

Honorary Patron of EUSI – Her Honour, Lois Mitchell, Lieutenant Governor of Alberta



EDMONTON UNITED SERVICES INSTITUTE

PRESIDENT'S ENEWS

APRIL 2020

The information in this newsletter is for informational purposes only. The Edmonton United Services Institute assumes no liability for any inaccurate, delayed or incomplete information, nor for any actions taken in reliance thereon.

9 April is Vimy Ridge Day

30 April was the deadline for filing your income tax, but extended to end of August 2020 for taxation year 2019.

President's Comments

Many years after a major world event, people often asked, "Where were you in March and April, 2020?". I can bet most will remember and say, "I was at home."

The official spring season arrived on March 19 but it is minus 6 out there on March 30. We need at least two days of above 26 degree to kill off the Covid -19 Virus. I will completely take Brussels Sprouts off my diet if we get that. Wondering where are the rail blockaders now? Went back to USA, or may be the aliens returned their brains to them and they went home.

EUSI held their 2020 AGM and election of officers on Saturday, March 7, 2020, followed by the Board of Directors' meeting. Minutes of the meeting will be posted at our website once completed by our Secretary. We were very fortunate to have two new Board of Directors, Mr. Norman Leach, a renowned author and military historian, and Honorary Colonel of 41 Service Battalion, Ken Pilip, who is an Alberta businessman and Professional Engineer.

The EUSI remains an active organization and we will soon have a young man who is a second year University of Alberta student joining us on the Board. This will help our goal to engage the younger generations.

Annual Symposium and Presidential Dinner

The planned symposium was initially scheduled for September 26, 2020. However, due to the uncertainty of the pandemic restrictions, it will be **rescheduled to Saturday, October 17**. Location is to be determined. The two likely venues are the Edmonton Convention Center and Hotel or the Chateau Louis Hotel. Our Director of Messing and Functions, Margaret Day, will be checking into the costs and amenities as soon as she is able to get out of her house like all of us.



Mr. Norman Leach is our new Director of Symposium and will be coordinating the panel speaker's list. Our EUSI member in Calgary and a veteran symposium speaker, Maj. and Dr. Joe Howard, is working on to focus our area of discussion within the theme of our symposium, which will be Unmanned Aero Vehicle Systems or Drones. Drones have been in use in civilian application for a number of years. For example, drones have been used to repel bird in the Edmonton International Airport. The Chinese military have been using drones as a weapon system for many years and exported the technology to Iran. Little is known of Russian military as to their usage of drones, but one can almost guarantee it is being used somewhere. I personally interviewed the Defence Minister three years ago when he was in Edmonton with a miniature military drone. It was intended for surveying and intelligence gathering. However, little has been advanced in development of defensive or offensive drone technology.

I see armed conflicts will ultimately rely heavily on unmanned vehicles. It can reduce collateral damage and personal injuries. A few years ago, the Nigerian terrorist group, Boko Haram, was actively undermining the Nigerian and Chad peace and order. One of the difficulties was tracking the group due to the very large and thick forest area the group was conducting their activities. The African Union, with the help of Belgium and British tactical helicopter units were unable to conduct any surveillance operations. I was consulted by my British operative friends and we agreed that a long distance drone would have resolved this tracking problem. For the same token, I believe this can also apply to Afghanistan today.

I am excited about the upcoming symposium and I hope to have an industry sponsor for the event.

In the last few years, EUSI have hosted a presidential dinner on the same day as the symposium. This created a heavy work load for our Messing Director and Treasurer. For this year, there will be **NO EUSI PRESIDENTIAL DINNER**. Instead, EUSI will join with the 700 Wing Association to celebrate the 80th Anniversary of the Battle of Britain on Thursday, September 17, 2020, for a mess dinner to be held at the Aviation Museum. There will be a series of activities during the week of September 13-20. Cumulated with a parade on Sunday. More details will follow. The tickets are tentatively set at \$200 per plate. EUSI hopes to sponsor for a table of eight and also half of the ticket price for any EUSI members and spouse who would like to attend. The Alberta economy is not exactly rosy at present and the EUSI sponsorship is intended to address this situation. This means the president will have to work doubly hard to canvass for financial support and pledge for donations from members.

