

# 971 RCAF AIR MARSHAL SLEMON WING

## AIR FORCE ASSOCIATION OF CANADA NEWSLETTER

September 2011

[www.971WingAFAC.com](http://www.971WingAFAC.com)

Colorado Springs, Colorado



Casa Loma, Toronto - see page 4

### Social Calendar

- Jun 24 Thirteen of us participated in re-dedicating the memorial in Memorial Park commemorating all those thousands of Canadians and Americans who perished while serving in each others forces through the US Civil War, WWI, WWII, Korea, Vietnam, Iraq, and Afghanistan. Guest speakers were LG Duval, Mr. Eisler, Canadian Consulate General, Denver, Colonel Longmire, Fort Carson, and Colonel Kepler, Peterson AFB. We also thank Chaplain Will Hinkley, the 4<sup>th</sup> IF Band and the Colorado Springs Police Pipe Band. Darrell Levitt was master of ceremonies. The Regular Force then hosted us to refreshments at PAFB.
- Jul 01 34 of us enjoyed another great Dominion/Canada Day party.
- 08 19 of us took advantage of Joe Barry's conducted tour of Cheyenne Mountain where this old scribe was very appreciative not only of Joe's excellent dialogue as we went along but of the two buses that took us from the parking lot up the long climb to the tunnel entrance and then down the tunnel to the blast door entrance. I left the mountain on retirement in 1966 and found it considerably more posh than I knew it with forests of small computers that contrasted with our typewriters, telephones, and immense computers. It took us 40 minutes to clear security which was considerably more in evidence than when I fought a bloody war from 4 bases in the UK. I do not recall anyone asking me for an ID card when returning from town on those nights when we were not flying. If, for any reason, we wanted to avoid the main gate, there was always a hole in the fence. I never heard of any sabotage.
- Aug 15 Five of us attended the Handover Ceremony. LG Tom Lawson took over from LG Marcel Duval. Having served under Roy Slemon in Both Bomber Command and NORAD and attended subsequent handover ceremonies, LG Lawson will be my Deputy Commander #22.
- 21 1630 at the Banning Lewis Ranch Club House sponsored by Brenda and Brad MacAskill.
- Sep 18 Battle of Britain remembrance at the Retired Enlisted Club. Details TBA.
- Sep 24 1600 at Pat and Buzz Wilder's, 16 Lake Avenue, 80906

All of you out there anxious to host social gatherings please contact Valerie Freimuth.

## The Editor's Corner

### Taxes and Responsibility

What a difficult and thankless task it is to govern this country! It elects an energetic and capable individual with long-range vision of what the country and the world needs then allows the opposition, with vision limited to bringing him down, to place in his path formidable obstacles that have prevented him from enacting many of his promises to the disgust of his supporters who argue he compromises too much.

Successful and enduring democracies, especially those linked to a capitalist economic system, require a human population whose majority is responsible, honest, and willing to share in the burden of contributing to the welfare of the environment it temporarily holds in trust from Nature for future generations. How, then, does the United States rate? By force, theft, and purchase it has taken over from others a vast stretch of forested, fertile, resource-rich land, blessed with a varied climate, mainly human-friendly. It has cemented over much of this to accommodate a bulging population, but it has kept 50 states united to give the world some of its best scientists, engineers, builders, thinkers, writers, musicians, athletes, and benefactors. Militarily, it has been top dog since the Cold War but this power has produced few benefits for the world while exacting huge costs. Because of its size it rates #1 in the amount of foreign aid donated, but #11 as a percentage of GDP.

It leads the world in flag waving and heart-clenched emotion over the national anthem, giving the impression of solidarity in love of country, yet ....

105,000 families, earning from \$211,000 to over \$2 million annually pay no income tax, but efforts to close their loopholes as well as those for a dozen major corporations that pay little or no taxes on huge profits are strenuously opposed. There is widespread distrust of government, its taxes and regulations that curtail rights to live free and unfettered. This, of course, allows Greed to run rampant. Greed provides incentive to work, to invent, and to provide services but it also enhances the exploitation of man by man. We need regulations, safety nets, and the police to enforce them. Then we need police to police the police.

