THE VOXAIR

Our Military Community Newspaper, 17 Wing Winnipeg

FEBRUARY 18, 2004 | VOLUME 52, ISSUE 3 | FREE

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Canadian Rangers
Northern Presence

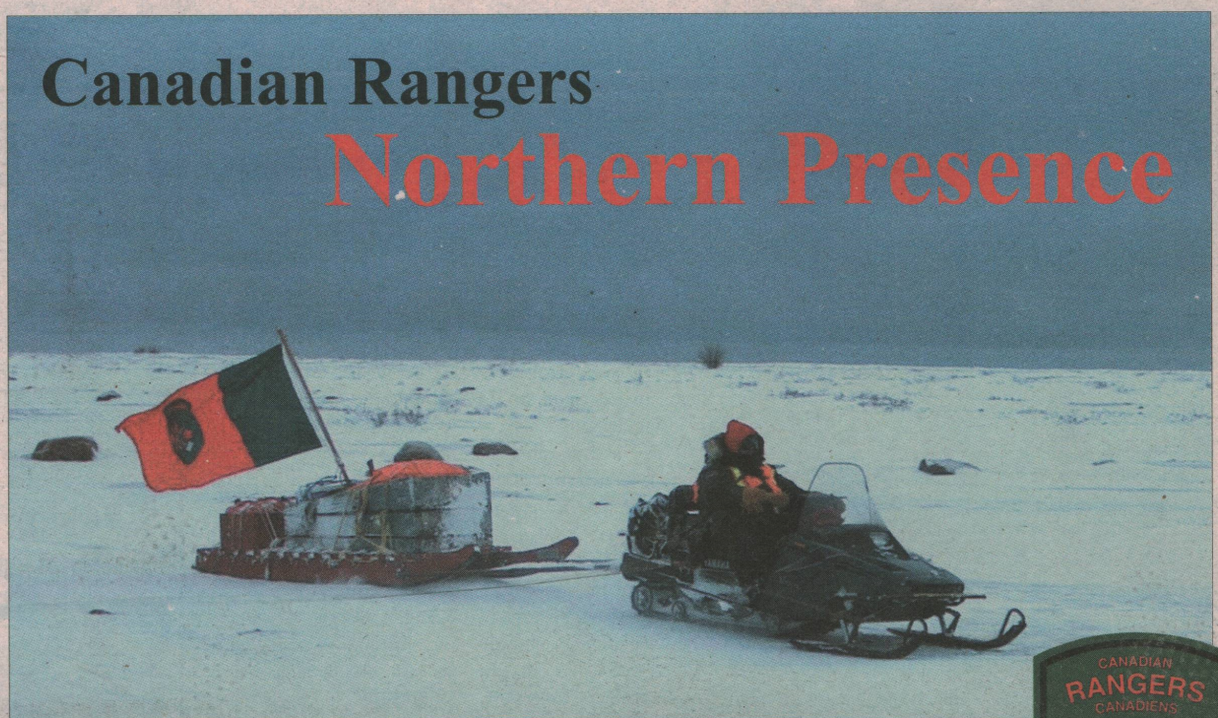

Photo by MWO Wade Jones

2 I/C Dave Lundie proudly displays a Ranger presence ever where he goes.

The Canadian Rangers provide a military presence in sparsely settled northern, coastal and isolated areas of Canada that can not be provided for by other parts of the Canadian Forces. In Manitoba, there are nine ranger patrol locations in Lac Brochet, Tadoule Lake, Churchill, Gillam, Shamattawa, St. Theres Point, Snow Lake, Little Grand Rapids and Lynn Lake, with a strength of 164 males and 50 females. MWO Doug Colton commands the Manitoba detachment. For further stories on the Manitoba Rangers, see pages 8 and 9 (centre spread).

continued on page 8 ▶



Photo by Angela Johnston

Capt S.D. Dwyer, Capt S.W. Holmes, Capt T.K. Larson, Ocdt T. Chaput, MS D. Valentine, Cpl S.P. Chamption, Sgt M.C. Landry, Cpl R.F. Smith, PO2 I. Groulx, Cpl S.N. Favel, Cpl M. Walsh listen on as details of recruiting centre renovations are given.

Recruiting Centre Renovations

Renovations for the Recruiting Centre in downtown Winnipeg began in May 2003, and were officially completed in January 2004.

New features in the offices include a modern reception area with military themes: a floor resembling a radar screen, a suspended radar antenna, aircraft style applicant seating, aircraft style cables for information seats, glass and wood wall from an obstacle course, a counter with supply depot steel drums, two usable chin-up bars, and a plasma display for applicants.

more photos on page 4 ▶

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Wright Brothers Exhibit Takes Flight

By Angela Johnston



Photo credit to the Daytona Art INstitute.

Orville and Wilbur Wright.



Photo credit to the Daytona Art INstitute.

Camp d'Auvours Ground School.

Though the first air flight lasted but 12 seconds, it changed the world. Today, after five months of preparations, $50,000 of fundraising, and one gala opening at the Western Canada Aviation Museum, Orville and Wilbur Wright's legacy has hit Winnipeg.

The gala opening of the "Orville and Wilbur: The Wright Brothers Legacy" exhibit at the aviation museum was held on Friday, Feb. 6, in the presence of diplomats, politicians, 17 Wing representatives and museum employees. The museum is the only Canadian venue expected to showcase the images.

The Wright brothers, known as the pioneers of flight, were often compared to today's astronauts at the opening. "People marvelled at the Wright brothers, and trumpeted their accomplishments in songs, and the arts. It was magical," said Todd Schwartz, Winnipeg's US Consul, and a major driving force behind bringing the exhibit to Winnipeg.

Of air force personnel, Schwartz joked, "It's important to note that these guys might be unemployed without the Wright brothers." LCol Stephen Bannister, the Air Museum's military Board member and Commandant of Portage La Prairie's 3 CFFTS, a flight training school, also noted the importance of the exhibit to air force members.

"Air force heritage and aviation heritage are intimately linked," he said. Bannister said he would encourage his staff and students to view the exhibit, and acknowledged Air Museum plans to pursue greater involvement with air force educational programs.

The exhibit itself consists of approximately 74 original photographs of the first flights, many taken by the Wright brothers themselves. Such images include the first flight at Kitty Hawk, as well as factory shots in Dayton, Ohio, where the first airplanes were constructed. There are also photos of the first female aviator, Ruth Law, aerial photography, the first airplane fatality, and kings and presidents interested in the Wright brothers' invention.

