

# UNITED SERVICES INSTITUTE OF NANAIMO AND NORTH ISLAND

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## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Hello to All. With our second luncheon meeting coming close to being on deck I am pleased to announce that we assembled a small stream of guest speakers, at least for the next two or three months. As you are aware, that particular task is becoming more difficult from one year to the next. As our generation is getting on, and there seems to be less



and less military people (and therefore less speakers) available in our area, I am reminding all that any suggestions you might have are more than welcome. The next significant event on the table for our

Institute will the AGM, to be held on Wednesday, April 13. Usual place, usual time. It is the opportunity for the current Board to present their report for the year behind us, and the new Board for 2019 to be elected. On that note, should anyone of you wish to participate more fully in your Institute, please let us know. Help

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## MILITARY AND SECURITY MUSING:

### Дезинформация

## DISINFORMATION RUSSIAN STYLE

**Nanaimo, 18 January 2019...**in my Musing Column last month, I indicated I would save my comments on *disinformation and misinformation* for a later column. This is it, although I covered the general subject of *Information Warfare* way back in April 2012. I'll focus on disinformation here, as much has changed in the course of intervening seven-plus years.

Russian-style disinformation is not unique to Russia, but under Putin's

tutelage, it has become a highly effective and relatively economical weapon. Disinformation, as practised today by the Russians, is "designed to confuse, distract and deceive the target public." The latter tends to be a European and North American audience, but good disinformation creates lots of confusion anywhere at the receiving end, and, it has global impact. We also tend to be a gullible audience, vulnera-

**Continued on page 3...**

**ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING**  
**UNITED SERVICES INSTITUTE OF**  
**NANAIMO - NORTH ISLAND**

The Annual General Meeting of this Institute  
will be held at RCL Branch 257 (Lantzville) on  
**Wednesday, the 13<sup>th</sup> of March.**  
We expect business will be  
will be completed in under one hour's time.

A summary of business to be conducted is as follows:

1. Approve the Minutes of the SGM held on the 9<sup>th</sup> of May 2018.
2. Hear and Take Action on Proposed Changes to Our Constitution.
3. Receive the Report by the Financial Reviewer.
4. Receive, Review and Approve the Financial Statements of the Institute for 2018.
5. Receive, Review and Approve the Budget for 2019.
6. Receive the Annual Report of the Outgoing President and such other Reports. as may be Appropriate (most Directors' reports are included in the President's Report).
7. Receive the Report of the Nominations Committee and Conduct Elections.
8. Remarks by the Incoming President.
9. The Members Appoint a Financial Reviewer for 2019. (**See Note 1**).
10. New or Other Business by the Members.

**Note 1:** For obvious reasons, the Board does not presume to recommend a Financial Reviewer to the Members. That appointment is exclusively a **collective prerogative and responsibility** of the Members of our Institute.

THIS EDITION OF THE USIN(NI) NEWSLETTER HAS BEEN PUBLISHED AND AUTHORIZED FOR RELEASE BY  
WO (RETD) EDWIN J PEETERS CD  
PRESIDENT, USINNI.

ANY MEMBER OF THE INSTITUTE WISHING TO MAKE A CONTRIBUTION OR COMMENT  
WITH RESPECT TO THIS PUBLICATION MAY DO SO BY CONTACTING THE SAME.

## ... DISINFORMATION ... continued from page 1

ble, given our over- reliance on the internet and electronic media

For starters, in 2017, the Russians spent about as much on disinformation as just one F 35 aircraft costs...\$US one hundred million plus. They employ a bunch of “computer geeks or trolls” located in Moscow and St Petersburg, and, use our own media to get their message(s) out to

the West. They routinely hack-into and use our own email accounts, or, create spurious ones to use against us. Paired with Russia’s sophisticated



global diplomatic media manipulation, it’s a highly cost-efficient way to fight a war. And, it works! The alleged Russian shooting down of Malaysia’s MH 17 over the Ukraine provides one example. The stories that followed were to the effect that

the shoot-down was variously: by a Ukrainian fighter aircraft; that it was the result of a mistaken shot by a Ukrainian soldier using an American-provided STINGER rocket; or, that the crash occurred in Western Europe, with the bodies & debris

secretly transported overnight to the Ukraine as a provocation. Dozens of alternatives were created and promoted. Don’t laugh! Some people bought some of this then and still believe it now.

**... a lie,  
however  
ludicrous  
it might be,  
told often  
enough, gains  
respectability  
through simple  
repetition and  
enhancement.”**



The more recent Skripal poisoning case in the UK provides another chilling example of disinformation at work. As that drama unfolded, ninety-five (95) alternative “might-have-beens” were being promoted globally to counter the very “outrageous idea that two innocent Russian tourists could have undertaken such a scurrilous act.”

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**President's Message  
Continued from page 1**

a good thing and always welcome. This winter has been relatively mild thus far, however I think that Mother Nature may have a surprise lined up for us. Please take care. Hope to see you all the Luncheon meeting on the 13th.

