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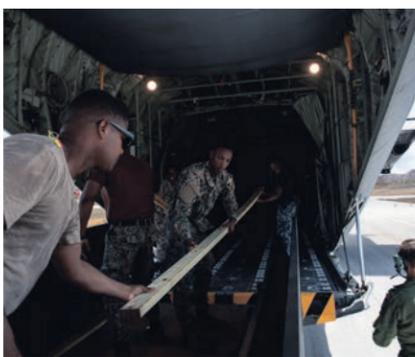
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8 Wing Trenton gearing up for busy United Way campaign



8 Wing Commander Colonel Ryan Deming takes a swing at this year's launch of the GCWCC on Sept. 5, 2019.



A team pulls a CC-130 Hercules during the annual Herc' Pull in support of the GCWCC in 2017.



Photos by Makala Chapman and Ross Lees

Members of the 8 Wing Community partake in a slo-pitch tournament on behalf of the GCWCC in 2016.



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By Makala Chapman

When it comes to raising funds for the community every dollar counts, says Master Warrant Officer (MWO) Derek Gauthier. As this year's co-chair of the Government of Canada Workplace Charitable Campaign (GCWCC) – an initiative aimed at raising funds on behalf of the United Way of Prince Edward Hastings – he noted 8 Wing Trenton is off to a good start. "We're pretty much on par for what previous committees have raised," he said. "To me, it's not really about the numbers. What's more important is that we raise as much as we can so we can give it all back to the community."

As for why it's so important to support organizations like the GCWCC the answer is simple, said MWO Gauthier. "When we put on our uniform we are serving the interest of Canada," he explained. "Yes, we help abroad. But, we also have a responsibility to help at home

Continued on Page 2

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when our neighbours and our community need us. We owe it to them." Speaking candidly, he said it could come down to a more personal level. It wasn't too long ago that his family once had the United Way to thank for their services. "My father is a retired veteran and he's had some troubles," explained MWO Gauthier. "They were there to help him until I was made aware and

could get involved," he said. "I think if people look really close, they might find that at some point during their lives this community effort has impacted either themselves or someone they know." MWO Gauthier went on to explain how one small donation could make a big impact. In his example, he broke it down into the cost of \$2 per week for the entire campaign – the cost

of just one coffee or a dress-down day on Friday. While a seemingly small contribution, that \$2 commitment helps subsidize the cost of meals for seniors for a 10-week period. "There's over 3,000 people on this Wing," he said. "Conservatively, if a third of this Base donated \$5 a month, that's \$60 a year, which would raise \$60,000 in total. That's a huge amount of money that

Continued on Page 3



Photos by Makala Chapman and Ross Lees

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TOP: 8 Wing leadership serves up breakfast during the GCWCC pancake breakfast in 2017. **BOTTOM:** An 8 Wing Trenton mascot cheers on teams at a charity slo-pitch tournament held in honour of the GCWCC in 2016.

Continued from page 2

could do so much good in our community." The GCWCC was created exclusively for federal public servants and federal retirees looking to make charitable contributions in their communities. Each year, throughout the fall, the Base holds a variety of local events to help raise money for the campaign. Like in years previous, the benefactors of the money raised through the GCWCC are HealthPartners and the United Way of Hastings Prince Edward. HealthPartners is a national charity that focuses on raising research funds to help improve the lives of those suffering from major illnesses or chronic diseases, such as heart disease, cancer and diabetes. Locally, the United Way of Hastings Prince Edward has been hard at work in the commu-

nity for more than 60 years. The programs they offer are directed towards the impoverished, those suffering from family violence and dependent seniors. Speaking to the partnership between her organization and the Base was the United Way's Executive Director Brandi Hodge. She noted 8 Wing Trenton is the campaign's second-largest contributing workplace. In the last five years alone, the Base has raised more than \$600,000 through the GCWCC. "Having an institution like 8 Wing Trenton support the GCWCC speaks volumes to the rest of our community," said Hodge. "8 Wing Trenton personnel are having a significant impact on people who need a hand up." She noted that within the last year, their donations have helped fund more than 44 agencies and 65 pro-