127 armed anti-government militias flourish (up from 42 in 2008). Far-right extremists seem to know only frontier individualism while embracing 1,002 hate groups. Over 5 million citizens, addicted to drugs to the tune of \$65 billion annually, create a \$40 billion profit for 6 major and many minor Mexican cartels that purchase from US dealers 70% of their weapons that have taken over 50,000 lives including 70 journalists.

While Canada ranks the 8th most peaceful among 153 nations, the US ranks #82. Mexico is #121.

Of the ships that use US ports, 88% fly 'flags of convenience' to avoid US taxes, safety regulations, and pay scales. The legal use of off-shore tax havens costs the IRS up to \$70 billion annually. And then there are 1,485 in 2010 who made their fortunes in the US, renounced their citizenship, and moved to low-tax countries.

Unregulated financial institutions created a world economic meltdown with millions of US homeowners evicted, high unemployment, an increase in poverty, but criminally-high profits for the already-rich.

Jobs have not been lost, they have just been moved offshore to increase profits.

The dangerous, and frightening, distrust of government may be understandable as understanding the maze of appendices that have grown in, out, and around 3 branches of government is an exhausting task. The Judicial branch has 5 agencies, the Legislative 11, and the Executive 17. That is just the beginning. In the Executive Branch, the Agricultural Department has 19 sub agencies. The Department of Defense has 28 + 8 in Homeland Security which has 27 sub offices. This leads to various ills: redundancy, duplication, bureaucracy, lack of transparency, confusion, inefficiency, delays, empire building, and extravagance.

Income tax specialists thrive because so many of us are unable to retain a modicum of sanity when preparing a return then mailing the forms to one address and the remittance to another thus doubling postage costs and creating the straw that breaks the camel's sanity. An efficient, fair, embracing tax is badly needed.

As a percentage of GDP, the US that lives highest on the hog, has the lowest tax burden of industrialized countries and a debt of over \$14 trillion. Streamlining government and curtailing electioneering so that fund raising does not dominate an incumbent's time can create savings, but leaving taxes well below genuinely-needed income and not closing loopholes, is irresponsible, unpatriotic, and disastrous.

While considerable attention has been paid to troubled European and Asiatic economies, very little is afforded the Canadian, the best of all G7 nations with the lowest debt but with universal health care, safety nets, brief electioneering, and citizen satisfaction, all the while contributing to alleviating world needs. Not perfect but with much worth copying!

**DONNA JONES** who has been a great help to us over the years retired 02 July 2011. Here is a brief summary, in her words, of her career:

In July 1956, after graduating from business college, I worked for the Air Defense Command at Ent AFB, working my way up to a USAF general's assistant in 1959, staying there until I moved to Germany (still working for the Air Force) in November of 1960. I married in 1962, quit working and returned to the States until 1964 when it was back to Germany. I was a stay-at-home mom (in Virginia, Japan and Nicaragua) until 1976 when I went to work for the Mine Safety and Health Administration in Arlington, VA. After my husband passed away I returned to Colorado Springs in 1981 and went back to work for the Air Force (NORAD) in 1982 (three USAF generals in Cheyenne Mountain), where I stayed until December 1988. That month I started working for the Director of Operations, MGen Lionel Bourgeois, followed by MGen Ian Patrick, MGen Dave O'Blenis, MGen Lou Cuppens, MGen Fraser Holman, and MGen Keith McDonald. I moved to support the Deputy Commander of NORAD in May 1998 (LGen George Macdonald, LGen Kenneth Pennie, LGen Rick Findley, LGen Charles Bouchard and LGen Marcel Duval) where I have remained. I thought I would work for NORAD until they "turned out the lights" but it is time to move on to more time with my two daughters, four grandchildren (who unfortunately live much too far away from me) and my special gentleman (we enjoy hiking, attending concerts, hockey, and traveling). Every day working with my Canadian generals has been a day I looked forward to, each truly an officer and a gentleman, and I will miss the camaraderie I have been privileged to enjoy with these men and their wives. I truly feel blessed to have met so many interesting and outstanding individuals, both military and civilian, US and Canadian, during my 40 + working years. I can't imagine my civilian life being as absorbing as my military life has been. It may take me a long time to adjust) but I'll work at it.

