



The Bugle

December, 2025

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**Summer Camp,
Challenge Camp
& More!**



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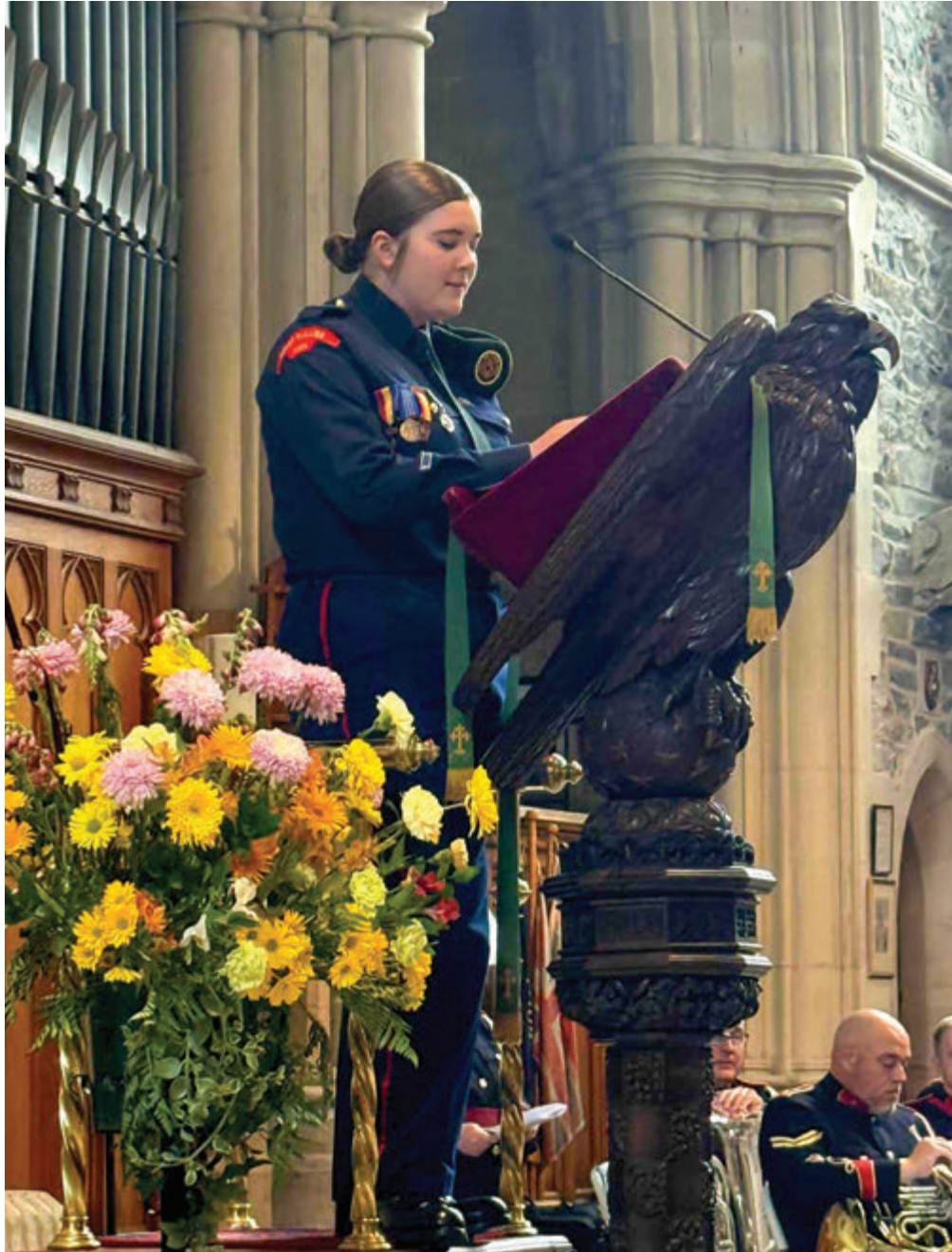
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*Special thanks to all C.L.B. members
and companies who submit stories and
photos to share their C.L.B. experience
with everyone.*



*Private Eva Oliver from Foxtrap/Upper Gullies Company speaking at the
133rd Anniversary Parade*

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Summer Fun at Springwood

A week of adventure, friendship and C.L.B. spirit

By: Karen Dawe, Captain
Summer Camp Adjutant

Year three under our belt. Another very successful camp at Springwood Discovery Camp. Not as much rain as previous years, but enough. Our camp was led by Lt. Vicki Reid, Camp Commandant; Lt. Kassandra Hibbs, 2IC; Captain Karen Dawe, Adjutant; and Col. The Rev'd Gail Dick, Camp Chaplain, along with nine officers from our two Battalions. We welcomed back Lt. Tim Noel, St. Michael's Company, to the fold and welcomed O.C. Owen Evelyn, Bay Roberts Company, and 2Lt. Nadine Greeley, Foxtrap/UG, to our Officers' Mess. All campers were housed in the two bunk houses, leaving the boat house at our disposal for crafts; however, we did move the SC Males to the boat house to give them more space. We still had room for our crafts. At the beginning of camp,

our strength was 28 campers and 16 officers, which included our two Sgts. The right size camp for this facility.

Our programs consisted of canoeing, archery, air rifles, string art, T-shirt painting, fishing, fly tying, and cardboard boats built with duct tape. Band, as well as Gate Romp, were reintroduced and it brought back memories from Mint Brook days. I think we will be having this again in future camps. Wearing uniforms to and from camp still needs work. The campers and officers availed of the kayaking, paddle boats and paddle boards. That was a major plus for our program. We had our cardboard boats that were constructed as part of our nightly program races during one of our swimming classes. One of our camp teams

even made it to the finish line before sinking.

