



**Vancouver Artillery
Association News**



RUSI News
Vancouver

Van Arty Assoc and RUSI Van Members News Oct 15, 2013

Wednesday Lunches

Lunches are back in full swing, although it will be much better once the kitchen project is completed. Still no start date, but I understand all approvals have been given and financials are now in order.

If you haven't been to one of our 5 course, buffet style, 'homecooked' lunches, they happen (almost) every Wednesday from 1130-1400hrs in the 15 Field Officers Mess, Bessborough Armoury, 2025 West 11th Ave, Vancouver. Cost is \$15pp.

Guests and visitors are always welcome. People these days, especially civilians, don't think about dress much and, if not pre-warned, will show up in very casual dress so, to avoid embarrassment, please make them aware of the dress requirements (suit/blazer and tie, equivalent for ladies) before they come.

St Barbara's Day Dinner

A quick 'heads up' to all. The St Barbara's Day Dinner will be held on Dec 7th. Mark your calendars. Invitations will be in the mail soon.

BC Lions Half-time Show - 2013 Salute to Veterans

2013 Salute to Veterans & Military Valour BC Lions Half-time Show. The Legion has assumed responsibility for the production and it would be wonderful to have your organization be part of the performance.

Free tickets are available to all the participants.

Friday, November 1st

BC Place

6:30 PM arrival - 8:00 PM performance

Canadian Forces Medical Service Adds "Royal" To Its Name

October 9, 2013. • Section: [Defence Watch](#) Posted by: [David Pugliese](#)

News release from the CF:

OTTAWA, ONTARIO—(Marketwired – Oct. 9, 2013) – Traditional designations have been restored to the two health services branches of the Canadian Armed Forces (CAF) to honour

and commemorate Canada's proud history respecting its military medical and dental professionals.

The Canadian Forces Medical Service will be renamed the Royal Canadian Medical Service to reflect the tri-service integration of the three former navy, army, and air force medical services since 1959. The Canadian Forces Dental Services will be restored to the Royal Canadian Dental Corps. "The bestowing and restoration of the Canadian Forces Health Services historical names is an essential part of the government's commitment to honour the memories of so many brave Canadians who have sacrificed in service to Canada," said the Honourable Rob Nicholson, Minister of National Defence. "It reinstates an important and recognizable part of our military heritage, as well as a key part of our nation's identity."

The Governor General, in his role as Commander-in-Chief of the CAF, communicated the approval of these changes by Buckingham Palace, while addressing the CAF leadership on October 8, 2013. "Just as the original granting of Royal designations to the military medical and dental services was in recognition of their heroic service during the World Wars, their restoration honours the skill, dedication, and valour of our personnel in recent operations," said Brigadier-General Jean-Robert Bernier, the Surgeon General. "In providing care to our military colleagues and to any other population, whether deployed or in garrison, Canadians can count on us to prove worthy of this symbolic link to our heroic predecessors and to our sovereign."

The restoration of Royal designations for the two CAF health services branches is another step in the phased approach that began in August 2011 to recognize traditional service and corps identities in the CAF. This initiative began with the restoration of the historical names of the Royal Canadian Navy, the Canadian Army, and the Royal Canadian Air Force.

These and other heritage changes are being phased in over the next year as Canada and its military prepares to commemorate the 100th anniversary of the First World War and the 75th anniversary of the Second World War.

Taliban Leader Calls On Fighters To Intensify Campaign

October 14, 2013. 11:37 am • Section: Defence Watch Associated Press is reporting this:

KABUL – The secretive leader of the Afghan Taliban pledged on Monday that his followers will keep fighting if the government in Kabul signs a crucial security deal with the United States. Mullah Mohammad Omar also called on his fighters to intensify their insurgent campaign against Afghan and NATO forces, and urged all Afghans to boycott next year's elections, including the vote to elect a successor to President Hamid Karzai. The message from the Taliban leader came in an email distributed to media on the eve of the Muslim Eid al-Adha holiday.

Violence across Afghanistan has spiked as insurgents try to retake territory ahead of the full NATO pull-out at the end of 2014. The Taliban, whose weapon of choice is roadside bombings and suicide attacks, have been blamed for the overwhelming majority of civilian casualties.

On Saturday, Karzai and U.S. Secretary of State John Kerry reached an agreement in principle on the major elements of a deal that would allow American troops to stay in Afghanistan after 2014 and allow the U.S. to lease a number of military bases around the country.

Snowbirds to keep their name despite complaint

By DAVID PUGLIESE, OTTAWA CITIZEN October 10, 2013



The RCAF aerobatic squadron has been called the Snowbirds since 1971.

Photograph by: Chris Mikula, The Ottawa Citizen

Canada's air force won't be changing the name of the Snowbirds aerobatic team despite a complaint that alleges the nickname violates federal government language laws because it is an English-only term. The Office of the Commissioner of Official Languages received a complaint in April 2012 about the Snowbirds name painted on the team's Tutor jets as well as the unilingual acronym CAF on the wings. CAF stands for Canadian Armed Forces.

