



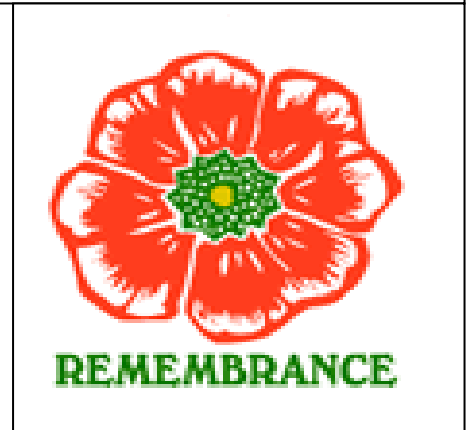
EDMONTON UNITED SERVICES INSTITUTE
PRESIDENT'S ENEWS
NOVEMBER 2023

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REMEMBRANCE DAY EVENTS

1100 HRS

- **20 RCA Gun Salute at The Legislature**
- **Butter Dome Remembrance Ceremony**
- **Churchill Square Remembrance Ceremony**
- **Beverley Remembrance Ceremony**
- **West Edmonton Mall Remembrance Ceremony**
- **Legion Remembrance Ceremony at all Edmonton and Area branches
Alberta Aviation Museum.**



LAST POST

Lieutenant Colonel Lee Ahlstrom, CD (March 13 1944 – October 26 2023)

Lee was a long term member of the EUSI, former member of the Loyal Edmonton Regiment, Director of the Board of the St. Johns Ambulance, Alberta Bar member and Queens Counsel, as well as many other community organizations. Lee was an avid fisherman and enjoyed the Alberta Outdoors. He was passionate about environment conservation. Thank you Lee, for being a patriot and served Canada in such a significant way.



President's Comment

Almost a month has passed since the Hamas attack on civilians in Israel. There is still no military or political/diplomatic resolution to this crisis. Like any war, civilians are paying a hefty price for the eruption of war and disruption of peace will be felt for years to come. Meanwhile, the war in Ukraine wages on and Russia is taking full advantage of the diverted world attention on the Middle-east. Also, China is feeling the waters and the tension in the far east is up a few notches.

Not to awake Ottawa from its slumbering sleeps, Canada needs to be better prepared and national defence must be switched on to readiness. Policies of inclusiveness, diversion, and other liberal modifications designed to increase quotas for recruitment will not turn out soldiers that can fight the enemy in the battle zones. We need recruits who are not afraid of adversities, not feeling offended and can stand up for themselves, and are team players.

Let's also throw away the regional politics when it comes to equipping our military. Ships and planes should be built where better deals and maintenance would be, not because political representation in Quebec, BC, the Maritimes, or any other Provinces.

I know this is way too much to be expected from our government. In March of this year, the EUSI hosted a symposium on Mitigating Damages from Natural Disasters. The symposium discussions were meant to encourage better cooperation between the Federal government and Provincial governments. To this day, there is no discussions and we can expect the same response when disasters strike from coast to coast.

During this month of November, the month to commemorate veterans, let's spread the word that freedom is not free, it is paid with the lives of soldiers. There will be less soldiers losing their lives if we are better prepared.

In today's world, bad guys are using all sorts of advanced technologies which do not respect national borders. To be able to be pro-active in defending and protecting Canadians in Canada and abroad, innovative ways must be used, including the ability to conduct investigative operations abroad. At present, there is no enforcement agency in Canada is mandated to conduct investigations outside of Canada. Given the bad guys are able to deliver punches from the other side of the ocean, we must be able to return the punches. Before Canada closed all military bases in Germany, the Military Police was the only enforcement agency mandated to investigate criminal and espionage activities. The Branch within the Military Police that was given the responsibility was the Special Investigation Unit (SIU). However, their power of investigation was restricted to within the military base. Often, local police was enlisted to conduct investigations such as drug trafficking or smuggling. The SIU had an excellent record of respecting the laws of another country while ensuring Canadians were accorded due process entitled by all Canadians. In the last few years, the independence of the SIU have been severely encroached from political interference, The same can be said of the RCMP. Thus far, the CSIS appears to be spared from political over-rides. I am a supporter that CSIS be given the enhanced power to conduct operations outside of Canada, given the world climate where tampering of elections and cyber interferences are routinely staged outside of Canada.



CANADIAN GEAR CC-144 Challenger



The CC-144 Challenger, DND's twin-engine, long-range executive jet, offers rapid air transportation to Canadian and international VIPs. With a range of up to 5930 km and a maximum speed of Mach 0.83, the Challenger can quickly deliver passengers almost anywhere in the world. The Air Force's Challenger fleet includes four VIP aircraft and two utility aircraft. The utility jets are used for military transport and can be configured for medical evacuations (medevacs) when our troops are in need. The CC-144's crew consists of two pilots, one flight engineer and one flight steward to tend to government officials and foreign dignitaries.



