



The MOCCASIN

The Moccasin is published by the Ranger Foundation to raise awareness of actions and efforts by individuals and organizations that support the Foundation's objectives.

CANADIAN JUNIOR RANGERS 25TH FOUNDING ANNIVERSARY AT KUUJJUAQ, QUEBEC

*Submitted by: Major Dexter Ruiz-Laing,
Deputy Commanding Officer, 2nd Canadian Ranger Patrol Group (2 CRPG)*



Group picture of the participants of the Winter National Training Session for Junior Rangers accompanied by the Governor General, Her Excellency Mary May Simon at Kuujjuaq on Jan 13th 2024.

Pictures by MCpl Duchesne-Beaulieu

To celebrate the 25th anniversary of the Canadian Junior Rangers, the 2nd Canadian Rangers Patrol Group (2 CRPG) hosted the Winter National Training Session for Junior Rangers from across the country. Although it took more than a year to plan and prepare, this event took place from the 10th to the 14th of January 2024.

The Junior Rangers flew in from all the corners of the Canadian provinces and territories to Canadian Forces Base (CFB) Valcartier, Québec, on the 10th of January 2024. The staff from the 2nd CRPG were ready to welcome and entertain their guests with various activities. While waiting for all the Canadian Ranger Patrol Groups to arrive, the personnel in CFB Valcartier hosted cohesion and team-building games to break the ice between the Junior Rangers from different regions.

On the 11th of January 2024, the 2nd CRPG personnel from Valcartier along with all the guests from around Canada, notably the Commander of the 2nd Canadian Division and Joint Task Force East Commanding General, Brigadier General Dave Abboud, loaded up on a plane headed towards Kuujjuaq, Nunavik. In Kuujjuaq, the Junior Rangers from various patrols from within the 2nd CRPG were awaiting the arrival of their brothers and sisters from other CRPG's. Kuujjuaq was the home of one of the first three Junior Canadian Ranger patrols having been created 25 years ago.



Junior Canadian Rangers from the 3rd and 5th Canadian Ranger Patrol Groups participated at a Tug of war game à CFB Valcartier on Jan 10th 2024.

The following day, the JCRs took part in various outdoor activities in two different plateaus. The first plateau was a Commander's Challenge, where the Junior Rangers competed in various activities where they were timed and scored and received rewards in accordance with their performance. The second plateau was more of a learning experience where the Junior Rangers were taught how to build shelters in the tundra and they also had the opportunity to fish through the ice. The Governor General, Her Excellency Mary Simon, who grew up in Kuujuaq, honoured the event with her presence and took the time to visit the Junior Rangers and talk to the locals.

January 13th was the closing ceremony for the 25th anniversary of the Junior Rangers. The day started with a ceremony to hand out the medals for the performance of the Junior Rangers on the Commander's Challenge, followed by cultural performances and various speeches from the guests that ended with a group picture. During the cultural performance of Peter Nasak, a local artist, the crowd instantaneously stood up, created a dance floor and proceeded to dance to the rhythm, truly a beautiful sight to see. After the closing ceremony was finished, the Junior Rangers and their instructors that came from all around Canada, loaded up on planes and returned to CFB Valcartier.

January 14th, 2024, was the last day of the Winter National Training Session for Junior Rangers. They were given the opportunity to visit Québec City, the heart of the province of Québec. Some groups went to the Citadelle to see the museum, others went shopping for souvenirs and take part in activities that were open to the public. For supper, the Junior Rangers went to a local Sugar Shack, tasted various cultural foods and danced to folk music. The next day the Junior Rangers said their farewells to their new friends and flew back to their own remote communities all across Canada.



Junior Canadian Rangers participated on outdoor competitive activities during the 25th anniversary of the Canadian Junior Rangers in Kuujuaq on Jan 12th 2024.



The Canadian Junior Rangers participated on outdoor activities in the city of Quebec on Jan 14th 2024.



The Canadian Junior Rangers visited a sugar shack during the celebrations of the 25th anniversary of the Canadian Junior Rangers on Jan 14th 2024.

The Winter National Training Session for Junior Rangers commemorating the 25th anniversary of the Canadian Junior Ranger program was a great success and the participants loved the experience. The Junior Rangers made bonds and memories that will last for a lifetime.

Article by Capt M. Faiz, Regional Commander, Northern Region, 2 CRPG



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SOLDIERS TRADE BOOTS FOR ICE SKATES



Winners of the 8th Annual Ranger Cup, The Royal Regiment of Canada.

*By Captain Kevin Anderson
The Royal Regiment of Canada*

On April 8th, soldiers from 32 Canadian Brigade Group took to the ice at Canlan Sports Complex at York University to battle for the coveted Ranger Cup. The eighth annual tournament, held in support of 3rd Canadian Ranger Patrol Group, returned for the first time since 2019 due to COVID-19. More than one hundred soldiers laced up their skates to represent regimental teams and the brigade headquarters.

The tournament was won by The Royal Regiment of Canada. The hard-fought championship game saw the Royals narrowly defeat the Toronto Scottish Regiment in a shootout, with a final score of 3-2.

Colonel John McEwen, Commander of 32 Canadian Brigade Group was on hand to watch the spirited competition. Colonel McEwen observed that “the Ranger Cup is a fantastic opportunity for soldiers to participate in an extra-curricular activity outside of their day-to-day jobs which develops unit pride and helps soldiers become more engaged with their units and the Canadian Armed Forces.”

Tournament MVP, Corporal William Salnek of The Royal Regiment of Canada, agreed that “the tournament is a great boost to morale. The games get a little heated and the competition is tough but in the end, we’re all on the same team – after the tournament we all go back to working together in the Canadian Army.”

Another highlight of the annual hockey tournament is the Skills Competition, in which representatives from each team vie for bragging rights as the top skilled player. This year's competition, which included a fastest skater contest and a penalty shot competition, was won by Highlander Zach Power, of the 48th Highlanders of Canada.

In addition to building esprit de corps within the brigade, the tournament also supports the 3rd Canadian Ranger Patrol Group. Regiments participating in the Ranger Cup were encour-

aged to collect hockey equipment that was then donated to the Rangers to be distributed to children in remote northern communities.

"I'm very proud of my soldiers", said Lieutenant-Colonel Peter Martinis, Commanding Officer of The Royal Regiment of Canada and tournament organizer. "This is the first time the Royals have won the tournament and we look forward to defending our title next year. The competition will be fierce but I know we'll be up for the challenge."



Col McEwen presents the Skills Competition Award to Zach Power of the 48th Highlanders of Canada.



Col McEwen presents Tournament MVP Award to Cpl Salnek of The Royal Regiment of Canada.

Photo credits: Cpl Ryan Surphlis, R Regt C, Capt Kevin Anderson, R Regt C



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39 CBG COMMISSION COUGAR PATCH FOR THEIR UNIFORMS IN SUPPORT OF RECONCILIATION



Col Scott Raesler, 39 CBG Commander and Her Honour Janet Austin, BC LGov.

Ahead of the National Day for Truth and Reconciliation on September 30, 2021 the B.C. Lions unveiled a stylized version of their logo designed by an Indigenous artist. The logo was designed by Corrine Hunt, who co-designed the medals at the 2010 Olympic Winter Games. 39CBG PAFO Capt Kaine it would be great if Ms Hunt would do the same thing with our Cougar design on the 39CBG patch.

Capt Kaine reached out to Ms Hunt by email and had many conversations with her over the phone on how the Brigade wanted to support the Reconciliation activities by wearing her art as a new patch and also providing it as possible gifts for dignitaries and awards.

She really loved the idea and over a couple of months she produced the artwork.

Then it was time to pay Ms. Hunt. Capt Kaine reached out to HLCol Bill Diamond to ask for his help in raising the funds. He in turn reached out to HLCol John Newman for some guidance and they agreed this would be a nice project for Canada Company to support. So they approached Blake Goldring, Chairman and Founder of Canada Company, and HLCol George Salamis who is also the BC Chair for Canada Company. With the help of the BC Regiment (DCO) Association ownership and all rights of the artwork was transferred and the artist paid.

*Bill Diamond
HLCol
The BC Regiment (DCO)*

HLCol Bill Diamond awards replicas of the Cougar Patch



Canadian Army Commander LGen Jocelyn Paul and HLCol Bill Diamond



Blake Goldring, Founder and Chairman of Canada Company, and HLCol John B. Newman of the Ranger Foundation



HCol of the Canadian Army Paul Hindo with HLCol Bill Diamond



HLCol John B. Newman of 3 CRPG and HLCol Bill Diamond



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ABORIGINAL VETERANS AT ANNUAL ABORIGINAL REMEMBRANCE DAY



RSM Morrison and Sgt George



Sgt George

CWO Mike Morrison, RSM 39 Service Battalion and Sgt Darcy George, 39 Signal Regiment, were awarded handmade Star Quilts in a traditional star quilt ceremony during the Vancouver Aboriginal Veterans Day Ceremony at Victory Square, 8 November 2022, organized and coordinated by elder Kelly White (Musqueam and Snuneymuxw First Nations).

By Dan Thomas, CD



HLCol Derral Moriyama (39 Signal Regiment) and HLCol Bill Diamond (The BC Regiment)



Above: Musqueam and Snuneymuxw First Nations

Left: A proud veteran wearing her Star Quilt



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PLAQUE UNVEILED AT BASE BORDEN HQ HONOURING 75 YEARS OF CANADIAN RANGER SERVICE



Representatives from various levels of government and the armed forces celebrated 75 years of Canadian Ranger service at Base Borden where a commemorative plaque, donated by the Ranger Foundation, was unveiled at the Ontario home of the 3rd Canadian Ranger Patrol Group (3 CRPG) on September 20.

The plaque unveiling was the culmination of a monumental 13-day canoe trip that married annual Canadian Ranger training with public outreach as part of 75th anniversary celebrations. Known as Exercise Ranger Tracker 22, the voyage from Parry Sound to Ottawa from September 4 to 17 saw approximately 32 3 CRPG Canadian Rangers travel through the Trent-Severn Waterway and the Rideau Canal in nine large, motorized freighter canoes as they practiced water navigation and safe watercraft operation drills.

3 CRPG Commanding Officer LtCol Shane McArthur said both events were held to educate and highlight the unique life-saving work Rangers routinely conduct.

Canadian Rangers are part-time army reservists who serve in remote, isolated and coastal communities, with most in Ontario located above the 50th parallel. In total, there are 600 Rangers in 29 First Nation communities operating in Ontario. This year a host of national events were held across the country to recognize the creation of the Canadian Rangers in 1947 who were first stood-up in British Columbia.

So far this year, members have participated in 17 ground search-and-rescue missions, rescuing 23 people, including two stranded truckers on an ice road, an injured Attawapiskat First Nation snowmobiler and two young hunters whose ATVs broke down, leaving them stranded about 100 kilometres away from their communities.

The canoe expedition was greeted by well-wishers as they traversed waterway locks in various communities, including Orillia, Peterborough and Kingston, before ending in Ottawa. A total of 94 waterway locks were traversed.

"A lot of people have never seen anything like it. It was an educational experience. I am very pleased. We did an education piece to a lot of people," said LtCol McArthur.

For many Rangers, living in isolated First Nation communities including Fort Albany and Peawanuck, it was their first time visiting southern cities, while

navigating unfamiliar water reinforced their basic Ranger skills.

"Exercise Ranger Tracker 2022 was an amazing experience travelling in the southern waters and seeing how old the lift-locks are and the mechanisms used for boats to travel up and down. It was part of a water world that you don't see, and don't realize you can discover in Ontario," said Ranger Sgt Jocelyne Sutherland who resides in Fort Albany.

Before the plaque was revealed, about 200 guests were treated to traditional First Nation dance performed by Canadian Ranger Master Corporal Redfern Wesley, sacred prayers, and a smudge, where sage and sweetgrass is burned to purify body and spirit. The event kicked off with the singing of O Canada in Ojibwe.

"There are five groups across Canada celebrating the 75th, with the national event held in Victoria, B.C. in May. This is our Ontario event to recognize 75 years. It was two-fold to mark the end of Exercise Ranger Tracker 2022 and to commemorate the 75th year of the Canadian Ranger with a plaque at our headquarters," said LtCol McArthur.

The plaque was unveiled in the presence of the 4th Canadian Division Commander BGen Josh Major, Commanding Officer LtCol Shane McArthur, HLCol John B. Newman, and GSM Jim Currier.

The ceremony also paid tribute to 3 CRPG's oldest active member, Sgt Peter Moon, who is retiring at the end of October at the age of 88. After a long and successful career as a reporter at The Globe and Mail, Moon served for decades as 3 CRPG's Public Affairs representative, travelling across northern Ontario to cover the numerous events and training activities for 3 CRPG.

"We gave Peter a ceremonial, decorated Canadian Ranger axe. It is a rare honour. The axe is for exceptional, long-serving members," said LtCol McArthur.

3 CRPG is based at Canadian Forces Base Borden near Barrie and is staffed by military personnel and army instructors who travel regularly to northern Ontario to train Canadian Rangers.

