



# THE BLAST TUNNEL

## DIEFENBUNKER ALUMNI NEWSLETTER

Edition 1

November 2015

*Disclaimer: This Newsletter is produced for members of the Diefenbunker Alumni Association and is not an official publication of the Diefenbunker Cold War Museum nor of the Department of National Defence. It is produced solely to provide relevant items of interest to Alumni members.*

### Editor's Corner

This is an initial shot at a periodic newsletter for the Diefenbunker Alumni Association designed to consolidate information pertaining to the Association into a single location; and, to provide a forum for Association members to share their thoughts on their past experience with one of Canada's Cold War Bunkers and to bring others up to date on what they are now doing to stay out of trouble. I will be interested in your feedback on the desire/need for such a newsletter, how often you would like to see it produced, and an indication of the sort of contents that you would like to see, bearing in mind that the success of such a Venture will depend largely on input from you, the readers.

To get things started this issue will primarily be a recap and consolidation of Association activities and information since its inception almost four years ago, with the hope that it might stimulate an increased membership and a greater exchange of information than hitherto.

### The Diefenbunker Alumni Association

The Association was established in 2012 as a forum for those who served in the Diefenbunker and/or its companion facilities during their operational years, and for those who were closely associated with their operation, to exchange memories and to renew friendships.

Three categories were established:

**Regular:** those personnel, military or civilian, who served in the Diefenbunker or one of its associated facilities during their operational phase.

**Associate:** those personnel, military or civilian, who served in positions, government or private, that were closely associated with the Diefenbunker or one of its associated facilities during their operational phase.

**Honourary:** Those personnel who were instrumental in preserving the Diefenbunker as a Museum after its operational life

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## Membership

The following is a list of the membership that I have recorded on my mailing list. If you know of others that you think might wish to join, please ask them to contact me at [jinglemike@rogers.com](mailto:jinglemike@rogers.com). On the other hand, if you no longer wish to be included, please let me know at the same address.

Aizenman, Allan	Croswell, Norman (Tex)	Jeffrey, Brian
Allard, Yvon	Cunning, Leonard	Johnson, Earl
Anderson, Geoff	Currie, Terry	Keith, Bill
Allen, Frances (BGen)	Daigle, Irvin	Kuffner, Gerry
Arsenault, Jean	Davison, Bruce	LaHaise, Martin
Baker, Brenda	Dawson, George	Langman, Brenda
Baker, Scott	Decker, Lorraine	Lapointe, Stephen
Barr, Art	DeGraw, Jim	Landry, Yvan
Bauld, Alan	DeNoble, Liisa	Leblond, Ghislain
Bauld, David	DeNoble, Michael	Lemieux, Peter
Beaton, Doug	Dowd, Garry	Lighthouse, Don
Beaton, Lorne	Duffie, Skip	Llewellyn, Simon
Bernier, Michel	Dukes, Pat	Long, Etienne
Biehn, Robert	Dunlop, Mel	Lovett, Steve
Binzig, Ben	Dutton, Donald	Luten, Trevor
Blair, Roy	Ekman, Roger	Lynch, Daniel
Bogue, Robert	Embury, Merv	MacDonald, Charles
Borden, Bob	Evely, George	MacDonald, Chuck
Born, Marguerite	Fedy, Paul	MacFeely, Dave
Bradshaw, Mary	Ferland, Dan	Maheux, Frank
Braham, Michael	Fortin, Marc	Mann, Keith
Bredefeld, Ken	Foss, Denis	Marcoux, Christiane
Brooks, Norm	Fournier, Clive	Marcoux, Richard
Brown, Eric	Fyfe, Murray	McBride, Dave
Brown, Linda	Gagnon, Marcel	McMullin, Janice
Bruce, Barry	Garceau, Germain	McPherson, Jack
Bulach, Jeff	Garipey, J.J.	Medicraft, Don
Burnley, Ron	Gauthier, Edouard	Mercer, Karl
Cameron, Al	Gauthier, Rock	Mills, Arlington
Cameron, Ralph	George, Bob/Gayle	Morrell, Don
Campbell, Don	Gogolin, Nathan	Morrison, Jim
Campbell, George	Gompf, G-Ray	Mosher, Terry
Capel, Peter	Gray, Dan	Murphy, Jim
Carr, Barb	Green, David	Murray, Tom
Casey, Lionel	Grummett, Len	Nadeau, Dominique
Chaplin, David	Hache, Roger	Nault, Andre
Charrier, Mike	Harris, Dennis	Neville, Dave
Chase, Clifford	Harrison, Michael	Nicolas, Hilaire
Chene, Louis-Phillipe	Heath, Gord	Ott, Les
Clayton, Art	Henrickson, Mike	Paquette, Rene
Closs, Les	Hillebrandt, Frank	Parent, Bernie
Coffin, Boyd	Himbeault, Roger	Parsons, Wayne
Cooke, Louise	Holden, Brian	Perry, Chris
Cousins, Jim	Hollinsworth, Katherine	Peters, Dave
Cousins, Roger	Huyghebaert, Susan	Pickering, Jerry
Cox, Charlie	James, Gordon	Pierce, Howard



