



Founded 1927

R U S I

Newsletter of the Royal United Services Institute of Vancouver Island

The RUSI Calendar of Events starts on page 8

What every Canadian should know about Afghanistan

By Shelley Lipke

How much does the average Canadian know about what Canadian troops and civilians are doing in Afghanistan?

After years as a defence analyst and involvement with Afghanistan, retired air force Brigadier-General Don Macnamara is baffled by the lack of public knowledge among Canadians, and wants to educate people on what is not being covered in the media.

BGen Macnamara was deputy-director of strategic policy planning when the Russians invaded Afghanistan in 1979; thus he visited the Afghanistan-Pakistan border area and mujahedin camps in 1982, and

again in 2006 and 2008 with a group of defence analysts.

“The situation in Afghanistan affects Canadians more than just our troops being there, our own Canadian security depends upon it,” said BGen Macnamara at the Union Club’s speaker’s luncheon on Nov. 17.

“It’s in a nasty neighbourhood,” he added, referring to the six nuclear armed countries surrounding Afghanistan..

Bordered by Pakistan, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan, Uzbekistan, China and Iran, Afghanistan has a 30-year history of war beginning with the 1979 invasion by the Soviet Union. It has evolved into a multitude of problems. Al Qaeda, Taliban, drug (poppy growing) interests, warlord

power interests, highway robbers, kidnappers and common criminals; all play a daily part in Afghan society.

“Imagine a circumstance where there is simply no income, and no way to feed your family, people get desperate and resort to kidnapping for ransom. When order, security and economy collapse, people do what they need to survive, and threats are an imminent part of life,” said BGen Macnamara.

About the size of Manitoba, but with the population of Canada, Afghanistan has many problems. A literacy rate of 42 per cent affects the population that is trying to pick up the pieces following years of warfare,

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to rebuild their economy.

“It has many issues, but has already made significant progress since our involvement,” said BGen Macnamara.

Canadians have been involved in over 20 UN and other missions in Southwest Asia (from the Nile to the Indus) since the end of the Second World War. Since 2001, as part of Operation Enduring Freedom, Canada played a role to rid the country of Al Qaeda, and to track down Osama Bin Laden. Then in 2003, Canadians provided security to Kabul and assisted the return of the government, and in 2005 the mission took on a security-governance and development assistance role in Kandahar province, as part of the NATO International Security Assistance Force, explained BGen Macnamara.

“In 2006 when I visited Afghanistan it was a pile of rubble, but when I went back in 2008 the change was dramatic. Businesses were thriving, and people in cities showed no sense of insecurity,” he says, attributing the success in Kandahar to the work of the Canadian Forces security force and the provincial reconstruction team.

British, Canadian, American and Dutch/German troops are helping the situation and have

each established a Provincial Reconstruction Team in Southern Afghanistan. The Kandahar team involves 500 military and civilian Canadians, and is doing so well it’s now being used as an example for all other reconstruction teams in Afghanistan.

Plus, the 2,500 Canadian soldiers and civilians are helping rebuild the Afghan National Army and the Afghan National Police to strengthen the country’s security.

“From the beginning, our goal has been to establish security in the country so Afghans can live in peace and prosperity. Without security we can’t help people,” said BGen Macnamara.

In addition to strengthening security, Canada is providing humanitarian aid, strengthening health care and providing basic services to rebuild the economy. Canadians have provided for Afghan children vaccinations for Polio.

“A total of 7 million children have now received vaccinations through our polio eradication program. From January to September 2008, 20 new cases have been reported in the southern region, demonstrating a compelling need for the campaign. Canada is prepared to meet this challenge.”

Canadians are also active in other areas, such as Bamiyan Province north of Kabul. A Canadian NGO, inspired by Flora MacDonald, and thanks to Canadians who purchased photocells at Canadian Tire, has helped several villages get electricity so people can read and go to school in light or darkness, said BGen Macnamara.

