

## Quebec squadron tackles ambitious project

Team work, perseverance and risk-management were key factors in an ambitious project undertaken by 921 Air Cadet Squadron in Quebec City to return a crashed *Beech Craft Musketeer* (B-23) to flying condition!

It was ambitious in cost (\$98 000), ambitious in effort (requiring more than 3000 hours to complete) and ambitious in complexity—with cadets doing the work, under the supervision of aviation mechanics.

“Thirty cadets, 15 sponsors and 12 adult volunteers were involved in this co-operative effort,” says Capt



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*Cadets take a break from painting the aircraft.*



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*The Beech Craft Musketeer, now in flying condition.*

Denis Rousseau, squadron CO. “We required six wings to obtain two finished wings, did more than 350 different tasks and took out and reinstalled more than 500 aircraft pieces.”

Sponsoring committee president Roger Robert proposed the project in 2003. Supporters raised \$25 000 and a year later, purchased a damaged aircraft in Nova Scotia. They then created a non-profit organization to manage the project and ensure that ownership of the aircraft would stay with the squadron. The organization's board—Jeune-Air Aviation Inc.—consists of a sponsoring committee representative, a squadron officer, two local aviation stakeholders and Mr. Robert as president.

“The devotion of the aviation mechanics who volunteered to teach the cadets and supervise their labour was a major part of the project's success,” says Capt Rousseau. “So was the team effort when problems arose—such as rust on the two main spars of the wings making them unusable, difficulty in finding parts, finding financial sponsors for the project and so on.”

By the end of June, the aircraft was airborne. The project gave the cadets a hands-on learning experience, resulting in real-life skills. On top of that, Jeune-Air's members—mostly air cadets—now have the chance to fly at a cheaper cost, says Capt Rousseau. \*

## New staff accommodation at Albert Head

A new staff accommodation building has replaced a 1940's vintage building and six 20-year-old 'temporary' trailers in the Albert Head training area in Esquimalt, B.C. The new building can accommodate 67 people and includes 30 double rooms and seven single rooms.

During the winter, the training area functions as Regional Cadet Instructors School (Pacific). During the summer, it is headquarters for Albert Head Cadet Summer Training Centre, attended by approximately 800 air cadets each year.

The Army Reserve, the Canadian Rangers and the Regular Forces also use the training area throughout the year. \*

## Fortress fast!

“It might be easier to complain about everything that is not working,” says Capt Mario Marquis, CO of 2920 Army Cadet Corps in Gatineau, Que., “but it's just as important to stress what is working.”

For his corps, what is working is the new user-friendly Fortress database that allows cadet information to be stored in a single location and shared with detachments and other headquarters.

“We are finally starting to reap the benefits of our work in populating Fortress,” says Capt Marquis. The system proved itself when Capt Marquis began to register his cadets for 2006 summer camps.

One hour before a parent meeting, Capt Marquis started to print off CF-51 forms for Green Star cadets. “In less than 45 minutes, I had printed 63 CF-51s,” he says. “Parents merely had to check the information, complete the medical section and sign the form. I shortened their time at the meeting by 30 to 45 minutes. Better yet, the information on the forms was clear and concise.”

“I sincerely believe that the time spent entering this basic information in the Fortress database is, and will continue to be, handsomely repaid,” he concludes.

“For a volunteer-based organization the size of ours, Internet has been a gift from heaven,” says Maj Guy Peterson, national information management co-ordinator for the Cadet Program. “Things are getting even more exciting because the regions have agreed to fund the use of high-speed Internet for all corps and squadrons—where such a connection is possible. This will definitely help local headquarters take greater advantage of the important improvements made to Fortress recently, including the capability to mass update the new and improved cadet service records and attendance sheets.” \*

## New governing authority for CIs

Until recently the provisions of CFAO 49-6 governed employment policies for civilian instructors (CIs). The responsibility for these policies has now been transferred to Directorate Cadets, and a new CATO 23-05 reflects this change.