Photo Credits

Capt Camilo Olea, 3 CRPG

Marie Claire Ouellette, Managing Director for Canada Company

Peter Moon

Jean Miso

EXERCISE RANGER TRACKER 2022

Parry Island Departure Ceremony September 4, 2022



EXERCISE RANGER TRACKER 2022

Parry Island Departure Ceremony September 4, 2022



EXERCISE RANGER TRACKER 2022

Parry Island Departure Ceremony September 4, 2022



EXERCISE RANGER TRACKER 2022

Parry Island Departure Ceremony September 4, 2022



EXERCISE RANGER TRACKER 2022

The Voyage



EXERCISE RANGER TRACKER 2022

The Voyage



EXERCISE RANGER TRACKER 2022

Ottawa Finale



EXERCISE RANGER TRACKER 2022

Ottawa Finale



EXERCISE RANGER TRACKER 2022

Ottawa Finale



EXERCISE RANGER TRACKER 2022

Ottawa Finale



EXERCISE RANGER TRACKER 2022

Ottawa Finale



75TH ANNIVERSARY OF CANADIAN RANGERS CELEBRATED AT 3CRPG HEADQUARTERS, CFB BORDEN



75TH ANNIVERSARY OF CANADIAN RANGERS CELEBRATED AT 3CRPG HEADQUARTERS, CFB BORDEN



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75TH ANNIVERSARY OF CANADIAN RANGERS CELEBRATED AT 3CRPG HEADQUARTERS, CFB BORDEN





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THE RANGER FOUNDATION AND ST JOHN AMBULANCE ONTARIO PROVIDE FIRST AID KITS TO 5 CRPG JUNIOR CANADIAN RANGERS



GANDER, NL – The Junior Canadian Rangers (JCR) of 5 CRPG, have been issued St. John's Ambulance basic first aid kits, donated by St John Ambulance Ontario. Each kit includes a "how to" pamphlet, and are easily carried by the JCR in their pockets during training. Kits have been distributed to JCR from northern and remote communities across Newfoundland and Labrador, including Churchill Falls, Cartwright, Port Hope Simpson, St. Lewis, L'anse Aux Loup, Forteau and Conne River.

Photo Credits

MWO William Molloy, Cpl Anne Gould, 5 CRPG

On 16 April, 5 CRPG HCol M'isel Joe, from Miawpukek First Nation (Conne River NL), presented local JCRs with St. John Ambulance first aid kits that were facilitated by 3 CRPG HLCol John Newman.



*5 CRPG HCol M'isel Joe and
local JCRs holding their First Aid kits*



*5 CRPG HCol M'isel Joe with
Sgt Delaney Benoit of
MFN Conne River JCR Patrol*



For more information contact:

Captain David Tracey, Public Affairs Tel: (705) 220-1166 Email: David.Tracey@forces.gc.ca

Visit Canada.ca at Junior Canadian Rangers for further information about the Junior Canadian Ranger program



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CANADIAN AUTHOR TRANSCRIBES CREE STORY THAT COULD HAVE BEEN LOST FOR THE NEXT GENERATION



Jean Miso with her book "The Rainbow" at the Indigenous Legacy Gathering in Nathan Phillips Square, Toronto, with the Birchill Equity Partners and Our Children's Medicine teepee in the background.

By Michelle Payot, Blog TO

The National Day for Truth and Reconciliation is a national holiday that recognizes and commemorates our country's legacy of Residential Schools and the treatment of Indigenous peoples in Canada.

Although many tried to erase their history, Indigenous cultures, globally and in Canada, should be something to platform, celebrate and learn about.

Canadian author Jean Miso wants to do just that, and has created a book that retells a story that was only passed down through generations by word of mouth.

James "Smokey" Tomkins, who is Métis, is the keeper of *The Rainbow*. The story explains how the Great Spirit created a balance within our world's ecosystem.

As he was dying of cancer, Tomkins approached Miso and told her she would be the best person to retell the story so it would live on.

Jean was the first person James told the story to in English so she could write the book. She then had the story translated back into Cree so that Cree learners could learn their language.

The Rainbow not only retells the story in English but also has the story written in Cree syllabic and Roman orthography, which uses letters from the English alphabet to represent Cree language sounds.

She also made a Youtube video so that readers could listen and follow along with the book.

Miso believes that we should be honouring the people who were here before us and the keepers of our beautiful land. With this book, Jean wants to raise awareness of Indigenous culture and help make their lives a little bit better.

Proceeds of *The Rainbow* and her other books are donated to veteran and Indigenous charities.

Photos by Fareen Karim



Alex Robinson from Bank of Nova Scotia, Floyd Powder, a retired Métis soldier from Yellowknife, and John Newman from the Ranger Foundation.



Event banner hung at City Hall square.



Teepees in the square.



Fundraising for Our Children's Medicine.



Chloe Wasicuna, a volunteer and Krystal Di Marca, Manager of Partnerships with Our Children's Medicine.



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THE CANADIAN RANGER 75TH ANNIVERSARY (CR 75) COMMEMORATIVE COIN



Fig. 1 CR75 coin obverse



Fig. 2 CR75 coin reverse

When planning started in earnest for CR75, the Honorary Lieutenant Colonels (HLCols), there is one appointed to each Canadian Ranger Patrol Group (CRPG), consulted to think about how they could contribute to this significant historic milestone. We knew that the CAF would fund what it could to make the anniversary a success, but a commemorative coin is normally not purchased from public funds.

HLCol John Newman of 3CRPG took the lead; in conjunction with The Ranger Foundation and St John Ambulance, he was able to secure the necessary non-public funding. Some further consultation among the HLCols gave us the elegant design you see depicted in Fig. 1 & 2. Logistical support for the procurement and production of the 5,000 coins was accomplished by a team from 3CRPG led by Major Tom Bell.

The head (obverse) of the coin depicts the identifying badge worn by all members of CRPGs along with the CR motto "Vigilans".

The tail (reverse) of the coin celebrates the completion of the first 75 years of service of the Corps of Canadian Rangers (CCR).

The intent is that every CR serving on 23 May 2022 will receive one of these coins. 5,000 coins were struck based on the requests of the CRPG Commanding Officers (COs) with a small surplus to allow the CCR to honour associated VIPs. Recipients of this coin include: Her Excellency, Governor General Mary May Simon; the Minister of National Defence, Anita Anand; the Chief of the Defence Staff, General Wayne Eyre; Commander, Canadian Army; and the four Division Commanders who have CRPGs under their command.

Drafted by:

Major General E.S. Fitch, OMM, MSM, CD (retired)

*Honorary Lieutenant Colonel,
4 Canadian Ranger Patrol Group*

26Aug22



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St. John Ambulance

August 2022



EAGLE FEATHER



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CAMP LOON 2022 - AN OUTSIDER'S VIEW

I was invited to train Junior Rangers (an organization of mostly indigenous teens) in first aid at a camp run by the military in northern Ontario. I did not know what to expect. Would this be a Boy and Girl Scout survival camp with marching and saluting?

I couldn't have been more wrong! Camp Loon was the summer camp I wish I'd had. Activities included boating, archery, arts and crafts, air rifle, ATV driving and of course, first aid. All of them run by the military and Rangers in a laid-back, kid friendly atmosphere.

Free time activities included pickup volleyball, swimming, and the most popular, paintball.

Looking deeper, it was more than just a summer camp. The Canadian Rangers are not regular military, but an organization to help handle emergencies in indigenous communities. They assist in search and rescue, fire and flood evacuations, and even with organizing inoculations during COVID. The kids' fun-time activities could become life-saving skills.

Some of these teens had come from challenging backgrounds. The camp exposed them to the positive role models of the experienced Rangers and soldiers, fun police officers (who ran the archery and paintball) and to a world of experiences they may never have otherwise enjoyed.

A lot of the kids discovered a road to better things. The first day one twelve-year old was crying for home. By day three they still missed home, but said it was important for them to be exposed to more life experiences than just video games.





One Junior Ranger refused to take off their heavy sweater, hoodie and hat, despite extremely hot weather. They had body image issues. By the end of the week they were wearing t-shirts and bathing suits, and actually smiling.

I spoke at length with another Junior Ranger who had given up on their ambitions because they'd been mocked for them. I believe the camp renewed their hopes.

One Junior Ranger approached me after class. Their father had been diagnosed with heart trouble and they wanted extra coaching in recognizing and reacting to heart attacks.

At Camp Loon, I went from being an outsider to becoming part of a team that had an instant positive effect on several lives.

Furthermore, it has had a positive and fulfilling effect on my life.

by Dan MacQuain, St. John Ambulance First Aid Instructor



Dan MacQuain with Honorary Lieutenant Colonel John Newman, who donated fanny pack first aid kits presented to each Junior Ranger at Camp Loon.

Photo credit: Captain Camilo Olea / 3CRPG



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CANADIAN RANGER CORPS STOOD UP DURING RANGER 75 CELEBRATION



Her Excellency the Governor General inspects the 100 CR Guard of Honour. Minister of Defence, Anita Anand, and Chief of the Defence Staff, General Wayne Eyré in the background.

*By Major-General (ret.) Ed Fitch OMM, MSM, CD
Honorary Lieutenant-Colonel 4th Canadian Ranger
Patrol Group*

Canadian Ranger 75th Anniversary (CR75)

It is particularly appropriate that the premier event of the Canadian Rangers 75th anniversary was held in BC since that is where their WWII predecessors, the Pacific Coast Militia Rangers (PCMR) were raised in 1942 to detect and oppose any Japanese invasion. The PCMR reached a strength of approximately

15,000 volunteers before being disbanded at war's end in 1945. Two years later, on 23 May 1947, a Privy Council order stated: "Pursuant to the provisions of the Militia Act, His Excellency, The Governor-in-Council authorizes the formation of the Canadian Rangers to be a corps of the Reserve Militia not exceeding in total numbers 5,000 officers and soldiers. The organization, composition and duties of the Canadian Rangers shall be as may be laid down from time to time by the Minister."



Her Excellency the Governor General inspects the Guard of Honour.

Large parts of the history of the Canadian Rangers can be characterized as “out of sight, out of mind”. They are little known in the southern, populous regions of Canada. The 75th anniversary is being leveraged as an opportunity to help southern Canadians better understand and value the Canadian Rangers. The Canadian Army designated Fiscal Year 2022/2023 as “The Year of the Canadian Ranger”. The five CRPGs are conducting commemorative events throughout the year, in their respective regions. Canadian Rangers will be featured on Hockey Night in Canada and the 2022 Army Run will be Canadian Ranger-themed. The inaugural National event of the anniversary year was the Canadian Ranger Rendez-Vous (RV75), over the May long weekend when Canadian Rangers from all five groups assembled at Camp Albert Head, near Victoria, BC to train together, to march in the Victoria Day parade, and to provide the honour guard to Her Excellency, the Governor General of Canada.

Canadian Ranger Rendez-Vous (RV75)

The weekend started with the host unit, 4CRPG, receiving CRs, JCRs and RIs from all five CRPGs. Just getting there was half the fun for many members coming from the most remote locations across this wide country. The Friday reception day, included a full day council of the five CRPG commanding officers, their Group Sergeant-Major and the Group Honorary Lieutenant-Colonels. The newly appointed Army Staff, Director of Canadian Rangers (DCR),

Colonel Benoit Mainville, and DCR SM CWO Mike Egan also participated.

The Saturday and Sunday were used to rotate the 80 training participants (including 15 from the Australian Regional Force Surveillance Group here on a unit exchange) through four training stands professionally prepared by the host 4CRPG. Divided into syndicates, each participant experienced training on the employment of helicopters, all-terrain vehicles, boats, and horses. It is quite probable that some participants had never been on a horse before, and others may never have been on salt water!

Saturday evening there was a campfire with singing by Honorary Canadian Ranger, Jean Miso (3CRPG), some mental health coaching, a chance to get a closeup look at the Eagle Staff, and opportunities for CRs from the length and breadth of Canada to meet each other in an informal setting. The Sunday evening was given over to parade rehearsals including learning how to present arms with the new C19 rifle, something that had never been done before.

On the Monday morning, the Canadian Rangers, in honour of the CR 75th anniversary, formed the lead marching contingent in the four-kilometer Victoria Day Parade in downtown Victoria. I can tell you that it was a thrill to see all those red hoodies come into view with the Naden Band playing the Corps of Canadian Rangers newly approved march past, “Vigilans”, and with the Eagle Staff in the forefront.



Her Excellency Governor General Mary May Simon speaks with a member of the CR Guard of Honour.

75th Anniversary Commemorative Ceremony

After a quick return to Albert Head for lunch, more parade rehearsals, awarding of the CR75 commemorative coin, and group photographs, the contingent re-embarked on the busses to return to Victoria and Government House, home of the B.C. Lieutenant Governor. Once there, the 100-Canadian Ranger Guard of Honour formed up on the grass, once again led by the Eagle Staff, ready to receive Governor General Mary May Simon. The Governor General has a special connection with Corps of Canadian Rangers since her own father, Bob May, was one of the first Canadian Rangers serving in Canada's far north.

What a thrill it was to see Her Excellency approach the Guard, wearing her Canadian Ranger uniform of red hoodie and red ball cap. We noted that her cap was resplendent in gold braid, as befits the Commander-in-Chief of the Canadian Armed Forces.

The audience for this historic event included the Lieutenant Governor of BC, the Minister of National Defence, the Chief of Defence Staff, CJOC Commander, Commander, Canadian Army, senior

Army staff, all four Canadian Division Commanders, MARPAC Commander, Representatives of First Nations, Inuit and Métis, and many other dignitaries. The ceremony commenced with general, ministerial, and royal salutes including a 21-gun salute provided by 5th (British Columbia) Field Artillery Regiment, RCA. During the inspection, it looked like Her Excellency had kind words for each one of the 100 Canadian Rangers on parade. That made for a very long inspection and personal moments never-to-be forgotten. Following the inspection, the common theme of the speeches was the vital work being done by Canadian Rangers every day, in the far reaches of this vast country.

Her Excellency presented camp flags and pennants to the CO, GSM, and HLCOL of each of the CRPGs. After the ceremony, The CR Guard of Honour and dignitaries were invited into Government House where they were hosted to a reception by Lieutenant-Governor Austin.

Photo credits:

Captain Natasha Tersigni /4CRPG

Captain Camilo Olea /3CRPG



Her Excellency the Governor General with the 100 Canadian Ranger Guard of Honour, Lieutenant Governor of British Columbia, Janet Austin and other dignitaries.



