



VOLUME 71 NUMBER 7 | APRIL 7, 2026  
MORALE & WELFARE NEWS | CFB ESQUIMALT, VICTORIA, B.C.

# the LOOKOUT

NEWSPAPER & PUBLISHING

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## The Battle of Vimy Ridge

April 9-12, 1917

*Lest We Forget*



TO THE VALOUR OF THEIR COUNTRY-  
MEN IN THE GREAT WAR AND IN  
MEMORY OF THEIR SIXTY THOUSAND  
DEAD THIS MONUMENT IS RAISED  
BY THE PEOPLE OF CANADA

**MORALE & WELFARE NEWS**  
CFB ESQUIMALT, VICTORIA, B.C.  
A Division of Personnel Support Programs

The Lookout Newspaper and Publishing provides morale and welfare news to CFB Esquimalt, Maritime Forces Pacific, and is nationally distributed bi-weekly online at [lookoutnewspaper.com](http://lookoutnewspaper.com) with social media updates on Facebook, Instagram, and LinkedIn.

Reach out to us, we'd love to hear your feedback and story ideas!

Published every other Monday, under the authority of Capt(Navy) K. Whiteside, Base Commander, CFB Esquimalt.

The editor reserves the right to edit, abridge or reject copy or advertising to adhere to policy as outlined in PSP Policy Manual. Views and opinions expressed are not necessarily those of the Department of National Defence.

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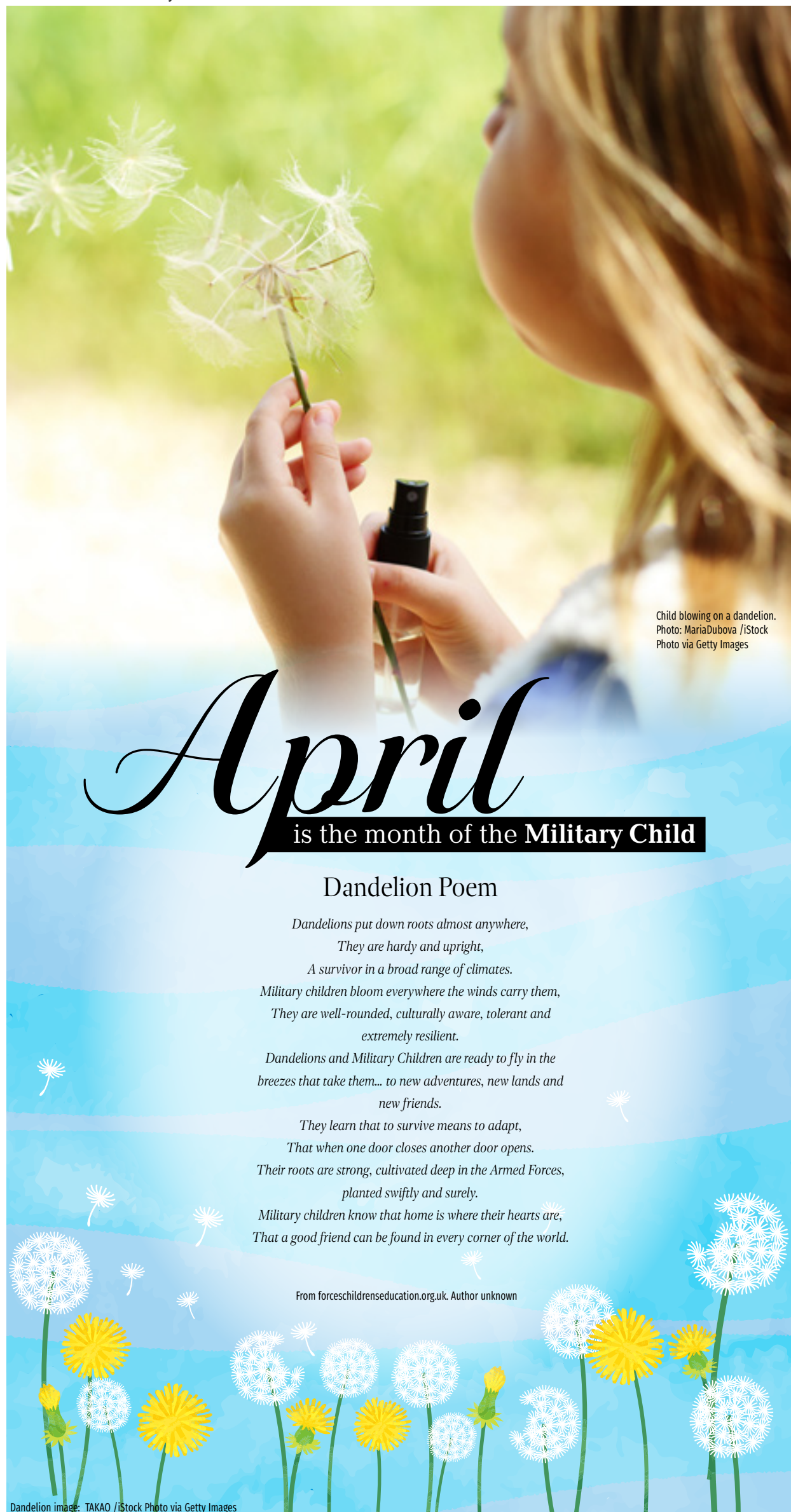
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Child blowing on a dandelion.  
Photo: MariaDubova /iStock  
Photo via Getty Images

