

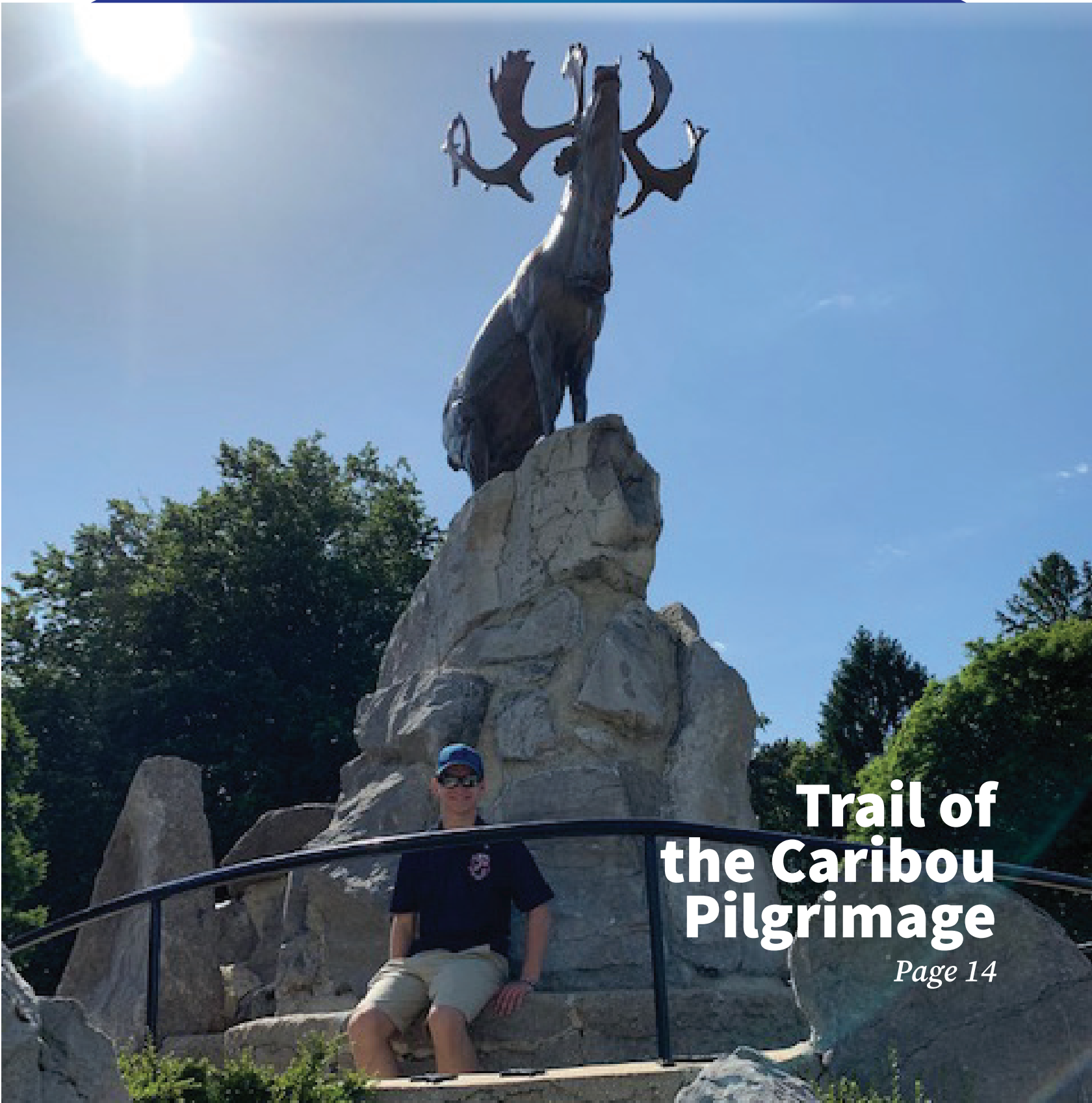


THE BUGLE



OCTOBER, 2021

VOLUME 37 ISSUE 1



Trail of the Caribou Pilgrimage

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THE BUGLE

QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER OF THE C.L.B.

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***Thanks to all C.L.B. Members & Companies
who submit stories and photos to make The Bugle
the fine publication that it is today*** 

NL Flag Soars in UK



Sponsored by Lt. Terry Hissey and upon his request, the Newfoundland and Labrador Flag proudly flies atop the flagpole on March 31st 2021, at the Brigades National Headquarters, 2 Barnsley Road, Wath upon Dearne in the UK. This is to celebrate our NL Anniversary, for on March 31st, 1949, Newfoundland and Labrador became the 10th province of Canada. Lt. Hissey, thank you for your kindness and thoughtfulness and for doing us this great honour 



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Army and Navy Cadets

COLONEL ALBERT PELLEY

CHAIR, SPONSORING COMMITTEE

In March, I was appointed to the position of Chair of the sponsoring committees of the CLB Army Cadets and NLCC Polynia. I have served in this role in the past, and I am honoured to be working with these fine units once again.