To a Conscript of 1940

A soldier passed me in the freshly fallen snow,
His footsteps muffled, his face unearthly grey:
And my heart gave a sudden leap
As I gazed on a ghost of five-and-twenty years ago.
I shouted Halt! and my voice had the old accustom'd ring
And he obeyed it as it was obeyed
In the shrouded days when I too was one
Into the unknown. He turned towards me and I said:
'I am one of those who went before you
Five-and-twenty years ago: one of the many who never
returned,
Of the many who returned and yet were dead.
We went where you are going, into the rain and the mud:

We fought as you will fight
With death and darkness and despair;
We gave what you will give-our brains and our blood.
We think we gave in vain. The world was not renewed

There was hope in the homestead and anger in the streets,
But the old world was restored and we returned

The glitter of garland round their head.
Theirs is the hollow victory. They are deceived.
But you my brother and my ghost, if you can go
Knowing that there is no reward, no certain use
In all your sacrifice, then honour is reprieved.
To fight without hope is to fight with grace,
The self reconstructed, the false heart repaired.'
Then I turned with a smile, and he answered my salute
As he stood against the fretted hedge, which was like
white lace.



WWI Japanese War Memorial



The cover of the 'Veterans Benefits Guide 2023' features the title in large, bold letters: 'Veterans' in green, 'Benefits' in blue, and 'GUIDE' in black. A red box with '2023' is on the right. Below the title, it says 'Your key to maximizing disability coverage & pension'. A green banner at the bottom left lists 'PLUS Navigating the process, Helpful tools, Handy rates snapshot, Terms to know'. To the right, it says 'Tips on eligibility, applying, + MUCH MORE!'. At the bottom left, it says 'Updated April 2023'.

If you are not aware of the "Veterans Benefits Guide", here's your chance to get a free copy of the recently released 2023 edition. All you have to do is click below and complete a 10 second survey.

You will receive a FREE digital-download of the "Veterans Benefits Guide 2023", a user-friendly electronic publication designed to help veterans and currently serving military personnel get benefits to which they are entitled.

The guide is an informative resource for veterans and currently serving military personnel to answer questions and navigate the paperwork when applying for benefits. Included are helpful tips on eligibility, how to apply, coverage, historic background and up-to-date benefit rates.

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Get your FREE copy of the Veterans Benefits Guide 2023 today!

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The guide is an informative resource for veterans and currently serving military personnel to answer questions and navigate the paperwork when applying for benefits. Included are helpful tips on eligibility, how to apply, coverage, historic background and up-to-date benefit rates.

If you are unable to link up, google on Veteran Benefits Guide, 2023.



EDMONTON SPORTS HISTORY

The Heritage Classic for 2023, returned twenty years later with Edmonton Oilers Creamed the Calgary Flames. Is there any doubt? But here are some historical tid-bits about the Heritage Classic

Sports Legends

The Great One: --- He has been called "the greatest hockey player ever." Although he was born and raised in Brantford, Ontario, Wayne Douglas Gretzky (born January 26, 1961) spent what were arguably his most famous years in Edmonton.

Gretzky played 20 seasons in the National Hockey League (NHL), from 1979 to 1999. From 1979 to 1988, he was the star player of the Edmonton Oilers. He was also the team captain from 1983 to 1988. Undeniably, he had quite a few star players at his side, including Glenn Anderson, Jari Kurri, Paul Coffey, goaltender Grant Fuhr and Edmonton's Own Mark Messier. All of these players went on to become Hockey Hall of Famers.

The Edmonton Oilers achieved Hockey Hall of Fame status, too. The team was noted as a "dynasty" for winning the Stanley Cup playoffs on five occasions in just seven years, from 1983 to 1988 and in 1990.

By 1990, Edmonton's favourite hockey player was no longer a part of the city. In 1988, just two hours after the Oilers won the Stanley Cup, Wayne's father Walter told his son that he'd been traded to the Los Angeles Kings. The news wasn't a surprise to some, since the Great One had recently married actress Janet Jones, who lived in none other than Los Angeles.

Edmonton never forgot Wayne Gretzky, however. In October 1999, one of the city's busiest freeways, Capilano Drive---just east of the Oilers' ice rink in Rexall Place---was renamed "Wayne Gretzky Drive." There is also a rush-hour bus route numbered "99", which runs on Wayne Gretzky Drive.

Gretzky is considered the leading points-scorer in NHL history. In addition, he is the only NHL player to total over 200 points in one season, a feat he accomplished not just once but four times! He is also five-time winner of the Lady Byng Trophy, awarded for sportsmanship and performance. Listing Gretzky's many other awards and accomplishments would simply take too long, and we're trying to be kind to trees.

He retired from hockey in 1999.

Cold Classic: --- Never let it be said that Edmontonians aren't serious hockey fans. Why else would 57,167 fans have flocked to Commonwealth Stadium on November 23, 2003, and braved it out during temperatures of -18 degrees Celsius, and with the wind chill factor, -30 degree Celsius?