**FAST (500-metre Aperture Spherical Radio Telescope):** In March 2011 construction started in a remote part of Guizhou province in southern China on FAST that will eclipse the 305-metre Arecibo telescope in Puerto Rico which eclipsed the 100-metre Effelsberg, Germany, and the 76-metre Jodrell Bank, UK, steerable telescopes. 80 people,

all of the same family, had to be relocated to the nearest town. The dish antenna will be made of 4,400 triangular aluminium panels, so installed as to permit changes to the dish's shape. Arecibo's dish is fixed. FAST will be able to study 19 regions of the sky simultaneously in different bands of the radio spectrum. Arecibo is limited to 7.

FAST will see three times further into space than Arecibo. It should come on line in 2016 and will join the search for life out there. It will be able to detect an Arecibo-like antenna at a distance of over 1,000 light years.

**CRYPTOMYCOTA** is an ancient form of life just discovered in a pond in the UK. Originally thought to be a form of fungi, Meredith Jones at the University of Exeter argues it may be the "missing link" between fungi and the rest of life kingdoms.

Unlike other fungi it has no rigid cell walls to hold itself together. We still need to discover what it eats, how it reproduces, and the role it plays in the environmental process.

**THE TAGISH LAKE METEORITE**, under study at the University of Alberta, is opening up a whole new world. We can thank the foresight of Jim Brook, an outdoor guide, who, when in 2000 this meteorite plunged to earth near the Yukon-BC border, he ventured out on frozen Lake Tagish to find four dozen fragments, carefully placing them in plastic bags for storage in his freezer. He loaned a few pieces to scientist who excited others in the pristine nature of this meteorite, older than the 4.6 billion years of our solar system. In 2006 the university and the Royal Ontario Museum paid him \$850,000 for the 850 collected grams.

NASA and several other universities have joined the study of this rare specimen that, unlike most meteorites of nickel and iron, is a carbonaceous chondrite containing a dozen different amino acids, the building blocks of life.

The University of Alberta is constructing a \$500,000 lab to study these rocks.

**GAMBLING MONEY CONFLICT:** The US has 565 native tribes totalling some 1.9 million people. Many of these have escaped poverty by establishing prosperous gambling casinos which can provide tribal members with annual incomes of several thousand dollars per member. This has prompted thousands to suddenly appear, claiming membership

resulting in tribes resorting to genetic testing and to the expulsion of many who believe themselves to be long-time tribal members. As membership has been based on culture as well as genetics this has resulted in considerable tension

**ZEPPELINS:** Three Luftschifftechnik GmbH Eureka class zeppelins are now flying in Germany, Japan, and the US. These are 246 feet long, can carry 12 passengers, and have a cruising speed of 35 knots (top speed 70 knots). Two rotatable engines are mounted well above the gondola on either side of the helium bag and 2 at the rear for yaw and pitch control. Among the pilots for the one based at Moffat Field, California, are one German and the world's only female zeppelin pilot (from the UK). This zeppelin is popular for sight-seeing tours.

**CANADA'S NEWEST NATIONAL PARK** of 11,545 acres is North America's largest urban wilderness park and exists in Toronto's Rouge River Park within reach by 7 million people via public transportation. It is part of the Greenbelt and the only wilderness path from Lake Ontario to the Niagara Escarpment and the Kawarthas.

**LIBYA - THEN AND NOW:** In a 5-page article the current World Archaeology Magazine (UK) describes the history of a country of two halves that were united in 1929 under Italian occupation.

Phoenicians from Lebanon colonized the western half, a narrow band of cultivable hills fading into desert, along with Cadiz, Spain, and Carthage, Tunisia, between 1104 and 600 BC. Their first 'Libyan' cities were Sabratha and Oea (Tripoli). Numerous olive groves made the area prosperous long before the Algerian and Roman occupations. South of the coastal cities, Libyans took from the Roman world only what they wanted, creating a distinctive culture.

Cyrenaica, the eastern half, with limestone terrain and double the rainfall, was founded by migrants from Thera in the Aegean transported by Cretans in 631 BC. Working with the indigenous population they built 5 cities: Cyrene, Apollonia, Barca, Taucheira, and Euesperides (Benghazi). Their Battiads dynasty was overthrown in 440 BC to form a republic. As these Greek-culture regions expanded westward they came in conflict with the

Phoenician-Carthaginian-Roman culture. Tiring of conflict the two sides set a boundary decided by two runners, one starting out from Cyrene, the other from Carthage. The boundary was set where they met, 30 km east of Ras Lanuf. The two became distinct Roman provinces. Greek remained the dominant language in the east, Latin in the west. Desert and treacherous waters made travel between the two difficult.

