



EDMONTON UNITED SERVICES INSTITUTE  
**PRESIDENT'S ENEWS**  
SEPTEMBER 2023

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### President's Comment

The official date of the Battle of Britain is on September 14. In Canada, we enjoy a seemingly peaceful life and was voted one of the top ten countries of most peaceful and conflict free to live in. However, we should be mindful of the increasing economic hardship the average Canadian have been under for the last five years. I point the blame at the federal government for their ideological, political, financial, and economical decisions. In the last two years, the EUSI have called for immediate dialogue between the federal, provincial, territorial and civic governments to work above partisan lines to address or mitigate property, personal, and ecological losses due to natural disasters. A symposium was held in March of this year in order to bring experts and government representatives together to discuss various issues. We have had little response from elected officials. And then we have flooding in Nova Scotia, wild fire in Fort McMurray, more wild fires in the North Territories. Yellowknife, Many areas in BC. To see rescues from these evacuated areas is saddening and upsetting, in that a lot of the damages can be avoided or lessened had our governments been more responsible to the citizens instead of wasting time and money on wokeish politically correct matters. I foresee more hardship for the average Canadians unless we demand a more responsible government. In some ways, I feel that our second and third generations could learn from the current state of Canadian affairs to appreciate the work ethics and economic common sense. Next time to vote, remember what are the chances you ever own your own home, not worry about the weekly grocery bill, and your utility bills.



### AS FLAK GOES BY

You must remember this  
That flak don't always miss  
And one of you may die.  
The fundamental thing applies  
As flak goes by---  
And When the fighters come  
You hope you're not the one



To tumble from the sky  
The odds are always too damned high  
As flak goes by---  
110's and 210's knocking at your gate  
Come on you jokers, come on kill that rate  
And should a bomb hang, salvo don't wait  
The targets passing by---  
It's still the same old story  
A tale that's too damned gory  
Some brave men have to die  
The odds are always high  
As flak goes by.

The National Artillery Memorial



## **EVENTS**

The Ghost from the Cold War – For history Buffs. You are invited to attend. Details and registration below:

A promotional image for the Rocky Mountain Conference on Security and Defence. It features a man, Arthur Kent, smiling in the foreground. In the background, other men in suits are visible. The image has a blue tint.

 **ROCKY MOUNTAIN**  
Conference on Security and Defence

RAUSI presents Arthur Kent

**Solving the Cold War's  
Most Mysterious Cold Case**

In person only — 19 September 2023, 1900hrs at TMM, Calgary

FREE registration and full details at [www.rausi.ca/rmcscd](http://www.rausi.ca/rmcscd)

## The Story the Kremlin tried to cover up forever and the White House fears to reveal

Canadian television journalist and author Arthur Kent delves into the continuing investigation of the *Murder In Room 117* — the 1979 assassination of U.S. Ambassador to Afghanistan Adolph Dubs, considered to be the ignition point in America's longest war. Get a sneak peek into the official reopening of the cold case, as even now, the case is before the federal court in Washington, D.C. to recover the original records in the case.

### Solving the Cold War's Most Mysterious Cold Case

Arthur Kent, Canadian television journalist/author

Tuesday, 19 September 2023

1900hrs (Mountain)

The Military Museums, Calgary, AB

All are welcome. Invite a guest. Registration required.

[\*\*Full Details and Registration\*\*](#)

Be among the select few to experience our exclusive event. Given the confidential nature of its content this event will not be live-streamed, recorded, or available in any digital format.



## UPDATE ON WAR IN UKRAINE

### Russian general who ran Ukraine war fired - report





**By Paul Kirby, BBC News**

**One of Russia's leading military figures, Gen Sergei Surovikin, has reportedly lost his job as air force chief after weeks of speculation about his disappearance from public view.**

Ria Novosti agency said he had been relieved of his post, citing a source.

For several months Gen Surovikin was in charge of Russia's full-scale invasion of Ukraine but he has not been seen since the Wagner mutiny in June.

Observers believe his removal dates back to the botched rebellion.

One Russian report quoted a defence ministry source as saying he had been dismissed because of a transfer to a new job and he was now on a short vacation.

His role as head of aerospace forces has been taken on by air force chief of staff, Gen Viktor Afzalov, Ria Novosti adds.

During the hours that Wagner mercenaries marched towards Moscow on 24 June, Gen Surovikin appeared in a video appealing to them to return to base.

