



# *The Golden Spur*

*The Newsletter of the Canadian Association of Forces Linemen*

*December 2011*



*Merry Christmas  
And A Very Happy  
New Year*

*To All Members and Their Families*



## WARMEST GREETINGS FROM YOUR PRESIDENT AND SEASONS GREETINGS TO YOU ALL.

I would like to take this opportunity to pass on to all of you and your families a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year. Our association is a source of pride with us and in the last 12 months we have seen a tremendous amount of change in the civilian sector as well as on the military side, and have had to make numerous sacrifices during these tough and demanding times.

As 2012 is quickly coming around the corner, we will all be facing new and exciting challenges and I'm sure that together we will be able to face those challenges and get the job done.

In closing I urge you all this festive season not only to keep in mind our deployed members but also those least fortunate. So please show them generosity and kindness and lend a helping hand where you can. Please pass on my appreciation to everyone for their outstanding and generous support that went out to all throughout the year; I tip my glass to you all. Be safe over the holiday period and we will see you all back in the New Year.

Happy holidays!

Your President

Wayne Babcock



# Halifax Local Line Work Centre

Merry Christmas to all from CFB Halifax LLWC, here at Halifax we are having an above average winter season, with weather in the mid teens, moral is pretty high. The Local Line shop is no longer a small shop that it used to be 6 years ago. We have now doubled in size and are able to have two crews. With all of these members, we now have to car pool because we only have three work trucks, well when ever they are out of maintenance.

We will start naming our crew off with the crusty ole' Donnie Smardon who is taking the QM and Civi Line crew member job pretty seriously...have fun getting AA batteries. Bobby Ray, who most of you know has still not been able to wear a hard hat due to his ever expanding head but we try our best to make him feel good about himself. Glen Pardy is now the size of a Mac truck and is having a hard time using small hand tools. Brian Fullerton is around...it is just hard to find him, don't worry there is hope little guy, ha-ha. As for the military members of the shop; Sgt Gerard Flood is still here for another year and MCpl George Chaisson had a hard time with the second language training and is sticking with his day job. Cpl Pelton forgot how to gas up his truck and well I think you guys know what happened, his name was circulating around on the internet about that incident. Cpl Ian Nearing has just received a membership to Crew Hair Styling for Men. Cpl Chris LaPointe is the boom box man...if you have the urge to go deaf he will make a killer sound system. Cpl Jill Daigle is having some good fun trapping animals at Newport Corners and Pte Andrew Scott well, he is just him, those of us who know him, just know ha-ha.

The LLWC lost a few good men this past posting season. Cpl Henry Crane is now a new member of CFB Trenton and Cpl Greg Ilutko left the LLWC to move right next door to the CFJSR Det Halifax. We also lost our OJT member Cpl Scott Snook to the new LST course in CFB Kingston. You guys will be missed and all the best to your future endeavours. The LLWC received two new members; Cpl Adam Rowsell came here from the mother ship 1 line Kingston and Cpl Mark Hendry came here from CFJSR Det Petawawa and they are both adjusting fast to there new life style here on the coast.

On behalf of all of us here at the Local Line Work Centre, we would like to wish all serving and retired Linemen, and their families, Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year, from our line family to all of yours. Remember and never forget;

***“Once a Lineman, Always a Lineman”.***



Left to right  
Mr Fullarton, Mr Ray, Cpl Daigle, Mr Pardy, Cpl Rowsell, Cpl Pelton, Cpl Nearing, MCpl Chaisson, Mr Smardon, Cpl LaPointe,  
and Sgt Flood.  
Missing from photo: Cpl Hendry and Pte Scott

**Submitted by Cpl LaPointe.**

## Happy Holidays from CFB BORDEN!

Currently here with the Line Section at CFB Borden: WO Steph Langevin, Sgt Frank Evans, MCpl Chris Hancock, Cpl Colin MacLean, recently promoted and currently on the new LST DP 2.1 course, Cpl Leo Thomas and myself Pte Nick Benner.

