



The Golden Spur

The Newsletter of the Canadian Association of Forces Linemen

December 2005



*Merry Christmas
and a Very Happy
New Year*

To all Members and their families



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



Season's Greetings to all members.

Christmas is meant to be a time for joy and goodwill, a time when we think and take care of each other. It's a time of giving and sharing, a time when we share what we have with others and a time when we remember family, friends and members serving overseas. Going home for Christmas is a most cherished tradition of the holiday season. No matter where you may be the rest of the year, being at "home" with your family and friends for Christmas is "a must." With this thought I offer special wishes for those who are serving abroad and unable to make the trip home. No matter where you are, I wish you greetings, with good wishes for Christmas and the New Year.

Personal thanks and appreciation for duty above and beyond go out to the spouses and families of our members. Let it be the letters, the care packages, or the phone calls from home, it is this type of support that gives us the strength to carry on with our duties and to be reassured that all is well at home.

The National Executive joins me in wishing you and yours the very best this holiday season.

In closing I would like to say to one and all – let us have a good Christmas holiday, in peace, with good will towards others, and thankfulness for all we have achieved in 2005. Let us be confident about the New Year 2006. Together, we will conquer our challenges and excel to new heights.

Season's Greetings:

Yours truly;

Les Thomlinson

President CAFL

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Hello to all from Beautiful British Columbia

This year has been a very busy year for the crew here in Esquimalt. There was the departure of MCpl Jenkins to CFSTG CFB Borden as well as MCpl Gallant to HQ & Sigs CFB Petawawa. Even though they will be greatly missed, the crew has been “spiced” up a bit with the my arrival. Things are still as normal as possible with WO Henry trying to change the rank structure to include “DUDE” as a rank. Still at the Helm is Sgt Johnston, who in the first four months of me being here, did not say more than two words to me. I guess it is hard for him to speak with the bushy moustache of his. MCpl “Homie” Homuth is running things for the crew. For those who don’t know MCpl Homuth, he is a very competitive person. For example, I have been playing squash with him for coffee in the mornings, I must admit that I have owe him a lot of coffees.

Cpl Lavoie is the senior Cpl on the crew. He is a great guy and very knowledgeable. I have learned a lot from him and will learn a lot more once I can properly decode his “fringlish” but I am not sure if my time here in Esquimalt will be long enough. We have two civilians working with us, there is Adam Miles, also known as the general. He is in charge of the QM and he runs a tight shop. Signing for a tool is like filling out a security clearance form. Needless to say, we try not to ask him for much. The other civilian is Kelly Dean. His claim to fame is his ability to destroy the hopes and dreams of any reserve lineman we have attached with us. He is currently working on a new victim, Cpl Savola from 741 Comm Sqn.

There have been a few major projects for us here. There was the installation of the Jetty in Nanoose where we had to install new kiosks as well as fiber and copper cables after the old Jetty sank into the bottom of the ocean. Albert Head has been a place we have been working on a constant basis. Jobs there ranged from removing old strand and cables, to structure wiring the new cadet building. I had the great honor of spearheading that project and had a bunch of Techs working for me. FUN!! Rocky point is another place that has taken up a lot of man-hours. Some work there consisted of removal of the old pole line route where Kelly and Cpl Lavoie not only managed to get the Con truck stuck in a ditch, but also blow the hydraulic hoses apart. How he managed that, is a mystery never fully explained? We have been assisting the crew that came from 1 Line Sqn, SGT Howe’s second home, at least he does some work when he’s out here. It is always a good time when you have a bunch of different Lineman together, especially when there is a birthday involved. There has been a lot of work accomplished here but there is still a lot left to do. I am really enjoying my time here because I get a chance to work at all aspect of my trade, not just doing the same thing for a year like Volition fiber for example. The guys that worked at the Sim Centre in Kingston know what I mean!



It is almost the end of another year. It's time to reminisce about the good times, and forget about the bad, time for the wonderful Christmas parties and dinners where someone is bound to get charged, and time to push our livers to the brink of destruction. We, as Lineman, would not have it any other way. The crew here wishes everyone out there a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year. All the best to you and your loved ones, and remember, play hard but play safe.

Cpl Henry sends.



CFJSR DETACHEMENT EDMONTON

Another year is nearing its end and Christmas is almost upon us. Over the past six months, CFJSR Det. Edmonton has seen many fellow soldiers posted out and lots of new faces arriving around the shop. Sgt Dale Sullivan has headed off to picturesque Petawawa, MCpl Troy Polak enjoyed a brief stay here, only to be shipped off to never land Suffield and Cpl Rick Gower crossed the street to the base crew. New arrivals to the Det. are: WO Tim Hope, Sgt. Dean McCartney, Cpl's Jason Briggs, Andy Lamash, Jon Luete, Rob Dupuis, Pte's Pustovsky, and Dave Bonne, who recently traded in his reserve boots for a real pair of line boots. Mean while Cpl Septimo headed back to the school for three months of training for his journeymen's qualification.

Prior to everyone's departure in the summer, the Det got together for a golf day / mug out. The day was a success, and everyone got a chance to meet each other while having some fun on the greens. With varying degrees of golfing ability, it became quite clear that a Par Three Course more than met our needs, except for possibly our resident golf pro Sammy Septimo. The mug-out followed at O'Mally's Pub in St. Albert, where a few plaques were passed out as well as a few tasty malt beverages.