On Wednesday, May 19th, the Army Cadets held a virtual ACR. It was my pleasure to attend this event which I believe may have been a first for the CLB. Our Governor and Commandant, Colonel Gail Dick was the Reviewing Officer. There were 14 cadets on parade along with their officers and a good number

of parents. Some of the highlights include; promotions and a speech by Warrant Officer Brandon Brewin where he spoke about what a virtual training year was like. Colonel Dick presented Capt. Jessica Ellsworth with her Canadian Forces decoration for 12 years of dedicated service to the cadet movement. To conclude the year, the cadets will be doing a marksmanship competition and having a fun night at the Clay Café.

On Monday, May 25th, NLCC Polynia held its final parade night for the year. There were 12 cadets on parade. Again, I had the pleasure of attending this event. Several cadets received rank promotions including Loann Champdoizeau being promoted to the rank of Chief Petty

Officer Second Class. To conclude the evening, the cadets participated in some fun activities. Polynia has an outdoor activity planned for July 10th that will include orienteering, cadet Olympics and end with a bon fire.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank Capt. Amanda White, Commanding Officer of 2355 CLB Army Cadets and her staff and Sub Lieutenant James Mackey, Commanding officer of NLCC Polynia and his staff for their dedication and commitment to their respective units during a very challenging year. The CLB is a proud sponsor and I look forward to working with you in the fall 🇺🇸

Message from the UK

LIZ BUTTERFIELD

GOVERNOR, CLCGB

Dear Members,

I hope that you are all well and making the best of this difficult time. The Coronavirus pandemic has touched nearly every corner of the globe with many experiencing personal loss, heartache, lack of freedom and the loss of fellowship both inside and outside the Brigade. The biggest strength of the Brigade is the army of volunteers who keep it going, week after week, and have done since it began. Responding to challenges is not new to the Brigade family. Through the medium of social media we see evidence of the work of the CLCGB in caring for their neighbours as far away as South Africa, Bermuda, Barbados, St Helena, Kenya or Newfoundland.

Nearer to home, some have responded to the lockdown by giving

outdoor musical performances and clapping each Thursday evening in support of the National Health Service. Facebook has been used as a medium for sharing ideas between the isolated leaders and some members have attended online meetings. Many formations have provided a wealth of activities online to keep the children motivated. All of this shows a typically strong resolve.

It has been uplifting to see the way so many people have risen to the challenge during this period, maybe some of you have undertaken welfare work, keeping an eye on neighbours, or participating in the many volunteer schemes that have sprung up at all levels. These are examples of the positive qualities that the Brigade has always encouraged. Their stories need to be recorded for future generations to learn from and indeed, be inspired by.

Just as important are the people who have listened to the advice and stayed at home giving our wonderful workers in the National Health Service the opportunity to look after those suffering from this dreadful virus. The CLCGB has its own heroes, doctors, nurses, carers, lorry drivers, dust collectors, cleaners, shop workers, teachers and other key workers.

As we look to the future we need to plan more of these online programs so that we can motivate and maintain contact with our members. We are currently looking for a team of people, particularly young leaders, to help put this together so if you feel you could offer your services please let me know.

Let us look forward to the day when we can all come together again and be part of the wider family of the CLCGB once more.

In the meantime please continue to 'Fight the Good Fight' 🇺🇸

St. Michael's Company

LT. MARISSA MERCER

ST. MICHAEL'S COMPANY

St. Michael's Company #4512 has had an unusual training year thus far and continues to adapt to CLB during the COVID-19 pandemic as I'm sure all other companies have been too. We started the year by meeting virtually throughout the month of September and beginning of October, and we kept our virtual nights interesting by hosting different games and activities such as a scavenger hunt, bingo, and trivia. All of our youth members enjoyed these games, especially the scavenger hunt where they had to run around their homes in search of certain items to bring back and show off. The staff and officers apologized afterwards to parents for the messes that may have been made while youth were searching for their items (Oops!!).

Then things got spooky in late October when restrictions eased up allowing us to meet outside. Staff and youth were invited to Captain Mercer's big backyard on a Saturday afternoon for socially distanced pumpkin decorating. Everyone was very excited to see each other in person and were just as excited to paint their pumpkins. Check out the pictures to see the creepy creations!!