Wonder how it will affect you? For the time being, you will see little difference; however, with D Cdts as the new managing authority, future updates to regulations governing CIs will be quicker.

This is a positive step that will increase the efficiency of the Canadian Cadet Organization. \*

## Cut pop from cadet activities

Here's something to nibble on. Capt Louise Zmaeff, CO of 577 Air Cadet Squadron in Grande Prairie, Alta., says officers concerned about overweight cadets may be interested to hear that according to a CNN news report on obesity in children, a person who cuts one soft drink a day from their diet could drop 15 pounds in a year.

“Now that may not sound like much, but think about it,” she says. “If you had 30 pounds to lose, you could lose half of it by simply doing one small thing a day.”

You may want to pass on that to your cadets, or take it into account when planning beverages for cadet events. \*

## Response to bullying incident commended

Governor General Michaëlle Jean has commended OCdt Cameron Hull, an instructor with 2822 Army Cadet Corps in Surrey, B.C., for his response to a bullying incident in 2004.

While driving with his wife in Surrey, OCdt Hull spotted three older boys attacking two young boys. He stopped his van, ensured the victims were alright and then chased the attackers. The police, guided by the victims, caught one attacker, while OCdt Hull caught the other two.

A letter to OCdt Hull from the deputy secretary to the Governor General states, “Your selfless actions are an inspiration to others and represent a high form of citizenship of which you can be very proud.”

The commendation is issued to those who have made a significant contribution by providing assistance to another person in a selfless manner. \*



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OCdt Hull of Chilliwack, B.C., accepts his certificate of commendation from Chilliwack Mayor Clint Hames, who presented the award on behalf of Canada's Governor General.

## New national president for Air Cadet League

Craig Hawkins is the new national president of the Air Cadet League.

Mr. Hawkins is a secondary school principal in Midland, Ont. He joined the Cadet Program as an officer cadet in 1975.

He sees this as an exciting time to be part of the Canadian Cadet Movement.

“In the upcoming year, we are going to see the implementation of the new Memorandum of Understanding between the leagues and the Department of National Defence, the first phase of the new cadet training program, and the evolution of the CIC as a separate and distinct component of the reserve structure. On the air side, we are also entering into a time of significant consultation and co-operation with the Canadian Aerospace and Aviation Industries that promises additional support for our squadrons and summer camps.”

Mr. Hawkins adds, “The importance of professional growth and development for the CIC and for the leagues is more important now than it ever has been. As such, professionals from both sides of the partnership must seize opportunities to exchange ideas and best practices as never before.” ✱



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*Craig Hawkins*

## CIC officer receives War Studies degree

Lt(N) Allan Miller, a former CO of 79 TRENT Sea Cadet Corps in Trenton, Ont., has graduated from Royal Military College (RMC) in Kingston, Ont.—34 years late! He received his Master of Arts in War Studies in June.

Lt(N) Miller, who is also an ordained minister of the United Church of Canada, says he intended to go to RMC in 1968, but a medical problem sidetracked his plans. He continued his studies at the University of Toronto instead and stayed active in the Reserves. Along the way, he was influenced by his minister—a former First World War stretcher-bearer and Second World War chaplain—to go into ministry.

His first contact with cadets was as a Reserve chaplain for a First Nations' Residence School sea cadet corps in St. Paul, Alta. from 1975 to 1977. He was a minister in the province at the time.

Rev. Miller has been a CIC officer since 1997. He is currently looking for a cadet corps to serve with.

For more information on RMC degrees, see the article “University courses for CIC officers” on page 28. ✱

## Events

**March 11-18, 2007: 2007 National Cadet Biathlon Championship in Whitehorse, Yukon,** using the Canada Games athletes' village and biathlon venue. Co-ordinator is Capt Ken Gatehouse at gatehouse.kdh@forces.gc.ca.