But his awkward performance was later compared to a hostage-style video. The general was known to have good relations with Wagner chief Yevgeny Prigozhin, who reserved his loathing for other figures in the defence hierarchy.

In the weeks after the June revolt, there were unconfirmed reports by Russian military bloggers that Gen Surovikin had been detained for questioning. But officials denied he was being held in a pre-trial detention centre and one retired general said that he was merely "resting" and unavailable.

Gen Surovikin, a 56-year-old veteran of the Soviet campaign in Afghanistan in the 1980s, was given the nickname General Armageddon for his brutal tactics in Syria.

As commander of Russian forces and later the air force he left much of the second city, Aleppo, in ruins and bombed civilians in rebel-held Idlib province. He was the first army officer to head Russia's aerospace forces and had no experience in aviation.

His big promotion came in October 2022, when he was made commander of Russian forces in Ukraine, months into the flagging, full-scale invasion.

His three months in charge were not a success. On the day he was appointed, the bridge over the Kerch Strait was attacked, and weeks later he ordered a retreat from the city of Kherson. Within three months he was replaced by Russian chief of staff Valery Gerasimov, becoming one of his deputies.

Russia's military leaders have had little to boast about since President Vladimir Putin sent in the troops in February 2022 and many of the top brass have been moved to different posts.

Before Gen Surovikin was put in charge of the operation, the war effort was run by Col-Gen Gennady Zhidko. He died in Moscow last week after what officials said was a "lengthy illness".



## **EDMONTON AND LOCAL TID BITS**

**Taller Than Niagara Falls:** --- In 1980, to celebrate Edmonton's 75th anniversary, artist Peter Lewis unveiled one of the city's greatest works of public art: the Great Divide Waterfall. It was 64 metres high, seven metres taller than Niagara Falls. This stunning artificial waterfall turned the city's High Level Bridge into something magical, and not just for that one special summer. For more than three decades many long weekends in Edmonton were marked by the breathtaking beauty of Lewis' Great Divide Waterfall cascading down to the North Saskatchewan River below.

The project came with a price tag of \$425,000 with just \$100,000 from the provincial government and the bulk coming from community-minded, art-loving volunteers and donors.

Sadly, the magic ended in 2009. The waterfall had to be shut off because the water it used was chlorinated tap water, which proved to be toxic to fish and was deemed to be against the regulations set by federal fisheries.

In 2013, to mark the 100th anniversary of Edmonton's beloved High Level Bridge, there was talk of getting the waterfall up and running again in some way. One plan entailed pumping raw river water from a raft, but to the tune of preliminary \$1.7 million. Peter Lewis, however, said he was in favour of something a little simpler: a coloured display of programmable LED lights.

One way or another, for more than 30 years, Edmonton could quite rightly claim that it had a waterfall that was seven metres taller than Niagara Falls.

### **Halloween is fast approaching, you may want to know some pumpkin facts**

**Largest Ecomuseum:** --- What do ancient onion-domed churches, a pumpkin festival and the world's biggest Easter egg have in common? The answer is amazingly simple: Kalyna Country.

Located just east of Edmonton Kalyna Country Ecomuseum is the biggest ecomuseum in Canada. Established in 1991-92, it encompasses the North Saskatchewan River watershed and extends east of Edmonton toward Lloydminster, covering 20,000 square kilometres (which, incidentally, makes it three times the size of Prince Edward Island).

Within the massive space that Kalyna Country covers, more than 40 designated or informal natural areas provide an endless array of opportunities for sightseeing and experiences you won't find anywhere else. Over 700 events take place in Kalyna Country throughout the year, ranging from rodeos and powwows to festivals dedicated to natural wonders such as sunflowers, pumpkins and the *pysanka* (Ukrainian Easter Egg).

Culturally, Kalyna Country is packed with historic heritage sites, including Canada's largest Ukrainian settlement, Alberta's only Irish settlement and some of the province's largest concentrations of French, Cree, Metis and Romanian settlements. It is also laced with ancient Aboriginal trails.

In addition, Kalyna Country includes the famed Elk Island National Park which is home to North America's biggest concentration of elk, bison and upwards to 250 species of birds.



### **HUMOUR**

It was the coldest winter ever. Many animals died because of the cold.

The porcupines, realizing the situation, decided to group together to keep warm.

This way they covered and Protected themselves; but the quills of each one wounded

their closest companions.