Shortly after receiving approval to meet outdoors, we were granted permission to meet indoors. It was definitely worth the wait and felt great to bring back a little bit of normalcy by being able to do some badge work and drill. Once things got going, St. Mark's and St. Augustine's decided to join us on Monday evenings and we became the tri-saints company.

The weeks flew by and before we knew it, we were celebrating Christmas by having a party in

mid-December. The night was jam packed with lots of fun as the youth played snowman bowling and Rudolph relay races. Everyone even left stuffed as we were able to provide some juicy Mary Brown's chicken and delicious taters!

After the extended Christmas break, everyone was eager to get back into the swing of things, but that unfortunately didn't last long as we were only able to meet for a few short weeks before being shut down again due to the COVID-19 outbreak in February. We tried not to let the outbreak dampen our spirits as we quickly shifted back to virtual nights. This only made us more creative, and one night we challenged our members to build snow sculptures! Have a look at some of the cool creations.

And even though the COVID-19 pandemic still lingers on, St. Michael's will continue to find ways to keep the flag flying 🇺🇸



Mount Pearl Company

LT. KEN PARSONS

MOUNT PEARL COMPANY

As we are all well aware, this pandemic that we face has forced us to adjust and overcome many obstacles. On a company level, we were no longer able to function in a normal way. In order to keep us safe, we had to stop our weekly meetings, church services, sporting events, parades and outings. This blow was a terrible shock and created a feeling of overwhelming odds for many of us.

At Mt. Pearl Company, we looked for ways to continue as an organization and provide support and comfort to our members. A year ago we started with group chats and zoom meetings for our company. This enabled our members to see and talk to one another, as well as, provided us a platform to continue to function as a group. Then, as restrictions allowed, we started to have outdoor events with our group. As things improved, we then were able to have small indoor meetings with proper social distancing protocols in place. It wasn't normal or perfect

but it was at least something. We had the opportunity to enjoy each other's company once more.

As Christmas approached, it was obvious we would not be able to have our regular party. However, we still wanted to celebrate with our kids. Rev. Burrows, Rev. Courage and Capt. Hill created a plan to have a small company church service under the COVID-19 guidelines as per CMOH Dr. Janice Fitzgerald's orders. This was an incredible idea. It was very small and limited to our members and a few invited guests from the Brigade Council Commandant Col. Gail Dick, Regimental Commander Office LT. Col Greg Read, Acting Battalion Capt. Justin Evans and former officer Capt. Wallace Earle. Finally, we would like to thank parents Rudy and Cindy Newell for being facilitators for our church service. During the service we kept our social distance around the church and remained in own bubbles, "BUT WE WERE STILL THERE". The feeling of entering our church and sitting in the familiar pews was such an emotional experience. Having the opportunity to hear our ministers tell the Christmas story and pray

with us was the perfect way to end the year and celebrate together as Mount Pearl.

After the Service Rev. Burrows was presented with 25 Sobey's Gift Cards to be given to Families in need during the Christmas season by our Company. At this time as well, Col. Dick was presented with a monetary donation to the Brigade to Keep the Flag Flying during these trying times of the Covid-19 pandemic till we all get back together.

A short time ago, we had the anniversary of our fire in which we lost our beloved Armory. Everything was lost or destroyed and many wondered what would happen. Immediately, the C.L.B. family bonded together and through "The Marching Home Campaign" we rebuilt and came back bigger and better as an organization. Once again, we face struggles that seem too large to undertake. My friends, we have done this before and we will do it again. Before long we will form up at the Armory and march proudly out through the front doors as we have in the past.

Stay strong my C.L.B. family, we got this 🇧🇲



True to our Founder & The C.L.B., Mr. John Brennock Just Never Gave Up



COLONEL J. A. HEFFERNAN

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

I do not know if we have this photo in our archives, nevertheless it's one of a Mr. John Brennock and Major Tilley in our old museum and archives. Mr. Brennock was a US citizen who lived on the southern shore of NL. and was a member of the American Legion's Out Post # 9 and as well a member of the Knights of Columbus. He was the gentleman, who because of his admiration for our band

responded to my request, to try and find the final whereabouts of our founder Harold F. Blackler. He had planned to travel to North Carolina to purchase a truck and did not respond to us immediately for fear of disappointing. Nevertheless, and at his expense and with great diligence he stopped in Boston on his return home to check out some municipal records. With the limited knowledge that we were able to give him, he persisted and then in his own words he said "he hit pay dirt". From there he went on to locate the grave site and contact

the family. This as most of us will recall, resulted in the return of the Blacklers in 2007. Shortly after this we had Mr. Brennock as our guest, attend a Regimental Band Concert as our way to express our thanks. To our sadness, we learned months later, that Mr. Brennock had passed away in his truck on a roadside on the southern shore. As a show of respect, Captain Bernard Davis and myself, and in full uniform traveled to the southern shore community of Ferryland to attend his funeral and make a final salute on behalf of our Brigade 🇨🇦



