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Vol. 42 No. 38 OCTOBER 18, 2021 NO CHARGE www.auroranewspaper.com

Flipping to the B side of life

Former military lineman sets out in the world of music

Sara White,
Managing editor

Mark Pelton has “hung up his spurs,” but he plans to spend the next number of years “dropping the needle.”

Pelton retired as a lineman in May from the Royal Canadian Corps of Signals, wrapping up his final posting as a master corporal at 14 Wing Greenwood after 19-and-a-half years of service. He spent the summer preparing to make a dream a reality and, in October, opened the doors to his backyard record shop in Aylesford, Golden VinylSpin.

“My brother asked, ‘What if it flops?’ I don’t know. If no one shows up, I open up a whole lot of records and we listen and have a good time.

“It’s scary. I sat on this for three months – the shop all done and ready, and hadn’t opened the doors. I was nervous. It’s hard to let go of the military, but I’m realizing now I’m not in the military anymore. It’s time to move on.”

Pelton didn’t immediately find the military as a young man. He grew up in nearby Waterville and went to Central Kings. He tried his hand at clarinet in band – “I wasn’t very

good.” Then he tried guitar – “not very good at that.

“I was the editor for the school yearbook’s sports pages, and they had a darkroom – I asked if I could have access, and I wasted so much paper trying to figure it all out by myself. There was a group, a community health board, and it was looking for a representative from school. I had no idea what we discussed, but I had a big binder and they wanted my input. I joined the local search and rescue association when I was 16. You were supposed to be 18 – I don’t think they knew.

“I always wanted to be something, but I never knew what.”

Out of high school, Pelton worked on a Waterville farm, a Berwick gas station, the now-closed Larsen’s meat processing plant in Berwick, then at Michelin Tire as a contractor.

“My wife asked me, had I ever thought of the military? Here we were in the valley, with Aldershot and Greenwood, and I’d never really seen military people around. Her dad was in the navy and she’d seen it – I don’t know what she was thinking, but I was 21, she

Continued on page 2...



Mark Pelton left the military in May after a 19-plus year career, and is now embarking on his next phase in life: Youtube content creator and backyard record store proprietor. “It’s called life, and I live it to the fullest. You can wear one hat all your life, but why? It’s going to get old.” S. White

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Flipping to the B side...

...cover

was pregnant and we were struggling.”

September 12, 2001, Pelton's father-in-law drove him into Halifax. He'd never been to the city before, and he remembers the noon cannon on Citadel Hill firing as he stood outside the recruiting office.

“I signed up – no idea what trade I should do, but thinking armoured soldier, infantry soldier or artillery. I was told I was horrible at math, but good at the patterns and the interview. They said, ‘What do you think about lineman?’ I had 24 hours to decide, and my father-in-law said, ‘call them right back.’

“That was the best decision I ever made.”

Basic training was in Gagetown, followed by lineman training at the Canadian Forces School of Communications & Electronics in Kingston, Ontario.

“I loved to climb towers, splice wires or be down in a manhole; we were always on the road, always part of the set up – the first ones in.”

His first posting was in Edmonton, but he could be away from home for four to six weeks on installations and repairs anywhere from the Queen Charlotte Islands



to Thunder Bay.

“I was a private and it was hard financially – I was making less money in the military than I had before, we had our young daughter and I was away a lot. Eventually, the pay increased, I made journeyman and we ended up in Shearwater.”

After six years at Shearwater, he returned to Kingston. While he'd been on the road for years, he wanted to deploy.

“I was starting to feel like I wasn't a soldier, I didn't have any service medals and I wanted to go outside Canada.”

He was added to the Canadian Armed Force's DART (Disaster Assistance Response Team) and, all of a sudden, in 2015, “the earthquake in Nepal happened.

“It was amazing, shocking – it changed my perspective of what I thought life truly was. The country was in disarray. We were there 28 days. I saw a little boy and his sister, close to my daughter's age. They had a basket on her back and they were loading bricks into it. They were rebuilding their house; they'd lost their parents. Who else would do that for them?”

“I came home a changed person after that – my wife will tell you that.”

Two months later, he was in the Ukraine, which looked very much like Canada – until thousands of Ukrainian soldiers in makeshift uniforms came down a lane from the front line: “I thought the Russians were coming!”

“And I got lost downtown another day: I'd started think-

ing about Nepal and saw a little café. When I came out, my boys were gone. I wandered around for two hours before we met up.”

