



2963 Seaforth Highlanders of Canada Royal Canadian Army Cadets

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2 July 2021

Good day all,

To say that this training year has been nothing like we expected would be a severe understatement. We started out with high hopes when we were able to parade with in-person activities, albeit limited, but it was something. When we were forced to go back to virtual online training it was a blow to the program, and to the enjoyment of our cadets.

We were stood down from all of our in-person parades, FTXs, ceremonies, and dinners. Some cadets took this harder than others, and some moved on to other things. Some could not join due to the limitations of getting online access. We had cadets take a leave of absence, but we also had cadets that stuck with it, and stayed with us week after week.

We were able to join the online training that one of our affiliated corps was offering to their cadets, so 2277 Seaforth Army Cadets Tuesday nights became our online training platform. We were joined by our other fellow Seaforth corps, 72nd, and as time went on a couple of other corps joined in, as well. But this training did not hold the personal aspect that face-to-face training gives, and we continued to lose cadets.

We lost our corps leadership as our three most senior cadets aged out of the program. We tried to make it as special as we could but the online limitations made it a very different leaving parade. We wish WO Petersen, MWO Lavric, and CWO Gregorchuk the best of luck in their future endeavours and thank them for their service to the corps.

Due to a variety of factors, we did not do a year-end parade, or a year-end video like we planned. I know that we have had cadets work hard on putting together a small awards ceremony, but the end of June came quickly and time was not on our side to get it together. I wish to thank WO Buryniuk, MCpls Lund, Van Swieten, and Bornman for trying to do this.

I do not have any information for the summer training for 2021. Virtual training was offered but we received a 100% negative response to it, so I never pursued it as an activity. In-person CAP (Cadet Activity Plan) was offered, but with caveats. An e-mail was sent out to all cadets and parents with details asking for a response in order for me to report back to RCSU, but after only one response was returned, I reported back to RCSU that there was no interest in summer in-person day training, whether it's on the Coast, or in North Vancouver.

But we are now looking ahead.

There is a strong possibility that we will be returning to training as usual in September. There is a Commanding Officer meeting with the RCSU in September (11 & 12) where we hope and expect to get the go-ahead to resume in-person training, both for parade nights and for weekend training. Of course, this will all be dependent on the Provincial Health Measures and if Phase 4 goes ahead as planned.

We will be presenting the year end training awards and promotions in September, as well as looking at our new cadet leadership team. A full year training plan will be given out, with the emphasis being on outdoor training, which is what we are all in the program for.

One of our priorities will be recruitment. We are welcoming all of the cadets back, even if they have left the program, and we will be looking at an aggressive recruitment plan. We need to get cadets and I am sure that there are a lot of students that are eager to get out from behind their computers and interact with others in person.

There has been a change in the Sunshine Coast Army Cadet Support Association with Mr. Tom Lund taking over as President as Mrs. Janice Lavric has stepped away from her position now that her son has aged out of the program. We thank her for her years of service to the support side of the corps, and I look forward to working with Mr. Lund and his team as we prepare for a strong start to the 2021-2022 training year.

As always, I am a phone call or text message away, even through the summer. Have a question? Please ask.

I wish you all well for the summer, and I look forward to seeing you back in September.

Stay safe, stay healthy.



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Captain

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