grams within the community, which, ultimately, translates into hundreds of individuals being helped. As for why she feels it's important to give, Hodge noted it comes down to wanting to see one's community thrive. The official launch of this year's GCWCC campaign was held at the Wing's Roundel Glen Golf Course for the Wing Commander's Golf Challenge on Sept. 5. Since then, the 8 Wing community and its GCWCC planning committee have been hard at work finding ways to give back and make this year's campaign another success. Last year's efforts brought in more than \$98,000. While many of the events will be repeated this year, an effort to bring some new ideas to the table is in the works, said MWO Gauthier. "People are willing to donate," he

explained, "so having some new events will hopefully help further encourage people to continue to do so." One event that is always a hit is the annual Herc' Pull. This event brings teams together as they compete to pull a CC-130 Hercules aircraft the finish line in the quickest time. The competition will take place at 1 Hangar, 1 Bay (76 Westin Ave., 8 Wing Trenton) on Oct. 25. A minimum of 15 team members, military or civilian, are required in order to register. All interested parties must obtain a registration form and submit it to the event's coordinator, MCpl Champagne, at Jean-Philippe.Champagne@forces.gc.ca. Registration fees, additional donations and waiver forms will be collected at the start of the event at 9 a.m. A fundraiser BBQ with a burger or hot dog and a pop for \$5.00 will

also be held during the event. New this year will be a haunted house that will run out of a Residential Housing Unit at 30 Johnson Drive on Oct. 26. Complete with decorations and all the ghosts, ghouls and zombies a neighbourhood could ask for, MWO Gauthier said he's hoping to get a positive response from the community. There will be two sessions available, one for the younger crowd and one for a more mature audience. The family-friendly time to visit the haunted house will be from 3:00 p.m. to 5:30 p.m. The cost at this time will be \$2 per person, excluding the adult accompanying a child. The house will then be transformed into something a little spookier for the brave at heart and will run from 7:00 p.m. until 11:00 p.m. The price at this point will be \$5 per person.

To help educate and keep members informed of the work being done by the United Way, MWO Gauthier has taken it upon himself to brief the various squadrons and units on the Base. Should any chain of command be interested in having him visit to share more information on the GCWCC, he noted he would be more than happy to stop in. "It's a 15 to 20 minute brief to dispel the stigma (behind donating), explain some of the percentages and to talk about what's important," he said. "These organizations need funding. It's not about how much you give, it's about what you can give and who the money can impact. For those interested in learning more or looking to donate, MWO Gauthier can be contacted at 613-392-2811 ext. 7373 or through email at ronald.gauthier2@forces.gc.ca.



Photo by Makala Chapman and Ross Lees

Members of the 8 Wing leadership team and United Way celebrate all the funds raised throughout the entire GCWCC campaign in 2018.

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The Contact Newspaper

The CONTACT is an unofficial publication of 8 Wing/CFB Trenton. The CONTACT is a weekly military newspaper that provides accurate and timely coverage of issues and events affecting Canada's largest and busiest air base – 8 Wing/CFB Trenton.

We are the primary internal and external communications tool for 8 Wing/CFB Trenton and began publishing in November, 1940. We strive to build awareness, morale and 'esprit de corps' among both the military and civilian communities. It is our privilege to showcase the efforts of the men and women of the Canadian Armed Forces at work.

The CONTACT is published every Friday with the kind permission of Colonel Ryan Deming, OMM, CD. The Publisher reserves the right to edit copy and reject advertising to suit the needs of the publication. Views expressed are those of the contributor unless expressly attributed to DND, CAF or other agencies.

Where typographical errors are discovered in advertisements (including classifieds) that result in goods not being sold, this newspaper is only liable to refund the money charged for the advertising space.

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- Articles should be typed in upper and lower case (not all caps) and in plain black text. Acronyms should be spelled out on first reference, then abbreviated when referred to thereafter.
- Do not include clip art, graphics or photos within typed pages. Additional graphics, logos and photos must be sent as separate files.
- Articles may be mailed, e-mailed (cfbcontactnewspaper@gmail.com) or

delivered in person and must include the author's full name, rank, (if applicable) unit and phone number.

- Whenever possible, photos should be included with your article and should contain the name of the person who took the photo and an appropriate caption to go with it. Photos should be saved in a jpeg format at a high resolution for quality reproduction.
- Articles must be received by Monday at noon prior to print date.

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All letters must be signed and include the name of the author, which will be published. Include a phone number for verification. We reserve the right to edit the text while preserving the main objective of the writer. We cannot guarantee that any particular letter will be printed. E-mail letters to: cfbcontactnewspaper@gmail.com

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The CONTACT newspaper is a Personnel Support Programs (PSP) entity. Our newspaper relies almost solely on revenues generated through advertising and sponsorships.



