

# 971 RCAF Air MARSHAL SLEMON WING AIR Force Association Newsletter NOVEMBER, 2004

HMCS Chicoutimi - see page 4



## Social Calendar

- Oct 02 50 members raved about the BBQ salmon, chicken, and burgers at the “Barbeque in the Broadmoor”, so see page 7 for a recipe. Hosted by Valerie and Bob Freimuth with the Judy & Tooth Maestrelli co-hosting. Col. Pat Dennis gave a most interesting presentation of his 3 years as CF Attaché to Israel.
- Nov 06 1800 at the Greek Buffet, Caddie Shack Restaurant at the Valley Hi Golf Course, 610 South Chelton (between Circle and Academy). On Chelton going south, it is 2 blocks past Airport Road, turn west into the Golf Course. The restaurant is on the second floor. \$15 per person. Happy hour prices for drinks.
- Nov 11 Once again we are rapidly closing in on Remembrance Day. The time of year that we as serving military members, veterans, and retirees must take time to pause and reflect on the sacrifices made by so many (both the living and the dead) that gave us the freedom to conduct our lives as we do today. Without their selfless acts this world would be a much different place indeed. Please remember that as Air Force Association members, it is our responsibility to gather to pay respect and honour to those that have gone before us. On 11 November 2004 make no plans other than to attend the ceremony at Memorial Park in Colorado Springs at 11:00 AM. The dress for the ceremony will be blue blazers, grey slacks, hats, and medals. If you do not have this dress it does not matter. The fact that you have taken the time to remember is sufficient. . . . Darrell Levitt (see page 8 for inclement weather).  
Ye Olde Scribe adds: Since my first newsletter in 1986 I have lamented the sacrifices made by so many, friend and foe, in battle. Sadly, it would take forever to remember them all, so permit me, this time, to recall only Ivan and Abdul, and hopefully learn from their behaviour. See page 6.
- Nov 21 Grey Cup Party at the Overtime Sports Bar and Grill, SE corner of Dublin and Union. Watch the game on the giant HDTV screen. Discounts on food and drink for 971 Wing members. Join us at 1500 with game time starting at 1600.
- Dec 16 Regular Force Christmas Party. Officers Club, Peterson AFB. Our Wing will provide a subsidy to attendees. Details TBA.
- Jan 08 Our Christmas Party, as usual belated, at 1800, hosted by Judy and Lew Lomas, 5060 Cliff Point Circle East. Each member and guest to bring a \$5 gift, marked M & F for the usual exchange.

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## The Editor's Corner

**SOUL MATE:** Editors who believe that newsletters should not only inform but provide data and various views on current affairs for discussion are too often met with silence or with heavy flak. It was, therefore, rewarding for me to discover Norm Blondel, editor of *Contrails*, the Comox 888 Wing newsletter, which is a delight to read. He does get into hot water at times by expressing his views, but, to this old veteran, that is a responsibility of all veterans even when it gets into the area of politics, dangerously considered taboo by members who are afraid to rock the boat even when it is stuck on shoals. None of us is infallible and the truth, smothered by layers of political and special-interest propaganda, requires the help of all of us, using our own varied backgrounds, research, and interpretations, to rescue it. Norm and I are now using each other's material and we both welcome inputs that are contrary to our views, provided they are polite, well-meaning, and backed up by facts. How else can we all learn? All of us are products of our individual experiences. For instance, when Jacques Chirac refused to go along with the invasion of Iraq, there was no end of uncouth French-baiting by those who did not remember, or never knew, that Jacques served in Algeria in which there were a million *colons* (French settlers). When Algerians resorted to the use of military force to throw them out and gain independence, France, with superior military might, won all the battles but lost the war. The loss of French Indo-China and Algeria both convinced Jacques that military force would not succeed in Iraq. Events have proven he had good cause to be sceptical. Will he get an apology?

We can all take the same facts and come up with different interpretations. That is the joy of life and the reason we should never allow ourselves to be brain-washed or to take fixed positions, but remain flexible to change our minds as circumstances change or as we learn new facts. Flip-flops are nothing to be ashamed of. Wars have been the favoured tool of those who crave the trappings of power. Wars can unite a people, force conformity, kill dissent, and weaken opposing parties. Of course, if you lose a war, you can expect the fate of Lugal (king) Zaggessi, Montezuma, Napoleon, Mussolini, Hitler, and so many others.