# April

is the month of the **Military Child**

## Dandelion Poem

*Dandelions put down roots almost anywhere,  
They are hardy and upright,  
A survivor in a broad range of climates.  
Military children bloom everywhere the winds carry them,  
They are well-rounded, culturally aware, tolerant and  
extremely resilient.  
Dandelions and Military Children are ready to fly in the  
breezes that take them... to new adventures, new lands and  
new friends.  
They learn that to survive means to adapt,  
That when one door closes another door opens.  
Their roots are strong, cultivated deep in the Armed Forces,  
planted swiftly and surely.  
Military children know that home is where their hearts are,  
That a good friend can be found in every corner of the world.*

From [forceschildreducation.org.uk](http://forceschildreducation.org.uk). Author unknown

# Republic of Korea Navy Visit to CFB Esquimalt Highlights Growing Maritime Partnership

Photo: Oleksii Liskonihi/iStock Photo via Getty Images

**Archana Cini**

Lookout Newspaper  
with files from the Government of Canada

A Republic of Korea Navy (ROKN) port visit to Canadian Forces Base (CFB) Esquimalt is planned for later this spring, highlighting Canada's continued focus on enhancing maritime interoperability and collaboration with allied navies.

The visit, scheduled from May 23 to June 2, will see two ROKN vessels arrive in Esquimalt: ROKS *Daejeon* (FFG-823), a Daegu-class frigate, and ROKS *Dosan Ahn Chang-ho* (SS-083), a KSS-III class submarine. Both ROKN vessels are currently sailing on a 14,000-kilometre trans-Pacific voyage from Jinhae, South Korea, to Canada's West Coast.

During the port visit, sailors from both navies will take part in a series of professional

engagements, strengthening the growing maritime partnership between the Royal Canadian Navy (RCN) and ROKN. These interactions will build mutual understanding and enhance interoperability between both parties while also reinforcing their joint shared commitment to regional stability.

A key component of the engagement will be a personnel exchange conducted through the RCN's REGULUS program, which provides members of the RCN with

opportunities to operate alongside allied and partner navies, exposing them to different tactics, techniques, and operational environments in the process. As such, two Canadian sailors will sail with members of the ROKN aboard ROKS *Dosan Ahn Chang-ho* for the final leg of its journey from Hawaii to CFB Esquimalt.

Near the conclusion of the ROKN port visit, both ROKN and RCN assets will depart from Esquimalt Harbour to conduct combined

exercises within the Maritime Forces Pacific (MARFAC) area of operations. This will include both anti-submarine warfare exercises and integration exercises conducted with Royal Canadian Air Force (RCAF) maritime patrol aircrafts. Ultimately, these joint exercises will strengthen the partnership between the ROKN and RCN through their shared priorities of force generation, knowledge sharing, and warfighting proficiency.