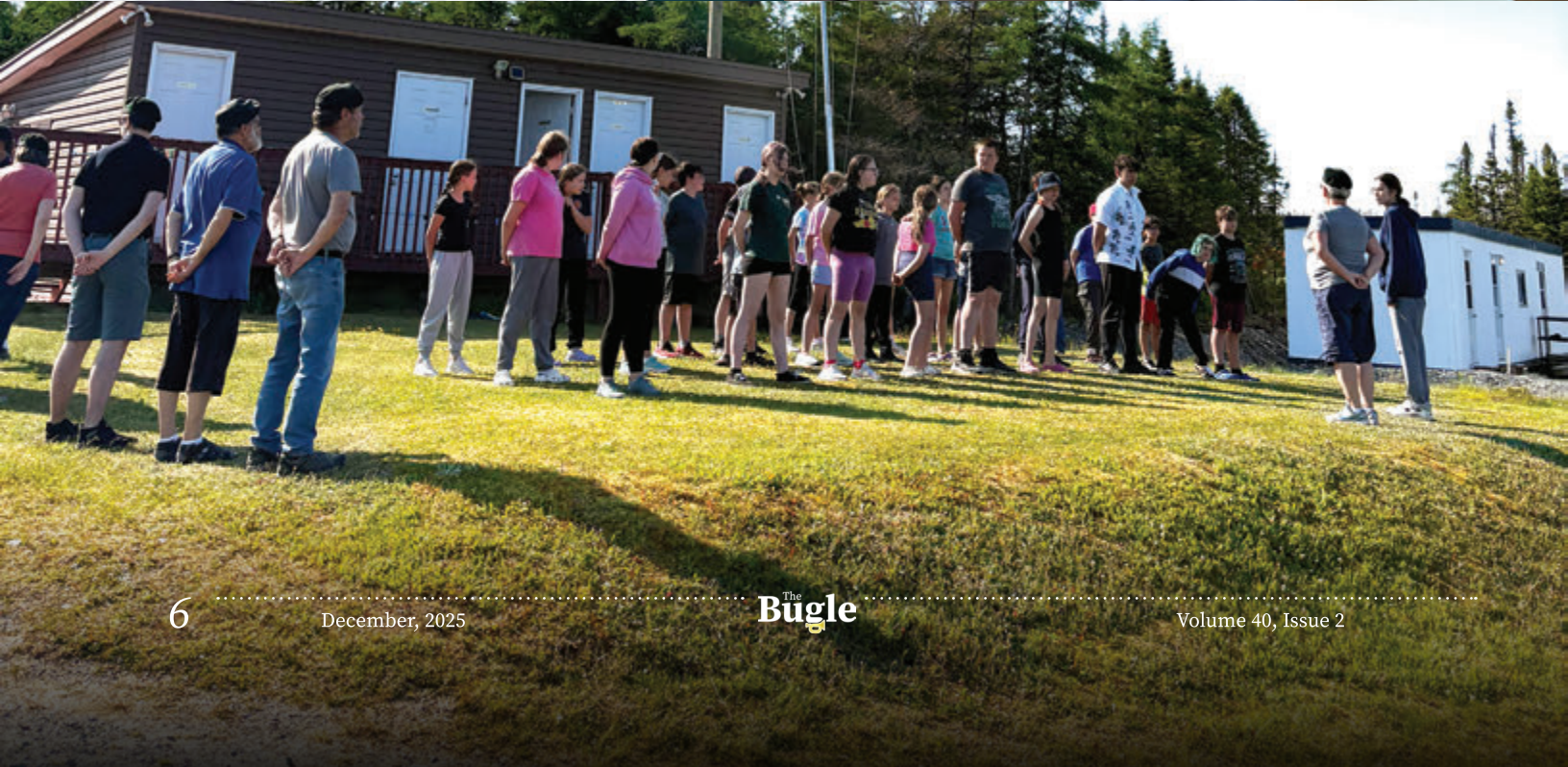
The obstacle course had to be run by the staff at the Discovery Camp and because it did not rain as much this time, the campers had the opportunity to use it every day. The officers were given the opportunity to avail of zip lining, the obstacle course and rock climbing while the campers cheered them on. Some were a little sore the next day.

Lots of bull's-eyes in archery and air rifles with lots of excitement when hitting that yellow spot on the target. One of our campers, Ethan Dawe, was so close to the centre with his bull's-eye. They enjoyed getting candy and having their name announced in orders at the end of the day.

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Continued: Summer Fun at Springwood

Because there was no fire ban, we were able to have our famous campfire, one of the easiest camp activities. Marshmallows at our first fire and spider wieners on the second fire. We also had bingo and Bull Hunt, another hit at camp.

WO1 Gillian Read joined us on several occasions, as did Col. Sheila Mercer, Governor and Commandant, as well as Rev'd Bill Strong, Chaplain for Upper Gullies Company. Thank you, guys.

We also had four Camper of the Day recipients: Pte. Isaac Barron, St. Michael's Company; Pte. Isabella Barry, Bay Roberts

Company; Cpl. Braxton Lockyer, UG/Foxtrap Company; and Pte. Madelyn Fagan, UG/Foxtrap Company.

Our meals were delicious. Not much left over after each meal, and if so, it was eaten the following day. Jennifer and her family are to be commended for all their work in order for our C.L.B. to attend camps. Her assistant, Jaxon, had help from his younger brother Jamison in passing out our soup crackers. It was priceless watching him picking up the crackers with the tongs and making sure everyone got two crackers whether they wanted them or not.

In order to have a successful camp you need dedication from the top down. Major Jamie Peddle, Camping Director, you aced it again this year. Of course, having a great Commanding Officer and officers who went over and beyond what was expected helps too. Each officer brought along their useful skills, making it a great camp. A special thanks to our two Sgts, Jenna Newell and Julia Young. You did an amazing job and kept everything running smoothly. Hope to see you both again in future camps.