Sgt. Dale Sullivan receiving Det. Picture



Mcpl Troy Polak.
(did his troop dues cover this?)

Currently our two crews have just returned from such exotic places such as Cold Lake, Shilo, Inuvik, Masset and Winnipeg. With more adventures scheduled for the New Year with Sgt Morin's crew now preparing for an extended overseas visit.



Pte Bonne playing mother hen in Inuvik.



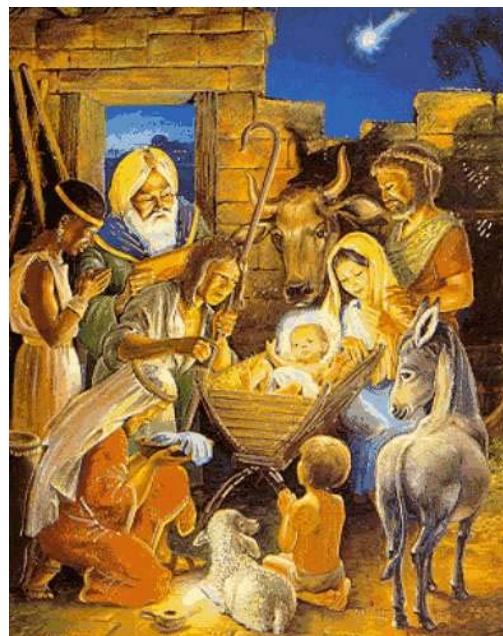
Cpl Proulx repairing low band antenna
in Masset BC.

Of course, we can never forget to mention our tradition and the honour of our Det's participation in the Remembrance Day ceremony at the quaint Legion # 196 in Evansburg. This always includes a few shots down range, while listening to some stories of our veterans past and how the military has changed to its present. Looking forward to next year boys and to many more.

Now that winter is full swing out here on the prairies, we're starting to look forward to the yearly journey to Vancouver Island in the New Year. Here's to breaking up a long winter.

Happy Holiday Season from everyone at CFJSR Det. Edmonton!

Cpl Pelton sends



742 Sig Sqn Line Section

From the heart of Cowboy Country and the Army of the West, greetings from (Edmonton).

We have had a few changes this past year. Cpl (Marc) Galbrand found himself leaving to go work for Sgt (Jody) Sherrington in Borden. This has left a void at the shop that will be hard to fill, but the recent postings of Cpl (Dean) Upshall from CFJSR Det Pet and Cpl (Rickie) Gower from CFJSR Edm should do the trick.

This past spring MCpl (Duane) Thibodeau made a couple of trips down to Sin City for BICSI courses and then headed off to Petawawa to help teach future Generals of the CF how to become soldiers. Cpl (Steve) Smith has found himself attach posted to 1 CMBG HQ and Sig Sqn and is bound for Afghanistan in Feb 06. Good luck!

With 742 Line Section being the group of kind hearted souls that we are, Cpl (Percy) Manuel answered the call to help out the Wainwright crew with the set up for BTE 05. True to his promise and reputation, Sgt (Tim) Stevens kept the shop very busy. He and Cpl (Dean) Upshall headed off to the sunny paradise of Penticton B.C. in September, where the Lineman attitude of work hard, play harder was gospel. Shortly after their arrival home, MCpl (Duane) Thibideau and Cpl (Dean) Upshall were Whitehorse bound, destined to complete Phase 1 of their very first OSP and ISP cable plant inspection and upgrade.

Finding out that the Lineman belief and tradition of “one for all, and all for one” was still alive and kicking throughout the trade was music to our ears, when a 3 month long project was unexpectedly dropped in our laps. Given only a 3 week lead time, Linemen from CFJSR's Edm, Petawawa and Base Shilo (honorable mentions to Mr. Dale Olerich in Kingston) pulled together to complete, in a record time, the installation of 1200 drops both secure and non secure in a HQ set up on the LTF drill hall floor.

Our kit shop adopted a new line of Linemen clothing. High quality Gilden t-shirts and hoodies sport the cross-spurs, and the Polak, Hall, and Devereaux (PHD) 052 logos. Toques, ball caps, and sweatpants will be available soon. For more information, or to place an order, please contact Cpl (Dean) Upshall.

We hope to be able to participate in next year's top Lineman competition in Valcartier and look forward to the Western Area annual Association's campout.

Until next year remember...“Everyday is a good day when you're a Lineman.”

Cpl Dean Upshall sends.



COLD LAKE LINE SECTION '05



What happened at CFB Cold Lake this year you ask? Well it went a little like this.....



In the early hours of a frigid January morning of this year, Cpl Mark Evans left the Line Section to attend his Journeyman Lineman Course at CFSCE in Kingston Ontario.

With Mark gone for a few months and the third Cpl position not filled last posting season, this left myself (Matt Taylor) as the only Cpl Lineman on the base.

Cpl Mark Evans

With Critical cutovers looming in February, and projects to complete in preparation for Maple Flag 38, I needed a little help. Lucky for me MCpl Dave (Opus) Salisbury and Sgt Wade Nesbitt blew the dust off their tools, dug out their safety gear and went to work. None of us were complaining about spending countless hours in our new 4'x8' concrete "offices". Time flies when you're having fun.