Flanked by JCR assistants to the Governor General for the presentation: HLCol John Newman, GSM Jim Carrier, Her Excellency the Governor General, and CO Shane McArthur.



Canadian Rangers march in Victoria.



Canadian Rangers practice safe use of ATVs.



Helicopter rescue landing.



Horses in support of Canadian Rangers.



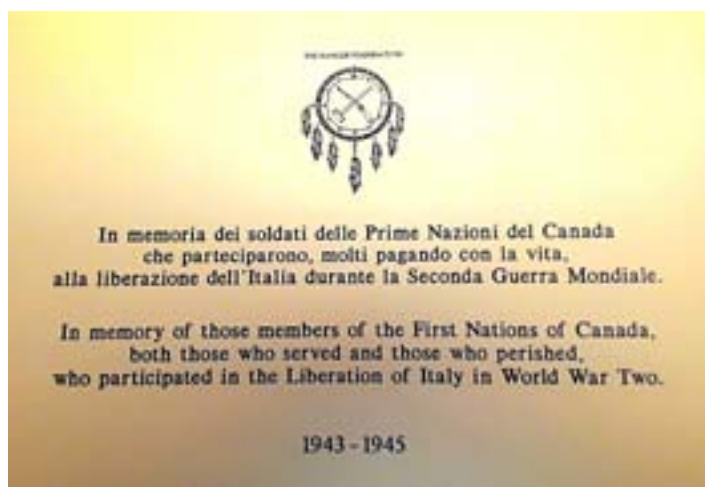
Using small boats in the Salish Sea.



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LIEUTENANT-GENERAL JOCELYN PAUL VISITS ORTONA'S CANADIAN HEROES SQUARE AND THE PRICE OF PEACE MONUMENT



Lieutenant - General Jocelyn Paul at the plaque in honour of the First Nations soldiers, installed at the base of the Price of Peace monument with the kind permission of Leo Castiglione, Mayor of Ortona.

(photo credit: Line Bacon)

On the 10th of November, Lieutenant-General Jocelyn Paul, currently Deputy Commander of JFC Naples and the highest ranking Indigenous officer in CAF, visited Ortona with his wife and

NATO team. Prior to Ortona's November 11th Remembrance Day ceremony, he wanted to visit some of the historic sites of the long and bloody Battle of Ortona, December 1943.



Lieutenant-General Jocelyn Paul, Line Bacon, and Angela Arnone at the Moro Cemetery just outside Ortona proper where Lieutenant - General Paul participated in the November 11, 2021 Remembrance Day ceremony. 1,375 Canadian fallen soldiers are at rest in this location. During the ceremony the names of 12 First Nations and Métis soldiers were acknowledged and honoured.
(photo credit: Paolo Di Deo)

Accompanied by Angela Arnone, who is the agent for the Three Rivers Regiment Ortona Veterans and a long time Ortona resident, the delegation first viewed the crossing points of the River Moro from Sant'Apollinare, then proceeded on to

Casa Beradi. Here the General was able to view The Gully, which was finally taken by the Royal 22nd Regiment (the Van Doos - General Paul's Regiment) and then visited other locations, leading up to the Battle of Ortona itself.

by Angela Arnone



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FRIENDS OF DENNIS FRANKLIN CROMARTY (DFC) HIGH SCHOOL EXTEND SUPPORT



In response to the COVID-19 pandemic The students of Dennis Franklin Cromarty (DFC) High School include over 100 teens from 23 remote, northern, fly-in First Nations communities located across Ontario's northwest quadrant.

Their dedication to earning their high school diplomas requires them to live throughout their teen years with strangers in boarding houses located far to the south in Thunder Bay, missing their families, friends, homes, and traditions.

DFC's students have many allies who care and want them to succeed, though they have not met in person.

After the year of distanced learning, on seeing the school's list of most-needed items for the Fall 2021 return to onsite classes, many volunteers and organizations came together to quickly obtain and provide these items to help remove barriers to education.

Participants involved organizations and volunteers located throughout Ontario, including Pickering Legion, Pickering Rotary Club, Robin Hood Army Canada, Richmond Hill United Church, Honouring Indigenous People (H.I.P.), Global Medic, Thunder Bay Walmart, Thunder



Bay Rotary, Sleep Country Canada, St. John's Ambulance, Knights of Malta, Costco, Birch Hill Equity Partners, Drewry Secondary School, Tippet Richardson Pickering.

Volunteers and organizations located from Hamilton to Cobourg and Belleville, worked throughout hot days and nights in August to share the word, arrange for donations, and send/pick up items, then helpers worked while masked and distanced at the Pickering Legion Hall to unpack, sort, log, and re-pack, large shipments of donated, requested items.

H.I.P. arranged and paid for shipping services via Trucks for Change, provided by Gardewine Group LP Trucking to bring 8 large pallets or skids 4'x4', of 127 big cartons of donated goods weighing 7,000 lb., from Pickering Legion to DFC School in Thunder Bay.

Global Medic with the benefit of a special \$4,000 grant worked with Walmart Thunder Bay

and with Thunder Bay Rotary Club to pick up and deliver to the school dozens of cartons of additional requested items for the students.

This year students returning to DFC have a good supply of new pillows, comforters and blankets, sheets, winter mitts and toques, backpacks, school supplies, first aid kits, lip balms, ointments and bandages, an array of personal care items including hairbrushes, combs, shampoo and other haircare products, soap, deodorant, nail clippers, dental floss, toothbrushes, toothpaste, gift cards, and PPE including masks, gloves, and hand sanitizer for the duration of the pandemic.

Sean Spenrath, DFC's Director of Student Success, confirmed that the combined efforts of these allies has made a difference to welcoming the students back to in person classes in Thunder Bay and contributing to the success of this school year at DFC.

Written by Kathryn McBey



The MOCCASIN

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VANCOUVER'S NATIONAL ABORIGINAL VETERANS DAY CEREMONY SOLDIERS ON



Left to right: Paul Lee (purple beret), HLCol Bill Diamond - BC Regiment and Chair of the National Council of Honorary Colonels, WO Brenda Morris, Dave Ward - former RCR, Col Scott Raesler- 39 CBG Commander, Chuck Davey - former PPCLI (blue beret), Robert Nahanee - former Engineer and PPCLI (red jacket), Dan Thomas - former BCR, Ted Hawthorne - former BCR HCol and VP of BCR Association, King Wan - former CO of HMCS Discovery

By Major (retired) Dan Thomas, CD

Vancouver observed its 17th annual National Aboriginal Veterans Day Ceremony at Victory Square in cool and windy weather on Monday November 8th, 2021. For the second time, the event took place under COVID-19 precautions that limited in-person attendance and required masks. Live streaming and significant local media coverage, however, helped bring the service home to families, the public, and individuals unable to attend in person.

As co-founders, Elder Kelly White (Snuneymuxw and Musqueam First Nations) directed the logistics and sequence of the event, while Veteran and Elder Robert Nahanee (Squamish First Nation) led the Pipe Ceremony and observances. Dignitaries and wreath presenters represented multiple First Nations and Métis organizations, governments, first responders, unions, and Veterans' associations. (In fact, it was a challenge to keep attendance within the maximum permissible 50 participants in close proximity to the Cenotaph.)



Chuck Davey - former PPCLI
Ted Hawthorne - former BCR HCol and VP of BCR Association



Col Scott Raesler - 39 CBG Commander
WO Brenda Morris

"We are grateful to the families of our Aboriginal Veterans for the sacrifices they have made, and continue to make," wrote Ms. White prior to the ceremony. "We honour our Warriors of the past, and of today, for fighting for the rights of the People of Turtle Island and Mother Earth."

For the first time here, a senior serving member of the Canadian Armed Forces laid a wreath. Colonel Scott Raesler, Commander 39 Canadian Brigade Group and a United Nations veteran, was accompanied to the Cenotaph by Warrant Officer Brenda Morris, an Indigenous soldier from Labrador who has served overseas and as an instructor on the Bold Eagle Indigenous summer training program. Honorary Lieutenant-Colonel Bill Diamond and Association Vice President Ted Hawthorne represented The British Columbia Regiment (DCO), including laying a wreath.

"Aboriginal Veterans fought for the freedoms most other Canadians enjoy today, and we honour the great sacrifices and contributions they have made," added Ms. White. Unfortunately, they also faced injustices and discrimination when returning from past wars. Nowadays, Canadians are increasingly concerned about rectifying historic harms and building appropriately respectful relationships with our country's original populations. In honouring Indigenous veterans and paying tribute to fallen warriors, the National Aboriginal Veterans Day Ceremony is a milepost towards Reconciliation that we will continue to support.



Veteran Quilt



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NEW PERMANENT FIRST NATIONS, MÉTIS AND INUIT EXHIBITS INSTALLED AT THE BASE BORDEN MILITARY MUSEUM (BBMM)



The 3rd Canadian Ranger Patrol Group display part A

By Andrew Gregory, Ph.D.

Director, Base Borden Military Museum

On 18 June 2021, the Base Borden Military Museum unveiled new exhibits to a small audience (as we are closed by provincial health regulations). In attendance were local Elder Little Brown Bear, Capt J. McNeil, Adjutant of 3CRPG, Dr. Andrew Gregory, Director of the BBMM, Robin Robinson, BBMM Collections Manager, Dave Thompson, BBMM Assistant Curator, and our Georgian College Museum Studies Co-op students, Kaelyn Gregory (who designed the exhibit) and Bev Hill. These displays are our first new permanent displays in a decade. There are three displays:

- The Black Bear Training Program that was here at Base Borden from 2008 to 2013
- Timelines for "He Served Here - Sergeant Tommy Prince MM SS"
- "He is remembered Here - Company Sergeant Major Francis Pegahmagabow MM"
- 3rd Canadian Ranger Patrol Group

The display unveiling was accompanied by a much appreciated Smudging Ceremony, performed by Little Brown Bear.

In Phase II, scheduled to open in June 2022, we will add a display to the contribution of First Nations, Métis and Inuit people to the defence of Canada.



The 3rd Canadian Ranger Patrol Group display part B



The Company Sergeant Major Francis Pegahmagabow MM and Sergeant Tommy Prince MM SS display



The Black Bear Training display



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OUR CHILDREN'S MEDICINE STAFF SUPPORT INDIGENOUS COMMUNITY DURING COVID CRISIS



Kelly Hashemi supervises the preparation of the Easter/spring feast.

In response to the COVID-19 pandemic lockdown, Our Children's Medicine team members identified essential needs within the Toronto indigenous community. Certain families, elders and vulnerable community members initially were left with little support and basic needs not met.

To rectify the situation, we volunteered time beyond our work day to deliver hampers to those families and Elders requiring assistance. In the course of our deliveries we noticed the negative effects that living in isolation had created for our elders. In order to bring about a positive outcome for these wonderful people, turkey dinners were provided for them at Easter. With the help of Swiss Chalet, who donated containers and delivery bags, and two full days of cooking up a storm, they all received home

cooked dinners delivered by our fleet of volunteers. The recipients appreciated our yummy outreach. With all the positive feedback, we knew that we couldn't stop there!

When the December holiday season came upon us, we decided to continue supporting the community by being surrogate Santas and sponsored several large families, including one with six children. We wanted to ensure they had all the fixings for a wonderful holiday! To that end, winter clothing, groceries and toys were provided as well as electronic devices to assist children with their virtual school learning. All recipients were supplied with necessary hygiene kits. Moms received winter clothing, kitchenware and pyjamas. Gift cards were also purchased for the families from various stores including Loblaws, Roots, Foot Locker and Walmart.



Gifts and essential items were delivered to vulnerable families.

Written by Kelly Hashemi



Our Children's Medicine volunteers organize and pack needed items and gifts.



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THE TRAVELLING CANOE RETURNS HOME

Traditional Birch Bark Canoe A Highlight of Camp Loon 2017

Brigadier-General Stephen Cadden, 4th Canadian Division Commander, Chief Warrant Officer Stuart Hartnell, 4th Canadian Division Sergeant Major, and Captain Nick Homerski watch First Nations artisan Josey Thomas and apprentice Travis Assance build a traditional birch bark canoe at Junior Canadian Ranger Camp Loon 2017, Springwater Lake, Ontario.

Photo credit: Master Corporal Precious Carandang, 4th Canadian Division Public Affairs



Photo reprinted from The Talking Stick 2017/2018

Canoes play a significant role in the First Nations communities in northern Ontario. They are transportation, recreation, gathering food (fishing and hunting) and connecting with nature. In the north, when hunting trips go awry, the Rangers are called for assistance. For years, canoes have been used at Camp Loon to teach water safety and awareness. But in 2017, the canoe took on a new role or, better said, a new old role. On this year, while at Camp Loon, we had the opportunity to learn the traditional skill of birch bark canoe making. Junior Canadian Rangers, Canadian Rangers, and Army staff got a chance to learn from artist and Haudenosaunee carver Josy Thomas and his able assistant, Travis Assance, about traditional birch bark canoe-building skills.

Josy is a master canoe builder, artist and Haudenosaunee carver who has been building birch bark canoes with his grandfather since he was twelve years old. But he brought more to the

workbench. The canoe-building site carried equally valuable intangibles related to canoe building. It was a place to gather, talk, hear stories, and connect. There is a strong bond created during one of these builds, and it brings people together in a unique manner. Like the spruce roots used to lash the canoe together, the canoe-building teachings reach deep and connect us on a profound level.

Since its construction, this canoe has had a life of its own. It has been on display in Thunder Bay, Ontario. It has been part of APTN filming of indigenous programming, and it has been used as a model for other First Nations youth to realize their goal on other canoe builds. Now after travelling many miles the canoe has returned home. It will be on display at the 3 CRPG headquarters at CFB Borden and used for indigenous awareness at the Base in the unit's role with the Defence Indigenous Persons Advisory Group.