As global maritime challenges continue to evolve, engagements such as the ROKN's upcoming visit underscore the importance of strong international partnerships. Through joint exercises, personnel exchanges, and sustained collaboration, the RCN continues to build the interoperability and trust required to operate effectively, together, at sea.



Inset: ROKS *Dosan Ahn Chang-ho* at sea making its first trans-Pacific voyage to Canadian shores. Photo supplied

Bottom: ROKS *Dosan Ahn Chang-ho* sets sail from Jinhae Naval Base on March 25 to participate in naval exercises with the RCN in June. Photo: Republic of Korea Navy





## The *Lookout* Celebrates the Past and the Future WITH OPEN HOUSE

The *Lookout* Newspaper and Creative Services Building. Photo: Lindsay Groves, *Lookout* Newspaper

On Monday, March 23, the *Lookout* welcomed members of the local Defence community and public to our open house event, marking a meaningful moment of connection as we celebrated more than 80 years of print publication and our transition into a digital-only publication.

Set against a backdrop of warm, sunny weather, the event drew approximately 100 attendees to the *Lookout* offices including serving members, veterans, families, historians, and longtime readers. Guests spent the afternoon connecting with *Lookout* staff; sharing stories of service and readership; enjoying refreshments, treats, and hot dogs; and reflecting on the newspaper's enduring role within the community.

A highlight of the day was the opportunity to explore the *Lookout's* archives, where visitors flipped through decades of editions ranging from its first iteration in 1943 as the *Gangway* to our final print issue as the *Lookout*. The experience offered a tangible look at the publication's evolution, from its early days serving Canada's naval community during the Second World War to its latest chapter as a fully digital news source. Attendees engaged thoughtfully with our team, asking questions and offering valuable perspectives on the transition ahead. Community members are encouraged to continue reaching out to the *Lookout* with any questions or support needs during this time at [lookoutnewspaper.com/contact](http://lookoutnewspaper.com/contact)

Our sincere thanks to everyone who attended our open house event and contributed to the day.

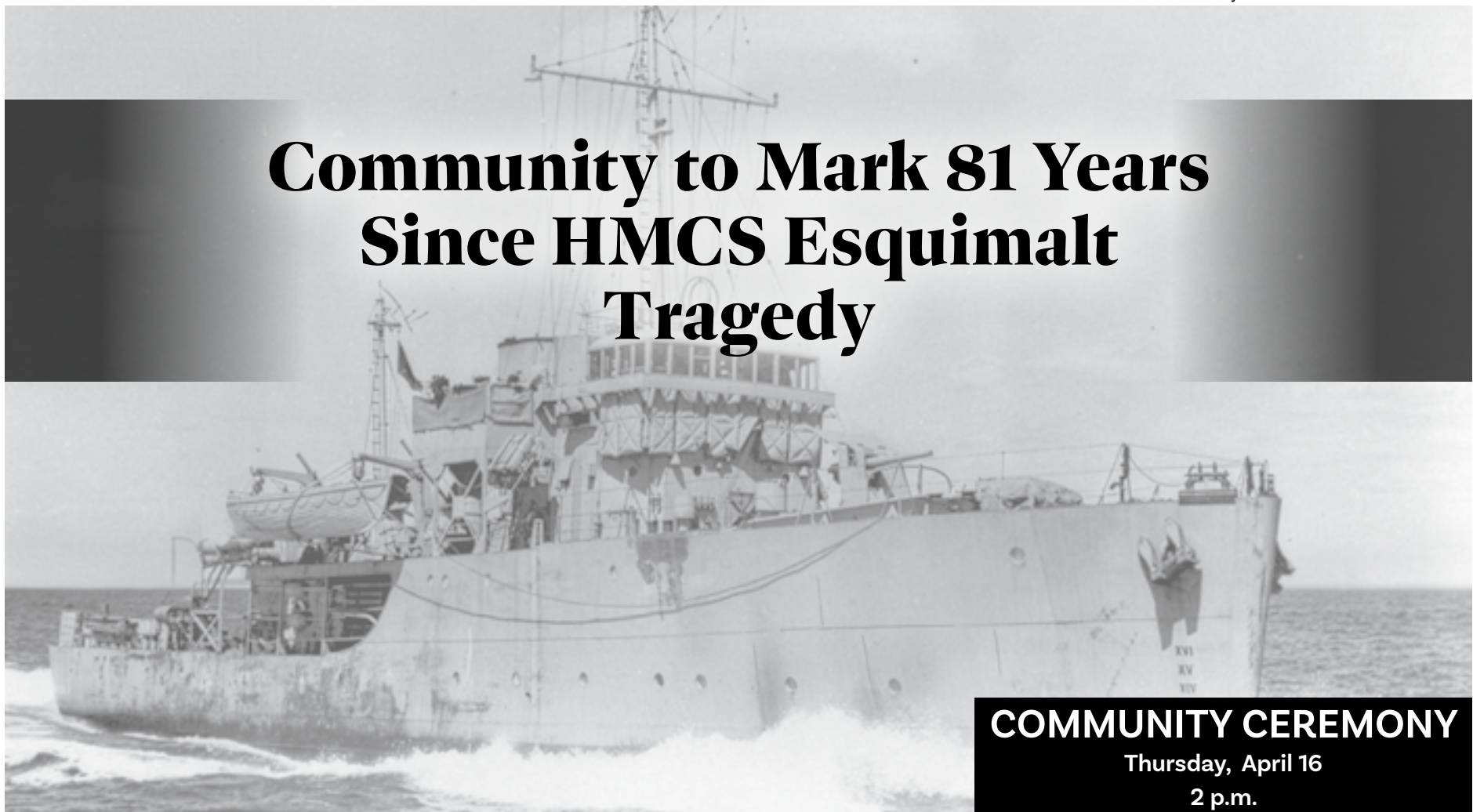
Photo: Leah Pokocky, *Lookout* Newspaper.