The complaints sparked discussion at the highest levels of the air force, according to military documents obtained by the Citizen under the Access to Information law. Dealing with the CAF lettering was not seen as a problem, but altering the 431 Air Demonstration Squadron's Snowbirds nickname was a major issue. Air force commander Lt.-Gen. Yvan Blondin was told by his staff that the Snowbirds name originated from the creation of the air demonstration unit in 1971. A "Name the Team" contest was held at the local base elementary school in June of 1971 and the winner was a Grade 6 student by the name of Doug Farmer, according to the RCAF. Since then the nickname has become a national symbol, the officers added in their December briefing note to Blondin.

"Les Snowbirds' are without a doubt equally known in French Canada and enjoy a similarly evocative positive meaning, even in French," the general was told. "Changing the name of the Snowbirds at this time would represent the end of a national symbol, potentially provoke adverse reactions among the public and require a massive re-branding effort." After an investigation the language commissioner's office wrote the air force and recommended that 431 Squadron's Snowbirds nickname be changed when a new aircraft fleet was purchased for the team, the military documents pointed out. The language watchdog also recommended the RCAF ensure that the next nickname be bilingual. In addition, the office recommended that the

Department of National Defence add the French equivalent for RCAF on the aircraft. Air force spokesman Maj. Steve Neta said in response to the language commissioner's recommendation, the Tutor aircraft were given a new paint scheme in the spring. The aircraft now have "RCAF" under one wing and "ARC" or Aviation Royale Canadienne, under the other.

In December, RCAF commander Blondin responded to the other issue noting, "Given the long heritage of the term 'Snowbirds' as a national icon, their immense recognition coast to coast, including among French Canadians, and the fact that it is a trademarked name directly associated with 431 Squadron, I do not intend to rename the Team during the lifespan of the Squadron." "With that in mind, if there becomes a future requirement to create a new demonstration squadron, the RCAF will make every effort to select an emblem that is in accordance with the Official Languages Act (OLA)," he added.

What is unclear is whether there will be a new air demonstration squadron. The RCAF wants to replace the Snowbirds aging aircraft sometime after 2020 but it is likely those would be still operated by the same squadron, according to air force insiders. Even the purchase of a new plane might be far out into the future because of funding issues. The RCAF has looked at various options for a replacement aircraft. But a report produced for then Associate Minister of Defence Julian Fantino in October 2011 listed the budget for the "Snowbird Aircraft Replacement Project" at \$755 million. In the past the air force has also examined leasing aircraft for the Snowbirds. In addition, it looked at, but rejected, a suggestion to substitute the CF-18 fighter aircraft for the Tutors. The Tutors have been in the Canadian Forces inventory since 1963 and have been used by the Snowbirds team for decades.

The aerobatic aviation team is seen as a key public relations tool for the military. Neta said the incremental cost of the repainting the Tutors was \$1,500. Other RCAF aircraft already have bilingual markings, he added.

A representative from the Office of the Commissioner of Official Languages was aware of the complaint about the Snowbirds but did not have further details at this time.

I believe the same thing happened when we got the FA-18. The Americans call it the Hornet, and that is still common usage today, but the closest Francophone equivalent is 'little yellow bug' so, as I understand, the Canadian version is not called the Hornet, just F18.

Corporal leaving military after PTSD walk disagreement

CTV Montreal Published Sunday, October 13, 2013

A Canadian soldier is leaving the military after being denied time off work to raise money for a military charity. Cpl. Kate MacEachern raised \$20,000 for the charity Soldier On last year by walking more than 500 kilometres in her Long Way Home trek, but when she asked for time off to walk even farther this year, her bosses said no. The walk aims to raise money to help vets, particularly those stricken with post traumatic stress disorder (PTSD).

“When I asked permission this year, I had a feeling that I wasn’t actually going to get it. I already knew that if it came back as a no, I was ending my career,” said MacEachern, who was passing through Montreal Sunday. Last year, MacEachern walked from CFB Gagetown in New Brunswick, where she is posted, to her hometown of Antigonish, N.S. She received accolades from her superiors and even Defence Minister Peter MacKay. “I have not ever felt so strongly or been so devoted to something in my entire life,” an emotional MacEachern said. According to CFB Gagetown internal memos, MacEachern’s superiors said there would be no one to replace her during the 45 days she requested off to complete this year’s 1,600 kilometre walk from Gagetown to Ottawa. This time, the walk will benefit Military Minds, an organization that helps soldiers suffering from post-traumatic stress disorder.

Officially, MacEachern is only allotted 25 vacation days annually. MacKay says he only learned about MacEachern’s situation Friday and has asked for more details. NDP defence critic Jack Harris says the time to act is now and that a compromise should be reached for a woman who has received “very shabby treatment.” MacEachern, a single mother of a nine-year-old boy, will start marching from CFB Gagetown on Sept. 3. “At the end of the day you need to stand up for what you believe in no matter what the cost,” MacEachern said. MacEachern has been in the military for seven years, and will be ending her career next month.