*Edwin*



**REMINDER**

The Nomination Committee for our new Board consists of Pete Betcher (Immediate Past President), Charles Kemp and Leroy Wood. **All** Officer and Director positions are open & new blood and new ideas are welcome! In particular, there are still four existing vacancies we need to fill smartly:

- Newsletter Editor/Publisher**  
(covered by Ed now)
- Director Special Events**  
(largely shared by Ed and Pauline)
- Director Media & Public Relations**  
(long vacant); and
- Speaker Coordination**  
(the incumbent retired due to ill health)

Speak to Pete, Charles or Leroy if you have thoughts or questions on any of this! A cheerful volunteer is a joy to behold!!!



**LUNCHEON GUEST SPEAKER**



The USINNI is pleased to announce that MGen (Retd) Andrew Christie CMM CD, one of our very own, will be our Guest Speaker at our February Luncheon. His theme will surround his service time spent outside Canada. An Infantry Officer, MGen Christie, has served as the DCOS (OPS) at HQ CENTAG and the Commander, Allied Mobile Forces (Land) for NATO's 12,000 man rapid reaction deterrent force for employment on NATO's North or South flanks in time of crisis..

This month's Luncheon/Meeting will be held at

## ROYAL CANADIAN LEGION BRANCH 257

7727 LANTZVILLE ROAD

on

**WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY, 13TH, 2019**

1130 HOURS

\$25.00 per member/person.

### LUNCHEON MEETING ATTENDANCE

Your telephone contact coordinator will attempt to contact you in the days prior to our monthly luncheon/meeting in order to confirm your attendance. In this manner we can provide attendance numbers to the volunteer kitchen staff at RCL 257 so that they may prepare adequately for our function.

If for some reason she has missed you, please contact her or Edwin at 250-751-2360 or [ejpeeters@shaw.ca](mailto:ejpeeters@shaw.ca).

A thru E

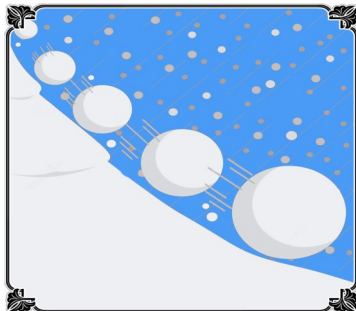
**Pauline Langley**  
250-758-7632

F thru M

**Denyse McCullough**  
250-756-0223

N thru Z

**Paula Francis**  
250-751-0991



### USINNI SNOWBALL

We did not have a winner at last month's Luncheon Meeting so as always the 'pot' has been carried over. You can't play if you are not in attendance and signed in.

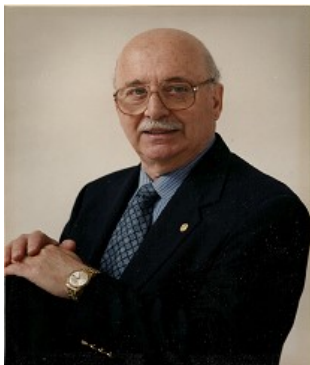
Good luck to all.

... **DISINFORMATION ...**  
continued from page 3

With disinformation, you don't have to prove or disprove anything; you just need to muddy the water and to do so over & over until the original set of facts blurs away to nothing.

Adolf Hitler perpetuated the simple idea that a lie, however ludicrous it might be, told often enough, gains respectability through simple repetition and enhancement. Vladimir Putin has simply refined that premise with his own: truth will always drown in a sea of words. Deny the deniable, obfuscate the rest.

And, our own ofttimes blind trust and reliance in all that we see and hear in our highly interconnected electronic world makes us ripe for the plucking. The Internet and 24 Hours News may be pluses in our lives today, but they are also big parts of the problem. Deception is the name of the game. You still have to think rationally, even clinically, for yourself.



*This Musing Column is again that of Colonel (Retd) W.J. (Bill) McCullough, MSC, CD, a Past President of this Institute and the long-time Chair of our Military Committee. He joined the Reserve Army as a Private in 1953,*

*transferred to the Regular Force in 1959, was commissioned in 1960, retiring as Director General Security in*



**Minutes of Our Most Recent  
Annual General Meeting**

Our last **Meeting of the Members** was held on the 9<sup>th</sup> of May, 2018. Business to be conducted was light and the Meeting closed after just eight minutes. The Secretary's Minutes were subsequently reviewed and endorsed by the Board on June 9<sup>th</sup>.

Those Minutes are flagged in the Institute's Minute Book and have been & are available for examination by any Member. Any Member who wishes his or her own copy (by email) should contact the Secretary ([wjmccullough@shaw.ca](mailto:wjmccullough@shaw.ca)). For purposes of economy, there will only be a small number of copies printed and posted for reference at our upcoming 13 March 2019 General Meeting. Our first Order of Business that day will be approval of those Previous Minutes.

January 30, 2019. The Canadian government is setting up an internal team to sound the alarm if it sees evidence the October federal election is being undermined.

Democratic Institutions Minister Karina Gould made multiple announcements Wednesday regarding potential threats to Canada's democratic process. She spoke alongside Public Safety Minister Ralph Goodale and Defence Minister Harjit Sajjan in Ottawa.

To ward off the type of threats that tainted the 2016 U.S. presidential election and the Brexit vote, the government is setting up a new "critical election incident public protocol" group — five bureaucrats who will alert the public if they become aware of interference during the campaign period, also known as the writ period.