Edmonton Salutes Committee

All Edmonton salutes Committee activities have been suspended since December 2019, except for welcoming soldiers home from deployment. There is a City of Edmonton Council review on the Mandate and By-laws governing ESC.



Governor General's Sovereign Medal for Volunteers

Our Director of Awards and Protocol, Capt George Kulse, has been working on submitting nominations. He advised that once the applications went to Ottawa, it becomes MIA and there is no tracking mechanism as to the stage the nomination is at. George will keep refining then process.



Subject: COVID-19 - how it started and what it is

WHAT IS THE NOUVELO CORONAVIRUS AND WHY IS IT SO DANGEROUS

Feeling confused as to why Coronavirus is a bigger deal than Seasonal flu? Here it is in a nutshell. I hope this helps. It has to do with RNA sequencing...i.e. genetics.

Seasonal flu is an "all human virus". The DNA/RNA chains that make up the virus are recognized by the human immune system. This means that your body has some immunity to it before it comes around each year. You get immunity two ways...through exposure to a virus, or by getting a flu shot.

Novel viruses come from animals. The WHO tracks novel viruses in animals (sometimes for years watching for mutations). Usually these viruses only transfer from animal to animal (pigs in the case of H1N1, birds in the case of the Spanish flu). But once one of these animal viruses mutates and starts to transfer from animals to humans...then it's a problem. Why? Because we have no natural or acquired immunity. The RNA sequencing of the genes inside the virus isn't human, and the human immune system doesn't recognize it, so we can't fight it off.

Now this mutation only allows transfer from animal to human. After mutation, it can now transfer human to human. Once that happens, we have a new contagion phase. H1N1 was deadly, but it did not mutate in a way that was as deadly as the Spanish flu. Its RNA was slower to mutate, and it attacked its host differently, too.

Fast forward...

One day, at an animal market in Wuhan China, in December 2019, it mutated and made the jump from animal to people. In just TWO WEEKS, it mutated again and gained the ability to jump from human to human. Scientists call this quick ability, "slippery". And it's a lung eater. And, it's already mutated AGAIN, so that we now have two strains to deal with, strain S and strain L...which makes it twice as hard to develop a vaccine.

We really have no tools in our shed with this. History has shown that fast and immediate closings of public places have helped in the past pandemics. Philadelphia and Baltimore were reluctant to close events in 1918 and they were the hardest hit in the US during the Spanish Flu.

Factoid: King Henry VIII stayed in his room and allowed no one near him till the Black Plague passed. Just like us, he had no tools except social isolation.

Right now it's hitting older folks harder...but this genome is so slippery, if it mutates again (and it will), who is to say what it will do next!



The Year is 1920 One hundred years ago

Submitted by our learned Sgt AE Bince. He is a Korean War veteran and ancient. He ought to know the following as facts:

Very interesting for all ages. This will boggle your mind! The year is 1920, "One hundred years ago." What a difference a century makes! Here are some statistics for the Year 1920:

The average life expectancy for men was 47 years. Fuel for cars was sold in drug stores only.

Only 14 percent of the homes had a bathtub. Only 8 percent of the homes had a telephone.

The maximum speed limit in most cities was 10 mph. The tallest structure in the world was the Eiffel Tower.

The average US wage in 1919 was 22 cents per hour. The average US worker made between \$200 and \$400 per year.

A competent accountant could expect to earn \$2,000 per year. A dentist earned \$2,500 per year.

A veterinarian between \$1,500 and 4,000 per year. And, a mechanical engineer about \$5,000 per year.

More than 95 percent of all births took place at home

Ninety percent of all Doctors had NO COLLEGE EDUCATION! Instead, they attended so-called medical schools, many of which were condemned in the press AND the government as "substandard."

Sugar cost four cents a pound. Eggs were fourteen cents a dozen. Coffee was fifteen cents a pound.

Most women only washed their hair once a month, And, used Borax or egg yolks for shampoo.

Canada passed a law that prohibited poor people from entering into their country for any reason.

The Five leading causes of death were:

1. Pneumonia and influenza
2. Tuberculosis
3. Diarrhea
- 4 Heart disease
5. Stroke

The American flag had 45 stars ... The population of Las Vegas , Nevada was only 30.