After a while, they decided to distance themselves one from the other and they began to die, alone and frozen.

So they had to make a choice: either accept the quills of their Companions or disappear from the Earth.

Wisely, they decided to go back to being together.

They learned to live with the little wounds caused by the close relationship with their companions in order to receive the heat that came from the others.

This way they were able to survive.

The moral of the story is:

Just learn to live with the Pricks in your life.

Submitted by LCol GG McClean. And I thought he was going to say something passionate and tear jerking.



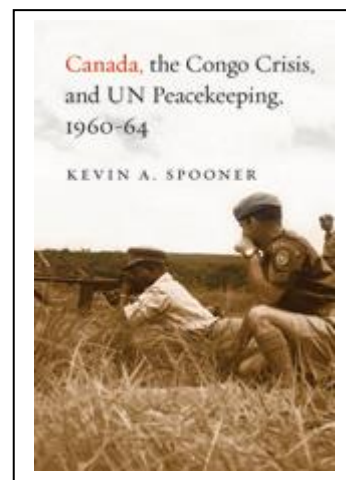
## UN Peace Keeping Day is August 13.

### CANADIAN MILITARY READING

#### **Canada, the Congo Crisis, and UN Peacekeeping, 1960-64**

Kevin A. Spooner

*Canada, the Congo Crisis, and UN Peacekeeping, 1960-64* shows that Canada's involvement in the peacekeeping mission was not straightforward. As policy makers pondered Canada's relationship with Africa, Canada became enmeshed in a complex web of foreign and defence policy determinants: domestic politics, commitments to NATO, the politics of decolonization, the Cold War, the increasingly interventionist nature of the mission's mandate, and Canadian attitudes about the use of force. The Canadian government hesitated to heed the UN's call, and its serious, ongoing reservations about the mission challenged cherished notions of Canada's commitment to the UN and its status as a peacekeeper.



Since this book was written, there have been many political and territorial changes occurred in Congo and its surrounding states. Having conducted missions in Congo and in deed most of central Africa, I personally found this book informative and thought provoking. With the recent development in Niger, the Congo Crisis may shed some insight into how things evolve in Africa. In some cases, allow things to run its course may be the better approach. Case in mind are Lybia, Sudan/South Sudan, and even Syria. President, EUSI.



## **EUSI Re-organization**

EUSI had gone through some organizational changes for the last three years. We had tried to connect with the younger generations through our Youth Development Directorate programs but have yielded very little success. To-date, we have no youth membership or youth activity. The position of Unit Legal Officer is eliminated as there is no requirement and the task of re-writing our by-law has been ineffective and will need to be reassigned. We are redirecting our resources toward connecting serving or retired veterans, and first responders. We have had some success in this regard and gained a number of new members. Effective September 01, EUSI will no longer have a director, youth development. We will concentrate our efforts on new recruitment. We will be creating a director and a committee of Symposium to work on symposium themes and guest speakers, as well as programming. The AGM has been scheduled for Saturday, September 30, 2023. See details, below;

## **2023 EUSI AGM**

When – Saturday, September 30, 2023 1200 Noon to 1:00 PM

Where – The Edmonton Inn and Convention Centre at Edmonton Kingsway, Sikwood Room

Luncheon – Buffet lunch is provided.

### **Agenda**

1. President's Report
2. Treasurer's Report
3. Secretary's Report
4. Election of officer, for the following positions:
  - A. President/ Fund raiser/ Symposium co-chair – Maj Tsang agrees to remain in position till the next election
  - B. Vice President/Awards and Honors – Capt Khuse allows his name to stand for nomination
  - C. Treasurer- Mary Chernowski agrees to let her name stand for nomination
  - D. Secretary- May Hunt agrees to let her name to stand for nomination
  - E. Recruitment Margaret Day – agrees to stand for nomination
  - F. Web site administrator – Joe Zasada agrees to stand for nomination
  - G. Symposium Chair/Coordinator – Capt Jackson allows his name for nomination  
Two additional committee members
  - H. Public Information/Media relations – Norman Leach allows his name for nomination
  - I. Governmental Relations – HCol Ken Pilip allows his name for nomination
  - J. Unit Padre – Maj/Rev J. Tyrrell - appointed

A Board of Directors meeting follows the AGM.

RSVP to attend the AGM is required no later than September 23, 2022, in order for meal planning



## SECURITAS

MAJOR (RET'D) ALEXANDER H. TSANG CD

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