Today we have invasions we do not recognize as they are peaceful. The ethnic composition of Europe and America has changed, apparently irretrievably. In many areas of North America, it is difficult to find a Caucasian - you know, those people who stole the continent from the original inhabitants. Caucasians have relinquished control in many areas of science, transportation, and even immigration. No longer are all policemen Irish. Even Irish priests have been replaced by Indians, Philippines, and the like. Sikh headdress has replaced many an RCMP stetson. Europe is becoming more Muslim every day. With inter-breeding, Caucasian genes are not the dominant ones. All of this is submerged in our current politically-correct stance and we must not look askance at our new citizens most of whom are hard-working, intelligent, and devoted to their adopted country. The troubling thought that they all out-produce Caucasians and will soon be dominant must not be discussed. Quebec had this problem when their 65,000 were outnumbered by millions of Britons. They chose the Battle of the Cradle with families from 15 to 22 common. Soon they were six million, have forced us to learn French, and are now sufficiently satisfied to lower their birth rate to even less than the rest of Canada. Need we do the same in face of the Asian and Latin influx? Can we force family planning onto them? Is the Caucasian race worth saving? Should the world be one race of humans?

The last successful Muslim invasion of Europe was in Spain. They turned southern Spain into a tolerant, prosperous region to the envy of the Christian north who, at the time of Columbus, built sufficient military force to oust them cruelly along with the Jews. This was the start of the decay that crippled Spain.

Another area that cries out for reform is our political systems. The best people shy away from politics where you must have a very thick hide plus lots of money. A young woman was dragged through living hell in order to discredit a fine president. Now there are 7,400 publications arguing the current president is a disaster. Far too many take sides without seeking, or examining, facts.

Then there is justice that favours the wealthy. There are far too many parasites, called lawyers, who control justice. How about the same lawyer representing both clients?

The signing of the EU constitution is a turning point of history. Is Russia the next member after Turkey?

No draft and an all volunteer army? Do we not already have an economic draft? Emerging from high school and unable to afford university, many enter the Services for a career or to earn money for college.

What about the widening income gap? Should income caps be imposed?

We are very good at crying wolf. Our ability to recognize wolves is questionable.

Are we emulating the Roman coliseums with our current cravings for more violence, sex, and foul language?

Are we allowing the military-industrial complex to dictate decisions? Military overspending killed the Soviet Union. It could kill us too.

Democracy is rule by the majority. How do we avoid the Tyranny of the Majority or the tyranny of those who control the majority?

We in North America are consuming four times what the earth is capable of renewing. Do we remain satiated while we waddle to extinction or do we force our leaders to take corrective measures?

We have built an economy that demands both husband and wife spend long hours in the work force to the detriment of family life. We seem amazed when research tells us that the rural folk of England prior to 1066 were actually happier and more content than we are today with all of our possessions.

I could go on, but is the above not sufficient to at least inaugurate healthy discussions?

**DOOMSDAY WRECK:** On 20 August 1944, the US cargo ship, Richard Montgomery, loaded with bombs, struck a sand bar in the Thames River near Sheerness (population 11,000). Some salvage was done but was stopped when the ship started to break up and the estimated cost for more salvage work was £90,000.

Signs of the danger are posted on the tops of the masts still above water, but 3,000 tons of bombs and fuses remain in 13,700 explosive devices. Tests done at Suffield in Alberta indicate that, if some or all of them explode, it will send water, mud, and debris to a height of over 3 kilometres. For 60 years various solutions have been proposed, then shelved, fundless.

The last government assessment was in 1999. It claimed that doing nothing was not an option for much longer. It gave 5 possible solutions which are still being studied. Meanwhile nearby gas terminals, oil refineries, and power stations continue to expand.

**THE PRICE OF DEATH:** While it is costing us more each year to cause the demise of an enemy, our enemies are much more frugal and could defeat us economically. They expended an average of \$283 for each of the 495 killed in Bali, Kenya, Tanzania, and Istanbul.

**ROY THOMPSON** provided items for the Students at an Aspen school who are studying gliding and flying. This was their thank you note. "The cadet patches and the treasure trove of other items arrived in great shape. Thank you very much for your generous contribution to my educational efforts. The high school students really enjoyed the goodies and I'm going to "share" the sticker and tattoos with a 5th grade class, that I build hand-launched gliders with, in a couple of weeks. Never too young to start! Again, thanks for your generosity and its folks like you who make it rewarding to work with the schools and younger folks and flying. Thanks again, Craig

3

#### **THE INUIT HAVE LAID CLAIM TO ALL OF NORTHERN ONTARIO - or so it would seem:**

On both sides of highway 17 from the Manitoba border to east of Sudbury, there are, on every rock outcropping, some quite steep to climb, **Inukshuks**, from one to two feet tall. It must have taken an army to build and place thousands of these inukshuks.