Right after the Ukraine deployment, Pelton went to Iraq, Amman, Bahrain – all just a couple month long deployments, but there were five in three years.

Back in Canada, Pelton posted from Kingston to Gagetown.

“I was tired.”

He reached out, “bound and determined to get better, and training hard with psychologists and specialists. They had great staff. I got wind I was coming ‘home,’ to Greenwood, and I knew I wanted it, so I told myself to ‘suck it up.’ I thought I was better, I fooled myself and I went too fast.”

Pelton and his family arrived in Greenwood but, he says now, “it didn't really matter where I was. You should never rush treatment to advance your career. You've got to put mental health first.”

The first of the COVID-19 restrictions in 2020 compounded Pelton's health situation. Working from home, he was out of uniform and a daily routine for almost a year, not leaving his home for very many reasons. He realized he

had to get out of the line trade, and posted to the 14 Wing Transition Centre in August, releasing May 17, 2021.

“I don't regret any of it. I wish some things I hadn't seen, but it made me who I am.”

Looking around, Pelton turned to a pastime picked up in Shearwater, when a buddy asked to store some records during some renovations. Pelton had never had a collection, so he started listening.

“I didn't know these bands, so I went to Value Village and bought a record player that didn't work. My friend came and took his records, but I'd figured it out. I fell in love with it, I had a great system built and started buying records and kit.”

Like his darkroom trial-and-error learning in high school, Pelton made mistakes, asked questions and looked for answers wherever he could.

“There was nothing about this stuff, so I started a YouTube channel. It was 2005. How to build things, a show and tell, what's new in the bin, how to build a turntable from cheap to expensive... I used it to connect with the world of the vinyl community – there are 1,000s and 1,000s of people out there.”

The Youtube channel often included his teenage daughter: they'd put up their own choice in a “dad versus kid” round table and talk about what they were listening to, and why. Now, he finds himself pitching in on her film school projects when an actor is needed.

He looked at an old carriage house in his yard and thought, “this is a store.

“I had to find something else, and this helped. It helped my mental state, it was therapeutic, my family members and the veteran community helped me. I spent many hours out here. The whole goal was, how would I support my family with my military career over?”

Pelton renovated, built display cases, made his daughter's artwork his logo, contacted his Youtube connections to source new and vintage records, concert sets, music biographies, essential record player parts. He opened.

“This is my future, I've invested in this and I'm opening. There's so much more to me. This is a record store. People will know I'm here.” →

YouTube Golden VinylSpin Café
Facebook GVS Records

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September 15, Aviator (Trained) Aliena Lazarowich, centre, was promoted by 405 (Long Range Patrol) Squadron Major A. Smith, left, with Master Warrant Officer G. Norris. Master Corporal M. Bazinet

September 15, Corporal Logan Forsythe, centre, was promoted by 405 (Long Range Patrol) Squadron Major A. Smith, left, with Master Warrant Officer G. Norris. Master Corporal M. Bazinet



September 18, Corporal Eric Fraser, 405 (Long Range Patrol) Squadron, centre; was promoted to current rank by 14 Wing Commander Colonel Tom Goldie, left, with Master Warrant Officer G. Norris. Sergeant M. Carreira



September 18, Corporal Tyler Hanson, 405 (Long Range Patrol) Squadron, centre; was promoted to current rank by 14 Wing Commander Colonel Tom Goldie, left, with Wing Chief Warrant Officer Jonathan Proulx. Sergeant M. Carreira



September 18, Corporal Kasha Fraser, 405 (Long Range Patrol) Squadron, centre; was promoted to current rank by 14 Wing Commander Colonel Tom Goldie, left, with Master Warrant Officer G. Norris. Sergeant M. Carreira



September 18, Corporal Andrew Hu, 405 (Long Range Patrol) Squadron, centre; was promoted to current rank by 14 Wing Commander Colonel Tom Goldie, left, with Wing Chief Warrant Officer Jonathan Proulx. Sergeant M. Carreira



September 21, Master Corporal Jonathan Provost, centre, was presented with the Canadian Decoration by Lieutenant-Colonel Aleem Sajjan, left, with Chief Warrant Officer David McDowell at the Annapolis Mess. Sailor 1st Class J. Morris, 14 Wing Imaging



Officer Cadet Kristen Russell, personnel selection officer, centre; was recently promoted to lieutenant by Deputy Wing Commander Lieutenant-Colonel Eric Travis, left, with Chief Warrant Officer John Martin.