For Schwartz, one of his favourite photographs is of a Wright brother in water waders up to his shoulders, working on a plane in the Miami river. He said one could see a "sense of determination, and innovation."

Shirley Render, executive director of the museum, pointed out the importance of the photos: though many claimed they flew before the Wright brothers, no one else could document such a flight.

There are also 25 large original colour lithographs, on loan from the private collection of Jacques Perier of Paris, France, which advertise early airshows, exhibitions, races and awards. The lithographs were produced in France, Italy, Germany and the US between 1904 and 1912.

For Render, the lithographs are very special. "I've never seen original lithographs before," she commented. Of the lithographs, Scwartz said one could see "the way aviation spooked people's imagination there was such wonder, such mirth, such fun."

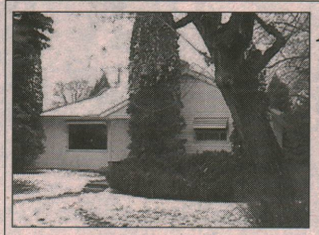
The exhibit was organized by the Dayton (Ohio) Art Institute to commemorate the 100th anniversary of powered flight.

Also present were Stephen Kelly, the Deputy Chief of Mission to the US Embassy in Ottawa, John Harvard, MP for Charleswood St.James-Assiniboia, Eric Robinson, the provincial minister of culture, heritage and tourism, Bruce Emberley, president of the aviation museum, and Jae Eadie, city councillor for St.James-Brooklands ward.

Robinson noted, "I believe this display is important not only for our generation, but for the next."

Many emphasized the feelings of wonder that aviation used to evoke in people. "What they flew in 1903 – what expirimenters they were, what daredevils, what adventurers," said Render, "It will capture your imagination."

The exhibit will run for ten weeks, until April 18.



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VOXAIR 2004 PRODUCTION SCHEDULE

ISSUE	DEADLINE DAY	PUBLISH
04	20 Feb	03 Mar
05	05 Mar	17 Mar
06	19 Mar	31 Mar
07	02 Apr	14 Apr
08	16 Apr	28 Apr
09	30 Apr	12 May
10	14 May	26 May
11	28 May	09 Jun

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Deadline for Voxair 04:
20 February 2004

Program Partners 38 Brigade, Local School Boards

By Angela Johnston

David Anderson never liked boy scouts, but seemed to find his niche in the air cadets. He has remained with the cadets since grade eight, and will now enter a unique co-op program for high school students. where students may receive up to three credits upon completion of basic military qualification (BMQ).

"I've always had an interest in the military," said Anderson, "It's an exciting, physical activity."Anderson said he feels that his experience with the cadets may give him an edge in the BMQ training.

Anderson joined the Winnipeg Rifles reserve unit on Feb. 7, alongside approximately ten other students who comprise some of the CF reserves' newest recruits from an area spanning Kenora and all of Manitoba. This program is a partnership between 38 Brigade and local school boards.

The afternoon consisted first of the swearing in of approximately ten new privates, followed by an explanation of the co-op program by Manitoba Provincial Recruiting Officer Capt Liz Skuce, a video of BMQ and the introduction of training officer for the recruits, Lt Russell Donkersley.

"We're the first point of contact your student sees," said Skuce. Skuce, as well as Sgt Roger Coutu, spend much of their time visiting up to 68 schools, universities and career fairs in hopes of recruiting new students to the reserves.

"We invest a lot of time in attracting applicants," said Skuce.

The co-op program is in its fourth year, and teaches students such skills as first aid, care of equipment and clothing, military structure, drills, navigation, nuclear, biological and chemical weapons training, rifle and wilderness training, and includes the physical tenet of BMQ. When students first enter BMQ, it is expected that they know nothing about the military.

David's mother, Julie Anderson, said that David has wanted to join the reserves for a few years: "He likes the discipline, he likes the atmosphere, I think this is his role."

His father, Jeff, commented, "He'd be here even without the credits. He's always been very focused. He's our career army person."

Upon completion of BMQ, students have the choice to stay in the reserves, or leave if desired. However, Skuce noted, "There's quite a few who tend to stay." David said he someday plans to join the regular forces.

The course will run every afternoon from now until May 11, when the recruits will graduate, and perhaps move on to more advanced training.



Photo by Angela Johnston

Capt Ralph Hubert of 17 Svc BN swears in new high school recruit Jessica Porter at Minto Armories on February 7, 2004

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For more information contact:

Neil Kimelman,
Winnipeg LCC Learning Advisor,
Local 4637
or go to http://hr.dwan.dnd.ca/scholarship

Application deadline:
MARCH 1, 2004

IMPORTANT NOTICE TO EMPLOYERS

Need summer help? Hire a student!

Summer Career Placements, a key element of the Youth Employment Strategy, is a wage subsidy initiative that enables employers to hire students during the summer for a period of 6 to 16 weeks. Private, public and not-for-profit employers are invited to submit their application by:

March 26, 2004

The objective of this initiative is to provide students with work experience related to their field of study. Applications will be evaluated based on factors such as local and regional priorities, the quality of the work experience offered, as well as budget availability.

To apply or to find out more about this initiative, please contact the nearest Human Resource Centre of Canada or call 1 800 935-5555.

Internet: Visit **youth.gc.ca** and click on the *Employer* section.



Government of Canada / Gouvernement du Canada

Canada



Photo by WO D.Fougere

Maj Steven Dewar, CO of 1 Air Movements Squadron, presents Cpl Terrance Grogan with his CD1.



Photo by WO D.Fougere

Maj Steven Dewar, CO of 1 Air Movements Squadron, presents MCpl April Roach with her CD.



Photo by WO D.Fougere

Maj Steven Dewar, CO of 1 Air Movements Squadron promotes member Trevor Sproul to Pte after training.

... continued from page 1

Recruiting Centre Renovations



Photo by Angela Johnston

LCdr Paul Stiff addresses audience at grand opening of recruiting centre renovations.



Photo by Angela Johnston

Project manager from Brookfield Lepage Johnson Controls, Connie Kippen, and LCdr Paul Stiff officially cut the ribbons to the new renovations at Winnipeg's new recruiting centre.

Cinéma / Theatre
8:00pm Showtimes
More movie listings can be found on the DIN.

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No movies will be shown between 20 Feb – 8 Mar 04

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Winter Driving

By 17 Wing Transportation Squadron, MSE Safety



The weather outside is always changing, and so do the driving conditions. In winter, all drivers on the road must change their regular styles and patterns of driving. With this in mind, here are just a few important tips that will help you to be collision free:

1. **Reduce speed!** The posted speed limits are for ideal conditions (namely bare, dry surfaces, which rarely exist in winter). This alone will solve the majority of winter driving difficulties.

