

Honourary Patron, The Honourable Lieutenant Governor of Alberta, Salma Lakhani



EDMONTON UNITED SERVICES INSTITUTE
PRESIDENT'S ENEWS
FEBRUARY 2024

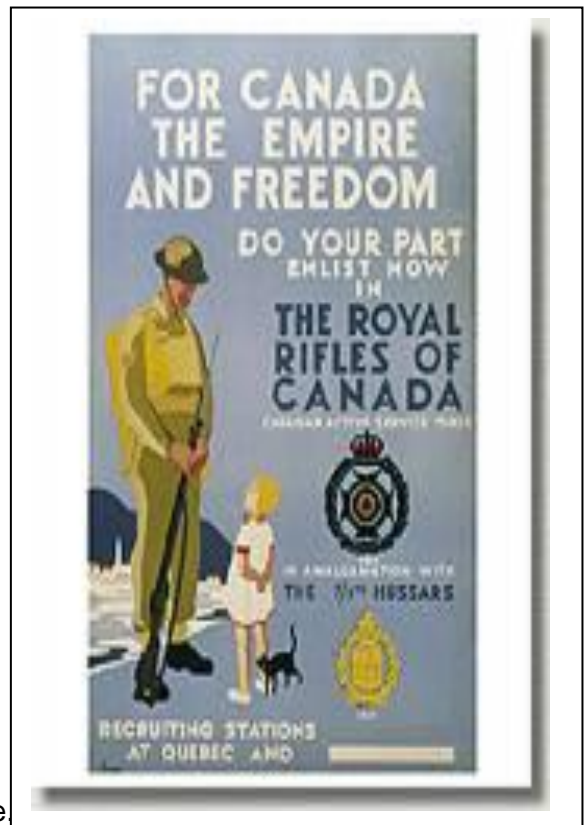
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President's Comment

Happy Chinese New Year of the Year of the Dragon. Lunar New Years Day falls on February 10 this year. Kung Hai Fat Choy, or Wishing you a prosperous coming year.

Talking about New Year, EU&SI members celebrated the Orthodox or Ukrainian News Year on January 13 at the Wokkery Restaurant and enjoyed a ten course meal with tons of doggie bag to take home. It was our way to show solidarity with the Ukraine for resistance against the Russian aggression.

Most of you are aware that EUSI is a signatory of the Historical Canada, Memory Project. This is a program in which members are featured as speakers in schools, colleges, universities, community centres, service clubs, and senior/retirement centres, to speak on their experience as a soldier and other related military topics. This year, many EUSI members were awarded the **Memory Project Community Ambassador Award**. These awards should have been mailed to you at your given address. Congratulations for the designation and thank you for your service.



I am also happy to announce that Her Honour, the Honourable Salma Lakhani, Lieutenant Governor of Alberta, has accepted our invitation to be the Honourary Patron of EUSI. Expected to see Her Honour in our upcoming EUSI activities.



February 15, 2024 is the 59th anniversary of the Canadian Maple Leaf Flag.



February 15 was declared National Flag of Canada Day in 1996. It marks the day in 1965 when our red and white maple leaf flag was first raised over Parliament Hill in Ottawa. Red and white were designated as Canada's official colours in 1921 by His



The Royal Commonwealth Day, Monday. March 11, 2024

March 11 will be celebrated throughout the British Commonwealth as the **Commonwealth Day**. The Royal Commonwealth Society of Canada, Edmonton Branch will hold its usual celebration activities. The greetings King Charles will be broadcasted live. This is in more than 70 years that another monarch other than Queen Elizabeth preside the ceremony as the Head of the Commonwealth. Watch out for history in the making.