September 18, Corporal Erin Dove, 405 (Long Range Patrol) Squadron, centre; was promoted to current rank by 14 Wing Commander Colonel Tom Goldie, left, with Wing Chief Warrant Officer Jonathan Proulx. Sergeant M. Carreira



September 18, members of 405 (Long Range Patrol) Squadron were presented a Wing Commander's Commendation by 14 Wing Greenwood Commander Colonel Tom Goldie, left, with Wing Chief Warrant Officer Jonathan Proulx. The commendation recognizes the prototype installation team for the new T56 series 3.5 engine upgrade for the Aurora Aircraft, which put in 2,000 person hours, communicated with numerous support agencies and kept Block IV production on schedule. Recipients included, from second left, Master Corporal Paul Kachur, Corporal Scott Lyons, Corporal Brandon Godfrey, Corporal Dustin MacNeil and Sergeant Jason Hume. Sergeant M. Carreira

The Aurora News

CFB Greenwood Aurora News

Useful links | Liens utiles

Royal Canadian Air Force website
Site Web de l'Aviation royale canadienne
www.rcfc-arc.forces.gc.ca

CAF Connection Site
Site du portail communautaire des Forces canadiennes
www.cafconnection.ca

14 Wing Greenwood Site
Site de la 14e Escadre Greenwood
www.airforce.forces.gc.ca/en/14-wing/index.page

National Defence and the Canadian Forces
Défense nationale et Forces canadiennes
www.forces.gc.ca

Combat Camera | Caméra de combat
www.combatcamera.forces.gc.ca

Recruiting | Recrutement
www.forces.ca

Military Family Resource Centre
Centre des ressources pour les familles des militaires
www.cafconnection.ca

VPI | VPI
www.vpiinternational.ca

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Circulation | Circulation: **4,500 Mondays** | Lunds Agreement No. | Numéro de contrat : **462268**
Fax: 902-765-1717

Website | Site Web : **www.auroranewspaper.com**

The Aurora, PO Box 99, Greenwood NS B0P 1N0
L'Aurora, C.P. 99, Greenwood (N.-É.) B0P 1N0

Location | Emplacement : **61 School Road, Morfee Annex**
61 School Road, Annexe Morfee

Mail subscriptions: annual \$107 plus tax, weekly \$2.28 plus tax.
Abonnements par correspondance: 107\$ par année plus taxes , 2,28\$ par semaine plus taxes.

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14 Wing Health Promotion Tips, program highlights and resources | 14 Wing Fitness Online work-outs, resources and tips | 14 Wing Community Recreation Online activities, resources and fun | Annapolis Mess Special events and entertainment | 14 Wing Greenwood Winter Carnival/ 14e Escadre Carnaval d'hiver Annual winter Defence Team fun and challenge events | 14 Wing Greenwood PSP A wider resource for PSP entities (recreation, fitness, health promotion, news and events) | Greenwood Military Family Resource Centre Resources, activities and program highlights | 14 Wing Greenwood Bowling Centre updates | 14 Wing Aquatics Pool recreation, competitive, training, news | 14 Wing Library Online story time, resources for learning and fun | Greenwood Military Police – Police militaire de Greenwood Safety, security and public information from 24 Military Police Flight | 14 Wing Combined Charities Wing activities in support of our community | 14 Wing Spiritual Resilience Page Hosted by the 14 Wing Chaplains, with spiritual support and resources | GMAM.ca Follow news and events at the Greenwood Military Aviation Museum | 14 Wing Welcome Schedule of events details | Lake Pleasant Campground 14 Wing's family campground

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August 20, Captain Andrew Powell, centre, was awarded his commissioning scroll by 405 (Long Range Patrol) Squadron Commanding Officer Lieutenant-Colonel Tom Goldie, left, with Master Warrant Officer Colin Hilchey. Aviator E. Fraser



Master Corporal Delaney Drover, centre, has been a vehicle technician with 36 Service Battalion Detachment Aldershot. She was recently accepted by ROTP and transferred August 21 to the Regular Force to train as a nursing officer. Sergeant Jonathan Veinot, left, and Major Michael Wood presented her with a departure gift: a stethoscope engraved with her name.



August 26, Aviator (untrained) Jason Core, centre, Air Traffic Control, 14 Operations Support Squadron; was promoted to aviator (trained) by Lieutenant-Colonel Serge Parisien, left, with Chief Warrant Officer Craig MacLellan.



August 26, Master Corporal Daniel Barristo, centre, Air Traffic Control, 14 Operations Support Squadron; was promoted to sergeant by Lieutenant-Colonel Serge Parisien, left, with Chief Warrant Officer Craig MacLellan.



July 14, Corporal Stephen Dunn, centre, was promoted to master corporal by 413 (Transport and Rescue) Squadron Commanding Officer Lieutenant-Colonel Brent Vaino, left, with Chief Warrant Officer Kevin Robarts.



Aviator John Dunphy, centre, was promoted October 29, 2020 to the rank of corporal by 413 (Transport and Rescue) Squadron Major Michel Gosselin, left, with Master Warrant Officer Billy Ryan.



July 14, Corporal Ben Sheppard, centre, was promoted to master corporal by 413 (Transport and Rescue) Squadron Commanding Officer Lieutenant-Colonel Brent Vaino, left, with Chief Warrant Officer Kevin Robarts.



July 14, a commander's coin and certificate were presented to Corporal Tyler Happeney, centre, as 413 (Transport and Rescue) Squadron's "Maintainer of the Month," presented by Commanding Officer Lieutenant-Colonel Brent Vaino, left, with Major Michel Gosselin.



Aviator (untrained) Tyrrell Keicks, centre, of Telecom Flight, 14 Operations Support Squadron; was promoted August 26 to aviator (trained) by Lieutenant-Colonel Serge Parisien, left, with Chief Warrant Officer Craig MacLellan.



Corporal Chris Doiron, centre, of Telecom Flight, 14 Operations Support Squadron; was awarded the Canadian Decoration First Clasp for 22 years of service August 26 by Lieutenant-Colonel Serge Parisien, left, with Chief Warrant Officer Craig MacLellan.



A team effort in and around 9 Wing Gander brought the Yellow Ribbon Campaign to town September 29. Submitted



Representing the work team are the Gander Military Family Resource Centre's Peggy Blake, left; Lieutenant Alex Hanrahan, Major Paul Morillo, Gander Mayor Percy Farwell, Corporal Nelson Granter, Warrant Officer Gerald Sheppard, Corporal Jonathan Patey, Corporal Ian Boucher, Squadron Master Warrant Officer Ed Hebb, Warrant Officer Lloyd Burke and MFRC veterans family program coordinator Janis Crocker. Submitted

Yellow ribbon road brightens up Gander

Honorary Colonel Dan Hennessey, 14 Construction Engineering Flight

The Yellow Ribbon Campaign touched down in Gander September 29, as the Gander Military Family Resource Centre led the charge to mark the military's presence in the community. The ribbons show support for military members, both

here at home and around the world, along with support and gratitude to military families. The Gander MFRC designed a weatherproof ribbon and, with the assistance of 91 Construction Engineering Flight members, 9 Wing, Wing Chief Barney and Gander Mayor Percy Farwell, Airport Boulevard was soon a sea of yellow ribbons. The event started at the cenotaph, with remarks from Farwell,

who praised the military for its members' selfless dedication to the people of Gander. He was very happy to take part in this event. Both Farwell and 14 Construction Engineering Squadron Major Paul Morillo expressed their desire to see it become an annual initiative. Due to COVID-19 restrictions, the command team from 14 CES, based in Bridgewater, Nova Scotia, had not been to visit its members for more than two years. This yellow ribbon event was just the right one to bring everyone together. ➔

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The family of the late Gary England wish to express their sincere thanks to relatives, friends and neighbours for their kind and thoughtful expressions of sympathy. Your phone calls, visits, memorial donations, cards, emails and hugs were greatly appreciated.

Special thanks to Dr Goodine, all staff at Mountain Lea Lodge for taking such great care of our brother (Gare Bear), and your part in the service will never be forgotten. We would also like to thank Rev Lynn Uzans and the Middleton Funeral Home. May God Bless you all!

Tom and Marsha

100-Plus Who Care Giving Group backs after school opportunities

The 100-Plus Who Care Giving Group Annapolis Valley met September 16 in a combined in-person and virtual format for its third 2021 quarterly meeting, as three nominated Valley non-profit projects pitched their work for 100-Plus funding support.

Members had the opportunity to hear from the Landmark East, Valley Child Development and Rowan's Room. Valley Child Development formed in the 1980s to help children from birth to their first year of school through any transitions made especially challenging by developmental delays. Services have

expanded over the years to support families and school staff, and VCD has recently completed a thorough collection of data from its work. 100-Plus funding would support VCD draft that data into a needs report for extended government resources.

Landmark East described its bursary foundation support for close to half of its students, an integral part of this specialized school's mission, "Changing Lives since 1979." Students attending Landmark have access to smaller classrooms, social and emotional strategies, and confidence-building supports

to help them successfully achieve Nova Scotia public school curriculum.

Rowan's Room formed and continues to operate to "fill the need" for any child who needs support, particularly as behavioural challenges affect in-school time. Most recently, Rowan's Room launched a specialized afterschool program for several children who could not be safely and happily served in a community-based option. 100-Plus funding would expand this afterschool program's space and services.

Online voting determined Rowan's Room as the 100-



Elizabeth Mason-Squires, executive director, and Doug Ralph, board chairman, Rowan's Room

Plus group's financial recipient, with Valley Child Development and Landmark East both receiving Rewind 89.3 advertising promotional support to help them in their

work. since June 2020, or with an in-person component, typically hosted at the ballroom in Mainstreet Station, Kentville, with the next meeting planned for December 9. The group meets quarterly to hear from three member-nominated community non-profit groups. After five-minute presentations from each organization, members vote on which group will be the recipient of each member's \$100 donation. New members are welcome.

Visit 100valleygiving.ca for information on past non-profit recipients, joining details and upcoming events. →



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Training for a tight fit

Sara White, Managing editor

A high mound of grassy dirt hides a high-tech training facility, benefitting 14 Wing Greenwood entities which may find their personnel working in challenging conditions.

The wing's Construction Engineering section planned the confined spaces training space, which opened in August in the 14 Fire and Emergency Services' training compound. While basically a concrete structure buried in dirt, it includes a large, underground two-storey room

side tunnels with multiple small and angled passages and some obstructions.

"This is like going down into manholes or sewers, narrow spaces like in the wings of aircraft or under a building, maybe a tunnel or pipe; we can change the avenues we use to enter, whether we go up or down or side to side," says Warrant Officer Jason Brandenburg, 14 FES platoon chief. "CE built it for their training, and firefighters get the privilege of it – it's a good set-up."

September 24, Brandenburg's Green crew headed out to practice a simple scenario:

accessible – and escapable – through an overhead hatch,

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Team Greenwood, top, successfully defended the Eagle Crest Cup October 2 and 3, defeating Team Eagle Crest 22.5-13.5! Eagle Crest owner Ozzie Ward, left, presented the cup to Greenwood club manager Ryan O'Rourke.

Greenwood club manager Ryan O'Rourke, left, and event co-ordinator Wendy Richardson, second from right, congratulated September 25 Oktoberfest winners Todd Lalonde, Barb Comeau and Wayne Pellerine, right.

Fall golf as fun as it gets

Wendy Richardson, Greenwood Golf Club The Greenwood Golf Club hosted its annual Oktoberfest golf tournament September 25. This has

proven to be a very popular event, with 82 golfers participating this year. The weatherman was on our side, with a bright, sunny, warm day.

This year's event was won by Wayne Pellerine, Barb Comeau, Todd Lalonde and Paulette Dugas - repeat winners! The second prize was won by Ron and Bekki McGillivray, Terrie Little and Tom Litres - the "most honest" golfers. This year, the delicious meal of schnitzle, spatze, red cabbage salad, Jaeger sauce and strudel, all prepared by Janet Mackie (Betty's

sister from Calgary), Scotty, Doug and Jackie Reed and kitchen staff. The meal was delicious - thanks so much to all the helpers. Life doesn't get much better than sharing a round of golf, a German meal and then a night of karaoke. Thanks to all involved, and we'll see you next year.

I am sure most golfers have heard of the Ryder Cup. Well, the weekend of October 2 and 3, the "local" version was held at Eagle Crest (two-person best ball) on the Saturday and Greenwood (singles match) on the Sunday.

Greenwood was leading 6.5 to 5.5 after the first day, but then closed ranks and came out swinging Sunday and retained the honor of hoisting the Eagle Crest Cup. It was exciting to see how much club pride kicked in. Congrats to all the winning Greenwood team members.

The next event is the Ironman competition, October 23 and 24, a four-person scramble. Call the Greenwood pro shop and sign up now. The first day will be played in Greenwood, and Eagle Crest will host the final day. →

14 Wing Greenwood women's volleyball program underway

Women interested in practicing and playing with the 14 Wing Greenwood base volleyball program are welcome

to join in weekly practices at the Fitness and Sports Centre, Tuesdays between 3 p.m. and 6 p.m. All skill levels are welcome.

For information and with questions, contact Lieutenant Jazlyn McDermot, jazlyn.mcdermot@forces.gc.ca. →

November 5 hockey day great chance to 'play' it forward

Plan to take part in "hockey day in Greenwood," as 14 Wing Combined Charities hosts a fun day of games - with pizza! - November 5, 8 a.m. to 3 p.m., at the Greenwood Gardens.

Unit teams interested in a casual day in the rink, with their registration fee adding to the September-to-December Combined Charities' fundraising campaign, are welcome

to register now, as space is limited. To register your team, contact Corporal Dustin MacNeil at dustin.macneil@forces.gc.ca →

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Corporal Katelynn Marshall, left, 36 Service Battalion Detachment Aldershot; was recently promoted from private trained by Major Michael Wood.



Corporal Carson Hape, left, 36 Service Battalion Detachment Aldershot; was recently promoted from private trained by Major Michael Wood.



14 Wing Fire Emergency Services Aviator Eric Hurtubise, right, was recently promoted to aviator trained by the Construction Engineers officer commanding, Captain Burgher. Also present for the photo was Hurtubise's eight-week-old puppy, Maverick



September 18, Aviator (Trained) Estaban Aldana Cuasquer, 405 (Long Range Patrol) Squadron, centre; was promoted to current rank by 14 Wing Commander Colonel Tom Goldie, left, with Master Warrant Officer G. Norris.



September 15, Master Corporal Jessica Legge, second from left, was promoted to sergeant by 14 Air Reserve Flight Lieutenant-Colonel Dave Nelson, left; with Chief Warrant Officer Sean Maceachern, right, and her daughter and spouse.



August 26, Corporal Mickael Bergeron, centre, an intelligence operator with 14 Operations Support Squadron; was presented the Canadian Decoration for 12 years of service by Lieutenant-Colonel Serge Parisien, left, with Chief Warrant Officer Craig MacLellan.



September 2, Master Corporal Mathieu Hamel-Perron, centre, was promoted by Major Andrew Smith, left, acting commanding officer, 405 (Long Range Patrol) Squadron; and Chief Warrant Officer Brian Nelson.



June 30, Master Corporal Sheldon Roy, centre left, accompanied by spouse Master Corporal Laura Lascelle; was promoted to the rank of sergeant by 413 (Transport and Rescue) Squadron Major Michel Gosselin, left, with Chief Warrant Officer Kevin Roberts.



September 2, Sergeant Davis, the 14 Wing Fire Emergency Services respiratory protection coordinator, centre; was presented the Wing Commander's Commendation for implementing fit testing of masks to meet the demands of the COVID-19 pandemic. Wing Commander Colonel Tom Goldie, left, with Wing Chief Warrant Officer Jonathan Proulx, presented the commendation.



September 2, Sergeant Davis, the 14 Wing Fire Emergency Services respiratory protection coordinator, centre; was presented the Wing Commander's Commendation for implementing fit testing of masks to meet the demands of the COVID-19 pandemic. Wing Commander Colonel Tom Goldie, left, with Wing Chief Warrant Officer Jonathan Proulx, presented the commendation.



Aviator Micheal Dooley, centre, of Telecom Flight, 14 Operations Support Squadron; was promoted August 26 to corporal by Lieutenant-Colonel Serge Parisien, left with Chief Warrant Officer Craig MacLellan.



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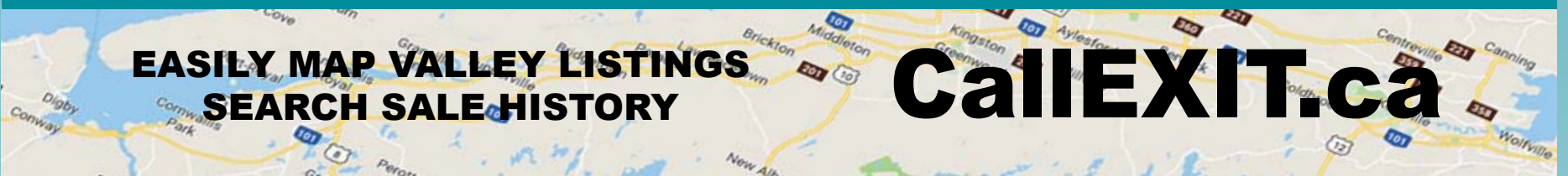
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