2. **Start to brake much sooner.**

3. **Do not drive aggressively**. As you may disrupt the flow of traffic and cause a collision.

4. **Clear the frost**, snow and ice from your car - this means from all windows, hood, roof and trunk. Snow and ice could come off during travel becoming an obstacle to another road user. Do not forget to clear your lights, both the front and rear.

5. **Allow for greater travel time,** and leave earlier than normal.

6. **Adjust and use a greater following distance** from the vehicle ahead of you, and learn driving techniques for icy conditions.

Winter driving demands extra caution. Always be ready for the unsafe actions of other drivers and for the poor driving conditions that exist. Drive at a more leisurely pace but do not impede other motorists. Change the way you drive to suit the conditions. It's not hard to do and I bet you will feel more comfortable behind the driver's wheel.

CANADIAN FORCES EMPLOYMENT SYSTEMS REVIEW (CF ESR) VISIT TO 17 WING WINNIPEG

The CF ESR Team will be at 17 Wing Winnipeg on **26 - 27 February** and wants YOUR input!



The aim of the CF ESR is to identify employment barriers that affect members of the four groups designated by the *Employment Equity Act:* women, Aboriginal peoples, members of visible minorities and persons with disabilities. The results and recommendations of the CF ESR will be incorporated into CF human resources plans and improving employment practices to the benefit of **all CF personal**.

- **Have you noticed improvements in employment equity, or encountered obstacles that you want to tell us about?**
- **Do you have suggestions to propose, or are there ideas that work at the local level that you would like to see tried on a larger scale?**

• PLEASE SHARE THEM WITH US.

During the CF ESR Team visit, **ALL CF MEMBERS** have the opportunity to attend a personal interview and group discussion. The CF ESR Team will be available at 17 Wing Winnipeg, here on base. You can contact 2Lt Giroux, Loc 2495 for discussion group times and locations.

If you are not available to attend the group discussion or personal interview, you can contact at any time the CF ESR Team by the following means:

- By Telephone - Ajilon Consulting (613) 236-8886 Loc 288, or DMGIEE (613) 992-4128
- EMAIL: +CF Employment Systems Review@ADM(HR-Mil) DMGIEE@Ottawa-Hull
- EMAIL: Cfesr.Project@Ajilon.Com

THE CF ESR TEAM WANTS **YOUR** INPUT!

Flying Officer George Finkle Memorial Scholarship & Bursary

The recipients of the 2003-2004 Flying Officer George Finkle Memorial Scholarship have now been selected. This year's scholarship winners are: Private Ali Khan, Trooper David Sierhuis, and Sub-Lieutenant Colin Stewart.

The family of George Finkle has established a fund in his memory to provide annual scholarships or bursaries to students at The University of Manitoba.

Candidates must meet the following requirements:

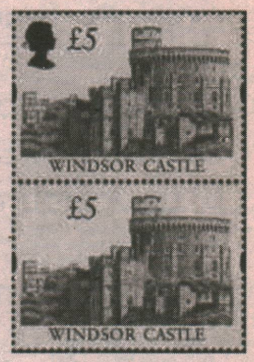
1. Be a member of the Regular Canadian Armed Forces or Primary Reserve (or is a member of the immediate family of a Regular Force member) who is resident in Manitoba or northwestern Ontario;
2. Be enroled as a full-time undergraduate student (with 60 percent or more of a full course-load) or as a full-time graduate student in one of the departments of the Faculty of Management or in the Department of Geology in the Faculty of Science*;
3. Have achieved a good academic record (with, for entering students, a high school average on final year courses of at least 70 percent or with, for continuing students, a cumulative GPA of at least 3.0 for scholarship purposes or 2.75 for bursary purposes);
4. Demonstrate the qualities of George Finkle, including love of country, love of family, decency and morality, strength, intelligence, courage, determination and hard work (with these qualities to be documented with reference letters in the application process).

Award applications for the 2004-2005 academic session will be available on or around August 1, 2004 at the Financial Aid and Awards Office at the University of Manitoba (deadline for receipt of applications is October 1, 2004).

(NOTE: The same individual cannot win either of these awards in consecutive years. Applicants will be once again considered eligible for both awards once a year has elapsed since the student received one of these awards; bursary applicants must meet the above criteria and demonstrate financial need on the standard University of Manitoba bursary application form.)

A British Stamp Error

By Alf Brooks



When Great Britain issued the world's first postage stamp in May, 1840, authorities saw no need to include the name of the country - no one else issued stamps, so why bother? Since then, of course, many countries now issue stamps, and almost all have the name of the country indicated on the stamp, even when collectors do not recognize the name of the country. However, British stamps still do not include the country name, and are thus easily recognized. British stamps also include a portrait of the reigning monarch. For Queen Elizabeth II this has been, for many years, based on a sculpture by Arnold Machin. The stamp illustrated here, a high-value definitive (for daily use) has the Queen's silhouette. But one of the two has no silhouette; this is a recently-discovered error. Depending on its rarity it will be worth much more than the face value of the stamp without error.

17 WING RECREATIONAL LIBRARY



For more information contact Michelle at 833-2500 loc 2490 or email: ohlgemuth.mke@forces.gc.ca

Hours for the Month of February

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Monday:	11-6 pm
Tuesday:	12-8 pm
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"Absolute Jewel" Awarded Environmental Grant



Photo by Angela Johnston

U of M entemologist Dr. Rob Roughley displays insects collected from St. Charles firing range, protected by 17 Wing.

By Angela Johnston

Entemologist Dr. Rob Roughley imagines he could spend ten to 15 years of his retirement crafting a massive online database of insects – insects collected at 17 Wing's St. Charles rare tall-grass prairie firing range. The University of Manitoba professor has already begun to identify thousands of insects with three-dimensional barcodes from the region. Some day, anyone on the Internet could call up a specific insect, and find the date it was harvested, the conditions of its harvest, and where it was collected.

A massive undertaking, surely. But through 17 Wing's help, Roughley will be able to research insects unknown to the rest of the world. This endeavor recently caught the attention of the World Wildlife Fund (WWF), which awarded the base a $7300 grant for management of the prairie grass.

Though 17 Wing has conserved the rare ecosystem since 1911, academics and the WWF have only begun to reap the benefits in the last ten years.