RCAF 100CENTENARY DINNER April 13, 2024, to be held at the Edmonton Expo Centre. Ticket is \$100 each, parking included. \$85 for Wing and RCAFA Members. For tickets, [700wing \[RCAFA@gmail.com\]\(mailto:700wingRCAFA@gmail.com\)](mailto:700wingRCAFA@gmail.com) or contact Col(ret'd) Tom Sand at tom.sand@shaw.ca



The God of War

Mars has again descended from his throne
To ravage earth with bloody human strife;
To break away the bonds of peace and love
And send one nation warring with another,
As sparrows combat o'er a trifling crumb;
To wash the verdant earth with sickening blood
And herald death into a million homes.
The fields are strewn with reeking, dying men
Filled with the thoughts and hopes of worlds gone mad
The future? Famine! Poverty! And Strife!
Wars are made by men who seek to line
Their itchy pockets with dishonoured loot.
God sighs. Life goes on.



War in Ukraine

Russia Has Lost 87% of Troops It Had Prior to Start of Ukraine War according to US intelligence assessment. Katie Bo Lillis CNN December 13, 2023

Russia has lost a staggering 87 percent of the total number of active-duty ground troops it had prior to launching its invasion of Ukraine and two-thirds of its pre-invasion tanks, a source familiar with a declassified US intelligence assessment provided to Congress told CNN. Still, despite heavy losses of men and equipment, Russian President Vladimir Putin is determined to push forward as the war approaches its two year anniversary early next year and US officials are warning that Ukraine remains deeply vulnerable. A highly anticipated Ukrainian counteroffensive stagnated through the fall, and US officials believe that Kyiv is unlikely to make any major gains over the coming months. The assessment, sent to Capitol Hill, comes as some Republicans have balked at the US providing additional funding for Ukraine and the Biden administration has launched a full court press to try to get supplemental funding through Congress.

Russia has been able to keep its war effort going despite the heavy losses by relaxing recruitment standards and dipping into Soviet era stockpiles of older equipment. Still, the assessment found that the war has “sharply set back 15 years of Russian effort to modernize its ground force.” Of the 360,000 troops that made up Russia’s pre-invasion ground force, including contract and conscript personnel, Russia has lost 315,000 on the battlefield, according to the assessment. 2,200 of 3,500 tanks have been lost, according to the assessment. 4,400 of 13,600 infantry fighting vehicles and armored personnel carriers have also been destroyed, a 32 percent loss rate. “As of late November, Russia lost over a quarter of its pre-invasion stockpiles of ground forces equipment,” the assessment reads. “This has reduced the complexity and scale of Russian offensive operations, which have failed to make major gains in Ukraine since early 2022.” CNN has reached out to the Russian Embassy in Washington for comment. But it is the political environment in Washington that presents perhaps the greatest peril for Ukraine. Some Republicans are stiffly rejecting any additional funding and Senate Republicans are insisting on making it part of a broader spending package to include money for Israel, Taiwan and the US southern border. The Biden administration is warning that the US will soon be out of money for Ukraine. “The idea that Ukraine was going to throw Russia back to the 1991 borders was preposterous,” Sen JD Vance, a Republican from Ohio, said on CNN’s State of the Union on Sunday. “So, what we’re saying to the president and really to the entire world is, you need to articulate what the ambition is. What is \$61 billion going to accomplish that \$100 billion hasn’t?”

Other newly declassified intelligence previously reported by CNN suggests that “Russia seems to believe that a military deadlock through the winter will drain Western support for Ukraine and ultimately give Russia the advantage despite Russian losses and persistent shortages of trained personnel, munitions, and equipment,” according to a National Security Council spokesman.

“Since launching its offensive in October, we assess that the Russian military has suffered more than 13,000 casualties along the Avdiivka-Novopavlivka axis and over 220 combat vehicle losses- the equivalent of 6 maneuver battalions in equipment alone,” NSC spokesperson

Adrienne Watson told CNN. Before the invasion, Russia had a total standing military of approximately 900,000 active-duty troops, including ground troops, airborne troops, special operations and other uniformed personnel, according to the CIA. Since the start of the invasion, Russia has announced plans to increase the size of the armed forces to 1.5 million. The Russian Ministry of Defense has announced several rounds of conscription, including its regular fall conscription cycle on Oct 1. Russia has also leaned heavily on convicts marshaled to the fight by the Wagner Group and has increased the age limit for certain categories of citizens to remain in the reserve of the Armed Forces of the Russian Federation.