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8 Wing Trenton aids Jamaican Defence Force after Hurricane Dorian

By Makala Chapman

Canada's military recently offered their support to the Caribbean region in response to Hurricane Dorian. On Sept. 1, the natural disaster left a wake of destruction and a strain on local resources when it hit the Bahamas. As a result, the Canadian Armed Forces (CAF) led by Global Affairs Canada, stepped up to provide humanitarian support in what is known as Operation RENAISSANCE. On Sept. 6, a CC-130J Hercules departed 8 Wing Trenton to transport members of the Canadian Disaster Assessment Team (CDAT) along with cargo, to the Bahamas.

Having been a part of the support mission was 8 Wing Trenton's Captain (Capt) Kyle Ferguson from 2 Air Movement Squadron (2 Air Mov). He works as a mobile air movement section officer and had led a team of personnel during their time deployed. "We specialize in everything from the offloading of the cargo at its destination to building aircraft pallets back up at the end of a mission," he said. "Domestically, here on the base, we also deal with things such as loading planes, working customs and a lot of other jobs." During Op RENAISSANCE, 8 Wing Trenton members were key in providing airlift capability to

the Jamaican Defence Force – one of the primary agencies in charge of leading the humanitarian aid efforts in the Bahamas. Capt Ferguson noted the CC-130J Hercules completed a total of seven trips back and forth between Jamaica and the Bahamas in the two weeks they were present. The aircraft was used to transport more than 125 Jamaican military personnel, several vehicles and several pallets of equipment and food. "My team had a huge amount of cargo to look after, around 130,000 pounds of freight, and significantly less resources than we're used to here in Trenton," said Capt Ferguson. "But everyone worked

together really well and I couldn't be more proud." When asked what it's like getting to be a part of missions such as Operation RENAISSANCE, Capt Ferguson noted it's always an honour. "The commanding officer of the Jamaican team we were working with told us that out of all their international military partners, at least in the past few years, Canada has been one of their biggest partners," he said. "You could see it really meant a lot to the Jamaican Defence Force that we were there to help. I think just knowing that you can help make a difference is the most rewarding part of the work."

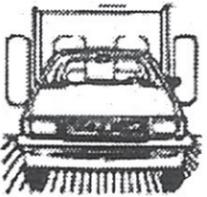


Aerial view of damaged property around Marsh Harbour, Bahamas during Operation RENAISSANCE on 10 Sept 2019.



TOP: Members of the Canadian Armed Forces and Jamaica Defence Force unload the CC-130J Hercules aircraft during Operation RENAISSANCE at Marsh Harbour, Bahamas on 10 Sept 2019. BOTTOM: Members of the Canadian Armed Forces and Jamaica Defence Force prepare water and other supplies during Operation RENAISSANCE on 11 September 2019 in Kingston, Jamaica.

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Upcoming Local Events

- **Oct. 15** – Launch of the 28th Annual Coats for Kids Program hosted by the Quinte West Professional Firefighters Association Local 1328 (QWPFFA). Members of the local have been working hard all year round securing warm winter clothing for local residents in need. Last year alone, more than 450 coats were distributed to local kids in need. Donations to the program can be dropped off at 49 Dixon St Trenton, Fire Station 1. For additional information, contact: Quinte West Fire and Emergency Services at 613.392.6557
- **Oct. 25** – The Royal Canadian Legion Branch 110's annual Poppy Campaign begins. The launch of this year's efforts will begin at City Hall, 7 Creswell Dr, Trenton, at 9 a.m. Trenton Legion President Douglas Duff will pin a poppy onto Quinte West Mayor Jim Harrison.
- **Oct. 26** - St James Fellowship Church at 15 South St. Trenton is having the Happy Harmony Choir at 7 p.m. Light refreshments to follow. For more information on ticket prices contact the church at 613 827 2214.

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Coats for Kids in its 28th year

City of Quinte West

The Quinte West Professional Firefighters Association Local 1328 (QWPFFA) would like to announce the launch of its 28th Annual Coats for Kids Program. Members of the local have been working hard all year round securing warm winter clothing for local residents in need.