Can't wait until we all meet for the 2026 summer camp, so until then, keep the flag flying 🇪🇺

A Big Response from a Little Pantry

How the C.L.B. helped fill the gap for a whole community

By: Captain Michael Cooper

Trinity East - Port Rexton Company

Trinity East – Port Rexton’s Little Free Pantry program was slowly expanding on the Bonavista Peninsula when, on June 3, Meg Hussey from the Bonavista Food Bank called me to say their Food Bank had to close. This Food Bank was flooded back in November and temporarily moved to College of the North Atlantic (we helped source new appliances after the flood) but, due to the end of the school year, had to move again. With damages to their old location a lot worse than expected, they had no place to go after checking out more than thirty possible locations with no success. The scramble was on. They had to be out by June 27.

This is where our Little Free Pantry program kicked in. Since we already had a Little Free Pantry in Bonavista, we started moving supplies from the Bonavista Food Bank to our storage areas here in Trinity Bight. Over the next couple of weeks, we moved about seventy percent of their supplies to our storage, with some items being sent to the Port Rexton Food Bank in areas they were low on. Then came June 16.

The Bonavista Food Bank was breaking down shelving to go to temporary storage at the United Church when Meg and I had the idea to contact Craig Pardy’s office to see if they were interested in having an in-house MEGA Pantry while the Food Bank was closed.

I spoke to Jane Bolger about this at around 1:19 p.m. that day. She said she would contact Craig and get back to us. At 2:09 p.m. she called me back... we had the go-ahead. That go-ahead put the wheels in motion. I was home in Port Rexton and got ready to head down right away. Meg and her husband went to the Food Bank, got three sets of warehouse racking and installed them in Craig’s office as I drove down. We met up at the Food Bank when I arrived. We loaded every hamper that was made (just over fifty of them) plus enough bulk items to fill the shelves. A truck and an SUV were packed solid. We filled the new MEGA Pantry. Meg made a temporary sign in record time and everything was done and ready by the time Jane got off at 4 p.m.

The rest of the Food Bank supplies were divided. I brought another SUV load up that day, and the remaining items were kept in Bonavista. They were taken to the Vista Family Resource Center Sharing Cupboard, our Little Free Pantry at the Wellness Centre, and some were delivered directly to those in need. Everything we took from the Bonavista Food Bank went back to Bonavista in time.

Since that day, Jane has been our transportation and stocking guru. She meets me at least once a week, sometimes as many as four times, to bring supplies down to put on the shelves. I am proud to say Jane and Craig have been awarded Honorary Membership in the C.L.B. for their continued help and support.

Thanks to support from the Food Sharing Association, Second Harvest, and the local community, in the past four months we have shipped twelve pallets of food to those in need in Bonavista and the surrounding area as we continue to Be The Good and Fight The Good Fight on the Bonavista Peninsula.

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Continued: A Big Response from a Little Pantry

"I have been unable to work the past few years due to disabilities, so money has been tight and every little bit helps. I reached out to Michael this past summer and he told me how the MEGA Pantry and Little Free Pantry work. At that time, he arranged a hamper for me which included a variety of items... soup, pasta, stews, milk, rice, mayo, peanut butter and more. I was so very grateful for the generosity and do not know what I would have done without

it. I was so thankful. It made me a little emotional, but in a good way. Since then, I would ask a friend to check the pantries for me every couple of weeks so I could continue receiving what I need. What people need to remember is to never be too proud to ask for help. The pantries are there to help those who need it." — Judy White

"Judy was one of the first names we received for an emergency hamper with the Little Free Pantry program in Bonavista. I

personally dropped this one off and met Judy. She was almost in tears when I brought it to her. On the way down to Bonavista, I had done a Second Harvest food rescue and on top was an all-meat pizza. I offered it to Judy as I dropped off her hamper and her expression was priceless, like she had just won the lottery. It shows that being the good in the local community really does make a huge difference in people's lives." — Captain Michael Cooper 🇺🇸





Busy Start to the Training Year

Halloween prep, harvesting, and fun activities

By: Craig Dyer, Captain

St. Michael's Company

It has been a busy start to this training year, with members participating in several events in the metro area.

As always, the Regimental Band is a permanent fixture at the Royal St. John's Regatta. This year, several officers and members volunteered at the C.L.B. booth, using the event to recruit new members and raise money to support our programs, while the Band played in the background.

On September 6, we joined MHA Bernard Davis at his Fami-

ly Fun Day at East Point Elementary. Hundreds of people attended as officers handed out C.L.B. recruiting flyers and hosted a Duck Pond where everyone won a prize.

On October 4, we had a great time participating in the Cathedral's Sowing Seeds-Growing Community event at the Community Gardens in the Goulds. Staff, parents, and members spent the day harvesting vegetables for several local shelters. It was dirty work, ankle-deep in mud, but we enjoyed working alongside many

other groups and Bishop Sam Rose.

On Monday, October 20, we spent the night stuffing 150 Halloween loot bags to support the Virginia Park Community Centre Truck or Treat fundraiser held on October 25. Many hands made light work.

It has been a busy start to the training year, and we look forward to continuing to participate in these types of activities in the months ahead.

Keep the flag flying 🇨🇦

Fight the Good Fight.

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Upper Island Cove Company Kicks Off a Strong Year

By: Nancy Lieff, Lieutenant
Upper Island Cove Company

The staff and youth members at #4547 Upper Island Cove (U.I.C.) Company (coy) are enjoying a strong start to the 2025-2026 C.L.B. training year. With 27 members at full strength after September's registration process, the company is focusing on strengthening C.L.B. programming and relationships within the community, while providing hands-on opportunities for youth to grow as compassionate leaders.

