

Van Arty Association and RUSI Van Members News Mar 29, 2022

Newsletters normally are emailed on Monday evenings. If you don't get a future newsletter on time, check the websites below to see if there is a notice about the current newsletter or to see if the current edition is posted there. If the newsletter is posted, please contact me at bob.mugford@gmail.com to let me know you didn't get your copy.

Newsletter online. This newsletter and previous editions are available on the Vancouver Artillery Association website at: www.vancouvergunners.ca and the RUSI Vancouver website at: <http://www.rusivancouver.ca/newsletter.html>. Both groups are also on Facebook at: <https://www.facebook.com/search/top/?q=vancouver%20artillery%20association> and <https://www.facebook.com/search/top/?q=rusi%20vancouver>

Upcoming events – Mark your calendars (see Poster section at end for details)

The 2022 Army Gala. CANCELLED. New Date:- May 6, 2023, at the Sheraton Wall Centre

Commemoration Cyprus 2024 – see posters

- Mar 30** Wednesday 'Zoom' Lunch meeting
Arctic eTalks
- Mar 31** **Web Event - An Evening with Gen Roméo Dallaire Cancelled**
Left Coast Lancers - Battle of Moreuil Wood Luncheon
- Apr 05** Wednesday 'Zoom' Lunch meeting
- Apr 10** Vancouver Vimy Day Committee Remembrance Service
- Apr 12** Wednesday 'Zoom' Lunch meeting
- Apr 19** Wednesday 'Zoom' Lunch meeting

The 15th Field 100th Anniversary Teahouse Mess Dinner

Hope all is well with you and yours.

Finally, the news we have been waiting for:

"Public Health Restrictions due to Covid-19 have been eased"

Note:- This does not apply to Armouries yet. The Army works to its own schedule, and we will announce here when the Armoury reopens.

Organized gatherings and events

Indoor or outdoor gatherings and events can happen at full capacity. Dancing is allowed.

- [Proof of vaccination](#) required for entry (12+)
- [Masks required](#) at indoor events, including when dancing

Upon receiving this update, the Teahouse Restaurant has confirmed they will offer full capacity for our event.

The 15th Field 100th Anniversary Teahouse Mess dinner has now been scheduled for 1800 for 1900hrs May 23 2022.

Please mark your calendars and plan accordingly. To purchase tickets or to confirm you have prepaid please contact HLCol Don Foster. email dgfoster60@gmail.com

Hope to see you on May 23, 2022.

Ubique,
Don Foster HLCol

Mess Update:- With the possibility of the Messes opening soon, we checked with Mrs Lum about her return as caterer. Unfortunately, she has decided to retire so we are looking for a new caterer for Mess events including Wednesday Lunches. Anyone know of any good candidates?

Planning for Failure: Murphy's Laws of Combat

Steven Matthew Leonard / Mar 15, 2022



“Everything is very simple in war, but the simplest thing is difficult. These difficulties accumulate and produce a friction, which no man can imagine exactly who has not seen war.” — Carl von Clausewitz

Clausewitz called it *friction*. He described it as “that which distinguishes real war from war on paper.” War, which is a

fundamentally human endeavor, is the realm of confusion. Where the fog of war – the uncertainties that pervade warfighting due to imperfect or incomplete information – has a profound impact on decision making, friction is that confounding element that drives leaders to unthinkable levels of frustration.

MURPHY’S LAW - Decades after the death of Clausewitz, British mathematician Augustus De Morgan unknowingly added definition to the dead Prussian’s theory of friction, writing on June 23, 1866, “The first experiment already illustrates a truth of the theory, well confirmed by practice, whatever can happen will happen if we make trials enough.” *Whatever can happen will happen*. By the time it was cast in its contemporary form, “if anything can go wrong, it will go wrong,” it became known simply as Murphy’s Law. Murphy’s Law implores us to plan for failure. But we rarely do. Instead, we stumble on and flail about when things inevitably go wrong,

wondering all the while why we set lofty goals without feasible fallback options. Visualizing failure is a necessity when conceiving plans. You're not planning *to* fail, but conceptualizing your options when friction comes into play. In coding, it's the *if-then* component of a program. If something happens, then what? What do you have to do to regain momentum and stay on track?

YES MEN AND SYCOPHANTS - The events of the past weeks have given new life to Murphy's Law. As Russian President Vladimir Putin wages war against Ukraine, friction has been a constant enemy of his forces. Putin is learning the hard lessons that Napoleon and Hitler learned before him. For example, maneuvering during the Rasputitsa – the Russian term for the two muddiest seasons of the year where roads are often impassable – is problematic, at best. Logistics are also very important, especially when you plan for a quick operation and don't have the assets in place to support a long, slow slog through deep mud. Finally, the enemy gets a vote: never underestimate the lengths your opponent will go to when facing an existential crisis. But when you surround yourself with yes men and sycophants, no one is going to tell you what you need to hear. They're going to tell you what you want to hear. Rather than point out the obvious – Murphy is alive and well in Ukraine – the advisors surrounding Putin likely told him that Ukraine would be a quick trip across country punctuated by an equally quick regime change. And true to form for a leader like Putin, he basked in the glow of their optimism and launched an operation that would see more friction than a wintertime march on Moscow.

MURPHY'S LAWS OF COMBAT – ESPECIALLY FOR PUTIN - The irony is brutal, like getting hit by an ambulance on your way to the hospital. Putin is getting a personal lesson in Murphy's Laws of Combat. After Afghanistan, after Chechnya, after any number of other Russian incursions, you would think those laws would be chiseled in stone somewhere in Red Square. As someone who earned his stripes in the KGB during the Cold War, you might think he even had a few of the tattooed somewhere on his body. But apparently that's not the case, and Putin is getting another harsh lesson in the realities of warfare. Murphy's Laws of Combat are nothing new. They've been around in one form or another for decades. Anyone who's spent any time around military forces knew there were laws, even if they didn't have names for them. If anything can go wrong, it will go wrong. I've seen lists that stretch to fifty or more laws, all of which are timeless. Some painfully so. For Putin, though, ten of them seem particularly relevant.

1. No plan survives first contact intact. A lesson Putin was brutally reminded of within the first 24 hours after invading Ukraine.

2. If it's stupid, but it works, it isn't stupid. The Russian equipment losses due to farm tractors is higher than actual combat losses. Let that sink in.