*Here's to the next chapter;  
we have the watch.*

Lindsay Groves, Corporate Services Manager, engages with visitors during the March 23 Open House. Photo: Andrea Modesto, *Lookout* Newspaper

# Community to Mark 81 Years Since HMCS Esquimalt Tragedy



HMCS Esquimalt at sea in 1944. Photo: The Department of National Defence

## Archana Cini

Lookout Newspaper  
contributions by Robert Fisher, Historian,  
and the CFB Esquimalt Naval and Military Museum

Each year, remembrance asks something of us. It invites us to pause, to reflect, and to carry ourselves with knowledge of the sacrifices and stories that might otherwise fade with time.

At 2 p.m. on April 16, remembrance will once again take shape as members of the Defence community and public are invited to gather in honour of His Majesty's Canadian Ship (HMCS) Esquimalt, the last Canadian warship lost to enemy action in the Second World War. Organized by the Township of Esquimalt and supported by Canadian Forces Base (CFB) Esquimalt, the ceremony will mark 81 years since the ship's sinking and pay tribute to the sailors who never came home.

HMCS Esquimalt was a Bangor-class minesweeper, one of many vessels tasked with the vital and often dangerous work of keeping sea lanes safe during wartime. Armed with a 12-pounder gun, anti-aircraft weapons, and depth charges, Esquimalt was built for the constant vigilance required during the Battle of the Atlantic. The ship's crew, comprising seven officers and 64 sailors, included many members of the Royal Canadian Navy Volunteer Reserve (RCNVR).

On the morning of April 16, 1945, Esquimalt was conducting an anti-submarine patrol just five miles off Chebucto Head, near Halifax. The war in Europe was nearing its end; for many, the worst seemed to be over.

But at 6:30 a.m., that sense of distance from danger changed. A torpedo fired from German submarine U-190 struck Esquimalt's starboard quarter, ripping open its hull. The explosion instantly knocked out power, leaving the crew unable to send a distress signal. Within four

minutes, HMCS Esquimalt had sunk into the Atlantic Ocean. What followed for the crew were cold, desperate hours spent waiting for rescue just within sight of shore.