This program was started in 1991 by local firefighters who had a passion to help kids stay warm during the winter months. All year round Trenton Firefighters conduct fundraising activities and shop for good quality winter wear, so that they can simply give coats away as the cold weather approaches. Each year, the QWPFFA dedicates two days to handing out free winter coats to children in need, up to the age of 17. "There is always significant support from local businesses, service clubs and individual donors with our program," says QWPFFA President J. Coxwell. "Without the generosity from these groups, we wouldn't be able to continue with this program on our own. We always look forward to serving our community in this capacity, and not just in an emergency environment." Last year alone, more than 450 coats were distributed to local kids in need. Donations to the program can be dropped off at 49 Dixon St Trenton, Fire Station 1.

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For additional information, contact;

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613.392.6557

Gearing up for the Poppy Campaign

The Royal Canadian Legion Branch 110

On Friday October 25th at 9 a.m. President Douglas Duff and First Vice President Al Plume will be kicking off the 2019 Poppy Campaign by pinning a Poppy on Mayor Jim Harrison and Mrs. Harrison. They will be doing this at City Hall. President Duff and First Vice President Plume are both Veterans. Last year, the Trenton Legion Pop-

py Campaign raised over \$50,000 which is all spent locally on caring for veterans and their spouses.

The Poppy Campaign will run from the last Friday in October to Remembrance Day. The event also raises awareness of the poppy as a symbol of remembrance. All funds raised will be used to aid veterans and those in the community in need. This may include shelter, food, or medical attention for veterans and their families.



Photo by Makala Chapman

The poppy has become a recognized symbol of remembrance of all those that have served or are currently still serving their country.



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Service couple marry aboard the CC-150 Polaris



Photos by Captain Troy Kretzul

The crew of the CC-150 Polaris that were present during the marriage of Cpl Rachele MacDonald and WO Adrian MacKinnon on July 29, 2019.

By Makala Chapman

A couple in the Canadian Armed Forces (CAF) took marriage to new heights – literally. On July 29, at more than 23,000 feet and a speed of 320 knots, Corporal (Cpl) Rachele MacDonald and Warrant Officer (WO) Adrian MacKinnon said “I do” aboard the CC-150 Polaris aircraft. As a flight attendant at 8 Wing Trenton’s 437 Transport Squadron, the Polaris is like a second home for Cpl MacDonald. WO MacKinnon, who is currently posted at Joint Base Elmendorf-Richardson in Anchorage, Alaska, is the detachment commander for the communications research team working with the United States Air Force.

While most nuptials are all about the pomp and circumstance, the newlyweds opted for something with a little less frill and a whole lot more thrill. In a more traditional setting one’s special day may call for a dress and a suit but, this wedding was anything but ordinary. Instead, the bride and groom tied the knot above the city of Fairbanks, Alaska, donning their issued flight suit and Canadian Disruptive Pattern (CADPAT) – as protocol aboard a military aircraft requires. “We knew we wanted to elope,” explained Cpl MacDonald. “It was just a question of how and when. Then someone in my squadron brought up the idea of whether or not an aircraft commander is able to marry people in the same sense that a commander of a ship is able to.” Turns out that was not the case. However, knowing that the Polaris was set to head to Alaska for a refueling mission, as they are often used for, Cpl MacDonald saw this as unique opportunity to see what could be done. Looking into the laws governing marriage in Alaska, the couple found out that an appointed marriage commissioner could in fact conduct a ceremony. It was then she said she found out that the loadmaster of the flight going to Alaska was a colleague she trusted and asked if he would take the role as marriage commissioner. Upon his acceptance of the position, the couple applied for a marriage license in Alaska and began preparations for the big day. While grateful for the experience, Cpl MacDonald was quick to reiterate that the flight wasn’t just for the

wedding. It was made possible due to the fact that the aircraft was already going to be in flight conducting a refueling mission. “In a little five-minute window before we went back to the Base, that’s when we got married,” said Cpl MacDonald. “It was a real team effort and the whole crew was amazing.” Everyone aboard the aircraft played a unique role from one of the pilots who took wedding portraits to the air combat system officer who signed as a witness to the marriage. While there was no fancy reception to be had, there was in fact a wedding cake, which the crew had surprised the couple with. “I think they were just as excited as we were, which was very sweet,” she said. “It was also pretty special since the air force means so much to us. I’m army but I work in an air force job and he recently switched to air force from the navy. It was just so amazing for us to come together this way.” As for WO MacKinnon’s favourite part of the whole experience, apart from marrying his wife, he said it was getting to be part of such a unique opportunity. “It’s something that neither Rachele nor I had heard of happening before, and the same with the rest of the crew,” he said. “The way 437 Transport Squadron and the Polaris crew in particular, treated Rachele and I was heartwarming. I felt like not only were Rachele and I joining to make our own family, but I was being welcomed into her Squadron family as well.” In addition, he noted it was great getting a little more perspective on the job his wife does on the daily. “I brag about Rachele and her awesome job all the time. Now I’ve had the chance to witness her professionalism and work ethic in person,” he said.

