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# the Aurora

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Canadian Health Services Division Brigadier-General Scott Malcolm, right, and Chief Warrant Officer Martin Bédard, left, visited 26 Canadian Forces Health Services February 9, taking time to recognize several branch members. Community health nurse Captain (retired) Colin Muise, second from right, was presented a 45-year Public Service Long Service award. He will retire this May after a 47-year career in the branch. Sergeant Sandra Marcoux, second from left; Paul Perry, centre left; and Venessa Boudreau; along with Captain Damen Meade, Detachment St. John's (not pictured); all received Command Coins. S. White

## Health Services visit chance to recognize dedication, excellence

**Sara White,**  
Managing editor

Captain (retired) Colin Muise remembers “running around as a 17-year-old in training, with a bag and webbing.

“A lot has changed since then in health care – stuff is just amazing.”

14 Wing Greenwood’s community health nurse was recognized February 9 with a 45-year service award to Canada, as Brigadier-General Scott Malcolm and Chief Warrant Officer Martin Bédard

of Canadian Health Services Division visited 26 Canadian Forces Health Services.

“It is truly an honour and a privilege for us to present this to you for your career,” said Malcolm. “You have shaped the institution for almost half a century, and we don’t give out these awards very often.”

Muise enlisted in 35 (Sydney) Medical Company as a medical assistant in 1976, and spent 10 years here as he advanced to warrant officer and company sergeant major. He became a registered nurse

in 1986, and joined the Regular Force that year. Over the next 20 years, Muise served in nursing officer roles across the country; in 2004, he returned to Canada from Geilenkirchen, Germany, joining 26 CFHS as the senior nursing officer and then manager. In 2006, Muise deployed to Landstuhl, Germany, the first air evacuation liaison officer to manage the repatriation of Canadian Armed Forces members injured in Afghanistan. Later that year, he returned to 26 CFHS as a civilian community health nurse;

in early 2007, he accepted a Reserve component transfer and joined 1 Canadian Field Hospital, Detachment Ottawa. He continued to serve as a Reserve nursing officer until he retired after 42 years of uniformed service in February 2019, again becoming a civilian nurse in Greenwood. He will mark his 47th year with Health Services in April, and plans to retire May 25.

“It’s an honour to be recognized, but it is time for me to be thinking about what is next. I’ll be 64 in February; I’ve had 19

years in Greenwood in uniform and not. Overall, my career has had its ups and downs – but there have been a lot more positives than negatives.

“Our service, our role, our job – it’s to look after the members of the Canadian Armed Forces, and our most important resource is you, the people who come here every day and do their job.”

Muise said, come May, he won’t miss coming to work every day, but “I will miss the people who make it a professional and good experience.

Thank you for all the support of me, and my colleagues.”

Malcolm and Bédard presented Command Coins to several members of the branch, recognizing dedication and exceptional work. Captain Damen Meade, a health care administration officer with 26 CFHS’ Detachment St. John’s, joined the presentation virtually; other recipients included pharmacy staffer Paul Perry, primary care nurse Venessa Boudreau and senior preventative medicine technician Sergeant Sandra Marcoux. →



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# Mariners take women's regional hockey win

Sara White, Managing editor

The CFB Halifax Mariners was unbeaten through the Canadian Armed Forces Atlantic region women's hockey tournament February 14 through 16, taking the title – and the rights to represent at CAF nationals in March – in a 9-4 win over 5th Canadian Division Support Base Detachment Gagetown.

14 Wing Greenwood hosted the three-team tournament at the Greenwood Gardens Arena – the first women's regional hockey tournament since 2019. 14 Operations Support Squadron Lieutenant-Colonel Lara Jennings welcomed athletes, coaches, officials and volunteers, dropping the official puck at opening ceremonies February 14.

"Welcome to our friends from Gagetown and Halifax.



The Greenwood women opened the Atlantic region championships on home ice February 14 against the Halifax Mariners, eventual title winners.

We hope you have a fantastic tournament, and we'll be in to watch the games."