This year the line shop has been particularly busy and the workload continues to increase as new plans for revamping the infrastructure at Base Borden over the coming years ramps up. Multiple new installs, general maintenance as well as a fastball here and there and, shall I add, with a limited crew for most of the year, has kept us more than busy. Nevertheless this great crew of guys always managed to get the jobs done efficiently and on time. This was particularly apparent when a 300 pair cable was dug up by a road crew from CFAD (IT'S CALLED A DIG PERMIT EVERYONE), shutting down multiple intrusion alarms. The crew worked late into the evening splicing in a new chunk of cable and had the alarm system back up and running that night. As much as it hurts to do so, we would like to thank CFJSR Det Petawawa who came to visit on multiple occasions to help with the general workload, in particular with the 300 pair splice. Mbrs of their crew worked with us all day and offered to work late into the evening to get the job finished which was greatly appreciated (but don't let it go to your head boys...).

All-in-all it was a great year here in Borden, which was topped off by the line section being presented with the TIS Team-of-the-Year award in recognition of all their hard work put in over the last year. Well deserved boys!

Also worth an honourable mention is that the Tech Services ball hockey team (obviously led by the lineman) took the championship this year in the summer ball hockey league!

On behalf of the line section here at CFB Borden, I would like to take this opportunity to wish all Linemen past and present as well as those serving overseas a very Merry Christmas and Happy New Year.

Pte Nick Benner



## LES POSEURS DE LIGNES DE LA 5<sup>e</sup> BRIGADE DE ET DU 5 GSS / SVC TRANS ON REPREND NOTRE SOUFFLE... ET C'EST REPARTI

L'année 2009-2010 avait été des plus occupés pour les poseurs de lignes de la Garnison Valcartier; déploiement de la 06-09 en Afghanistan, exercice de montée en puissance et aide au sinistré d'Haïti. Il est clair qu'une pause était de mise pour 2011, afin de permettre aux membres ainsi qu'à leur famille de prendre un peu de répit. Mais, comme les rêves et les réalités sont deux choses bien différentes, 2011 aura été un peu moins chargé que 2010, mais aura tout de même eu son lot de défis.

L'année 2011 avait à peine commencé et déjà des exercices majeurs étaient en vue. Afin de donner un support en distribution filaire, l'implication des poseurs de ligne de la 5<sup>e</sup> Bde et du 5 GSS (5 Bns) fut nécessaire. Pour commencer, l'Exercice Rafale Blanche qui a eu lieu à Beauceville et l'Exercice Guerrier Nordique qui s'est déroulé à la Baie-James, auront occupé les poseurs de lignes de la brigade pour une période d'environ 1 mois.

En avril, ce fut le tour de Gagetown de recevoir la visite de la 5<sup>ème</sup> Bde lors de l'exercice Lion intrépide. Et t'en cas voyager, pourquoi pas sortir du pays : l'exercice "Combined Endeavour" en Allemagne, aura bien débuté l'automne pour quelque un d'entre eux.

Il est facile de prévoir à quel moment auront lieu certains événements et exercices sur un calendrier, et de pouvoir anticiper les besoins. Mais il arrive malheureusement des situations imprévisibles auxquelles nous devons prêter main-forte. L'Opération Lotus aura été l'imprévu de l'année lors des inondations dans la région de St-Jean sur Richelieu. Pour une durée d'environ un mois, des poseurs de lignes de la Brigade et du 5 GSS auront été déployés afin de fournir un support technique aux troupes sur le terrain.

Pour ce qui est de l'Association des Poseurs de Lignes des Forces, un nouveau comité a été nommé et de nouveaux membres se sont rajoutés. Une activité de Karting a justement été organisée en décembre, ce qui a attiré quelque membre junior de notre métier. D'ailleurs, une activité de Tac Ball aura lieu en janvier, afin de capter l'intérêt des membres.

L'année 2012 arrive à grands pas, et déjà, nous pouvons deviner que celle-ci sera grandement occupée. En plus des exercices majeurs tels que Rafale Blanche qui aura lieu au février, et le déploiement vert Gagetown au printemps, un défi très différent attendra les poseurs de lignes avec Op Attention 04-12. Néanmoins, malgré le tempo qui ne semble pas vouloir ralentir, les poseurs de lignes de la Garnison Valcartier feront comme toujours... Allons-y jusqu'au bout, de manière agile et polyvalente.