MCpl Dave Salisbury

"So, what's Maple Flag?" I asked myself that same question. Apparently, I would have to wait and see. Maple Flag is an International fighter pilot exercise spanning six weeks in the late spring/early summer months of the year. The exercise is broken down into three, two-week periods. It consists of an enemy force engaging an allied force in the Cold Lake Air Weapons Range running through mock war scenarios.

To support this, CFB Cold Lake contracts temporary ATCO style trailers to be used as flight planning offices and as a work/rest area for the respective country's flight crews. These trailers seem to be placed randomly on the base, and they all require external voice and data lines as well as being internally structure wired to accommodate the various country's requirements. With the help of some hardworking ATIS techs and the rest of the Line section, forty-five trailers were completed on time and Maple Flag 38 was once again a resounding success.

During the start of Maple Flag, Cpl Mark Evans returned from Kingston as a more experienced and knowledgeable Lineman. Mark was in the need for a vacation from all the hard work on his Journeyman course, so he proceeded to clear out of Cold Lake within a week of clearing back in so that he could attended a six month R&R in Camp Mirage. Don't forget your sunscreen Mark.

With Mark leaving again, WO Hope was feeling like he wanted to take part in the "moving on up" fever that was gripping the Lineman on the base. So he went out, bought a new car, and posted himself down the street to CFJSR Det Edmonton. Good luck on your new job and we'll look forward to seeing you on your Project Reece's in the years to come. "Picture not available at press time"

After a well-deserved summer leave,
The Line Section was greeted by

WO Rob McKay

(Mah-Kai) as he was newly
posted in from CFSCE.

WO McKay (Mah-Kai) took over WO
Hope's spot in projects and with a "Savage"
demeanor. He's looking forward to
spending a few years carrying on WO
Hope's Legacy. The transition has gone
extremely well due to MCpl (R) Corky
Furlotte's "Undertaking" of the various
projects on the Base and knowledge of the
surrounding area.



WO Rob McKay



MCpl Corky Furlott



Sgt Wade Nesbitt

What would the fall season be without leaves changing colours, turkey dinner on the dining room table and an exercise on the base? It would probably be a little too quiet. So in September, Sgt Wade Nesbitt put his fancy clothes and speedboat away and acquired a transportable MDF, and all of the line related materials to conduct a CP style exercise called Wolf Safari 05. The purpose of this exercise is to prepare Cold Lake to deploy six CF-18 planes to a hostile part of the world for a six-month tour. Without hesitation, MCpl Dave (Opus) Salisbury grabbed the bull by the horns and directed the motley crew of people under his command to structure wire the camp. With the setup complete, MCpl Salisbury spent his time with a full cup of coffee, as he was the only Lineman on exercise.

Just last week, the Line Section has just finished installing copper, Multi and Single mode fibre on the base. The purpose of the project was to bring a new base wide security system online and to upgrade sites that will be used for Maple Flag 06. It was a tough and gruelling task, sending a stream of ATIS techs to the MIR and bringing out Sgt Nesbitt and WO Rob McKay (Mah-Kai) to pull the cables and spin the drums. There's nothing like putting your nose to the grindstone and seeing which trades have what it takes and which ones don't. From all of us proud Lineman in Cold Lake...



Cpl Matt Taylor

...Merry Christmas, Don't eat too much pie, & Happy New Year!

Cpl Matt Taylor sends



CFB SUFFIELD

Hello from all the Det members here at cozy CFB Suffield, the jewel of the Canadian Armed Forces.

Well it has been a few years since we have updated our info and many things have happened since then. First off, I would like to list our current Det members. The LCF is Sgt Rob Nicholson who came to us from CFJSR Petawawa, MCpl Troy Polak from CFJSR Det Edmonton, Cpl Cunningham from CFJSR Det Edmonton, Cpl St.Germain, and MR. Dave Ford our newest member Civilian Line Helper.

CFB Suffield is a unique place to be at as, at any given time, we are supporting the British Army Training Unit (BATUS), the Defence Research and Development Canada (DRDC) and Suffield Industry Range Control (SIRC). We also have the National Wildlife Area (NWA).

As a result of the continued increase to the base mandate and responsibilities and subsequent impact on our capability to manage and maintain our cable plant, the Line Section manning level has been increased by a Sgt and two new civilian positions. This year we have also hosted the 2005 Alberta Centennial Trial Ride which welcomed 1200 riders and teams on the range this past 18-22 July 2005. In addition, CFB Suffield assisted with the annual Ralston Rodeo which requires a lot of volunteers to successfully run this event. As you can tell there is never a dull moment in Suffield!

All of us at CFB Suffield Line Detachment would like to take this opportunity to wish the very best for the holidays a safe return home to all Linemen serving abroad over the holidays.

For all serving and retired linemen across Canada, please accept our warmest wishes and may this year's Christmas bring joy and peace to you and your families.

Cpl St-Germain sends

CFJRS 1 LINE SQUADRON

Here at 1 Line Sqn the revolving door never stops spinning. It seems that as soon as you've unpacked your bags, you're packing them again to head back out the door. The constant state of readiness and operational tempo of 1 Line Sqn is surpassed by very few units within the CF. It seems that we are in more demand by the day, this has a lot to do with the situation around the world and the fact that we are one of the few armies to have the capability and skill to provide the service we do. In today's world, without a properly installed and maintained cable infrastructure, we wouldn't be able to operate with the speed and efficiency that these ever changing technologies demand.