3. Don't look conspicuous – it draws fire. Three Russian generals killed in the first two weeks is a harsh reality to face. (*I think it is 5 to date*)

4. The radios will fail as soon as you need fire support. This also happens when you destroy the very towers you need to use your digital communications equipment.

5. Never forget that your weapon was made by the lowest bidder. And the bidders don't get any lower than they did in the former Soviet Union.

6. The easy way is always mined. Or covered by direct and indirect fire, drones, and the Ghost of Kyiv. And surrounded by mud. Lots of it.

7. The simple things are always hard. No more so than when you plan for a quick, successful operation. Once your plan goes out the window, everything becomes that much harder, including finding a way out of the mess that you're in.

8. When you have secured an area, don't forget to tell the enemy. Secure has a very specific military definition. It's a tactical task that involves preventing something from being damaged or destroyed by your enemy. Russia is learning this lesson every single day, usually on an hourly basis.

9. Incoming fire has right of way. The shoulder-launched missiles are getting through in ways the Russians never imagined. The lowest bidder always yields right of way in a street fight.

10. Professional soldiers are predictable, but the world is full of amateurs. There are two painful truisms here. One, a conscript army is not a professional force. Two, Ukraine is filled with amateurs who will make the outcome of any Russian offensive that much more unpredictable. Finally, let's not forget the coup de grace: **Murphy was a grunt.** In this case, Murphy is a Ukrainian grunt. And he (or she) is making life miserable for a whole lot of Russians right now.

In 2014, the 'Decrepit' Ukrainian Army Hit the Refresh Button.

Eight years later, it's paying off. *Liam Collins The Conversation March 8, 2022*



Ukraine's former President Petro Poroshenko, seen here in a Jan. 28, 2022, photo, launched military reforms that have improved the Ukrainian army. Chris McGrath/Getty Images

In 2014, Ukraine's military was called "decrepit" by one national security analyst, and its navy was in "a sorry state." Ukrainian General Victor Muzhenko, a former top commander of Ukraine's armed forces, went as far to say that the military was "an army literally in ruins." Yet eight years later, after the Russian invasion that started on Feb. 24, 2022, the performance of Ukraine's military has been surprisingly strong against the larger and better equipped Russian military. The Ukrainians' stiff resistance is the result of four significant factors. The first two were the Ukrainian government's

committed effort in 2016 to reform its military, coupled with millions of dollars' worth of Western aid and military equipment.

The third factor was important changes in Ukrainian military thinking that now allows for junior leaders to make battlefield decisions. Until recently, those leaders needed to seek permission to change orders given by commanders, regardless of whether changing battlefield conditions had rendered those orders irrelevant. The last significant factor, arguably the most important, occurred among the Ukrainian people – a national culture of military volunteerism emerged. As a result, a government agency was created to organize and train civilians in defense against military attacks. From 2016-2018, I helped Ukraine reform its defense establishment. During that time, I also conducted field research in Georgia to study the 2008 Russo-Georgian war. Based on that research, the Russian tactics used to invade Ukraine have not been surprising. What has been surprising is the performance of the Ukrainian army. In 2014, the Ukrainian government launched a comprehensive review of its national security and military defense. The review identified a number of issues that directly resulted in poor combat performance. The shortcomings ranged from an inability to fight cyberattacks to poor medical care delivery. Corruption was rampant, troops were not getting paid and basic supplies always ran low. Overall logistics and command were also inefficient.

To remedy these shortcomings, then-President Petro Poroshenko in 2016 directed sweeping reforms in five categories: command and control, planning, operations, medical and logistics, and professional development of the force. It was an ambitious plan that set a goal for completion in only four years. A herculean effort under the best of circumstances, the Ukrainians at the time were fighting a war against Russian separatists in the Donbas. What motivated Ukrainian officials and accelerated the reforms was a deep-seated fear that Russia might launch an invasion. Though all the reforms have not been implemented as yet, significant improvements have occurred over the last six years. The evidence has been seen in response to the Russian invasion.

To support Ukrainian military reforms, the US increased its financial aid to Ukraine shortly after Russia's illegal annexation of Crimea in 2014 and its support of separatists in Ukraine's east. In 2014, the Obama administration provided US\$291 million in assistance, and by the end of 2021, the United States had given a total of \$2.7 billion in training and equipment. As part of this assistance, the United States helped train Ukrainian soldiers at the Yavoriv military base. The base quickly became a top-notch training center, where an estimated five battalions have trained annually since 2015. In 2016, Poroshenko asked for senior defense advisers from the United States, Canada, the United Kingdom, Lithuania and Germany to advise Ukraine on modernizing its armed forces with the goal of reaching NATO standards, rules and procedures by 2020. One such NATO rule was a requirement for civilian control of the military; at the time, Ukraine's minister of defense was also an active duty general.

Another important NATO standard was ensuring that Ukraine was able to integrate its logistical support with other NATO units when deployed. Western support also included various weapons and equipment, including Humvees, drones, sniper rifles, radars that locate the origin of enemy fire and thermal scopes that are used to identify targets during the day or night. One item of

particular interest to the Ukrainians was obtaining better anti-tank missiles. When Russia sent T-90 tanks across the border to support separatists in 2014, Ukraine's existing weapons were unable to penetrate the armor of T-90s. In 2017, the United States provided the first set of Javelin anti-tank missiles to Ukraine. Once the invasion became imminent, Western nations sent additional weapons and munitions to Ukraine, including Stinger missiles from Lithuania and Latvia, Javelin anti-tank missiles from Estonia and anti-tank missiles from the United Kingdom.



A Ukrainian servicemen loads a truck with American Javelin anti-tank missiles on Feb 11, 2022.

Sergei Supinsky/AFP via Getty Images

In 2014, Ukraine's military culture discouraged risk-taking by junior leaders – the lieutenants and captains who were conducting the fighting on the ground. Unable to make decisions, junior leaders were required to seek permission before they could act, thus ruling out the possibility

for what are called “disciplined initiatives.” These initiatives occur when initial battlefield orders are no longer relevant or fit the changing situation. Given the speed, maneuverability and lethality of modern warfare, disciplined initiatives can be the difference between success and failure. While fighting Russian-backed separatists and Russian forces in the Donbas in 2014, the Ukrainians quickly learned that lower-level leaders, such as platoon leaders and company commanders, could not wait for approval from a higher headquarters for every move. The speed of battle was simply too fast. A new culture has emerged, and the Ukrainians are fighting now with a newer version of the ends justify the means: Outcomes are more important than processes. This cultural shift, combined with eight years of fighting in the Donbas, has created a generation of combat-ready officers. Volunteers from across Ukraine flocked to the Donbas in 2014 to fight Russian-backed separatists. There were so many that entire volunteer battalions had to be created. But there was little time for training. Volunteers were thrown into rapidly created units with mismatched camouflage uniforms and sent to the front with a hodgepodge of weapons. Yet these volunteers bought time for Ukraine to mobilize and helped hold the line to prevent further Russian penetration deeper into Ukraine.