By LCol Matthew Richardson



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GRACE CHURCH ON THE HILL OBSERVES ABORIGINAL REMEMBRANCE DAY IN A VIRTUAL BROADCAST SERVICE



***Honorary Lieutenant-Colonel John B. Newman
at the lectern of Grace Church.***



***Honorary Colonel Don Cranston and
Honorary Lieutenant-Colonel John B. Newman
at the memorial plaque.***

On November 8th, 2020, Aboriginal Remembrance Day, Honorary Colonel Don Cranston of The Royal Hamilton Light Infantry (Wentworth Regiment) and Honorary Lieutenant-Colonel John B. Newman of the 3rd Canadian Ranger Patrol Group (3 CRPG) participated in an online Remembrance Service specifically acknowledging the role and sacrifice

of First Nations men and women in their support of freedom. The service was held at Grace Church on-the-Hill in Toronto, Ontario and was hosted by Rector, Canon Peter Walker and Acolyte Micah Latimer-Dennis. Wreaths were placed at the Memorial Plaque and then the Cenotaph located on the church's parkette.

Written by Honorary Colonel Don Cranston



*Honorary Lieutenant-Colonel John B. Newman and
Honorary Colonel Don Cranston lay wreaths at the cenotaph and salute.*



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SECOND FIRST NATIONS MEMORIAL PLAQUE INSTALLED AND DEDICATED IN ORTONA, ITALY, NOVEMBER 11, 2019.

On November 11, 2018, Father Pius of Santa Maria Della Grazie church hosted and dedicated the first First Nations plaque in Italy in his church's cloister which overlooked and survived the Battle of Dead Horse Square, in Ortona during the siege of Ortona.

That ceremony took place in the presence of Lieutenant-General Christine Whitecross and Canada's Ambassador to Italy Alexandra Bugailiskis.

The second First Nations Memorial plaque commemorating the contribution and sacrifice of those members of Canada's First Nations who

participated in the liberation of Italy 1943-1945 was dedicated on November 11, 2019, having been installed at the Price of Peace monument located in the Canadian Heroes Square, Ortona.

This plaque was also dedicated by Father Pius, this time in the presence of Lieutenant-General Omer Lavoie and Honorary Lieutenant-Colonel John B. Newman of the 3rd Canadian Ranger Patrol Group. The ceremony took place after the annual Remembrance Day observation held at the Moro Cemetery where 1,375 Canadian soldiers are at rest, and which is located less than 20 minutes from the Memorial.



Plaques sponsored by AGF and the Ranger Foundation

Photo credits: Lieutenant-Colonel (ret'd) A.J. Praysner, Angela Arnone, and Laura Moore





THE RANGER FOUNDATION



**In memoria dei soldati delle Prime Nazioni del Canada
che parteciparono, molti pagando con la vita,
alla liberazione dell'Italia durante la Seconda Guerra Mondiale.**

**In memory of those members of the First Nations of Canada,
both those who served and those who perished,
who participated in the Liberation of Italy in World War Two.**

1943 - 1945





The MOCCASIN

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ITALIAN AUTHOR RECORDS THE CONTRIBUTIONS AND COURAGE OF FIRST NATIONS SOLDIERS PARTICIPATING IN THE LIBERATION OF ITALY 1943-1945



1943, Huron Eldon Brant (Bay of Quinte First Nation Mohawk) is decorated with the Military Medal by Field Marshal Montgomery for bravery at Grammichele, Sicily.

Herein is an excerpt from "Little Stalingrad" (Ortona), from author Matteo Incerti's groundbreaking book, "I Pellerossa Che Liberarono l'Italia", as edited, translated and condensed by Angela Arnone for this edition of the Talking Stick and Moccasin.

The full English language version of the Italian work is entitled The First Nations Who Freed A Nation.

Translation by Angela Arnone, a founder of the

Battle of Ortona Museum (MU.BA) and agent for Three Rivers Tank Regiment veterans of the Battle of Ortona. Tour manager for Italian Campaign journeys of remembrance.

Angela has worked for almost 30 years with many CAF regimental associations, Canadian students, VAC, Canadian Embassy in Rome, Gregg Centre Fredericton, and other benefactors committed to honouring the memory of Canadian Italian Campaign heroes.

A River Crossing

River Moro line, Ortona, 4 December 1943

The Perth and Westminster units inched their way towards the new front. Meanwhile, the Eighth Army's forward divisions were managing to push their way across the River Sangro line. General Vokes, commander of the First Canadian Division since October, demanded a speedy crossing of the River Moro, the last obstacle on the road to Ortona.

The Allies considered the small Adriatic town in the Abruzzo region strategic for reaching the port of Pescara. Ortona had to be taken at all costs.

Several regiments were to attack the full width of the front, with the main bridgehead entrusted to the Seaforth Highlanders, ordered to make their crossing at Villa San Leonardo. The PPCLI were to attack the left flank and take Villa Rogatti. The Hastings regiment was tasked with putting in place a robust diversionary attack on the right flank of the front.

At midnight, hoping to catch the enemy off guard, the PPCLI began heavy shelling and managed to take Villa Rogatti quickly.

Aggravating air strikes made on previous days had made it clear to German commanders that they would have to get their troops down into the trenches if they wanted to stop the Allied advance.

Under the Villa San Leonardo escarpment, a riddle of ingeniously hidden infantry positions lay in wait for the Seaforth Highlanders.

"Don't fire a shot unless you can see the whites of their eyes. Don't let them guess where you are," Reich troops were told. Every intersection and access was already in the sights of machine-guns and mortars.

"Why don't we have tank backup?" asked Jerry Brant, creeping along in the pitch-black countryside with his platoon. He wasn't alone in realizing the Seaforths would have to face the enemy head-on and without armoured support.

Frederick "Dick" Webster, the hero whose courage in Agira had earned him the Medal of Military Valour, was to occupy Villa San Leonardo with his platoon by advancing along the sides of the main road.

"It won't be easy without the tanks," he muttered.

Royal Canadian Regiment units had also been called in to sustain the right flank of the front, where Private Ernest Lamorandier advanced cautiously with his loaded rifle, across fields that looked like the entrance to Hell.

Meanwhile, at the mouth of the River Moro, the battle raged between the German units and the Hasty Ps, determined to get to the opposite bank.

Muddy fields slowed the advance and machine-gun bullets sliced the air without pause. Throughout the area, every ditch had become a trench. Huron and Lloyd Edwin Brant crouched, waiting to move forward. Suddenly the ear-shattering racket stopped. A German soldier raised his rifle, a white handkerchief tied to the barrel to signal surrender. A new strip of Italian territory had been liberated.

As a new day dawned, the Canadian forces seemed to have the upper hand on the right flank of the deployment, but the same didn't seem to be happening at the centre of the front. Here, Saskatoon Light Infantry mortar and machine-gun units led by David Greyeyes had been sent in support of the Seaforths trying to cross the Moro.

The battle raged on in the mud, but neither mortar nor artillery were able to quell German defence.

Webster and his Seaforth comrades failed to break through: Villa San Leonardo seemed an impossible objective.

Just before sunset, a handful of Saskatoons in forward position found themselves almost face to face with nine German soldiers. Henry Beaudry had his Bren; his fellow soldiers, loaded rifles. They were on a hillock that gave them the upper hand for taking aim and at the first burst of gunfire, the enemy troops immediately raised their hands in surrender. One pulled out a white silk handkerchief. Then the group began to advance. They were less than thirty-five feet from the Canadians.

"Sir, they've thrown down their weapons, they're surrendering," Henry reported to the corporal.

"We have to move forward," the corporal ordered.

About three hundred and fifty yards ahead, the platoon consumed a meagre ration of tinned meat.

Shortly after, they dug a trench and tried to sleep out in the open, sheltered only by a camouflage sheet.

Despite the ceasefire, it was a struggle to sleep. It was almost dawn when an ominous sound alerted Beaudry and the other men sheltering in the slit trench.

"It's a tank," said Beaudry.

"Doesn't sound like one of ours, does it? It's a fucking Panzer," one of the others replied.

"Pull the sheet down and God help us."

Less than a minute later, the tracks of a Third Reich steel monster rolled over the trench, stopping just above their shelter. From the corner of his eye, Beaudry peered at the shadow of the tank driver who'd climbed out of the vehicle. The German began to relieve himself no more than two yards from the tank. Then he lit a cigarette and began chatting with a comrade still on the turret. Beaudry's heart began to pound. Each second was an eternity.

'Payback,' thought Henry, recalling what had happened

the day before. 'Now they'll find us and kill every man jack.'

He heard the sound of boots thudding on metal.

'It's over,' he thought to himself. He was wrong. The trooper was back on his tank.

The deafening roar of the departing tank reached the small group of Canadians in the trench like the most beautiful symphony they'd ever heard in their lives. They waited about ten minutes after the Panzer pulled away before coming out of their hiding place and returning to their previous positions.

In the morning, the war gave Lieutenant Greyeyes a harsh wakeup call when a dispatch arrived from behind the lines. He opened it, read it and closed his eyes, then he covered his face with his hands. His friend, nineteen-year-old Joseph Okemasis, another Lake Muskeg Cree, had been killed by German artillery fire during the San Leonardo attack. His lifeless body, like those of other comrades, had already been recovered and was about to be transported to the rear, to be buried near Frisa, the village freed a few days before.

The Gully

Fosso Saraceni, 14 December 1943

In the days that followed, Canadian units began an attack on Fosso Saraceni, a long, deep hollow codenamed "The Gully". In ancient times, its purpose was to protect Ortona as it was a natural barrier, edged by another crest – codenamed "Vino Ridge" – now planted with vineyards and enclosed between two low bluffs. Given the height of the slope, it was decided to launch a direct attack, right into the jaws of the German defence, which had barricaded itself quite easily by exploiting any advantage offered by the terrain.

Trenches and shelters were dug along both sides of Fosso Saraceni, with mines and booby traps scattered everywhere. Each farmhouse in the countryside was fortified to become an impenetrable bunker, while vineyards and olive groves provided excellent cover for German troops as they ambushed across and among Canadian lines. To add insult to injury, the rain had turned the ground into a mud bath that made it truly difficult to move or to organize precise artillery fire to cover troops.

"We've been bogged down in this slime for three days now," muttered Campion.

The same mud and German fire was impeding the Seaforth advance.

"We moaned about the heat in Sicily but it was nothing compared to this ..." Frederick Webster admitted gloomily.

Each assault failed miserably and tragically. The infantry

"Every shot I fire today will be in your honour, Joseph. Every single one! I'm not leaving any live Nazis! Not one!" Greyeyes muttered in rage.

For four days, tireless attempts to cross the River Moro and take Villa San Leonardo had met the tenacious resistance of the Third Reich troops. Loyal Edmonton units, supported by the Ontario tank regiment, had arrived during that new icy night of war to assist the platoons attacking that central operations chessboard. From the turret of his tank, Jesse Moses, was giving orders into a headset. The roar of the shelling even drowned the sound of his tank tracks as he advanced. Shielded by the steel armour of the Ontario vehicles, the infantry units advanced, lit only by the glow of flashing shots and flares.

"It's hell but with ice and mud," swore George Campion, deep in the mayhem of fire with Peter Versailles.

At the fifth dawn, after a failed German counterattack on Villa San Leonardo and hundreds of dead littering the field from both sides, First Canadian Division finally managed to break through and make that bridgehead for its advance towards Ortona.

units managing to reach the ridge then surfaced upright on the horizon, an easy target for Third Reich snipers deployed on the slope below. Bugged down in the mud, neither the tanks nor the support units could plough ahead. Worse still, many radio sets were out due to the deluge of rain. Anyone managing to advance did so blind.

Things were just as bad on the coastal side.

The Hasty P units, tasked with a right flank move to pincer the front and get to Vino Ridge, were unable to move ahead and paralyzed among rows of vines, already devastated by battle and the slow advance.

Lloyd Edwin Brant took refuge in a small farmhouse that had been cleared of German soldiers not long before. The war had changed him and now he didn't even notice the mangled corpses of two enemy soldiers at his feet. They had been killed less than twenty minutes before, by the shrapnel from hand grenades thrown to take the farmhouse. But for him they seem not to exist. They were mere ghosts.

Those crumbling walls were the best shelter he could get before he dashed out into battle again among the vines.

Suddenly, all hell let loose in the vineyard as mortar shells rained everywhere, with clods of earth hurled skyward, taking with them pieces of human bodies that fell yards away. Fate was deciding everyone's life and death at that moment. Corporal Huron Brant was with his company in the midst of that very same inferno of shrapnel and human guts. He flung himself face down on the ground, helpless and praying he wouldn't get hit. After about a minute the shelling stopped. He slowly looked up and his gaze fell on

the farmhouse: it had been completely destroyed.

"Get a doctor! We need a doctor!" shouted a fellow soldier trying to get the attention of the stretcher-bearers, who arrived quickly, trying to comfort the wounded writhing in pain. One of them glanced around the destroyed house. The body of a Canadian soldier was slumped over that of a German, so he tried to help him. But it was too late, the man's face, blown away by the exploding mortar shell, no

longer betrayed who he was. Seeing the stretcher-bearer return, Huron Brant stopped him to ask.

"Who was in there?"

"I didn't recognize him, Corporal. The kid's face was wrecked by shrapnel. Whoever collects his body away will pick up his ID tag," replied the shaken stretcher-bearer.

A few hours later Huron Brant learned that the boy was his cousin, Lloyd.

19 December 1943

It took five more days of fighting before Canadian units finally managed to take Villa San Leonardo. The strategic objective on the march to Ortona and then towards Pescara was firmly in Canadian hands. In the latest breakthrough, the RCRs picked their way through the slaughter of the previous days.