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## Membership (continued)

Nadeau, Dominique	Renaud, Bill	Swick, Lloyd
Nault, Andre	Renaud, Linda	Tipman, Michael
Neville, Dave	Ricard, Clement	Thomas, Jayne
Nicolas, Hilaire	Riegel, Henriette	Trottier, Bob
Ott, Les	Rosseau, Helen	Usher, Charles
Paquette, Rene	Rowlands, Michael	Vaillancourt, Paul
Parent, Bernie	Sarsfield, Pat	Vandal, Michel
Parsons, Wayne	Scheidl, Gene	Vanroon, Peter
Perry, Chris	Sharp, Peter	Verville, Michel (Sr)
Peters, Dave	Sharpe, Mike	Verville, Michel (Jr)
Pickering, Jerry	Shepherd, Nick	Walsh, Robert
Pierce, Howard	Skidd, Angela	Ward, Don
Pletsch, Murray	Skidmore, Ed	Weir, Norm
Pollock, Gary	Smith, Joseph. M	Wieczorek, Patrick
Power, Ches	Smith, Winston	
Prieur, Fran	Spencer, Rick	
Puddicombe, Janet	Sterling, Marie	
Puritt, Judy	Stevens, Rick	
Quinn, Pat	Stever, Pat	
Remillard, Peter	Stoddard, Larry	

## Contact Points

There are several ways to stay in touch with Association activities—by contacting myself, the reluctant but apparent Secretary-for Life, at the e-mail address in the previous section; via the Association web page on the Diefenbunker Museum Web Page at <http://diefenbunker.ca/alumni-association/>; or on the excellent CFS Carp Face Book site managed by Brenda Langman.

Just remember, that if you initially enter the conversation via the Face Book site, you are not automatically a member of the Alumni Association. To do that, you must contact me - Mike Braham -via e-mail. Also remember, that although the CFS Carp Face Book site is specifically for those who served in Carp, the Association has a broader base and includes the Regional Bunkers and Departmental Emergency Planners as well as members of the original construction team and the CBC Emergency broadcast crew.



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## Activities

The following are the activities that the Association has been involved in since its inception:

- Three annual reunions held in the Main Cafeteria of the Diefenbunker in the April/May timeframe . These have provided an opportunity to meet old friends and to share old “war stories”. It is intended to convene a 4th, as long as there is sufficient interest in 2016. More on that in future editions.
- Presentation by Gary Dowd, on behalf of his co-authors Paul Vaillancourt and Don Medicraft on STRAD.
- Donations for a professional hanging system for the Museum galleries. This allows valuable works of art and other artifacts to be displayed in a professional and safe manner.
- In memory of those that served in the Diefenbunker, the Museum has named one of the Galleries the “Alumni Association Gallery”. As a rule, this gallery will focus on exhibitions of themes from the Bunker when it was operational.
- An old wooden panel containing the names of all the former Commanding Officers and Station Warrant Officers of CFS Carp has been found and will be placed on permanent display in the Museum.
- A booklet has been created that contains the biographies and memories of Association members. It needs updating.

## In Memoriam

This section is dedicated to the memory of those military members and civilian employees who worked at CFS Carp; the other Regional Emergency Government Headquarters; and, on the plans for the Central/ Regional Emergency Government Headquarters who have passed away. Sadly, I am sure it is not a complete list, so if you have any additions or corrections to make, I would be grateful for your input.