Sgt Sébastien Thomassin  
Adj Tp Tech  
Svc Trans Esc Est  
5 GSS



## Life in Shilo

There's a saying about Shilo, '*Getting posted to Shilo*'-*"because you can't kick yourself in the balls"*.

This above statement may seem true to the average outsider, and they say Shilo is like a bad habit you'd like to kick-with both feet, yet the lucky ones in the Line-trade that are fortunate to be posted here, led by 742 LMF Troy Polak, his ACIS qualified MCpl Brad Carriere (newly married to his much better half MCpl Crystal Marsh), Cpl Jaime Legault (just finishing up his Afghanistan tour), Cpl George Kennedy, and Cpl Daryl Schaeffer. Our beloved contractor Bruce Charbonneau (retired 052), a man of many talents, providing insight and "sage like" wisdom for the junior members; proving that touching an electric fence can be done multiple times. Greg Zacharchuk is here for us as 742 Stores-man, carrying on the (retired 052 Warrant) attitude of "I'm busy now, can I ignore you some-other time?"

One of the more entertaining issues Troy has had to deal with was a 1/2lb furry menace with a taste for fiber-optic cable, the great Canadian tree squirrel, protected by the fact it lives in a tree just next to Range control. Yes this little rodent has twice bitten into the colorful cable looking for perhaps nest lining or maybe just to tempt its luck with humans, the cable since repaired and covered with bright orange wrap to scare away the squirrel...perhaps a Owl perched atop the pole would work, or maybe a scarecrow shaped like Bruce would suffice.



Bruce Charbonneau lashing the new fiber.....

There has been support provided from the 742 Line-guys to the Manitoba flooding (Brandon, Portage), the Armories in our Manitoba, Saskatchewan AOR, maintaining and upgrading the ever expanding base infrastructure, and lastly helping our friends over on the field side.



Cpl Kennedy prepping the Fiber for termination....



Cpl Schaeffer hanging out....

Over at the 2 PPCLI, they've been extremely busy and short-manned, starting with MCpl Mike Purdy going to Edmonton for work up training for overseas as part of the MTTF. Sgt Alex Bergman got posted (CFSCE) out this past year leaving all the work on to the capable shoulders of one Cpl Shane Toms. The Line guys were extra tasked with giving their support to OP Lustre (Portage La Prairies), Op Lear (Souris), these are towns in Manitoba that had severe effects from the flooding, this was a chance to get involved with showing true community support and doing what Lineman do best, getting the job done on short notice while being undermanned setting up temporary Command Posts. Cpl Toms has been busy with support to exercises in Shilo, and Wainwright and has maintained a very high standard of what being a lineman is over at the field unit, while mostly being on his own.

And last but not least, the 1 RCHA boys, MCpl Dan Cote, and his side-kick Cpl Matt Browning, these two have been busy with providing their own support to the Floods (you can see the trend with this Xmas news-letter), exercises here in Shilo and out West in "Mud-Ville"-Suffield.

So for Troy and all the Lineman here in blistering cold Southern Manitoba, as you can probably tell we make the best of the situation we're in, we all rather enjoy it here, it's a close group of guys that stick out for each other and always make sure at least one goes home crying at the end of the day. On that note we here from Shilo would like to wish all a Merry Christmas and a great New Year.



*Seasons Greetings, from the last of Canada's finest in KAF*



The Mission Transition Task Force (MTTF) Line Section staged out of 1 HQ & Sigs consisting of 18 Regular and Reserve Force members from across Canada. The members participated in nine months of work up training prior to the advance party leaving in May 2011, followed by the main body in June 2011. The last of the line section members arrived in KAF in early July.

With the team complete and mission in full operation the Line Section worked in conjunction with the operational tempo of the MTTF. At the beginning the section was busy doing the usual; Add, Moves and Changes (the norm for all tours) until the tear down began. As well they installed temporary lines (copper & fibre) to support other MTTF units in their mission namely the Mission Closure Unit (MCU). A few of their other assignments were to install new communication antennas to allow for greater communication coverage in the work yards. The section worked alongside the CANCAP linemen on many projects.