The Government of Canada, following the Manley report, has set 2011 as the year our troops leave Afghanistan. “We only have another three years there to provide security, but we are going to stay there a long time on the civilian side contributing to both governance and development.”

BGen Macnamara spent 37 years in the Royal Canadian Air Force and Canadian Forces, and spent the last half of his military career teaching strategic planning and analysis. He is still active in teaching through the Canadian Forces College in Toronto, where he was appointed Honorary Colonel. He serves on the Air Command Advisory Council and Board of Governors of the Royal Military College. (BGen (Ret) Macnamara is a director of RUSI VI.)

– LOOKOUT CFB Esquimalt, Dec.1, 2008(*)Afghanistan

“VALOUR - Meritorious Service Medal”: Correction

Incorrect information was included in the story “VALOUR - Meritorious Service Medal” which appeared in the last RUSI Newsletter – Number 4, 2008.

Cpl Julie Alain was not the first woman in uniform to receive the MSM. Two CF servicewomen did

receive the Meritorious Service Medal prior to Cpl Alain’s decoration. PO2 Carla Penny, also a Medical Technician, received the MSM for her actions on 14 Nov 2005. Capt Nichola Goddard received the MSM posthumously for her exemplary service from

January 2006 until her death in combat as an artillery forward observation officer May 2006. These decorations were presented to PO2 Penny and Capt Goddard’s widowers in Feb 2007 in Ottawa.



West coast cadets receive award

By Steve Fortin

Five Royal Canadian Army Cadets and one Royal Canadian Air Cadet received the Duke of Edinburgh's Award November 15 in a ceremony at the lieutenant-governor's official residence in Victoria, B.C.

Cadet Gordon Hallam of the *Canadian Scottish Regiment* in Victoria, Cadets Ryan Deveau, Nicole Morrison and Alex Redden of *Princess Patricia's* in Victoria, Cadet Trillian Mitchell of *Seaforth of Canada* in Vancouver and Cadet Afraj Gill of the North Delta *Sky Hawks Squadron* of Delta, B.C. received badges and certificates from British

Parents, friends and members of the military community attended the presentation of the Duke of Edinburgh's Awards. It was with

Columbia's Lieutenant-Governor Steven L. Point.

The Duke of Edinburgh's Award was created by Prince Philip, Duke of Edinburgh, in 1956, and was instituted in Canada in 1963. Today, more than 120 countries around the world grant this award, to encourage young people aged 14 to 25 to be active, take part in new activities and pursue their interests by setting goals for themselves and reaching them while having fun.

The Duke of Edinburgh program is very compatible with the general mandate of the Cadets Program. "In both cases, physical honour that the six cadets accepted their badges and certificates of merit. It was a day they will not soon forget. — *the*

activity is encouraged, the direction, the role of young people in their communities and a sense of initiative and adventure," says Gerald Pash, of Navy Public Affairs in Esquimalt. "These are values that are inherent to the path taken by a young person taking part in the Cadets Program. The badge that the young people receive when they accept this award is recognized by the CF and, according to the established standards, soldiers who were once cadets are allowed to wear it on two occasions – when they receive it and when in the presence of a member of the Royal Family." *Maple Leaf*, 3 December 2008.



For Canada

For Canada, 2008 was a year of important anniversaries: we marked the founding of Québec City 400 years ago; the 250th anniversary of representative government in Nova Scotia; British Columbia's 150th birthday; and the 90th anniversary of the end of the Great War, a tragic conflict that nevertheless marked Canada's coming of age as a strong and independent

country.

These historic milestones remind us of how fortunate we are to live in Canada.

As we face the difficult year ahead, always remember that ours is perhaps the most peaceful and prosperous society on earth, and we Canadians are a generous, resilient, resourceful people who have prevailed over many challenges in the course of our

history.

