

971 RCAF Air MARSHAL SLEMON WING

Air Force Association Newsletter May 2004

Add to Cloud Catalogue: Sombrero Type
Mount Fuji, Japan

Social Calendar

- Mar 20 Sure and Begorrah, 47 of us had a most enjoyable Irish evening at Judy and Lew Lomas's.
- Apr 24 46 of us plus 8 guests made merry at Carol and Art Nielsen's, southwestern theme. Art amazed us with his culinary skills, making tasty enchiladas for all of us.
- May 10 Regular Force formal dinner. 1800 at the Officers' Club. \$70 per couple of which the Wing will reimburse \$20. Guest speaker: Pamela Wallin, Cdn Consular General, New York. Check the next Regular Force bulletin for details of ticket purchases.
- May 22 1730 at Solo's restaurant, on Fountain Boulevard, one block east of Powers. For map and info check www.solosrestaurant.com. We have the bar area with drinks at happy-hour prices. Choice of 3 entrees from regular menu (\$12-\$15). No business meeting.
- May 31 Memorial Day. Blazers, medals, stetsons. Arrive 1030 at Memorial Park. Inclement weather: Retired Enlisted Club, Emory east off Murray, same time. Your Wing expects you will all be there!
- Jun 19 1730 at Don and Carmen Swift's, 19375 Broken Fence Way, Monument. Barry and Marianne Edward are co-hosting. Theme: Italian. The business portion will focus on a review of the FY 04/05 budget, and the election of Wing officers. East off I-25, exit 161, north then east on Woodmoor.
- Jul 24 1730 at Carla and Eric Findley's, 216 Otis Circle, Peterson AFB,
- Oct 02 At the Freimuth's. Details to follow in the next newsletter.

NEW MEMBERS:

Brown, Jim and Carol, 2650 Himalaya Court, C. Spgs, 80919 (719) 598-7259. CPBCO@aol.com

Budzyna, Tom and Janet, 870 Red Mesa Drive, C. Spgs., 80906, (719) 576-3041, budzyna@attglobal.net

Welcome aboard, Jim, Carol, Tom, and Janet. Your biographies will appear in the July newsletter.

ADDRESS CHANGES:

Findley: 216 Otis Circle, Colorado Springs, 80916 (Peterson AFB)

Wakefield: dswake@adelphia.net

Museum web site: www.petemuseum.org

Swift: cd5sjk@msn.net

AFAC National Headquarters: director@airforce.ca

SICK PARADE: On behalf of the Association, Joan Peterson took fruit baskets to:

Roy Thompson who joined our Angioplasty Club as a junior member when a blockage was discovered in a main heart artery, 31 March.

Frank Fraser who had a pacemaker replaced.

The Editor's Corner

Fortunately for editors, this imperfect world of ours offers so many areas ripe for comment that the only problem is selecting a few for praise, criticism, or just comment. For instance, half an hour ago, I had just started this epistle when two nice, polite, and well-dressed gentlemen rang the doorbell, believing that they could convince me that the righteous path of Jehovah Witnesses would enhance these newsletters. This was their third visit, as they did not trust my readers to keep me on the straight and narrow. However, I do enjoy a good discussion, so this time I asked them to give me their concept of a unified theory to unite genesis with string, (mem)brane, and eleven-dimension theory. Not knowing what I was talking about (few people do), they bravely leafed through their bibles to reply with a few gems of unrelated wisdom including the assertion that Christianity was the oldest religion which prompted me to ask them about the Hindu Shiva-Vishnu ancient forerunner of the modern Big Bang - Big Crunch theory. I got more unrelated gems of wisdom, so I suggested that some of the bible they were quoting came from the Epic of Gilgamesh. They did know about Gilgamesh, just enough to dismiss him. After 30 minutes of rapidly thumbing through their bibles, they bid me adieu. I do hope they come back. So hard to get a good discussion these days and so much more I need to ask them. Now back to the Newsletter with other concerns, such as:

The English Languages: I have long harped on our careless treatment of a wonderful language that started out as a small Anglo-Saxon dialect that gradually absorbed words from Greek, Latin, Persian, Norse, Danish, French, German, Hindu, Arawak, and so on to become the world's international language. I should say languages as there is one we spell and one we pronounce. Also, we have far too many words that mean different things in different contexts. For instance, **all marriages should be gay but not homosexual.** To some the word "homosexual" is too long so they stole two words to misuse:

Lesbians are people who inhabit the Island of Lesbos (also called Mytilene). The homosexual connotation goes back to 600 BC when Sappho of Lesbos, the lyric poet, spoke of females loving other females. Quite recently lazy homosexual men, who used to be miscalled "fruits" stole the word "gay" to describe their life style. Perhaps, if we stole the word "Crooks" (Chief Receivers of our Kroners) to describe all CEOs, we might stop this misuse of English.

