



Pacific Region Cadets



ROYAL CANADIAN SEA CADETS
ROYAL CANADIAN ARMY CADETS
ROYAL CANADIAN AIR CADETS

THE CANADIAN CADET ORGANIZATION IS A NATIONAL YOUTH PROGRAM SPONSORED BY THE CANADIAN FORCES IN PARTNERSHIP WITH THE CIVILIAN ARMY CADET, AIR CADET, AND NAVY LEAGUES OF CANADA

NEWS RELEASE

COMMUNIQUÉ

March 9, 2006

SPRING BREAK FULL OF EXCITEMENT FOR SEA ARMY AND AIR CADETS

ESQUIMALT, B.C.- While thousands of their teenage peers are wondering what to do during the spring school break, hundreds of teenage members of the Royal Canadian Sea, Army, and Air Cadets in British Columbia will be excitedly busy March 12 to 18. Cadets throughout to province will be traveling, sailing, flying, performing or studying music, and learning more about Canada as well as having fun.

Beginning on March 11 **Sea Cadets** from across Canada are on the West Coast for the annual “seamanship concentration” training exercise. One hundred cadets sailed the Southern Gulf Islands aboard six Canadian Forces Auxiliary Vessels and the tall ship STV MAPLE LEAF. Another 100 cadets train in sailing cutters in and around **Comox** at the Sea Cadet Training Centre HMCS QUADRA. The cadets learn seamanship, conduct safety drills, and do navigation training. March 11-18 the Northern Zone sail-training week is held in **Esquimalt Harbour**. One hundred cadets from as far north as Prince Rupert and Kitimat undertake mandatory Canadian Yachting Association training. Ten senior cadets are engaged in Blue Level Sail Instructor Training and other cadets qualify to compete in the Northern Zone Sailing Regatta at the end of the week and ultimately the Regional Regatta in May.

Over 200 **Army Cadets** from across British Columbia are at the Cadet Training Centre in **Vernon**. Twelve are training to be among five to be accepted to the coveted Parachute Qualification Course held in Trenton, Ont. in the summer. Forty-five are participating in the Spring Rifle Concentration Shooting Camp - the first step to international marksmanship competition in Bisley, England. Thirty-five cadets are spending the week in an intensive music clinic aimed at improving their brass and reed instrument, bagpipe and drum performance. About 140 others take three days to complete the national “star” leadership qualification that is a pre-requisite to taking senior leadership responsibilities in their cadet corps.

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Air Cadet Squadrons use the spring break for "Citizenship Tours" and familiarization flying. Units visit Canadian Air Forces Bases at Comox, BC, and Edmonton, AB, as well as the Navy base at Esquimalt. Other groups are making international visits to the NORAD Headquarters in Colorado and Boeing Field in Washington State. In addition to touring military installations, cadets see points of interest like Science World, museums and the BC Parliament Buildings to learn more about Canada. Funding for citizenship tours comes from local sponsor committees, parents, and fund raising activities by the cadets themselves. Many of the 53 squadrons in the province will be engaged in familiarization flying during the period and other air cadets are taking part in bush survival exercises.

Following three days of intense rehearsal at **CFB Esquimalt**, the 50-member tri-service Pacific Region Cadet Honour Band under the direction of Lieut.(N) Camil Bouchard will perform four concerts; Tuesday at 8 p.m. in the Gateway Theatre, **Richmond**, Wednesday at 2 p.m. at **Chilliwack** United Church, 7:30 p.m. Thursday at McPherson Playhouse in **Victoria** and 7:30 p.m. Friday at the Malaspina Theatre, **Nanaimo**. There is no admission charge.

Some cadet units are hosting cadets from across Canada in the national exchange program. Twenty-four Sea, Army, and Air Cadets will spend four days Saturday to Tuesday near Kamloops observing a Canadian Army Reserve Exercise known as Cougar Salvo.

There are nearly 8,000 cadets in 134 units throughout British Columbia. Some cadet activities are recognized to earn high school graduation credit. The aim of the cadet program is to instil in youth the attributes of citizenship, leadership, physical fitness and an interest in the activities of the Canadian Forces. There are no enrolment fees and uniforms are loaned at no charge. Cadet corps and squadrons can be found in 70 communities throughout B.C.

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For more information and access to these activities call: Lt.-Cmdr. Gerry Pash – page 250-389-6834
Or Regional Cadet Support for Sea Cadets, 363-0853, Army Cadets, 363-0806, Air Cadets 363-0809

Release #C007/06