Volunteers sew tactical military vests for the Ukrainian army in the western Ukrainian city of Lviv on March 4, 2022.

Yuriy Dyachyshyn/AFP via Getty Images



To remedy the problems in organizing the volunteer effort, Ukraine passed a law that took effect on Jan 1, 2022. The law established a Territorial Defense Force as a stand-alone branch within

the military. Some of these positions are for professional soldiers; others are reservists. The force will include 10,000 career positions in peacetime and organize 120,000 reservists into 20 brigades. Russia initiated its invasion before this force could be fully established, but it does, nonetheless, provide an organizing structure as the war continues. Despite these reforms and Ukraine's resistance to date, Russia's war machine still dwarfs Ukraine's. A successful defense against Russia is a daunting challenge and will require resolve, something that Ukrainians have demonstrated repeatedly over the past eight years and in the opening days of the current war. Based on my time there, the Ukrainians are proud, patriotic and prepared to do whatever is necessary to defend their nation.

Do We Have the Political Will to Strengthen Our Depleted Defence Capacity?

John Ibbitson Globe & Mail March 5, 2022

For more than a decade, both Conservative and Liberal governments have allowed this country's military to degrade. Now, Russian dictator Vladimir Putin has sent his armies into Ukraine. The Baltic states could be next, and they are part of NATO. Canada is committed to their defence. Except we are not able to properly defend either them or ourselves. "Looking at the current state of our defence capabilities, I'd say that the story is mixed but overall, not good," said Charles Davies, a retired army colonel who is a research fellow at the Conference of Defence Associations Institute, a think tank. Bringing the armed forces up to where they need to be in this darkening world will cost a great deal and require political will. The question, as Russian troops besiege Ukrainian cities, is whether that will has finally arrived. The federal government has dithered for far too many years over choosing a replacement for an ancient fleet of CF-18 fighter aircraft. A program to replace aged frigates and now-retired destroyers is so far behind schedule that the first ship is not scheduled to set sail for a decade, at least. Plans to modernize North America's antiquated NORAD defences are just that: plans. The Canadian Forces are 10,000 people below full strength.

In 2017, the Liberal government issued a highly praised defence review, called Strong, Secure, Engaged, which was intended to meet Canada's defence needs for a generation. But the government has failed to live up to its own commitments. Not only did the Liberals drag their feet on the fighter-jet and combat-vessel replacement programs, "they either handed back in, reprofiled, let lapse or otherwise did not spend \$12-billion that was supposed to go to training, spare parts, or equipment acquisition," said Andrew Leslie in an interview. Mr. Leslie served as commander of the army during the war in Afghanistan, and also served one term as a Liberal MP, before choosing not to run in the 2019 election. "The situation right now is dire," he maintained. Both Conservative prime minister Stephen Harper and his Liberal predecessor, Paul Martin, acted decisively to provide Canadian troops with the equipment they needed to execute the mission in Afghanistan. But as that mission wound down, Mr Harper seemed to lose interest in the military, especially after coming under intense criticism from the Liberals over plans to acquire the Lockheed Martin F-35 to replace the already-obsolete F-18s.

When the Liberals came to power, childcare, health care and infrastructure spending took priority. And then came the extraordinary financial burden of combatting the health and economic impacts

of the pandemic. Through all this, a defence-procurement process evolved that seemed perversely designed to avoid reaching decisions. Bureaucrats were told acquisitions must encourage regional economic development as well as meet defence needs. Different government departments – National Defence, Public Services and Procurement, Industry, Finance, Treasury Board – have competing priorities. Duelling mandates ensure delays. Each delay encourages planners to review and modernize any proposal, which only leads to more delays. “The defence-procurement system that is in place right now is designed to constipate expenditures,” said former lieutenant-general Steve Bowes, who retired in 2020. “It looks like a game of Snakes and Ladders. It is purpose-built.” In the meantime, “everything is 10 years older than it was 10 years ago,” observed Craig Stone, professor emeritus in defence studies at the Canadian Forces College.

That was the situation little more than a week ago, before Russia invaded Ukraine. Overnight, defence priorities in the West became the highest priority. Germany has long been a laggard in defence spending, just like Canada. But as Russian troops pushed toward Kyiv, Chancellor Olaf Scholz announced a €100 billion (\$140 billion) increase in defence spending and pledged Germany would take its military budget above the target of 2 per cent of GDP agreed to by all NATO members. Boosting Canada’s defence spending to 2 per cent of GDP would probably increase the current budget of \$24 billion by about \$9-billion. Where would the money go? Most knowledgeable observers agree that the highest priority by far must be increasing Canada’s ability to defend its borders, especially in the Arctic. That means, first and foremost, acquiring new fighter aircraft, a decision that is more than a decade overdue. Second, it means accelerating plans to acquire new combat surface vessels to replace the retired destroyers and in-need-of-retiring frigates. Third, it means investing heavily, along with the United States, in modernizing NORAD, through cutting-edge sensors, satellites and software. “The goal is to have 360-degree knowledge of what’s going on,” said Andrea Charron, director of the Centre for Defence and Security Studies at the University of Manitoba.

Addressing personnel shortages is another high priority. And sooner rather than later, Canada will need new submarines. Above all, it means procuring new equipment and technologies when they are needed, not two or three decades later. The war in Afghanistan encouraged a defence doctrine based on combating insurgencies. But the Russian threat is both very real and very old-fashioned. “You need an army capable of fighting a conventional war,” said Justin Massie, who specializes in defence and foreign-policy issues at the University of Quebec at Montreal. “We don’t have the capacity our allies have for air defence, for anti-armour capacity. We’re sending less armour to Ukraine than the Dutch and the Belgians, countries that are much smaller than Canada.” Would Canadians support substantially increased defence spending, even if it led to increased taxes? Jean-Christophe Boucher, who researches foreign and defence policy at the University of Calgary, is part of a team that has been studying voter attitudes to defence spending through regular surveys.