After the Islamic Arab conquest in the 600s Cyrenaica became impoverished, Tripoli flourished. In the 1500s, threatened by Christian Spain, Libyans asked to join the Ottoman Empire. This lasted until the Italians moved in. After WWII it was planned to return Tripolitania to Italian rule and Cyrenaica to Egyptian, but to thwart Soviet moves in Tripoli, the UN in 1951 created the present nation of Libya.

This article concentrates on archaeological ruins of cities so ignores the 140 nomadic Arabised Berber tribes, sub tribes, and clans, the original inhabitants with "Libya" an ancient Egyptian name for "The Berber Desert".

**CASA LOMA'S SECRETS:** I danced there during WWII, never, like all but a tiny few, knowing that behind doors guarded by a \$1 padlock worked the group that developed highly successful ASDIC with claimed accuracies of detecting submarines a few miles away to an accuracy of a few yards, depth to within a foot, speed to within a knot and course to within a degree. They had been bombed out in London so moved secretly to Toronto. (Esprit de Corps, July 2011).

**THE FISHING BAN IS WORKING:** After 19 years, the Bedford Institute of Oceanography can announce that Cod, exploited to near extinction, are now one third of the way back to recovery in the Grand Banks and the Eastern Scotian Shelf. The current generations, however, are half a kilogram lighter. Similar bans are dangerously overdue in the rest of the world.

**COLD STATISTICS:** US wars since 9/11 have taken 31,740 military and 172,000 civilian lives at a cost to the US of \$4.4 trillion including treatment of wounded to 2050. (Brown University study), Will History record Bin Laden the winning general?

# Book Reviews



## J.K. ROWLING and THE HARRY POTTER BOOKS

In addition to the \$6,300,000,000 from the sale of 400,000,000 books, we owe her a debt of gratitude for turning a generation of children, and thus their parents, into book readers. The challenge now is to divert this interest into sampling those thousands of books out there that help us to understand and live in this world that has numerous dangers but no magic.

### THIS LAND IS THEIR LAND

By Barbara Ehrenreich, Metropolitan Books, NY, 2008, 236 pages

Author of 15 books, Barbara also contributes to Harper's, Time, The Nation, and the New York Times.

With considerable satire and wit, Barbara, in 63 short chapters, relates the numerous forces at work to increase the poverty of the lowest class, to shrink dramatically the middle class, and to enhance the elite.

She starts out describing the outburst of patriotism following 9/11, made shallow by the grant of \$20 billion to airlines but nothing to the laid-off workers, aggravating a geological shift beginning in the 1980s that has seen the peaks of great wealth rising above the clouds, the valley of poverty sinking deeper, and the broad plateau of the middle class shrinking to a narrow ledge. She cites cutting taxes for the wealthy and services for the poor. The upper class is split into the affluent and the übberrich. She berates the invasion of Iraq, the most secular state in the area, in retaliation for Islamic militants from Saudi Arabia. She also describes the beauty spots that the wealthy have monopolized with their mansions and expensive boutiques excluding the likes of you and me. The song "This land belongs to you and me" is no longer true. Five of the 20 wealthiest Americans are Waltons (Wal-Mart family); the average pay of energy company CEOs is up 215% since 2002; it is much cheaper to live rich than poor as the poor are forced to pay higher prices, having no capital to afford cooking utensils, apartment deposits, health care, bank charges, etc. Stimulus packets should focus on the poor as they immediately spend it. Henry Ford realized he had to pay his workers enough so they could buy Fords, Wal-Mart has not. NINJA (no income, no job, no assets) mortgages were criminally designed to fail, but profitable to those who rated them AAA and sold them to investors, creating much world-wide suffering.

She tells of Tim Bowers, age 62 in 2006, of Columbus, Ohio, who robbed a bank of \$80, then gave it to a security guard and awaited police. He asked the judge to award him 3 years until eligible for social security. His job was moved to China and he was unable to find another. The judge obliged.