Parks Canada Offers Free Visits to Military and Veterans

Parks Canada administered places will waive daily admission fees when you present your CF One card with CF, CF-F, V or V-F designation at the entry gate, visitor centre, or reception desk upon arrival. Don't have your CF One Card? Sign up today – go to:-
https://cf1fc.cfmws.com/Join/Register?utm_source=CFMWS+Newsletter&utm_campaign=a112fc37f9-MAIL_CAMPAIGN_2022_08_25_12_38_COPY_01&utm_medium=email&utm_term=0_7d1b5308c4-a112fc37f9-269544421&mc_cid=a112fc37f9&mc_ei



HUMOUR

Before photograph was invented, royalties, generals, high priests, and politicians have their pictures painted so that the common people would recognize them in real person. Their statutes were also erected in public places, such as parks, town squares places so that they will be recognized and imprinted in the minds of peasant. Generals who died in battle are often depicted, mounted with the horse galloping. Those who dies peacefully were depicted mounted with the horse standing in attention.

Then came the invention of photographs and the history of mug shots:

The 1840s were a revolutionary period for the art of photography. While William Henry Harrison became the first US president to be captured in a photograph after his inauguration speech, it has been lost to time. Another iconic daguerreotype featuring John Quincy Adams, exists as the oldest known presidential photograph.

But enough about presidents. The point is that while photography was primarily aimed at capturing the nobility and prestige of the subjects, it would soon find an unlikely application in law enforcement.

The concept of the mugshot emerged in Belgium during the 1840s. The primary goal was simple: photograph prisoners to facilitate their identification if they ever re-offended post-release. Recognizing the potential of this innovation, police forces globally began to toy with the idea of incorporating photography into their operations. Thus, the U.S. saw the birth of the rogues' galleries, which

showcased collections of criminals' photographs and, at times, even made them public, urging citizens to remain vigilant.

A wise person once said:

We all love to spend money buying new clothes but we never realize that the best moments in life are enjoyed without clothes.

Having a cold drink on a hot day with a few friends is nice, but having a hot friend on a cold night after a few drinks -priceless.

Breaking News: Condoms don't guarantee safe sex anymore. A friend of mine was wearing one when he was shot dead by the woman's husband.

A recent study found that women who carry a little extra weight live longer than the men who mention it.

On average, an American man under 75 will have sex two to three times a week, whereas a Japanese man the same age will have sex only one or two times a year. This is very upsetting news to most of my friends, as they had no idea they were Japanese.



Robert (Robbie) Burns Day – January 25th.

Robbie Burns was born in 1759 in Ayrshire, Scotland. He was a natural liberal who had strong egalitarian views, discriminated against no one and strove to enlighten Scots beyond social hierarchy and religious oppression. This depth of compassion infuses his poems and songs.

Burns is remembered by his songs poems, and distinctly remember to this day the fear and ongoing nightmares brought on by his thrilling poem “Tam O’Shanter.” Reading his work, I am struck not just by the brutality and explicitness of his poems, but the tenderness too, particularly in his love for Scotland and for the people of Ayrshire.

In paying tribute to Burns, I chose to mention three of his most loved songs. These traditional melodies have been interpreted in all kinds of ways. “***Ae Fond Kiss***,” the first love song, is characterised by the passion and turmoil Burns felt in his painful relationship with “Clarinda”.

The second song, “***My Love Is Like a Red Red Rose***,” is a euphoric declaration of how positive love — a state in which the ever amorous Burns very often found himself — can be.

“***Auld Lang Syne***” is Burns’s best-known song — sung every year around the world on New Year’s Eve, a subtle, sweet and contemplative ode to remembrance and nostalgia. Burns endorsed the music publisher George Thomson’s (1757–1851) attempts to bring his work to the attention of classical composers, which resulted in arrangements by Haydn, Beethoven and Hummel.