Greenwood opened against Halifax, which took a 3-1 lead

out of the first period. Halifax scored twice more in the second period to Greenwood's single; and then took it to a 6-4 win.

The second game February 14 saw Gagetown take on Halifax. The teams were close at the end of the first, with Halifax ahead 2-1; through the

second, Halifax took over with five more goals. The end score was Halifax 8, Gagetown 2.

February 15 was a Greenwood vs Gagetown double-header. In the regular schedule that morning, Greenwood and Gagetown took a 3-3 tie into the third, when Greenwood scored the winner. Final score was 4-3 Greenwood. Both teams met again in the semi-final, a scoreless stretch into the third, when Gagetown took the 1-0 win.

The final February 16 saw Halifax as the favourites: they had two goals by nine minutes into the first, but Gagetown got one in to close the period. The second period was a flurry of scoring, as Halifax scored four times, including one on the game's only penalty (two minutes against Gagetown); and Gagetown scored twice, eight seconds apart. Halifax took the lead into the third and added

three more goals to Gagetown's single, winning 9-4.

Jennings returned for the medals ceremony, first awarding tournament MVP honours to Gagetown captain Master Warrant Officer Lizette Leblanc.

"This MVP award is for working hard, and keeping her team up and the energy positive all week," said Personnel Support Program sports coordinator Alyssa Platt.

"Congratulations to our winning Halifax Mariners, and thanks to all for a really great tournament – every team worked hard this week, and we all enjoyed watching you. Thanks to all the volunteers – the goal light and score keepers; our officials – some of you travelled from Gagetown; and the athletic therapists."

CFB Trenton will host the women's nationals March 20 to 25. →

# Mariners players – past, present - team up on the bench

Two Mariners, past and present, ran the Halifax women's bench at regionals, acknowledging action on the tournament ice as "pretty much out of our hands" but confident in their team's ability.

"We got them ready to play; we settle them down," said head coach Warrant Officer

(retired) Charlene Arsenault. "If they start to panic when the game may not be going your way, we just get them calmed down. They all know how to play hockey: they just have to play."

Arsenault and assistant coach Sergeant Roxanne Lacroix came out of the dressing room to check the ice cleaning

and net placement just before the February 16 final: "we gave them their talk – and now we're nervous!" Arsenault said.

Lacroix, a lab technician with Canadian Forces Health Services (Atlantic) would have been on the ice with the team as an athlete, but took a bench role this season.

"This is my first year as a coach," she said. "I bumped into Charlene at Costco earlier in the year and said, 'Hey, Charlene, wanna coach?' I wanted to be on the ice and catch that puck at the blue line, but it's been really entertaining to watch the team play."

Arsenault is glad she ran



Halifax Mariners head coach Warrant Officer (retired) Charlene Arsenault, left, and assistant coach Sergeant Roxanne Lacroix took on first-year bench duties this season: past athlete experience with the team went to good use, as the Mariners are the Canadian Armed Forces Atlantic region 2023 women's champions.

into Lacroix. She retired in 2019 after 33 years as a mil-

itary dental hygienist, but played with the Mariners from the 1999 start of the women's military hockey program until 2019.

"I grew up in Prince Edward Island, one of 16 kids with hand-me-down gear and we walked to the rink – there were no girl-only teams, and I wore figure skates until I got hit with a puck and grabbed my brother's skates. In university, I played women's hockey and we played town teams."

Arsenault said leaving the military meant no contact with her hockey peers and the camaraderie she'd found in the game over 20 years, and coming back this year as a coach – with new opportunities to wear the Mariners-coloured hat, mitts and socks, knit by her 96-year-old mother - has

been "heart-warming." "Thanks to Roxanne for asking me!"

The women are thrilled with Halifax hockey this winter. Lacroix said over 40 military athletes turn out for practices, and the hardest decision was leaving some of them behind for the regional tournament. They play regularly in a city league ("We have fun," she says of their level of success), and have nothing but praise for the impact on women's hockey growth from Canada's Olympic athletes, development and opportunity for girls growing up now and military supervisor support for women keen to come out for practices and competition.