As the training year marches on, October has shaped into a bright and busy month for the company. First up was Challenge Camp on Thanksgiving Day weekend, with three enthusiastic

campers from the company in attendance. All reported having a great time.

Following Challenge Camp was the 133rd C.L.B. Anniversary Parade, a special day for any C.L.B. member and a milestone for many on their journeys in the organization. Our Trinity Conception Battalion (T.C.B.) Drum and Glockenspiel band performed as the Duty Band for the parade, stepping in quickly when a last-minute decision was made for the JTC and SC to march to the Cathedral due to time constraints. With the C.L.B. Regimental Band en route to the Cathedral by bus, the T.C.B. band led the parade without missing a beat.

Inside the beautiful Cathedral of St. John the Baptist, the C.L.B. Regimental Band filled the space with their magnificent sound, providing music for the service. The children of the C.L.B. were then invited to the chancel steps for an interactive lesson from the book of Ephesians on the full armour of God. Rev. Col. Gail Dick used pretend armour for all six pieces, with an enthusiastic volunteer role-playing the lesson. Play is the work of children, and all eyes were on Rev. Col. Dick and Bishop Sam as they brought this powerful lesson of spiritual protection to life.

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Continued: U.I.C. Kicks Off a Strong Year

During the awards portion of the service, four U.I.C. coy members were recognized for long service: Private Connor King (5 years), Corporal Jacob Clarke (10 years), Lieutenant Nancy Lieff (15 years), and Captain Don Sharpe (50 years). Our staff and members also congratulate other comrades on their awards, including Captain Karen Dawe receiving the Brigade Cross Award, Major Joe Skanes receiving the Exemplary Service Award, and her Honour, Lieutenant Governor General Joan Marie Aylward, receiving a medal as Patron of the C.L.B. in Newfoundland and Labrador. Proud brothers Oliver (YTC) and Julian (LTC) Lieff from U.I.C. presented her Honour with flowers and shared a few moments in conversation to close out another wonderful Anniversary Parade.

Back at home base, company programming and mission work are in full swing. Senior sections are meeting across the Battalion, while new recruits are orienting themselves to C.L.B. Pictured are our YTC and their “Shields of Faith.” One recruit, reflecting on the Armour of God, said, “There is no armour on your back but friends at C.L.B. will protect you because they have your back.” He had absorbed these words from Rev. Col. Dick’s teaching at the Anniversary Parade service. For all current and past C.L.B. members, the truth of this statement resonates. People joined by faith share a deep bond, and friends in the C.L.B. are lifelong—here is proof in the making.

Lastly, the children of the C.L.B. are actively participating in the “North Shore Wildfire Faith in Action Project,” a Parish of Upper Island Cove initiative

to sponsor a family who lost their home and belongings in the recent North Shore wild-fires. One of the first steps was a “toonie drive,” where children donate a toonie to help replace favourite items for the children in the family. C.L.B. members will soon have an opportunity to write personal cards to accompany their gifts. Other youth groups in the Parish will join the C.L.B. to support this initiative. Above all, the goal is to support the family and bring a smile to their children during a difficult time, while providing C.L.B. members with an opportunity to learn how to put faith into action. Through this work, they learn the meaning of “Fight the Good Fight” and what it means to be compassionate, community-minded leaders.

Until next time, keep the faith and the flag flying 🇳🇸



Making Friends at Camp

A first camp experience to remember

By: Isabella Barry, Private and Aislin Barry, Private
Bay Roberts Company

Back in September, my sister Aislin and I joined the C.L.B. At first, I didn't want to go because I was so nervous. Shortly after, both Aislin and I started to feel more comfortable with the uniform, the ranks, and things like marching—something we had never done before.

We began to enjoy being in formation and learned all sorts of new skills. We were taught to salute, safely fire an air rifle, work together on knots and crafts, and we learned the Brigade Prayer.

Soon, we heard the other kids talking about camp, and again we felt a bit scared. Aislin said

she wanted to go right from the start, but I thought she was just acting tough. I remember being quiet and nervous in the car on the way there. We worried we would not make any friends and were both close to tears when Mommy and Daddy drove away.

When we moved into our cabin, Aislin immediately asked the other girls if they would like to be friends. They all said yes, and by the first night we were laughing, joking, and ready for all the fun activities for the week.

Each day started with a formation to raise the flag, followed by a delicious breakfast. We went zip-lining, canoeing,

and learned archery. We enjoyed campfires, sang songs, and ate s'mores. We loved how much the officers and the Sergeant Major cared about us, and we had so much fun with our new friends Jayda, Katey, Jessica, Alexa, and many others.

We started camp feeling scared and nervous, just like our first days in the C.L.B. When we left camp, we were close to tears again, but for a different reason—we didn't want to leave the fun and our new friends. We will see them again soon, but we can't wait to go back to camp.

Fight the Good Fight 🇩🇪



Where Once They Stood

A Tour of a Lifetime

By: Benjamin Greeley, Sergeant
 Foxtrap - Upper Gullies Company

Every year, the C.L.B. chooses one member from one of the regiments to go on a life-changing trip to France and Belgium with the Legion on the Trail of the Caribou. On this pilgrimage, you get to see the places where the Royal Newfoundland Regiment fought, and the monuments dedicated to them.

My journey started not in France, but at the C.L.B. Armoury, where the journey of the Royal

Newfoundland Regiment began 111 years ago. I was given a tour of the museum and archives and provided context, fun facts, and stories about what happened and why I was going. When the day of departure rolled around, my group did a tour of the rooms for more context and some activities, like examining military records. Eventually it was our turn to fly out, and after a 30-minute delay, we were off to France.

Our first stop after getting settled was Monchy-le-Preux, where I got to lay a wreath. After Monchy we went to Cagnecourt, where our unknown soldier was originally buried. We explored the cemetery, did a quick ceremony, and returned to the hotel. We also toured the square of Arras and the Boves, tunnels under the square used since the Middle Ages to mine chalk.