**May 5-12, 2007: 2007 National Cadet Marksmanship Championship in London, Ont.** Co-ordinator is Capt Peter Westlake at westlake.pj@forces.gc.ca. ✱



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*Lt(N) Miller received his degree June 24 during the RMC convocation at the CF Command and Staff College in Toronto.*

## Innovative teaching

Capt Roy Harten, CO of 2310 Army Cadet Corps in Sault Ste. Marie, Ont., took the initiative this past training year to teach his cadets about the humanitarian aid efforts of CF troops in Afghanistan. Through his wife, who was deployed as a civilian barber for troops in Kabul, he learned of Canadian troops working, on their own time, to help orphanages and schools and provide safe drinking water in Afghanistan.

To engage his cadets, he asked Capt Tony Petrilli, a reservist with the Provincial Reconstruction Team in Kandahar and a former cadet, to answer questions his cadets had about the country and the operation. Capt Petrilli did so in great depth, commenting on everything from the Afghan people and culture

to spitting camels and the complications of dust in weapons and vehicles. The result was a booklet, including photos, created for display at the corps' annual parade.

“Our cadets now have a better understanding of the Afghan people and their plight after 25 years of war,” says Capt Harten. “At the same time, they learned a lot about CF efforts to assist the Afghan people in rebuilding their country.”

The corps, along with other corps and squadrons in the area, sold magnetic “support the troops” ribbons for cars or fridges, with proceeds going to Canadian troops in Afghanistan for the purchase of school supplies for Afghan children.



Capt Harten encourages similar efforts in other corps and squadrons. He also encourages other cadets to learn about the CF by writing to troops, or taking a few minutes to go to the DND website at [www.dnd.ca](http://www.dnd.ca) to click on Images and then Afghanistan to look at up-to-date photographs of Canadian troops there. \*

*(Photo by Sgt Carole Morissette, Task Force Afghanistan Roto 1 imagery technician)*

## More Innovative teaching

Capt Barb Kirby, CO of 43 Air Cadet Squadron in North Battleford, Sask., taught her cadets about the involvement of Canada and its Allies in the Second World War. To do this, squadron supply officer Lt Brian Zinchuk planned an exercise that recreated a night during the London Blitz. The exercise involved cadets from 43 Squadron, as well as from 2537 Army Cadet Corps in North Battleford and 38 Air Cadet Squadron in Prince Albert, Sask.

“We used role-playing to teach,” says Lt Zinchuk. Before the exercise, participants received a role to play in the exercise, based on real accounts or on what was possible during the historical period. Working with a half-page backgrounder, cadets researched what it would have been like to be that person in 1940.

During the exercise, the air cadet hall became a time machine, transporting the 40 cadets and their officers to the 1940s during the London

Blitz. The hall became an underground subway station serving as a bomb shelter. The evening started with a true story from a local member of the Royal Canadian Legion who was 14 years old when the blitz began. The evening continued with the movie “Battle of Britain”, followed by a simulated bomb strike and fire, staged by North Battleford Fire and Emergency Services. Role-playing, with period costumes, continued until sunrise. Cadets played military roles, as well as the roles of a German Jewish diamond merchant, a Nazi spy, nurses and even an insurance agent selling war bonds to name a few. Cadets playing Women’s Volunteer Service and Red Cross roles staffed a soup kitchen with food authentic to the period and to the realities of rationing. Capt Deb Nahachewsky, 38 Squadron CO, was amazed at what could be cooked up.

A remarkable aspect of the exercise was how it involved the communi-

ty—including the local museum, which provided authentic helmets for the military police; the local Legion branch; and the local amateur theatre group, which provided some costuming.

“This kind of exercise gets us totally away from our sometimes overly academic teaching program,” says Lt Zinchuk. “It’s also a retention/interest-building exercise.” \*

*Black marketer/Nazi spy Ryan Palmer is whisked away by cadets playing the roles of military police and the London bobby.*

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