Support for defence spending “is like a thermostat,” he said. “The colder it gets, the more you turn the thermostat up.” And the Russian invasion of Ukraine has made things very cold indeed. Ramping up defence procurement comes with a cost beyond dollars and cents. Canada may need to abandon efforts to create jobs at home, instead purchasing equipment from other countries off

the shelf. “You’re getting equipment you know is good,” Prof. Boucher points out. “They’re not only easier, they’re cheaper to work with.” But Mr. Bowes maintains that Canadian industry could step up to meet accelerated timelines, if the will were there. “If you provide the funds, things will move,” he predicted. “The programs are in place. Timelines can be accelerated.” What matters is political will: clear direction from the centre of government that decision must replace indecision, co-operation must replace competition, and that when something is truly needed, money will be found. The good news is that, on the urgent need to improve Canada’s defences, there could be something approaching all-party agreement in Ottawa. Conservatives and Liberals, the governing parties, have come together in the past when the national interest required it. The national interest requires it now. In all likelihood, war is not near. Vladimir Putin will surely think twice before taking on NATO, especially if his forces sustain major losses in Ukraine. But the world today is a more dangerous place than it was last week, and it was already pretty dangerous then. Whatever is coming, Canada must be ready.

Ontario Improving Day Job Protection for Military Reservists

Working for Workers Act would guarantee military reservists can return to their careers after training or deployment. *Ontario Labour, Training and Skills Development* March 04, 2022

WINDSOR – The Ontario government is working for workers by introducing new legislation that, if passed, would ensure military reservists who are training or deployed cannot be fired while giving their time in service of their country. The change will help ease the shortage of reservists the Canadian Armed Forces is facing and recognize the tremendous sacrifice these workers make. “Ontario’s brave men and women in the Canadian Armed Forces put their lives on hold to protect our freedom. If reservists are training or deployed their jobs should be waiting for them when they return home,” said Monte McNaughton, Minister of Labour, Training and Skills Development. “Reservists answer the call of duty, responding to natural disasters in Canada and conflicts abroad. It is unacceptable to ask Canadians to choose between their career and serving their country, and this stops now.”

As a result of the pandemic, the Canadian Armed Forces is experiencing shortages of reservists and troops, putting a heavier burden on current reservists and military operations. If passed, this change would expand job-protected leave for reservists who are deployed or need to participate in military training, which often requires time off their day job. It would also make the leave available after three months of continuous employment – down from the current requirement of six months. These measures are part of Ontario’s ambitious plan to attract the best workers from across Canada – and around the world – by making the province the best place to live, work and raise a family. This legislation also includes foundational rights for digital platform workers, a requirement for employers to disclose their electronic monitoring of employees and several red tape reductions to encourage out-of-province workers to help fill the generational labour shortage.

Quick Facts

- Reservists are deployed on international operations and to operations within Canada. This may involve providing assistance in dealing with an emergency or its aftermath (including

search and rescue operations, recovery from national disasters such as flood relief, military aid following ice storms, and aircraft crash recovery).

- Employees on reservist leave are entitled to be reinstated to the same, or a comparable position upon their return. Their seniority and length of service credits would continue to accumulate during the leave, as they do now.
- In the case of an operation outside Canada, the leave would include pre-deployment and post-deployment activities that are required by the Canadian Forces in connection with that operation.
- As of March 2020, the Canadian Forces is comprised of approximately 27,000 Reserve Force members. Of these members, approximately 11,000 are living in Ontario.

Donations for "With a Few Guns: Canadian Gunners in Afghanistan"

Fellow Gunners

We are seeking donations to support the many aspects of publishing our book on the Canadian Gunners in Afghanistan. We have a very strong team who are writing this book - to be entitled "With a Few Guns." We have three outstanding historians collaborating to tell this remarkable story - a wonderful story of how our Gunners stepped up to the plate on operations and, deservedly earned the respect of the other arms and services that they fought along side of and supported so well. We have \$40,000 from the Artillery Support Group of Guelph and a few thousand in personal donations. We'd like to raise an additional \$75,000 to defray the many writing, publishing and production costs, and keep the book price affordable.

With A Few Guns



*As Gunners, we have to capture these stories now or the stories will be lost forever. To date, our authors have interviewed over 100 individuals and have collected numerous accounts of brave, heroic, and innovative and dedicated action which caused many Canadians and others to say: "Thank God the Guns!" Please note the attached, **(See Poster section)** witch explains why and how to donate. We need to tell this story and we need to get it out to the men and women of our Armed Forces and to Canadians at large. And, even more important, we need to let our Gunners who served so well know that Canada cares, their fellow soldiers care, and through*

their service to the Guns they have made a difference.

Please donate to getting this book written and published so that we can tell the story about how, with a few guns our Gunners accomplished so much!

UBIQUE!

Ernest B Beno, OMM CD BGen (Retd)

Vancouver Artillery Association Yearbook Updates

Ukraine Conflict Updates

A few more links with artillery related material have been posted:

<https://www.vancouvergunners.ca/whats-new/ukraine-conflict-the-bayraktar-tb2-kill-list>

<https://www.vancouvergunners.ca/whats-new/ukraine-conflict6079686>

<https://www.vancouvergunners.ca/whats-new/ukraine-conflict3945931>

Ukraine Conflict

Not artillery related, but an interesting insight into President's Volodymyr Zelensky's earlier career. <https://www.vancouvergunners.ca/whats-new/ukraine-conflict8435397>

Upcoming Events – RCA Association Web Event - An evening with

Lieutenant General The Honourable R.A. Dallaire (Ret'd) OC, CMM, GOQ, CSM, CD The event has been cancelled as General Dallaire has become engaged in assisting 5,000 Ukrainians that are in urgent need of supplies. The internet at his current location is insufficient to connect on Thursday. The event will be rescheduled in the future.

RCA Association – Lest We Forget The RCAA has launched a new project which is intended to list the names and histories of all Gunners that have served Canada. The Vancouver Artillery Association has been an integral part in the first, 3,000 names. Check it out here.

<https://rca-arc.org/the-rca-association/lest-we-forget/>

Corporal Helmcken Diary 8 to 14 Apr 1918 This week's entry provides a glimpse into some racial prejudice from the early 1900s. Glad to see that we have evolved since that time.

<https://www.vancouvergunners.ca/helmcken-diary.html>

With the relaxing of provincial COVID restrictions, we have been given permission to work on administratively in the museum on Wednesdays with a small crew. The Museum is still not open for visitors yet but we'll keep you posted and we'll try and link up the VAA Virtual Lunch from that location at Noon PDT - <https://zoom.us/j/710845848> . Remember – Stay healthy and stay safe!