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Message from Our Bishop



BISHOP SAM ROSE

REGIMENTAL CHAPLAIN

(Excerpts from CLB 128th Anniversary Parade Sermon)

*Fight the good fight with all thy might;
Christ is thy strength, and Christ thy right;
lay hold on life, and it shall be thy joy and crown eternally.*

This hymn should be very familiar to us as members of the Church Lads' Brigade. It is commonly called the "Brigade Hymn" and it takes its inspiration from the St. Paul's First Epistle to Timothy, Chapter 6, verse 12 which reads: *"Fight the good fight of faith, lay hold on eternal life, to which you were also called and have confessed the good confession in the presence of many witnesses."*

St. Paul is writing this letter to the young disciple Timothy offering his advice and giving encouragement in the face of trouble and difficulty. Paul is trying to give young Timothy hope in the midst of dark times. In spite of all the troubles that we find ourselves in, as followers of Christ, we are never to lose hope. For In the midst of darkness, there is always light and love. We are not to give up, but the Fight the Good Fight!

If there was ever a time to hear this message of hope, it is now. This past year has been very hard on everyone including you as members of the CLB. We do things differently now – we have to wear masks to school or work and sanitize our hands. We have to keep six feet apart from each other. We can't shake hands or easily travel to see friends and family. We can't all march and gather together as the whole CLB family at our beautiful Cathedral for our Anniversary Parade.

So, what are we to do? How do we respond? Well, CLB members, you have already heard the answer - you are to Fight the Good Fight!

You see it would be easy to just cancel everything and close up our CLB companies until all of this is over. But no, not our proud CLB! You are Fighting the Good Fight when you meet as CLB Companies for outdoor hikes and activities. You are Fighting the Good Fight when you do wear your masks and follow the COVID guidelines when you meet each week at Company Parades. By Fighting the Good Fight, the CLB will still be here after COVID has ended and will still have a role to play as the largest Anglican youth organization in Canada and one of the most recognized civic organizations in this province. And you will keep on Fighting the Good Fight as the CLB always has for the past 128 years.

What makes the CLB so special? It is because members of the CLB - from the youngest recruit to the most senior officer - you are special people. You know what it is to face a challenge and to respond to it positively and responsibly. And where does this resilience and faith come from? Well, if you are a youth organization that has been around for 128 years, I'm sure you have learned a thing or two about meeting the challenges ahead.

My dear friends, always remember that the C in CLB stands for Church and the Church means the Family of God. You are part of God's Family. And this Family will get through this together. Never lose hope, never give up, and...

**CARRY ON CLB!
KEEP THE FLAG FLYING!
FIGHT THE GOOD FIGHT!**



Our Friends and Our Neighbours

COLONEL J.A. HEFFERNAN

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

The RNC, Royal Newfoundland Constabulary (1729) fashioned after the Royal Irish Constabulary is considered to be the oldest civil police force in North America. The CLB, Church Lads' Brigade (1892) is considered to be one of the oldest youth organizations in North America. If one were to walk out the back door of our CLB Armoury you would be

looking at the back of the RNC Headquarters. To say that we have each others backs would not be an understatement. We are extremely proud of our association with the RNC down through the years and indeed some of our members have served in the force. When, because of maintenance issues, the force had nowhere to go to train their cadets, the Brigade found space for them in our armoury to run their recruitment program. There is probably not an officer in our Brigade who dose not have an

RNC hand me down as a part of their dress kit. In countless ways, the RNC have come to our aid when requested. Very recently, noted NL historian, Jenny Higgins released an 11 min video on the Pre-Confederation History of The RNC. The video is very interesting and highly informative and came to us in a recommendation from former RNC. Deputy Chief, Gary Browne, one of our biggest supporters ever. Thank You, former RNC. Deputy Chief, Gary Browne 🇩🇪

Search YouTube for: *"The Newfoundland Constabulary: A Pre-Confederation History"*