The return of The Great One was part of the draw---the one-night-only comeback of Wayne Gretzky. He'd made the trip to his old stomping grounds to play in the Heritage Classic---the first NHL game played outdoors as part of the regular season play. Before an official game was played by the league's then- current teams of the Edmonton Oilers and the Montreal Canadiens, there was a Mega Stars game featuring the best former players from both teams. Guy Lafleur led the Canadiens, and Gretzky led the Oilers. The final score of that MegaStars game was Oilers 2, Canadiens 0.



HUMOR

Some Good News and Some Bad News

A Lawyer, representing a wealthy art collector called him and said, "Paul, I have some good news and I have some bad news."

The art collector replied, "I've had an awful day; Let's hear the good news first."

The lawyer said, "Well, I met with your wife today and she informed me that she invested \$1,500 in two pictures that she thinks will bring a minimum of \$10 to \$15 million. And I think she could be right."

Paul replied enthusiastically, "Well done! My wife is a brilliant businesswoman! You've just made my day. Now I know I can handle the bad news. What is it?"

The lawyer replied, "The pictures are of you your secretary."



WAR IN ISRAEL

Israeli forces massing on the Gaza border have apparently taken a lesson from the war in Ukraine, installing anti-drone cages atop their tanks as they prepared for an anticipated assault on Hamas fighters taking refuge in the Palestinian territory. The so-called “cope cages”—sheets of improvised armour mainly designed to protect troops against bombs dropped from hovering unmanned aerial vehicles, or drones—were evidently installed after Hamas launched a sweeping surprise attack on Israeli soft targets, including almost a dozen kibbutzim and a music festival. “My assumption is that the Hamas attacks gave Israel the impetus to install the cages more widely,” Mark Cancian, a senior adviser with the DC based Center for Strategic and International Studies, told The Washington Post. “It was probably something they had been thinking about before since everyone is watching the war in Ukraine closely.”

“The problem for the Israelis, however, is that the Merkava’s new cage is a modest one.” Quadcopters and first-person-view (FPV) racing drones operated by “pilots” working some distance from their targets have played an unprecedented role in the Russia-Ukraine war, now approaching its third year since Vladimir Putin’s forces launched what the Russian president at the time called a brief “special operation.” The term “cope cages” was popularized when photo and video of improvised defensive screens started appearing on Russian tanks in the war’s early days. Vice reports the technique was first used in 2020 during the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict between Armenia and Azerbaijan. It was initially meant as a pejorative, but multiple militaries have since adopted the improvised armour. Explosives-laden drones pose a growing threat to tanks and other armoured vehicles. Relatively cheap, off-the-shelf grenade-dropping quadcopters and the self-exploding racing, or suicide, drones have knocked out hundreds of multimillion-dollar tanks on both sides of the Ukraine war. Now, Hamas is deploying them against Israel. During its Oct 7 attack, Hamas struck Israeli outposts along the 65-kilometre border wall separating the Jewish state from the Gaza Strip. Quadcopters dropped improvised explosives on four communication towers along the border and hit

tanks, too. Seventy-tonne Merkava tanks, with four Israeli crew, routinely patrol the border using precise optics and 120-millimetre main guns. Hamas struck several with grenade-dropping drones, their videos depicting at least two successful strikes on what were reportedly mainstay Merkava Mark IVs. Both burned. With the Merkava and other vehicles, it's largely a case of simple, more primitive technology outperforming sophisticated new systems. A copecage is designed primarily to deflect drone-dropped grenades or an explode-on-impact racing drone before it hits its target. "The problem for the Israelis, however, is that the Merkava's new cage is a modest one: it only covers a Merkava's turret, and leaves exposed the front of the hull and the turret bustles," reported David Axe for Forbes. "The front of the hull is where the engine is. The bustles, which hang off the back of the turret, contain spare ammunition for the main gun. Both the engine and the bustles are weak spots in the Merkava's design. It's not for no reason that, when Hamas prepared a handbook on the Merkava's vulnerabilities, it highlighted the bustles and the engine compartment, albeit the sides of the engine compartment." The Merkava has relatively thick 9armour on its turret roof, a lesson the IDF painfully learned during past encounters with Arab anti-tank missiles. Axe predicts future iterations of Israeli cope cages will cover the whole vehicle. With the Merkava and other vehicles, it's largely a case of simple, more primitive technology outperforming sophisticated new systems designed to defend against more advanced weapons. The Merkava's Trophy defence system tracks incoming rocket and missile attacks, then fires a small spread of explosive projectiles to intercept the munition and detonate it before it hits the tank. "Using them against approaching drones...would need at least software and configuration changes—assuming that is doable without exceeding the number of false detections, which would result in Trophy wasting its limited ammo," Jakub Janovský, an open-source intelligence analyst, told Vice. Older tanks such as the T-80s and T-64s that Russia has deployed in Ukraine have inferior armour and are especially vulnerable to airborne attack. Weapons like the shoulder-fired Javelin missile have made quick work of some Russian armour.





SECURITAS

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IT IS TOO LATE TO SHARPEN SWORDS, WHEN THE DRUMS OF WAR ARE BEATING