Inukshuk, or inukshuit, means "something resembling a man". They are built with stones and some are 3 metres tall. They date back at least to 800 BC and were used mainly as landmarks by both the Dorset and Thule cultures.

For the two days it took us to drive this distance of over 900 miles, these inukshuks provided a constant and **NEW MEMBERS - Mike and Madonna Huntingford**, 1027 Cailin Way, Fountain, 80817, (719) 651-0923, [mhuntingford@adelphia.net](mailto:mhuntingford@adelphia.net)

Welcome aboard, Mike and Madonna!

A new page, with somewhat more detail, will be added in the biographies binder for which, may we ask, the

loan of a colour picture of the two of you for inclusion. In the meantime:

Mike was born in St. Thomas, Ontario, 11 Nov 1956, while Madonna was born in Fredericton, NB, 18 May 1962. Mike retired in April 2004. He was a member of 741 Red Triangle Squadron RCAC, and spent 2 years in the Reserves plus 27+ years in the Regular Force. He joined 2 RCR then earned a commission as an Air Weapons Controller. He served at Gagetown, North Bay, El Gaba, Egypt, Warner Robins AFB, Georgia, and Peterson AFB.

Both are active scuba divers, but seek warmer waters to better enjoy this hobby.

pleasant reminder of our inuit citizens.

#### **CANADIAN SNIPERS IN AFGHANISTAN:**

Five Canadian snipers have been nominated for the US Bronze Star, two with "V" for Valor, for saving numerous American lives when they took out over 20 Taliban in an ambush in Shah-i-kot valley during Operation Anaconda

#### **GENEALOGY AND THE GENEROSITY OF THE SCOTS:**

The hundreds of Scots who came to Canada to man Hudson Bay posts were so generous with genetic donations that, today, when Inuit, Cree, and so on, want to search for their ancestors, they have to go to Scotland. Currently a group of Cree from Saskatchewan are in the Orkney Islands on this quest. The First Nations University in Regina has held family reunions. In Scotland, the Scottish Arts Council has granted \$20,000 for research and the University of the Highlands and Islands is funding a study centre.

The spark plug for this search is Kim Foden, an Orkney resident, whose genealogical research uncovered a network of Cree relatives in Canada

**MINE DETECTION:** The latest in a long list of proposed mine detectors is the study by the University of Alberta to genetically alter the genes of a plant so that the roots change colour when near TNT. The Defence Research Board has contributed \$150,000 to a feasibility study and the US has joined in. 12 million mines remain in Afghanistan and 110 million worldwide.

**DRIVING HAZARDS:** In St. Joachim, Quebec, a man was killed and his partner injured in a head-on crash. The policeman who described the accident wrote: "The two people were in the midst of having sexual intercourse at the wheel which makes driving that much more dangerous."

**CORMORANT MAINTENANCE:** Maintenance now consumes 22 hours for each flight hour which EH Industries claim should reduce to 8.5 hours as experience levels increase. IMP Aerospace has the maintenance contract.

Nov 2004

## **HMCS CHICOUTIMI - A WATERSHED?**

Intense media coverage has followed the October 5<sup>th</sup> fire that took the life of Lieutenant Chris Saunders, age 32 and father of two, due to smoke inhalation, on the Chicoutimi's maiden voyage from Scotland to Nova Scotia. To be on hand for the arrival of the body in Halifax, Prime Minister Paul Martin, who had cut refit funds by \$54 million, curtailed a visit to Russia by deleting a planned visit to the Arctic naval base where Canada is assisting the dismantling of Soviet nuclear submarines. Then, the Governor General and Minister of National Defence attended the funeral.

This governmental concern over a single casualty is laudable but suspicious. Such concern was lacking for the numerous deaths in the initial stages of such programs as the CF-100 or CF-104. Are mounting criticisms of years of inadequate military funding causing politicians to make public displays of concern?

The cost to replace Canada's ageing fleet of Oberon-class subs, that had 1950s technology, could have cost \$5 billion. Even when the UK offered, in 1994, 4 Upholder-class subs that were state-of-the-art in 1990 for only \$750 million, Canada procrastinated, finally settling in 1998 for a deal that exchanged British use of Canadian bases (Goose Bay, Wainwright, Suffield) in lieu of cash.

HMS Upholder (now HMCS Chicoutimi) was started in 1983 as the first of its class of stealth subs with numerous advanced features that, as could be expected, had numerous problems that caused it to limp back to port several times. It was commissioned in 1990, followed by Ursula, Unicorn, and Unseen. (Now HMCS Windsor, Victoria, Corner Brook). The UK used these 4 subs for 3 years before mothballing them in favour of an all-nuclear fleet. When complicated equipment sits idle for years all sorts of deteriorations arise, resulting in heavy repair expenses to both Canada and the UK, raising the cost to 1 billion. It has taken 6 years for all 4 subs to be brought up to stringent specifications including the replacement of British wiring with Canadian and the ability to use Canadian, rather than UK, torpedoes.