Or enter the following address: https://www.youtu.be/xYDzZA_b9xc

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Upper Gullies Company

CAPTAIN SANDY DIDHAM

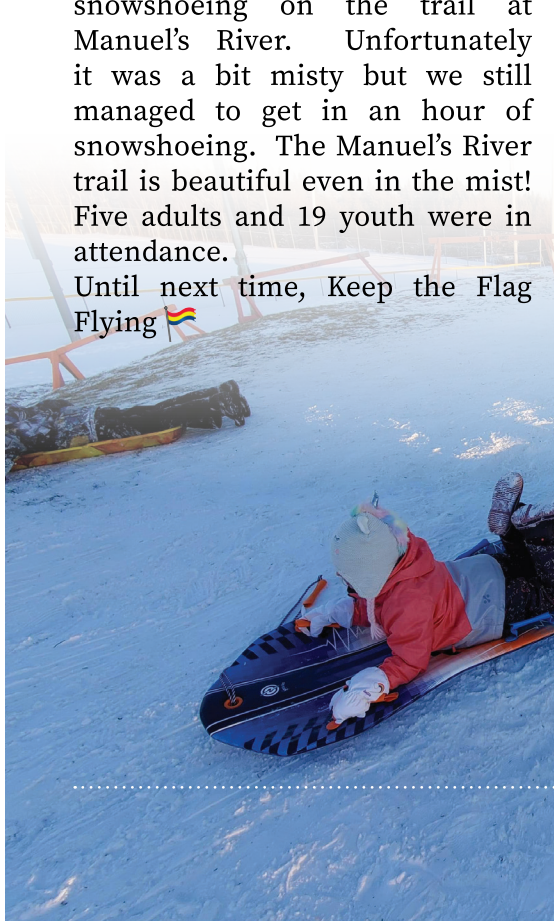
UPPER GULLIES COMPANY

Welcome back to another CLB year! This year certainly has been a different year due to Covid-19.

With the new restrictions put in place due to Covid-19 we were not allowed in the school, our regular meeting place, or the parish hall which made for a difficult time trying to get together. We had planned a couple of outdoor activities before Christmas but due to weather they were cancelled. However, we persevered! On January 24, 2021 the whole company went sliding in Seal Cove. This was our first outing and we had great attendance with 17 youth and 6 adults. The day was beautiful and everyone was excited to be together again even with social distancing. Fun time was had by all.

On January 31, 2021 we went snowshoeing on the trail at Manuel's River. Unfortunately it was a bit misty but we still managed to get in an hour of snowshoeing. The Manuel's River trail is beautiful even in the mist! Five adults and 19 youth were in attendance.

Until next time, Keep the Flag Flying 🇩🇪





Summer Camp

CAPTAIN KAREN DAWE

BAY ROBERTS COMPANY

No one was more excited than me when I read in Orders that we were going to have a one-day summer camp for the JTC and SC Section of our CLB to be held on Saturday, July 10th., at Lavrock Camp. I may have been the first to contact Lt. Cassandra Hibbs, who was appointed Camp Commandant, letting her know I was very much interested and would help in any capacity necessary to help make it happen. But alas, on July 10th., the weather conditions were unsuitable and had to wait another week. What is one more week when we have waited so long to have Camp.

After lots of preparation the day finally arrived and some 24 campers, plus 15 staff (including WO's and Sgts.) gathered at Lavrock for a day filled with renewed friendship with some experiencing CLB camp for the first time.

Our programs consisted of

Canoeing, Archery and Air rifles. Our sports consisted of soccer baseball and ultimate frisbee. We combined swimming with our canoeing program. We would have two activities in the morning and another after lunch.

Officers arrived early to set things up, while the campers arrived for 9 am., for their screening, followed by fall in, colors, prayers and orders.

Our activities began at 10 and consisted of 3 lines with an officer in charge, and a Sgt., if one was available with each group.

Lt. Cassandra Hibbs, and her staff did an amazing job before, during and after the camp was over.

Capt. Wayne Young was 2IC, Capt. Karen Dawe, Adjutant while WO1 Christopher Lockyer was our CSM.

We set up four tents in the swimming area for campers to change after or before swimming.

The weather conditions were not ideal for all day, but we did manage to finish our programs in good old CLB style. It didn't deter us from doing our program. We broke for lunch at 1 pm which consisted

of hamburgers and/or hotdogs and lots of snacks. Thanks Capt. Young.

Our classes started again at 2 pm., with only one more activity group left for each category.

At 3:30 it was looking like it would rain pretty soon so we decided to start finishing up for the day a little earlier than we planned. And by the time we were ready for fall in it was misty rain and fog.

At 4 pm we fell in for prayers, retreat and dismissal none the worse for getting a little wet.

It was so refreshing to get back to camp even if it was just for one day – tho it was just as much work planning for one day as it would have been for the entire week.

