



NEWSLETTER 193

January 2009



Fast Brothers Make the National News!

task our professional editor Mark, when the calendar was put together, but Jeff gets the kudos and I'll take the heat on the rest. By the way, my name is

Just a reminder club membership dues... twenty-four members to go! Alright you desert rats, you know who you are and we do too!

Rob and Tony Fast were published in The Maple Leaf (DND's National publication) with respect to their vehicle restoration activities. Mike Wolter advised us through the internet at <http://www.forces.gc.ca/site/commun/ml-fe/article-eng.asp?id=5002>. But in case you don't have access we have reproduced it below.

The brothers Fast spent Christmas in England doing some (!) research and we hope to have a full report soonest. The rest of us sat at home in the dark and froze.

DEBRIEFING

There was no meeting held in January. There was a report that the weather was cold for the preceding 2 months, there were no heroic efforts and no pressing business either.

NEXT MEETING

Monday Feb 2. Your executive is always on the lookout for innovative ways to get the troops out. So this time we thought we would try something a little different by having the meeting at a centralized venue and so ... February's meeting will be held at 1800 hrs (6 pm) at the Boston Pizza at 2729 Pembina Highway just in from the south perimeter. Food and drink is on your own hook but the conversation is free! Not a lot of business to discuss but ...

EVENTS

20th Anniversary BBQ Dave Dunlop to host. Details to follow.

DISPATCHES

With great regret, we pass along the information that Bill Briercliffe's widow Joyce, passed away on the 18th of January. Joyce was always interested in Bill's club activity and a frequent guest at our events. Our condolences to the family.

Calendars are selling well. There are ten left, but times'a'wasting! A couple of notes about the calendar...the club website is missing the letter "e" in hom(e)stead.com and we left out owner/vehicle names and also the picture shooter(s) credit. We forgot to

BROTHERS RESTORE CANADIAN MILITARY VEHICLES

by Sgt Dan Milburn

STEINBACH, Manitoba — Canada's role in the World Wars has been of great interest to brothers Rob and Tony Fast from a young age.

Starting with building models depicting Second World War scenes, the brothers researched every detail to make the models as close as possible to the real thing.

As they got older, their interests grew – and so did the size of their models. The two golf course employees spend their winters restoring some of Canada's Second World War vehicles. The

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attention they pay to detail is evident in every item they restore.

"We painted the star crooked on the HUP (heavy utility personnel) truck because that was what the Canadians did," says Rob Fast. "The Allied Forces were required to put a recognizable symbol (a star) on their vehicles so aircraft could tell them apart from the enemy. Some Canadians took offence to this and painted their stars on crooked."

The brothers have refurbished three pieces of equipment to date, including a 1939 anti-aircraft Bofors gun which has been known to fire a blank round on special occasions.

The Bofors gun restoration has a unique bit of history behind it. When searching for sights for the gun, the brothers came across the sights used on HMCS Bonaventure's Bofors gun. Bonaventure was Canada's last aircraft carrier, decommissioned in 1970. The Bofors gun is pulled by another of their restored vehicles, a 1943 light antiaircraft tractor.

Their collection also includes a vintage model C8A wireless radio truck, a HUP truck, which includes antennas and radios. Several models of the HUP was made by Chevrolet for Allied Forces during the war.

All of the vehicles are in tiptop running order. The brothers concentrate their collection on Canadian Second World War vehicles that are right-hand drive. They also have numerous uniforms, weapons, and other Army equipment, which they display.

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PRESIDENT'S CORNER

OK I am here to say that I am tired of the cold weather! I have pretty much spent the last two months in hibernation and I am sick of it. Supposedly January 19th is the most depressing day of the year and I buy it. What's worse is that nobody is working on any projects that we are aware of so no recent photo's to grace this month's cover!

On a sad note, as Don announced earlier in this edition, Joyce Briercliffe has succumbed to illness and passed away. While Bill was our official treasurer, I suspect Joyce's hand was very much in there as well. My first Christmas dinner with the club was at their chapel and I have very fond memories of that get together.

The first feedback on the calendar is that people are pleased. I think it is a good first effort and we may consider another for next year, BUT, we need to get advertising on it to cover the cost or pay the full price of ~24.00 a piece. Next up I would like to take a stab at a table top book with complete restoration stories and photo's - any takers?

And speaking of the Maple leaf and DND, we have all heard of the fatalities suffered in Afghanistan and grieved with their families, but we tend to forget about the many injured. The CF hasn't forgotten and they have a program called 'Soldier On' to help rehabilitate our wounded troops. They have also created the Soldier On Fund which provides financial grants to injured CF personnel to purchase adapted sports equipment, subsidize fitness and sport related activity expenses that directly contribute to enhancing or maintaining a healthy and active lifestyle; and/or subsidize high performance training expenses. If you're interested you can make a tax deductible donation by checking out http://www.cfpsa.ca/en/psp/SoldierOn/donate_e.asp

TECH TIPS

Tired of buying over priced parts that you know you can make yourself? Well a number of us have machine tools squirreled away in our basements to do the small to midsize jobs and Parker Fillmore has joined the ranks! Feast your eyes on his beauty. Quite complete and seems that have a good capacity. Remember if you need it you can buy it, if you can't buy it you can make it and if you can't make it you don't need it!

