

UNITED SERVICES INSTITUTE OF NANAIMO AND NORTH ISLAND

c/o Vancouver Island Military Museum
100 Cameron Road, Nanaimo, BC V9R 0C8

President

WO (Retd) Edwin J. Peeters CD
ejpeeters@shaw.ca
250-751-2360

Vice President

Maj (Retd) Len Campbell CD
sqn439tiger12@telus.net
250-758-2292

Secretary &

Military Committee Chair

Col (Retd) Bill McCullough MSC CD
wjmcullough@shaw.ca
250-756-0223

Treasurer

Capt (Retd) Robert Sears CD
rtomsears@yahoo.ca
250-616-3984

Director Special Events

Vacant

Director Member Services

CWO (Retd) Tony Pearson CD
tm-pearson@shaw.ca
250-758-9758

Director Hospitality & Events

Mrs. Pauline Langley
fujarah@shaw.ca
250-758-7632

Special Activities Coordinator

Ms Corinne Stewart
corinnestewart@telus.net
250-754-5226

Director Public Relations

Ms Rebecca Lamperson
rebecca3lamperson@gmail.com
250-331-1791

Sergeant-At-Arms

Cpl (Retd) Pieter de Heer
pdeheer1935@gmail.com
250-758-4384

Regalia

Capt (Retd) Charles Kemp CD
250-390-1358

Past President

Cdr Pete Betcher
cdbetcher@shaw.ca
250-754-9232

Director-At-Large

Capt (Retd) Roger Bird CD
hcbird@shaw.ca
250-751-2941

Vol 28 No 01

January 2020

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Happy New Year to all USINNI Members! May 2020 bring prosperity, joy and all the happiness you can hold.

For starters this year, at our January Luncheon/

Meeting, the USINNI will be presenting BGen David Awalt as our Guest speaker.

As Deputy Commander of 3rd Canadian Division he will be presenting us with his views on

the current state of readiness of our Reserve Forces in Canada. Are they up to their mission—STRONG, SECURE, ENGAGED?

We also have Guest speakers lined up for February and April. As our March

Luncheon/Meeting is our Annual General Meeting, we will not have a guest speaker.

I want to remind all USINNI Members that we are only as strong as those amongst you that volunteer to serve on our Board.. Volunteers give our Board the strength and ideas that make our Institute capable of continuing to serve our fellow Members as

well as fulfil our mission to the Canadian Forces. Many hands make the work light. Please consider volunteering to serve.

An additional reminder from our

Continued on page 3



Nanaimo, 13 December 2019...let me somewhat defensively preface this column by acknowledging that economics and related budgeting are not my "long suits." However, with a new House of Commons more or less back-in-action, I again want to make the point that Canada is **not/not** spending anything like enough on National Defence. We're simply not meeting our agreed commitments to NATO, and, we're not doing near enough of our share of Continental Defence. Successful Liberal, Conservative or Progressive Conservative Governments have been & are long, long on talk, and,

**MILITARY AND SECURITY
MUSING**

DEFENCE SPENDING

more like the Three Stooges when it comes to getting rubber to the road.

At early December's NATO meeting in the UK, our PM couldn't even tell the US President "on camera" where

SPENDING continued on page 2

SPENDING Continued from page 1

we were on defence spending, without resorting, again, “on camera,” to prompting from staffers. Duh! Even then, he got our spending as being 1.4 % of GDP when it’s just over the 1.3% mark, billions of dollars short of our contracted agreement with NATO to get to 2% across the board by 2024. At the present snail-like progression on that goal, we might & might not get there by 2034 rather than 2024. It’s a snow balls’ chance in hell either way.

Worse still, the yard stick is a poor one. GDP in the short run, goes up & down like a toilet seat in a male washroom. GDP is the net value of all that we produce in a year. Currently, it looks like Canada produced about \$1710 billion as our GDP this year, with NATO (and Donald Trump) expecting roughly \$34 billion would be directed to National Defence! Fat chance that! We already have some CDN\$ 8 billion that National Defence “has” in the existing budget but won’t be able to spend before April 1st! Not all of it will be salted away for next year, if ever.

So, we have a succession of problems that need to be brought out into the light of day for public scrutiny. The budget development process is but one. In the end, the Minister will know that Cabinet will only go for x dollars in a coming year, even if y dollars is actually, even urgently, the sum required. So, programs crudely get cut below the knees, largely, if not solely, as a political/fiscal expediency. Then, even if a program is approved, it invariably runs into pork-barrelling delays to meet the needs of influential MPs. These worthies simply need to demonstrate to their constituents that some of the gravy will come to the local economy. And, at about this stage or earlier, the Federal Bureaucracy gets its many oars in the water. Threat assessments on which, in part, materiel requirements were originally based, end up being massaged into something politically acceptable in PCO...which will probably be different from that

... billions of dollars short of our contracted agreement with NATO to get to 2% across the board by 2024. At the present snail-like progression on that goal, we might & might not get there by 2034 rather than 2024. It’s a snow ball’s chance in hell either way.

which was originally identified as an essential requirement by the originator back on the coal-face. Too often, the end result is a camel in place of a horse!