"The military is much more receptive to environmental research than anybody ever thought," said Roughley on Feb. 4. He leans back in his chair, hands behind head, in an office with books such as Insects of the Yukon stacked from floor to ceiling. On one shelf rests a honey-pink seashell; posted on another wall is a National Geographic map of Australia. Roughley is an academic, and one who is thankful for a "unique opportunity" given to him by the military.

As for the WWF, the organization has been very receptive to the military's conservation efforts. Kevin Kavanagh, the WWF's director of biodiversity conservation, said the WWF would like to "maintain the good work that is going on there."

Of the recent grant, which will be used for research, signage, and a public outreach program, such as an open house, Kavanagh said, "Now was a good time to get moving. We're quite pleased."

The tall-prairie grass ecosystem is both unique and rare in North America. Only 0.2 per cent of the original area remains; tall-prairie grass used to extend from Winnipeg to Texas. Roughley, who described the area as the "breadbasket of North America," said early immigrants to North America quickly broke the rich soil upon arrival.

Today, the ecosystem has almost been wiped out. Roughley said that in the US, the best examples of tall-prairie grass exist in graveyards, and next to railroad tracks, which are basically "non-functioning ecosystems."

The St. Charles range is so important because it has very high-quality soil. There has been almost no agricultural impact or human activity in the area. Still, Roughley commented in a 1999 report that the flora and fauna are poorly known.

"It really is neat in the spring and the summer," said Lewis Cocks, head of A4 Environment, in a telephone interview on Feb. 4, "There are wildflowers and grass species that just don't exist anymore." Cocks said that the military is a large landholder, which allows for research such as at the St. Charles range.

"We worry about losing the Amazon rainforest, but tall-grass prairie is probably the most endangered," said Cocks. He has been interested in the range since the early nineties, when another environmentalist told him that it was an "absolute jewel." Years later, the range drew attention from U of M researchers, and in 1998, he approached the WWF for a possible partnership, to which it agreed.

Aside from research, the range currently has widely used walking and running paths. The region provides a buffer behind the firing range, is used for some weapons traning and used to have obstacle courses – other than that, the region is virtually untouched.

The only other major tall-prairie grass region in Manitoba is in Gardenton-Tolstoi, approximately 100 km south of Winnipeg. Roughley said that while this region is larger, 17 Wing's is of a higher quality – here, soil could be cored three feet below the ground, and be removed without any stones. This is prime garden soil.

Most studies on this soil have been twofold: research on collected burns, which replenish the ecosystem, have been done in tandem with how such burns affect local insects. 17 Wing now burns different sections of grass in different seasons, to copy natural burn cycles, thanks to much of Roughley's research.

Back at the U of M, Roughley stores thousands of insects in clunky wooden drawers, and waits for other researches to continue a "legacy" of documentation which he has begun.

Still, Roughley returns to a simple fact: without the conservation efforts of 17 Wing, none of this research would have been possible.

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Photo by MWO Wade Jones



Photo by MWO Wade Jones

Churchill Rangers.



Photo by MWO Wade Jones

On the sea ice of Hudson Bay.

More Than Polar Bears

By MWO Wade Jones

News of a whiteout had already hit my ears as I sat in the Winnipeg airport waiting to board the twin-propped Haulker for a three-hour flight to Churchill. As in most cases, the rumours were correct. Just 30 minutes outside of Churchill, the weather looked as bad as the turbulence I felt. The approach was long and low, with the ever-familiar black strip coming into view as the wheels hit the runway.

Patrol Commander Stanley Spence met me at the airport. As we moved to his truck, the full force of the first big winter storm from the Hudson Bay was holding nothing back. This was my first visit to the Churchill patrol since they joined 4 CRPG in Septemper 2002. Both the patrol and myself looked forward to a rewarding exercise.

The week started off with some review of Ranger skills taught previously. I can assure you all that the Churchill patrol is well-skilled in weapons handling, navigation, survival and drill. New leadership was elected, placing Patrol Commander Camille Hamilton, 2 IC Dave Lundie, Sec Ldrs Janice Schultz and Chris Hart, to lead the patrol into the next few years. A job extremely well-done goes out to Rangers Stanley Spence (PC) and Kevin Burke (2I/C) for their detected leadership over the past years.

As the weekend drew closer PC Hamilton began putting his plan to paper. He first had a meeting with his Sect Ldrs and developed the aims and detailed plan for the FTX. This proved to be a very important step ensureing a very successful FTX. The aim of the FTX was the employment of scouts, establishment of a bivouac site with good communications to Churchill, traditional skills and route planning.

The patrol RV was at the start point for 7 a.m., fully prepared to depart at 7:15 a.m. sharp. Once again the weather was not on our side as the thermometer dipped well below -30 C with the wind. Our route was north up the coast and sea ice to the Knife River, then west to the North Branch. The move went well under the supervision of the leadership and all arrived at the selected bivouac site without incident. The wall tents went up and a good supply of firewood was cut according to the groupings and tasks in orders. Of course the next thing constructed was the Ranger flagpole, and what a monument it was.

Communications needed to be established with Churchill, so the SBX and dipole antenna were set up – this is the older version of the new Paracomm HF Radio. This proved to be no easy task as the atmospheric conditions were not favorable for HF communications. Some adjustments to the antenna were needed. Communications were established, but were not as ideal as they should have been; the patrol's own SAT phone was used as a back up.

After an early rise the next morning, the PC tasked the Sect Ldrs to construct a shooting range and marksmanship concluded the remainder of the day light hours. Top shot went to Rgr Stanley Spence with a very close second to PC Camille Hamilton and Rgr Gerald Azure. Well done to all shooters.

The third day was set aside for traditional skills and the preparation of route cards for the return to Churchill. All arrived safe and sound just after dark and were dismissed to prepare for the community parade.

Mayor Mike Spence was the honored guest as well as a large number of the Rangers' families. Congratulations go out to all those rangers who received medals and awards and a welcome aboard goes out to Churchill's newest member of the patrol, Rgr Kelly Turcotte.



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Little Grand Rapids Patrol Week One Exercises

By WO Steve Greeley



Little Grand Rapids Patrol.

Photo by WO Steve Greeley

Little Grand Rapids patrol boils up first helping of rations.

Manitoba Detachments' ninth and latest patrol is located in Little Grand Rapids, some 250 km northeast of Winnipeg. It has a population of approximately 1000, primarily Ojibway First Nation Peoples. Little Grand Rapids' airport is located at the north end of Family Lake, so one must take a water taxi to access the community in summer months. The local Little Grand Rapids fishing lodge, under Mr. Duncan Grant, has been very helpful in the patrol's establishment.