Who (or What) Is It?

Last Week: The **Bristol Bombay** was a British troop transport aircraft adaptable for use as a medium bomber flown by the Royal Air Force (RAF) during the Second World War. It was built to Air Ministry Specification C.26/31 which called for a monoplane bomber-transport aircraft to replace the Vickers Valentia biplane in use in the Middle East and India. The aircraft was required to be capable of carrying 24 troops or an equivalent load of cargo as a transport, while carrying bombs and defensive guns for use as a bomber. This dual-purpose design concept was common to British pre-war designs. Other entries for the specification were the Armstrong Whitworth A.W.23 and the Handley Page HP.52. Bristol's design, the Type 130, was a high-wing cantilever monoplane of all-metal construction.^[1] Bristol's previous monoplane design, the 1927 Bagshot, had suffered from lack of torsional rigidity in the wings leading to aileron

reversal.^[3] This led to an extensive research program at Bristol which resulted in a wing design with a stressed metal skin rivetted to an internal framework consisting of multiple spars and the ribs. This was the basis of the Bombay's wing, which had seven spars, with high-tensile steel flanges and alclad webs. The aircraft had a twin-tail and a fixed tailwheel undercarriage.



The aircraft's crew consisted of a pilot, who sat in an enclosed cockpit, a navigator/bomb-aimer, whose working position was in the nose, and a radio-operator/gunner, who divided his time between the radio operator's position behind the cockpit and a gun turret in the nose. When the aircraft was operated as a bomber, an additional gunner was carried to man the tail gun position. In the prototype, this position was equipped with a single Lewis gun on a Scarff ring, but in production aircraft, both gun positions were

hydraulically operated gun turrets armed with single Vickers K machine guns. Eight 250 pounds (110 kg) bombs could be carried on racks under the fuselage. A prototype **Type 130** was ordered in March 1933 and first flew on 23 June 1935,^[4] powered by two 750 horsepower (560 kW) Bristol Pegasus III radial engines driving two-bladed propellers. Testing was successful and an order for 80 was placed as the **Bombay** in July 1937. These differed from the prototype in having more powerful (1,010 hp (750 kW)) engines driving three-bladed Rotol variable-pitch propellers, discarding the wheel spats fitted to the undercarriage mainwheels in the prototype. As Bristol's Filton factory was busy building the more urgent Blenheim, the production aircraft were built by Short& Harland of Belfast. However, the complex nature of the Bombay's wing delayed production at Belfast, with the first Bombay not being delivered until 1939 and the last 30 being cancelled.

Jean-Francois Demozay was a commercial pilot before the war. In 1938 he was called up for military service but after a month he became unfit due to an accident. At the outbreak of war, he voluntarily offered his services and became an interpreter with No 1 Squadron RAF at Reims in France. As the Germans drew nearer, he discovered a Bristol Bombay which had been left behind and with 15 soldiers aboard, he flew the aircraft to England. He reported to the RAF and managed to convince the selection committee that he was a fighter pilot. After having completed his training, he was posted to No 1 Squadron and soon proved himself to be a very able fighter pilot, quickly claiming numerous victories. In



October 1942 he scored his 18th victory which was to be his last. In February 1943 he was sent to North-Africa to establish flight training for the Free French. In April 1944 he returned to England. After the invasion he established the "Groupe Patrie" in France. Near war's end he was named deputy commander of all French flying schools. December 19th, while en route to London he lost his life after his plane crashed near Buc (Yvelines).

This Week: Armour has been much in the news these days, with the two sides in the recent sad episode of human history using much the same kit, most of it familiar to those of us who served in the days of the Cold War, being essentially Soviet vehicles updated, with a few new ones thrown in for good measure. Other conflicts have seen even less-modern equipment deployed, with the YPG armoured vehicle featured in a recent quiz an example of such. This recycling and DIY improvisation has often been a feature of Third World and/or minor conflicts, such as the cases of Libya, Yemen, and former Yugoslavia, where something old, something borrowed, and something green has been used, sometimes even taken from museums or scrap heaps.

This week's subject is such a vehicle. It's something that actually combines East and West, so seemingly puts the kybosh on Rudyard Kipling's famous poem ("East is East, and West is West, and never the twain shall meet"...which actually speaks of how a brave man is a fellow chap, regardless of his origins). Anyway, there was nothing romantic about the conflict in which this thing served, but, thankfully, it is over.



So, some of you might recognize part of this tracked thingie, and others might know another bit. We would have shown you a photo of it, but the only ones we could find were either of very poor quality, or gave the game away. So, what is it? If you know, please share with us, Bob Mugford (bob.mugford@gmail.com) and John Redmond (johnd.redmond@telus.net).

From the 'Punitary'

What happened at the flea circus? A dog came by and stole the show.

Murphy's Other Laws

Make it tough enough for the enemy to get in and you won't be able to get out.

Quotable Quotes

The secret of getting ahead is getting started. *Mark Twain*

Arctic eTalks – 30 March 2022

With BG Satterfield, Commander, Special Operations Command North

USNORTHCOM “The Watch” Command [Magazine](#) and the Center for Arctic Security and Resilience ([CASR](#)) - University of Alaska Fairbanks invite you to attend our Special March 2022 Arctic eTalks on "Special Operations in the North American Arctic and participation in ARCTIC EDGE 2022" featuring Brigadier General Shawn R Satterfield, Commander, Special Operations Command North (SOCNORTH), on Wednesday, March 30, 2022 at 0800 AK/ 1000 MT/ 1200 EST/ 1800 CET. We would like to recognize our Global Partners including United States Northern Command (USNORTHCOM), United States European Command (USEUCOM), and United States Indo-Pacific Command (USINDOPACOM) for supporting the Arctic eTalks speaker series. The Arctic eTalks is a monthly forum for open discussion (non-attribution, Chatham House Rule) on key issues affecting the Circumpolar Arctic for academics, defense and security professionals, as well as military and foreign affairs authorities from Canada, Kingdom of Denmark (including Greenland and the Faroe Islands), Finland, Iceland, Norway, Sweden, and the United States, as well as the United Kingdom and Germany.

BG Satterfield ([biography](#)) will provide a 30-minute presentation followed by a ~45-minute Q&A session (non-attribution) that will be moderated by Dr James Morton, LTC, US Army, SF and Cam Kovarek, LCDR, US Navy, Deputy Mission Chief, Buckley SFB.