During the entire mission MTTF linemen provided support to all NATO countries. With the only digging capability in Kandahar, the section's LCV was in constant demand. They assisted the American's 550<sup>th</sup> and 335<sup>th</sup> Signals Sqns when poles went down. The Line Section would send out a single four man crew, where generally the Americans would send out three times as many men to do the job as the Canadians. Along with pole installs the section also helped engineer pairs, fault fine cables, assist in termination, for COMKAF, Australia, Netherlands, to mention a few of the Coalition partners. It wasn't all work for the boys; the section had a hockey team in the KHL or Kandahar Hockey League for those of you who haven't been here.

Prior to our departure, there was a two month mentoring program put into place for American Soldiers to learn the Canadian Cable Plant. The program was set up into two, one month, training blocks. Each training block had four American Soldiers and one to two Canadian trainers. The two nations worked side by side for the one month period where the Canadians passed on the necessary knowledge to the Americans. This allowed the Americans to learn and develop a working knowledge of the cable plant.

With the end of Op "Athena" rapidly coming, and Op "Attention" kicking off, (Canada's new role here in Afghanistan, to train the Afghan Army in soldiering skills) the MTTF Line Section were called upon to assist our brothers and sister up North. With bags packed they boarded transport planes to Kabul, six linemen in two waves, over two months. Under the direction of WO Jones and Sgt Rose, they helped design and install the infrastructure needed to support the future communication needs of Canadians on OP Attention. The MTTF Linemen worked diligently on five Camps while in the Kabul.

In the final month of operations, the line section worked to remove cables and jumpers from Canadian compounds prior to them being turned over to the Americans. Once all prints were updated to show removals, the cables were torn out, the Comms closets, IDFs were cleaned via broom and dust pan. This continued until all Canadian personnel were consolidated into Canada 7. In the final days to come, Canada 7 will be closed down and handed over to the US.

The final linemen will leave KAF on Dec 12<sup>th</sup> 2011, but the legacy of every Lineman who ever served here will live on forever. All the MTTF Line Section Members did their job with the utmost pride and dedication; and all will be home, for the holidays for a well deserved rest, and the World Juniors.

# Winnipeg,

This year in Winnipeg has been steady on all fronts. First and foremost if you didn't know the Winnipeg Jets are back!!

There was the much anticipated safe return of our beloved MCpl Marsh from KAF after getting hitched just before deployment. A new face, Cpl Gallant, arrived in Winnipeg, from Petawawa, providing much needed help in the line section. This summer was especially busy for our Pte, Pte Desruisseaux, who proudly completed OP Nijmegen 2011 then shortly after rushed off to help with the activation surge in Jamacia. The Wing was busy with OP Lustre accomadating more than 900 Regular and Reserve Force personnel from the Navy, Army, and Air Force, who arrived pretty much over night requiring much more than everything and the kitchen sink.

Our Sgt can rest easy at night knowing the 5+ years it took to have a new tower installed at Springer Lake is now finally complete. With this nice new tower came the "trials" of new equipment and procedures for tower and high angle rescue. This was a great learning experience for the entire line section and I'm sure more on this issue will follow in the coming months. As the Holiday season approaches we would like to wish everyone a Merry Christmas and a happy NewYear from 17 Wing CFB Winnipeg Line Section.



Pte Desruisseaux making his way to the top of the 100 ft tower .



MCpl Marsh-Carrier saying hello to G.I. Joe in kaf.



Sgt Welbergen making sure that greasy civi is properly erecting the tower. And Cpl Gallant is hard at work keeping his hands warm as usual.

## Happy Holidays From 742 Det Wainwright Line Section.

As another year end closes in on us we can say that it was a busy year but at the same time it was good one at that. Much like previous years we carried on with getting things ready and running for exercises like Maple Guardian, Maple Defender and Maple Resolve. Throughout the year we also completed other training with yearly BFT and other Combat Training.