Survivors scrambled into lifeboats and Carley floats, overcrowded and exposed. Some clung to the sides while others treaded water in the freezing ocean. Though an aircraft passed overhead just ten minutes after the attack, those in the water were mistaken for fishermen. Though attempts to contact the ship by radio failed, the urgency of the situation went unrecognized for hours. As time stretched on, sailors began to succumb to exposure. By the time rescue finally arrived, six hours after the torpedo strike, the human toll had deepened. Twenty-eight sailors are believed to have died in the initial attack. After the explosion, 16 more perished in the cold awaiting rescue. Of the 71 crew members aboard HMCS Esquimalt on April 16, 1945, only 27 survived.

The sinking of HMCS Esquimalt is remembered not only for its tragic loss of life, but for what it revealed about the cost of war. The Second World War was not a distant battle fought in far-off waters across the world. It happened within sight of Canada's coastline. It was a stark and sobering reminder that war touched home — that it reached Canadian shores, Canadian families, and Canadian communities.

This is why remembrance matters. Even when we have not seen it or heard it or lived in its time, war affects us; it changes us; and stays with us, generation after generation, long after the sacrifice has been made. The HMCS Esquimalt memorial cairn, located at 1200 Esquimalt Rd, stands as a reminder of this. Here, in the centre of Memorial Park in the township that shares the ship's own name, the story of HMCS Esquimalt is anchored in stone.

On the cairn, names of those who served aboard HMCS Esquimalt are remembered, and sacrifice is acknowledged. Importantly, the ongoing passage of time is met

## COMMUNITY CEREMONY

Thursday, April 16

2 p.m.

HMCS Esquimalt Memorial Cairn  
in Memorial Park  
1200 Esquimalt Road

with a deliberate, tangible act of remembering that cannot wear away.

This is where HMCS Esquimalt and the ship's company will be remembered on April 16. It will be 81 years to the day Esquimalt was sunk so close to Canadian shores, and the resolve to remember remains as strong as the details of the events of that day.

We hope to see you there.



Barbara Desjardins, Mayor of Esquimalt, lays a wreath during the 2025 HMCS Esquimalt Memorial Service held at the Memorial Park Cenotaph. Photo: Sailor 1st Class Brendan McLoughlin, MARPAC Imaging Services



CFB Esquimalt Tritons Women's Hockey team.  
Photo supplied by Ruta Kemzuraite

**CFB  
ESQUIMALT  
TRITONS  
SPORTS CORNER**

**Big wins, big plays, and even bigger team spirit. Here's a look at some of the teams and athletes from Canadian Forces Base (CFB) Esquimalt that have made waves in March.**

1. Bravo Zulu to the Men's Volleyball, Women's Volleyball, Men's Basketball, and Women's Hockey Teams that all captured 1<sup>st</sup> place at Canada West Regional Championships. All four teams saw no losses through all matches played in the tournament.
2. Moving forward, three teams have qualified to represent Canada West at the Canadian Armed Forces (CAF) National Championships at CFB Borden: Men's Volleyball, Women's Volleyball, and Men's Basketball.
3. Bravo Zulu to our recent tournament MVPs: Lt(Navy) Raphaelle Medeiros from the Women's Hockey team and A/SLt Gayo Isaya from Men's Basketball team.
4. Women's Hockey does not have a National Championship this year.

Questions about the Lookout's digital future?  
[lookoutnewspaper.com/faqs](http://lookoutnewspaper.com/faqs)

# CLOTHING Swap

**Event Calendar**

<p><b>Clothing Drop-Off</b> March 18 - Apr 13</p> <p><b>FREE Clothing Swap</b> Apr 23</p>	<p>NAC, Dockyard Gym, CPAC, Nelles, and Venture</p> <p>Naden Athletic Centre - Upper Gym</p>	<p>Normal Hours of Operation</p> <p>1000 to 1400</p>
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The MHWS is excited to host our 2nd Spring Clothing Swap on April 23. Clothing donations will be accepted from March 18<sup>th</sup> to April 13<sup>th</sup> at both Naden and Dockyard Gyms, CPAC, Nelles and Venture.