We were very grateful to Lavrock for letting us use their camp ground and to Bishop Sam Rose for being in attendance for most of the day.

I think I am speaking for all you attended when I say: "I MISS CLB", especially the camping aspect 🇺🇸





Upper Island Cove Company

CAPT. DON SHARPE

UPPER ISLAND COVE COMPANY

On Friday, February 5, 2021, members of Upper Island Cove Company # 4547 attended a “Special Awards” Service at St. Peters Church Upper Island Cove. Assistant Company Chaplain, Rev. Lt. Col. Aubrey Young officiated the service. Special guests in attendance were Major Wayne Lilley, TCB Commander, Captain Barbara Crane, Commanding Officer of Harbour Grace Company # 1009/Carbonear Company #1011; BSM, WO1 Christopher Lockyer; and Mr. Jim Vokey, Treasurer of Old Comrades Lodge 1, St. John’s and his companion Ms. Phyllis Noseworthy.

Following a very warm welcome by Rev. Young, readings and the psalm for the service were conducted by WO1 Lockyer, Sgt. Isaac Crane and 2/Lt. Nancy Lieff respectively.

The remainder of the service was in recognition of the achievements of

the members since the abrupt halt of all CLB activities in mid-March of 2019. Awards and presentations were carried out as follows;

2019/20 Inspection & Banquet Awards – Colonel’s Award; Attendance Awards; Conduct Chevrons & Merit Badges 2020/21 – Regular activity badges completed to date Enrollment of two new members; Grayson Drover (LTC) and Connor King (YTC) Awarding of Long Service Awards; Four youth members received 5-year Long Service Medals, Three officers – 10-year bronze bar; One Officer – 10-year silver bar and one officer received a 45-year Gold Bar

Awarding of Special 2020 (Tri-Color) Lanyards to all youth

Promotions:

To the rank 2/Lt. – O.C. Doris Moran
To the rank Lt. – 2/Lt. Nancy Lieff
To the rank WO1 –

Sgt. Isaac Crane

CLB Old Comrades Lodge 1 Scholarship – presented by Old Comrade, Mr. Jim Vokey to WO1 Isaac Crane.

All awards and presentations were carried out with strict compliance to Covid-19 and church protocols. Members were seated in their “family bubbles” throughout the service. When coming to receive an award they did so in a quiet and efficient manner.

The Covid-19 virus, no doubt, has changed our CLB lives. As a result, there have been many disappointments for its members, young and old alike. However, I’m sure we will get back on track. CLB Members are a very resilient group of people. The Brigade has faced many challenges over the last 128 years and will surely overcome this virus.

So, stand fast CLB. Continue to Fight the Good Fight and Keep the Flag Flying 🇨🇦

Camping – The Brigade’s Hidden Treasure

LT. COL. ERIC WELLS (RET)

GUEST COLUMNIST

In recent months, myself and Col. Adrian Heffernan have exchanged photos and stories about CLB camping. He asked if I would write a camping article for The Bugle.

It is not my intention to repeat the history of the CLB camping program. Much is already known to the regular Bugle reader and much was written in Major Sterling Pritchett’s 1991 book and Bishop Geoff’s 2017 book.

CLB camping takes many forms. There are the week long summer camps, fall camps, winter camps, and various other Company organized weekend outings. These camps offer members a chance to appreciate the environment, make new friends, achieve personal development, learn new skills, and simply have fun.


I expect readers will immediately remember some of their own camping experiences. For me, in Mint Brook I fondly remember the water activities, the sports, the sun, the heat, and the moon lit nights being on watch. I had some years at the Harbour Grace summer camps, and many of my memories are of a fairly boring daily routine of inspections and drill, nothing like the current summer camps. I have memories