As we count our blessings with friends and family this Christmas, I'd ask you to spare a thought and a prayer for the brave men and women serving Canada abroad who can't be at home this season. Their courage and sacrifice is a credit to all of us. — The Prime Minister of Canada – Christmas 2008 *

ABCA GOES TO COLLEGE

by Maj Mike Wiesenfel

TORONTO — Nestled on a hill on a former estate in the north of Toronto is an institution that has quietly made a name for itself as the intellectual engine of the CF. For more than 65 years, what was

the RCAF Staff College and is now known as the Canadian Forces College (CFC) has provided world-class education to our nation's military and civilian

leaders, as well as to select foreign students.

It's an institution respected by Canada's allies because of its innovative approaches to professional military education. In

early October 2008, these approaches framed the discussions when CFC hosted the American, British, Canadian, and Australian (ABCA) college commandants for their two-day inaugural conference. "We needed to meet," said CFC commandant Brigadier-General David Fraser. "Our nations' militaries invariably work together around the globe, so it was obvious that we would all benefit from increased educational co-operation."

It was a message that resonated with our other allies who sent commandants and delegates from the Australian Defence College, the Australian Defence Force Academy, the US National War

The potential of this new co-operation is simple yet far-reaching, and so the effects of this modest gathering in Toronto will be felt from the battlefields of Afghanistan to the corridors of

College and the US Joint Forces Staff College. "The importance of this conference can't be understated," said Major-General Daniel Gosselin, Commander, Canadian Defence Academy. "We are all committed to delivering the highest quality professional military education in a continually changing operating environment. We needed a regular forum to share best practices, and this initial gathering helped us achieve this."

The key to understanding best practices, BGen Fraser said, is that each of the ABCA nations brings a particular focus and expertise that the others should study and possibly emulate. "The NATO. Better co-operation means finding and employing the best practices possible in educating leaders. The end result is having better-educated leaders, the benefits of which are obvious.

Australians are experts in amphibious operations, the British have a comprehensive approach to military operations, and the Americans are leading the way in space operations," he said. "We should be learning from them, and they should be learning from us."

Rear Admiral Neil Morisetti, Commandant of the UK's Joint Services Command and Staff College, agreed. "The conference provided an excellent opportunity to increase our mutual understanding of the institutions," he said, "and to identify ways by which we could collaborate in providing first-class education for our students."

The next ABCA commandants' conference will be held in November 2009 in Australia.

-The Maple Leaf, Nov. 26, 2008



British Anti-Sniper Device

Troops fighting the guerilla insurgency could soon be protected by an anti-sniper device that can pinpoint the position of the shooter within a fraction of a second.

The palm-sized device designed by Qinetiq, the British defence firm that was once the government research laboratories, is pinned to the uniform and uses acoustic technology to calculate the exact position of the rifle fire. Then an electronic voice passes on the "bearing and range" to the soldier allowing him to jump to safety and return fire.

The machine has already been purchased by the Americans for deployment in the New Year and the British are looking at a vehicle mounted version.

After roadside bombs, snipers have been the biggest cause of the

301 British fatalities in both wars, and army chiefs are convinced the device could save dozens of lives.

"It is all about saving guys' lives," said Don Steinman, one of the leaders of the project at Qinetiq North America who developed the device called EARS for Early Attack Reaction System.

"Knowing immediately where the shots come from means that it eliminates the confusion and allows soldiers to find cover and return fire. It helps make combat scenarios, especially in urban areas, a lot less confusing. Everybody immediately knows what side of the vehicle or building to jump behind when taking fire."

The device that costs around £2,500, works by isolating the crack of the sniper rifle thanks to

four microphones, a GPS system and a powerful microprocessor.

It takes less than a tenth of a second and provides the results in audio and visual formats. It can even send a grid reference via radio to supporting artillery and aircraft.

The system, which weighs less than 6oz, is so sensitive it can tell the difference between outgoing friendly fire and incoming enemy fire and can distinguish a sniper even in a gun battle.

It also works when the soldier is traveling up to 50 mph on a vehicle.

The device has already been road tested in Iraq and Afghanistan to claims of great success.

