



EDMONTON UNITED SERVICES INSTITUTE

PRESIDENT'S ENEWS

APRIL 2024

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

PRESIDENT'S COMMENT

In this ever changing world, there are three things in life that do not change, at least not in Canada. That is Herpes, death, and paying taxes. Yes, folks, April 30 is the deadline to file your income tax.



If you are receiving Federal Pension, chances are you are also subscribing to the Federal health and dental plan. You may be getting a tax break, if you are not already aware of this. You can claim your Public Service Health Care Plan (PSHCP) & Pensioners' Dental Services Plan (PDSP) on your taxes.

CF Pensioners receive a T4 from Specialized Services Division (Cdn Forces Pension Forces Cdn); however, the T4 DOES NOT include the premium paid to PSHCP or PDSP. Both premium payments ARE CLAIMABLE, therefore:

to learn how much you can claim, and to obtain a copy of the letter you will need in order to make a claim, please consider calling:

PSHCP, for health care plan details, call [1-800-267-6542](tel:1-800-267-6542); or,

PDSP/Dental, for dental plan details, call [1-800-267-0350](tel:1-800-267-0350)

Before our Public Services Health Insurance was transferred from Manulife to Canada Life, we the insured automatically receives in the mail a statement indicating the amount of premiums paid for the year. However, since the takeover by Canada Life, such service is no longer provided. You will have to call Manual Life but they will only provide amount up to July 2023. For the rest of the year, you have to call Canada Life.

Just another example the Federal government making life more difficulty for senior citizens and veterans.





The Soldier's Wife by Robert Southey

Weary way-wanderer languid and sick at heart
travelling painfully over the rugged road,
Wild-visag'd Wanderer! ah for thy heavy chance!
Sorely thy little one drags by thee bare-footed,
Cold is the baby that hangs at thy bending back
Meagre and livid and screaming its wretchedness
Woe-begone mother, half anger, half agony,
shoulder thou lookest to hush the babe,
Bleakly the blinding snow beats in thy hagged face.
Thy husband will never return from the war again,
Cold is thy hopeless heart even as Charity--
Cold are thy famish'd babes--God help thee, widow'd One!

Coaldale Cenotaph in Edmonton



LESSONS LEARNED – 2024 SYMPOSIUM

The Annual Symposium and mess dinner is all wrapped. We had great speakers that include academics, politicians, researchers, and included the former Ukrainian Ambassador to Canada who is the current Cultural Minister for Ukraine. The Honorable Laurie Hawn did an excellent sum up. The world is approaching destruction and many of the conditions preceded the Cold war are happening again. Nuclear war is again threatening world destruction. Unlike the Cold War era when we have great leaders like JFK, Reagan, W G Bush, we have Trump and Biden. The perpetrators are doubled. We had Russia, North Korea and Cuba. Today, we have Russia, China, Iran, and North Korea Most of the European allies have no will nor able to fight back and the “balance of power” no longer serve to deter aggression. While Canada is concentrating on liberal policies, our national defence capability is deteriorating daily. We cannot even maintain recruiting to keep up with attrition. DND has announced that Canadian’s number of full time and part time soldiers will fall below the minimum required number of 75000.00 in the coming months. Canada was a proud member of NATO but we are now the laughing stock. As a veteran, we need to be aware of the state of our national defence and voice our concerns whenever we can.



WAR IN UKRAINE

James Bezan (Canadian Opposition defence critic) posted 8 Feb 24 on X: "ANOTHER CONSERVATIVE MOTION PASSES!!