During the first briefing to the community at the school, it was quite a surprise to our Det Commander, MWO Doug Colton, that there were approximately 50 people already waiting when we got there. A quick setup was conducted – under pressure – with everyone watching, and the briefing was given. Upon completion, 14 applications were taken and week one training was slated for Aug. 25-31, 2003. The local RCMP, under Cpl Doug Thompson, were extremely helpful by professionally conducting the necessary security and fingerprint checks.

Week one began with a strength increase of four, totalling 18 rangers in the patrol. All members of the patrol were keenly interested in all subjects taught, especially in navigation. Drill proved a close second with Sgt Rob Hillman giving the patrol their first exposure to "attention," "stand at ease," and "stand easy." All had a few giggles. By the end of week one, the level of drill and their navigational skills in the classroom drastically improved.

Thursday, elections were held and the following positions filled: Patrol Comd – Harrison Bushie; Patrol 2 I/C - Beatrice Eaglestick; Section Leader - Marilyn Dunsford; and Section Leader - Paul Duck.

Congratulations to those elected. I look forward to working with you all. By Friday, those who were issued the 303 rifle received the proper training and were now ready for the weekend exercise to fire the weapon. Operations orders were issued to the patrol by WO Greeley to familiarize them with the process and prepare the patrol for the exercise.

We met for the final exercise at the Northern store to fuel up and depart by 9 a.m. However, a transport problem caused a delay. Once all were accounted for and loaded, the patrol Comd conducted a navigation exercise to get the patrol from the Northern store to White Lake, some 32 km south along the Dogskin River.

Along the way, the patrol stopped to boil up their first IMP lunch. One ranger, Ron Dunsford, really liked the salmon. By early evening, we reached White Lake, and camped on an island in hootchies. At some point a competition between the men and the ladies happened. I figure after observing the final outcome, that the ladies had the better hootchie.

Upon completion of the hootchies it was on to navigation to confirm lessons taught in the classroom. All rangers displayed competence in navigation and the construction of lean-tos and hootchies. The patrol practiced traditional skills in the evening to verify survival skills. It should be noted that the men were not the only ones to catch fish – I'm glad a competition did not break out there as well.

Before tucking in for the night, all consumed a fine feast of bannock and fish. The patrol reviewed rifle handling drills and set up the rifle range for a familiarization shoot on day two of the exercises. After the shoot, the patrol Comd issued an Order of March for the 32 km route back, with a stop enroute to boil up rations. All rangers ended at the Little Grand Lodge where the ranger staff was dropped off and dismissal was held. A tentative date for future training was slated for Dec. 6-12, 2004.

All rangers who attended the classroom and exercise at White Lake experienced a very successful week one of training. I look forward to our future training together. Again, congratulations to the Patrol Leadership of Little Grand Rapids Patrol.



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A Time to Remember

By Cecil Pittman



Photo courtesy of the Neepawa Press



Above: Pilot Officer Ebenezer Alfred Sirett.

On April 3, 1943, a Halifax bomber, piloted by Ebenezer Alfred Sirett, headed toward its target of Essen, Germany. The flight's crew of seven included officers from Saskatchewan, Ontario and Nova Scotia.

Suddenly, a German night fighter thwarted the crew, attacking their bomber shortly before 11:45 p.m. The German pilot flew out of an airbase in Venlo, Germany.

According to eyewitnesses living in and around the village of Opheusden, Netherlands, P.O. Sirett's plane was circling above the southern edge of their village. The bomber was heavily engulfed in flames, and before turning to the north, dropped several bombs.

Descending rapidly, the plane veered. Several witnesses thought that the pilot had attempted an emergency landing in a farmer's field next to the Rhine River.

The plane crashed with tremendous force, disintegrating as it landed. Several articles were found near Opheusden, a short distance from the crash sight. Articles included the aircraft's tail wheel, a dinghy, an airman's jacket and a parachute lodged in a tree.

At the Sirett farm, near the town of Franklin, MB, early morning broke. The boarding schoolteacher had not yet left for work. Mrs. Sirett was busy in the kitchen when the telephone rang.

Lloyd, the second oldest son, answered the call. It was Franklin's CP Rail telegraph operator, his voice low. The telegram advised the family that Ebenezer was missing-in-action.

"It was the worst news I've ever received. It really shook me. I knew I was not capable of facing mother with the news," said Lloyd.

"I raced over to get my brother, William, and his wife, Vera, and told them of the tragic news I had just received and together we told my mother," he said.

A few days later, the family was advised by delivered telegram that the aircraft Ebenzer piloted had been shot down. All from the crew of seven were killed.

The airmen were buried near the crash site. The German occupational troops conducted the burials in the parish priest's garden near the Roman Catholic church in the Dutch village of Uden on April 4, 1943.

The bodies were exhumed in September 1946 and reburied with 697 of their fallen comrades in the Uden War Cemetary in Holland.

The family was quite surprised when a few of Ebenezer's personal belongings arrived home several weeks later. Included in the parcel was Ebenezer's logbook, which Lloyd still has today; a cherished keepsake.

A few months ago, Lloyd received a letter from the Uden War Cemetery Foundation secretary, Antoon Verbaken. This foundation aims to contact relatives to advise them of events surrounding deaths of family members, the location of crash sites and the previous burial of loved ones.

The foundation had completed several investigations and inquired if Ebenezer had owned a silver lighter with the inscribed initials E.A.S. A farmer found the lighter after a clean-up of the crash site in his field.

The lighter arrived on Nov. 8, 2003, a few days before the Remembrance Day services in Neepawa.

"I can hardly believe that sixty years later, I would be holding Ebenezer's lighter in my hands," said Lloyd, "When I took the lighter out of the box, I had to fight back tears. It brought back so many memories. I recognized the Ronson lighter the initials E.A.S. engraved on it. The lighter was Christmas gift given to Ebenezer prior to his overseas posting."

Other than a couple of dents, the lighter is in relatively good shape.

"I certainly appreciate the way they [the Dutch] have treated us, and the way they have remembered 'Eb.' It's been a real eye-opener for me how people so far away can be so personal in your life," said Lloyd.

Mrs. Lena Jenkins, and her husband, Cliff, from British Columbia, attended the memorial service at the Uden War Cemetery in May 2003. The couple met Mr. Verbakel and during conversation with him, agreed to try to locate any surviving members of the Sirett family. The first contact was with Lloyd.