As for the honeymoon, that will have to wait, since the couple is posted in different countries. But, while the long distance can be hard, Cpl MacDonald and WO MacKinnon noted the key to success for any relationship is good communication. “We’ve been in a long-distance relationship since the beginning,” she said. “We just make sure to use modern technology to our advantage and take the time to say good morning every day.” WO MacKinnon added that trust was also a crucial component. “Not simply trust in each other to remain faithful –



Cpl Rachele MacDonald and WO Adrian MacKinnon seal their union with a kiss on their wedding day.



Captain Jordan Phillips marries Cpl Rachele MacDonald and WO Adrian MacKinnon at 23,000 feet over Fairbank, Alaska on July 29, 2019.

that’s obvious, but trust in your partner to communicate openly,” he explained. “Don’t dwell on the difficulties, focus on being each other’s biggest supporters. Also, open a dialogue with your Chain of Command and you may be surprised how much support is available.” Lastly, what has also helped make the long distance a little easier to handle is the fact that both are living out their dreams and

desire to serve their country. “I wanted to be a flight attendant for many years and when Adrian found out he got the job of his dreams too, the answer was simple,” said Cpl MacDonald. “We love each other too much to allow the other one to give up on that dream. Distance is just a little blip before we’re back together again.”



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October-November 2019

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
20	21 Bouncing Back - Knit & Chat - Building Blocks	22 Inter-Comm	23	24 Evening Book Club	25 Herc Pull - Friday Finds: Campbell's Orchard	26
27	28 Kids Have Stress Too - Rendez-vous Francos	29 Inter-Comm	30	31 Halloween	1	2
3	4	5 ASIST (training)	6 ASIST (training)	7	8	9
10	11 Remembrance Day	12	13 SNIP: Mindful Kids Yoga	14	15	16 Home Alone Safety

● **Trenton MFRC – Trenton Location**

Monday – Thursday: 8 a.m. – 6:30 p.m.
Fridays: 8 a.m. – 5 p.m.
Child care hours remain the same

● **Rendez-vous francos**

Get together for francophones! We offer different activities each week. Monday, October 28 from 6 – 8 p.m. – this week is Fitness at home! Please note that this program is offered in French only. For more information and to register, please call 613-965-3575.

*Mise en forme à la maison

Trop pressé pour aller vous entraîner au gym? Vous n'aurez plus d'excuse! Erin démontrera quelques entraînements avec des exercices rapides qui vous permettront de garder la forme!

Le lundi 28 octobre de 18 h à 20 h au CRFM

● **Friday Finds**

The MFRC is popping up all over your community! Find us at a number of awesome hang-out spots in Quinte West. This is a chance to connect with each other and the greater community. Thinking of going alone? We've got you covered. Every month we will find a new hang out spot to meet up and make new friends! *Please note, this is a 19+ activity!

This month's find:

Campbell's Orchard - Harvest season is upon us. Come and find out what Campbell's has to offer.

- Corn Maze
- Pumpkin Patch
- Apple Picking
- Bakery
- Wagon Rides
- Apple Falls Cider (Brewery)

*No entrance fee. Fees apply for additional orchard activities.

How to find us:

Look for the Friday Finds Sign at the Orchard Entry at 3 p.m. If coming later, we'll be around the Orchard with our sign.

Friday, October 25, 2019, 3 p.m. - 5:30 p.m.

Campbell's Orchard - 1633 County Rd. 3, Carrying Place.

Please register by calling MFRC reception at 613-965-3575.

● **Halloween Howl**

Wednesday, October 30 from 6 – 9 p.m.

Halloween is creeping around the corner. Bring your kids for a howl of a time at the Youth Centre! Costumes are strongly encouraged. There will be ghoulish snacks, spooky games and a Halloween film to make this night a scare they'll never forget! Please register by October 28 in the Youth Centre or by emailing kendra.b@trentonmfr.ca.