"The soldiers gave us feedback and we acted on it," said Mr. Steinman. "The result is a powerful, rugged, and lightweight

gunshot localization system that helps the individual war fighter rapidly respond to dangerous situations." Although the range and accuracy of the device is kept secret for operational reasons, Mr. Steinman said they were well

beyond the capabilities of a sniper. —*Sunday Telegraph*

RUSI VI member Col Peter Green recalled attending a "crack and thump" exercise with his British battalion (XIX Foot) in Sennelager, Germany. "You get so

interested in the crack (which is near and loud) so you miss the thump (which is distant but is the origin of the round passing by). Having it all done for you must be marvelous.



Canadian contracted helicopter flights

by Maj Jay Janzen

In the early morning sun, two Canadian-contracted Mi-8 helicopters lifted off from Kandahar Air Field in Afghanistan, carrying valuable supplies to troops in Canadian forward operating bases in Kandahar Province. The flights on Nov. 17 marked the first time these aircraft have been employed under a new contract that increases Task Force Kandahar's air capability.

Colonel Christopher Coates, Joint Task Force - Afghanistan Air Wing Commander, said the addition of this new capability will "get Canadians off the roads in Afghanistan where they are exposed to all the dangers of this country – ambushes and IEDs [improvised explosive devices] and the other things that all Canadians are aware of."

"The Canadian aviation community, that I'm very much a part of back in Canada, is very excited to be here and it's something we've wanted to do for quite some time," he added. "We believe we've got a lot to contribute to the operation and we are very excited to be here."

According to Bob Waring, project manager for the Toronto-based Sky Link, the contracted Mi-8 helicopters are ideally suited for operations in Afghanistan. "It is a very versatile aircraft with extremely good capability for high, hot and heavy operations, which is what we are looking at doing here," he said. "It's an austere and difficult environment but we've got the airframes and we've got the crews that are up to the task. We have the best of intelligence, the best of co-ordination, the best of communications, so through that, we are able to do what we need to do."

This summer, the Canadian government announced an air capability for the mission in Afghanistan that includes leasing helicopters to address immediate needs, purchasing six Chinook helicopters, and acquiring unmanned aerial vehicles (UAVs) for intelligence, surveillance and reconnaissance. The need for this additional capacity was set out in the March 13 parliamentary motion to extend Canada's military mission in Afghanistan until 2011.

Obtaining these additional air resources was also one of the recommendations of the Independent Panel on Canada's Future Role in Afghanistan, headed by John Manley.

Late this summer, Joint Task Force-Afghanistan began using the new Scan Eagle UAV in support of its operations. The Heron UAV tactical system has been leased and is expected to commence operations in Kandahar Province in early 2009. Chinook D-model helicopters are being purchased from the US government and are expected to be flying in support of operations by February 2009.

In a statement announcing Canada's new air capability this summer, General Walt Natynczyk, Chief of the Defence Staff, said, "The helicopters will allow commanders the flexibility to reduce ground-based resupply convoys and more easily reach remote locations in challenging environments where they could be at risk of ambushes, land mines and improvised explosive devices."

— Maple Leaf December 3, 2008



Cyclone takes first flight

The first Canadian CH-148 Cyclone helicopter, being developed by Sikorsky Aircraft Corporation as a replacement for the CH-124 Sea King helicopter

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fleet, successfully completed its first flight November 15 at Sikorsky's Development Flight Center in Florida.

The helicopter was steered by Sikorsky test pilots using state-of-the-art, fly-by-wire technology. The aircraft hovered

and successfully accomplished several low-speed handling tasks including forward flight at speeds reaching 30 knots, as well as sideward and rearward manoeuvres. The helicopter, tail No. 801, will continue to undergo

a series of increasingly demanding flight tests that will culminate in certification and production deliveries.