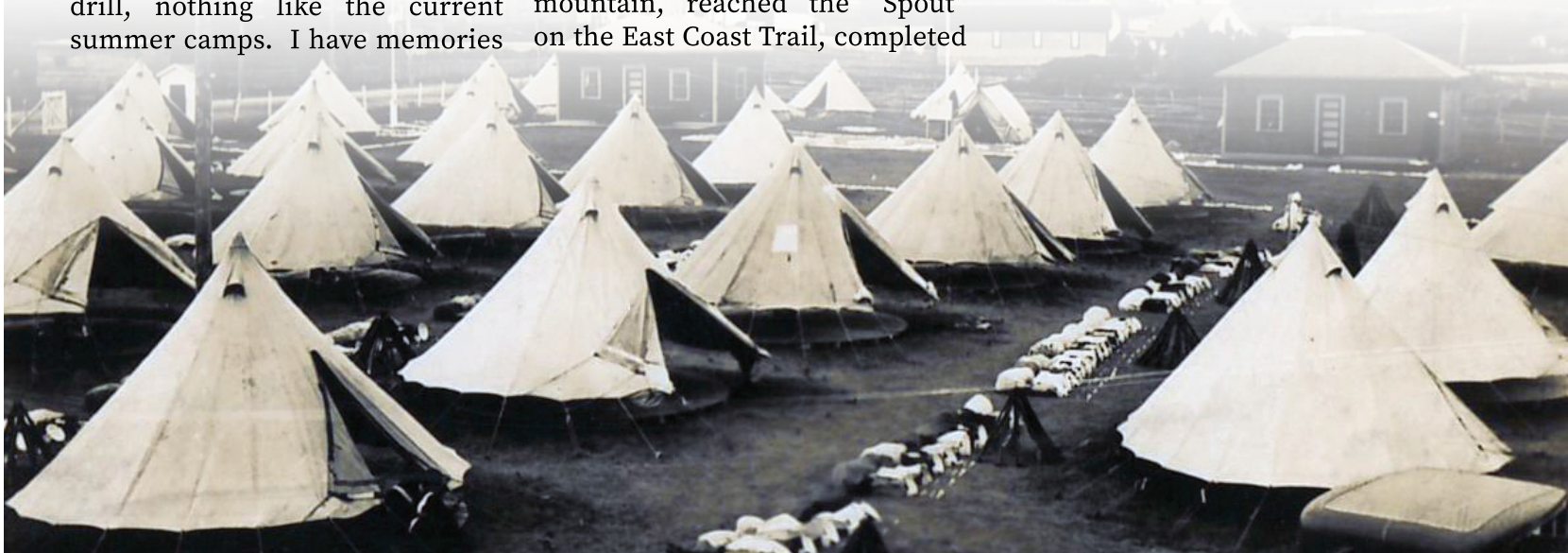
of Challenge Camps involving hikes on various East Coast trails, hikes in both Gros Morne and Terra Nova National Parks, and a very challenging hike across the Avalon wilderness. I have a vivid memory of a St. Michael’s winter camp in March 1976 when after a nice hike on a sunny day, we spent one night in a CLB bell tent at minus 14 Celsius.

So much for memories, but what did the years in CLB camps teach me and everyone else. In our youth we had fun, we made new friends and we learned new skills. Most importantly, as youth members in summer camps, we had to learn how to cope with homesickness probably for the first time, eat food that did not taste or look like home, follow strict instructions, pick up after ourselves etc. However if we attended enough summer camps we learned the feeling of accomplishment and responsibility when we were appointed a hut commander, passed a Proficiency Course, assisted an officer in the delivery of a certain program, worked with the team on a work party, or as a member of the sergeants’ mess. In Fall Challenge Camp, we learned about endurance and accomplishment when we stood on the top of Gros Morne mountain, reached the “Spout” on the East Coast Trail, completed

various other hiking weekends, or traversed the 35 Km’s of the Avalon Wilderness. As an adult we embraced a sense of responsibility and duty to care for other people’s children and shape these children by planning and delivering various camp programs. As many of us adult leaders gained more training and experience, we took on senior leadership and planning roles in the summer camps and fall Challenge camps. We gained experience, confidence and leadership skills which guided our personal lives. We have used the camping experience to guide us in our careers, our family situations, in leadership roles in the CLB at the Company level and beyond, and in the community and the Church.

These are the hidden treasures of CLB camping. These are the things parents should remember as they encourage their child to join and then remain in the Brigade, especially to encourage them to take part in the camping programs. These are the things the adults in all Brigade units should consider when designing and implementing recruitment and retention programs.

CLB camping will not only shape your CLB life, but the rest of your life 





Trail of the Caribou Pilgrimage

SGT. ISAAC CRANE

GUEST COLUMNIST

Most people in their lifetime will go on a trip that they will never forget because of the memories they made and the overall experience they had. Individuals often call this a “trip of a lifetime”. Similarly, I would describe my trip to Europe, last July, to complete “The Trail of the Caribou Pilgrimage” was nothing short of extraordinary and it was truly a trip of a lifetime for me.