1 Line Sqn's unit lines, at times, seem a lot like a ghost-town due to the fact that pretty much everyone is out the door. Most of the time, it is hard to find anybody to lend a hand in stores. It was only last week (10 Nov 05) that Sgt Corneau's crew got back from Bagotville from a six-week project upgrading the cable plant and installing SM fiber for the new AMRAAM project. While splicing at the end of the runway, Cpl St-Onge had a narrow escape with a CF-18. All is well though... you just may have to repeat yourself when chatting with Cpl St-Onge.

As for oversea deployments, we just sent Sgt Byrne and his antenna crew off on a Technical Assistance Visit (TAV) to Kandahar, Afghanistan. The crew left just as the leaves started to fall and will be gone for a few months depending on how their TAV goes. We hope to see them back here before the New Year, but they will most likely be in theater for Christmas. God speed boys... we are all hoping you have a safe and successful TAV.

When it comes to natural disasters, this year has been a record year. The Disaster Assistance Relief Team, DART is on its second deployment and the year is not over... yet! Especially, when Mother Nature is involved, times are interesting to say the least. The first deployment was to the Tsunami devastated country of Srilanka where MCpl Friolet and Cpl Henry were deployed to. While there they had to share their accommodations with some of the local inhabitants i.e. bats, bugs, lizards and a few pigeons. According to the boys, the place was more like a zoo than a place to live. Now MCpl MacIsaac and Pte Gaudet are on the DART that deployed to Pakistan. It looks like those guys are really having a stressful time over there. They have to pack many of the supplies they're trying to get to the local people over some seriously difficult terrain. That's why every soldier, should be a fit soldier, no matter what MOC you belong to.

This summer, 1 Line has seen about a quarter of its personnel posted out and fresh blood from the school posted in. As of recently, MWO Alain Durand got his commission to Captain and has left us for the dark-side. All jokes aside, we all wish him well on his new path within the CF and so we wish him the very best of luck in his new role. Cpl Harrison got his posting to Esquimalt. We are sorry to loose him, but we wish him and his family all the best out West.

As I said, “the revolving door never stops spinning!” This is fresh of the press; it looks like we are going to be sending another group of 1 Line’s best out the door soon. Sgt Perry, MCpl Worth, Cpl Cleveland, Cpl Henry, Cpl Mannett and Pte Cyr will be heading out the door for in support of OP Archer. Cpl Henry and Cpl Cleveland are just finishing up their QL5’s over at CFSCE and represented 1 Line well. While they may not be coming in number one on this course, I know from word of mouth that many of the less experienced members of the course appreciated having both Henry and Cleveland there with their vast wealth of knowledge. You guys made it easier for your peers without asking anything in return. The unit looks forward to your return, but as you know, you will not be on the ground long before you are out the door again. Did I mention the revolving door?

Well, as the year comes to an end, things don’t show any sign of slowing down for us here at 1 Line Sqn. We want to pass a heartfelt thanks to our family and friends for being so understanding and sticking with us through the thick and thin of things. It’s not easy for us to leave our loved ones behind, but knowing that they are back home, holding down the fort, makes it so much easier.

To all the Lineman of the past and present, we wish you the very best of the holiday season for both you and your family and we are looking forward to the day that we can all meet up and share a few stories and have a few cool ones. The Holidays are always better spent with friends and you all know that there are no better friends than the fiends you make while serving your county... Isn’t Canada a wonderful country!

Happy Holidays!

MCpl Will Whittaker sends



HAPPY HOLIDAYS FROM OTTAWA

Where does time go? It seems that it just flies by. At least that's what it feels like when you work in the NCR. A new year is fast approaching so lets take the time to reflect on 2005.

Posted out are MWO Thomlinson (DIMTPS), MCpl Botsford (Petawawa). Posted in are Sgt Asselin (GLS), Sgt Snow 85% (Supply), Cpl Sylvain and Cpl Weekes. With the posting season came movement within the organization. Sgt Campbell was promoted to WO and moved from the design cell to the CPC position in Uplands. MCpl Kliche spent 6 months working hard and tanning in the UAE and will be home in time for the holidays. Welcome back. Cpl Dillon is departing at the end November for his 6 months in the UAE. Have a safe trip.

As for the rest of us that stayed put in the NCR, the hectic pace just got faster. The workload has increased but as usual the Line Section always finds a way to get the work done. I guess that's the professionalism that is no doubt, associated with this great trade. Some of the major projects on going are: CFEC, West Memorial, Startop (CANCOM and CEFCOM), Connaught Ranges, Montford Hospital, as well as 60 plus other smaller projects.

With all the work and tasking it's amazing to see, from a SRN NCO's perspective, how the troops keep their moral at such a high level. No complaints, just dedication, hard work and a sense of pride when the job is done. Being in the NCR for 1.5 years really does open one's eyes. This posting is like no other! The constant dealing with civilians is a little unusual from the standpoint of a soldier who's been in the field for the last 5 yrs. The AOR is so big, consisting of 92 plus buildings spread out from one end of the city to the other. A regular day for the troops starts off with the morning O Gp and distribution of the jobs for the day (much like Bell Canada). Hop into your vehicle and head out. Parking is always a struggle. Complete what was assigned in that Bldg and back out on the road to the next job site. Although the work is similar the sceneries are always different. I guess that's what makes the NCR what it is.