During these 6 years, a close friendship has been forged between the people of Barrow-in-Furness and Canadian crews. In fact, 20 Canadian submariners married Barrow girls.

Barrow has great sub expertise, having built 213 subs for the RN, nuclear subs for the USN, and is now working on a trident.

Canadian submariners are very happy with these subs, describing them as a delight to handle. The fire was caused when the sub was riding on the surface with both hatches open in a stormy sea. A sudden, high wave cascaded water through the open hatches while electricians had a waterproof electrical panel open to check for a fault. The resultant fire put engines and lighting out of commission, and filled the sub with smoke, necessitating the crew to put all of their lengthy training to good use, to extinguish the fire and to save the sub in the dark. RN ships and helicopters were soon on the scene, but the Chicoutimi captain decided rescue was too risky in heavy seas. When Saunders, and a few others suffering from smoke inhalation, were finally airlifted to hospital, Saunders, thought to be recovering, died en route.

## **ARITHMETIC 101 and BUDGET SURPLUS:**

Paul Martin, a former finance minister, recently predicted a current surplus of 1.9 billion, somewhat short of the actual surplus of \$9.1 billion. Defence is just one of the many wo Now the Chicoutimi, which was towed back 200 Km

to the RN base at Faslane, Scotland, will require extensive repair, and the other 3 have been ordered back to port in Canada to await the findings of an enquiry. The government continues to receive flak for its under-funding while others argue we should scrap our submarine fleet as an Aurora can cover in 5 hours what would take a sub 6 weeks. I have yet to see an Aurora land at sea to board a ship. We do need these subs; they were a good purchase; most bugs have been worked out; and the crews love them.

I recall that, even with our Halifaxes and Lancasters, maintenance was minimal when we flew them every day. When they had to sit for days due to weather, all sorts of problems, especially oil leaks, frustrated us.

May saner heads prevail and allow us to keep these subs on active, and frequent, patrols.

rthy supplicants for handouts. The plan, however, is to use it to further reduce the national debt, now at \$500 billion. Canada has enjoyed surpluses for a dozen years after the heavy-spending years that has left a debt that will take many years yet to eliminate.

## **THE CANADIAN BUSHPLANE HERITAGE CENTRE, Sault Sainte Marie.**

We were quite impressed with the quality of this museum when we visited it in late September. It has 18 aircraft on display from a replica of the Silver Dart to the CL215 water bomber. Its theatre has excellent films. The museum gets no government funding, but relies on fundraising, admissions, and gift-shop sales.

**SCIENCE NORTH, Sudbury.** Arriving after the summer crowds had gone and before the arrival of school groups, we were able to thoroughly enjoy this impressive facility. They showed an update on the neutrino film for just six of us visitors who happened by. I did have to lecture them, though. They do such a poor job of publicising the great work they are doing that I have to learn their findings through such publications as the UK *New Scientist*. The Sudbury Neutrino Observatory, which began operations in 1998 deep in an old mine, has made significant steps in illuminating some of the deepest questions in particle physics and has contributed towards the Grand Unified Theory. We really should pay more attention to these billions of neutrinos that race though our bodies, and the earth, every second as they have profound effects on our understanding of energy production by the sun and supernovas.

## **LICENSE PLATES:**

Veterans' license plates are now issued in British Columbia, New Brunswick, Newfoundland, Nova Scotia, Ontario, and Prince Edward Island.

(Lifted from *Contrails*, 888 Wing, Comox)

**COLUMNS:** The above 2 pages are a concession to you columnists. May I now go back to my preferred full page?

## Book Reviews

Whenever I am in Canada I indulge my addiction. This year I bought 19 Canadian non-fiction books which will take me several newsletters to review. But, first, may I mention a delightful Polish book loaned to me by Loreen O'Blenis?

**A Treasury of Polish Aphorisms, by Jacek Galazka, 1997, Polish Heritage Publications:** A few excerpts:

1. Not every boomerang returns. Some choose freedom
2. It's the priests who have demands, not the gods.
3. No snowflake in an avalanche ever feels responsible.
4. Ladies, do not complain about men. Their aims are as transparent as your clothing.
5. When gossip becomes old, it becomes myths.
6. Create your own myths. That is how the gods got started.
7. War: for some a dolorosa, for others a dollarosa.
8. Can you imagine a woman letting her lover tell her tales for 1,001 nights?
9. Do not trust your heart - it wants your blood.
10. Those who fear death do not live forever either.
11. Liberty, Equality, Fraternity - but what are the verbs?
12. Even a flounder takes sides.
13. You will learn more wisdom from a wife than from 1,000 mistresses.
14. With an eunuch you can have such a nice chat, said the lady from a harem.