My passion for Robbie Burns was well known among my old military friends. I was even nicked McTsang who brought in the Scotch during Burns Dinner. But that is all, My passion stopped at haggis and blood pudding.



2024 EUSI Annual Symposium and Presidential Dinner

The 2024 Annual Symposium and Presidential Mess dinner will be held on Saturday, March 9, 2024 at the Edmonton Inn and Convention Centre at Kingsway, Edmonton, Symposium will commence at 0830 hrs for coffee/tea and ends around 1530 hrs. Dinner resumes at 1800 hrs for 1830 hrs.

Invitation and RSVP attached below.

Membership application and Renewal are also attached. Annual membership is \$25.00 a year, from January 01 to December 31, NOT prorated. Please send renewal to EUSI 11035 -163 Ave., NW, Edmonton, AB T5X2A2.



SECURITAS



MAJOR (RET'D) ALEXANDER H. TSANG CD
PRESIDENT, EDMONTON UNITED SERVICES INSTITUTE
EUSI. CA/ FACEBOOK – EDMONTON UNITED SERVICES INSTITUTE
ALEXANDERHTSANG@HOTMAIL.COM



Major (ret) Alexander Tsang CD, President of the Edmonton United Services Institute (EUSI) and the Board of Directors

And

Captain (ret) David Jackson CD, Member of the Board of Directors, 700 (city of Edmonton) Wing RCAF Association

Invite YOU TO ATTEND THE ANNUAL DEFENCE AND SECURITY SYMPOSIUM and MESS DINNER

SYMPOSIUM

Theme: Russia/Ukraine War at Two and Ten Years

**SATURDAY, MARCH 9, 2024
FROM 8:30 AM FOR 9:00AM TO 4:00PM**

**The Edmonton Inn and Convention Centre
11834 Kingsway, Edmonton, Alberta, T5G 3J5
Lunch with Tea and Coffee provided
Cost: No charge.**

Years following the invasion of Ukraine by Russian, there is no end in sight of destructions of property and loss of human lives. Military actions are escalating and escalating, affecting all of Europe and has implication for rest of world. Is Canada prepared to deal with an increasingly dangerous situation? Is our military prepared and lessons learned? Come and hear the experts and stakeholders have to say.

Event is hosted by the Edmonton United Services Institute and sponsored by the Royal Commonwealth Society of Edmonton.



MESS DINNER

SATURDAY, MARCH 9, 2024

6PM for 6:30PM

The Edmonton Inn and Convention Centre, 11834 Kingsway, Edmonton, Alberta, T5G 3J5

Keynote Speaker: Brigadier General Gwen Bourque MSM CD

Deputy Commander 3rd Canadian Division

Cost: \$100

To plan for number of meals, Please RSVP to Alex Tsang @ alexanderhtsang@hotmail.com no later than March 1, 2024 RSVP below

_____ **will/not attend the Symposium**

Rank/Title	Last Name	First Name
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_____ **will/not attend the Mess Dinner**

Rank/Title	Last Name	First Name
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Name of My guests

Rank/Title	Last Name	First Name
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My Dietary Restrictions are _____

Please mail your Reservation and Check of \$100.00 per person payable to EUSI no then February 21, 2024 in order to coordinate catering. Thank you.

EUSI, 11035 – 163 Avenue NW, Edmonton, Alberta, T5X 2A2

Dated_Jan 01, 2023

Edmonton United Services Institute
11035 – 163 Avenue, NW
Edmonton, Alberta T5X2A2

MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION/Renewal

Last Name

First Name Preferred

Rank or Title.....

Address

City Province ... Country

Postal Code

Home Phone *Business Phone

Email List *Cell Phone ...

Date Joined/application submitted

Dues Amount \$25..00 (not pro-rated).....

*Spouse's Name, if applicable

Medals and Decorations etc.