Shortly, it will be time for all to take a much-deserved break and spend time with loved one's and family. Also to take the time to raise a glass for those who are overseas during the holidays and say thank you. The New Year will no doubt provide us with new challenges in our careers and personal lives. Like all Linemen, we will prevail and do so with our heads held high.

The Lineman of 76 Comm Gp Ottawa would like to wish all a very Merry Christmas and Happy New Year.

From: MWO Wayne Babcock, WO John Campbell, Sgt Caroline Asselin, Sgt Dave Burgess, Sgt Rick Dinelle, Sgt Mark Snow, MCpl Tony Cerone, MCpl Rich Kliche, MCpl Jim Stephens, Cpl Travis Cote, Cpl Tom Dillon, Cpl Corey Holloway, Cpl Manon McQuay, Cpl Pascal Morneau, Cpl Scott Rideough, Cpl Yves Sylvain, Cpl Larry Weekes and Pte Veronique Charest.



CFB GAGETOWN SIGS SQN

Greetings fellow CAFL members from CFB Gagetown, home of the Army. This past summer, we saw MWO Steve Hopkins posted out to CFJSR Kingston, Sgt Joey Desroches to CFSCE Standards in the school, and Cpl Jamie Hammond to 2 RCR, here in Gagetown. As well, a few retirements, MCpl Chris Ferns retired and moved to Halifax and MCpl Ben Champagne moved back to Quebec where he is now driving a meat truck. We wish them all the very best of luck. Posted in were WO Rick Vachon from 2 Sigs in Petawawa, MCpl Blair Digou from 2 RCR and MCpl Tim Brown from CFJSR Kingston.

As with all Line Work Centers across Canada, this year has been especially busy and filled with challenges. With the arrival of fall, a crew from CFJSR 1 Line Squadron assisted by the Base Line Section and technicians were extremely busy with the cutover of the new Switch located in Bldg D-55. The cutover went well, with very little interruptions of service. For several weeks, all you could hear in the tunnel was the sound of amp tools as the cables were swung from the old to the new MDF Bldg and MPC Blocks being permanently removed from the old frame in Bldg D-3. This time next year, D-3 will be grass or a parking lot. The cable locator and I have become very close friends due to the large amount of construction taking place on base. It seems like the whole base is either going to be pavement or new Bldgs. There is also a plan to upgrade the heating plant piping network and to bring the high voltage cables out of the tunnel over the next several years. Although these projects will, without a doubt, keep us very busy, enhancements to the base utilities are always welcome news as our cables do not easily co-habit with steam and high voltage. On the other hand, the training area crew is constantly monitoring the work completed by contractors tasked with the digging and widening of the training area road ditches as, for some reason, the pole line requires soil in order to remain an aerial plant.

With a donation from the National CAFL, the Line Section managed to find time for a golf day which happened to be one of the nicest days this summer. All the folks enjoyed themselves and no golf carts got wet, as it had already been proven that they are not amphibious. As Christmas approaches, the Line section is trying to tie up some lose ends and complete much needed maintenance throughout the cable plant.

From all the Line personnel and their families here in Gagetown, we want to wish all Linemen and their families, in Canada and abroad, the very best during this holiday season and throughout the New Year.

Play and work safe!

Bernie Curry
President
CAFL Gagetown chapter

CFJSR DETACHMENT HALIFAX

This year has been, extremely busy for both Det crews. We have lost a few good men to postings but there always seems to be more willing Linemen to replace them. Promoted to MWO, Mark Scheppeler was posted to CFSCE. We all wish him the best. In return, we received a box of 88-Tape and Pte Patricia Snook fresh off of her QL3. Not quite sure who did the negotiations but Snook should be a great addition to Halifax's local crew. Also promoted this year was Stan Burns to the rank of MCpl. After what seemed to be an eternity, he made the move across the shop floor to the local crew where he spent only one year and then off to the mothership he went. WO Terry Cross also headed to Kingston from the Base Line Work Centre and Sgt "Beam me up Scotty" Savory became, once again, a fixture in Halifax. Last but not least, a new LCF came in town. WO Will Richards joins us from Winnipeg.

This past year was filled with functions, courses, projects and babies ... and do I mean babies. In all, five babies were either born this year or due early next year. Cpl Ben "DVO" Dvoracek's wife gave birth to his first boy in April. Then came Cpl Randy "GIGGLES" Finlayson with a baby girl in July. That's not all, Cpl Mark Niles's wife from the local crew had a boy, and waiting in the wing, are Cpl's Rudy Skalaa's baby due Dec 15th and Cpl George Chaisson's baby due Jan 8th. Told you we have been busy. Now with all that smooching, we did manage to hit the road for some jobs.

The year started with Sgt Shawn Aucoin's cable crew traveling to St Johns N.L. for a week long fibre install. It was nice to be back on the Island, even if it was for a short time. Driving through the Courdroy Valley in a snowstorm had its moments but with Sgt Aucion's excellent sense of direction, the crew made it to George Street just in time for some pops.

At this same time, Sgt Bill Hewitt and his Antenna crew were in Gagetown installing an antenna for 3 ASG. The infamous "everyday is a great day to be a Lineman" Rick Naugler, who is posted to CFB Gagetown, made sure we had everything needed to do our job.