**RUSHING TO ARMAGEDDON by Mel Hurtig, McClelland and Stewart, Toronto, 2004, 229 pages.**

Mel, who operated one of North America's largest book stores in Edmonton and who published the Canadian Encyclopaedia, has a deep love of, and concern for, Canada. I have enjoyed many of his books. He has rushed this one into print because of the impending decision in Canada whether or not to join George W. Bush's anti-missile missile venture. As usual, his arguments are supported by exhaustive research. He contends that such a system is not needed, does not work (although it might in a decade), and will start yet another arms race, provoking Russia, then China, then India, then Pakistan into beefing up their nuclear and missile armaments.

The majority of letters-to-the-editor that I read in Winnipeg, Toronto, and Ottawa newspapers agree with Hurtig, but some add that Canada will be forced to go along to remain on good terms with the Bush administration. They also add research and contract benefits. This scribe has long lamented the insane level of armaments most countries carry to the detriment of their people and the environment. Because we have yet to grow up as a species, we do need effective conventional forces short of massive doomsday weapons that appear to others as imminent dangers that must be countered. When current nuclear powers make only timid moves at disarmament, it is hypocritical to cry foul at Iran's feeble steps when we allow Israel to have a formidable nuclear force. If we are to lead we must do so by example.

**WORD OF HONOUR - Camp 30, Bowmanville, Ontario, by Lynn Phillip Hodgson and Alan Paul Longfield, Friesens, Manitoba, 2003, 349 pages.**

During WWII, Camp 30, held 880 German officers who rated it the finest prisoner-of-war compound in the world. Many returned to Canada as immigrants after repatriation to Germany in 1945. This book is most interesting in many respects. It takes young Germans from their training days through military service to capture and POW life; it reveals that German POWs had the same cunning, skills, and blind devotion to duty as Allied POWs; it details unbelievable escapes; and it emphasizes human behaviour and decency between captor and prisoner. While they had considerably more amenities than we did in Germany, the plays they enacted (we both enacted *MacBeth*) and the orchestras they put together were similar to ours. Room restricts this review to just a couple of incidents:

(1) Two young Germans, trained to operate tanks, found themselves together on a motorcycle and side car as dispatch riders. In the swirling battles of North Africa they were left unconscious for several hours before being rescued by the British who tended their wounds in a field hospital that contained German, Italian, and Allied wounded. A staff car stopped outside and in walked a high-ranking officer the British mistook as a Polish officer. It was actually Rommel who thought it was a German field hospital. The German wounded recognized him but pretended disinterest. Rommel soon recognized his error and quietly departed to drive off into the desert.

(2) Although relations were quite cordial in Camp 30, there was a 3-day revolt fought with baseball bats and hockey sticks as the guards were ordered not to use firearms. I have repeatedly mentioned that we were never handcuffed in Germany. Not quite true. When our commandos raided the island of Sark, they captured and handcuffed some German troops. Surprised by German reinforcements, the commandos bayoneted the handcuffed Germans and fled. Furious, the Germans ordered the handcuffing of a number of Allied POWs, but the Luftwaffe handcuffs were for appearances as we could easily slip out of them. In retaliation, Canadian officials ordered the handcuffing of German prisoners. When this was attempted at Camp 30, the Germans refused to co-operate and took command of several buildings resulting in a 3-day battle. There were many cuts and bruises but no fatalities. A compromise was reached where the prisoners, for a short period, were handcuffed during roll calls only.

(3) With codes and a home-built radio, Camp 30 POWs were in contact with Berlin and were ordered to tunnel 20 U-boat commanders out to be picked up by U-boat 536F at Point Maisonnette near Bathurst, NB. The tunnel failed so Kapitänleutnant Wilhelm Klein made an ingenious escape to warn the U-boat. Klein actually did reach the rendezvous point. The RCN, however, was aware of this. HMCS Chippewa and other forces were positioned to capture the U-536F when it surfaced to send a boat ashore to rescue Klein. A patrolling soldier, unaware of the plot,

discovered Klein on the beach, arrested him, and ruined the RCN set-up. After a cat-and-mouse chase, U-536F, entangled in fishing nets, did escape.

The book contains over 50 pages of pictures of POW life and of Camp 30 before being commandeered for a POW camp, during its use as such, and its impressive condition today.