"Everyone is having a good time, and there are no ranks on the team," she says. →

# Oldtimer Bombers win regionals; nationals bound!

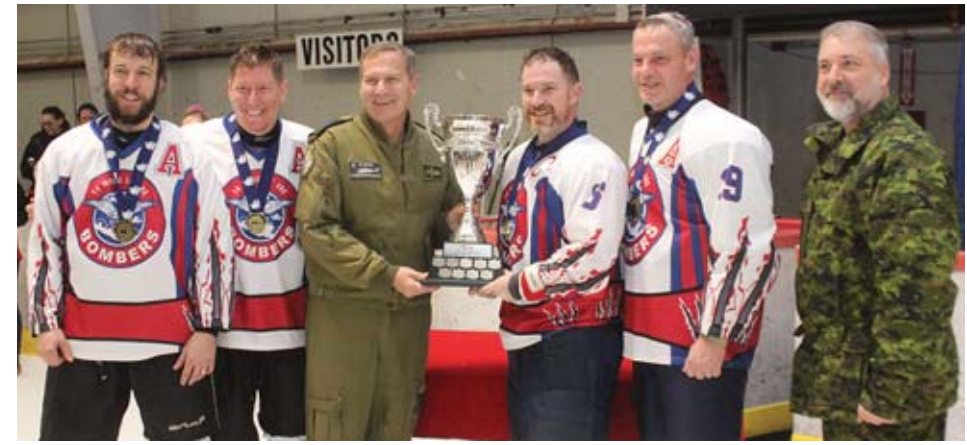
Major Michael Hiltz

Not to be outdone by the 14 Wing Greenwood younger men's hockey Bombers a couple weeks ago, the Oldtimer Bombers defeated CFB Halifax February 17, capturing first place in the Atlantic region.

On the first day of competition at CFB Shearwater February 15, the Bombers lost their opening game to Halifax 1-0, but followed up that evening with a confident win over Gagetown, 9-2. This solidified a spot in the semi-final game, and therefore a "nothing" game

against Shearwater the next morning. The Bombers once again played a solid game, out working the rival Flyers to a 6-3 win. Later that evening, in the on-the-books semi, Shearwater had their opportunity to seek revenge and - potentially - knock out the Bombers just before the final. With hard fought and respected play between these two teams, once again, the Bombers prevailed, taking a 3-2 win.

On finals day, the Bombers played against Halifax, from whom they took their only defeat of the tournament, but



12 Wing Shearwater Commanding Officer Colonel Patrick MacNamara and Chief Warrant Officer Kevin Wezenbeek presented the Atlantic region Oldtimers' championship trophy to 14 Wing Greenwood reps February 17, as they took the title and now prep for nationals.

– this time - controlled the play throughout the game. Greenwood took the early lead and, while Halifax got on the board late in the second period to make it 2-1, held it throughout – including adding their second goal in the third. Greenwood

scored an empty netter to seal the deal, made for a 4-1 finish. The Bombers' own Warrant Officer Joel Brooks named tournament MVP for solid work throughout the week in nets, keeping his team in the lead with a number of highlight-reel

saves in the final game.

The gold medals and trophy were presented by 12 Wing Commanding Officer Colonel Patrick MacNamara and Chief Warrant Officer Kevin Wezenbeek.

"Our staff have been involved

# Men's nationals underway this week

The 14 Wing Greenwood men's team takes the ice in Wainwright this week, representing the Atlantic region in the 2023 Canadian Armed Forces national men's hockey championship February 27 to March 3 at the Peace Memorial Multiplex VCU Arena.

Opening ceremonies are

February 27 at 8 a.m., and Greenwood is on the ice first thing, with an 8:30 a.m. game against Esquimalt. Greenwood is also first game of the day February 28, with a noon (AST) start against Petawawa. March 1, Greenwood meets Valcartier at noon (AST). Semi-finals will

be March 2, based on round robin standings: 4th will play 1st at noon (AST), followed by 3rd versus 2nd at 5 p.m. (AST). The final will close the week March 3 at noon (AST).