While the Det was short manned by losing Cpl's Burns, Dvoracek, and Leblanc to a PLQ, there was Pole line work in LLFA Det Aldershot to be done. So with a re-orged crew the climbing began.

After a cold and wet beginning to the year, the antenna crew, consisting of MCpl Jodi Jones, Cpl George Chaisson, Cpl Randy Finlayson, Cpl Rudy Skalla and Pte Alex Harvey (returning from parental leave), finished the yearly antenna inspection and maintenance in Newport Corner, Millcove (more like Mill swamp), and Gagetown. We had to give up MCpl Jones for a stint in Kingston as he successfully completed his 6A Supervisor's course. Job well done!

The Cable crew, consisting of MCpl George Godin, Cpl Ben Dvoracek, Cpl Marty Leblanc, Cpl Steve Martin and Pte Tom “LEAD FOOT” Boyce, were off to Gagetown to do more Pole Line maintenance. They completed an outside fibre cable upgrade in the training area, and built an IDF at Camp Argonaugt, the base cadet camp. With little help from LS Brian “Pretty Boy” Fullerton, who augmented the crew from LLWC, the job was successfully completed. During this time, Brian roamed his old stomping grounds in Fredericton. Towards the end of the project, MCpl Godin was RTU’d to attend an Advance Antenna Course in Kingston. All had fun, I’m sure.

So that brings us up to our Canadian Association of Forces Lineman 2nd Annual Golf Tournament. This year, we decided to play 18 holes vice the 9 holes played last year. More than 30 Linemen were in attendance. After the birdies cleared and eagles landed, trophies were handed out for the best team score (Rick Kitchin, James Kitch, Pte Alex Harvey, and Harry Lilly). The longest drive went to Cpl Rob Ludlow, closest to the pin to Bobby Ray, and the chip and putt trophy was won by golf prodigy Billy Hewitt. This year’s event was held at Hartlen Point Golf Club on June 23.

June ended with a trip for the entire Detachment, including our civilian helpers Rick Kitch (Draftsman), Wenda Watson (Senior clerk), and Jack Hunt (Storesman), to the most beautiful island on the east coast, Cape Breton. Although some people have speculated this was a futile attempt to bolster the islands economy, for those of us who have a vested interest in this fine land, this is simply not the case. Professional Development began at the Alexander Graham Bell Museum to learn about how our work has evolved over the years. This was followed the next day with a trip to Fortress Louisbourg, which included a guided tour with an emphasis on military life, strategy, and the role the fortress played in history. MWO Sonier was only too glad to share some of his personal experiences and memories of the assault of 1758, where he was credited with the sinking of two British dories. We finished off the day with a period meal and drinks at one of the reconstructed taverns.

Summer leave ended and with freshly charged batteries, both crews headed for the Rock once again. The Cable crew was off to 5 Wing Goose Bay for a fibre cable plant upgrade. The team spent the three weeks indulging in feeds of Char, and at least one night of fine German cuisine chased by the occasional beverage. The antenna crew was off to CFS St John’s for one week followed by two weeks at 9 Wing Gander. It was the first trip to St John’s for most of the crew but it felt like coming home to all. Special thanks to Big Albert Jones, brother of Jodi, for allowing us to throw darts in his basement. Cpl Ludlow was filling in for Giggles who was on paternity leave. After arriving in Gander it was back to base cable plant inspection and maintenance and the first chance for some of us to see the FRD-10.

After returning from Newfoundland, we switched crew duties. The fall was spent in LLFA Det Aldershot for the Cable crew. After 8 weeks we were able to lash all copper and fibre cables and complete the splicing and termination, with labeling and testing left for the last week. This was the final phase of this project successfully completed by Sgt Hewitt and his crew.

During this time the Antenna crew was doing annual antenna inspection and maintenance in Great Village and Masstown; where they took time to test drive our new six wheeled Polaris. It held up fine. October saw a slight detour in our usual routine with an impromptu structure wiring project at Edmonton where preparations for 1 BDE's Afghanistan rotation in Feb were conducted.

There was lots of work and long hours. Not much time for sightseeing although some of the boys did make it to the indoor ranges at West Edmonton Mall. God bless Sunday shopping. Thanks to all the guys at Det Edm for making us feel at home. Former EDM DET COMD, CWO Mike Huard, would have appreciated Det Hfx's contributions to this last minute project addition.

This sums up most of the year. Just tying up lose ends and getting ready for Christmas. So from all of us down East. **Merry Christmas and Happy New Year! May this holiday season be filled with peace and contentment for all!**

Cpl George (Chase) Chaisson & Cpl Marty Leblanc send



CFB VALCARTIER

Les vacances des fêtes s`en viennent à grand pas et un grand congé bien mérité nous fera tous le plus grand bien suite à une année bien mouvementée ici à Valcartier. Comme à chaque année, il y a eu le Défis Jean Romard. Le tout s`est déroulé les 2-3 Juin 2005. Au niveau régional, une chaude lutte a été disputée entre les Caporaux Champoux, Leute et Thibault. À la fin de la journée, le Cpl Thibault a pu fièrement soulevé le trophée du secteur Québec. Puis le lendemain, la compétition Nationale a débuté. Des participants représentant les bases de Kingston, Petawawa, Montréal, St-Jean et Québec. Nous avons encore eu droit à une superbe journée ensoleillée et la compétition a été des plus féroces entre les Caporaux Robinson, Leute et Thibault. Mais encore une fois, le Cpl Thibault a livré une solide performance pour emporter le précieux trophée. La compétition fut couronnée de succès, grâce à l'implication des membres de la section des lignes et de la supervision de L`adjudant Dubé.

Cette dernière année à été chargé de projet et de gros travaux mais aussi de quelques savoureuses anecdotes.....Demandé dont au Cpl/C Cavanagh ou il a appris à conduire.....Chose certaine, n`envoyer pas vos enfants à cette école.....Un Jeep Mercedes et un VSLR plus tard, le Cpl/C Cavanagh est qualifié formulaire 935, bien malgré lui. Personnellement, j`ai eu la chance de me mettre les pieds dans les plats grâce à un confrère dont je tairais le nom hum (Jean-Jean) qui m`a dit qu`un Adjudant Rad Op lui avait donné de la misère à cause de son casque de sécurité. Mon cher Jean, l`adjudant Martel n`est pas un Rad Op mais bien notre LCF ici à Valcartier....Donc pour ceux qui ne connaissent pas L`adjudant Martel, demandez le moi et je vous répondrais avec joie.....La section des lignes est maintenant officiellement qualifiée pour attraper une nouvelle race de raton-laveur qui semblait se nourrir de câble de cuivre.....Sans commentaire.

Bien sur, chaque année comporte ces joies et ses peines.....Cette année plusieurs membres nous ont quittés. Ainsi, le Sgt Pierre Connolly a finalement quitté la base et le côté tactique pour se joindre à l'équipe de Montréal ou le stress est moindre.... Le Sgt Caroline Asselin a aussi quitté pour aller faire part de son expertise au 76 G comm. d'Ottawa. Le Cpl Jonathan Leute a pour sa part quitter la belle région de Québec pour s`acheter un chapeau de Cow-boys.....En effet, il s`est joint cet été au CFJSR d`Emonton. Finalement, le Cpl Yves Sylvain a été muté à Ottawa où il aura la chance de faire preuve de sa grande patience à ces nouveaux confrère de travaille. Bonne chance à tous dans votre nouvelle mutation.

Malgré la perte de ces confrères, nous pouvons nous réjouire de l`arrivé de nouveau personnel. L`adjudant Mario Martel est devenu le nouveau contremaître des lignes de la brigade de Valcartier arrivé fraîchement de Kingston. Ici, à la section des lignes de la Troupe des Transmissions Valcartier, nous avons eu droit à un nouveau superviseur, le Sgt Martin Bélanger, qui lui aussi débarque de Kingston. Pour sa part, la section des lignes du QGET a reçu un Cpl/C en santé qui arrive tout juste de Greenwood. En effet le Cpl/C Patrick Cavanagh est arrivé en ville. Avec le départ des caporaux Leute et Sylvain, nous devions recevoir seulement la crème pour prendre leur position.

C'est ainsi que le Cpl Jean Côté et le Cpl Jean-Sébastien Guillemette ce sont joint à la section des lignes du 5 GSS. Le Cpl Côté débarque de l'artillerie ou l'ont chuchote que ce dernier risque de s'ennuyer d'un certain superviseur. Tant qu'à lui, le Cpl Guillemette (Quillemette pour les intimes, merci à une erreur de frappe) arrive lui aussi de Kingston et il pourra donc partager ces connaissances après avoir passé cinq années avec le CFJSR de Kingston. Bienvenu à tous et bonne chance dans votre nouvelle position.

Comme à chaque année, certains membres mettent fin à une carrière bien remplie. C'est le cas de M. Régis Pilote qui nous a quitte après 20 ans de bons et loyaux services. M. Pilote travaille encore dans le domaine des communications. M. Luc Loupien a tant qu'à lui mi-fin à une carrière de 17 ans. Il œuvre maintenant dans le domaine de la vente immobilière. M. Michel Laframboise a pour sa part entrepris un cours en vente immobilier après avoir donné 17 ans aux Forces Canadienne. Finalement, M. Marco Lolli a terminé une carrière de 23 ans et il a complété avec succès son cour d'agent de sécurité. Félicitations aux nouveaux retraités et bonne chance dans votre nouvelle vie.





CAFL FAMILY SCHOLARSHIP

As approved during the eighteenth annual CAFL General Meeting held in Cornwall Ontario on 21 February 2005, the CAFL Family Scholarship was established to provide financial assistance to CAFL member's dependent attending a full time program at a recognized post secondary institution such as University, Community College or Technical Institutes.

The funding of this scholarship will originate from annual membership dues held and managed by the National CAFL executive. The awarding of the scholarship will begin in school year 2005-2006.

Amount:

A \$300.00 scholarship will be awarded annually during the Annual National Line Tasking Conference.

Eligibility:

Eligibility to the scholarship will be based on the following criteria:

- a. applicant must be a sponsored dependant (child or spouse) of a CAFL member in good standing (paid up);

Note: For clarity, extended family such as nephew, niece and grand children are not to be considered as dependants.