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Continued: Where Once They Stood

The next day, we toured the Commonwealth War Graves Commission and learned how they make headstones and refurbish damaged ones. Later that day we visited Hawthorne Crater and the sunken line, where the Battle of the Somme began. Farmers still find artillery shells in their fields, and it is estimated that bomb squads could be busy for over 400 years. Shells are often left by cemeteries for bomb squads to pick up.

After Hawthorne Crater, we went to Beaumont-Hamel. We had a small ceremony for the 100th anniversary of the monument and wrote messages for a time capsule that will be opened in 100 years. On July 1, we had the actual ceremony, which had to be altered and cut short because of the heat. The ceremony was very moving, and hearing the Ode to Newfoundland being played at the monument really hit me differently. 'Where once they stood we stand' could not have been more true at that moment.

We still had three caribou left to see, two in France and one in Belgium. On July 2, we went to Guedecourt and Masnieres. The caribou in Masnieres reminded me of Bowring Park. After ceremonies at those caribou, we headed to Belgium. Our first stop was a cemetery along the road, which had a member of the Royal Newfoundland Regiment who was looking at their map as he died. That map was brought along with us.

After a day of sightseeing in Bruges, including a boat tour, we went to our hotel in Ypres. We were a 10-minute walk from the Menin Gate, where a ceremony has been held every evening at 8 p.m. since 1929, and where I would lay a wreath in four days. Before then, we visited the caribou in Kortijk, and Langemark, a German cemetery with 44,000 soldiers, 25,000 of whom are in a mass grave in the centre. The cemetery also had markers showing the front line of April 22, 1915, the first use of chemical

weapons. It was a very emotional place. The Menin Gate ceremony was short and meaningful. We also visited the place where Tommy Ricketts earned his Victoria Cross.

After Belgium, we returned to France to see Vimy Ridge and Paris. Vimy was astounding. We had a quick ceremony, took lots of pictures, and then visited Paris. Despite the rain, our visit was wonderful after days of hot weather. We saw the Arc de Triomphe and the Eiffel Tower and went on a bus tour of the city.

Overall, the experience was unforgettable and will stay with me for the rest of my life. Seeing how many young men, some younger than me, answered their country's call and died was humbling. I would like to thank the C.L.B. for this life-changing opportunity, and if anyone else is lucky enough to go, make sure you take lots of notes and plenty of pictures 🇳🇱



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Marching On Through 133 Years

A wet day does little to dampen pride and dedication

By: Sheila Mercer, Colonel
Governor and Commandant

Each year, on the third Sunday in October, The C.L.B. parades from the C.L.B. Armoury on Harvey Road to the Anglican Cathedral of St. John the Baptist for a service to celebrate its anniversary.

Sunday, October 19, 2025, was a wet day weather-wise, but that didn't dampen the spirits of our members as we fell in at the Armoury and formed up to parade. Due to the weather, some members were bussed to the Cathedral. Others, when the skies cleared for a moment, were able to march—something they look forward to each year.

This year, we were delighted to have our Patron, Her Honour Lt. Governor Joan Marie Aylward, and His Honour Karl Thompson join us for the service. Although the weather didn't cooperate for us to march back to the Armoury

and allow Her Honour to preside over a march-past, Their Honours joined us back at the Armoury to bring greetings to members prior to dismissal.

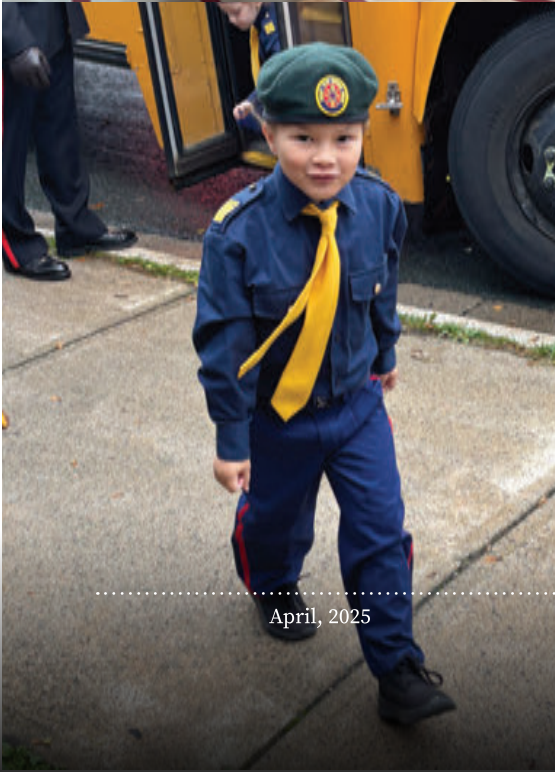
Thank you and congratulations to all members who participated in the anniversary parade and service, whether by reading, taking up the collection—donated this year to the NL Wildfire Relief Fund—or serving as colour party for the Regiment, Battalions, Companies, or Old Comrade Lodges. No anniversary parade or service would be complete without the bands. Trinity-Conception Battalion Glock and Drum Band served as duty band at the Armoury, and The C.L.B. Regimental Band provided music for the service and the Royal Salute for the Lieutenant Governor.

As has been tradition for many of our 133 years, special

presentations were made during our anniversary celebration. Several members received bronze, silver, or gold service awards, totalling 440 years. Three Senior Corps members received the prestigious Bishop's Badge: Sgt. Ben Greeley, Foxtrap Company; Sgt. Lily Tobin; and Cpl. Braxton Lockyear, Upper Gullies Company.

Two other special awards were announced and will be presented at Government House on December 3, 2025. Capt. Karen Dawe is to receive the Brigade Cross, while Major Joe Skanes will receive the Exemplary Service Medal. The 2025 recipient of the Old Comrades Lodge No. 1 Scholarship is Sgt. Ben Greeley.