The emancipation of homosexuals: The recent emergence of so many homosexuals surprises this old scribe who, in over 25 years in the RCAF including being locked up with as many as 11,000 sex-starved men in one compound, had encountered only one case of homosexuality. Our mindset then was quite different. This one case, to me, was a violation of human rights. One of the navigators I worked with at Summerside was a talented, dedicated, and likeable officer. Three other officers tricked him into revealing his homosexual tendencies and reported it to the CO who was in a tizzy about what he should do. He phoned Training Command Headquarters in Trenton, and was instructed to fly him immediately to Trenton where he was discharged the same day. A good career was wrecked, and pension lost, on the mere hint of homosexuality. That was no more justified than today's misuse of the good English words, "Lesbian" and "gay" which this scribe will use only in their original and correct meanings. The same goes for the word "marriage". Homosexuals may have equal rights but need to choose an original word to describe their unions. The Inuit, obviously smarter than we, have a score of distinct words to describe different types of snow. It is very important to know the difference when constructing igloos.

But, in granting homosexuals justified equal rights, we cannot stop there. Those who practice polygamy and polyandry also deserve fair play, especially as they have distinct words for their life style. Heck, why not abolish all controls and restrictions so we can explore the mathematically-intriguing world of Chaos?

Many blame the Americans and the Australians for abusing the language, but the English are just as bad. A tiny example:

Two young women from a straight strait in Newfoundland and one from Arkansas with her daughter again went to Worcestershire, England, where on Beauchamp Street by a mountainside they had been soldering genuine hostile missiles. This sentence is pronounced (by some):

Too yung wimen frum a strate strate in Noofunland and wun frum Arkansaw with her dotter agen went ta Woostersheer, Ingland, where on Beechum Street, by a montinside thay had bin sawdering genuin hostel missels.

If we expect English to remain the world's #1 language, then we need to inject some discipline. We must stop treating English as a joke and start safeguarding it.

It is so difficult to keep up with the explosion of knowledge. While writing this, the string theory has been nudged aside by the Inside-Out theory in which the balloon of our universe contracts to reinflate in an inside-out configuration, continuing the belief that the universe is without beginning or end. Do we have to keep coming back to correct our previous mistakes so we can make new ones to correct in future universes?

But, then, Norm Blondel (888 Wing editor) reminds me of Francis Bacon's (1561-1626) advice: "If you begin with certainties, you shall end up in doubts, but if you will be content to begin with doubts, you shall end in certainties."

Me? I just go around in circles. Where I will be for the July newsletter is anyone's guess. Suggestions?

971 WING BUSINESS PLAN: (by Art Nielsen)

We do have a Business Plan, but we have not paid sufficient attention to execution of the plan to make it truly effective. That is my problem, and I hope to address it soon. Execution of our Business Plan will require the time, efforts, and talents of the broader Wing membership. I appreciate that most of you are already very busy, but you may have some skills, interests or time to contribute. With this in mind, here are the five main elements of our Business Plan, along with some related thoughts.

1. **ADVOCATE CANADA'S AIR FORCE:** Tough to do to our US audience in Colorado Springs, but a broader approach of supporting the Canada/US defence partnership certainly makes sense for us. In light of changes to defence postures post 9/11, a timely project could be an article on the theme of "Canada & NORAD – Our New Horizons" for Airforce magazine. Anyone interested to assist with this?
2. **PERPETUATE RCAF & CAF TRADITIONS:** We are active in this area, thanks mostly to the efforts of Darrell Levitt. He would like to include in our program support to the Canadian Wartime Graves in Colorado (there are five). Who wants to help him?
3. **PROMOTE MILITARY & CIVIL AVIATION:** We could be more active in this area. We could add more "aviation content" to our activities. We could increase our participation in local aeronautical fora. We need an interested Wing member to spearhead initiatives in these areas.
4. **SUPPORT AIR CADET LEAGUE OF CANADA:** Tough to do from here other than through monetary contributions, and we do that already. We have some additional ideas in mind, and we are looking for an interested Wing member to run with them. Is that person you?
5. **PERFORM COMMUNITY SERVICE:** We make a few monetary contributions, albeit constrained by our limited resources. Solicitations for additional voluntary donations within the Wing are not wise, given the perception of "arm-twisting". Instead, we could focus our attention on the skills and time our members can contribute to the community. Many of you contribute a lot already, and I commend you for that. We could do more, but we need a Coordinator to make that happen. If you want to support the Wing in this manner, the job is open.