Sikorsky will build 28 CH-148 helicopters for the Canada's Air Force. "The aircraft performed

beautifully, easily achieving each manoeuvre attempted. We're extremely pleased," said Program Manager Dan Hunter. — The Maple Leaf, December 3, 2008

Navy's National Archives preserved in Calgary

by Darlene Blakeley

The Naval Museum of Alberta (NMA) was officially re-commissioned as part of The Military Museums complex during a special ceremony in Calgary October 16. At the same Canada next to the National War Museum in Ottawa, it now also includes Air Force, Navy and University of Calgary components. The NMA was originally opened in 1988 at the stone frigate HMCS Tecumseh to accommodate naval aircraft that survived the Tecumseh fire in 1981. The museum quickly grew into the largest Canadian naval museum in the country. There are four other Navy museums in CF, in Halifax, the city of Québec, Winnipeg and Esquimalt. Together, they make up the Navy Museum of Canada. Over the years, the NMA has accumulated priceless naval artifacts from around the world.

"The NMA has the most complete collection of major ship weapons systems in the Naval Museum of Canada," says Lieutenant-Commander Graeme Arbuckle, Navy Heritage Officer, "as well as being home to the Ken Macpherson photo collection and the John Burgess Library. Additionally, it will soon be home to the Naval Documentation Preservation and Research Centre, as well as the Major Artifact Rehabilitation Centre – both of which will serve the entire Naval Museum of Canada."

time, it was announced that a new national naval documentation archive would be established within the NMA.

The Military Museums, formerly called the Museum of the He adds that the naval archives will be held at the NMA because it has the most modern facility and can provide a significant amount of secure, climate-controlled storage and work space for the centre. There is also an area where researchers can review documents and study.

"The purpose of the centre is not only to preserve primary documents, but to digitize them and make them available to researchers anywhere in the world via the Naval Heritage website," says LCdr Arbuckle.

The archives will contain personal papers, records, photographs and any other material that contributes to a better understanding of Canadian naval and maritime history.

Honorary Navy Captain Bill Wilson played a pivotal role in the move of the NMA to The Military Museums. "This expansion project, which takes the Naval Museum from 10 000 square feet [929 square metres] of display space to almost 20 000 [1 858], has taken over eight years to bring to this stage and will have cost the Calgary naval and military community somewhere around \$10 million," he explains. "It has

Regiments, used to host museums featuring the history of four regiments based in the region, but, as the largest tri-service museum in Western Canada and the second largest military museum in also cost me quite of bit of hair, but it has been worth the stress!"

The Military Museums facility has been undergoing a \$26.4-million expansion and is expected to be fully open next spring. —Maple Leaf/Navy, 19 November 2008

EDITORIAL COMMENT: The CFB Esquimalt Naval and Military Museum is now part of this new Naval Museum of Canada centred in Calgary. As of April 1, 2009 it will be funded direct from Ottawa. At their meeting in Halifax early December, they were told that the eventual goal is to only collect items related to Canada's Navy. I'm not sure what this means for our collection on west coast defences. The promise is that changes will take place gradually over a number of years to minimize disruption of existing exhibits.

While the British Navy first entered Esquimalt harbour in 1848, the gold rush brought British Marines and Royal Engineers to the Fraser River in 1858. Entering Confederation in 1871, the Canadian Militia system was extended to form Militia District No.11 (BC). Canadian Militia units were formed

immediately in Victoria to man the seaward defences. The first Permanent Force unit to arrive here on Nov.10, 1887 was C Bty of Canadian Artillery that proceeded to build the first permanent military barracks at

Work Point. Arrival of the Royal Canadian Navy followed on Nov. 9, 1910 at Esquimalt.