Firstly, to be chosen by the C.L.B to represent them on this pilgrimage was a true honor and I was so grateful that I was selected. While on my trip, I got to see and experience so many wonderful things. I got a tour of London, where I seen all of their main attractions such as Churchill’s war rooms and Buckingham Palace. I even got to see the white cliffs of Dover while I boarded the ferry to France. However, despite seeing all of these amazing sights, it was in France, that things got a lot more serious. Especially when we received a private tour of Beaumont Hamel and saw all of the trenches where the Newfoundland Regiment stood over 100 years ago. Even seeing

the Caribou at Beaumont Hamel was totally different than just seeing it in a picture. We also went to many other War memorials such as Vimy Ridge and Menin Gate and these places also had a very serious connotation to them. On this adventure as well, I got to see all 5 Caribou memorials that followed the path that the Royal Newfoundland Regiment took during the First World War. With each place we went, we had historians explain to us what actually happened on the fields that we were standing on over 100 years ago, and they told us about the scars of the war that still remain in France’s countryside even today. In fact they said that over 3000 tons of unexploded ammo is still dug up each year. Furthermore, we also went to many war cemeteries like Kortrijk, a German war cemetery and Tyne Cott, which is the largest British Commonwealth Cemetery in the world as well as many other war cemeteries. Even today, when I hear the poem, “Flanders’ Fields” by John Macrae, I can picture what’s being described because I actually stood in Flanders’ Fields. The feeling you get by seeing all of those graves that seem to go on for miles is nothing that can be taught in a classroom. As far as your eye

could see it was just headstones, some graves weren’t even labelled because they couldn’t identify who they were even burying at the time, but there was also names on memorials with soliders who had no known grave. For example, in Tine Cott alone there was over 72,000 names and memorials like Menin Gate had 54,000.

Additionally, at each one of these graves or memorials, a little service was performed to remember those who had paid the supreme sacrifice. I, myself was lucky enough to be carry wreaths for the Beaumont Hamel, July 1st ceremony and the Menin Gate cermeony which happens every single night and thousands of people come to see.

In conclusion, I myself love to learn about history in school, but nothing I have ever learned substitutes for actually standing on the battlefield seeing what it was actually like for the soldiers who stood where I once was. This trip has taught me so much about not forgetting, but to remember these brave men and boys and all the did for us. I hope that one day I can see these memorials in Europe again and want to express my sincere gratitude to the CLB for letting me partake in such an experience 🇨🇦



Regimental Band

WO2 DAVID MERCER

REGIMENTAL BAND

This has been a year unlike any other for us all. Some activities have been postponed or simply cancelled outright. We all wish we could get back to some sort of normal routine much like what we were used to long before we ever heard the words Covid-19 or pandemic. However, there are other words that have come to the forefront in this past year; these are change, adaptation, adjustment, and surprisingly, enjoyment. It is these words that have become quite common for all of us, including the members of the Regimental Band.

For a period of time after the outbreak of Covid-19, all activities were put on hold for what we hoped would be a short time. A short time became several weeks, and then several months. During that time, health experts discovered a lot about the nature of the disease, how it affected people, but more importantly how the spread could be slowed or stopped. Government officials working with advice from the medical world developed guidelines to modify

our behaviour. Eventually, some group activities such as musical rehearsals were allowed to resume in a modified form. For the band, it meant big changes, far beyond wearing masks, distancing, and using hand sanitizer.

Physical distancing, for example, could not be achieved in our normal rehearsal space. We have had to move into a much larger space on the main floor at the CLB Armoury. Just like everywhere else, we have to make sure that we are able to keep the same 2m of space (sometimes a little more) from those around us.

There isn't much ability to socialize. We have to go straight to our seats and limit your chats to those sitting next to you, not much chance to catch up with someone who might be sitting on the opposite side of the room. To be able to play, we can take off our masks once we are seated, but we have to place coverings on our instruments. So where do you find a mask to fit a Tuba? As luck would have it, we are discovering that members of our band have a number of hidden talents. One of our members did the research, developed the patterns, and made coverings for every single wind

instrument in the band! We even have to be careful with things like drumsticks and other percussion instruments, making sure that those are properly sanitized. Sheet music cannot be shared, and we are even using puppy training pads to absorb any condensation from our instruments.

We have adapted our schedule too. From our normal 4 hours per week, we are now only allowed to get together for 1 hour with just 30 minutes of actually playing music. But that's the best part of it all - we are able to get together and play music. No, it's not like before and there are no public performances on the schedule. But for those few minutes when we are playing, you can forget about everything else and simply enjoy the music.

Eventually, all of these limitations will be behind us. We will remember all of the additional steps we had to take during this time. But I'm sure we will also remember the good parts of this experience - when we all came together to make things work, to enjoy the music and escape from all of the negative news, if even for just a few moments 🇨🇦



A C.L.B. Member partaking in Archery at our 2021 Summer Camp Day



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THE PLACES WE
CALL HOME.**

Brian Malone, Environmental Coordinator, St. John's

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