Lamorandier gazed aghast at the cold, now-bluish bodies of fellow soldiers who had fallen in the days just past. A scene that conjured up the tales told by the elders of his tribe, dating back to the times of the revolts against the settlers, which ended more and more often in the inhuman slaughter of every member of his people.

Those two weeks of bitter fighting in the Moro Valley had already cost hundreds of Canadians their lives.

The Hastings pushed ahead, skirting Ortona and heading towards the central section of the front to support other units.

Huron Brant and his platoon advanced in a tidy line along a cart-track, each step weighed down by clods of earth that stuck fast to boots and gaiters. As he marched, he saw the scars the war had already inflicted there: craters, houses blown apart or walls riddled with bullet holes, shattered trees. And every now and then rows of bodies waiting to be buried, their faces covered sometimes just by a jacket. Suddenly, a thud shook the group. Brant, who was last in line, fell and found himself on the ground pounding his fists in the mud.

"Corporal Brant, what's going on?"

"Fuck you!" Huron Brant grunted in reply, but it took him more than five minutes to stagger to his feet. As soon as he got up, he started screaming and kicking.

"You can all go to hell, I've had plenty! Enough!" he yelled. Then he tripped over a log, fell again, and hurt his neck slightly.

"He's gone mad, but what's brought this on ...?" a soldier muttered under his breath.

"Corporal Brant, control yourself please!"

It took at least a quarter of an hour before a dozen men managed to calm Brant down, restraining the angry comrade.

"My neck and head hurt, call a doctor," Brant said and

he was taken immediately to the nearest first aid point.

The medics gave their verdict: the blow suffered near his neck when he fell was nothing serious. Brant's problem was his mind. Just a few days later, his wife Irene, who had not been in touch with him for nearly two years, received an impersonal Canadian Pacific Telegraph telegram at her home in Belleville.

We are very sorry to inform you that recruit C/5569, Corporal Huron Eldon Brant was officially declared wounded in action on 19 December 1943. Stop. Injury described: nervous exhaustion. Stop. More information to follow.

Irene was shaken. For the first time she began to question the idea of divorce she had been mulling over for a while. She was no longer in touch with her husband. She had tried to cut him off back in 1941, when he was still in the UK. It was her way of putting a stop to the pain and loneliness caused by his so far away. But those two words, "nervous exhaustion", pointed to a far deeper wound than that of a machine-gun. A wound she herself had inflicted because her husband was certainly suffering far more than the war.

Meanwhile, at five o'clock on the dot every afternoon, hundreds of leaflets were dropped by Nazi airborne propaganda. Orville Johnston, a Saskatoon Light Infantry despatch rider relaying between combat units and headquarters, brought a different one back to base every day.

"Sir, here's the five pm flyer, the usual mumbo jumbo of phony news ..." Johnston said.

"How are the troops taking it? This is a joke. And at five in the afternoon. They seem to think it's our teatime," said the senior officer.

"The soldiers? It's a bit of a regular date. How can you not laugh at them saying we won't reach northern Italy until the winter of 1946? They tell us how amazing their women are! Anyway, today they left this for us. Read it. It's just a bunch of insults. Maybe things aren't going well?" Johnston said, handing over the flyer.

The leaflet was woven with every possible stereotype of Great Britain and Russia, definitely a reflection of Joseph Goebbels' war propaganda. "A lie told once remains a lie.

but a lie told a thousand times becomes the truth,” the Nazi minister is said to have declared. And that constant repetition of false news was certainly intended to Chinese torture for the conscience and morale of Allied troops.

The medics gave their verdict: the blow suffered near his neck when he fell was nothing serious. Brant’s problem was his mind. Just a few days later, his wife Irene, who had not been in touch with him for nearly two years, received an impersonal Canadian Pacific Telegraph telegram at her home in Belleville.

Orville started reading it:

British soldier! Now you know the German soldier and you also know that he can fight very well, as your General Monty says. But do you know why the German soldier fights to the end? Because Germany does not want to accept orders from anyone about how it lives its life! Not from Russia, where over fourteen million people, including two hundred thousand priests, were killed and where

more than four million people starved to death! Nor from the United States, the great “nation of culture”, where women box and wrestlers roll in muddy pens, where thirteen million men are unemployed and where blacks can win Olympic medals! Nor from Great Britain, where a certain class of people has only one big concern: deciding how they can spend money, while much of the population has to live in slums infamous worldwide, and frequently visited by thieves! Do you know what your masters fear? That you may ask for the same social assistance the German worker already receives! And you, old sport, are on top! You are only allowed to give your life for Ivan, for Uncle Sam, and for the gentlemen who sit in the House of Lords! All well and good, so this winter be sure you do well.

“Thanks, Johnston. Double ration of mortar shells for them tomorrow. Inform Lieutenant Greyeyes and the other companies.”

The Little Stalingrad

Ortona, 20 December 1943

“Edmonton, full speed ahead!” Major Jim Stone had just ordered his company to advance under the cover provided by the Three Rivers’s armoured steel. An infantryman crossed himself and clapped his right hand on the shoulder of Peter Versailles who stood in front of him. George Campion was fifty yards behind, part of a different platoon. Covered by artillery fire and smoke bombs, the men managed to reach the outskirts of Ortona. Only a few moments before launching the attack, the units had been told what kind of battle they would face. The most feared of all.

“We’re fighting door to door, house to house, street by street. God help us all!”

At that moment, seen from the outside, Ortona looked like a ghost town. Truth to tell, the Canadians could guess but were not one hundred percent sure of the defence tactics about to be put in place by the Fallschirmjäger, the feared German paratrooper elite. Each house had been turned into a bunker: downstairs, heavy machine-guns; upstairs, men with light machine-guns and hand grenades. Sharpshooters lurked on roofs and in belfries, ready to kill without mercy. Other buildings, already abandoned or bombed, had been turned into death traps with mines and explosives connected to timers just waiting to be triggered. The paratroopers had gutted the lower floor of houses in strategic positions. If the Canadians sought shelter there, they’d be sitting ducks. Corso Vittorio Emanuele II, the town’s high street, had become a dead end.

Meanwhile, a company of Seaforth Highlanders was

climbing the hillside on the southeast front of Ortona. The idea was to join the units entering the town and the Saskatoon Light Infantry units that were already there in support.

Dick Webster and Jerry Brant crawled along the escarpment, being careful to keep their heads right down.

Henry Beaudry was sent ahead with orders to report enemy positions to the units behind the lines.

“Go recce that slope and radio back in Cree language. We’ll get one of the Merasty boys on the receiver. They speak Cree and if the Germans pick up they won’t understand a darn word!” he was told.

An hour later, Beaudry went back behind the lines after he finished reporting on enemy locations. Then he took up his Bren and settled on a small promontory, waiting for the mortar company to give cover fire. He had just lain on the ground when a vicious volley of shots hit his right hand and his head. He rolled onto his side. A sniper hiding who knows where caught his index finger and the bullet then continued its path, grazing his head, burning him and lifting a flap of scalp. It was a miracle he was still alive. At first he felt no pain, then he realized he was now out of battle and called for help.

“It’s a bad wound Henry, but you’re a lucky guy. Half an inch to the side and in the position you were in, you’d be dead as a dodo. Broke the bone in the finger there and you’ll be out of the fight for a month,” the field medic told him.

On the first day of fighting, the Edmonton units got to the outskirts of town. They managed just a few hours of sleep and the men even struggled to get that, propped

with their backs to the walls of some of the empty buildings, close to each other and huddling in their coats to try and fend off the bitter cold. At dawn, just a few K rations and a drink of water. There wasn't even time to make tea on the camp stove.

"Keep close to walls or stay behind the tanks," Versailles told a fellow soldier.

The Edmontons reached Corso Vittorio Emanuele II without meeting much resistance. It didn't take long to understand the trap devised by the Germans.

"Dammit! They've piled debris down the middle of the street to stop us and they've blocked every side street with more rubble," swore Major Stone, as he immediately grabbed his binoculars.

"That rubble is a barricade! Order the tanks to advance and fire with everything they've got." He just about managed to finish the sentence when a bloodcurdling scream came from the top of a house and echoed round the building.

"Feuer!" Fire! A bullets began to rain down hellishly on the Canadian units. Ammunition was coming from every direction: from the rooftops, the windows, from the machine-guns lurking behind piles of debris. Those who weren't hit, flung themselves to the ground and took shelter behind the tanks or in doorways. The Canadians managed to advance as far as Piazza del Municipio, the square at the bottom the street, where they were halted once again.

As the sun went down, the shadow of a man loomed from an alley where a fierce clash had just taken place. He appeared from a bombed-out house and he had a baby in his arms. It was George Campion. He walked over to Padre Edgar Bailey, the unit chaplain. The baby was shrouded in dust and struggling to breathe.

"George, where did you find him?" asked the chaplain.

"I grabbed him from his mother's arms. She died protecting him. Inside the house where we fought hand to hand. Padre, war is hell!" he mumbled through his tears before handing the child over to the medics, who immediately arranged for him to be taken away from the town.

Ortona, 22 December 1943

Just before dawn, Major Stone gathered his men.

A numbers of Seaforth Highlander NCOs who had reached Ortona were also present.

Stone explained there was only one chance to get out of the situation: they were to split into a number of small groups. Each would have rifles, Bren guns, grenade launchers, hand grenades. They were to apply guerrilla tactics. Ortona was divided into sectors on either side of the high street. Every man for himself. House by house.

The slow advance along the main street was stopped by exploding mines. All the men dashed for cover, some down side lanes, some inside houses.

Stone ordered the field to be cleared and called in a team of sappers.

Campion came forward: "Major, we need a smokescreen or the snipers will pick us off one by one. I'm volunteering, just give me plenty of smoke grenades."

"You sure?"

"Give me as many grenades as you can," Campion replied confidently.

His request was met within minutes as a dozen grenades were thrust at him. Some he tied round his waist; the others he placed in a canvas satchel. Then he handed over his helmet.

"I run better without this. Follow me, I'll zigzag forwards and when I start the smokescreen, you advance," he told four sappers. Campion threw the first smoke grenade and began to race towards the minefield. He dashed through the smoke amid hissing machine-gun bullets, throwing more grenades. As he vanished into the mists, he turned back to call the field-engineers.

"Come on, get on with it. It's up to you now!"

Shielded by the smokescreen, the four began to approach the mines, but as soon as the smoke started to clear, the machine-gun bullets hailed down on the street once more, forcing them to retreat. From a doorway, Campion suddenly reappeared and started running wildly towards the minefield again, throwing more smoke grenades. The handful of sappers, covered by fake fog, launched back out onto Corso Vittorio Emanuele II. Finally they were able to reach the mines and start defusing them. Then they hid inside a deserted building. From there, they used a whistle to send the agreed Morse signal to inform tanks and infantry that the coast was clear.

"Campion, you'll get a medal for bravery," declared Major Stone shortly after.

The Edmontons continued their advance along the western sector of Ortona. They followed the curt order to "mouse-hole", which meant they blew out the inside walls of the houses and moved forward block by block, wall by wall, room by room. Once inside, they cleaned them out from top to bottom and advanced to the next building.

On the eastern side of town, crawling through the rubble, the Seaforths started their end of a pincer movement to try and surround the Germans.

Ortona, 23 December 1943

After the LER took Piazza del Municipio, the commander decided his men should advance along Via Tripoli to cut

off the garrison of German paratroopers controlling the northeast part of the town. At first light, a group of tanks began to cross the rubble barricades, followed by an infantry platoon. The objective was Piazza San Tommaso, the cathedral square. Another Edmonton platoon started another attack on a block of houses on the main street. From the windows, the sound of grenades and machine-guns began to fill the air once more.

"There's no bloody end to it!" cursed Versailles.

It was now late afternoon and light was failing. Again, the day racked up thousands of shots fired and window-by-window assaults. Each house became a trench.

"Looks quiet now," Versailles said to a fellow soldier as he made a short dash to reach the other side of the street. There was a sharp crack. Versailles crashed to the ground and didn't move.

"Peter!" shouted a fellow soldier. No reply. A precise sniper shot to the heart had killed him.

The battle raged for a few more hours and only after nightfall did the company take control of the street.

Ortona, 25 December 1943

Inch by inch, down every alley and street stinking of death, the Seaforths managed to reach Piazza San Francesco for Christmas.

Indigenous soldier Nlaka'pamux Webster observed the mangled carcass of an animal killed in crossfire and thought 'Poor horse'.

'I could eat that ...' was the less profound thought of a fellow soldier whose stomach had rumbled painfully with hunger for days.

"Did you hear? They're saying we're getting Christmas dinner company by company, in that church we liberated a few days ago," said Jerry Brant.

The regimental grapevine buzzed and was the rumour was then confirmed. The Seaforth quartermaster organized the Christmas dinner a few blocks from the battle inferno, inside Santa Maria di Costantinopoli church and the oratory courtyard.

In the courtyard, the tables were arranged in a square. In the church, tables were set out lengthwise under what remained of centuries-old arches.

"Lunch will be eaten in turn by companies. Some of you will be pulled back from the line in an hour. Each company has two hours," came the order.

When Brant and Webster entered the church, they couldn't believe their eyes. Just a short while before, the QM's unit setting up the Christmas dinner had requisitioned chairs, tables, and as much cutlery and crockery as they could muster from abandoned houses.

Food had arrived from behind the lines. Plenty of it.

"Look, there's even a menu: soup, pork with applesauce, cauliflower, mashed potatoes, gravy, Christmas pudding and cake," commented Jerry Brant.

And on the tables there were two beers per man, oranges, chocolate, and cigarettes.

At the beginning and end of each relay, the Seaforth padre, Roy Durnford, gave the blessing, reading the Christmas Gospel.

"Well, at last I've got you all in church!" he commented drily at the end of a short sermon.