Please register at the following link:

https://alaska.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_SnGgxenGTYyuGyfdOSSsxQ

Event website: https://www.uaf.edu/casr/activities/etalks_mar_2022.php

Our Arctic partners include:

- Defence Science and Technology Laboratory - [United Kingdom](#)
- George C. Marshall European [Center](#) for Security Studies
- Joint Task Force ([North](#)) - Canadian Armed Forces
- Ministry of Defence of the United Kingdom ([UK MOD](#))
- NATO Strategic Communications Centre of Excellence ([StratCom](#))
- Nasiffik – Centre for Foreign & Security Policy ([Greenland](#))
- North American and Arctic Defence and Security Network ([NAADSN](#))
- Norwegian Institute for Defence Studies ([IFS](#))
- Norwegian Institute of International Affairs ([NUPI](#))
- Norwich University ([NU](#))
- Royal Danish Defence College ([fak.dk](#))
- United States Coast Guard ([Arctic](#))
- William J. Perry Center, National Defense University ([NDU](#))

Dr. Benjamin P. Gochman, DAFC

Chief, Engagements Arctic, Canada, Mexico, and the Caribbean

Directorate of Operations (N&NC/J39) HQ NORAD - USNORTHCOM/J3

Wednesday Digital Video Lunch

No need to worry about COVID-19 when you go digital. Pop into our video lunch **at noon** on Wednesdays and say hi. All you need is a laptop, tablet or smartphone. These sessions are being hosted by the Vancouver Artillery Association and are **open to all – especially those who attended our Wednesday lunches.** Join us to check up on your old lunch buddies.

<https://zoom.us/j/710845848>

Password:- Ubique



Zoom is the leader in modern enterprise video communications, with an easy, reliable cloud platform for video and audio conferencing, chat, and webinars across mobile, desktop, and room systems. Zoom Rooms is the original software-based conference room solution used around the world in board, conference, huddle, and training rooms, as well as executive offices and classrooms. Founded in 2011, Zoom helps businesses and organizations bring their teams together in a frictionless environment to get more done.

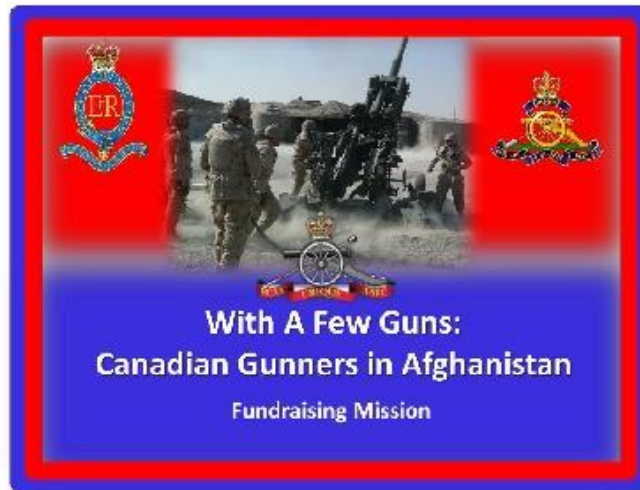
Zoom is a publicly traded company headquartered in San Jose, CA.

[Join our Cloud HD Video Meeting now](#)

Use the link above on your computer Zoom program or dial in on your phone:
(778) 907 2071 Meeting ID: 710 845 848

Invite 2 friends! We have room for 100! See you on Wednesdays at noon. Bring your own lunch and beverage of choice.

“With a Few Guns” Calling For Support! Donate Now!



With a Few Guns will be an accounting of the contribution Canadian Gunners made to operations in Afghanistan from initial deployment in 2002 until withdrawal in March 2014. The book will not be an “official history” but will tell the story of the approximately 3,000 Gunners who served in Afghanistan, Regular Force and Reserves, in any and all positions, in any and all functions, as well as the stories of commanders and supported arms, and Gunner families.

We have three accomplished and exceptional authors:

Lieutenant-Colonel (Retired) Brian Reid
Colonel (Retired) Wolf Riedel
Mr. Mark Zuehlke

We are launching this fundraising initiative to cover expenses and get the book published, while keeping the price affordable. *With a Few Guns* is being written with the backing of the RCA Association, and all donations will be eligible for a tax receipt. Any monies donated in excess of what is needed will remain with the RCAA for support to the causes as espoused by the RCAA.

Our MISSION is to raise \$75,000 (+)

Questions may be directed to: WithAFewGuns@gmail.com

To Donate:

Go to: <https://rca-arc.org/>

Scroll down to: **Donate**

Go to : The Royal Canadian Artillery Association

Then donate to: RCAA Donation "With a Few Guns"



**THE VANCOUVER VIMY DAY COMMITTEE
INVITES YOU TO ATTEND OUR REMEMBRANCE
SERVICE TO BE HELD ON 10 APRIL 2022**

The Vancouver Vimy Day Remembrance Service will be held at the main veteran's burial site located at Vancouver's Mountainview Cemetery located on the South-West area by the Commonwealth Cenotaph

Arrive between 1020 – 1040 hrs – Parking available free on site.

Service starts at 1045 hrs

Light refreshments of Coffee & Tea will be served following the service at the Mountainview Cemetery Hall of Remembrance where washrooms are also available.

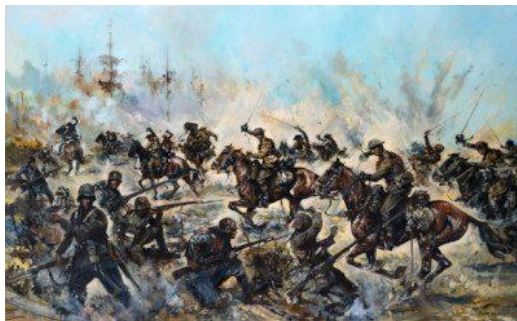
RVSP: barrettjd007@gmail.com

604-916-1766

**Mountainview Cemetery
5455 Fraser Street
Vancouver, BC V5W 2Z3**

Entrances off Fraser Street & 41st Avenue.

Left Coast Lancers - Battle of Moreuil Wood Luncheon



Strathcona Enews

Dear Strathcona Family,

Situation

The last Left Coast Lancers (LCL) Lunch in November 21 was impacted by Covid 19 and the Fall Torrential Flooding and wash-outs. We are more optimistic for the next lunch, barring mobilization. Covid sit is improving, however we still require proof of vaccination and masking in accordance with the SNSYC protocols. There is cause for some optimism, but Covid has not gone away, we remain vigilant. In light of global circumstances a gathering of the Armour clan is timely and appropriate.