We welcome donations of all clothing items such as casual wear, athleisure, professional work clothes, dress clothes, shoes and more. Children's wear will also be accepted. Please ensure all items are clean and in good condition (free from pet hair, holes and stains). Intimate items will not be accepted.

The swap event is **FREE** and open to all CAF and DND employees. You do not need to donate items in order to participate! Come refresh your wardrobe in a fun, sustainable, and budget-friendly way!

For more information: [Jessica.Wyllie@forces.gc.ca](mailto:Jessica.Wyllie@forces.gc.ca)

Event brought to you by the MARPAC Health & Wellness Strategy

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# Remembering the Battle of Vimy Ridge *109 Years Later*

## Lookout staff

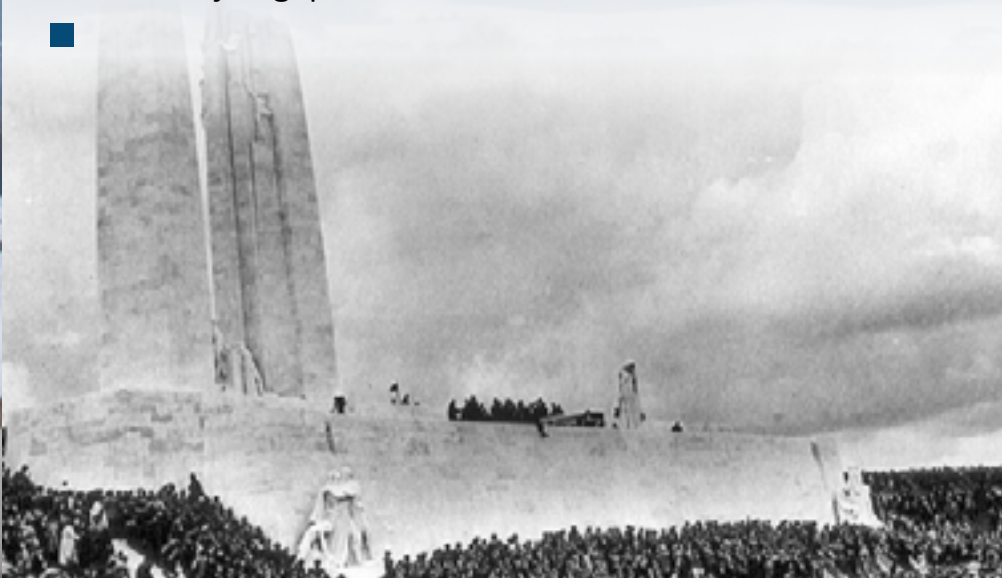
with files from the Government of Canada

April marks the 109th anniversary of the Battle of Vimy Ridge, one of the defining moments in Canadian military history. Fought in northern France from April 9 to 12, 1917, the battle saw all four divisions of the Canadian Corps fight together as one formation for the first time, marking a significant step in Canada's emergence on the world stage.

The attack began on Easter Monday under the cover of a massive artillery barrage, part of what became known as the "Week of Suffering," during which more than a million shells were fired. Through careful planning, coordination, and determination, Canadian forces successfully captured the ridge, an achievement that had previously seemed impossible. The success at Vimy Ridge carried lasting significance, strengthening Canada's national identity and contributing to greater recognition on the international stage.

However, the victory came at a cost with over 7,000 Canadians injured and nearly 3,600 deaths. Today, the Canadian National Vimy Memorial stands on the ridge in France, bearing the names of more than 11,000 Canadians who were listed as 'missing or presumed dead' in France during the First World War.

## Battle of Vimy Ridge | Veterans Affairs Canada



Background image: A statue at Vimy Ridge Memorial. Photo: bootlegga/iStock Photo via Getty Images | Inset: The unveiling of The Canadian National Vimy Memorial in 1936. Photo: Library and Archives of Canada



War graves at the Cabaret Rouge War Cemetery near Vimy Ridge. Photo: JonathanNicholls/iStock Photo via Getty Images



The trenches and craters on the battlefield of Vimy Ridge. Photo: Havana1234/iStock Photo via Getty Images



# Did You Know?

*Skip the March Madness*  
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- **FORCE Evaluations are available ALL YEAR LONG**
- **No need to join the last-minute lineup**
- **Give yourself time to train and adjust if needed**
- **Stay ahead of your readiness requirements**

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STAY READY.**

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If you are unsure who your coordinator is, or if you need to notify PSP of a cancellation,  
please call ext. 4412 or email [pspcfbesquimalt@gmail.com](mailto:pspcfbesquimalt@gmail.com).