The atmosphere was surreal. Under the arches of Santa Maria di Costantinopoli, the keening notes of Pipe Major Ed Esson's bagpipes rang out, and when he took a rest, Lieutenant Wilf Gildersleeve play the organ as the men sang carols.

In the nearby oratory, settled around tables forming a rectangle, NOCs and privates exchanged Christmas greetings. Men who went back to the fight just a few minutes later and faced death. But, as if by magic, there, around those tables they felt protected by a magical, surreal atmosphere that wiped out the horrors of war and for a moment reminded them of their families.

Gordon Yellowfly – twenty-seven year old son of Teddy, chief of the Gleichen Reserve Blackfoot in Alberta – rested his elbows on a table that seemed to come from a parallel world. He had landed in Sicily and survived every battle, but another thought had been irking him for months. His wife had gone to live with another man and his father, Chief Teddy, had been forced to take their two children from her.

"I miss my little ones," he said to a fellow soldier as he raised a slice of pork and apple sauce to his lips.

The Edmontons also got Christmas dinner, but it wasn't quite the same. Some were called in relays to eat behind the lines; those further forward were served directly in the street, the food brought by a valiant few.

"Merry Christmas, George," said one of the engineers who owed his life to Campion's courage.

"Gayayr Nwel," replied George, uttering his best wishes in the language of his ancestors.



*Gordon Yellowfly,
son of Teddy,
chief of the
Siksika-Blackfoot
tribe*

Ortona, 27 December 1943

Block by block, door by door, staircase by staircase, the battle waged for two more days. Seaforths and Edmontons, in increasingly diminishing numbers, forced the German paratroopers to pull back to the northern part of town. Gordon Yellowfly was in a doorway when a fellow soldier signalled to him to cross the street and join him. Gordon leapt out and joined groups of other soldiers, taking cover behind a pile of debris. Suddenly he heard a sharp shot. He didn't even have time to look left when the man standing next to him fell, a sniper shot piercing the back of his head. Yellowfly threw himself to the ground but as he did, he felt a stabbing pain in his back. The sniper had shot him in the spine. He tried to move, but he couldn't feel his legs. A few seconds later, a second bullet finished him off.

Despite the fiendish efforts of zealous sharpshooters positioned on the rooftops, the Third Reich units were succumbing to the Canadian advance. By now they had exhausted their reserves of men and ammunition, and the order came to abandon Ortona in the middle of the night. But before they did, they left one last terrible parting gift.

"Two blocks from here, the Huns rigged a building where all of C Company was sheltering. Packed with booby traps! Everyone was hit by the explosion. There are over twenty Edmontons under there. Send rescue teams now."

George Campion and Joseph Flavien St. Germain couldn't believe their ears. St. Germain had only been back in battle for a day, following three weeks convalescing from infectious hepatitis. The disease was a distant and he was already showing his mettle, leaping valiantly from block to block.

"I have a few friends in that platoon," said Beaudry, and with others he got to work to remove the rubble and save some lives. After three and a half days, only one man made it out alive: Roy Boyd.

Civilians began to trickle back to their homes, or what was left of them. Many houses had been looted by paratroopers, who stole what they found useful or valuable before they retreated.

Major Stone approached Joseph Flavien St. Germain, to thank him for leaping into the fray even though he was just back from a long convalescence.

"You're a real fighter, you're very brave."

"Thank you, Major. But I hope I die before this war is over."

Stone was shocked. "What are you saying, boy?"

"Major, everyone here calls me 'The Saint'," Joseph replied bitterly, "but when it's all over, when we get home, I'll be a second-class citizen again. I'll be what



Christmas lunch during the Battle of Ortona

you call a 'darned Indian' again, and I won't even be able to go to the pub..."

"It won't be like that," Stone tried to cheer him up.

The offensive went on into the new year, when all First Canadian Division troops passed Ortona, heading towards the River Riccio.

During a quiet moment, tanker Jesse Moses put pen to paper and wrote to his girlfriend, Olive, being careful not to incur the war censor's wrath:

We spent the most hectic New Year's Eve that I ever spent, and I hope never to spend again. It was raining like sin and we were sitting about fifty yards from old Jerry's lines. When we would get out we would sink half way to our knees in mud.

The fighting had been going on for a month and Canadian casualties were very high, almost four thousand men with over five hundred dead, seven hundred injured, two hundred MIA, and more than two thousand hospitalized for hepatitis, malaria, high fevers, and pneumonia.

Cold, mud, dirt, untreated wounds, malnutrition all led to outright epidemics. While Huron Brant continued his convalescence, George Campion was also rushed to the field hospital. The medical report was clear: "severe viral hepatitis".

The CBC war correspondent Matthew Halton broadcast dramatic radio reports of that time across the English-speaking world.

Before December, not even one in a thousand Canadians had ever heard of a town called Ortona. Now it had become "the Stalingrad of Italy".

This excerpt of the chapter titled, "Little Stalingrad" (Ortona), I PELLEROSSA CHE LIBERARONO L'ITALIA is reproduced in English by The Ranger Foundation with the kind permission of author Matteo Incerti and editor and translator Angela Arnone.



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OUR CHILDREN'S MEDICINE CELEBRATES SUCCESSFUL YEAR



OUR CHILDREN'S MEDICINE

ourchildrensmedicine.ca

We made it! Like most organizations, OCM started 2020 with amazing plans to further our momentum and continue our work towards a workforce representative of the 5% of our population who identify as First Nations, Metis and Inuit. However, like so many, the COVID-19 pandemic put a swift stop to our lofty goals requiring us to hunker down and assess how to best move forward in what was likely a forever changed employment landscape. With community events cancelled, job postings turned off, and successful job seekers being temporarily laid off, we prepared ourselves for the worst. Happily, our dark days didn't last; much to our delight we were able to carve out a niche during the chaos by supporting employers who are essential services by sourcing candidates to fill the explosive demands in the health care and cleaning sectors. We connected with our Talent Pool and provided mental and practical support for those who were suffering or out of work. Part of the OCM team began collecting essential goods and distributing care hampers to the Indigenous community in the GTA. In addition, we took time to re-imagine how we go about our business and developed new programs including our 'Indigenizing the Hiring Process' training program and 'Virtual Job Fair' initiative to meet the needs caused by the pandemic. In addition to our new programs our ever growing 'Talent Pool' surpassed 40,000 people, our hires not only passed the 1,000 mark in 2020 but by January of 2021 we were inching closer and closer to passing 1,300 confirmed hires! The icing on the cake was the dozen new employer partners who began to engage with OCM in meaningful ways by the end of the year. What a ride! OCM has always



at its base been a community of likeminded, kind-hearted, good people who are enacting the change we want to see in the world. It is because of that community that OCM survived 2020, has started 2021 in a position of strength, and will be able to enact all our postponed 2020 plans during this calendar year.



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DENNIS FRANKLIN CROMARTY HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS RECEIVE SCHOOL SUPPLIES AND BACKPACKS FROM SUPPORTERS



Backpacks donated by Costco arrive at DFC.

*By John Andras,
HIP Director and member of
The Rotary Club of Toronto*

The cost of purchasing supplies going to First Nations fly-in communities located in Northern Ontario is double or triple that of Southern Ontario communities. Therefore obtaining basic equipment and necessities for school has become a barrier to students' education.



Loading cargo bound for DFC from Rotary, Robin Hood Army Canada, and Hip, for shipping by Trucks for Change via Gardewine.

Over the last three years Dennis Franklin Cromarty High School (DFC) has partnered with the "Welcome Box Team" to help improve access to education and empower student learning.

On Wednesday September 30, 2020 (Orange Shirt Day), the "Welcome Box Team", consisting of a partnership that includes the Robin Hood Army, The Rotary Club of Toronto, the Rotary Club of Eglinton, Trucks for Change and HIP (Honouring Indigenous Peoples), delivered three pallets (10,118 items) of school supplies to Gardewine to transport to DFC High School in Thunder Bay.

In addition, the people and friends of Richmond Hill United Church (RHUC), a longstanding DFC ally and HIP Service Partner sent two skids of requested items with this shipment. Donated items included parkas, winter outerwear and



Supplies donated by Rotary, Robin Hood Army Canada, and HIP await shipment by Trucks for Change via Gardewine.



Parkas and school supplies for DFC students, from RHUC supporters.

new bathing suits for use in the sweat lodge program as well as for swimming lessons at the community centre. Polaris Transport generously picked up the cartons (donated by SelfStor), from RHUC and delivered them to the designated shipping depot for Gardewine's trip north.

DFC is located in Thunder Bay, and hosts high school students from 23 remote fly-in communities from different Sioux Lookout District First Nations. The welcome boxes provide each student with basic necessities including school supplies (pens, pencils, paper, notebooks, binders, calculators, markers, highlighters, etc.) and personal hygiene items (toothbrushes, toothpaste, soap, shampoo, body wash, deodorant, feminine products, hand sanitizer, etc.). This year the boxes also included backpacks donated by Costco as well as 120 letters from "Junior Robins" in southern Ontario addressed to the Indigenous students with messages of friendship, solidarity and inspiration.

"We hope to make the pursuit of education a little easier by providing items, identified by

DFC, that reduce barriers to learning for students," said John Andras, HIP Director and member of The Rotary Club of Toronto. "It is an example that, even in this difficult time, people of good will can work together to make a difference."

Sean Spenrath, DFC's Director of Student Success, received the shipment of goods with appreciation and said, "We are super excited to receive all these items for our youth who are currently completing their school quadmester at home. Transitioning to online learning is yet another challenge that our students have had to adapt to. It has been a steep learning curve, but we are starting to see some signs of normalcy. We have started to compile the bags to send North for the next quadmester. We have also started to receive donations through our "Wake the Giant" program and will add those donations to the bags as well. These bags and supplies will help make our students' pursuit of their education easier and will help the teachers provide online instruction not otherwise doable, without these supplies. Thank you for your time and dedication to our students."



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RICHMOND HILL UNITED CHURCH INCREASES OUTREACH EFFORTS FOR DENNIS FRANKLIN CROMARTY FIRST NATIONS HIGH SCHOOL IN THUNDER BAY



Signing cards of friendship for DFC friends.



Dennis Franklin Cromarty First Nations High School (DFC) in Thunder Bay, has a long-term alliance with Richmond Hill United Church (RHUC).

RHUC children, youth, adults, seniors, together with friends in the community including Scouting, Future Aces, The Ranger Foundation, and beyond, have been keen to respond to DFC requests whenever possible. For example, Christian in grade 9 took news of a winter coat drive to his fellow students at his local high school and collected winter hats, gloves and coats. Through this experience, he learned about public speaking and how to organize an event, in the process.

RHUC and Friends have also sent warm greetings and messages of support, encouragement and friendship: including valentines and birthday cards with treats for all the students, staff and Elders. DFC students are invited to celebrate their birthday as part of the Elders program after school.

In the winter of 2019 an RHUC grade 12 student invited fellow teens at his high school to make handmade valentines to send from their school to the students of DFC. Matthew said in his letter to DFC students that was sent with the cards, "I have attended RHUC my entire life. We have been in close contact with DFC for several years now. I have helped with various events including the winter coat drive and creating birthday cards. I was eager to participate; so much so that I decided to get my school involved as well...These may be rather ordinary homemade valentine cards, but love and care went into each and every one."

Last spring, another RHUC young adult, Kiara, shared her experience of participation in her RHUC alliance with DFC with her grade 11 students she was teaching in the Kawartha Lakes area high school where she was completing her placement as part of her teacher's college education program. Her grade 11s sent birthday cards for all DFC students, with handwritten messages of friendship to each one.

Recently, RHUC was able to connect DFC Civics

classes with a northern judge who visited DFC, provided a resenatation on the northern justice system, rights and obligations, and encouraged students to stay in school, complete their education, and keep goals top of mind.

The RHUC alliance and friendship is valued in the south and north. Sean Spenrath of DFC staff writes, "Something as simple as warm birthday wishes make a difference especially for students living away from family and friends, far from home, during the school year here in Thunder Bay".



RHUC winter clothing drive for DFC students.



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ST. JOHN AMBULANCE OF ONTARIO FIRST AID KITS SUPPORT STRACHAN HOUSE IN DOWNTOWN TORONTO



**Roman Ciecwierz KMOB delivers
St. John Council First Aid kits to Strachan House.**

*By Valentine Lovekin KM
Vice President Toronto and Southwest Region Canadian
Association of the Sovereign Military Order of Malta*

On 16th December, 200 mini first-aid kits, donated by St. John Council for Ontario and by the Ranger Foundation, were delivered by Roman Ciecwierz KMOB, President of the Sovereign Military Order of Malta - Canadian Association to Strachan House in Toronto. Strachan House is a part of the Homes First Society, which develops and provides affordable and stable housing and transitional support services for the homeless, with a focus on those who have the fewest options while dealing with issues including addiction and mental illness. Strachan House is a weekly recipient of food as part



Brian J.J. Cole KStJ, Chief Executive Officer of St. John Council for Ontario presents First Aid kits to Valentine Lovekin KM with John B. Newman CStJ, Chairman of the Ranger Foundation.

of the Order of Malta's Toronto Region, Hunger Patrol which provides food, new socks, underwear and various other items of clothing to the homeless on the streets of downtown Toronto every Saturday evening without regard to race or creed. The Order's National President is an active volunteer with the hunger patrol.

The Order of Malta is a worldwide lay religious order of the Roman Catholic Church operating since 1113, and while its influence in Canada stretches back to the early 17th century, the Canadian Association was not formally incorporated until 1953.

Since 1992, the three national organizations of the Alliance Orders of Saint John, namely the Canadian Association of the Sovereign Military Order of Malta, the Canadian Priory of the Most Venerable Order of the Hospital of St. John of Jerusalem and the Sub Commandery of the Balley Brandenburg des Ritterlichen Ordens Sankt Johannis vom Spital zu Jerusalem (commonly referred to as Johanniterorden) have pledged to collaborate in our common service through charity to our neighbours, especially the Sick and the Poor.