Mission

The Left Coast Lancers will conduct the Battle of Moreuil Wood Luncheon at the Sidney North Saanich Yacht Club (SNSYC) on 31 March 2022 commencing 1130hrs, check fire at 1430hrs.

Execution

The Invitation is to all RCAC serving and former service members, friends and of course spouses. It will be a sit-down lunch with table service. The price remains \$35.00 per person, check in at the Club Bar. Please respond, RSVP, via email or voice mail as below. For those with GPS or paper-based maps or unfamiliar with the route and SNSYC location, the address is as follows:
Sidney North Saanich Yacht Club

[1949 Marina Way](#)

[North Saanich, BC, Canada V8L 4B9](#)

Coord Instr

Ferry pick and return at Swartz Bay will be available for those travelling from the Mainland. Please have a mask and proof of vaccination. The Dress is jacket and tie preferred, but smart casual is quite acceptable.

Command and Sigs

Please RSVP to me below, signaling your intent and the number in your party.

D Scandrett UE, CD

LCL Ops O and Matre de Tango14@outlook.com 778 245-2800

The 15th Field 100th Anniversary Teahouse Mess Dinner



15th Field Artillery Regiment (RCA) Centennial Celebration Dinner

Monday 23 May 2022
18:00 for 19:00 hours

at

The Teahouse in Stanley Park
7501 Stanley Park Drive
\$150.00

RSVP to dgfoster60@gmail.com



Major General Albert Bruce Matthews, CBE, DSO, ED
Colonel Commandant of the Royal Regiment of Canadian Artillery
Unveils the original commemorative plaque on
16 October, 1966 at Ferguson Point

Timings

18:00 – Guests arrive
18:15 – Plaque unveiling
18:30 – 105mm Howitzer salute
18:45 - Presentations
19:00 - Dinner



Photograph showing a group of men at unveiling of Memorial at Ferguson Point in Oct 1966. Pictured (L-R): Warrant Officer Class II R. Guttridge, Lance Bombardier Elboim, [unidentified], [unidentified], Brigadier R.T. Dumoulin, Lieutenant Colonel N.D. Elsdon, Lieutenant Colonel A.M. McGavin, General Sir Charles Loewen, Lieutenant Colonel W.S. Jackson, Major General A.B. Matthews, Lieutenant Colonel G.F. Blythe, Colonel G.M. Platt, Lance Bombardier D. Davidson, Sargeant R. Thompson, [unidentified], Warrant Officer Class I P. Smith.

Commemoration Cyprus 2024



Commemoration Chypre 2024



Commemoration Cyprus 2024



Mission

*...commémorer la contribution du Canada à la mission de l'ONU à Chypre à l'occasion du 50e anniversaire de la guerre de 1974.
...commemorate Canada's contribution to the UN mission in Cyprus on the 50th anniversary of the 1974 war.*



WHAT - Cyprus 2024 Pilgrimage.

GOAL - to capture the history and stories from those who served in Cyprus with emphasis on the actions that took place during the 1974 war, **A FORGOTTEN WAR.**

WHEN - November 2024.

WHO - All Cyprus and Canadian Airborne Regiment Veterans and family members.

WHERE - Nicosia Cyprus, lodged at the Hilton Hotel.

COST - Pay as you go trip with individual costs in the \$5000 to 6000 range. Costs covered will include airfare, hotel with breakfast and expenses such as transportation.

TRAVEL - Will be arranged by professional travel agents, with pre and post tour travel options available.

PROGRAM - Seven days: three days of battlefield tours, three days of excursions, and one day of Remembrance.

FURTHER INFORMATION AND UPDATES ARE AVAILABLE BY JOINING THE CYPRUS 2024 FACEBOOK GROUP [Cyprus2024 | Facebook](#)

QUOI - Pèlerinage à Chypre 2024.

OBJECTIF - capturer l'histoire et les récits de ceux qui ont servi à Chypre en mettant l'accent sur les actions qui ont eu lieu là pendant la guerre de 1974, **UNE GUERRE OUBLIÉE.**

QUAND - Novembre 2024.

QUI - Tous les vétérans de Chypre, du Régiment aéroporté canadien et les membres de leurs familles.

OÙ - Nicosie Chypre, logés à l'hôtel Hilton.

COÛT - Voyage à la carte avec des coûts individuels inclus, environ \$5000 et 6000. Les coûts comprendront le billet d'avion, l'hôtel avec petit-déjeuner et les dépenses telles que le transport.

VOYAGE - Sera organisé par des agents de voyage professionnels, avec options de voyage avant et après la réunion.

PROGRAMME - Sept jours: trois jours de visites du champ de bataille, trois jours d'excursions et une journée du Souvenir.

PLUS D'INFORMATIONS ET MISES À JOUR SONT DISPONIBLES EN REJOIGNANT LE GROUPE FACEBOOK CYPRUS 2024 [Cyprus2024 | Facebook](#)



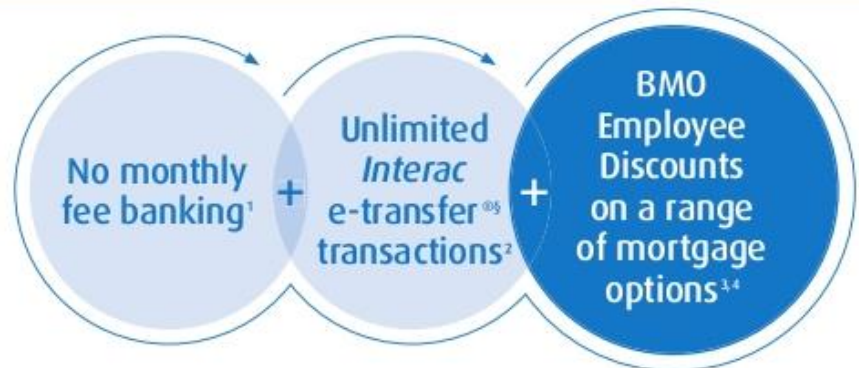
Bank of Montreal

The official bank of the Defence Community

Our strategy is simple –
Do more for you.



BMO is proud to be the official bank of the **Canadian Defence Community**, and to provide exclusive offers to you.