What Canada needs today is a Government and its bureaucracy that is very much on a war footing. During a recent crisis in the Maritimes, the then Minister for Public Safety & Emergency Preparedness publicly stated that the safety and security of Canadians was the Priority One Responsibility of the Government of Canada. We’re simply not up to that standard today.

And, at the risk of repeating myself, the only way to deter and prevent the next war is to clearly demonstrate that Canadians are ready, armed & fully prepared to both fight and win any war forced on us. Internationally, we simply “can’t buy love!” Canada currently spends just over 1.3% of GDP on our National Defence. For emphasis again, we promised NATO we’d get to 2.0% by 2024. Clearly, at the current rate, we won’t come close to this by 2034 much less 2024.

In the short term, whatever the cost, Canada needs to accelerate our current pedantic, ponderous, slow-motion ship-building program, and, then move ahead right now on the redesign and development of the next generation of the better warships that will be needed if we are to carry our share of dominance of the three oceans that lap our own shores. Similarly, Government needs to stop the skelly-wagging over the procurement of the modern aircraft and the other air-defence needs necessary to ensure our control of our skies over & about Canada.

The road for the Army is going to be longer and tougher. However, we need to at least now begin the fleshing-out of the skeleton of a five division Canadian Army assuredly necessary to meet our existing commitments for Continental Defence and our other commitments abroad. The divisions can and should be a mix of both Regulars and Reservists, but, very much like the Swiss and the Scandinavians, they need to be something much

more than just wishful numbers on paper. Our Army needs real soldiers ready, trained & equipped to “stand to” whenever and wherever they are needed.

We’re a long way off any of this here in Canada today. This should be the Number One Priority for our new Federal Government in Ottawa. Big money? You bet! But, for what Ralph Goodale described as that Number One Federal Priority, we need to be spending billions more on Defence than we do.

Too rich for your blood? OK; it’s your call! However, you’d do well then to give thought to teaching your grandchildren the ups & downs of plowing. That’ll be the inevitable fate of the progeny of *those who beat their swords into iron plows and their spears into pruning tools.*

This Musing Column is by Colonel (Retd) WJ (Bill) McCullough, MSC, CD, a Past President of our Institute and long-time Chair of our Military & Security Committee. The Column is a product of his own research and the views expressed are his own.



President’s Message continued from page 1

Membership Director, Tony Pearson—If you have not yet renewed your Membership for 2020, there is still time before the deadline.

Stay warm, safe, stay, and plan to attend the January Luncheon.

Hope to see you all next week.

Edwin

USINNI GUEST SPEAKER

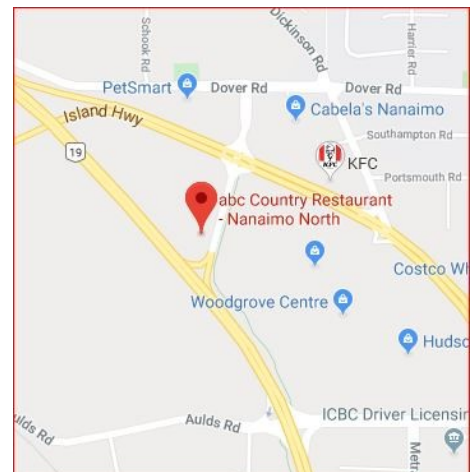
The USINNI is pleased to present as our Guest speaker on Wednesday, January 8, 2020, Brigadier-General David Awalt CD, Deputy Commander, 3rd Canadian Division. His presentation will be about the Canadian Forces Reserves, are they, Strong, Secure, Engaged?.



BGen David Awalt, CD

IMPORTANT NOTICE

This months Luncheon/Meeting will be held at
 abc Country Restaurant
 6671 Mary Ellen Drive
 Nanaimo



This month's Luncheon/Meeting will be held at

ABC COUNTRY RESTUARANT

6671 MARY ELLEN DRIVE, NANAIMO, BC

on

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 8th, 2020

1130 HOURS

\$25.00 per member/person. Guests welcome.

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.

A thru E

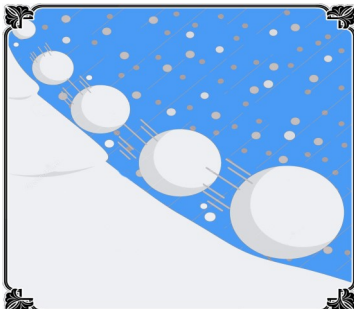
Pauline Langley
250-758-7632

F thru M

Denyse McCullough
250-756-0223

N thru Z

Paula Francis
250-751-0991



USINNI SNOWBALL

Regrets to **Leroy Wood**. He was drawn for our Snowball draw last month. As he was not in attendance the pot will be carried over. Remember you can't win if you do not sign in, and you can't sign in unless you attend the luncheon/meeting.

More anticipation, more excitement, more fun, more reward.