After much consternation by the Liberal-NDP coalition, Defence Committee agreed to

send our soon to be disposed CRV7 rockets to Ukraine. @BillBlair and @melaniejoly, when can Ukraine expect you to do so? #StandWithUkraine

<https://twitter.com/jamesbezan/status/1755601639778787600>"

Whilst the decision to transfer CRV7 rockets to Ukraine is laudable, there is a bigger matter that could do with government consideration. What are DND policies for retaining equipment, including ammunition, for mobilization or donation purposes, and what are DND policies for disposal? There were questions at the beginning of the Russian-Ukraine War, recognizing the importance of artillery in major conflict, about the availability of Canadian Army M114 howitzers. It was later learned that apparently they have all been scrapped. Similar questions have arisen about Canadian army armoured personnel carriers. Yes, storage of defence material is expensive and calls for careful management (there was a story of a Royal Canadian Navy Chief Petty Officers finding 6" gun barrels in stores decades after the Navy paid off its 6" gun cruisers). But retention of older equipment can be an important part of defence readiness. It allows for government options to assist other countries, for rapid equipping of mobilized Reserves, and in cases like ships which take years to build, may be the only assets



SITUATION IN THE MIDDLE-EAST

UK-owned ship attacked by Houthis sinks off Yemen coast

<https://www.bbc.com/news/world-middle-east-68457445>

The Houthis have been attacking shipping in the Red Sea with a variety of weapons including anti-ship ballistic missiles. This puts into a good light the decision to include an anti-ballistic missile capability in the Canadian Surface Combatant project shipdesign.

Richard Dunley @redunley 3 mar posted: This ship was Belize flagged, trading from UAE to Bulgaria, chartered by a Saudi company, managed by a Lebanese company, and owned by a company with UK links but registered in the Marshall Islands.

It is highly believed the anti-ship ballistic missiles originated from Iran. For many who are demanding an Israel/Hamas cease fire, they should also be considering Iran does not want a cease fire.

On March 21, another UN Security Council proposal for cease fire was vetoed by Russia, it is quite obvious Russia wants the Middle-east conflict to escalate so that US and European resources are diverted from the Russian war against Ukraine.



IN THE HOME FRONT

Global National @GlobalNational Feb 25 posted and RUSI(NS) reposted: Canada is facing 'irrelevance' on world stage, ex-defence chief warns

<https://globalnews.ca/news/10310531/rick-hillier-canada-defence-irrelevance/>

“Canada’s vague talk on defence spending may have placated NATO allies at one point. But not now. It’s time for honest talk from political leaders on a road map to meeting the NATO spending target.”



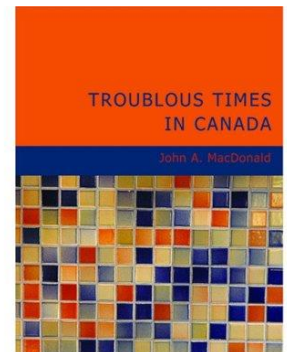
CANADIAN MILITARY READING

Troublous Times in Canada: A History of the Fenian Raids of 1866 and 1870

John A. MacDonald

Troublous Times in Canada describes the conditions and events that led up to the first Fenian Raid in 1866, details of the raid itself, the results, and the subsequent invasion attempt in 1870. Author, John A. MacDonald, was a veteran of both conflicts. The account, originally published in 1910, is told from the Canadian perspective by a participant in the described events.

Few present-day Canadians are aware of the Fenian invasions of Canada from the USA. This book is an essential read for those who want to learn more about it.



Get trained!





EUSI COMMUNITY APPRECIATION AWARD

Do you know someone who has his or her feet planted firmly in both the military and civilian communities in Edmonton, someone who has made a difference in bringing these two cultures together. If so please nominate them for the EUSI Community Appreciation Award. Just get their contact information and a short citation explaining their contribution to any of the EUSI Directors.



WHAT'S OUT THERE?

Type 051B (Luhai Class) Missile Destroyer (China)

The Type 051B is the multirole missile destroyer built by Dalian Shipyard for the PLA Navy in 1998. The construction of the first-of-class, Shenzhen (167), began at Dalian Shipyard in 1996. Western intelligence became aware of

the existence of the destroyer program in early 1998, when a Japanese magazine first revealed photos of the ship stationed at Dalian Shipyard waiting for system installation. The PLA aircraft carrier is set to be unveiled in 2015. Leaked snapshots of this aircraft carrier suggested state of the art technology and functionality.



NICE TO KNOW BUT NOT IMPORTANT

Until the late 19th century, presidents brought their own cows to the White House to provide milk. There was no dairy delivery in Washington DC at the time.

