MFRC and the Care and Share Program realize that the holiday season can be a difficult time.



If your family could use some assistance this year, please contact Haley Schroeder at: 833-2500 ext. 4512  
All calls are confidential.

17 Wing Learning Fair  
**THANK YOU!!!**

On behalf of the 17 Wing Learning Fair Committee (WPSO, Wing Ground Training, Learning & Career Centre and the MFRC), we would like to thank the over 350 attendees for participating in this year's exciting event. A special thank you to the Building 90 Staff for their tremendous support of the event. We look forward to seeing you all again next year!

17 Wing Learning Fair Door Prize Winners:  
Mary Ellen Godin      Bev Knight  
Angela Court

## Together in Church



### CATHOLIC

#### Chaplains

**Padre Gary Killen**  
Roman Catholic  
Office 833-2500 ext 5272

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

**Masses**  
(English only)  
Sunday 1100 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.

# Season's Greetings From Padre Bruce Mackenzie 17 Wing Chaplain

I must admit, I haven't really been thinking about Christmas until last night. At precisely 7PM that annual Christmas spirit began to stir inside me. I have the Air Command Band to thank for that. They put on a Christmas Concert that left no room for any Grinch. A splendid performance at the Burton Cummings Theatre had all of us leaving the building very thankful that we braved the cold to have our hearts warmed. One of the songs was called "Nuttin for Christmas." Seen through the eyes of a child it told the story of how this young kid was convinced he was getting nothing from Santa because he pulled off some stunts that landed disapproval from his parents. It was a fun song and it took me back to my childhood.

My early years were in a coal mining town in Cape Breton. It was made very clear to me at this time of year that if I wasn't "good" throughout the year I would find nothing but coal in my "sock" on Christmas morning. Just like in the song, I had my doubts that my behavior would pass the test. It was very possible that Santa would hold back on the apple and orange and

help himself to the bucket beside the stove.

As I think back on those early cultural stories I am reminded that my introduction to God wasn't much different. "He" was a big old bearded man in the sky who was forever watching my every move, and if my bad behavior outweighed the good, I was headed for a place that was none too pleasant. I am happy to say that over the years my views on Santa and God have changed.

Santa was at the concert last night and he cuddled the children on his knee and gave them candy canes – not a lump of coal was in sight. The Band invited us to join our voices with theirs and sing some golden oldies – songs that for many of us point to the birth of a Love that can cause us to open our hearts and give to those in need.

Someone once said Christmas is not just a day, it is a state of mind. May that state of mind (and heart) be with us this season and in the days and years to come.

Peace be with you.

## Tax Planning, A Year Round Approach

By Marc Britney, CFP, SISIP Financial Services

For most people tax planning takes place sometime between receiving a T4 and the April 30th deadline. Tax planning should be a year round activity and year-end is an important date to keep in mind. There are a number of tax strategies that can save you money provided you attend to them at the right time.

If you plan to access RSP monies in the next few years, consider making Spousal RSP contributions prior to year-end. Money must remain in the Spousal RSP for a full two calendar years after the year of your last contribution to ensure the tax is not attributed back to the contributor. By making the last contribution in December rather than January you can effectively reduce the waiting period by one year.

Charitable contributions must be made before year-end to claim them on your 2006 return. You might want to consider saving the receipts for up to five years. Although it varies between provinces, the average tax credit on the first \$200 of charitable contributions is approximately 25 per cent, on amounts exceeding \$200 it jumps to 45 per cent. By saving contribution receipts in order to accumulate an amount in excess of \$200 you can take advantage of the higher tax credit.

If you can't reduce tax, the next best thing is to defer

it. In some cases, it makes sense to wait until the new year. If you need money from your RSP, consider taking it out in January instead of December. By waiting a few days, it becomes taxable income for 2007 instead of 2006. Likewise if you trigger a capital gain in January rather than December you will defer paying the tax on that gain for another year.

If you want to invest money it may be advisable to wait until next year. Many mutual funds pay taxable distributions in December. By waiting until after the distributions are paid you can avoid paying tax on earnings received at year end. You are responsible for accrued interest on interest bearing investments with maturities of one year or more. By waiting until the new year to purchase your GIC you can defer that maturity date and the tax until 2007.

These strategies may or may not be in your best interest given your particular financial situation. This article is no substitute for professional financial advice specific to your personal financial situation.