She argues that illegal immigrants average \$700 a month, are 49% employed by households, pay into Social Security \$7 billion more than they take out, and \$1.5 billion more into Medicare.

As only 20% of jobs require university degrees, graduates emerge into a dismal market saddled with an average debt of \$20,000. Even R&D is now being outsourced.

In her final chapters Barbara fights for gender equality while condemning the 6 female participants (Condoleezza Rice, 2 generals, and 3 who mocked nude Muslim prisoners) in the Abu Ghraib disgrace, berates 'Groupthink', scorns Democrats surrendering moral values, girls' dolls exploiting sex rather than values, and the US having 1.350 religious sects making it the most disorganized, diverse, and confused society. She compares Hamas providing a welfare state to impoverished Palestinians without one to our evangelical Right attacking the inadequate one we have. Barbara wonders why Barack Obama chose his present thankless job when he could have had a happy career playing basketball.

Barbara tends to concentrate on the US while it is a similar tale in most countries. The "Gini" coefficient reveals the % of income going to the top 5% is: Portugal 36, UK 34, Italy 34, USA 33, Greece 32, Germany 30, Canada 29, France 26, Sweden 26.

## WHITHER THE ECONOMY? by Tom Kupecz, Trenton

It is difficult these days to figure out what's up with the economy. The world over, capitalists seem to have borrowed way more than they can repay, banks have lent way more than their clients can handle, the soup lines are getting longer, and the authors of our misfortunes are getting even more obscenely wealthy. It might do to look at how we got into this mess in the first place. It may have to do with human nature, not a happy idea, since that would be close to impossible to counter.

People are competitive beasts. When we cooperate it is mainly to make it easier to win at whatever we do, be it work or play. It is only the artsy folk who don't need to get that promotion or win that game. The rest of us are fulfilled by doing better than, well, everyone around us. Studies have shown that to be content all we need is to be as well off as our friends and neighbors; do better than them and we are perfectly happy. If we had twice as much, but they had twice as much plus a little more, we would be in despair. It's very relative.

Now these studies are conducted by social scientists, a set of researchers who seem to be able to prove anything they set out to, but this particular finding feels right. Jealousy is very powerful. One of the assumptions here is that having more stuff is better; we measure well-being by how much we possess. Watch much TV and you find that the ads (and most programs) reinforce the idea. The path to happiness is paved with shiny new stuff! More on this in a moment.

We live in a Democracy, the best form of government ever, in a Capitalist economy, the most successful system ever devised. We know this because we have been told so for years. And over time we have defeated all the other systems of government and of economy. At least up to now. As the foreclosures continue and the bread lines persist it may become harder to keep the faith.

A few questions: Why is the US Congress locked in ideological squabbling, fiddling while the economy burns? Why are the authors of the economic meltdown more wealthy than ever? Why is the totalitarian Chinese economy succeeding so stunningly? Could it be that we have got something fundamentally wrong?

The basis of Capitalism is the accumulation of money to be able to create business, whatever it may be. Raising the funds can take many forms, but in the end it is the ability to persuade and convince others to lend money that marks the successful Capitalist. Wall Street financiers are very good at gathering together large amounts of money, but they have proven pretty mediocre at applying it sensibly. When the profits from simply selling stocks and bonds became merely huge, the Wizards of Wall Street invented a panoply of "derivatives." The Heart of Capitalism has become a casino where investors gamble on the rise or fall of an index of selected stocks, or bet on the market value of a stock rising or falling in a certain period. And other weird ways of increasing a portfolio's value. This has no relationship with creating business.

Something else everyone knows is that the Economy must grow, or we face Stagnation, Recession and Depression. But why? To accommodate the increasing world population? To pay the interest on all that Capital borrowed to create business? Or so that wealthy Capitalists can become more wealthy? Probably all of the above - the first two are driven by the laws of nature (or finance) but the last is most likely the main driver.

When you can afford to live well life is good. But what is really good? Once you get beyond poverty, and its resulting malnutrition and illness, what makes you happy? It would seem that we are fulfilled by our relationships with other people; humans developed as tribal creatures, and are desperately unhappy when unable to interact at a personal level with family and friends. In our frenetic lifestyles we seem to have forgotten that.