### **THE BATTLE OF THE ST. LAWRENCE by Nathan M. Greenfield, Harper Collins, Toronto, 2004, 287 pages.**

On 11 May 1942, a German U-Boat, the first of 15 to operate in the St. Lawrence River, torpedoed and sank the SS Nicoya to shatter the peace that had blessed the river since the War of 1812. From May 1942 to November 1944, U-boats torpedoed 28 Ships, sinking 24 of them, and taking the lives of 300 men, women, and children. All of these attacks were from Mont Joli eastwards. Among the 28 ships attacked were four warships: HMCS Charlottetown, Racoon, Magog, and Shawinigan. Maps are included to show locations. Also listed are the names of those killed in each attack, the greatest number, 92, on the Shawinigan. Eight US personnel were among the dead. These attacks caused Mackenzie King to order that ships carrying war materials to the UK be restricted to Halifax and Saint John.

Contrary to myths that, to allay civilian fears, particularly in Quebec, these losses were not publicized by the government during the war, newspapers did report them. Greenfield blames historians and text-book writers for the subsequent forgetfulness in not mentioning this phase of WWII.

### *Ivan Skivinsky Skvar and Abdul the Bulbul Ameer*

My Mother and my uncle, Carl McGirr of North Bay, had the Irish knack of story telling, and could recite numerous poems including all 32 verses of Grey's *Elegy Written in a Country Churchyard*. Before I was ten years of age they gave me a love of poetry especially those that had a message such as this one which told me that *Pride goeth before a fall* and *He who liveth by the sword shall perish by the sword*. It deals with the Turkish-Russian skirmishes and wars of the 1800s when Russia and the Ottoman Empire were expanding - a conflict that was to involve the UK in Afghanistan and the Crimean War in which the first Canadian VC was won. We can honour those who fell by remembering the plight of Ivan and Abdul:

There are heroes in plenty And well known to fame In the ranks that are led by the Tsar. But among the most famous Of name or of fame Was Ivan Skivinsky Skvar.	"Young Man", said Abdul, "Has life grown so dull That you wish to end your career? For by this I imply You are going to die, Mister Ivan Skivinsky Skvar."	Tsar Petrovich too In his spectacles flew To arrive in his gold-crested car. But came just in time To exchange a last line With Ivan Skivinsky Skvar.
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When they wanted a man To encourage the van Or shout "hullaloo" in the rear They straightway sent out For that wily Kalmuk Called Ivan Skivinsky Skvar.	Said Ivan, "My friend, Your remarks in the end Will avail you but little, I fear, For you will never survive To repeat them alive, Mister Abdul the Bulbul Ameer."	For, as Abdul's long knife Was extracting a life, In fact he was yelling " <i>Huzzah!</i> " When he felt himself struck By that wily Kalmuk, Called Ivan Skivinsky Skvar.
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He could play euchre or pool Quote Shakespeare or Gould And perform on the Spanish guitar. In fact quite the cream Of the Muscovite team Was Ivan Skivinsky Skvar.	They fought all that night 'Neath the pale polar light. In the end it was heard from afar. Great multitudes came So great was the fame Of Abdul and Ivan Skvar.	A monument rises Where the Blue Danube rolls. Engraved there in characters clear "Oh, stranger, when passing, Please pray for the soul Of Abdul the Bulbul Ameer".
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One day this bold Russian Had shouldered his gun And donned his most truculent sneer. Down town he did go Where he trod on the toe Of Abdul the Bulbul Ameer.	The sultan drove by In his cream-crested fly, Expecting the victor to cheer. But only drew nigh To hear the last sigh Of Abdul the Bulbul Ameer.	A Muscovite maiden Her lone vigil keeps 'Neath the light of the pale polar star. And the name that she murmurs, So oft as she weeps, Is Ivan Skivinsky Skvar.
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**HALIFAX RESTORATION, TRENTON:** As planned for 3 October, we met with Diana DeLuca who had flown in from Denver, and with Sid Scott, the sole survivor of Diana's father's Halifax and his daughter Pat, who had flown in from Queensland, Australia. Jeff Jefferies, supervisor of the restoration, allowed us to crawl aboard before the aircraft was moved into its new hangar where it is now on display for external viewing only.

Climbing over cross members and squeezing forward from the rear escape hatch which now seems so tiny brought back a flood of memories for both Sid and me. Sid was blown out of his blazing aircraft when a wing was blown off, trapping the rest of the crew, including Diana's father, in a fatal spin. It was nothing short of miraculous that I got out of my blazing Halifax having to cut our way out with an axe as the two escape hatches were jammed by flak. Only 17% of those shot down survived, so every moment of life is precious, and we do realize what an enormous debt we owe humanity. The Grim Reaper is taking his toll. Years ago I could count on meeting hundreds of former prisoners-of-war friends. This time it was only six.

## **A CANADIAN SOLDIER by Don Adlam (extracted from *Contrails*)**

He is profane and irreverent, living as he does in a world full of capriciousness, frustration, and disillusionment. He is perhaps the best educated of his kind in history, but will rarely accord respect on the basis of mere degrees or titles. He speaks his own dialect, often incomprehensible to the layman. He can be cold, cruel, even brutal and is frequently insensitive. Killing is his profession, and he strives very hard to become even more skilled at it. His model is the grey, muddy, hard-eyed slayer who took the untakeable at Vimy Ridge, endured the unendurable in the Scheldt, and held the unholdable in Kapyong. He is a superlative practical diplomat; his efforts have brought peace to countless countries around the world. He is capable of astonishing acts of kindness, warmth, and generosity. He will give you his last sip of water on a parched day and his last food to a hungry child; he will give his very life for the society he loves. Danger and horrors are his familiars and his sense of humour is accordingly sardonic. What the unknowing take as callousness in his defence against the unimaginable; he whistles through a career filled with graveyards. His ethos is one of self sacrifice and duty. He is sinfully proud of himself, of his unit and of his country and he is unique in that his commitment to his society is total. No other trade or profession dreams of demanding so much of its members and none could successfully try. He loves his family dearly, sees them all too rarely and as often as not loses them to the demands of his profession. Loneliness is the price he accepts for the privilege of serving. He accounts discomfort as routine and the search for personal gain as beneath him; he has neither understanding of, nor patience for, those motivated by self-interest, politics, or money. His loyalty can be absolute, but it must be purchased. Paradoxically, the only coin accepted for that payment is also loyalty. He devours life with big bites, knowing that each bite may be his last, and his manners suffer thereby. He would rather die regretting the things he did than the ones he dared not try. He earns a good wage by most standards and, given the demands on him, is woefully underpaid. He can be arrogant, thoughtless, and conceited, but will spend himself, sacrifice everything for total strangers in places he cannot even pronounce. He considers political correctness a podium for self-righteous fools, but will die fighting for the rights of anyone he respects or pities. He is a philosopher and a drudge, an assassin and a philanthropist, a servant and a leader, a disputer and a mediator, a Nobel Laureate peacekeeper and the Queen's Hit Man, a brawler and a healer, best friend and worst enemy. He is a rock, a goat, a fool, a sage, a drunk, a provider, a cynic, and a romantic dreamer. Above it all, he is a hero for our time. You, pale stranger, sleep well at night only because he exists for you, the citizen who has never met him, but perhaps never thought of him and may even despise him. He is both your child and your guardian. His devotion to you is unwavering. He is a Canadian soldier.

## **OUR BATTLE OF BRITAIN REMEMBRANCE:**

Veterans of the Battle of Britain would have been proud at this year's 64<sup>th</sup> Battle of Britain ceremony. The weather was good, ceiling was fair, winds minimal, and the grass landing strip was dry. The only thing that would have made the ceremony better is if there had been the sound of Hurricanes and Spitfires racing overhead. Once again thanks to the help and support of several wing members, the RAF, and members of the Canadian Forces the ceremony and subsequent BBQ went off without a snag. Readings of "High Flight", (Capt. Singh), and Winston Churchill's speech (Cpl. Thomas – RAF) added a note of somberness to the ceremony that was emphasized by the words of BGen Hunter, Sqn Ldr Mellor-Jones and our own exalted leader Art Nielson. Capt. Peter Boone (CF) provided some outstanding pipe laments prior to the ceremony that set the tone for this most memorable occasion. There was an estimated 100 plus attendees including wing members, CF, US, and RAF. Most of which remained for the outstanding BBQ afterwards. A plethora of edibles were laid out for the guests including chicken, burgers, brats, and hot dogs. If the palate was not satisfied or the attendee went home hungry it was a matter of personal choice. I would like to personally thank all the wing members, and CF that assisted in making this years ceremony such a success. . . . . Darrell Levitt

**SIoux LOOKOUT:** Knowing that some of you had served at Sioux Lookout, we drove the 67 km north of highway 17 to check on what damage you had left behind. We are pleased to report the town looks clean and prosperous, float planes were buzzing in and out, and the park with its locomotive and vertical radar from the site is well kept.