New Face for Old Base Aim of Fundraiser

TYLER OLSEN / CHILLIWACK TIMES FEBRUARY 7, 2013



The CFB Chilliwack Historical Society hopes to raise \$25,000 to restore a saluting base to its original grandeur. Photograph by: Artist rendering

Monumental changes are afoot at the former site of CFB Chilliwack. Literally. Three different monuments testifying to Chilliwack's vibrant military history are being given new life by local donors and the CFB Chilliwack Historical Society (CFBCHS). The historical society is raising money to restore the 63-year-old saluting base that currently sits on University of the Fraser Valley grounds beside Caen Road. "Canadian Forces Base Chilliwack was here since 1942 and now, if you look around, there's nothing left. Really the only last thing there is the saluting base, on the base side," CFBCHS president Jim Harris told the Times. "The saluting base is going to be the only reminder to everybody that the camp stood here."

The society is selling engraved bricks and hopes to raise \$25,000 towards the monument's refurbishment. But several key additions won't cost a penny: the original hat badge from the monument-salvaged in 2002 by Capt. Peter Pitcher, an officer with the Aldergrove-based 192 Construction Engineer Flight-has been donated; and two "Ubique" inserts are on their way back to Chilliwack from the Canadian Military Engineer Museum. "We had some pretty famous people stand on that saluting base-some very famous generals and Princess Margaret," Harris said. The society has also received what Harris is calling "quite a large donation" from an unnamed donor to go towards the saluting base's refurbishment. The base is in fairly good shape, Harris said, but still requires a sandblasting, a spray wash and a recoating. When the upgrades are complete, the base will also feature the original engineering colours of brick red and navy blue.

Harris is excited about the change to the former base's base. "I'm ecstatic," he said. The CFBCHS plans to unveil the refurbished base at a ceremony on Thanksgiving Day weekend in the fall. The society has also received a \$5,000 grant from the Chilliwack Foundation that will allow two 18tonne monuments to be returned to the public's view.

The 50-year and bell-tent monuments pay tribute to the base's 50th anniversary and 1942 founding, respectively. They were moved to storage following the base's closure, but the Chilliwack Foundation donation will allow them to be placed in prominent locations on the former CFB Chilliwack grounds. (The society is in discussions with the Canada Lands Corporation to confirm a resting place for the monuments). "They'll certainly be eye-catching," Harris said. "They'll get interest and get people to go over and read the plaques associated with them." Harris added that the society is "very, very thankful" for the grant. "Our historical society is not very rich," he said.

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- See more at: <http://www.chilliwacktimes.com/news/new-face-for-old-base-aim-of-fundraiser-1.429864#sthash.oK7ILhWd.dpuf>



Who is it?

Last Week. We had our best response on this picture. It is a picture of some of our female Officers on parade. From left to right: Kelly Stone, Siobhan Connolly and Donna Brown



This Week - can you help us with this posed, group photo? It might have been taken in the late 1940s or early 1950s, as most of the officers are wearing berets, not forage caps. Most of those wearing such have the grenade as a badge, and some seem to be wearing wartime battledress blouses (those not tailored to have open lapels). We are certain that is LCol Theo DuMoulin in the front row, next to the gentleman in mufti, but who *is* that gentleman, and who are the other soldiers and men in mufti. And what's that Highlander doing at the far left, front row? As always, ideas can be sent to the erudite editor, or to the author, John Redmond ([johnd. redmond@telus.net](mailto:johnd.redmond@telus.net)). Thanks in advance for your help"

John Donald Redmond, LC, BA, MEd.
Assistant Curator
15 Field Regiment, RCA, Museum and Archives

From the 'Punitary'

What do you get if you cross an electric eel with a sponge? - A shock absorber.

Murphy's Laws

During recovery of small parts dropped from your work bench, the visibility and accessibility of each part varies directly with the size and importance of the part and inversely with its importance to the successful completion of the work underway.

Quotable Quotes

'I have wondered at times about what the Ten Commandments would have looked like if Moses had run them through the U.S. Congress. -Ronald Reagan

Singapore Curry Lunch



Hosted by:
*The British Columbia
Regiment
Officers' Mess*

Coordinated by:
*The BC Regiment
(DCO) Association*



Date: Thursday, October 31, 2013

Time: 11:45 am - 1:30 pm
(bar opens at 11:45am)
(presentation at 12:01pm)
(lunch starts at 12:20pm)

Location: Officers' Mess - The BC Regiment
620 Beatty Street, Vancouver, BC

Dress: Business Attire (jacket & tie, ladies similar)

Price: \$30/person (\$5 discount for those that confirm
attendance by October 25, 2013)

RSVP: For more information or to register, please contact
Bill Diamond at Bill@DukeaBear.com or 604.618.3607
(Please advise of any dietary needs with your RSVP)

Payment by cheque or cash will be accepted at the door
Cheques are payable to: The BC Regiment (DCO) Association
No cancellations after October 25, 2013

NEXT PLANNED LUNCH: Thursday, November 28, 2013