Once upon a time we were going to live in a future Utopia, served by all manner of machines while we fulfilled ourselves, freed from drudgery. Well, the future is here, and it seems that the machines are taking over the drudgery (read: jobs) and the machine owners are getting wealthy, while mankind is sinking into poverty. Governments, which rely on taxes for income, are finding that personal income tax revenues are falling with increasing unemployment, while the wealthy Capitalists are able to have corporate income taxes reduced in the name of "creating jobs." Since the jobs they may be creating are increasingly being performed by machines, we are finding more and more people with the promised leisure time but with no money to live on.

The question is perhaps not so much how to put the economy back on track, but how to learn to adapt to an economy that will never again offer the ever-increasing salaries of the last century. Since the people in charge of things are universally the competitive ones who are succeeding in the present environment, this is going to be difficult.

The explosion of technologies across the spectrum, from information management to robotics to genetics may be able to provide us with the means to adapt. We need to give some thought to our political system that does not seem to possess the will to adapt.

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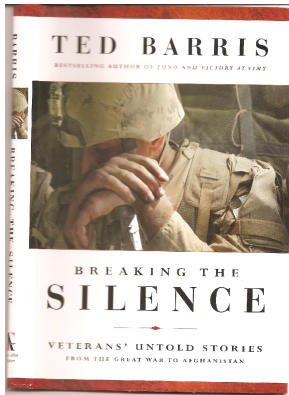
**TED BARRIS** is having a busy summer. Prior to coming here 04-07 July to interview your scribe for his next book, which will be on the Great Escape from a Canadian point of view, and also to interview Darrell Levitt who had reviewed his book, *Juno*, for our December 2010 newsletter, Ted, and his wife Jayne MacAulay, had conducted a tour of WWII eastern European battle sites. While Ted was here, Jayne was on a writing tour of Haida Gwaii, BC. After returning to Uxbridge, Ontario, Ted was off to Saskatchewan to conduct a seminar in journalism and publishing, then back to Ontario to receive a Veterans Affairs award along with 18 veterans for outstanding work in the interests of veterans.



Ted's research for his 16 published books has included interviewing over 4,000 veterans.

Ted left both Darrell and me with copies of his book *Breaking the Silence*. Darrell has submitted this review of it:

"On July 6, 2011, I had the opportunity to spend a most enjoyable dinner and evening with George Sweanor and Mr. Ted Barris. His book, 'Breaking the Silence' is a compilation of stories told to Ted by Canadian veterans from WW II through Afghanistan. As Ted related the story of the book's cover, I knew that I had to use the story in my newsletter article. It was just too compelling not to share. The story touched my heart in a manner that few things have. If I were to relate the story to you, I would do Ted and the young soldier a grave injustice. So, in Mr. Barris' own words, here is the story of the cover of the book."



"The day I first saw it, I had no idea how much impact it would have on my life or lives of several others. I came across the photograph back in March. I had opened a copy of the *Globe and Mail* and spotted the image right away. I suddenly realized the picture might provide the exact image I'd been searching for. It showed the contemporary Canadian soldier in Afghanistan. He seemed to be seated inside a troop transport. He looked exhausted, done in. I checked the caption under the shot. It said: "Master Corporal Chirs Jebeaupre rests after a mission in the Taliban stronghold of Zbari district."

All last winter I had searched for an image for the cover of my book, a book I hoped might change attitudes about the way we view Canadian veterans. I wanted the image to say several things. It had to depict a veteran; clearly this man was a veteran, not of long past wars, but of a current war. It had to be an honest reflection of the aftermath of a wartime event; the Reuters news agency photographer, Stefano Rellandini, seemed to have caught this Canadian soldier in a state of exhaustion. Perhaps even loss. So I called Reuters seeking permission to use the shot on the cover of my book. "You'll have to call New York," the Toronto Reuters office told me.

Once I'd made contact, I asked Reuters to forward the photo to my publisher's cover designer to incorporate the image around the title of my new book, "Breaking the Silence." From the first draft of his treatment, I knew that my instincts to get this photograph were right. The image of Master Cpl. JeBeaupre seemed perfect. Early this fall, the production of my book and its dust jacket came off the printing presses and by October I held the first copy in my hands. Suddenly it hit me. We had paid for clearance to use the photograph, but we had never bothered to contact the Canadian veteran whose face would appear on thousands of books. "I don't want this guy to hear about being on the cover of a nationally published book by accident," I told my publisher. "I want him to hear it from us."