**SALMON BASTING SAUCE:** So many requests were received for this sauce that Judy and Tooth Maestrelli are sharing it with you all (This makes enough for 10 pounds of salmon):

1 stick of butter	2 cups of brown sugar	1 cup Dijon mustard	6 Tbsp horseradish
4 Tbsp garlic powder	4 Tbsp Worcester sauce	juice of 4 limes & 2 lemons	salt and pepper

simmer sauce for 10 minutes.

**WING COMMANDER STOCKY EDWARDS, CM, DFC, DFM, CD** has been appointed Member of the Order of Canada with this citation:

"He has served our country with distinction both in wartime and in peace. One of Canada's greatest fighter pilots, Stocky Edwards displayed enormous bravery, skill, and leadership during the Second World War, flying in over 370 operations. Serving with the Royal Canadian Air Force for decades, he lent his vast expertise to generations of pilots. In retirement, he has written several books based on his wartime experiences and has become an accomplished artist whose paintings illustrate Canadian aviation history."

The above is copied from *Contrails*.

Congratulations, Stocky. Well deserved!

**BIOGRAPHY BINDERS:** Before departing on our 5,284-mile (8,454 km) drive to, around, and from, Ontario, I completed 12 binders to date, leaving 7 here and taking 5 to hand deliver to:

Dave Ghyselincs who snaked his motorcycle through Toronto traffic to visit us at our daughter's home. He promises to get us photos of Susan Beharriell and the Holmans, He plans to join CANUSKI in Vail, 29 Jan - 5 Feb.

Fran and Don McNaughton who are enjoying retirement on their 200-acre farm near Perth. We were most impressed with his fine workmanship in the post-and-beam sun-room addition to their house. All the wood came from their woodlots.

Trudy and Bob Tracy in Ottawa who seem happy in retirement although Bob still takes on the odd job. They had hoped to get to Colorado Springs but their Estes Park tattoo was somewhat exhausting.

Loreen and Dave O'Blenis who have two lovely homes, one in Manotick, the other on Otty Lake. Skipper Dave, who keeps his 4-passenger Grumman at the Smith Falls airport, took us on a 40-minute flight around the area, a most enjoyable experience. We also got to meet their two handsome sons. I was disillusioned, however, when, in spite of all his rank, Dave was unable to command the waves on Lake Otty to be still.

Donna and Bob Robert in Brooklyn, north of Whitby. Bob was off working in Toronto but Donna was home.

Of course, I will have to mail them all updates as you delinquents come forward. I have:

	<b>With photos</b>	<b>Without photos</b>	<b>Total</b>
Current Members	41	8	49
Former Members	24	22	46
Obituaries	12	4	16
Before we got Good Looking	16		

Each binder has 5 pages of general information plus, at the moment, 3 pages of Wing colour photos. The binders will be sold at cost, currently at \$15. Bob Freimuth has donated the binders and your Scribe is donating the labour, so your only cost is for paper and printer cartridges.

From Art Nielsen, President of 971 Wing

**ENT FEDERAL CREDIT UNION DONATION TO 971 WING:**

I am pleased to report to the Wing membership that Ent Federal Credit Union has agreed to make a \$1,000 donation to 971 Wing. While the specifics of this donation have not yet been decided, we understood that Ent would like to provide support to the long-term viability of 971 Wing and its established programs. That is a great boost to the Wing!

I wish to recognize the support of Jim Stewart, a distinguished Wing member and also the Chairman of the Board of Ent Federal Credit Union, for his spark in initiating this donation. Thank you Jim for your outstanding support to the Wing, and thank you Ent for your most generous donation. We will use your donation wisely.

**DON SWIFT IS BACK:**

Don has recently had serious open-heart surgery, and many of you will recall his saga from my frequent e-mails. He has recently returned from a week on Lake Powell with the boys, and he is now off to Thailand and China for two weeks. I think he has recovered.

**MERRY CHRISTMAS EVERYONE!**

Carol joins me in wishing everyone in the Wing, your families, and all our many friends a most joyous Christmas season this year. We are blessed to be able to celebrate the birth of our Lord, Jesus Christ, once again, and we pause for a moment to count our many blessings in a very troublesome world. We hope to be able to join you at the Canadian Forces Christmas party in December and at the Wing party in early January. Best regards.

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**11 November Inclement Weather Alternative:** As usual the parade will be diverted, if needed, to the Retired Enlisted Club, Emery Circle, east off Murray, near UPS.

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The moving finger writes, and having writ, moves on. Nor all thy piety nor wit can lure it back to cancel half a line.

However (if you wish to complain):

**DEADLINE** for the January issue: 15 December. Send inputs to [gswearon@pcisys.net](mailto:gswearon@pcisys.net) or 2702 Marilyn Road, 80909