This Remembrance Day will have a special meaning to Lloyd as he stands in front of Neepawa's War Memorial. With lighter in hand, both happy thoughts of days gone by and deep sadness will no doubt be racing through his mind.

The lighter's value can not be over-estimated. For Lloyd, the only surviving member of the Franklin-area family of three boys and two girls, it brings closure.

"It's a long about way, but the lighter is back home," said Lloyd, "I'm the last one in the family, so I'll hang on to it."

Jacket still without home

Also found in the clean-up site with the lighter was what is believed to be a personal belonging – possibly an airman's jacket – of John Dugald McBride, from Prince Albert, Saskatchewan. McBride was a member of Ebenezer's crew, and so far, all efforts to locate the McBride family have failed.

The other members of the crew included Morris Gordon Church from Dilke, Saskatchewan, Gilbert Davies Boyer from Haileybury, Ontario, Franklyn Roy Burke from Halifax, Nova Scotia, Grant Alexander Fletcher from Ottawa, Ontario, a flight engineer, K.O. Brice, and McBride and Sirett.

If anyone has any information about the McBride family, please contact Anton Verbakel; Paukenstraat; 74, 5402 HL; the Neatherlands or by e-mail at verbakel1931@hi.nl.

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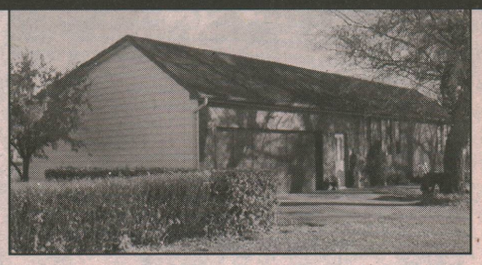
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Royal Roads – Continuing to Serve the Military

By Rudy Haugeneder

Royal Roads Military College may have been decommissioned in 1995, but the university at Royal Roads is still very much involved in providing education to military personnel. In fact, the two most senior officers on the West Coast – RAdm Jean-Yves Forcier and Cmdre Roger Girouard – are graduates of Royal Roads University (RRU). Both hold Master of Arts degrees in Leadership and Training.

"The young university's applied professional programs suit the needs of career-minded military personnel who recognize higher education is increasingly a prerequisite for career advancement," said RRU president Dr. Richard Skinner. "Our distance-based delivery model is a good match for working personnel who need to earn a degree while still pursuing their military careers."

Certainly the university's philosophy of "just-in-time" learning was the answer for former chief petty officer first class Hugh Marlowe Fraser. While waiting to retire from the navy, he wanted to prepare for his civilian career by studying environmental science.

Although he had taught technical courses at the local college and published papers on environmental studies, he didn't have a university degree. Fraser wanted to earn a BA and approached Royal Roads because it gives credit for past experience and offers undergraduate completion programs that cover the third and fourth year of degree programs such as a BA in Environmental Science, Applied Communication, Justice Studies and a Bachelor of Commerce.

However, after reviewing Fraser's extensive background, RRU enrolled him in its two-year Masters of Environmental Management program.

Fraser graduated with honours, retired from the navy and is now a civilian environmental technologist with the Fleet Maintenance Facility at CFB Esquimalt where he is involved in environmental testing, setting up an environmental management system, and providing environmental training for the facility's 900 employees. As well, his thesis recommendations on replacements and alternatives for greenhouse gas refrigerants so impressed the defence department that it may implement them on a DND-wide basis.

"My degree has swung open so many doors for me, it's unbelievable," Fraser said. "It's really changed my life for the better – financially, and in terms of job satisfaction and responsibility."

Skinner says any military personnel willing to spend 25 hours weekly – whether at home or while on overseas deployment – can earn a RRU Masters degree in such fields as leadership and training; conflict analysis and management; human security and peacebuilding; environmental science; distributed learning (e-learning); applied communication and even an eight-month advanced corporate management certificate designed specifically for CF and RCMP learners (as students are called at RRU).

For example, the two-year MA in conflict analysis and management program provides graduates with both the theoretical and practical skills needed to identify, analyze and manage conflict in local, national and international settings.

To help peacekeepers solve problems in regions threatened by war or where conflict has already taken place, the MA in human security and peacebuilding is aimed at people involved in the provision of humanitarian aid, social reconstruction, and peacemaking or peacebuilding. The new skills are used to prevent further conflict and restore civil society in disrupted countries.

The new advanced corporate management certificate – which is accepting applications for a program launch in 2005 – is specially designed to give RCMP and military personnel the training and knowledge needed to make a successful transition to the corporate sector.

In most RRU programs, learners use the Internet to study and talk with professors and fellow students. E-learning, as it is called, is different from the typical distance university courses offered elsewhere, said Skinner. In addition to Internet-based studies, RRU uses interactive CD-ROMS, video and teleconferencing, and brief on-campus residences. In short, e-learning draws upon web resources, as well as more traditional print media, while also using dynamic online discussion groups to work toward electronic submission of assignments.

For military learners, tuition costs are defrayed by DND education grants through the Personal Enhancement Program, which provides $1,000 for every year of military service to a maximum of $20,000 (www.forces.gc.ca/ hr/pep).

The military is an appropriate fit for the university, says Skinner.

"By strengthening our connections with Department of National Defence, we're going back to our roots in a way," he said. "Many members of the forces received their initial training here when it was Royal Roads Military College and now we are as important to their advancing careers as the college was to their early ones."

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Fitness & Sports Page

17 Wing Curlers Capture Silver Medal

by MWO Paul Batchelor



(From left to right) Skip Cpl Julie Whyte, second MWO Paul Batchelor, third CWO Carl Meikle and lead Sgt Brigette Marley captured silver medal in regional curling championships.

For the second year in a row, the 17 Wing curling team captured the silver medal in the Prairie Regional Curling Championships, this year hosted by CFB Shilo from January 25-31.

Once again, 17 Wing had the only truly mixed team in this male-dominated event. The team, consisting of lead Sgt Brigette Marley, second MWO Paul Batchelor, third CWO Earl Meikle and skip Cpl Julie Whyte, quickly adjusted to the keen, yet tricky, ice conditions.

The team won the round robin competition by defeating Regina, Dundurn, Wainwright and Shilo. The only loss was at the hands of the Edmonton team.

In keeping with the Page Playoff System, 17 Wing faced CFB Shilo in the first-place Versus second-place game, where they lost an extremely close contest. As a result, Shilo advanced directly to the final, while 17 Wing defeated Edmonton (winners of the third-place Versus fourth-place game against Wainwright).