Thus began my search for the veteran. I tried to find him through the Canadian Forces database. I called

friends of mine in the military. I went as far up the DND ladder as a civilian can go to find him. Nothing. "Is it possible his name is not Jebeaure, but DeBeaupre?" I asked a military officer.

That was it exactly and the Canadian Forces system immediately traced the soldier. By coincidence, he had just returned from his overseas deployment in Afghanistan and been posted to CFB Gagetown, NB. It took a while, but eventually I convinced a duty officer there to receive a copy of the book and pass it along to DeBeaupre.

In about a week, I received word the soldier had received it. He contacted me and said he was honoured to be part of a book that recognized Canadian veterans.

Later I was on the road, on TV, radio, and on line talking about the book. Then one Wednesday evening, as I was about to speak, a woman in the audience caught my attention. I introduced myself and so did she. "I'm Sandy DeBeaupre," Chris DeBeaupre's mother. "

I don't know whether it was out of respect or surprise, but I directed a lot of my presentation to her that evening. I spoke about one of my book's themes—the code of silence that veterans use on sons and daughter who ask "What did you do in the war, Dad?" I suggested that sometimes it is we who impose the silence on veterans out of reverence for their loss on Remembrance Day. I explained that sometimes veterans don't have to be elderly to have suffered trauma, pain, and loss; I described my conversations with Canadian veterans back from Afghanistan. I acknowledged that Sandy deBeaupre's son Chris—depicted on my book jacket—might well be one of those silently suffering veterans. Sandy nodded in understanding.

"You may not realize it," she said, "but that photograph was taken just after Chris had lost four of his comrades that very day.

The face I had tripped over, chosen for my cover, and hoped would represent the face of the veteran experience, had indeed lost a lot that day."

### SPECIES SIMILARITIES

From my comfortable sofa seat I can simultaneously watch television and my plant-filled sun deck that is glassed in with sliding doors and a high ceiling.

Both views reveal lack of intelligence. On the television I watch in disbelief as our elected representatives devote endless hours in bickerings that evade what must be done to get us out of the mess they got us into. Sad, because some exhibit common sense and responsibility for the welfare of the people, the nation, and the world while enough who are beholden to those on whom they rely for financial support can block universally-beneficial remedies. With the sun deck I can watch similar actions.

When the glass sliding doors are closed, feral cats, racoons, and squirrels can find the cat door and shove open the curtains to enjoy the cat food and water left there then leave the way they came.

In the warmer months the glass doors remain open. The flowers attract flying visitors. Some have no difficulty leaving the way they entered, but humming birds and bees often, when obtaining enough nectar, want to leave, they fly up to the glass ceiling where they can spent the rest of their lives seeking a higher ceiling so similar to those politicians raising our debt ceiling, never admitting to realizing that salvation lies in coming down to get out.

Fortunately for the humming birds and bees I have a net on a long pole and am adept at snagging and releasing them.

I am open to suggestions as how to modify the net to snag errant politicians.

**THAT IS A RELIEF** - Ye Olde Scribe has stumbled (barely) to the end of yet another newsletter, this time thanking **Donna**, **Tom** and **Darrell** for their 2.5 pages of inputs while lamenting he now lacks the energy to hound the score of others who have forgotten their promises to provide inputs for your enlightenment.

I end with a deep sadness in watching that strong fighter pilot, rancher, horseman, and host to so many of our parties, **Bill Champion**, fade to intensive care and a hospital bed in a tiny room with only a few pictures on a wall to remind him of happier times. Like Bill we have gratitude for **Charlene's** continuous care and for her outward appearance of cheerfulness, composure, and strength.



## **STOP THE PRESS!**

It has just been learned that the Royal Canadian Navy and the Royal Canadian Air Force as of 16 August 2011 have their old names back. But our Wing, loyal to the core, never wavered. On the formation of our Wing in 1983 we insisted on the inclusion of RCAF in the name - and here is our 1924 photo of C. Roy Slemon (standing second from left) by an Avro 504 while training at Camp Borden to be a Provisional Pilot Officer in the newly-named Royal Canadian Air Force:

