



# RAUSI NEWS



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## OPENING SALVO

A year ago in my Opening Salvo I discussed the federal election and the shift in politics; a year later where are we? Helicopters, strategic air lift, tactical air lift, new trucks and resupply ships are on the books with delivery being accelerated where possible. Even more recent is the possibility of the procurement of the robust Leopard 2 main battle tanks to replace the aging Leopard C2's currently deployed in Afghanistan.

I discussed CF transformation as being irrelevant without the procurement of mission essential and critical equipment. My what a difference a year makes! Combat operations in Afghanistan are redefining the Canadian military with the senior military leadership committed to providing the best possible equipment to our troops. Elsewhere, the arctic has waned a bit with no icebreakers on the horizon, but there appears to be an increase in sovereignty patrols and the possibility of opening northern ports. Recruiting remains a constant issue; however the process has been streamlined with enhance reliability checks scaled back and the physical fitness standards deferred. It appears that increased funding of the Forces will continue so long as the current government remains in power.

Regretfully however what we have heard is political squabbling, grand standing and trying to score political points based upon the greediness amongst members of parliament that at times has overshadowed the requirement for the procurement of absolutely essential mission critical equipment. Lost in the noise is the fact that the equipment is needed now. What we hear are politicians trying to score political points in their ridings where they would rather see delays in procurement to ensure they get their fair share or a better proportion of the economic spin-offs. What ever happened to the mantra of nothing is too good for our troops? Starved of equipment for decades things are looking up and now the opposition parties are whining about who will get what slice of the pie. I firmly support industrial regional benefit proportioning of the defence dollars across Canada, but political stick handling on the backs of soldiers - no way! That's the way I see it. *Editor*

## PRESIDENT'S REPORT #11

This will be my last report as your President. It is hard to believe that two years has come and gone so fast. I feel much has been accomplished in that time. I feel that RAUSI is in good shape and on solid footing.

My last report will be a bit different than the previous ones in that I have two issues to address. First is to restate some of the obvious regarding why we have the Institute and secondly to blow RAUSI's horn as I believe a lot of what the Institute has done over the past several years has been forgotten.

The purpose of the Institute can be summarized quite easily as a fellowship or association of officers, ex-officers and like-minded individuals who support the CF in the preservation of traditions and the development of their capacity to fulfill their roles in the defence of our nation. The Institute acts as a link between the CF and the general public so that the roles and requirements for our military can be enhanced and better understood. We of course strive to keep our members informed on current military affairs and developments. (See Report # 11 continued on page 2)

## Report #11 (continued from page 1)

We share a kinship with those within law enforcement and paramilitary communities and as such welcome those who work in the front lines of our communities. Finally, we value our youth, our veterans and our heritage and strive to provide support to them when and where possible.

So what has RAUSI done over the past 15 years or so (recent memory for most of us – but perhaps ancient history amongst our military partners)? RAUSI has devoted a lot of time, effort and money in trying to improve those things that it can. RAUSI paid for the air conditioning in the Mess, the renovated washrooms and the elevator. The kitchen was upgraded at RAUSI's expense. Even the subbies room in the southeast tower received a grant from RAUSI for its renovations.

Outside the Armoury, RAUSI made contributions towards the concrete pad for the Bren Gun carrier and the brass commemoration plaque on the Sherman Tank.

RAUSI has supported through financial contributions the Military Museums, the Colonel Belcher Veterans Care Facility, the local chapter of the Canadian Association of Veterans of United Nations Peacekeeping, the Military Family Resource Centre, the Veterans Food Bank and various Cadet Corps. RAUSI has provided bursaries, which have been awarded to members from the Naval Reserve, 41 Canadian Brigade Group and senior Cadets. RAUSI continues to consider any and all reasonable requests for support.

Over the years we have held functions in the mess such as the celebration of Queen Elizabeth II Golden Jubilee with a formal ball attended by over 350 guests and the 60<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Victory in Europe with a formal dinner recognizing local heroes.

Finally, we have continued to maintain a semblance of a military mess in a vibrant city of over a million people for those who have served, continue to serve and who may serve in the future.

Many people may not fully understand what RAUSI is – yes it is a friendship organization, but its complete focus is on those who serve abroad, at home and in our communities, and also our youth, cadets, veterans, and our heritage and traditions. For those that may feel RAUSI is irrelevant or just a collection of old soldiers wanting to get together at the mess, then I say they do not understand what RAUSI is all about. We are as a motto states “United in Service”.

Finally, I would like to thank the Board of Directors, those filling the various honorary positions, the Past President and the members of the Foundation for their voluntary support. I welcome and thank the three ladies who are working in the office, behind the scenes, to make RAUSI even better.

I look forward to continuing to serve the membership of RAUSI as your immediate Past President. Thank you for the honour of allowing me to be your President for the past two years.

## UPCOMING EVENTS

- Wednesday to Friday – Daily Lunches 1145 – 1300 hrs
- 7 March – Past Presidents' Luncheon 1200 – 1300 hrs
- 9 March – CGOM Happy Hour
- 15 March – RAUSI Annual General Meeting at 1900 hrs
- 16 March – RAUSI St Patrick's Day Monthly Luncheon
- 31 March – Grand Highland Military Ball (see note page 4)
- 13 April – CGOM Happy Hour
- 20 April – RAUSI Monthly Luncheon
- 11 May – CGOM Happy Hour
- 13 May – Mother's Day Brunch
- 18 May – RAUSI Monthly Luncheon
- 25 May – CMMS Dinner
- 8 June – CGOM Happy Hour
- 9 June – Spring Mess Dinner (TBC)
- 15 June – RAUSI Monthly Luncheon
- 6 July – Stampede Brunch
- 13 July – Stampede Happy Hour
- 11 August – Summer BBQ (TBC)

### Notes:

1. Please remember when reservations are required; food is pre-ordered based upon your response. If you make reservations and cannot attend please let the Secretary know a minimum of two days in advance or unfortunately you will be required to reimburse the Institute for the expenses incurred. If there are any questions please feel free to call the Secretary for clarification.
2. The Mess is available for members to book private functions from 5 to 95 people; we have our own Caterer who will be willing to work with you in organizing your event either in the Mess or at another venue. Call the Secretary for more details.

## **Chinese Colonel sees arms in space**

By Edith M. Lederer ASSOCIATED PRESS January 27, 2007

DAVOS, Switzerland -- A senior Chinese military officer predicts that weapons will be deployed in outer space despite her government's long-standing desire to prevent an arms race there.

Yao Yunzhu, a senior colonel in the People's Liberation Army, brought up China's recent successful test of an anti-satellite weapon during a World Economic Forum dinner Thursday. "My wish is we really want to keep space as a peaceful place for human beings," she said, adding that China would like all countries to come to a consensus that space should be used only for peaceful purposes.

"But personally, I'm pessimistic about it," said Col. Yao, 52, who directs the Asia-Pacific Office at the Academy of Military Science in Beijing. "My prediction: Outer space is going to be weaponized in our lifetime."

Col. Yao's remarks were the first time a member of the Chinese military has commented on the test. The only other official comment, from the Foreign Ministry, offered the barest confirmation and repeated stock positions about China's wish to keep space free of weapons.

"This isn't the act of a country who remains fiercely committed to peace and harmony in the world," said Adm. Timothy Keating, commander of U.S. Northern Command. "This is a cause for concern. ... In executing this test, they have created potential significant problems for international space flight."

(See Space continued on page 4)

## Candlelight Dinner

The 3<sup>rd</sup> annual RAUSI Winter Blues Candle Light Dinner was held on February 10<sup>th</sup>. Close to 50 members, spouses and friends attended the relaxed evening of dining, dancing and socializing. The 8 piece Downstairs Band played many favourites late into the evening.



### Britain pays off WWII debt to Canada, U.S.

December 29 2006

*Associated Press*

LONDON -- Britain paid the last installment of its Second World War-era debt to Canada and the United States today. It made its final US\$100-million payment to its allies.

Britain was left with a debt of more than \$4 billion to the U.S. and \$1.2 billion to Canada more than 60 years ago, when London took out loans to finance reconstruction.