Fort Rodd Hill Historic Site has captured some of that coast artillery history, but not much of the first Work Point Barracks. The

present Naval and Military Museum must continue to conserve both army and naval history so intertwined within Esquimalt Garrison. - Editor

DID YOU KNOW?from the Editor

Pakistan: "Pakistan to buy German subs, ignore French" *Pak Tribune, 26 November 2008*

CEO Walter Freitag of HDW, the world's largest conventional submarine builder, said in an interview this week that Islamabad has placed an order for three *Type-214* diesel-electric subs for the

Pakistani Navy. The move is significant as Pakistan has traditionally been a loyal customer of France's for its submarines, fielding several Agosta-B subs produced by DCNS. Freitag said

the deal was 95 percent complete, and the price tag would be over USD \$1 billion; it is likely that at least one of the subs will be built at a Karachi shipyard. ☸

Russia/India: "Russia, India to hold joint naval drills in Jan. 2009" *RIA Novosti, 20 Nov 08*

A Russian spokesman outlined some of the Pacific Fleet's schedule for 2009, including a joint Indo-Russian exercise in the Indian Ocean. The biennial INDRA exercise will see a Pacific

Fleet task force, headed by the Varyag missile cruiser and joined by the Pyotr Veliky task force currently in the Caribbean, practice counter-terrorism, anti-piracy, and anti-narcotics

smuggling drills with Indian ships. In addition, Pacific Fleet vessels will undertake several long-range training missions in the South Pacific and Indian Oceans, including live-fire drills. ☸

Arctic: "Scientists predict seasonal ice-free Arctic by 2015" *Globe and Mail, 12 Dec 08*

According to Dr. David Barber, one of a group of scientists who conducted a 15-month expedition, the Arctic will be ice-free in the summer in 2015, as opposed to 2030. Barber said that multiyear ice will be nonexistent in six years, leaving only single-year ice that ships can more easily travel through, thus opening potentially lucrative shipping lanes. The announcement has a number of consequences in addition to

shipping, most to do with climate change. Ice reflects more solar radiation than does water, and when Arctic multiyear ice is gone, climate change should accelerate since the ocean there will absorb more heat. This increased heat in the polar region may trigger the melting of methane clathrate, or methane hydrate, beds at the bottom of the ocean, which contain 20 times more potency than carbon dioxide as a warming

agent, thus further accelerating warming. Barber further added that the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change's (IPCC) climate models, which are used by many governments in creating climate policy, are based on Arctic multiyear ice melting in 2100; the discrepancy in data presents further challenges to crafting policy appropriate to addressing climate change. ☸

MARK YOUR CALENDAR -CONTINUED FROM PAGE 8

ANNUAL DUES: RENEWAL NOTICE — it's time again folks.

Please send dues or leave a cheque (or cash) at the next luncheon, 14 Jan 2008

\$30.00 for members and \$40.00 for families

WANTED: AN EDITOR AND A PUBLISHER FOR OUR RUSI NEWSLETTER

With this issue, Cec Berezowski steps down as Editor. Publisher John Eggenburger retired after our last issue. We thank John & Cec for their gallant work over many years and we now are looking for replacements.

If you are prepared to volunteer either as our Editor or as Publisher, please contact a member of our Executive.

The views expressed by the authors of articles in this newsletter do not necessarily reflect the Views of RUSI VI

MARK YOUR CALENDAR

Wednesday, 14 JANUARY MEETING

- ⇒ **SPEAKER: Colonel F.G. (Fred) Bigelow, Commander 19 Wing, Comox, BC**
- ⇒ **TOPIC: Pt I: "Long Range Patrol and the Land Battle" and Pt II: "Human Resource Challenges for Senior Air Force Leadership Succession."**
- ⇒ **PLACE: 5th (BC) Field Regt RCA Officers' Mess, Room 316, Bay Street Armoury**
- ⇒ **TIME: 1130 FOR 1200 Hrs Luncheon COST: \$18.00 (pay at the door)**

Col Fred Bigelow joined HMCS Malahat, Victoria as a reservist and graduated from Royal Roads in 1983, a BSc in Physics and Physical Oceanography. Earning pilot wings in 1984, he was a flying instructor at Moose Jaw. In 1988, he joined 407 Maritime Patrol Squadron, Comox, flying the long range Aurora. During his third operational tour with 407, he became the CO. During Dec 06/Jul 07, he commanded the Aurora detachment covering the Persian Gulf and North Arabian Sea. Staff assignments included CF Maritime Warfare Centre, Halifax, Director Air Operations at MARPAC, Victoria and a Director on the Air Staff at NDHQ. For the fourth time, he returned to Comox in Jul 2007 as the Comd 19 Wing. Colonel Bigelow has logged over 5000 hours, mainly on the Aurora and the Tutor aircraft.