The foregoing is essentially a "recruiting ad" to you - the Wing membership. Our Business Plan can succeed only with the support and involvement of the broader Wing membership. We need you to contribute what you can. Please call me to get involved. 488-8870 or arnielsen@juno.com

THIS LETTER IN THE HALIFAX ASSOCIATION BULLETIN SO TOUCHED ME that I wrote to "Jeff" Jeffery, president of the Association to get Diana's address in nearby Aurora, Colorado. We have since exchanged many e-mails; she has read a copy of my book, *It's All Pensionable Time*, to give her an insight into life and death in Bomber Command; and we have now met her and Sid. At age 13, Diana, with her mother, emigrated to Weyburn, Saskatchewan, later moving to Vancouver. Diana went on to earn a PhD and was on the faculty of the University of Hawaii. Sid is a retired oral surgeon from Cheyenne, Wyoming, and served with MASH units in Korea.

"On 12 May 1944, G-George of 640 RAF Squadron left Leconfield to bomb the marshalling yards at Hasselt. It never got there. A JU88 attacked and the Halifax went into a spin that prevented the crew from bailing out. One of the crew, the Bomb Aimer, RAF Flight Sergeant Donald Sterling Campbell, was my father. My mother said very little about him except that he had been killed. When she died, I started searching all I could about his short life - he was 23 - about average for flight crew. The youngest in the crew being a 19-year-old Canadian tail gunner from Windsor. I learned two very important things: first that there was one survivor from the flight, second it would be possible to see a Halifax in Trenton.

I made almost immediate arrangement to drive to Trenton and was given a wonderful tour of the restoration work. Then I sat down to read the book on 640 Squadron that will accompany the plane. And there he was - the survivor of my father's flight! He was the wireless operator and he had emigrated to Australia shortly after the war. Last October I went to Australia to meet him and he presented me with the first pictures I have ever seen of my father. Now I know whom I look like! He and his family are visiting me this summer and they have become a second "Halifax" family.

For me, who never had the chance to know my father, the Trenton Halifax has been a miracle. Because of the efforts of the gallant men at Trenton bringing NA337 back to her former glory, and because of their intense interest not only in the aircraft but in those who flew her, I have found family and closure. There is no way to bring back those courageous young flight crews. But seeing the plane tells those of us who remain what it was like to fly in the dark in a gaggle formation with 13,000 pounds of bombs in the belly. NA337 is the world's aircraft and I hope one day to bring my grandson to see what my father did in the war.

I visited Schoonselhof cemetery outside Antwerp and found my Dad's grave. That is the closest I have ever been to him."

May 2004

BERT BANVILLE and REGINA: Not only has Bert led the rush to renew Wing memberships, but he has sent an informative letter with firm, steady, and legible handwriting that puts mine to shame. He also included a 2-page article on the \$18 million enlargement and deepening of Wascana Lake in the heart of the city, facing the Legislative Buildings. This park is one of the largest and most beautiful in North America. In 1931, as a Depression make-work project, men were paid \$18 per month to dig with shovels, not machinery, a 1.4-metre-deep lake. Now, in a rush to be ready to receive the spring run-off and be ready for the 2005 Canada Summer Games, some 43 machines, from heavy trucks to a 90,000 kg mass excavator, have braved winter weather 24 hours a day, 7 days per week. The new, larger lake will have an average depth of 5.5 metres except for a large fish-preserve area to a depth of 7.5 metres. With over 100,000 lakes in Saskatchewan, you still have to build your own if you want it in a specific place. While bravely dismissing long winter blues, Bert extols the excellent summer weather, the heavily-treed city (where 100 years ago there were none), and, of course, the great golfing. Sadly, Bert concludes that Eileen, who is in long-term care is not improving.

THANK YOUR GENOMES FOR YOUR BRILLIANCE: We and mice have the same number of genes, but the human genome has numerous duplications, many with slight mutations, some dead ends, some beneficial. While basic genomes continue to function, the duplicates stand by for duty when needed. Mice duplications amount to 1% whereas human duplications are 5%. This has given us great flexibility. Mice do not write, or read, newsletters.

CATALOGUE OF LIFE: Scientists, world wide, plan to have finished by 2011 a catalogue of all the known 1,750,000 species of plants, animals, bacteria, viruses, and what-have-you (I thought that Noah had done this for us). With up to 80 species going extinct every day and thousands more being discovered annually, this job could provide employment well beyond 2011. It is almost as time consuming as creating an index for these newsletters.

CHAOS ABROAD BUT TRANQUILLITY AT HOME: An oasis of peace and harmony, the Minoan culture on Crete, some 3500 years ago, pioneered metal coinage, had a thriving maritime economy, and there were no soldiers about. We solicit your views on whether this happy life was due to the fact that the Minoans had the world's strongest navy that kept enemies far away, or to the fact that Minoan women were attractively dressed to accentuate bare breasts, thus denying men any desire to chase off to war. Much later the British copied the Minoan weak-army-but-strong-navy philosophy but failed to avoid conflicts from which we can only infer that their failure was due to copying only part of the Minoan strategy without keeping their women topless. We never learn from the past!

THE URGE TO EXPLORE: Today, we are off to Mars and Mercury, forgetting the ancient past also had its explorers. In the 6th century B.C., the Egyptian Pharaoh Necho commissioned some Phoenician sailors to explore and map the African coastline which, it was presumed, ended at the Pillars of Hercules (Gibraltar). They sailed on, and on, and on, discovering the coastline had no end until they were back in Egypt where they had started. This feat of circumnavigating Africa was not repeated for 2,000 years when the Portugese accomplished it.

SHILO: Since the recent departure of German troops after 27 years at Shilo, the future of this Manitoba base was uncertain. Things are now looking up as the PPCLI have been transferred from their cramped Kapyong barracks in Winnipeg to Shilo where \$4.8 million is being spent on a new community centre, \$3.7 million for a new medical and dental complex, and \$39.4 million on a new maintenance and administrative complex. Range and training areas are also being upgraded, but where is the allotment for new equipment? When I visited Shilo a few years ago I was impressed with the rows of Canadian tanks as well as all those with black crosses. The last time I had encountered tanks with black crosses they were firing at me. Come to think about it, tanks wearing stars were also firing at me. Talk about lack of friends!

OH, YES, THERE WERE ALSO A FEW WOUNDED. We pay far too little attention to the thousands of people on all sides wounded by war. We admire the cheerfulness of the few shown to us who are bravely shouldering pain, loss of limbs, loss of careers, and family hardships. As a teenager growing up in a small town I knew many WWI wounded. Most carried on cheerfully at low-paying jobs well below their former abilities, some cursed God and country, some drowned their pain with alcohol placing immense burdens on their families, and all had their fill of war. In 1815, the Duke of Wellington, surveying the carnage of Waterloo, sighed, "*Nothing, save a battle lost, is so melancholy as a battle won.*" Will we ever learn?

WEST COAST SHELLING: An Ottawa Citizen article, just received from Bob Johnson, confirms that Japanese records show that I-25 and I-26, after two weeks of patrolling our west coasts and sinking 2 ships in June 1942, did hurl 30 shells at Estevan Point, BC, and 9 shells near Astoria, Oregon. No damage, so skeptics claimed in was a Canadian/US plot to spur recruiting. The RCAF then built a new base at Tofino for a squadron of Lysander torpedo bombers and a squadron of Kittyhawk fighters.

Reports from our Far-Flung (Unpaid) Reporters

Bob Johnson, North Gower, Ontario:

(1) **ANOTHER HALIFAX?** Karl Kjarsgaard, Air Canada pilot, who was the spark plug for raising the Trenton Halifax from a Norwegian Fiord is now set on raising LW170 that ditched off the coast of Ireland 10 Aug 1945 after completing 28 bombing operations with RCAF crews. It was a perfect ditching, the Halifax floated for 8 hours before sinking 1,500 metres and is considered to be fairly intact. Karl hopes to have it displayed in the Nanton, Alberta, Air Museum. Pilot Russell Earl, who flew 11 operations in LW170 now resides in North Portal, Saskatchewan.

(2) **LANCASTER:** After a 5-year, \$1 million restoration, G-George that flew 90 bombing operations with 460 RAAF Squadron was welcomed in Canberra by 2,000 Bomber Command veterans and their families. 80 of the 230 men who flew in her were killed. (Yes, it would have been ever so much cheaper to buy a few surplus WWII aircraft when the war ended but we could not compete with housewives, deprived of pots and pans for 6 long years. Historically swords became ploughshares while fighting aircraft became pots and pans - Ed).

(3) **RAAF:** Due to enormous maintenance costs, the 28 F111s (range 1,000 nautical miles) will be retired in 2010, 3 years before the 60 new JSFs (range 590 n.m.) start to arrive, so the 71 F/A18s (range 400 n.m.) as well as some P3 Maritime aircraft may be modified to carry cruise missiles to fill the gap.

John Hewitt, Leamington Spa, Warwickshire: (John served in the RAF in Burma during WWII):

ORPHANS' CHRISTMAS PARTY: UK, Dutch, and Canadian forces in Banja Luka, Bosnia, hosted 50 orphans, providing gifts and a tour of Merlin helicopters and Scimitar armoured vehicles and demonstrations of dogs finding arms and explosives.

Margaret Rowe, Halifax: Having recruited Margie I should explain that she has been a cherished friend since 1941 when they were trying to make a navigator out of me at Chatham, NB. She is the widow of Lew who was on a course ahead of mine and who flew in Bomber Command, earning a DFC on two tours with 4 squadrons (RAF, RAAF, and two RCAF). While attacking a German convoy in a Hampden he was shot down and survived in a dingy for 43 hours before being rescued by a Walrus (aircraft, that is). In 1945 he flew surviving Soviet prisoners, many with TB, back to the USSR. He got TB himself doing this. After the war, he and Margie lived in converted barracks in Fredericton while he obtained an MSc in Chemistry. Canada paid veterans \$90 per month while earning university degrees. Among other talents, Lew was deputy minister for the Environment in Nova Scotia. He had a triple by-pass in 1981 and died New Year's Eve, 1993.

(1) **HALIGONIAN CURLING:** Halifax women's teams won the Tournament of Hearts and the men won the Briar, so that both are Canadian champions and will compete in Gavle, Sweden, as well as the World Curling Tournament to be held in Halifax in 2005. Canada also won, 6 Apr in Halifax, the Women's World Hockey Title, defeating the US 2-0. (2) See also "Tit for Tat".

Brian Walley, W. Australia (with credit to Doug Hawkes):

RECORD PARACHUTE JUMP: On 16 Aug 1960, USAF captain Joseph Kittinger, to increase knowledge of what the human body can endure, donned a thin pressure suit, and took a helium-balloon ride up to 102,800 feet where it was -100F (blood boils at 62,000 feet). His right glove was defective, but he carried on. He jumped over the side, falling at speeds that, at 90,000 feet, reached 714 mph, breaking the sound barrier. He had no sense of speed - nothing passed him to indicate motion. At 14,000 feet he deployed his chute and landed 12 minutes later on target. His right hand was swollen with high blood pressure and hurt for several days, but returned to normal.

Keith Greenaway, Ottawa:

(1) **ALEXANDER DUNN, VC:** Canada's first of 93 VC winners lies buried in Eritrea. His grave was repaired in 2003 only to be vandalized in 2004. Brian Patterson is leading a privately-funded drive to bring him home to Toronto.

(2) **KOFI ANNAN INTERNATIONAL PEACEKEEPING TRAINING CENTRE, Accra, Ghana:** Canada has contributed \$3 million to this centre. The Pearson Peacekeeping Centre will also help with the curriculum and with the training of instructors.

(3) **DEPORTATIONS:** Paul Martin and George Bush have agreed that each other's citizens will no longer be deported to a third country without consultation and approval.

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MOUNT LOGAN: Need fill? There is no better single mass of granite than Mount Logan with its 100-mile circumference and its height of 13,000 feet above its base but rising to 19,524 feet above sea level. In Kluane National Park in the Yukon, it was named for **Sir William Edmund Logan** (born in Montreal in 1798, died in Wales 1875). The first director of the Geological Survey of Canada, he was the recipient of many awards including knighthood and the Legion of Honour Cross presented at the 1855 Paris Exposition. He published *Geology of Canada* in 1863, *An Atlas of Canada* in 1865, and a large geological atlas in 1869.

May, 2004

RAF GRAVES IN PHOENIX: On 9 Feb 1990, Smokey (remember the DCINC's aircraft back in the days when we had an air force?) flew a full load of Regular Force and RCAFA members to Phoenix for ceremonies commemorating the 23 RAF aircrew trainees who were killed while training, 1941-1944, at Falcon AFB there. These graves have been maintained by the Mesa Branch of the Daughters of the British Empire. On Friday evening 300 of us, including 40 members of the British Legion, were entertained by Spanish-American dancers and excellent Mexican cuisine provided by the wives of Post 41, American Legion. On Saturday we were part of a parade consisting of a rifle platoon, scores of dignitaries, and people carrying flags and banners. General Patrick took the salute. Among the wreath layers and tribute speakers were General Ian Patrick for the Regular Force and Roy Thompson for the RCAFA. For Saturday lunch we were entertained by Post 26, American Legion. It was a touching display of American-British-Canadian family ties.

EAVESDROPPING: Clare Short's whistle blowing in the UK, claiming that the government was monitoring UN transmissions, simply voiced what most already knew: Everybody spies on everybody else. With listening posts at Alert, Nunavut, Gander, Nfld, Masset, BC, and Leitrim, Ont., Canada is part of the Australia-Canada-New Zealand-UK-US intelligence gathering team which emerged out of the highly-successful WWII "Sigint" (signals intelligence) operation. The Canadian portion has a staff of 1,300 and an annual budget of \$300 million. Leitrim, for instance, has six antennae. Today, some 120 intercept stations operate in a dozen countries. The billions of transmissions are electronically screened and less than 2% are read.

Intelligence is shared with other countries who operate their own networks. Of course the system is open to abuse, especially since 11 Sep 01, of course there are international behaviour treaties, of course they are flouted routinely, of course the old battle continues of safeguarding transmissions vs overcoming safeguards. The sad part is that we spy on ourselves and, sometimes, for political party intelligence.

CANADA and the UNITED NATIONS: During his 8-9 March visit, Kofi Annan described Canada as a Pillar of the United Nations. Currently Canada's annual dues to the UN are \$53 million. Paul Martin donated another \$25 million during the visit to fund specific projects. Peacekeeping for the UN costs Canada another \$103 million annually. Haiti has just claimed another \$5 million. Canadian generals have been prominent in leading UN armies, if we overlook the shameful lack of support given to Romeo Dallaire, but that was more the fault of the world's powerful nations than the UN. Currently, five Canadians are leading UN activities: Louise Fr chet is Deputy Secretary General, Stephen Lewis is envoy for AIDS in Africa, Louise Arbour is UN high commissioner for Refugees, Lloyd Axworthy is the UN peace envoy for Ethiopia and Eritrea, and Paul Martin co-chaired the UN commission for private-sector development assistance. When there is trouble in the wind, the UN always has difficulty obtaining donations of troops. Lester Pearson did offer 5,000 Canadian troops as a backbone for a UN army, but that was when Canada had an army worthy of the name and a budget to match. Today the UN has to rely on the poor countries whose soldiers are paid well below what richer countries pay.

WEATHER TIT FOR TAT: We, in the west, are frequently bombarded with warnings of approaching cold Canadian air descending upon us, whereas in the east it is the reverse. Storm clouds enjoy that bombing run up the east coast of the US to dump their loads on the Maritime provinces. Before I get into recent Maritime woes, let me take you back to the 1949 - 1952 period when I was at Summerside, in Prince Edward Island. When a huge blizzard disrupted communications with the mainland, the local newspapers came out with the headlines **MAINLAND ISOLATED!** Two years later I was driving one of four cars that were headed home from work to the married-quarters area. En route we encountered a huge, impassable snow drift. We had no recourse but to ease our cars over to the side of the road, abandon them, and struggle home across the drifts. For illegal parking, the four of us were each awarded one week of orderly-officer duties. This made the rest of the officers happy as they would not have to worry about this chore for the next month. When the four of us went back to dig out our cars they were difficult to find as they were completely buried in snow.

On 19 February unfriendly storm clouds roared in from the US to dump up to 92 cms (3 feet) of snow on Nova Scotia along with 100 km/hr winds, causing white-outs, power outages, and the first-ever province-wide state of emergency with 10 PM curfews and \$1,000 fines to violators. Normal snowfall at Shearwater is 40 cms for all of February. Some \$10 million was spent on recovery. Not content with hitting Nova Scotia the clouds also jettisoned on New Brunswick and PEI, then refueled over the Gulf of Saint Lawrence so as not to forget Newfoundland. All the while, we in the west were begging for moisture.

BOB TRACY RETIREMENT: We thank Bob for the fine job he has done with *Airforce* Magazine, for his work on behalf of our wing, and for his continued membership. We now welcome him in to the world of retirement, the busiest (unpaid) occupation of all.

BROADMOOR CURLING CLUB STATUS:

At the March 2004 meeting of the association, a number of members enquired as to the status of the curling club and our new building. Let me first thank those members for their interest in the club.

The curling club is well, and in full swing in the direction of building a full-time curling facility in Colorado Springs. We have had several meetings with the City of Colorado Springs Parks and Recreation department. At this time, we are reviewing a draft Memorandum of Understanding between the city and the Curling Club that will provide the club with sufficient property, at the Coleman Park (right beside Sky Sox Stadium) to construct a 6 sheet-curling club. The Club and the city are negotiating a lease of 25 years that will start when the Club begins construction of the building.

To date we have conducted soils testing at the site and are waiting for the results. We have a six person building committee formed and are rapidly formulating the design of the building. We have also formed a Marketing Committee, whose job it is to promote the club within the city and attract new members. In the future, this committee will also be responsible for fund raising. The board of directors is diligently putting the final touches on a Business Plan and our first grant proposal. This grant proposal will be presented to the El Pomar foundation and we are very confident that they will grant a third of the construction costs.

We have negotiated a deal with the Chapel Hills Mall Ice Arena staff, and purchased ice in April and May for Learn-to-Curl classes and Corporate/Business curling nights. The Learn-To-Curl nights will be conducted on Saturday evenings from 7 to 9 PM, and the Corporate/Business nights on Wednesday nights from 7 to 10 PM. All these curling nights are open to the public. The Learn-To-Curl nights on Saturdays are priced at \$10 per person or \$30 for a family, this will include guided instruction culminating in a short 4-end curling game. The business nights will consist of group instruction and participation in a short 6-end game. If you wish to participate in any of these nights contact Frank Fraser or Darrell Levitt who will be glad to sign you up. . . .

..... **CURLING ROCKS!**

POPULATION UPDATES:

As of 1 January 2004 the Canadian population stood at **31,752,842**, up 276,843 from a year earlier. Provincial figures, with last year's in brackets, are:

Nfld-Lab	519,897	(519,560)	Sask	994,845	(994,905)
PEI	138,102	(137,334)	Alberta	3,172,121	(3,132,484)
NS	936,892	(935,180)	BC	4,168,123	(4,127,454)
NB	750,096	(750,439)	Yukon	31,408	(30,569)
Quebec	7,509,928	(7,462,432)	NWT	42,321	(41,630)
Ontario	12,293,669	(12,156,595)	Nunavut	29,496	(29,057)
Manitoba	1,165,944	(1,158,360)			

McCHORD AFB and DAVE GHYSELINCKS: The last time I was at McChord was in July 1952 when I was flying North Stars on the Korean airlift (those nostalgic days when we had an Air Force). So, I gladly accepted Dave's invitation to be guest speaker at their annual RCAF mess dinner. There are only 20 Canadians stationed at McChord, but what they are accomplishing is truly amazing. Although I remembered Dave's hard work and many accomplishments while he was here at NORAD, I was still surprised at just how much Canada was benefitting by having him in charge of the McChord unit. His fame has spread. Flying home I happened to sit beside a United Airlines pilot. When, in our conversation, I mentioned McChord, he replied, "*There is a strong Canadian contingent at McChord.*" The 85 people at the mess dinner included 4 RCMP who drove down from BC, 6 RAAF, 2 retired RCAF one of whom had flown with the Snowbirds and was now organizing air shows across the USA, and USAF guests. It was a traditional stag RCAF mess dinner but with many serving Australian, US, and Canadian female attendees. It was a most receptive audience and I did not get to bed until 0400 and had to be up at 0800 to catch the flight home. Arriving the night before the mess dinner, I was escorted the next day (in continuous drizzle) by Dave through the Boeing museum, which included a Concorde (outside in the rain) and an RCAF Sabre, the McChord museum that has an RCAF Voodoo, and to watch the annual McChord Canada-USA hockey game. The Canadian team included 3 women (two wives and one active Air Force - and all very good players). The score was 15-5 in favour of the Canadians, but Dave was quick to add that the annual baseball game results in a reverse score. With such a small mess Dave relies on fund-raising activities such as operating concession stands at fairs in order to entertain US co-workers, to escort visiting air cadets from Canada, and to attend Military functions in BC. All this in addition to a heavy work schedule. Dave lamented that while he, an ardent pilot, was relegated to flying a desk, his USAF and RAAF colleagues were still flying.

May, 2004

BOOK REVIEW

WHO KILLED THE CANADIAN MILITARY? By Jack Lawrence Granatstein, Harper Flamingo Canada, Toronto, 2004. Mike Dooher loaned me his copy as he knew it would make me cry again at the shameful, and dangerous, neglect of our military forces. Granatstein does admit that Canada, in performing militarily on a scale well beyond what would be expected of its population, amassed a debt that, after the Cold War, was costing \$44 billion annually to service. Impressive gains have been made at reducing this debt, much at the expense of the military. It all started when Lester Pearson, who won fame and a Nobel prize for calming the Suez crises, led Canadians to believe that they were good at peacekeeping and that this, much cheaper, role should be Canada's niche. Subsequent politicians, whether Liberal, Conservative, French, or English, had little interest in the Military but continued to offer, and accept, more peacekeeping assignments than our declining forces could handle without great strain and immense sacrifice from personnel. Backed up with facts and statistics, Granatstein ends paragraph 4 by blaming Pierre Trudeau for killing the Military, chapter 5 Brian Mulroney, chapter 6 Jean Chrétien, but chapter 7 the entire electorate for letting this happen while enjoying increasing social benefits. He lays out a plan for resurrecting the Military, but warns that action is required NOW. Tomorrow will be too late.

Granatstein does blame a few self-serving generals and wasteful practices as contributing to the current mess, but extols the abilities and dedication of the majority. He does tackle an issue long proposed by this scribe, along with many others, that Canada must sustain shipyards with steady work replacing ageing vessels and building new much-needed ships for Arctic work, transporting troops and supplies, attending to warships at sea, and so on. Canadians have produced excellent designs which gather dust on shelves. As the cost of building and maintaining military equipment has multiplied at a frightening rate since WWII, reluctance to invest is quite understandable. Unlike the UK and US Military, the Canadian forces have not been noticeable in educating the public on the need to loosen the purse strings.

In Canadian book stores I have found, and purchased, over a score of excellent books with arguments similar to Granatstein's. Sadly, these books appear to have had limited distribution as they are usually found on the discount tables so drastically reduced in price that even I can afford them. A couple of years ago I did list these books in a newsletter. If anyone out there is interested, I can supply details.

971 WINGERS: Our congratulations and thanks to Gary Thompson for his hard work in producing a successful year for the team. They came close to winning the league championship.

CANADIAN AND UK NEWSPAPER EXTRACTS: For those of you who are tidy and throw out old newspapers, your pack-rat Scribe would like to remind you of a few items you may have forgotten:

Mackenzie's Toronto Weekly, 18 May 1824: Compare, friendly reader, the peace and harmony of North America with the desolation, woe, and misery of the terrible slaughter at Solferino where 300,000 men engaged in murdering one another with all the terrible weapons of modern war. The Austrians alone lost 50,000 men - more than all the people in Toronto.

The Sun, London, 28 June 1838: (On the crowning of Queen Victoria on the death of William) Following a monarch, who earned a high reputation as a reformer, is not easy but those who believe in Providence know that the graces of a female reign will temper advantageously the character of the monarchy.

The Irish Canadian, 07 January 1863: There are 42 counties in Upper Canada, 30 with English names, 7 with Scottish, 3 with Native, and 2 with French names. None has an Irish name although the Irish outnumber the English in 28 counties having English names and 6 counties with Scottish names. They outnumber the Scots in 4 counties with Scottish names.

The Globe, Toronto, 1 July 1867: With the first dawn of this gladsome midsummer morn, we hail the birthday of a new nationality. A united British America, with its 4 million people, takes its place among the nations of the world. The history of Old Canada is sufficiently honourable to be perpetuated in the more comprehensive DOMINION OF CANADA which, ere long, will embrace the larger half of North America from the Atlantic to the Pacific.

MORE FROM DAVE GHYSELINCKS: Dave advises he is being transferred from McChord AFB to the staff of the Canadian Forces College in Toronto. He also advises that the 5 Canadians at McChord working on the C-17 program who are leaving this summer will not be replaced, thus implying that, instead of purchasing C-17's, we will buy more bandaids for the 40-year-old Hercules. However, Paul Martin's recent promises of 3 new support vessels for the navy, new vehicles and weapons for the army, and new fixed-wing S&R aircraft are encouraging.

INPUTS APPRECIATED: gsweanor@pcisys.net

Deadline 15 Jun for the July newsletter, but room often runs out before the deadline, so first come, first served.