Crossword puzzles, canned beer, and iced tea hadn't been invented yet.

There was neither a Mother's Day nor a Father's Day.

Two out of every 10 adults couldn't read or write. And, only 6 percent of all Americans had graduated from high school.

Marijuana, heroin, and morphine were all available over the counter at local corner drug stores.

Back then pharmacists said, "Heroin clears the complexion, gives buoyancy to the mind, regulates the stomach, bowels, and is, in fact, a perfect guardian of health!" (Shocking?)

Eighteen percent of households had at least one full-time servant or domestic help...

There were about 230 reported murders in the ENTIRE U.S.A.



DON'T SAY "YES" WHEN THE ROBOCALL SCAM RINGS



If you still have a landline phone, make sure you aren't snared in the latest robocall scam.

Anyone who still has a traditional home phone dreads the hated robocall. As part of the latest scam, the caller, instead of mentioning who they are, instead asks "Can you hear me?"

That could be a sign that a scammer is on the other end of the line.

When a caller says, "YES," that they can hear the robocall, their reply is recorded and used to authorize fraudulent charges via telephone on the victim's utility or credit card account.

The scam is prevalent, the fraudulent callers may impersonate familiar organizations to get you to answer and talk.

Don't ever say "YES" when the phone ring



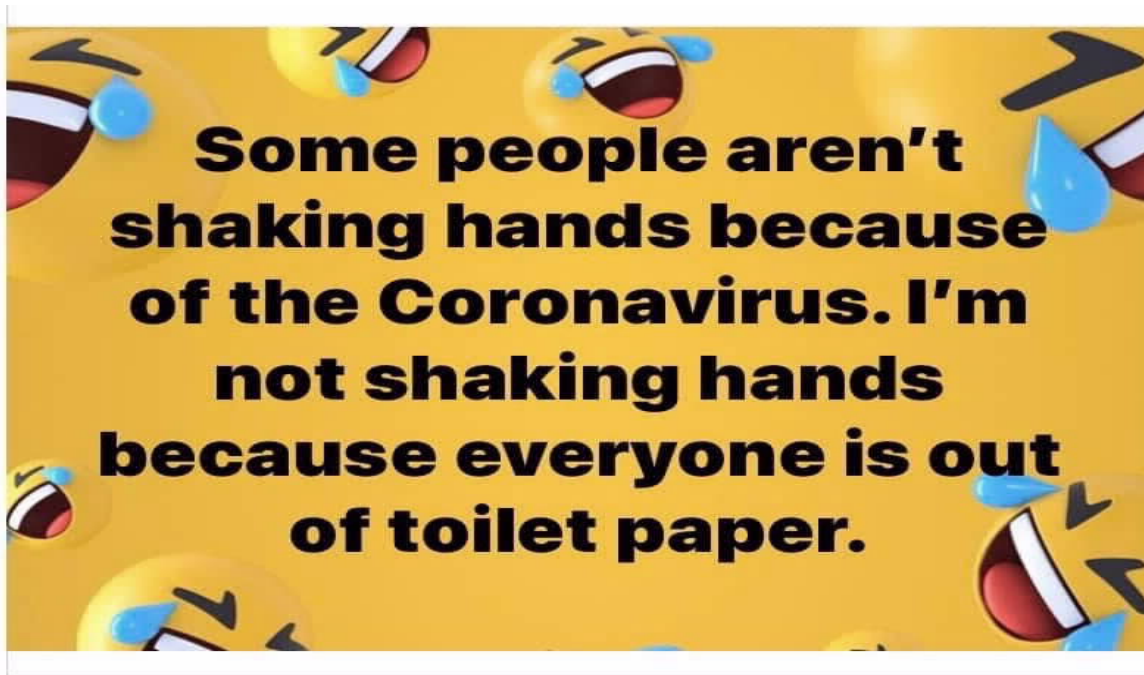
Forestburg Cenotaph

The Soldier by Rupert Brooke

If I should die, think only this of me:
That there's some corner of a foreign field
That is for ever England. There shall be
In that rich earth a richer dust concealed;
A dust whom England bore, shaped, made aware,
Gave once her flowers to love, her ways to roam;
A body of England's, breathing English air,
Washed by the rivers, blest by suns of home.
And think, this heart, all evil shed away,
A pulse in the eternal mind, no less
Gives somewhere back the thoughts by England given;
Her sights and sounds; dreams happy as her day;
And laughter, learnt of friends; and gentleness,
In hearts at peace, under an English heaven.