Congratulations to all members who continue to keep the flag flying 🇳🇱





New Perspective, Familiar Camp

Returning as an officer brings new insight

By: Owen Evelyn, Officer Candidate

Bay Roberts Company

This year I had the privilege of attending the C.L.B.'s summer camp, held at Springwood Discovery Camp on Salmonier Line. Both the Senior Corps and Junior Training Corps were present, along with a roster of officers.

In my formative years, I was a member of the C.L.B. company in Bay Roberts and even attended camp back in 2016. Returning as an officer has given me a completely different perspective on the preparation and execution of large events like this, and on how dedicated all the leaders in the organization are to providing youth members with an enjoyable and memorable experience.

I was the newest officer at camp this year, having rejoined

the C.L.B. in March. After finishing my post-secondary education, I wanted to give my time to something meaningful. Wanting to give back to the organization that gave me so many good memories as a child, I rejoined, and when the opportunity to attend camp came, I could not turn it down.

During camp, 2/Lt. Lockyer, Lt. Noel, and I were tasked with leading canoe lessons for the youth members, instructing them on rowing techniques and supervising them on the water. Other activities included air rifles, archery, band, and the ever-popular obstacle course and zipline.

Participation from the youth members was remarkable, and they were fully engaged in every

activity. Another highlight was the cardboard boat building and the subsequent race a few days later. Youth members were challenged to construct boats using only cardboard, duct tape, and a lot of imagination. During the boat-building, I grazed myself with a box cutter, but thankfully Lt. Hibbs was on hand to provide first aid.

By the end of camp, the youth had given me a few unique nicknames, including one that was "Late For Dinner." How I earned this name remains a mystery, but I found them all amusing and in good fun.

By the conclusion of camp, I felt like I had made a few new friends and I fully intend to return next year 🇧🇪



Members of all ranks prepare for the 133rd Anniversary Parade at the Armoury

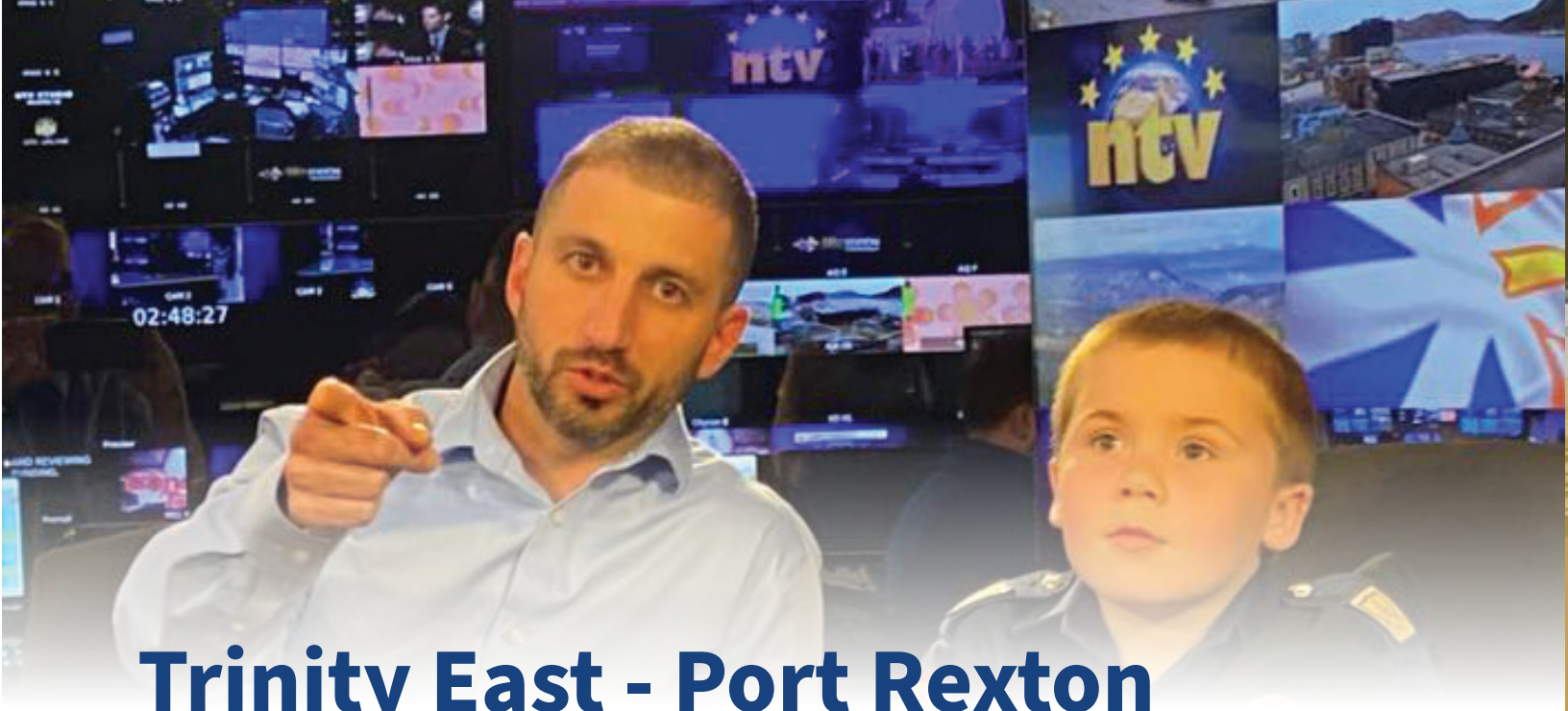


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Trinity East - Port Rexton Inspires and Serves

From gardens to pantries, T.E.P.R. leads the way!