- b. applicant must be enrolled and registered in a full time program at a post secondary studies institution for the year of application;

- c. applicant must apply in writing to the CAFL National Executive Committee no later than 31 Jan in the calendar year which schooling starts and include the following information (see attached form):

- i. name and particulars of sponsor (CAFL member);
- ii. name and particulars of applicant (CAFL member dependent);
- iii. a copy of high school diploma;
- iv. a copy of post secondary institution's acceptance letter; and
- iv. a copy of registration fee receipt of a post secondary institution.

- d. the post secondary institution must provide full time programs which leads to a collegial or university degree;
- e. all eligible applications received by the National CAFL Executive Committee NLT 31 Jan in the calendar year of which schooling starts will be entered into a “simple draw from the hat”;
- f. the draw will be held during the National Line Tasking Conference “Semi Formal Dinner” annually and announced that evening; and
- g. the winner will receive the scholarship cheque by mail following the conference.

Duration:

Applicant can only be awarded the CAFL Family Scholarship one time.

Accessibility:

Only one application per family per year will be accepted.



CAFL FAMILY SCHOLARSHIP

Application Form

CANDIDATE INFORMATION (STUDENT)	
First Name:	
Name:	
Date of Birth	
Address:	
Telephone Number:	
Secondary school graduated from:	
Secondary school address and phone number:	
Graduation date:	
Post-secondary institution attended:	
Post-secondary full time program attended:	
SPONSOR INFORMATION (CAFL MEMBER)	
First Name:	
Name:	
Address:	
Telephone Number Home:	
Telephone Number Work:	

I certify that, to the best of my knowledge, the above information is accurate and complete. In the event that I receive the scholarship, I grant authority to publish my name as the recipient of the scholarship for publicity purposes.

Signature of Applicant _____ Date _____

Signature of CAFL Member _____ Date _____

Forward application and supporting documents no later than 31 January of the current year to:
CAFL Scholarship, Minto Place Postal Outlet, PO Box 56069, 407 Laurier Ave Ottawa, ON, K1R 7Z1



CAFLE FAMILY SCHOLARSHIP Application Form Review

For The Use OF The CAFLE Executive Committee Only		
CAFLE Membership paid up?	YES	NO
Application Date: (Refer to Post Mark on Letter)		
Copy of High School Diploma:	YES	NO
Copy of Post Secondary Institution's Acceptance Letter	YES	NO
Copy of post secondary institution's registration fee receipt	YES	NO

I certify that, to the best of my knowledge, the candidate meets all criteria required to be entered in the scholarship draw for the current school year.

Signature of Reviewer _____ Date _____

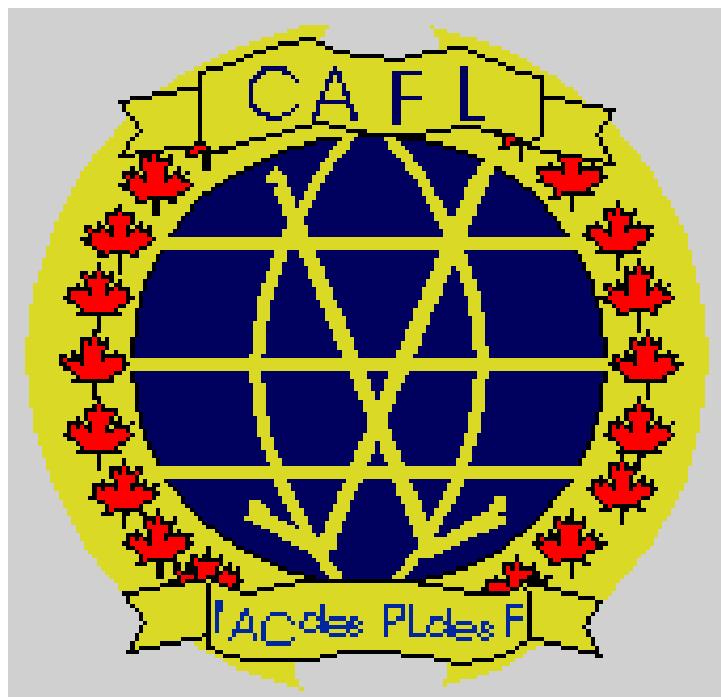
CAFL

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

NOTIFICATION

The nineteenth annual general meeting of the CAFL
**Will be held at the NAVCAN Training Institute,
1950 Montreal Road, Cornwall, Ontario on Monday
the 20st of February 2006, commencing at 1900 hours.**

All association members are encouraged to attend.



www.cafl.org

CANADIAN ASSOCIATION OF FORCES LINEMEN

APPLICATION FOR MEMBERSHIP MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL

NEW	
RENEWAL	

Given Name	Nickname	Surname	Rank
Street Address			
City	Province	Postal Code	
email address:			
Telephone : Home	Office		
Training: I completed my Group 1 or Lineman TQ 3 Training			
From:(date)	To: (date)		
Enclosed is a cheque/money order in the amount of \$		To cover membership dues for the period	
1 Apr 20 to 31 Mar 20 .			
Membership dues are \$10.00 per year and the membership year is from 1 April to 31 March.			

Signature: _____ Date: _____

Forward application to: CAFL
Minto Place Postal Outlet
PO Box 56069,
407 Laurier Ave
Ottawa, ON, K1R 7Z1

NOTE: Some members find it convenient to pay for 2 or three years in advance.