- **Armit, James (Jim) (1935 – 2013):** (Emergency Planning – Solicitor General)
- **Blackwell, Francis James (Frank) (1928-2013):** 35 year member of Emergency Planning Canada.
- **Chase, Clifford Charles (14 Oct 38-28 Feb 14):** Served in the Canadian Forces for almost seven years (1960-67), most of them at CFS Carp.
- **Hildebrand, Douglas MWO (Ret'd) (d. 19 Feb 2009):** SWO CFS Carp 1982-1985.
- **Krug, Braun (Sam) (12 May 1932-22 Apr 2013):** Emergency Preparedness Canada
- **Leblanc, J.E. CWO (Ret'd) (d. November 2014):** SWO CFS Carp Feb 1981-July 1982.
- **McDougall, John Ramsay "Jig" LCol (Ret'd) CD (1923-2014):** CO CFS Carp 1962-1965.
- **Renault, Andy:** Emergency Preparedness Canada (1980-1989), died 2013.
- **Smith, Don:** Emergency Preparedness Canada (1980-1989), died 1999.



## At the Museum

The Diefenbunker Museum is on pace to having a record 60,000 visitors pass through the blast doors this year. This is entirely due to the innovative and tireless efforts of Henrietta Riegel and her creative team as evidenced by the following varied program for the balance of the year.

### **Legacy of the Cold War– An Ottawa Film Festival Début | November 27-29**

Presented in partnership with the Diefenbunker: Canada's Cold War Museum, Sheptytsky Institute of Eastern Christian Studies, St. Paul University, the Embassy of the Republic of Lithuania, the Embassy of Ukraine, The National Film Board of Canada, the Ukrainian National Federation (UNF Ottawa-Gatineau), the Latvian National Federation in Canada, and the Baltic Federation in Canada.

### **4th Annual Whisky Business Fundraiser | November 28**

With the help of Geoffrey Skeggs, master sommelier, guests will taste the wide range of flavours, aromas, and colours available in single malts, and will learn how various influences determine the distinct characteristics in particular whiskies, the importance of ageing, and the process of maturation. Part travelogue, part history lesson, and certainly a multi-sensory experience, guests will taste 5 different whiskies with 5 different food pairings. Light fare, tasting notes, and educational handouts are all part of this event that is sure to be a social and tasteful delight!

### **WINTERLUDE: Secret Agent Scavenger Hunt | January 29 to February 15, 2016**

Beat the Cold at Canada's Cold War Museum! Try your hand at being a secret agent as you complete a scavenger hunt in the Bunker while keeping warm in this remarkable underground facility. Friday, January 29 to Monday, February 15, 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. Included in the cost of admission.

### **WINTERLUDE: Lego Bunker Building and Snow Cones | February 15, 2016**

Come celebrate chilly times at Canada's Cold War Museum! Learn what makes the Diefenbunker such a feat of engineering, help us build a Lego bunker, and enjoy a delicious snow cone treat. Public tours and audio tours available. Monday, February 15, 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. Included in the cost of admission.

## **AWARDS**

In addition to these events, the Museum has also been recognized with the following awards:

- a. **The 2015 People's Choice Award as the Tourism Business of the Year for West Carleton;** and,
- b. **The Ontario Museum Association's Award for Excellence in Programs** for its Conflict Resolution Workshops.

Alumni living in the Ottawa area or passing through are invited to visit their old alma mater. Comments for improvement and remembrances of time past are always welcome. Alumni are given a discount on entry



## **A Final Word**

So what do you think? Is this something that you want me to continue with or do we have enough avenues of communication with e-mails, Face Book, etc?

The following are a number of things I would like answers/input to regardless of a decision pertaining to a newsletter.

- Do you want a newsletter?
- If so, how frequently? I suggest no more than quarterly.
- If so, what sort of thing do you want to see in it?
- Please pass the word about the Association to potential members not on the list contained in this edition, asking them to contact me if they are interested.
- If you have not contributed a short biography, photo, bunker memories for the Association booklet, please consider doing so by sending the information to me via e-mail.
- If you are aware of any comrades who have passed away, but are not on the list produced in this edition, please let me know with as much detail as possible.
- If you have any thoughts on the agenda for another reunion in the April-June 2016 time frame please share them with me.
- Any ideas on other potential Association contributions to the Museum?
- Do you still want to be on the mailing list? If not, let me know.

I look forward to hearing from you and to seeing many of you at the next Reunion. Thanks for your continued interest.

Mike Braham