By: Michael Cooper, Captain
Trinity East - Port Rexton Company

2025 started off with a bang for Trinity East - Port Rexton (TEPR). Private Brody Freeman's life-saving story was named one of the top inspiring stories for 2024. This year, TEPR focused on three major programs:

Community Garden

The garden improved greatly from last year. It now has 12 raised beds, a greenhouse, and a teaching bed for younger youth, with supplies ready to build a fence to keep moose and rabbits out. This year's harvest was impressive, from a carrot measuring 14 ½ inches to a sunflower as tall as me. Everything grown was donated to those in need through local Food Banks or the Little

Free Pantry project. Most items were packaged with Soup Pouches from Food Banks Canada to make over 100 Soup Kits. Plans are already underway to expand the garden next year.

Little Free Pantry

This program has grown rapidly, especially with the closure of the Bonavista Food Bank. On May 6, a new LFP was installed in Goose Cove; May 26, another at the Wellness Center in Bonavista; June 17, the Mega Pantry opened; June 26, a new LFP in Trinity, with another soon to open in Bonavista. Since schools closed in June, over 12 pallets of food have been moved, with more supplies on the way. The program will soon expand to

Gander and Indian Bays thanks to support from clergy in the Central Diocese.

Generations United

In partnership with other youth organizations and 50+ Clubs on the Bonavista Peninsula, and with Saltwater Community Association as administrator, this program brought youth and seniors together to teach each other new skills. Seniors taught cooking, baking, sewing, knitting, and storytelling, while youth taught technology, cell phones, and social media. The youth/senior TikTok class was a highlight,

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Continued: Trinity East - Port Rexton Inspires and Serves

with everyone creating videos together. All extras from cooking and baking sessions were donated to local Food Banks.

Beyond these three major programs, TEPR also organized events such as bowling, sliding, skating, a build-your-own pizza night, a “Sounds of Holy Week” church service, a messy starter plant night, baking muffins for the school breakfast program,

The Great Bull Hunt during Port Rexton Days, and a free community pancake supper during Port Rexton Pride.

Two youth deserve special mention. On May 13, Private Brody Freeman was honoured at the House of Assembly and received a standing ovation, and that same day toured NTV studios. From August 21 to 24, Private Joanasie Peter attended

CLAY in Saskatoon with other youth from the Diocese and represented TEPR admirably, even winning the pizza prize at one point.

Trinity East – Port Rexton C.L.B.: 113 years strong on the Bonavista Peninsula and continuing to Be The Good as we Fight The Good Fight 🇪🇺



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Challenge Camp Brings Fun and Friendship

Canoeing, teamwork, and new memories

By: Solange Cable, 2nd Lieutenant
Foxtrap - Upper Gullies Company

All youth and officers of the Foxtrap/Upper Gullies Company would like to welcome back all members and hope you all had a wonderful summer break. Just two short months into the training year, we have already filled up our training schedule with some wonderful activities.

The first activity of the year was a canoeing trip for the seniors. The seniors all packed up and headed to the pond for a one-day canoeing trip, and they all had a blast.

“In the Foxtrap/Upper Gullies C.L.B. Company, we do a lot of fun and interesting things, but

one of my favourite activities was our day-long canoeing trip.

We started the day by meeting at 8:30 in the morning at the parish hall, where we all drove together to the starting point. Once we arrived, we hopped into our canoes and began our adventure. Over the course of the day, we canoed through a total of five ponds.

The first pond was the biggest and also the windiest. Even though we knew it would be a challenge, we pushed forward. As we paddled, we faced quite a few struggles, especially with the wind constantly pushing our canoes off course. After about an

hour and a half of rowing (and a bit of arguing), we finally made it to the end of the pond.

Next, we portaged our canoes over to the second pond. Before getting back on the water, we took a much-needed snack and water break. After our short rest, we set off again. The rest of the ponds were much easier to paddle through, and along the way, we discovered a fun marshy area where we stopped to jump around and explore. That was definitely my favourite part of the day!

CONTINUED ON PAGE 27

Continued: Challenge Camp Brings Fun and Friendship

After making our way through all five ponds, we reached our final destination. There, we cooked lunch, roasted marshmallows, and enjoyed some well-deserved relaxation. When we finished eating and put out our fire, we began our journey back.

On the way home, one of the canoes developed a large leak, and the back seat broke off. For the last and largest pond, we had to tow the damaged canoe behind another one. Captain Young and I could only paddle on one side of the canoe, which made it really tough, but we kept going and eventually made it back.

When we returned to our starting point, everyone was tired but proud of what we had accomplished. On the drive home, we even stopped for ice cream—although one of them did fall on the ground! Despite the challenges, it was such an amazing day overall. I'll never forget that canoeing trip!" —Pte. Eva Oliver

Our first full company event was our now annual Truth and Reconciliation walk and campfire, an activity that quickly became a company favourite. It gives us the opportunity to break the ice after the summer break, meet our new members, and learn about an important part of our history.

"Every year, on the Monday before September 30, we go on a walk for Orange Shirt Day with our company. We all wear our orange shirts to show support and respect for the survivors of residential schools. We meet up on a trail and hike, watching the sunset as we go. When we reach our destination, we have a campfire where we roast marshmallows and hot dogs. As we sit around the campfire, we sing songs and talk about what Orange Shirt Day means. Orange Shirt Day is a time to remember the children who were taken away to residential schools. These schools were meant to make Indigenous children forget their language and culture. Many of them were treated very poorly. Some of the schools were close to their homes, but others were miles away, and the kids only got to see their families during the summer. This walk is a meaningful way for us to honour their experiences and to reflect on the importance of remembering the past so we can help create a better future." —Pte. Alexa Hayward

In October, the Battalion holds a Challenge Camp every year, and this year was no exception. Youth from all companies came together for one challenging weekend of pushing themselves to achieve new goals or

try something outside of their comfort zones.