● **ASIST - Applied Suicide Intervention Skills Training**

ASIST is a two-day interactive workshop in suicide first aid that teaches participants to recognize when someone may have thoughts of suicide and work with them to create a plan that will support their immediate safety. Participants don't need any formal training to attend, anyone 18 or older can learn and use the ASIST model.

● **ASIST - Applied Suicide Intervention Skills Training**

Registration cost: \$100

November 5 & 6, 2019, 8:30 a.m. - 4:30 p.m. At the Our Lady of Peace Chapel

To register/inquires: tanya.b@trentonmfr.ca.

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Photos of the Week

Mission Support Squadron



Photo by Mike Deschamps

By Mike Deschamps

The combined Family Day for 8 Mission Support Squadron (8 MSS) and 429 Transport Squadron (429 (T) Sqn) on Saturday, October 5th proved quite popular, as families from both squadrons took advantage of static displays and flights. Families had the opportunity to fly aboard the CC-177 Globemaster III aircraft, the largest transport aircraft in the Canadian Armed Forces (CAF). The ground displays included a CC-130 H model Hercules, Fire Trucks, various Heavy Equipment vehicles, and Military Police vehicles. This gave family members an up-close familiarity with what their spouses work on every day.

To keep the little ones entertained, there were bouncy castles, face painting, cookie making, Jumbo Jenga and much more. A special shout out to the volunteers and our Family Day organizer Sgt Shanna Doherty and Capt Matt Swan for arranging a day of fun and flights.

429 (T) Sqn provides responsive domestic and global airlift to meet CAF challenges; "Timely and accurate delivery of required personnel and equipment." 8 MSS provides responsive and cost effective logistics and engineering services to support 8 Wing and Canadian Forces Base Trenton missions at home and abroad; "To Deliver".



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Sunset Ceremony at CFS Alert



Photo by Corporal Sutton

A sunset at CFS Alert on October 7th.

By Second Lieutenant Sheila Tham

This past weekend was the last sunset in Alert until February 28, 2020. Normally the annual Sunset Ceremony features a bonfire for station members to watch the sun dip past the horizon for the last time, but the presence of polar bears resulted in a cancellation this Thanksgiving weekend. Instead, station members will be enjoying the sunset through photos most often captured by Corporal Josh Sutton.

Fall/Winter Intersection Sports Leagues 2019

Intersection Hockey: First game Tuesday 15 October, 1200 at RCAF Arena (WHL game)

Curling: First game Tuesday 29 October, 1300 at Trenton Curling Club (a Learn to Curl session is being held the week prior – 22 Oct at 1300)

Squash: First match, Wednesday, 30 October at 1200, at South Side Gym Squash Courts. South Side Gym Squash Courts

For more information on Intersection sports, contact acting military sports coordinator Heather Ripley at Heather.Ripley@forces.gc.ca.

NY Air Guard helps resupply northernmost Canadian outpost



Photo by Leading Seaman Paul Green

By Master Sgt. Jaclyn Lyons, New York National Guard

The New York Air National Guard's 109th Airlift Wing delivered more than 100,000 pounds of cargo to the most northern permanently inhabited place in the world in a joint operation with the Canadian Armed Forces. Twenty airmen from the 109th, based at Stratton Air National Guard Base in Scotia, N.Y., flew seven missions to Canadian Forces Station Alert Sept. 26 to Oct. 4.

This twice-a-year resupply mission is known as Operation Boxtop and takes place in the spring and fall. "The U.S. Air Force's New York Air National Guard is uniquely qualified to help us apply practical lessons from decades of successful Antarctic operations to the Arctic environment," said U.S. Air Force Brig. Gen. Edward Vaughan, the deputy commander for the Canadian North American Aerospace Defense Command Region.

The station, on Ellesmere Island, Nunavut, is 490 miles south of the North Pole and the year-round home to about 55 Canadian Forces military and civilian personnel. Canadian Forces Station Alert, built in 1956, maintains signals intelligence facilities to support Canadian military operations, hosts researchers for Environment and Climate Change Canada, and projects Canadian sovereignty in the Arctic. The wing, which flies the largest ski-equipped aircraft in the world, teamed up with the Canadian Armed Force's 8 Wing, based in Trenton, Ontario, to conduct the mission. The 8 Wing is the higher headquarters for the Alert station.