HUMOUR



The Battle of Monreuil Woods

The Battle of Moreuil Wood was part of the wider Allied effort to stem the German Offensive (Operation Michael) in the spring of 1918, within the area of Amiens, France. Lord Strathcona's Horse (Royal Canadians) was part of the Canadian Cavalry Brigade that encountered and defeated a large German force of magnitude four, at Moreuil Wood, on March 30, 1918. This was to be the last great cavalry charge in Canadian military history, and among the last of such actions in British and Commonwealth warfare.

Traditionally, The Battle of Moreuil Wood Remembrance ceremony, held at the Williamstown Cenotaph (located in Ontario, Canada), was conducted under the auspices of The Merchant Navy Commemorative Theme Project (MNCTP), in collaboration with The Office of Mr. Jim McDonnell, MPP, Stormont–Dundas–South Glengarry, The Royal Canadian Legion (Branch 544), and The SD&G Highlanders.

In 2021, this commemoration will be held under The Colonel John Gardam Lifetime Achievement Award, in collaboration with the above. This Award was established to recognize excellence in character, loyalty, and outstanding meritorious military service to Queen and Country. It is intended to pay tribute to our gallant sailors, soldiers, airmen, and airwomen that are the very heart and soul of the people, and the spirit of nations.

In 2015, the first time recipient was Vice–Admiral Ron Buck, former Chief of the Maritime Staff, and former Vice–Chief of the Defence Staff. In 2017, the award was presented to General (retired) Walter Natynczyk, CMM MSC CD, former Chief of the Defence Staff, and existing Deputy Minister of Veterans Affairs Canada. Both awards were presented at the CDA/CDA Institute Ottawa Conference on Security and Defence.

The Late Colonel Gardam enlisted in the Regular Forces as a trooper with the Lord Strathcona's Horse (Royal Canadians) in 1951.

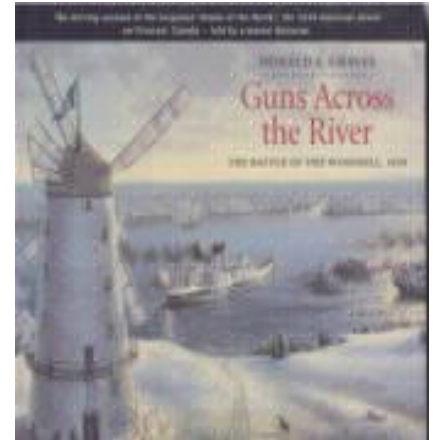
CANADIAN MILITARY READING

Guns Across the River - The Battle of the Windmill, 1838

Donald E. Graves

The stirring account of the forgotten "Alamo of the North," the 1838 American attack on Prescott, Canada . . . told by a master historian.

In 1838, seeing political turbulence in Canada as an opportunity, members of a clandestine American organization, the Patriot Hunters, launched a series of attacks across the international border. The Hunters hoped to duplicate the success of the Texas rebellion two years before when their heroes Davy Crockett and Jim Bowie fought to establish a republic in northern Mexico.



The most ambitious Hunter attack was launched in November 1838 when a force of more than 500 armed men, commanded by a European soldier of fortune, set out from northern New York in a flotilla of chartered and hijacked vessels. Avoiding the naval and military forces of two nations, they occupied a stone windmill near Prescott, Ontario, confident that Canadians would rally to their standard.

Their hopes were doomed. After five days of heavy fighting, British regulars and Canadian militia captured this "Alamo of the North" and those invaders who survived were imprisoned in Fort Henry at Kingston and tried by a court martial.



Canadian Gear



Alexander Tsang CD

Major (retired)

President

Edmonton United Services Institute

Alexanderhtsang@hotmail.com

Canadian Uniform