This set the stage for the final game between the two teams from Manitoba, which featured many great shots and just-enough misses to make for extremely entertaining curling. Unfortunately, at the completion of eleven ends, Shilo won the gold medal by a narrow 9-8 margin.

In the end, Shilo and 17 Wing Winnipeg faced each other for a total of 31 ends throughout the competition. Shilo had the final edge by merely one point - very evenly matched, indeed!

Julie, Earl, Paul and Brigette would like to extend sincere appreciation to Al Brazeau and his staff for their support, as well as the host committee for a job well-done.

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Military Family Resource Centre (204) 833-2500 Ext. 4500

As part of our ongoing workshop series: Op Portunities

Homeward Bound Reunion and Families

MFRC 102 Comet St.
26 February 04, 7pm

Now the deployment is over, what next?

Join us for an informative evening learning and sharing skills. Deployment is full of challenges for the parent and partner alike that don't go away just because your loved one comes home. Take this opportunity to strengthen your military family with ideas and tools that will help your family breeze through the reunion cycle of deployment. Bring your questions and concerns! Share your personal coping strategies or just drop in to relax & listen. Reunion specific resources for children and adults will be on hand to pick up. Childcare is available on request. For more information about this workshop, please call Catherine 4506 or Diane 4508.

MFRC Winnipeg - creating opportunities for strengthening your Military Family

De notre série d'ateliers Op -Portunités

Les familles et les retrouvailles.

CRFM, 102 rue Comet
26 février à 19h00

Le déploiement est finalement terminéÖ Et maintenant quoi faire?

Joignez-vous à nous pour une soirée d'information et de partage d'idées. Les déploiements sont remplis de défis pour les parents et les partenaires, qui ne s'estompent pas lorsque le conjoint est de retour. Prenez cette opportunité pour fortifier votre famille militaire avec des idées et des outils qui vous aideront à naviguer calmement à travers le cycle des retrouvailles lors de déploiements. Apportez vos questions et vos inquiétudes! Partagez vos stratégies personnelles! Ou venez seulement écouter et relaxer. Des ressources pour les enfants et les adultes concernant les retrouvailles seront disponibles sur place. Le service de garde est aussi disponible sur demande. Pour plus d'information à propos de cet atelier, contactez Catherine au poste 4506 ou Diane au poste 4508.

CRFM de Winnipeg - créateur d'opportunités pour enrichir votre famille militaire.

Join us in Celebrating

International Women's Day

On Monday evening we will be hosting a wine tasting event. Pot Luck appetizers, great wine and good friends, who could ask for anything more? Perhaps a movie? We will also be making distinctive wine charms for you to keep.

When: 8 March at 6:30
Where: MFRC, 102 Comet St.

Please register at 833-2500 ext 4500

9th Annual Women's Conference

12-13 March 2004

"Everything we need to know about life we learned in Kindergarten"
So, it's back to Kindergarten we go!

FRIDAY NIGHT – Show and Tell / Wine and Cheese Reception

SATURDAY – Gym Class: African Dance; Tae Bo; Belly Dancing and Hip Hop
Health Class: Geo Tran; Diet Myths; Nutrition for Your Body Type and Meditation
Arts & Crafts: Decoupage Watering Can; Painted Garden Pokes; Intro to Watercolour & Mosaic Tiles
Social Studies: The Magic of Digital Photography; Home Buying and Selling; Gardening in Manitoba and Transferable Job Skills

Come see us at the MFRC, 102 Comet St. and pick-up your brochure with all the details regarding the Women's Conference. Reserve your place now. Cost is only $40.
(Babysitting at our Childcare Centre is available at minimal fee.)

Show & Tell is a showcase of the many talents and activities in our community. If you would like to book a table for the Show & Tell session on Friday night, please stop by the MFRC to pick up your form and register for a table. Table rental is $25.

MFRC Contact List

You may reach the MFRC by dialing: (204) 833-2500 and enter the 4-digit local of the person you are trying to reach.

Administration	Mona Currie	4500
Teen Centre		4502
MFRC Library		4503
Executive Director	Don Brennan	4504
Deployment Services	C. Chatterley	4506
Volunteer Services	Nicole Johnson	4507
Youth/Adult Services	Diane Brine	4508
Information & Referral	Linda Belisle	4509
Children's Programs/ Emergency Childcare	W. Richardson	2491 or 6846
Employment Assistance	John Chabih	4511
Special Needs/ PIC Social Worker	Haley Schroeder	4512
Francophone Services	Louise Cameron	4515
Thunder Bay MFRC	Donna Hrycyszyn (807) 345-5116	

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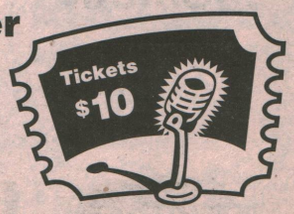
What can you do to transport your dirt bikes and snowmobiles to Shilo?

Would you like to stay at a five-star hotel during your move for the price you are budgeted for with IRPP? You can have a pool or Water Park to keep the kids occupied! A room with a crib, microwave and refrigerator and a babysitter in your hotel.

Call ...The Move Support Coordinator, Winnie Green at 471-4078.

Sisters of the Holy Rock Fundraiser

BACK BY POPULAR DEMAND! The Sisters of the Holy Rock will be performing on Friday, 16 April at 7:30 pm at the Base Theatre. Tickets go on sale now at the MFRC, 102 Comet Street. **Tickets are only $10.00 each,** so buy your tickets early! We were sold out for last year's performance. Purchase your tickets early and have your name entered in our early bird draw prize, which will be drawn on Friday 13 February 2004. Seating is not assigned and is on a first come rush seating.



For more information Call 833-2500 ext 4500

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Chaplains
Father Tim Nelligan
(Roman Catholic)
Office 833-2500
extension 5272

Father Terry Cherwick
(Ukrainian Catholic)
Office 833-2500
extension 5417

Father Ed Quao
Office: 833-2500
ext 6206

Secretary
Carol Cochrane
Office 833-2500 ext: 5087

Masses
(English only)
Sat 1630 hrs Sun:0900 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 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 the third Tue of the month at 1900 hrs in the Chapel Annex.

PROTESTANT

Chaplains
Padre Bob Brinn
(United Church)
Office 833-2500 ext 5349
Chaplain Lenora Grauer
(Evangelical Lutheran)
Office-833-2500 ext 5785
Padre Brad Busch
(Evangelical Lutheran)
Office 833-2500 ext 6022

Secretary
Carol Cochrane
Office 833-2500 ext. 5087

Sunday Services
English Only 1100 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 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 the WOps Duty Centre, 833-2700, or the 2 PPCLI Duty Centre, ph. 833-2727.