This initial donation of the First Aid kits by St. John Council of Ontario and the Ranger Foundation further supports our formal pledge of service.



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32 CANADIAN BRIGADE UNITS SUPPORTS THE FIFTH ANNUAL RANGER CUP HOCKEY TOURNAMENT



The Lorne Scots - 2019 champions

*By Major Peter Martinis MB CD
Acting Commanding Officer The Royal Regiment of Canada*

On Saturday December 28, 2019, at the Ford Performance Centre in Toronto, regimental hockey teams from 32 Canadian Brigade Group participated in the annual Ranger Cup hockey tournament. Colonel Daniel Stepaniuk, Commander of 32 Canadian Brigade Group, Honorary Lieutenant-Colonel John Newman of the 3rd Canadian Ranger Patrol Group and Lieutenant-Colonel Shane McArthur, Commanding Officer of 3rd Canadian Ranger Patrol Group along with many unit Commanding Officers and Regimental Sergeant Majors were on hand for the day's events. The tournament provided a day of hockey, esprit des corps, camaraderie and family skating, but ultimately, it supported the 3rd Canadian Ranger Patrol Group through the Ranger Foundation.

The tournament featured some very competitive games, two of which went to golden goal shootout. At the end of pool play, the 48th Highlanders of Canada and the Toronto Scottish Regiment were matched up to play in the consolidation final while the Queens Own Rifles and the Lorne Scots were set to play in the Championship game. The Toronto Scottish Regiment defeated the 48th Highlanders to win the consolation while the Lorne Scots defeated the Queens Own Rifles to win the Ranger Cup. This marks the second championship for the Lorne Scots since the tournament began in 2014. Reflecting on



L to R: Major Peter Martinis (Acting CO The Royal Regiment of Canada), LCol Shane McArthur (CO 3CRPG), HLCOL John Newman (3CRPG), Col Dan Stepaniuk (Comd 32 CBG), LCol André Phelps (D Comd 32 CBG).

the tournament, Captain Blake Hall of last year's Champions the Queen's York Rangers said, "This year was our fifth year participating in the Ranger Cup hockey tournament. The event is always top notch and provides an opportunity for Regiments across the brigade to connect and compete" adding "Being able to bring awareness and support to a great group such as our CAF Rangers is important to us all and makes the effort worthwhile. We are all already looking forward to next year." Tournament Most Valuable Player was



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Major Peter Martinis makes a generous contribution to HLCol John Newman and LCol Shane McArthur for The Ranger Foundation.

Private Murphy from the Lorne Scots while the Skills Competition Winner was Rifleman Heinle from the Queens Own Rifles.

"The Rangers who patrol the far north are an example to us all and they and their families are deserving of our support." said Chief Warrant Officer Vishnu Persaud, Regimental Sergeant Major of The Royal Regiment of Canada. The Ranger Foundation also supports that Patrol Group's Junior Canadian Rangers, a program for Indigenous boys and girls aged 12 to 18. Presently there are approximately 600 Rangers and over 1,000 Junior Canadian Rangers, located in 25 remote and isolated First Nations communities across the Far North of Ontario. The Canadian Rangers provide a military presence in Canada's north conducting patrols, acting as guides and scouts, and providing expertise in survival in all seasons and weather conditions when working with their Regular and Reserve Army counterparts. In addition the Rangers save lives in search and rescue missions, provide evacuation support during spring floods, forest fires, and many other community emergencies. The Rangers also provide leadership within their own communities as well as providing programs and leadership for the Junior Canadian Rangers members.

Congratulations to all teams and members of 32 Canadian Brigade Group who volunteered, supported and participated in this year's tournament and in doing so, helped raise awareness of the Rangers serving in Ontario's far north.



Photo credit - Jean Miso



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FORT SEVERN JUNIOR CANADIAN RANGER HONoured WITH CANADA COMPANY BURSARY



JCR Ian Kakekaspan is presented the Canada Company Bursary by Colonel (Retired) Kerry Vance a member of the Board of Directors of Canada Company.

The Cadets and Junior Canadian Ranger (JCR) Bursary Program aims to recognize the Cadets and Junior Canadian Rangers who exemplify attributes of leadership and citizenship and are motivated to pursue post-secondary education, vocation, or other learning opportunities. Commencing this year and annually thereafter, through the JCR Bursary Program, bursaries of \$1,000 will be awarded to each of the five JCR patrols across Canada. Junior Canadian Ranger Ian Kakekaspan from Fort Severn First Nation was presented with the Canada Company Bursary on November 27, 2019 by Colonel (Retired) Kerry Vance representing Canada Company.

Ian Kakekaspan, has been a JCR for six years with the Fort Severn JCR Patrol where he has participated in numerous training and leadership opportunities that have included on-the-land training, National Marksmanship



JCR Ian Kakekaspan with Lac Seul Patrol Master Corporal Lori Kendall and Corporal Eric Bortlis.

Championship and employment as a staff JCR at Camp Loon.

During the school year, Ian resides in Sioux Lookout, Ontario, where he is completing his final year of high school.

He continues to participate in the JCR program with the Lac Seul JCR Patrol. His post-secondary aspiration is to attend school to study Flight Management with the goal of becoming a pilot and working with either Ornge or Wasaya Airlines.

The Junior Canadian Rangers is an army program for boys and girls aged 12 to 18 in remote and isolated communities across the Canadian North. The JCR program imparts traditional skills, life skills and Canadian Ranger skills. There are more than 650 Junior Canadian Rangers in 23 First Nations in Northern Ontario.

*By Captain Courtney Giles,
3rd Canadian Ranger Patrol Group*



EAGLE FEATHER



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SJA Connect added to curriculum at DFC High School, Thunder Bay

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Dennis Franklin Cromarty High School, also known as DFC High School, is a private high school for aboriginal students located in Thunder Bay, Ontario, and is administered by the Northern Nishnawbe Education Council (NNEC). Student population varies each year and fluctuates between 150 – 200. It was established in the year 2000 and serves 20 communities around Northwestern Ontario (see map attached). Aboriginal students from around Northwestern Ontario attend DFC, often flying in from remote reserve communities. The students are given two 'traditional breaks' every year when they fly back to their home communities to participate in traditional practises such as hunting and fishing.

SJA Connect is a certificate program offered through St. John Ambulance to provide youth age 14-19 the opportunity to explore health, safety and leadership topics in a flexible, innovative way. The goal of SJA Connect is to engage with and enable young Canadians to improve their health, safety, confidence and competence through health and safety oriented training, volunteer community-based service and leadership opportunities. It is meant to provide youth with skill-based practical training to prepare for the workforce and/or post-secondary education, and for them to engage positively with St. John Ambulance. The program offers over 45 topics participants can choose from to create their own personalized learning experience. Topics in Health, Safety, Community Service, Life Skills, Communication and Leadership ensure that the options are interesting and relevant to real world skills and career paths.



Pictured is St. John Ambulance Thunder Bay – Northwestern Ontario Therapy Dog Coordinator Jill Briggs and her dog Flynn assisting in the delivery of a topic from the "SJA Connect" program to students of Dennis Franklin Cromarty High School.



St. John Ambulance

November 2019



EAGLE FEATHER



A publication of St. John Council for Ontario | Charitable Registration No.: 10802 2237 RR0001

“Building Bridges” St. John Ambulance Ontario, The Ranger Foundation and DFC High School

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Pictured is St. John Ambulance Thunder Bay – Northwestern Ontario Regional Fund Development & Volunteer Coordinator Brian Edwards presenting first aid kits to students of Dennis Franklin Cromarty High School in Thunder Bay on behalf of the Ranger Foundation and St. John Council for Ontario.



St. John Ambulance

September 2019



EAGLE FEATHER



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Camp Loon 2019

By Nancy Hutchinson, St. John Ambulance Ontario First Aid Instructor.
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St. John Ambulance Ontario's involvement in year two at Camp Loon was again a resounding success! The Junior Canadian Ranger (JCR) program, under the direction of the 3rd Canadian Ranger Patrol Group is sponsored by the Vice Chief of the Defence Staff. This program is geared to teenagers and designed to teach life skills and traditions. The JCRs come from remote 'fly-in' communities in Northern Ontario. This yearly camp is located north of Geraldton, Ontario. This mid-July, approximately 150 JCRs and a staff of 80 instructors and volunteers attended the Camp.

New for 2019, the camp was designed to accommodate two groups of youth with five teams each week. A dedicated First Aid training tent was established this year which facilitated training and space requirements. Day One was spent setting up the equipment and the classroom. Day Two we greeted the kids as they arrived and assisted with handing out their supplies for the week. The classroom was relocated by the mountain bike site. This gave us our own space and it was great for keeping the distractions to a minimum.

Monday morning the camp officially started with a traditional First Nations opening ceremony where JCRs, Rangers, Instructors and Volunteers gathered.

The first group of kids arrived at the tent shortly after armed with experience from the previous year, I was prepared to manage the course content and the special considerations of 'fly-in' communities. Most of their communities do not have 9-1-1 so the kids brainstormed how to get help and what needed to be done while waiting for higher care to arrive. Hypothermia and hyperthermia are real issues when dealing with casualties, so this content was added to their Emergency First Aid course.





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As the sole First Aid Instructor, I was assigned a Ranger (Ralph) to help with the students. Ralph's assistance was just what we needed to help keep students motivated. Ralph had a natural rapport with the kids. Due to heat, particularly in the afternoon, the content of the day was adjusted so we started with the CPR level C. i.e. vigorous activity was completed before the humidity and heat. In the evenings, we were very lucky to have the Thunder Bay Police set up activities such as archery and paintball.



I had campers return this year and in spite of it possibly being repetitive, they very quickly engaged in the activities and assisted the new "first aiders". The campers this year over all, were very happy and motivated which made the atmosphere very positive and productive!

Nancy Hutchinson, St. John Ambulance Ontario First Aid Instructor.



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LAC SEUL EDUCATION AUTHORITY SUPPORTS 3CRPG JUNIOR RANGERS MARKSMANSHIP TEAM



*By Captain Courtney Giles,
3rd Canadian Ranger Patrol Group*

Junior Canadian Rangers sponsored by Lac Seul First Nations competed in the National Marksmanship Competition (NMC) from 23-27 May 2019 in Canadian Forces Base Valcartier, near Quebec City in Quebec. This competition involved 65 of the top Junior Ranger shooters in Canada. Most of the 10 Ontario shooters were from Lac Seul First Nation, near Sioux Lookout, with two more from Fort Severn and Thunder Bay. The Junior Canadian Ranger program is a culturally appropriate Canadian Army program for male and female youth aged 12-18 in remote and isolated communities across Canada's north.

The National Marksmanship Competition is

an annual marksmanship competition held in different parts of Canada from year to year. The Junior Canadian Rangers compete using the Daisy 853C Air Rifles on a 10-meter range, and using an electronic system that allow them to see exactly where their shots are landing in real time. They compete in the prone, standing and kneeling positions. They are scored based on shots landing closest to the centre of the target.

The Lac Seul NMC team was sponsored by the Lac Seul Education Authority. The Lac Seul Education Authority donated team jackets to the NMC team. The Lac Seul Education Authority provides direction and support to three elementary schools within Lac Seul First Nation – Frenchman's Head, Kejick Bay and Whitefish Bay.



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FOURTH ANNUAL RANGER CUP HOCKEY TOURNAMENT



Lieutenant-Colonel Matthew Richardson, members of the Ranger Cup Champions The Queen's York Rangers, Colonel Daniel Stepaniuk and Honorary Lieutenant-Colonel John B. Newman.

By Major Peter Martinis, The Royal Regiment of Canada

On Sunday December 30, 2018, eight hockey teams from 32 Canadian Brigade Group participated in the annual Ranger Cup hockey tournament. The tournament provided a day of hockey, esprit des corps, camaraderie and family skating, but ultimately, it supported the 3rd Canadian Ranger Patrol Group. Colonel Daniel Stepaniuk, Commander of 32 Canadian Brigade Group, Honorary Lieutenant Colonel John Newman of the 3rd Canadian Ranger Patrol Group and Lieutenant Colonel Matthew Richardson, Commanding Officer of 3rd Canadian Ranger Patrol Group along with many unit Commanding Officers and members were on hand for the day's events.

The tournament was divided into two pools, and featured some very hard fought games, two of which went to golden-goal shootout and one that was decided in the last ten seconds of the game. At the end of pool play, the Lincoln and Welland Regiment and the Toronto Scottish Regiment were matched up to play in the consolidation final while the Queens York Rangers and the Lorne Scots were set to play in the Championship game.

The Lincoln and Welland Regiment defeated the Toronto Scottish Regiment 4-2 to win the consolation game while the Queens York Rangers defeated the Lorne Scots 5-2. This marks the first championship for the Queens York Rangers. Since the tournament began in 2013, the Queens Own Rifles, 32 Service battalion, the Lorne Scottish Regiment and

the Queen's York Rangers have won the tournament.

Tournament Most Valuable Player went to Master Corporal Lappilla from the Queens York Rangers while the Skills Competition Winner was Corporal Holly from the Lorne Scots.

The annual tournament was organized by the 32 Canadian Brigade Group and the Ranger Foundation, a Toronto based organization which provides a range of supports for the Rangers of Northern Ontario. The Foundation also supports that Patrol Group's Junior Canadian Rangers, a program for Indigenous boys and girls aged 12 to 18.

Presently, there are approximately 600 Rangers and over 1,000 Junior Canadian Rangers, located in 25 remote and isolated First Nations communities across the Far North of Ontario. The Canadian Rangers provide a military presence in Canada's north conducting patrols, acting as guides and scouts, and providing expertise in survival in all seasons and weather conditions when working with their Regular and Reserve Army counterparts. In addition the Rangers save lives in search and rescue missions, provide evacuation support during spring floods, forest fires, and many other community emergencies. The Rangers also provide leadership within their own communities as well as providing programs and leadership for the Junior Canadian Rangers members.