Major Michael Hiltz leads the 14 Wing team as coach; with athletes Captain James Vandal, Aviator Randy Ch-

isholm, Master Warrant Officer Michael Pastuck, Master Corporal Luke Verran, Warrant Officer Joel Brooks, Aviator Simon Landry, Sergeant Pier-Olivier Poulin, Corporal Mitchell Conrod, Corporal Tyler Happeney, Corporal Tyler Hawes, Corporal Rhett Sheppard, Lieutenant Dan-

iel Gibson, Corporal Tyler Williams, Sailor 1st Class Ryan Hoskins, Sergeant Evan Burchell and Aviator Wyatt Magarvey. The Greenwood team has also added Master Corporal Tyler Currie from 5th Canadian Division Support Base Detachment Gagetown, Sailor First Class

Michael Butt and Corporal Cory Hannon from 12 Wing Shearwater to its roster.

For game updates, highlights and live streaming of the semis and finals, follow along on Facebook @Canadian Armed Forces Sports / Sports des Forces armees Canadiennes. →

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# 1906 steam locomotive to be on permanent Middleton display

A 104-ton steam locomotive, which spent much of its career in Bridgewater putting trains together headed for Middleton, is back in Southwest Nova Scotia at the Middleton Railway Museum.

The 117-year-old CNR 7260 engine arrived February 16 by flatbed trailer and was lifted February 17 onto tracks built by CN in 2020.

Bill Linley, the Middleton Railway Museum Society's historian, refers to the locomotive as "The Little Engine that Did."

"Steam locomotive 7260 is returning to the Canadian National Railways line that linked Lunenburg and Bridgewater to Middleton and Port Wade," Linley says. "The locomotive is a gift from the Nova Scotia Museum of Industry in Stellarton.

"The 7260 has a strong local pedigree as it served as a switching engine, numbered 7075, in Bridgewater in the 1940s. It would have assembled the mixed train of freight and passenger cars that left Bridgewater for a return trip to Middleton daily except Sunday. On Wednesdays, the train made an additional side trip to Bridgetown. A locomotive like our 4-6-0 CNR 1274 would have led the train from Bridgewater."

Linley says 7260 is the oldest locomotive built by the Canadian Locomotive Company in Ontario that still exists. 7260 was built in 1906 for the Intercolonial Railway of Canada, later a part of the CNR, linking the Maritimes with Montreal.

John MacDonald, who headed up a five-person acquisitions team for the museum, was approached by the Museum of Industry in early 2021 about receiving artifacts, including CNR 7260. The team visited the museum in June of that year and again late in 2022.

"We are very fortunate to have a 1906 0-6-0 steam locomotive to add to our collection," he says. "I cannot wait to see her remarried to her tender after decades of separation."

The engine and its tender have been separated for over 30 years at the Museum of In-

dustry. The tender, delivered to Middleton December 29, was parked some distance away.

CNR 7260 is not the only gift

arriving from the Museum of Industry: a 75-foot-long steel turntable, and originally from Bridgewater, will be installed

west of the station.

Restoration of the station, the waiting room and the agent's office are well underway for completion in 2023. These will be the museum's


most important spaces for interpreting the role of railways in the Annapolis Valley. Volunteers are needed to assist with many facets of the museum's operation, including interpreta-

tion, projects and administration. Financial contributions are welcome to support operations and restoration activities and to develop new displays, such as a G-scale garden railway. →



**John MacDonald, who led an acquisitions team for the Middleton Railway Museum, stands on CNR 7260, a 1906 steam locomotive the museum acquired from the Museum of Industry in Stellarton. The 104-ton locomotive arrived early February 16 and will sit on track several metres away from steam locomotive CNR 1274, a gift from Annapolis County in 2020.** L. Powell

**Chris d'Entremont**  
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