# JOB FAIR



## Explore New Opportunities at the CFB Esquimalt Job Fair



**Archana Cini**

Lookout Newspaper

Those interested in starting or developing a career in Defence are invited to attend an upcoming job fair at Canadian Forces Base (CFB) Esquimalt on Friday, April 24.

Held from 1 p.m. to 7 p.m. at Work Point (1367 Victoria View Road), the event will highlight a wide range of non-military career opportunities on base. Open to the public, the job fair will also offer a chance to connect directly with hiring representatives and learn more about the diverse roles that support Defence operations. Attendees can explore opportunities in fields such as procurement; food services; human resources; maintenance and trades; and administrative services, with roles across additional departments also available. Whether starting a new career or looking to take the next step professionally, the upcoming job fair will showcase the many ways civilians can get involved with the Department of National Defence (DND).

Free parking will be available on site, and the job fair will also be accessible via BC Transit routes 15, 24, and 25. With a wide range of open roles and career paths to explore, the CFB Esquimalt job fair offers a valuable opportunity for professional development alongside the local Defence community.





Resolution Cove, captured from Bligh Island, B.C. Photo: Ahoy BC Showcase Directory  
Inset: A portrait of Vice-Admiral William Bligh completed by Alexander Huey in 1814. Photo: National Library of Australia

# Bligh Island Ties B.C. Coast to International Naval History

Lieutenant(Navy) Mike Makow, CD  
NRU ASTERIX

Bligh Island is located in Nootka Sound, on the west coast of Vancouver Island in British Columbia (B.C.). It is situated to the east of Nootka Island, in between the mouths of Muchalat Inlet, Tlupana Inlet, and Tahsis Inlet.

While it is a tranquil escape for many today, its name also carries one of the most dramatic tales in local maritime history.

Named after Vice-Admiral (VAdm) William Bligh, the island commemorates a man whose legacy spans both scientific achievement and scandalous rebellion. The late VAdm Bligh served as Master aboard His Majesty's Ship (HMS) Resolution during Captain James Cook's third voyage in 1778. HMS Resolution was a merchant collier purchased and

then converted into a warship by the Royal Navy in 1771. It was in a cove on Bligh Island — now known as Resolution Cove — that the Resolution was refitted, marking VAdm Bligh's first connection to the rugged shores of Nootka Sound.

But VAdm Bligh's fame, or infamy, would come nearly a decade later. In 1787, he was appointed commander of HMS Bounty, tasked with transporting breadfruit plants from Tahiti to the British West Indies. After a five-month layover in Tahiti, where the crew enjoyed a relaxed lifestyle and formed relationships with locals, discipline aboard the Bounty began to unravel.

On April 28, 1789, Acting Lieutenant (A/Lt) Fletcher Christian led a mutiny, seizing the ship and setting Bligh and 18 loyalists adrift in a small

launch. Against all odds, VAdm Bligh navigated over 3,500 nautical miles to safety in Timor, a feat hailed as one of the greatest open-boat voyages in maritime history.

Following the mutiny, most mutineers scattered; while some were captured and tried, others vanished into the South Pacific. A/Lt Christian's group eventually settled on Pitcairn Island, an extremely remote volcanic island in the southern Pacific Ocean, where their descendants live to this day. On the other hand, VAdm Bligh's career continued, though controversy followed him after the mutiny. He later served as Governor of New South Wales, where his authoritarian leadership style led to another rebellion, the Rum Rebellion of 1808.

Today, it's often surprising to residents and visitors of

B.C. that this remote island on the west coast of Vancouver Island bears the name of a man whose notoriety was forged thousands of miles away in the South Pacific. The fact that the VAdm William Bligh once stood

on local shores is a reminder of how global exploration can often stitch together seemingly distant corners of the world.