"One of my favourite things to do in C.L.B. is go to camps. I especially love Challenge Camp, which truly lives up to its name! It's a great way to make new friends from different companies or to catch up with friends you mostly only see at other camps or parades throughout the year. I always look forward to the excitement, the teamwork, and the memories that are made during this special weekend. We were divided into two groups by choice: a novice group and an advanced group.

On Friday night when we all arrived, we got to pick which group we wanted to join and were given a clear explanation of what each group would be doing. Saturday morning came bright and early. Most of the seniors chose the advanced group. The novice group went on a day hike around Peak Pond, enjoying the fresh air and scenic views, while the advanced group hopped into canoes and set off on a full-day adventure. The plan was to portage through four different ponds, starting at Peak Pond, but the weather had other ideas.

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Continued: Challenge Camp Brings Fun and Friendship

It was extremely windy, making paddling more difficult than expected. We managed to make it through only two ponds before the classic canoe warning came true: 'Don't tip the canoe!' Unfortunately, one canoe flipped near the end of the second pond. Everyone laughed and joked about it for the rest of the day, and it quickly became a story we all knew we would remember forever.

With the wind still raging, we had to turn back. On the way home, we looked for a place to set up camp, but the ground was too wet, so we all returned to base camp. Since the advanced group was supposed to stay in tents in the woods, the officers didn't want to take that experience away from us. They gave us a choice: stay in our warm, dry huts or sleep in a tent not far from camp. All the girls chose

the huts, valuing warmth and comfort, while the guys from the advanced group braved the tents for the night. Luckily, our supper hadn't been ruined during the canoe trip, so after returning, we enjoyed homemade fries and hamburgers. While half of the advanced group went to set up their campsite, the rest of us relaxed. It was a fun way to end a long, adventurous day.

On Sunday, we were grateful we had returned Saturday evening, as the wind was still strong and getting back to camp would have been much harder. We began to break camp, but first, Jenifer prepared an amazing turkey dinner with the help of Capt. Sharpe, who made the gravy. Sitting together, enjoying the meal, and reflecting on the weekend, I realized how much this Challenge Camp had brought everyone closer. This Challenge

Camp was definitely one of the best. It was full of laughter, teamwork, new memories, and new friends and, as always, a true challenge. I left the camp feeling proud of what we accomplished and excited to return next year for another unforgettable experience." —Sgt. Lily Tobin

This summer, one of our youth, Sgt. Benjamin Greeley, attended the remembrance services and ceremonies in France for the battles of WW1. You can read about his experience in his article on **page 16**.

Foxtrap - Upper Gullies Company had a busy start to the training year. We have completed many activities so far and have many more planned for the remainder of the year. All members have had fun and have been learning a lot along the way.

Keep the flag flying 🇺🇸





A Journey of Remembrance

A powerful lesson in courage and loss

By: Jack, Chris and Sophia Lane

Bay Roberts Company

As a little boy in the C.L.B., I spent a whole afternoon handing out poppies during the poppy fundraiser. I had seen plenty of these poppies before, but I could never fully understand why poems were written or why poppies were used as a symbol for the young men who died for our freedom.

After landing in Paris and spending a night in a town called Lille, we drove through the countryside to Beaumont Hamel. This was the first time in my life I saw poppies growing in the wild, just as the soldiers would have seen them over a hundred years ago. These fields of poppies, sprinkled along the countryside and among small towns, were truly a remarkable sight. For the first time, I finally understood why poppies are a symbol of remem-

brance. I will never forget those poppies.

Along the way, we occasionally passed huge cemeteries where men who had died fighting now rest peacefully among these fields of poppies. The imagery on the drive to Beaumont Hamel was incredibly moving.

Upon arrival, the site was peaceful. We were the only visitors, and the only sound was a distant bird chirping. Beaumont Hamel is a fairly small area in the middle of the countryside, but during the First World War it was a small objective in a much larger battle. To understand a battle of that time, it is important to understand how an allied trench system worked. Trenches were not a simple line before no-man's-land; they were a complex system of support lines, communication lines, and front-line trenches.

Soldiers would spend four brutal days on the front line and then four days in the support and communication lines.

This rotation explains, in part, why so many Newfoundlanders died during this battle. On the morning of July 1, 1916, the Newfoundland Regiment was bogged down in the muddy trenches. Amid the commotion of other men in the trenches, they were ordered to leave the support trenches and move into the open to reach the front lines faster. This move proved devastating. Out in the open, the boys of the Newfoundland Regiment were gunned down. Barely anyone reached the front lines, where they were then ordered to assault the enemy lines despite already taking heavy casualties.

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Continued: A Journey of Remembrance

The result was an over 90 percent casualty rate.

Knowing all of this, walking into the park gave me a solemn feeling. It was cloudy, and morning dew still covered the grass. The peace in a place where so much conflict had occurred was hard to wrap my head around. The trenches are still quite visible, and as we walked by them, the beautiful monument to the Newfoundland Regiment came into view. Unfortunately, because maintenance was being done, we could not walk to the top of the monument, but it was still impressive.

After taking pictures in front of the monument, we continued past the front lines and saw the Danger Tree up close, which was a powerful sight. We then walked into one of the two cemeteries there. Words cannot describe the feeling of seeing a nameless grave. Nothing prepares you for rows upon rows of nameless graves.

We then visited the monument for the Scottish Highlanders who successfully took the trench after the Newfoundland Regiment, followed by another equally sized cemetery. On the way back to the Newfoundland

monument, we noticed that most of no-man's-land had been turned into a sheep pasture. Sheep are used to keep the grass short instead of mowers, which could disturb the site.

On the drive back to the car, it is hard to put into words the feelings that washed over me after seeing such a powerful and moving site. I will truly never forget the men who died there, and I will never forget my visit to Beaumont Hamel 🇨🇦



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