Wednesday, 4 FEBRUARY MEETING (Note: date is FIRST Wednesday)

- ⇒ **SPEAKER: General Walter Natynczyck, Chief of the Defence Staff**
- ⇒ **TOPIC: "Defending Canada's Interests at Home and Abroad"**
- ⇒ **PLACE: The Union Club (A Joint meeting of RUSI VI/ CIC/ NOAVI- space for 200)**
- ⇒ **TIME: 1130 FOR 1200 Hrs Luncheon COST: \$27.00 (pay at the door)**
- ⇒ **RESERVATIONS and separate payment** must be made at the January 14 Meeting or mailed to Treasurer, Bill Macdonald, 3947 Emerald Close, Victoria, BC V8P 3E3, payable to RUSI VI.

Gen Walter Natynczyk, CMM, MSC, CD, assumed command July 2, 2008. An Armoured Corps officer, in Jan 2004 deployed with US Army III Corps to Baghdad, Iraq as Deputy Director Strategy, Policy and Plans. Subsequently became Deputy Commanding General of the Multi-National Corps (Iraq). Back in Canada, he commanded Land Forces Doctrine and Training System. Then, as Chief Transformation he implemented the Force Restructuring and enabling processes and policies. He became Vice Chief of the Defence Staff on 28 June 2006.

Wednesday, 14 MARCH MEETING

- ⇒ **SPEAKER: Capt(N)(Ret) Chris Henderson, DG Public Affairs Strategic Plans**
- ⇒ **TOPIC: "Strategic Communications & Public Affairs in an Information Warfare Environment"**
- ⇒ **PLACE: 5TH (BC) Field Regt RCA Officers' Mess, Room 316, Bay Street Armoury**
- ⇒ **TIME: 1130 FOR 1200 Hrs Luncheon COST: \$18.00 (pay at the door)**

Capt(N)(Ret) Chris Henderson joined the Navy in 1987 as a MARS officer from Carleton University. Soon an Asian deployment including Vladivostok came and most of 1991 aboard Huron in the Persian Gulf as navigating officer. Joining public affairs in 1992 at NDHQ, next was Bosnia Oct 94/May 95 with the Royal Cdn Dragoons Battle Group as PAO. In Mar 97, he came to CFB Esquimalt. Promoted LCdr in Mar 1998, he became MARPAC SSO Naval Public Affairs. Following East Timor Sep 99/Mar 00, he completed MARPAC duties in 2001. After Staff College, Toronto he became PAO to the Chief of Defence Staff at NDHQ as a Capt(N). From Jan to Oct 2004 served as Chief PIO for the NATO force in Kabul, Afghanistan. Returning to NDHQ, he was Director Naval Communications, then with ADM (Public Affairs) as Media Liaison and Branch Advisor. In 2007 he became Acting Director General, a position he assumed substantively upon retiring from the CF in Sep 2008.

-2009 ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING FOLLOWS

From the President:

The curse of living in interesting times is upon us. Everywhere we turn another dilemma stares us in the face. We can only hope that the Government's fiscal recovery plan has enough flexibility to adjust to the unknown. In all of this turmoil there is really only one or two anchors that time has shown will hold no matter how bad the storm. They are family and friends. In the New Year I wish you and your family good health and good fortune. To you and your friends I wish good comradeship. I urge you to keep in contact with each other and attend as many of our monthly luncheons as you can. There is a stunning array of speakers lined up for the coming season and you have dozens of friends among our membership who are interested in what is happening in your life. I look forward to seeing each of you in the New Year.

Best regards, ...Gene Lake

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