The Canadian Forces funded the 109th's participation in the resupply mission as part of broader binational Arctic Force Package initiatives, according to Vaughan. "Beyond operating the amazing LC-130 aircraft, the men and women of the 109th Airlift Wing are polar execution experts," Vaughan said. The mission profile called for one C-130 from the 109th to fly to Thule Air Base in Greenland, the northernmost installation operation by the U.S. military, and then fly cargo from there to Alert. The 109th personnel included two full crews of

six Airmen, for a total of twelve, and eight maintenance personnel. The 109th Airlift Wing carried bulk cargo that allowed the Canadian Armed Forces, which employed a C-130J and C-17 cargo plane, to focus on bringing fuel for generators and heating, said New York Air National Guard Maj. Jacob Papp, an aircraft commander. The three aircraft flew missions around the clock to supply the Alert outpost.

The conditions in the Arctic this time of year can be less than ideal, Papp said. The crews experience freezing fog, low visibility and high winds, making approaches and landing difficult at times. Despite the weather, the 109th Airlift Wing crews were able to complete 37.4 hours of flying for the operation. "It was great to get out there and use the skills that we train for all the time, to land on a really short strip given the conditions and unimproved surface," Papp said. "We look forward to working with them (Canadian Forces) again."

The 109th Airlift Wing has a long history of operating in the Arctic in support of American and Canadian operations. In 2014, 2015 and 2016, the 109th Airlift Wing participated in Operation NUNALIVUT, an annual Arctic operations exercise. "Operating in the Polar Regions has been a 109th Airlift Wing core competency for the better part of 50 years, so assisting in this year's Operation Boxtop is most definitely in the 109th wheelhouse," said Maj. Gen. Timothy LaBarge, commander of the New York Air National Guard. "As we continue to demonstrate our collective abilities and competencies in the polar regions, I believe this effort by the 109th tangibly illustrates our ability to operate and project power in the High North," La Barge said. This resupply mission was conducted relatively late in the fall to help prove that science, logistics and other objectives in the Arctic can be met, according to Vaughan. "This late-season resupply of Canadian Forces Station Alert, the most northern military outpost on Earth, further demonstrates U.S.-Canadian resolve in protecting the Arctic environment," Vaughan said. The Canadian NORAD Region works with the Continental United States NORAD Region to provide airspace surveillance and control for both countries.

Members of 8 Wing Trenton and the United States Air Force ready their aircraft at Thule Air Base, Greenland to Canadian Forces Station Alert, Nunavut in support of Operation BOXTOP II 2019 on September 30th, 2019.





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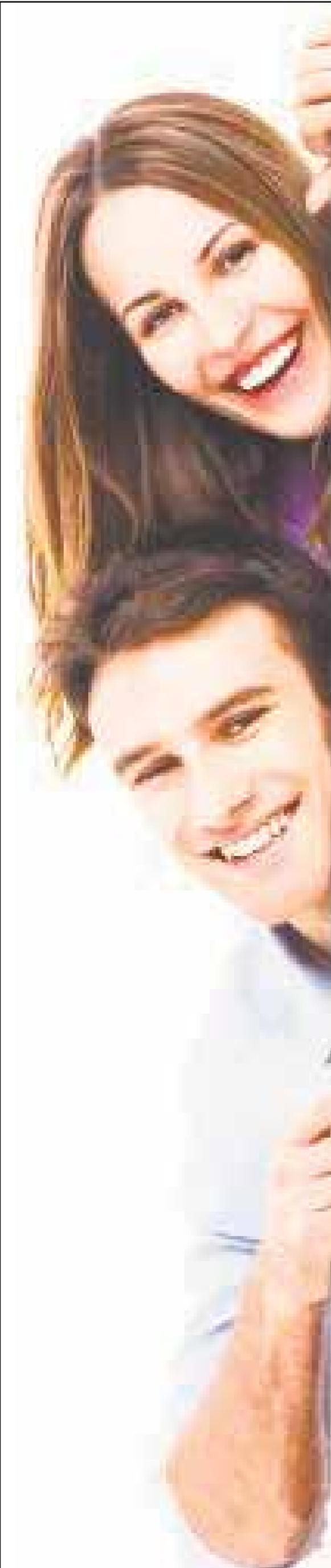
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