There were no big changes at the shop this year as no one has left us but we did get one new person posted in, Cpl Dave Harrison from CFB Esquimalt. We also had three promotions this year as Cpl Felts

received his leaf in Aug and Pte Donovan received his Cpl's the same day, as well Pte Nickerson received his first hook.

Sgt Sean Silver is still the LMF and he is keeping everyone on their toes and busy on the base, as well we still have Mr. Roger Jenkins watching and taking care of our stores and getting us the things we need to get the job

done.

As 2012 is quickly approaching there is still lots of courses and projects to get ready for as well as take care of all the maintenance of the cable plant on the base.

With the Christmas and New Years holidays just around the corner we would like to

send out a Happy Seasons Greetings to all the Lineman and their families throughout the Holidays and all the best in the New Year. To those Linemen serving overseas that cannot be home for the holidays our thoughts are with you and your families, "STAY SAFE".



742 Sig Sqn Line Section December 2011

Left to Right

MCpl Felts, Cpl Harrison, Pte Davis, Mr. Jenkins, Sgt Silver, Pte Nickerson, Cpl Donovan, MCpl Korosi.

**742 Sig Sqn Det Line Section**

**CFB/ASU Wainwright.**

Article submitted by Cpl D. Harrison



## MERRY CHRISTMAS FROM 1 LINE SQN

December 2011



Merry Christmas from 1 Line Squadron and the Canadian Forces Joint Signal Regiment, Kingston Ontario. It has been another busy year and here we are already with Christmas upon us. The year has flown by and it will be a well deserved Christmas leave period for all of the linemen at 1 Line Squadron and their families.

This year, like the last few years, we started off with a stack of upcoming domestic projects and ongoing commitments to Kabul, Afghanistan and the quick stand up of Strategic Line of Communication (SLOC) Kuwait and Op Mobile in Italy and a small installation in Cyprus. We did as we always do, provided the Line expertise to those missions and did it quickly and professionally allowing the missions to stand up and get on with the task at hand. We are now mobilizing another crew to replace the Op Attention crew in Kabul sometime in the New Year.

Additionally, we were able to run an Advanced Antenna Course, a Squadron level IBTS (Individual Battle Fitness Training Standard) training cycle, Annual Refresher Training and we supported the first EX Hermes Warrior, to “shake down” the Regt to better support 1<sup>st</sup> Canadian Divisional Head Quarters (1 Can Div HQ). On top of all of that, we continued a full cycle of domestic national level projects at various bases across the country for 3<sup>rd</sup> Line Antenna and Cable projects. We have seen deployments this year to Afghanistan, Kuwait, Cyprus, Italy, Alert, and everywhere from Esquimalt, BC to Newport Corners, NS. It has been a very busy year, yet a very memorable one also.

Next year looks to be equally challenging as continue the training mission in Kabul Afghanistan. We will also continue to build our “hub and spoke” support infrastructure around the globe and provide increased support to 1 Can Div HQ. While International operations and large unit deployments remain the normal SOP’s and normally garners all the attention and salutes, as these operations draw closer to ending, support to our domestic cable plants and strategic antenna systems nation wide will become more apparent. This is what we do for the majority of our time and that is where we gain and hone our expertise and experience to make us as successful as we are on the international stage and garner respect as the best linemen in the world. This reputation is hard to get and easy to lose, so keep doing the great work seen by all! “THROUGH”

As this year draws to a close, all soldiers and officers of 1 Line Sqn would like to thank everyone for their support throughout the year and we look forward to seeing you in the New Year. To all linemen, their family and friends, I hope you take this time to relax and enjoy the much needed time at home, we wish you health and happiness during this holiday season and into the New Year. Merry Christmas

Phil Ferguson  
MWO  
LCS  
1 Line Sqn





## CFJRSR DETACHMENT PETAWAWA



Nearing the end of 2011, we can say good bye to all the hard work we did (227 days of it spent on the road) and look forward to another great year in 2012. We have welcomed some new tradesmen into the shop and have said our goodbyes to some of the more “seasoned” journeymen. To start off, we said our goodbyes to WO Larry Gaudet who is heading over to HQ + SIGS as the LCF to put his bright ideas at work over there. We also bid farewell to Cpl Kris Perron who will be sharing his vast knowledge in....everything, with the proud members of 3 RCR. Since we’re on the topic of getting rid of Det members, we finally kicked WO Jodi Jones into the sand box for a 7 month tour. He will be returning, hopefully no worse for wear, to us in the New Year.

After we shed our tears, (not really) from losing some people we said some hellos. We watched four newbie’s enter the shop and take there place as the new go-fer / rookies. Cpl Dwayne Marshall came to us from 3 RCR with an immense understanding of WD. “Dwayne, we don’t do that here we actually work!” Another bright face is Pte Jeff Kenny the man with two first names. Pte Kenny came to us from 1 RCR. We won the draw with this next candidate, Pte John Turcotte fresh off the last QL3 Apprentice Course. Pte Turcotte is the man for the job if you need a designated/destructive driver. And finally we have Sgt Joe Bell. Sgt Bell came from 2 ASG but don’t let his “just for men” hair dye fool you; he got it out of the same box as Cpl Morris.

It has been a very arduous year for all the Det members. Newly promoted Cpl Jason Morris, and MCpl Baz Slaney did a stint in Afghanistan and both returned in good health. After tour Cpl Jason Morris went on his DP 2.stupid to become a Sig-op, where he passed with flying colours I might add. Cpl George Lavers is well on his way to becoming a pilot, I guess he will never stop looking down on us now. We still have old man Cpl Larry Weekes in the shop, the only thing older then him is the dirt in the cracks of the floor. On a side note, if you have the privilege of working for MWO Bill Hewitt ask him to show you how to properly drive a nail in a pole with his bare hands, a useful skill to know if you don’t have a hammer. We got the new con truck, the compact version made possible by the Moodie drive overpass in Ottawa; I thought the old one was better anyways.

In closing the Det commander MWO Hewitt and all of us at CFJRSR Det Pet would like to wish everyone a happy and safe Christmas and a prosperous New Year.





## 4 WING COLD LAKE



From left to right Cpl Martin ST-Louis, Sgt Dean Upshall, Mr Joel Laquerre, MCpl Ed Arsenault, Pte Cory Collins, and Cpl James Davenport.

Happy Holidays from “Wild rose country” 4 Wing Cold Lake. It has been a very hectic and eventful year here in the frozen north. The addition of Mr. Joel Laquerre to the Line shop was much anticipated and is living up to our expectations (he couldn’t wait to strap the spurs back on and get back to work).

Our Prodigal son and Master Cable locator Cpl James Davenport returned safely from an 8 month tour in KAF. Due to “the perfect storm” somewhere in the Atlantic Ocean lies James’ UAB, so we would like to ask the guys on the East coast to keep an eye out for floating barrack boxes. I’m sure James would appreciate it as he has been wearing the same issued underwear since his return. Lol.

Pte Cory Collins is presently on his DP2.1 (QL5)?? aka “new super sig course” at CFCSE. We can’t wait for his return. Ptes are always handy in -40C weather.

MCpl Ed Arsenault and Sgt Dean Upshall were happy to be reunited last year. Both have their hands full as they make sure our maintenance is completed and our ducks are in a row for future Wing upgrades and renovations. Due to the lies that Ed and Joel told Dean to get him here, the work load forced him to retire from the logo and T-shirt business.

We also said good-bye to Cpl Pierre Thibodeau who found himself posted to 9 Wing Gander, Thank you! Your leaving gave me the opportunity to experience the best fishing and hunting of my life.

4 Wing still has a wonderful vacant position for a Project's Warrant Officer, but for some reason they have a hard time staffing it. Think about it, no traffic, the fresh air, roads well maintained and cheap gas... any takers?

For myself, Cpl Martin St-Louis I've recently been posted from the Mother Ship in Kingston. Honestly, I believe this place to be a frozen paradise. I have never seen so many white tailed deer in my life. With three months of open hunting season and three tags per person I could literally feed the entire section and their families for a year, I don't ever want to leave.

Last summer (A whole 2 days) we had the opportunity to host 1 Line Sqn Det Edmonton twice. The first was for 4 weeks where they performed 2<sup>nd</sup> Line antennas maintenance and the second was in support of a number of small DIMTPS approved projects and the removal a redundant pole line. Great job guys, thanks!

On behalf of the entire Linemen in 4 Wing Cold Lake, I would like extend our best wishes to the CAFL, my fellow 052 serving both at home and abroad and their families. Best of luck in the future, play safe and have a wonderful holiday.

Later, Ed is making me go boost the vehicles.

From Frozen Lake (Cold Lake) Alberta  
This is Cpl Martin St-Louis reporting.



CFJRSR DETACHMENT HALIFAX NEWS  
By Cpl Galen "The Goler" McFarlane-Hurst

## Christmas 2011

It has been another busy year down here on the Atlantic coast! Both the antenna and cable crews went at it hard all year. This summer we have seen some good friends move on and some new faces move in.

As far as postings and promotions go, we have had a fair bit of movement this year. MWO Lester "The Dude" Henry was posted in from Kingston, replacing the outgoing MWO Phil "Mustang" Ferguson. Sgt Stephane "Late Day" Hache got posted in from Valcartier to replace Sgt Billy Neville. MCpl Tim "Not JF" St. Onge got posted in from the Mothership to replace MCpl Jean-Francois "Fantabulous" Comeau, who grudgingly accepted a posting to the school. MCpl Sheldon Gillis traded positions with MCpl Chris "Mumbles" Gosse, and was posted to Trenton. Cpl Gary "The torch" Merritt was posted to 2 Svc battalion Petawawa while Cpl Ricky "Lil Naug" Naugler was posted in from the same unit to take his place. MCpl Jason "Textmaster" Stoneham was given his leaf and posted HQ & Sigs Edmonton. Filling his position is Cpl Greg "The Gypsy" Ilutko from Marlant N6. That is a fair bit of juggling, but I guess it's about normal for most Dets.

As for the rest of us who haven't moved anywhere, there is Cpl Brodie "The naked mole rat" Saunders still doing what he does best, we aren't sure what that is but it's got to be something, Cpl John "Gin Pole Johnny" Brown, being the extremely senior Cpl, takes care of us all. Cpl Jerome "Fish" Cormier-Poisson got sent on his QL5 to hopefully bring us back some info on the new training plan they have out there. And last but not least we have Sgt Brian "Jennifer" Murray keeping us all in check and making sure things are done to his specifications, even if that means having an eighty-hour work week.

We have three civilians working for us. Rick Kitchin is still the draftsman working hard making sure the drawings are up to date and accurate. Our clerk Wenda Watson, is staying on top of all our administration issues. And Jack, good old Jack Hunt, well there isn't enough time or space to explain the conundrum that is Jack.

The antenna crew went from site to site this year, weather be damned! We get it all down here. Mill cove(ticks), Newport Corner(snow), Great Village(sleet), and Masstown(hail) are just a few of the sites we maintain annually. The cable crew spent the first part of 2011 structure wiring hangers, hospitals, fire stations and the new IDF in 14 Wing Greenwood, their home away from home.

After block leave, crews were back at it to complete projects at Goose Bay and Gander. Cpl Rob "The Gigolo" Doucette, Cpl Yan "Woody" Fullwood as well as WO John "JP" Perry, were deployed to the tropical land of milk and honey, Afghanistan. They all made safe returns last July, just in time for all the fall projects.

Well, that's about it from the crew in Halifax. Remember, to all the Detachments and Units out there "First in...last out" 052.

**On behalf of the Det Comd CFJRSR HFX, Happy Holidays and  
play it safe.**

# Director Information Management End User Support Ottawa, Ontario



Dear friends and fellow lineman. As 2011 comes to a close it has been another busy year for Ottawa's elite Line section/Design Cell.

It's been a steady flow of work all year and there are no signs of letting up in the New Year. Many endless work orders, installs, MACS (move/add/changes) and Projects not to mention the endless amount of parade tasking, but with the help of some hired contractors we make ends meet. The crucial part is, driving all over the place! Since the shop is at the other end of the city (near the Airport) we are pretty much always stuck in gridlock, surprisingly we've had no accidents, but lots of birds flipped and the occasional parking ticket.

We've had a few PMO tasking to exotic places (Greece, Brazil, etc) but missed a tasking in Thailand, due to the floods and the fact that they needed the airport to house the citizens. The Design Cell, consisting of the ever charming Sgt Rick Cooper and Carol Asselin have been swamped with continuous changes within the NCR as well as two major projects; a new building affectionately known as the Louis Two and the recently acquired Carling Campus, giving ample work to our draftsman, Err drafts-person, now drafts people.

Many changes have happened over this past APS. Three of us from the shop along with two others are going to the civilian side of the house in the New Year. MWO Mike Walsh arrived from 2 CMGB in Petawawa, replacing MWO (ret) Mike Mackie as LCS. He is now the big cheese and has the NCR cradled gently in his hands; initially terrifying the civilian workforce downtown wondering why a member of the Sons of Anarchy have taken up residence in a cubicle in the Constitution Bldg. WO Kilback left us for a higher locale and less stress, and now has the chance to let his hair down. It seems that

every time our paths cross with them, they are looking for people. In his place, we gained WO George Godin. He was posted in late from the Mother Ship in Kingston, after successfully touring Europe as a one man acoustic folk road show for OP Mobile. In Uplands, we have Sgt Leblanc as LCF, LMS, chief bottle washer, or what ever he wants to be called for the day. He is a fine shaped soldier keeping the men under his command fit and ready to go at all times.

MCpl Greg Snook was brought in from Petawawa to boost the Newfie presence which has up until now, been under the mandatory required number. He has finally settled his family in his new house. No invite for a house party yet though? Most of us have kids, yet not everyone (wink wink Tim, Justin and Mireille). So this is the season when the flu and the colds are keeping all the parents up at night. MCpl Gauthier-Brousseau is a lucky fellow having a pharmacist for a wife; he's on top of the medication chart, so his daughter is a lucky kid. MCpl Tony Purvis is already half way there, easing his way into civilian attire, always on the lookout for cheap Wal-Mart work pants.

Cpl Gunville-Vachon is renovating his house with the help of his 2 gremlins. Cpl Comeau has charmed the heart of a fellow Acadian and they are getting married in the New Year; so to all linemen, stop sending her flowers!!! Cpl Giroux has left the NCR for CFB Val-Cartier on IR, but he is coming back to his family two very big projects as a civilian. Cpl Ryan... yes he used to be called Pte Ryan (they're going to have to make a sequel), he is still on his DP2.1 course at CFSCE. Cpl Ward, as always, made the section very proud by receiving a top "NOVA" Award for his professionalism and hard work implementing the GDSSN installations throughout the NCR. YAY Dan!! Cpl McAtamney is the PT God, and remains unchallenged thanks to his obsession with MMA. He is always training hard and subsequently won his first Kick Boxing fight (TKO on 3 rounds). Buddy had no chance. Cpl Nault as if he didn't have enough on his plate with his family, has adopted a puppy (golden retriever) and is now in training mode so the puppy will be able to help him during the hunting season. Good thing he is a professional dog trainer, if not better than an average Lineman. What's an average Lineman anyways?!? We are gaining Cpl Boucher from CFB Bagotville as soon as his parental leave is complete in Dec, hopefully he will adjust to the NCR's hectic lifestyle with ease.

From all ranks and members we wish you all a Merry Christmas, (Joueux Noel), or Festivus.

Cheers from Ottawa.

Once a lineman always a lineman

# UPCOMING EVENTS

## C&E Branch 2013 Reunion 24-27 Oct

Note: The reunion is still in the planning stage and further details will be provided as the date approaches.

24 Oct 13 (Thursday) and 25 Oct 13 (Friday), HRH Princess Ann will be here.

26 Oct 13 (Saturday) and 27 Oct 13 (Sunday) will be mini / unit reunions.

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