Annual payments on the loans, taken out at two per cent interest, have since totaled nearly \$10 billion, or about twice the original debt in dollar terms.

Britain agreed to repay the money over 50 years, but the loan's terms allowed deferred payments when economic conditions were difficult. Britain deferred payments six times during the 1950s and 1960s, when unfavourable exchange rates and low currency reserves made them onerous.

### RAUSI ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

All current members of the Institute are invited to attend the AGM on 15 March 2007 at the Mess at 1900 hrs, the bar opens earlier. Notices and ballots are in the mail please ensure you return them by the due dates. Bursary winners and the new Board of Directors will be announced.

## Canadian Heroes: Military Valour Decorations given for first time

On February 19<sup>th</sup>, Her Excellency the Governor General Michaëlle Jean in a ceremony in Ottawa awarded six Military Valour Decorations -- the first-ever awarding of these high valour honours. Two **Stars of Military Valour (S.M.V.)** were awarded for distinguished and valiant service in the presence of the enemy and four **Medals of Military Valour (M.M.V.)** were awarded for an act of valour or devotion to duty in the presence of the enemy. The six citations are as follows:

### Star of Military Valour

Major William Hilton **Fletcher**, S.M.V., C.D. Edmonton and St. Albert, Alberta - Star of Military Valour

As Officer Commanding C Company, Task Force Afghanistan, from January to August 2006, Major Fletcher repeatedly demonstrated extraordinary bravery by exposing himself to intense fire while leading his forces, on foot, to assault heavily defended enemy positions. On two occasions, the soldiers at his side were struck by enemy fire. He immediately rendered first aid and then continued to head the subsequent assaults. On these occasions and in ensuing combat actions, his selfless courage, tactical acumen and effective command were pivotal to the success of his company in defeating a determined opponent.

Sergeant Patrick **Tower**, S.M.V., C.D. Edmonton, Alberta and Sidney, British Columbia - Star of Military Valour

Sergeant Tower is recognized for valiant actions taken on August 3, 2006, in the Pashmul region of Afghanistan. Following an enemy strike against an outlying friendly position that resulted in numerous casualties, Sergeant Tower assembled the platoon medic and a third soldier and led them across 150 metres of open terrain, under heavy enemy fire, to render assistance. On learning that the acting platoon commander had perished, Sergeant Tower assumed command and led the successful extraction of the force under continuous small arms and rocket-propelled grenade fire. Sergeant Tower's courage and selfless devotion to duty contributed directly to the survival of the remaining platoon members.

### Medal of Military Valour

Sergeant Michael Thomas Victor **Denine**, M.M.V., C.D. Edmonton, Alberta and Shea Height's and St. John's, Newfoundland and Labrador - Medal of Military Valour

Sergeant Denine deployed with 8 Platoon, C Company, 1 PPCLI during Operation ARCHER in Afghanistan. On May 17, 2006, while sustaining concentrated rocket-propelled grenade, machine gun and small arms fire, the main cannon and the machine gun on his light armoured vehicle malfunctioned. Under intense enemy fire, he recognized the immediate need to suppress the enemy fire and exited the air sentry hatch to man the pintle-mounted machine gun. Completely exposed to enemy fire, he laid down a high volume of suppressive fire, forcing the enemy to withdraw. Sergeant Denine's valiant action ensured mission success and likely saved the lives of his crew.

Master-Corporal Collin Ryan **Fitzgerald**, M.M.V. Shilo, Manitoba and Trenton and Morrisburg, Ontario - Medal of Military Valour

Master-Corporal Fitzgerald deployed with 5 Platoon, B Company, 1 PPCLI Battle Group in Afghanistan. He is recognized for outstanding selfless and valiant actions carried out on May 24, 2006, during an ongoing enemy ambush involving intense, accurate enemy fire. Master-Corporal Fitzgerald repeatedly exposed himself (see Valour continued on page 5)

## Animal VC for Sadie, the heroine of Kabul

By Thomas Harding, Defence Correspondent 27 January 2007

A black Labrador who saved the lives of dozens of soldiers in Afghanistan by detecting a bomb has been awarded the Dickin Medal, the animal equivalent of the Victoria Cross. Sadie will become only the 25th canine recipient when she receives the medal from Princess Alexandra at a ceremony next week.

The bomb had been planted underneath sandbags, yards from where a suicide car bombing had earlier killed a German soldier outside the United Nations headquarters in Kabul in November 2005.

Leaving a second bomb is a classic terrorist tactic, and about 200 people, including British, American, German and Greek soldiers, were within range of (See Sadie continued on page 7)

## Space (continued from page 2)

Adm. Keating told the Associated Press in an interview this week there are ongoing worries that such tests have other consequences, "intended or otherwise," that China must realize, including potential damage to other satellites or the space station by debris. He added that the United States does not now plan a direct response to the test, but "there are a number of things that are on the list of potential military options" if it happens again.

The Jan. 11 test sparked criticism from the United States and Japan, and created concerns over the rising militarization of space. Analysts said it also represented an indirect threat to U.S. efforts to remain predominant in space and on the ground, because it raised the possibility that the network of U.S. spy satellites could be shot down.

The U.S. military has had the capability to shoot down satellites since the 1980s. Russia has a similar capacity, and now China is the third potential military power in space.

China confirmed the test on Tuesday but did not provide details -- and neither did Col. Yao. The magazine *Aviation Week*, which first reported the test, said the satellite was hit by a kinetic kill vehicle launched from a ballistic missile.

China's long-standing policy has been to ban weapons in space, Col. Yao said, noting that Russia and China presented a draft outline for a treaty to prevent the deployment of weapons in space to the Conference on Disarmament in Geneva in June 2002.

The United States objected at the time, saying the 1967 Outer Space Treaty provided sufficient guarantees against the weaponization of space. The Russians countered that while the 1967 treaty banned weapons of mass destruction in space, it did not contain any legal barriers to putting other weapons in orbit around the Earth.

Without naming any country, but in an apparent reference to the United States, Col. Yao said if there's going to be "a space superpower, it's not going to be alone, and China is not going to be the only one." "It will have company," she said.

Her rank of senior colonel is equivalent to that of a brigadier or one-star general in the U.S. military. She belongs to a small group of fluent English speakers the usually secretive People's Liberation Army uses to deal with foreigners.

## Did You Know?

The weight of a gunnery broadside from a first class battleship circa 1800 was about half a ton, which by 1900 had risen to around 42 tons and by 1945 to about 320 tons.

## Military Snippets

This day in history:

- 1 March 1954 – US explodes a 15 megaton hydrogen bomb at Bikini Atoll
- 4 March 1936 – first flight of the airship Hindenburg
- 5 March 1936 – first flight of the Spitfire
- 7 March 1939 – Guy Lombardo & the Royal Canadians record "Auld Lang Syne"
- 15 March 44 BC – Caius Julius Caesar stabbed to death
- 17 March 1753 – first official St Patrick's Day
- 20 March 1995 – nerve gas released in Tokyo subway, 12 killed and 4,700 injured
- 21 March 1955 – Distant Early Warning (DEW) Line construction announced
- 26 March 1885 – Louis Riel's second uprising breaks out
- 27 March 1964 – first UN troops arrive in Cyprus
- 4 April 1896 – Yukon's Klondike gold strike announced
- 5 April 1947 – RCAF receive first helicopters, Sikorsky H-5s
- 6 April 1199 – Richard I, the Lion-hearted dies at 41
- 9 April 1917 – Vimy Ridge captured by Canadians
- 11 April 1941 – Coventry bombed by the Germans
- 15 April 1912 – SS Titanic sinks after striking an iceberg
- 18 April 1950 – first transatlantic jet passenger trip
- 21 April 1926 – Queen Elizabeth II is born
- 24 April 1952 – first shipment of Alberta oil arrives in Ontario by pipeline
- 28 April 1967 – Expo 67 opens in Montreal

## THE GRAND HIGHLAND MILITARY BALL

Saturday March 31<sup>st</sup> 2007 at the Westin Hotel

Honouring Colonel Vance, Commander 1 Canadian Mechanized Brigade Group and the Princess Patricia Canadian Light Infantry

\$95 per person Dress is Formal  
Cocktails at 1830 hrs with Dinner at 1930 hrs

RAUSI is reserving tables please contact the Secretary with your reservation and payment

## 2007 Membership Dues

Just a reminder that your 2007 RAUSI Membership dues can be paid to the Secretary either by cash, cheque, debit card or you can call and have the dues charged to your credit card. Kim can be reached at 265-6628.

Dues for regular members for 2007 are \$85, for out of town members \$50, for Garrison members (serving officers \$20) and for 41 Bde Garrison members (no charge).

The Institute also welcomes those companies, organizations etc that share the same principles as RAUSI to join, for group rates please call the Secretary.

Membership renewal forms were mailed out at the end of November. Application forms are available on the RAUSI website, in the Mess or from the Secretary.



John Gillespie Magee's famous poem 'High Flight' has been honoured with a major painting by aviation artist Edward Ash [Picture: MOD]

### 'High Flight' remembered

Defence News

25 January 2007

John Gillespie Magee, author of the famous poem 'High Flight', has been honoured with a major painting by aviation artist Edward Ash. The painting marks the 65th anniversary of the death of Magee, a Spitfire pilot from World War Two.

John Magee was an American teenager, educated at Rugby in England, who set aside his scholarship at Yale to go to Canada in 1940 where he joined the Royal Canadian Air Force (RCAF). By September 1941 he was based at RAF Digby in the UK, flying the Spitfire.

It was during one of these flights that he got the idea for his poem which he finished soon after and sent home to his parents. Three months later, on 11 December 1941, Pilot Officer Magee was dead, killed in a mid-air collision with a student pilot near RAF Cranwell. He is buried in the military cemetery at Scopwick.

The poem:

Oh! I have slipped these surly bonds of Earth  
And danced the skies on laughter silvered wings;  
Sunward I've climbed, and joined the tumbling mirth  
Of sun-split clouds – and done a hundred things  
You have not dreamed of – wheeled and soared and swung  
High in the sunlit silence. Hov'ring there, I've chased the shouting wind along  
and flung My eager craft through footless halls of air ...  
Up, up the long delirious burning blue  
I've topped the wind swept heights with easy grace,  
Where never lark, or even eagle flew –  
And, while with silent lifting mind I've trod  
The high untrespassed sanctity of space,  
Put out my hand, and touched the face of God.

His poem has lived on, the original manuscript being held in the Library of Congress in the USA. Later in the war, the poem was used in posters which were sent to every airfield in Britain and throughout the Commonwealth.

In 1971, James Irwin, pilot of the Apollo 15 Lunar Module, carried a copy of the poem with him to the moon. President Regan quoted from the poem following the Challenger disaster in 1986 and in 1998 it was included in the eulogy to America's first man in space, Alan Shepard.

An American officer stationed at RAF Digby suggested to Edward Ash that he make a painting to mark the 65th anniversary, the result is 'A tribute to High Flight'.

Ash described painting one of the world's most famous aviation poem's as a "huge challenge". (See High Flight continued on page 6).

**Valour** (continued from page 3)

to enemy fire by entering and re-entering a burning platoon vehicle and successfully driving it off the roadway, permitting the remaining vehicles trapped in the enemy zone to break free. Master-Corporal Fitzgerald's courageous and completely selfless actions were instrumental to his platoon's successful egress and undoubtedly contributed to saving the lives of his fellow platoon members.

Private Jason Carl Allan **Lamont**, M.M.V. Edmonton, Alberta and Greenwood, Nova Scotia - Medal of Military Valour

Private Lamont was deployed with the Health Support Services Company, 1 PPCLI Battle Group during Operation ARCHER. On July 13, 2006, an element of the reconnaissance platoon came under heavy enemy fire from a compound located in Helmand Province, Afghanistan, and was isolated from the rest of the platoon. During the firefight, another soldier was shot while **attempting** to withdraw back to the firing line and was unable to continue. Without regard for his personal safety, Private Lamont, under concentrated enemy fire and with no organized suppression by friendly forces, sprinted through open terrain to administer first aid. Private Lamont's actions demonstrated tremendous courage, selflessness and devotion to duty.

Corporal John David **Makela**, M.M.V. Ottawa, Ontario - Medal of Military Valour

On October 16, 2006, Corporal Makela prevented a fatal attack on his combat logistics patrol by a suicide bomber in Afghanistan. As the turret gunner providing overwatch for the convoy, he accurately identified the approaching suspicious vehicle as a suicide bomber car. Despite the likely potential of an explosion, he maintained his exposed position and applied fire, resulting in the premature detonation of the bomber car. The explosion engulfed Corporal Makela's vehicle and seriously burned him. His valiant and courageous actions inevitably prevented the bomber from reaching his intended target and saved the lives of the other soldiers in the convoy.

Captain Derek **Prohar**, M.M.V. Edmonton and St. Albert, Alberta and Avonlea, Saskatchewan - Medal of Military Valour

Assigned as liaison officer with the United States Special Forces in Afghanistan during the battle at Sperwan Ghar, from September 5 to 12, 2006, Captain Prohar operated as the rear machine gunner on the battalion commander's vehicle. He was wounded by an improvised explosive device during an intense enemy ambush. Despite his injuries, he continued returning fire and assisted the commander with the control of the attack, which resulted in the successful seizing of key terrain. Captain Prohar's courage and actions earned him the respect of the allied soldiers of the United States Special Forces.

Major Michael Charles **Wright**, M.M.V., C.D. Shilo, Manitoba and Oakville, Ontario - Medal of Military Valour

On the night of August 19, 2006, Major Wright of Alpha Company, Task Force Afghanistan, demonstrated outstanding courage and exceptional leadership in combat. Directed to move to the Panjwayi District Centre to enhance security, his troops were rapidly engaged and encircled by a significantly larger enemy force. Under intense fire from small arms and rocket-propelled grenades coming from all directions, he refused reinforcements for safety reasons and led his embattled force to out manoeuvre the enemy, inflicting serious enemy casualties. His courage and his leadership led to the defeat of a much larger enemy force without a single Canadian Forces casualty.



HMCS Bonaventure, Modified Majestic-class light fleet carrier, Royal Canadian Navy (DND, EKS-203)

## HMCS Bonaventure turns 50 today

The Chronicle Herald

17 January 2007

Canada's last aircraft carrier was commissioned 50 years ago today. The HMCS Bonaventure, often called simply the Bonnie, arrived in Halifax in June of 1957 and was in service until 1970.

Work on the 16,000-tonne British Majestic class aircraft carrier actually began in Belfast in 1943 but was suspended at the end of the Second World War, says the website Royal-navy.org. At the time, it was known as HMS Powerful. Canada's navy purchased the vessel in 1952.

The "Bonnie" incorporated an angled flight deck and a steam catapult, it was capable of Arctic operations. The Bonaventure had a 215-metre flight deck and carried McDonnell Banshees, Gruman Trackers, Sikorsky HO4S helicopters and later Sea Kings.

## CANADIANS BACK THEIR MEN AND WOMEN IN HARM'S WAY

By Billy Willlbond

We see the yellow ribbons on the back of each veterans' car  
 Parked down at the Legion and at the ANAVETS bar  
 See the letters to the Editor written in the daily Times news  
 They support Canadian troops and they back up this muse!

There are some Canadians, thank God they are few  
 Who would bow to the enemy. They're a small white flag crew!  
 Like poor old Neville Chamberlain and his Peace in our Time  
 Their appeasement march antics inspires this rhyme!

If we pack up and leave with the job not completed  
 T'will will be world wide news: Canadians are defeated!  
 Then our sleeper cell Jihadists will be given Carte Blanche  
 To cause death in our streets with a suicide bomber launch!

We have a NATO mandate until Two Thousand and Nine  
 To build roads and build schools so let's use all of that time!  
 Please back up our troops as they press the daily fight  
 Protecting the helpless and defending the right!

You will notice on Fridays many Canadians wear red  
 In support of our troops and for the blood that is shed  
 So won't you join with our troops, these brave women and men  
 And show Canadian support until they are home safe again!

## RED FRIDAYS

Canadians who support our troops used to be called the "silent majority." We are no longer silent, and are voicing our love for God, country and home in record breaking numbers. We are not organized, boisterous or overbearing.

Many Canadians, like you, me and all our friends, simply want to recognize that the vast majority of Canada supports our troops. Our idea of showing solidarity and support for our troops with dignity and respect starts this

Friday -- and continues each and every Friday until the troops all come home, sending a deafening message that ... every Canadian who supports our men and women afar, will wear something RED. It could be just a small RED ribbon.

By word of mouth, press, TV -- let's make Canada on every Friday a sea of RED, much like a homecoming football game in the bleachers. If every one of us who loves this country, will share this with acquaintances, co-workers, friends, and family, it will not be long before Canada is covered in RED and it will let our troops know the once "silent" majority is on their side more than ever, certainly more than the media lets on.

The first thing a soldier says when asked, "What can we do to make things better for you?" is ... "We need your support and your prayers."

Let's get the word out and lead with class and dignity, by example, and wear something RED every Friday.

## High Flight (continued from page 5)

He wanted it to be more than an aviation painting and had to capture the ethos of the poem, the vastness of the space. His solution was a contemporary painting but with a 1940s feel. It took six months to complete.

And why is the poem so enduring? Ash commented: "It captures space and air and the sanctity of God.

"The final painting recalls Magee's time on 412 (RCAF) Squadron when he was first inspired to write 'High Flight'. It depicts Supermarine Spitfire Mark IIa 'VZ-E', the aircraft shared between John Magee and Flight Sergeant MacDonnell in which MacDonnell had the honour of becoming the first 412 Squadron pilot to shoot down an enemy aircraft.

A digital print of the painting has been presented to RAF Cranwell and further prints will soon be on their way to a US audience. The US Air Force Academy in Colorado Springs is fascinated by the history of 'High Flight'. The artist hopes to sell more prints in the future but the original painting is still to find its final home.

### Padre's Corner

"United through Service"

RAUSI is currently preparing for the Annual General Meeting on March 15th. When that occasion arrives, certain members who have served on the Board will finish their terms, while others will take on new responsibilities. We have been fortunate to have certain people fill roles on the Board for upwards of ten years. And while, there is no great surge of people clamouring to become members of the Board, fortunately, there are enough who are willing to serve the membership through this means.

Since 1920, RAUSI has been led by dedicated men and women prepared to go the extra mile or two to see that the Institute keeps going and can carry out its purpose: United through Service to bridge the gap between the military and the public, and provide moral and real support to current members of the military. The last several years have seen especially great demands placed upon Board members, such that, I suspect, most members are not even aware of the efforts put forward on their behalf. In particular, members of the Institute have insisted that the Mess be reopened with Kitchen service on weekday noons. That happened and continues to happen. But it was no small feat.

Service to and for others is what membership on the Board is all about. There is no pay, there are no perks, just a willingness to work on behalf of others. At times the work is frustrating, solutions to problems are achieved slowly and frequently with set backs. But these old soldiers keep going. Occasionally Board members hear complaints, some, over the years have thought of quitting, but still they go on.

I suggest that members of RAUSI learn more about these volunteers, get to know them, and when appropriate, say, "Thanks". May I count on you to do that?

*by Padre Eric Haffenden*



Handler L/Cpl Karen Yardley and Sadie

### Librarian's Report, by Capt Ted Cooke

The books read lately have been political in nature, so they will not be reviewed, rather, a short synopsis on each is offered. They are too good to miss though, so they are recommended.

#### **Right Side Up**

Author Paul Wells

Wells is a columnist for "Macleans", a former columnist with the National Post and a long time Ottawa insider.

He has written about our last two federal elections, from both sides and particularly the inside. This is a real eye-opener and a very, very funny book.

I thought my Welsh mother and her family were the only ones who ever used the adjective "gormless". I have never seen it in print before, but here it is, describing a cabinet minister. Dictionary definition [I looked it up because I did not believe it was a real word] is "clumsy, witless, stupid"!

#### **America Alone**

The End Of the World As We Know It

Author Mark Steyn

Mark Steyn's columns can be read world wide. In Canada he writes for Macleans and the Western Standard. Born in Toronto, he lives in New Hampshire.

This is laugh- out- loud funny but will change the way you look at the world today.

America, alone among Western nations, has a fertility rate [live births per woman] of 2.1, high enough to maintain its population. Canada [1.5], Europe [1.4], Russia [1.1] are losing. Compare that with Pakistan [5.1], Saudi Arabia [4.5], Afghanistan [6.7], Yemen [6.6]. By 2050 Yemen will have more people than Russia! He is convinced Europe will be Muslim by 2050.

There are lots of Canadian, Alberta and Calgary references and lots more examined besides demography.

#### **The Shadow of the Sun**

Author Ryszard Kapucinski

A Polish journalist who lived in Africa " on the economy" for years, Mr. K traveled widely and writes convincingly.

This is a "must read" for anyone who believes government-to-government aid to African countries is a good idea.

#### **Sadie** (continued from page 4)

the device. However, the booby-trap was discovered when Sadie suddenly "showed intention" by wagging her tail as her handler, L/Cpl Karen Yardley, took her on a search of the UN car park. Bomb disposal experts then used a robot to make the device safe.

"We're all are extremely proud of Sadie," said L/Cpl Yardley, 27, of the Royal Army Veterinary Corps. "She definitely saved lives that day. She certainly saved mine."

Sadie has already served in Bosnia and Iraq and is part of the 102 Military Working Dog Support Unit based in Sennelager, Germany.

Marilyn Rydström, of the PDSA animal charity, said: "The Dickin Medal is the highest award any animal can receive for bravery in the line of duty and Sadie is a very worthy recipient." Since its introduction by PDSA's founder Maria Dickin CBE in 1943, the medal has been awarded to 24 dogs as well as to 32 Second World War messenger pigeons, three horses and one cat.

### 2006 Board of Directors

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#### Search for old RAUSI Newsletters

If any member has RAUSI Newsletters pre-dating 2003 and is willing to return them for our Archive files, please contact RAUSI office or Capt Ted Cooke.

#### Armoury Parking Notice

For those members who may be parking on the north and west side of the Armoury (the DND parking lots) please note, the Commissionaires will lock the gates after normal working hours for that day, after clearing the building of occupants.

Gates will be locked after 0130 hrs on function nights and after 2300 hrs on Cadet training nights. Anyone holding a front door key will be able to open the padlock on the gate.

For more information please contact Capt Alden, OIC Armoury.

#### SUGGESTED WEBSITES

Note, suggested websites are posted for one issue of the *RAUSI News* and are provided for information only.

HMCS Bonaventure

<http://www.hazegray.org/navhist/canada/postwar/carriers/>

Governor General Decorations for bravery, professionalism, and exceptional devotion to duty

[http://www.gg.ca/honours/decorations/index\\_e.asp](http://www.gg.ca/honours/decorations/index_e.asp)

Air Force Association of Canada

<http://www.airforce.ca>

Leopard 2 Main Battle Tank

<http://www.army-technology.com/projects/leopard/>

*RAUSI NEWS* is intended to be a bi-monthly publication. In order to keep mailing costs to a minimum, issues will be sent in electronic format (by e-mail) in Microsoft Word format to those members with e-mail addresses or by fax. Members wishing to receive a mailed copy in-lieu of an electronic copy please inform the Secretary. Articles concerning Canadian military topics are welcome and will be published space permitting, which is never a problem! *Editor*

*Calgary Military Community Events* is a listing that is released on a monthly basis by Eric Cameron from the Public Affairs Office. If you have an upcoming event that you would like listed or if you would like to be on distribution please contact Eric Cameron at [cameron.ec2@forces.gc.ca](mailto:cameron.ec2@forces.gc.ca) or by phone 974-2826.

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### IN MEMORIAM

Padre Hugh **Christmas**, RAUSI Honorary Chaplain 1980-1988,  
RAUSI Life Member, 11 February 2007

Edmund **Oliverio**, RAUSI, 11 October 2006

Flight Lieutenant **Dales**, DFC, RAUSI, 8 April 2006