Congratulations to all teams and members of 32 Canadian Brigade Group who supported and participated in this year's tournament and in doing so, helped raise awareness of our Rangers serving in Ontario's far north.



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The Junior Canadian Ranger (JCR) program under the direction of the 3rd Canadian Ranger Patrol Group (3CRPG) is sponsored by the Vice Chief of the Defence Staff. The program in Ontario is designed to teach life skills and traditions to boys and girls (12 to 18 years of age) living in over 22 remote 'fly-in' First Nations communities in Northern Ontario. Every summer JCRs from each community attend a program called Camp Loon, located outside Geraldton, Ontario. This year in mid July, approximately 147 JCRs and a staff of 100 instructors and volunteers attended the Camp for 10 days.

The First Aid program at Camp Loon, with level C CPR and AED instruction, was added as a newsite to the JCR program and was led by St. John Ambulance instructors.

The first day at the camp was used by course instructors to set up a base and a classroom in the canteen tent. This location proved to be unsatisfactory and was ultimately relocated after the first day of course instruction to a tent beside the camp's operations centre. Navy Second-Lieutenant Vincent Shui and I met to discuss our team teaching curriculum for the next seven days of JCR training. Together, we prepared equipment and set a



process in place for getting our equipment cleaned and decontaminated daily. The youth attending Camp Loon arrived at various increments by plane throughout the first day and their Ranger instructors used this time to help the JCRs settle into camp life.





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www.therangerfoundation.ca

The second day of the camp started with a traditional First Nations opening ceremony where JCRs, Rangers, Instructors, and volunteers gathered together. Then the first 'team' of JCRs arrived at our post to start the first day of training! They were very shy and hesitant to participate. The challenges we faced soon became apparent when the video stated, "Call 9-1-1"! Most of our participants come from fly-in communities that have no response zones, something we take for granted when training people in Southern Ontario. Next, we expected the JCRs to partner up with each other and do "hands" on First aid. This culturally challenged even the most outgoing of the participants. It took coaching and encouragement for them to participate. The next challenge faced was introducing the AED and where to find it in the community. The general store, in most communities, was the chosen location.

The weather during Camp Loon was hot and humid, however the JCRs were reluctant to drink water because in many communities the water has to be boiled before it is safe to drink. The Ranger leaders assured the JCRs that the water provided at camp was safe to drink and spoke with them about the importance of hydration. Time was then allocated throughout the day for JCRs to drink from their water bottles.

Another challenge presented itself during the week at Camp Loon. Some JCRs did not want to remove their long sleeve shirts, even when temperatures hovered around

35 degrees. We soon learned "Cutting" was one of the main reasons they wished to keep the shirts on. We also learned, that suicide was the number one cause of death for youth between the ages of 10 -14.

Sadly, I have just been informed as I write this article for St. John Council for Ontario, that one of my first aid students, 13 year old Junior Ranger, Karlana Kamenawatmin of Bear Skin Lake First Nation died by her own hand September 19, 2018.

It was only this July that Karlana was awarded the Order of St. George Medal for her outstanding leadership among the 147 JCRs attending this summer's camp. Her family, community and Nation have lost a wonderful young woman with the potential to make a significant difference.

Overall it was a very challenging experience! By the end of the day we, the instructors, were worn out and ready for bed by 9pm. Reaching the kids and getting them to engage was very emotional and exhausting. Just when I felt I did not reach them, one of them would shout out an answer or come up and hug me.

Graduation day proved to be very rewarding! I welcome this opportunity again at Camp Loon in 2019!

By Nancy Hutchinson, St. John Ambulance Ontario First Aid Instructor. Reprinted with permission from the St. John Council for Ontario.

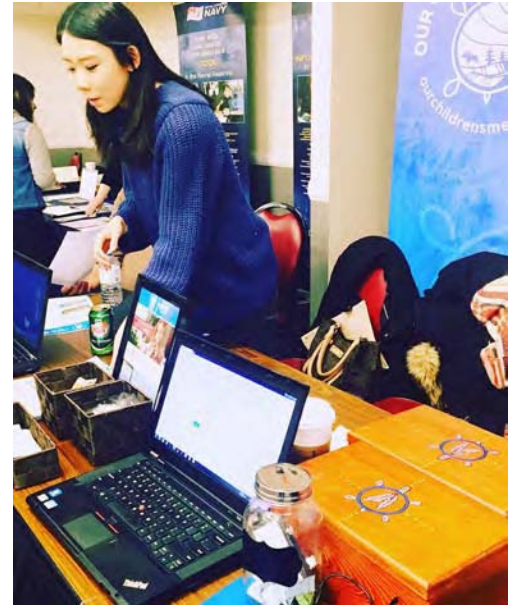




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BIRCH HILL EQUITY PARTNERS SUPPORT OUR CHILDREN'S MEDICINE (OCM)



Community outreach in action! People at Job Fairs helping make meaningful connections.

In 2015, Birch Hill Equity Partners became the national supporter of an Indigenous employment initiative called, "Our Children's Medicine" (OCM).

Since then, OCM and Birch Hill have been hard at work, building a strategy to connect Indigenous job seekers with entry-level roles at Canadian companies. Through discussions and collaboration with business and community organizations, OCM has uniquely isolated the point of disconnect between current employer recruitment methods and barrier job seekers. This discovery has allowed for concrete action!

OCM has partnered with the interactive hiring platform, "HigherMe" (US based, Canadian founded) to bridge the disconnect that exists between business and community. The platform allows job seekers with barriers to shine via an assessment based application method. This approach removes the resume format by transposing lived and cultural experiences into qualifications for work using multiple choice and short answer questions. Each answer is then graded. This allows employers to match a score value for every applicant, ensuring that HR reps

hire qualified and suitable applicants.

As of September 2018, there have been more than 60 employers onboard and recruiting with OCM/HigherME, resulting in over 300 hires in just under 12 months, and a Talent Pool of 7,000 job seekers (72% of which have identified as Indigenous). OCM's solution is allowing employers to hire diverse and talented candidates that would have been missed via traditional HR outreach. In addition, the platform empowers community agencies, that now have insights into the needs of national employers. In addition, there is a complete transparency into statistics including the successful hiring and retention of a client. OCM is working in 11 communities including Six Nations, Mississaugas of the New Credit, Thunder Bay, Winnipeg, Toronto, Vancouver, Niagara, London, Rama First Nation, Ottawa & Kitigan Zibi

OCM became a stand-alone Social Enterprise in 2017, operating out of the Birch Hill offices and with assistance and oversight from many Birch Hill team members. To becoming a partner contact: Josh.hellyer@ourchildrensmedicine.ca





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DENNIS FRANKLIN CROMARTY STUDENTS RECEIVE COMPLIMENTARY HYGIENE KITS



DFC Hygiene Kits were packed by P&G staff

When asked what was most urgently needed by the teens attending Dennis Franklin Cromarty (DFC) High School, Sean Spennath, First Nations Student Success Program Coordinator, shared this info with DFC friends at Richmond Hill United Church (RHUC):

“When our students leave their homes in remote northern fly-in First Nation communities to attend high school in Thunder Bay, they’re placed in boarding homes spread across the city. The unfortunate truth is that we are very short on the number of Thunder Bay people who are willing and able to be boarding home parents. This leads to the kids living in homes where they are not always given life essentials, such as soap and shampoo.”

RHUC contacted Procter and Gamble’s Jane Lewis, who referred the urgent need for help to resourceful P&G colleague, Joyce Law.

Within hours Joyce arranged for the school to receive 250 P&G Hygiene Kits via their generous community support program. This was arranged in partnership with GlobalMedic, with packing organized by GlobalMedic’s Laura Garrioch. Supportive P&G



Kits are shipped to Dennis Franklin Cromarty

staffers volunteered to sort and pack the male and female kits containing key hygiene products, generously donated by P&G.

John Currie of HIP (Honouring Indigenous People) worked with Pete Dalmuzzi of Trucks for Change, to arrange for special transportation arrangements, graciously picked up from the GlobalMedic warehouse by Mackie Transport, and delivered directly to DFC High School.

Sean adds: “The P&G Hygiene Kits for our teens have been long needed, and we are grateful. These supplies will help them feel a sense of provision for their health and welfare. As adults who were raised in homes where love, parenting and the essentials were always provided, we can tend to overlook the need for kids to be kids, and feel cared for. This is something

I want for all our students. There is an ongoing need for these life essentials, so this generous donation by Procter and Gamble will go a long way in providing our students with a happier and more normalized Canadian high school experience.”



DFC Male Hygiene Kit



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INDIGENOUS SERVICES CANADA ASSISTS HIP TO TRANSPORT HOCKEY EQUIPMENT



The Fort Albany NISKAK First Nations Hockey Team sponsored by HIP

Building on an initiative started by the Rotary Clubs of Etobicoke and Palgrave, Rotarians across the Greater Toronto Area have come together to collectively sort, pack and deliver 61 pallets of hockey equipment to more than 2000 Indigenous girls and boys located in isolated communities in Northern Ontario and Manitoba.

Participation in sports provides many benefits to Indigenous youth and communities that they live in. Hockey promotes fitness; the learning of new skills; it creates a reduction in stress; and increases team work, self-confidence, and self-discipline. It also introduces young people to their peers from different regions and cultures, by giving them an opportunity to establish new relationships through hockey tournaments and competitions.

Our initiative involved hundreds of people including Indigenous leaders, volunteers and coaches, who planned and organized communities to provide young people with an opportunity to play the game of hockey. It also extended to include supporters like Susan Hicks from the Rotary Club of Palgrave, Gerald Lue from the Rotary Club of Etobicoke and the hundreds of donors who gave, sorted and organized 61 pallets of hockey equipment for Indigenous youth. Pete Dalmazzi of Trucks for Change, Brent Arnold of Arnold Bros., Dave of Martin Roy Transport, Brody Emery of Thunder Airlines, Gardwine Transport, Alana Stewart of Wasaya Airways and Calm Air helped to transport the equipment to isolated northern Indigenous communities in Ontario and Manitoba. In addition, Mel Whitesell of the Manitoba Aboriginal Recreation and Sports Council, Steve Podborski, and Parachute Canada, provided an invaluable concussion awareness guide, of which Janice O'Born of The Printing House printed and donated 12,000 copies, for northern distribution. Indigenous Services Canada was a very significant help by enabling the transport of our 61 pallets for distribution to the youth of these remote locations.

*By John Currie
Executive Director of Honouring Indigenous People*

HIP: *Honouring Indigenous Peoples (HIP) is a Canada wide partnership between Indigenous Peoples and Rotarians. HIP envisions a Canada where every Indigenous person has access to equitable educational opportunities enjoyed by all Canadians and where Rotarians work collaboratively with Indigenous peoples to overcome these inequalities thereby creating a strong Canada where all peoples prosper. HIP is aligned with the Truth and Reconciliation calls-to-action and our mission, goals and activities are in-line with the needs of the First Nation, Inuit and Métis peoples we serve.*

(www.rotaryHIP.com)



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Winter Coats Sent To Indigenous Teens Attending Dennis Franklin Cromarty High School, Thunder Bay



RHUC Work Party 1

Rotary HIP ('Honouring Indigenous Peoples') received a request from Andrée Cazabon (Director of the movie "Third World Canada") for winter coats and running shoes for the 100 teens of Thunder Bay's Dennis Franklin Cromarty High School (DFC), after attending an all-student conference & assembly, hosted by Birch Hill Equity's "Our Children's Medicine", held at the school. To earn their high school diplomas, these dedicated teens live away from their families and homes, most located in 23 remote, fly-in First Nations communities, throughout their 4 high school years, and they board in Thunder Bay. The students come from the northwest quadrant of the province of Ontario, a catchment area larger than the size of some entire countries. For more information online about the challenges faced by DFC students working to get their education, go to <https://www.theglobeandmail.com/news/national/breaking-the-cycle-inside-a-high-school-that-is-reimagining-indigenous-education/article25146175/>

Richmond Hill United Church (RHUC) and friends adopted the December DFC Friendship Winter Coat Project of providing the needed items, sharing the news of the coat drive with and beyond the congregation, with families and neighbours, workplaces and schools, hiking clubs, and Scout Troop families. RHUC and other generous donors from as far away as Florida sent cash donations and provided 850 much-needed items, including 184 new/gently used warm winter coats, 100+ hats and mitts, plus scarves, snow pants, boots, backpacks, running shoes, sweaters and other clothing, and sports gear including uniforms for soccer and hockey teams. During two work parties 36 RHUC volunteers sorted, checked, logged, and packed dozens of cartons on 3 pallets. With generous support from Trucks for Change, Erb Transport, Snowbird Transport, and HIP, the skids were shipped, cost-free, directly to the school, so the students received warm coats and gear early in January in the bitterly cold winter semester.



RHUC Work Party 2

On receiving the shipment, Sean Spenrath, DFC's Sports Director and FNSSP Coordinator, expressed gratitude on behalf of the school and students: "The coat project has been very beneficial to our students. Our students often come to Thunder Bay with very little in their pockets and even less in supplies needed to live with a quality of life that is on par with their homegrown Thunder Bay counterparts. We often take for granted the things in life that we have. Richmond Hill United Church helped to provide one of those necessities to our youth. It warms my heart to know that there are organizations out there willing to lend a hand to people that are less fortunate. If everyone did this, the world would be a better place. Richmond Hill United Church has helped make our high school a better place with their love and commitment to our youth."

-by Kathy McBey (RHUC)



DFC Winter Coats Distribution - photo by Sean Spenrath