### NOTICE:

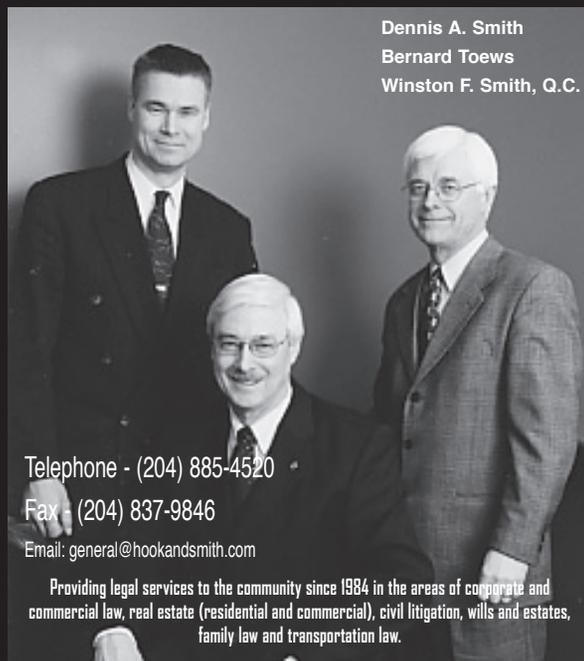
The North Whytefold/Whuiri Rd and Air Force Way gates will be closed at 1800 hrs 24 Dec 06, resuming normal hours 0600 hrs 2 Jan 07. Entrance to the Wing for this period will be only via the main gate.

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BGen Grant (L) with Cpl Williams, whose parents collected and donated Tim Horton's gift certificates for troops serving overseas.

# Operation Timmy's

By JTF - AFG HQ Staff Writer

**K**ANDAHAR AIRFIELD - At a small presentation ceremony held today at the Kandahar Airfield, Brigadier-General Tim Grant, Commander of Joint Task Force-Afghanistan, took possession of more than \$3000 worth of Tim Hortons gift certificates from Corporal Darren Williams, a member of the Task Force's transport section.

"This is a tremendous demonstration of hometown support for soldiers deployed to Afghanistan," said BGen Grant. "I think it's fantastic to see this sort of thing and I have no doubt whatsoever the soldiers in Kandahar will find a way to make the most of this generous gift."

The certificates were collected and donated by Cpl William's parents, Lorraine and Phil, in their hometown of Penticton, British Columbia. Once word of their efforts spread, donations poured in from schools, local businesses and well-wishing individuals.

"This makes me proud to be a Canadian because of the level of support shown toward the soldiers," said Cpl Williams after presenting BGen Grant with the 15-pound bag of

gift certificates.

The certificates will be distributed amongst the various elements of the 2 500-person Task Force with extra care being taken to ensure there is a sufficient quantity set-aside to cover soldiers from the 1 RCR Battle Group as they rotate through the main base at the airfield. Battle Group soldiers return periodically to their main base for rest and re-equipping before heading back out to the Panjwayi area.

Joint Task Force Afghanistan (JTF-Afg) is Canada's contribution to NATO's International Security Assistance Force (ISAF) in Afghanistan. The focus of this mission is to help Afghans rebuild their lives, families, communities and nation. Canadian Forces personnel in Afghanistan are working to improve the quality of life of Afghans by providing a more secure environment in which Afghan society can recover from more than 25 years of conflict.

The Canadian Forces (CF) contribution in Afghanistan comprises about 2,500 soldiers, most of who serve in Kandahar province with a smaller number of personnel assigned to Kabul, various military headquarters, and civilian organizations.



WO Maggie Low receives her promotion from LCol Wayne Gauthier, WLogO, on 24 Nov 06.



During an early morning parade, MCpl K. Macaulay receives his new rank from 23 CF H Sves C Winnipeg's Commanding officer Maj P.E. Joudrey on the 17 Nov 06.



402 Squadron's SAMEO Major Jalbert presents MCpl Martin with a certificate for Flight Safety.



402 Squadron's Commanding Officer LCol Witherden presents Cpl Ferwerda with the Canadian Forces Decoration.



402 Squadron's Commanding Officer LCol Witherden presents MCpl Vipond with The Aerobic/Blue Seal.



402 Squadron's Commanding Officer LCol Witherden promotes Pte Jensson to Cpl.



402 Squadron's Commanding Officer LCol Witherden presents Cpl Houllind with Certificate for Flight Safety.



402 Squadron's SAMEO Major Jalbert presents Cpl Wilson with a certificate for Flight Safety.



402 Squadron's SAMEO Major Jalbert presents Cpl Harman with a certificate for Flight Safety.

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Please take a second to complete the Canadian Defence Community Discount Survey online. Your participation in this survey is very important. Your opinion counts and will help us better respond to your needs in the future. The objective of this research is to determine the current status of local military discount programs with a view on building upon these successes and creating a national "Canadian Defence Community Discount" program. Your input will help improve existing services, develop new opportunities, and better respond to the needs of CF members and their families. Visit [www.cfpsa.com/DiscountSurvey](http://www.cfpsa.com/DiscountSurvey) or [www.asffc.com/SondageEscomptes](http://www.asffc.com/SondageEscomptes) to complete the survey in English or French on or before Dec 18.



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