Vancouver Island's Resolution Cove is seen here on map.  
Image: Taisiia Zarianova /iStock Photo via Getty Images

# From the *Lookout* Archives: Children's Questions, Answered at Sea



His Majesty's Canadian Ship (HMCS) *Vancouver* returns to Esquimalt on Dec 18, 2023.  
Photo: Corporal Jay Naples, MARPAC Imaging

Consolidated by Archana Cini

*Lookout* Newspaper

From the archives of 2002 comes a story that continues to resonate more than two decades later — one shaped by the honest curiosity of children and the candid reflections of a sailor at sea.

In this March archival piece, 'Children's important questions: HMCS *Vancouver* responds,' young Canadians wrote to sailors deployed on Operation Apollo to better understand life at sea. Their questions, heartfelt and often profound, offered a glimpse into how young minds view concepts of service, separation, and sacrifice.

Thousands of such letters were received, carefully read by those serving aboard His Majesty's Canadian Ship (HMCS) *Vancouver*. Among the ship's company during this time was then Lieutenant(Navy) (Lt(Navy)) David Patchell, whose thoughtful and unfiltered responses revealed the shared humanity between sailors deployed abroad and families waiting at home.

Today, this *Lookout* contributor from more than two decades ago serves as a Rear-Admiral (RAdm) in the Royal Canadian Navy (RCN) and Commander of Maritime Forces Pacific/Joint Task Force Pacific (MARFAC/JTFP), making this archival story not only a snapshot in time, but part of RAdm Patchell's ongoing impact upon the Canadian Defence community.

As we revisit this archival story, the *Lookout* is inviting children from the public and Defence communities to submit their own questions to sailors for a modern retelling.

## Children's Important Questions: HMCS *Vancouver* Responds

*Editor's note: This article appeared in the March 11, 2002 edition of the Lookout and was written by then Lieutenant (Navy) David Patchell. We picked a few of our favourite questions to feature.*

Since leaving Victoria on Oct. 29, 2001, HMCS *Vancouver* has received thousands of letters of support from Canadians. It seems as though the vast majority of these letters are from children. It breaks my heart that I do not have the time to answer each child's letter, but alas, I am here to fight a war, not to be a pen pal.

What I can do is try to answer a few of their questions as honestly as I can. Here are some of the very open and straightforward questions from kids, along with my best attempts at answers.

### DO YOU EACH HAVE YOUR OWN ROOM?

*Short answer — no. I live in a room, which is called a cabin, with five other guys. Needless to say, it can get a little bit crowded at times. But overall, we make do and things are all right.*

*The Executive Officer, the Supply Officer, and the Coxswain have their own rooms. The nice thing about sharing a room is that you always have someone else to blame for the mess and smell.*

### DO YOU GET BORED?

*Yes and no. Most of the time I am too busy to be bored. We all work long, hard hours, and that actually helps pass the time. However, the days are often very repetitive.*

### HOW LONG ARE YOU GOING TO BE ON THE SHIP?

*Unfortunately, we still do not know.*

*It has been almost four months since we left home, and we are still not sure when we will see our families again. The best estimate is that we will be on the ship for six to eight months. We know that we have a job to do and will return home when we have done our part.*

### WHAT KIND OF GUNS DO YOU HAVE?

*Vancouver has a wide variety of guns. We have a 57mm Bofors gun, which is the big one at the front of the ship. We also have four .50 calibre machine guns and numerous rifles, pistols, and shotguns.*

### ARE YOU SCARED?

*I am not scared for my life.*

*I am scared that I am missing my son grow up. I am scared that things will have changed when I get home. I am scared that the car will not start or that the roof will leak while I am gone.*

*I am more scared of what would happen if we were not here than I am of terrorists. Fear is important, but it is the ability to overcome that fear that allows us to do our job.*



# KIDS SUMMER CAMPS



Click through to Activity Guide



**REGISTRATION OPENING FOR ALL SUMMER CAMPS**

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**ORDINARY & ASSOCIATE: TUESDAY, APRIL 14 @ NOON**

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