When President William Howard Taft's cow Mooly Wooly died in 1909, it was replaced by Pauline Wayne, a 1500-pound Holstein-Friesian. She was a gift to the Taft family from the farm of Senator Isaac Stephenson of Wisconsin.

The 4-year-old black and white bovine was the last presidential cow, but by far the most famous. The media appears to have been obsessed with her. Her arrival was covered by *The New York Times*, and her exploits appeared in publications from The Evening Independent in St. Petersburg, Florida, to *The Milwaukee Sentinel*.

One particular bit of drama was covered far and wide. Pauline was visiting the International Dairyman's Exposition in Milwaukee in 1911 (with her milk sold in souvenir bottles for 50 cents each). But on the trip home, she went missing.

We always figured it would be hard to lose a cow, especially the President's cow. But it happened.

It turned out Pauline's private car was accidentally hooked up to a train carrying cows to slaughter at the Chicago stockyards. Can you imagine the scandal?!

Luckily, after a series of frantic telegraphs from the dairy show, train attendants ended up locating Pauline's car as newspapers reported how she "narrowly escaped death."

Source: ["Pauline Wayne, President Taft's Famous Cow" — Presidential Pet Museum](#)

MEMBERSHIP PROFILE

This month's membership profile is Capt Andrew Gordey, who was appointed in October 2023 as the Vice President of EUSI



Captain (Capt) Andrew Gordey was born in 1967 and raised in Edmonton and Stony Plain, Alberta.

In 1993, during a shortage of available employment opportunities, on a whim, Capt Gordey joined the Army Reserve at 15 (Edmonton) Service Battalion as a Mobile Support Equipment Operator and later appointed the transport NCO at the PPCLI Battle School in Wainwright. In 2000 he completed the Junior Leadership Course and was promoted to the rank of Master Corporal.

In 2004, after completing his QL6A Course, MCpl Gordey filled a leadership position at 1 General Support Battalion where he was promoted to Sergeant. For outstanding contribution to Albertans, he was awarded the Alberta Centennial Medal in 2005.

He was promoted to Warrant Officer (WO) in 2009 and in March 2011, deployed on OP ATHENA in Kabul, Afghanistan, providing and dissecting information related to all IED (Improvised Explosive Device) events in Afghanistan.

In 2012 he was awarded the Queen's Diamond Jubilee Medal for significant contributions toward Canada. In 2013, he deployed as the Sergeant-Major (SM) during OP LENTUS in response to the flooding in Calgary, Alberta.

He has a long record of courses as an Instructor and Course Warrant Officer which has contributed toward training well over 1000 Reservists. Promoted to Master Warrant Officer (MWO) in 2015, he participated in OP LASER in 2021 and currently holds the positions of Regimental Adjutant at 41 Service Battalion. MWO Gordey was Commissioned From the Rank (CFR) to Captain in Dec 2023 and in addition to being the Regimental Adjutant to 41 Service battalion, is also employed full-time as a Transition Planner at 3 Canadian Division Support Group. Capt Gordey has been coined by the CDS of the United Kingdom, the Air Cadet League of Canada, the 3 Division Commander, and several other Regiments. In 2021 he received the 41 Canadian Brigade Group Command Team Commendation for his recruitment initiatives and was awarded the Queen Elizabeth II's Platinum Jubilee Medal in 2022.

As a civilian, he has been employed in the transportation industry, both as a Driver and Manager for over 25 years and last held the position of Recruitment Manager for a transportation service company where he worked for over 10 years.

Capt Gordey lives with his spouse, Tammy Miller, in Stony Plain. He actively volunteers his energy for a number of youth and veteran organizations and in 2019 received the Sovereign's Medal for Volunteers. He is currently serving as the Edmonton United Services Institute Vice-president. Capt Gordey is a huge supporter of Canadian Blood Services (CBS) and has donated plasma over 400 times. In 2018 he was awarded the CBS National Honouring Our Lifeblood Award. In his spare time, he enjoys fishing, ATV-ing, traveling and photography



Securitas

Alexander Tsang CD

MAJOR (RETIRED)

PRESIDENT

EDMONTON UNITED SERVICES INSTITUTE

ALEXANDERHTSANG@HOTMAIL.COM



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