Mortgages

- BMO employee discounts on a wide range of mortgage options^{3,4}
- Flexibility to move or break your mortgage through the Integrated Relocation Program⁵
- 130-day mortgage rate guarantee – the longest of any major bank in Canada⁶



Bank Accounts

- Save money with a Performance Plan chequing account with no monthly fees¹
- Unlimited *Interac* e-transfer⁰⁵ transactions²
- OnGuard⁰⁸ Identity Theft Protection Service at no charge^{7,8}
- Keep the same accounts no matter how many times you relocate
- Access to CreditView⁰⁹ – the free, instant way to get your credit score⁹



Lines of Credit

- BMO employee discounts on unsecured and secured personal lines of credit³
- Student line of credit with preferential pricing and flexibility¹⁰

Credit Cards



- Choose the BMO Support Our Troops CashBack⁰¹¹ or AIR MILES⁰¹² MasterCard⁰¹³
- No annual fee¹¹
- Support Canadian Forces Morale and Welfare Services with every purchase you make
- Visit bmo.com/sot to find out about the welcome offers

Frequently Asked Questions

What is the Canadian Defence Community Banking (CDCB) Program?

BMO and Canadian Forces Morale and Welfare Services have teamed up to offer the CDCB Program to eligible members of the defence community and their families.

Who is eligible for the CDCB Program?

Program benefits are exclusive to regular force personnel, reserves, recruits, military families, Veterans and retirees, as well as Department of National Defence (DND) and Staff of the Non-Public Funds civilian personnel, the RCMP and the Canadian Coast Guard.

Can BMO help me if I am relocated or deployed?

One way BMO can help is by covering your prepayment charges when you are relocated or deployed through the Integrated Relocation Program, and have to move or break your mortgage.

How does Canadian Forces Morale and Welfare Services (CFMWS) get funded by the BMO Support Our Troops MasterCard[®] program?

BMO pays royalties to CFMWS each quarter. CFMWS uses the royalties to fund the Support Our Troops National Summer Camp Programs and more.

How can I get help with home financing?

Visit a branch, find a Mortgage Specialist at mortgagelocator.bmo.com or call 1-866-548-7490 or collect from overseas at 514-877-7738 to get help with home financing.

How much can I save in bank fees with the CDCB Performance Plan Chequing Account?

You can save \$191 each year in monthly plan fee, \$120 each year with 5 non-BMO ATM withdrawals included each month, and \$155 each year in Identity Theft Protection at no charge.¹²

How can I contact BMO to learn more about the CDCB Program?

- Visit any BMO branch
- Call 1-866-548-7490
- International customers can call collect at 514-877-7738
- Find us on Social Media

Visit us in branch or at bmo.com/cdcb to learn more.



Scan the QR code to get more information.



¹²The monthly Performance Plan fee is waived. You are responsible for all transaction, service and product fees not included for free in your Bank Plan. ¹The monthly Plan fee may still apply. Other transaction fees may apply if you have a Bank Plan that does not include unlimited everyday banking transactions. A cancellation fee may still apply when you cancel the transaction. ²Interac e-transfer[®] transactions are subject to maximum transfer dollar amounts. ³Applications to qualify for the CDCB special rates on 5-year fixed and 5-year variable rate mortgage, you must have a Canadian Dollar Primary Chequing Account (Chequing Account) with a CDCB Performance or Premium Plan; and set up the Chequing Account as the funding account for the BMO Mortgage; and have one (1) recurring direct deposit into the Chequing Account. ⁴Some conditions may apply. ⁵We guarantee your interest rate for the selected fixed rate mortgage type and term for up to 130 days from the rate guarantee start date. If the mortgage is not funded within the 130-day period, the interest rate guarantee expires. ⁶Applicable to residential mortgages only and subject to Bank of Montreal standard lending criteria for residential properties. Longest rate guarantee of any major bank as of November 18, 2020. ⁷Plan, transaction, service and product fees may still apply. ⁸You're eligible for OnGuard[™] if you are a BMO customer who has a lead account¹³ with one of the following Bank Plans: Performance Plan, Premium Plan, Platinum Plan or Employee Plan. In addition, to qualify for OnGuard, you must be a Canadian resident who has reached the age of majority for your province or territory, and you must be registered for BMO Online Banking and/or Mobile Banking and you must have a valid email address on your BMO profile and your lead account must be in good standing. Customers with an eligible Bank Plan with the Kids or Teens discounted banking program do not qualify for OnGuard. All accountholders of a lead account with an eligible Bank Plan qualify for OnGuard[™] provided they meet the above-eligibility requirements. If you switch your lead account to an ineligible Bank Plan, then you will no longer qualify for the OnGuard[™] service. ⁹The lead account is the one you designate to pay any fees required by your Bank Plan, for example, your monthly Plan fees and transaction fees. ¹⁰OnGuard[™] retail value is \$155.88 annually (charged at \$12.99 per month). ¹¹OnGuard[™] is provided by Sigma Loyalty Group and Intersections Inc. Sigma Loyalty Group and Intersections Inc. Terms and conditions can be found at www.bmo.com/onguard/SIGconditions. ¹²CreditView[™] is a service provided to you by TransUnion. Using this service does not impact your credit score. This service is being made available to you as a customer of BMO ("Bank of Montreal") at no additional charge. ¹³You must be a Canadian citizen or landed immigrant enrolled in a Canadian or non-Canadian post-secondary school or university. Co-signer may be required. Subject to credit availability and verification of identity. ¹⁴Ongoing interest rates, interest-free grace period, annual fees and all other applicable fees are subject to change. Cash advances include balance transfers, cash-like transactions and Mastercard cheques. Visit your branch, call the Customer Contact Centre at 1-800-263-2263, or visit bmo.com/rates-fees for current rates and fees. ¹⁵The monthly Performance Plan fee is waived. You are responsible for all transaction, service and product fees not included in the Performance Plan. Some non-BMO ATMs may charge you a convenience fee. The convenience fee is not a BMO fee and is added to the total amount of your withdrawal. You are responsible for the convenience fee that may be applied to your transaction.

¹⁶Registered trademark of Bank of Montreal. ¹⁷Interac e-transfer is a registered trademark of Interac Inc. ¹⁸OnGuard is a service of Sigma Loyalty Group. OnGuard[™] is a trademark of Sigma Loyalty Group Inc. Identity Guard[™] is a registered trademark of Intersections Inc. ¹⁹CreditView is a trademark of TransUnion LLC. ²⁰MasterCard is a registered trademark, and the circles design is a trademark of Mastercard International Incorporated. Used under license.