Other Phone Numbers
For your convenience, a phone number has been set up to provide callers with information on service times and contact with the chaplain of your choice. Phone 833-2500 ext. 6800 and follow the prompts.

From the Desk of the Wing Addictions Counsellor

A New Year: An Old Problem

By Bob Murphy, Wing Addictions Counsellor

Christmas and New Year's have come and gone -- resolutions made and broken -- same old, same old!! Was one of those resolutions to stop drinking (booze that is), smoking (pot that is), snorting (coke that is) or gambling, or any number of addictive or compulsive behaviours? Are any of these "activities" causing problems with your job, relationships, finances, health, or have legal implications such as a driving under intoxication violation? Do you feel guilty or remorseful over any of this stuff?

Yes?
Perhaps you need to talk to someone -- these problems can be overcome! I can help. Give me a call. Confidentiality respected.

Contact the Wing Addictions Counsellor:
Bob Murphy
833-2500 ext 5780 or 5086.

Interfaith Dialogue

Presentation on Judaism

Speaker: **Rabbi Alan Green**, Principal Rabbi,
Shaarey Zedek Conservative Egalitarian Synagogue

17 Wing Community Chapel Annex
(2235 Silver Avenue, off Whytewold Blvd.)

Wednesday, February 25, 2004
0730 – 0830 hours

Muffins with Tea, Coffee or Juice will be served at 0700 hours

A silver collection gratefully accepted to defray costs.

No tickets, but please either sign the list in the chapel or call the Wing Chaplain's Office 833-2500 (5087) if you are interested in attending.

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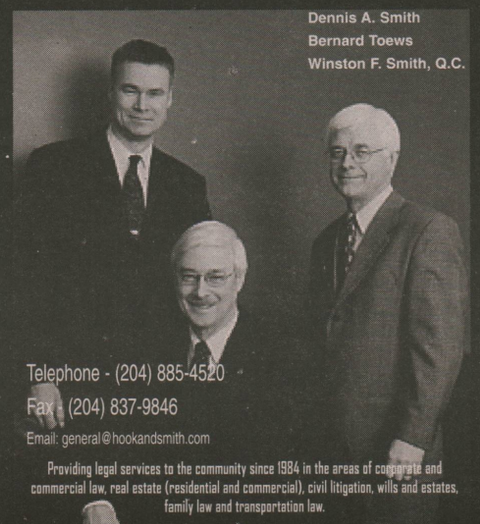

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CLASSIFIEDS

To place a classified at in our next issue call 833-2500 ext. 6976 or e-mail us at voxair@mts.net.

Cleaners & Supervisors Wanted

Full-time and part-time; Cleaners $10.00 per hour; Supervisors $12.00 per hr; Must be experienced & bondable.

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Playstructure by Little Tykes "Wave Climber". Like new. Two levels with slide, appropriate for ages 3 and up. Asking $125. Phone 888-4526.

2000 Ford F150 XLT, V-6, 5 Spd, Reg Cab, Only 60,000 KM Loaded, in exc. cond. great deal at $13,800 OBO. Call Bob at 292-1763 days or 885-7345 evngs.

Misc. Computer Equipment 15" Monitor, 156 megs ram, 32 bit virtual memory, 2 harddrives: 5 gigs and 20 gigs, keyboard & mouse. Asking $400 OBO. Call Linda at 897-3747

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Call Jamie at 489-9652

Newly Licensed Home Daycare in St. James is now accepting children aged 24 months to 12 years. Call Kristine: 885-4061

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Phone: 885-5700

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TAROSCOPES

By Nancy

For appointments call 775-8368

ARIES (March 21 - April 19): Your health is an issue, but don't add to the problem by worrying excessively. Reconnect with someone you thought was out of the picture. It will keep your mind occupied elsewhere. You're finally getting news from afar. Slow down, take time for yourself.

TAURUS (April 20 - May 20): Curb the excesses in your life and you'll find your energy returning. Practice being present in the moment in order to clearly understand and identify when positive and negative situations are occurring. Consider the realities of others and how they affect you.

GEMINI (May 21 - June 21): Just because you are honest, logical and tackle issues promptly, doesn't mean things always work out as hoped. Sometimes people don't want to cooperate or compromise. Foster an inner confidence in your own actions and decisions to alleviate feelings of uncertainly.

CANCER (June 22 - July 22): Creature comforts have a cost. Careful you don't over extend yourself or commit to more than you bargained for. Read the fine print and consider less lavish plans that would be equally appealing. A crisis could arise if you don't pay attention to your health and wellness.

LEO (July 23 - August 22): You want to connect with others but what you say and what you do aren't in sync. You're confusing people. Keen to play the rebel role, you're stuck as much as those who are more conservative. Respect yourself by being the real you, which is a mix of many attitudes and energies.

VIRGO (August 23 - September 22): Feeling like you can finally relax. A payoff down the road appears guaranteed. Prepare answers ahead of time, as you'll be challenged on some of your statements. Personally research any cause you commit to instead of basing your enthusiasm on another's testimony.

LIBRA (September 23 - October 23): Evaluate emotional commitments. The honeymoon is over and you need to determine if reality meets your needs. A love relationship shouldn't be judged against past relationships or relationships of people you admire. Be fair. Recognize that you are part of the equation.

SCORPIO (October 24 - November 21): Doing mundane tasks can keep your mind off worries. Put off decisions until you've collected more information. You're finally successful in getting others to open up to you, but their revelations may not meet with your expectations. Be prepared to hide your surprise.

SAGITARIUS (November 22 - December 21): When you offer solace to someone who appears to be in a similar situation to yourself their unwillingness to follow your lead may leave you thinking they don't appreciate your advice. Don't take it personally. Your solutions aren't workable for them.

CAPRICORN (December 22 - January 19): Written messages aren't serving you well. Personal communication is necessary when building relationships. Take the time to get to know people and gradually share details about yourself. People skills gained can be used in other areas of your life.

AQUARIUS (January 20 - February 18): Feeling unappreciated and overlooked, however this could be due to your giving only a half-hearted effort. Holding back and conserving your energy isn't bringing the results you'd hoped for. Risking failure brings success.

PISCES (February 19 - March 20): Worrying about money won't improve the situation now or later. Unexpected costs always crop up. Try brainstorming on ways to increase your income instead of finding ways to save. Promote yourself and your skills. Network and meet people currently working in your field.

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