



Photo by Jeff Peters

Defence Minister Peter MacKay visits CFB Trenton last Friday to announce the investment of \$110 million to be expended on various infrastructure upgrades around the base. Projects include improvements to the Military Families Resource Centre, the construction of a new building for the Advanced Warfare Centre, a new aircraft hanger, and upgrading the National Air Force Museum.

CFB Trenton to get infrastructure upgrades

Defence Minister announces improvements worth \$110 million

By Jeff Peters

Minister of Defence Peter MacKay announced the investment of \$110 million for infrastructure upgrades at CFB Trenton last week.

Projects include improvements to the Military Families Resource Centre, the construction of a new building for the Canadian Forces Land Advanced Warfare Centre, a new aircraft hanger and an upgrade to the National Air Force Museum.

The state-of-the-art Canadian Forces Land Advanced Warfare Centre will be designed to LEED (Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design) silver-level

standard and is expected to be ready for training in 2015. The \$36.5 million building is intended to serve as a training facility for all the Canadian Forces parachutist courses as well as the aerial delivery courses, mountain operations courses, rappelling courses, path-finding courses and all parachute-rigger courses. The training facility will be constructed by Varcon Construction of Brampton, Ont.

The Military Families Resource Centre has recently been completed by the Wing Construction Engineering Squadron. The defence minister stated that the well being of military families is one of the top priorities of the Canadian Armed Forces.

The new maintenance hanger to be built at 8 Wing will be able to shelter and maintain the CC-177 Globemaster and CC-130J Hercules. The facility will feature two aircraft bays, administration offices and warehouse space. All together,

it will have a floor area of 18,244 square metres and a ceiling of 30.5 metres. The \$72.9 million contract for the construction of this sprawling facility was won by Bondfield Construction of Concord, Ont. The contract was announced on Nov. 12 of last year.

The National Air Force Museum, which has been under going renovations since 2004, will take the museum into its final phase of modernization. The improvements include stairwells, a mezzanine, railings, finished ceilings and floors and the completion of electrical and mechanical systems.

"These impressive state-of-the-art buildings will enable our dedicated Canadian Armed Forces personnel to continue their excellent work as world leaders in military aviation operations," said MacKay.

The minister also stated that the infrastructure improvements were in step

with the Canadian Forces 21st century military doctrine of the Canada First Defence strategy, which will allow the armed forces to keep pace with their military obligations both home and abroad.

The Canada First Defence strategy lays out three big picture responsibilities the Canadian Forces must be prepared for: defence of Canada, defending North America and contributing to international peace and security.

Within this framework defence scenarios are laid out – for example, conducting daily domestic and continental operations. This purpose is illustrated by Canada's commitments to NORAD; supporting major international events in Canada such as the Olympics. Leading and/or conducting missions in major long-term international operations as was the case in Afghanistan and deploying forces in response to crisis elsewhere in the world, in a short-term role, which is the scenario

in Mali.

MacKay said there are no plans to further extend the Canadian mission in Mali with a second aircraft. Currently, the Canadian government has allowed the French the use of a Canadian C17 Globemaster. Initially, the aircraft was projected to assist the French in logistical operations for one week, but at a press conference last Thursday, the government announced an extension of one month. This would have the Globemaster in the northwest African nation until the Feb. 15.

"We would allow the French the use of that aircraft for a total of 30 days. That would take us up to Feb. 15. So that aircraft will continue within those parameters, within that timeframe, essentially providing heavy lift, strategic logistic support bringing personnel and equipment from France to Bamako, the capital, in support of the French mission there," said the minister.

Blue Rodeo rocks two nights at the Empire

Classic rock band delights audience of loyal fans

By Julia McKay

The Empire Theatre was the place to be Saturday and Sunday night for fans of one of Canadian's most beloved groups, Blue Rodeo.

The classic rock band was in Belleville for a two-night performance as a part of their 25th anniversary tour of Canada.

Concertgoers arrived early to the sold-out event, in couples and families, and checked out the band's merchandise, grabbed a drink or popcorn, and talked excitedly among themselves, while waiting in line before the concert on Sunday night.

The energy level in the lobby before the concert was high and infectious. Fans perused the songbooks, bought T-shirts and CDs for sale.

Gary Parcels, of Belleville, has been a fan of Blue Rodeo since the 1980s and wanted to share the concert with his family, so he bought tickets as a Christmas present for his daughter Brylie Ivuy, 12.

"I don't mind them," said Ivuy before the show, when asked what she thought of the band. At intermission, her response was a bit different.

"It's really good and I would see them again," she said with a big smile.



Photo by Julia McKay

Canadian recording artists Blue Rodeo thrilled local fans at the first of two concerts at the Empire Theatre and Centre for the Performing Arts Sunday. The group is touring across Canada on their 25th-anniversary tour.

Cathy McKee has been a longtime fan and when her daughter told her back in October that the band was coming to the Empire Theatre, "I just ran down to get tickets. I didn't want to take any chances of missing it."

"It's always special. They are one of the most popular acts to come since the theatre opened and we've had them here over a dozen times. They have such a loyal fan base and shows are always successful," said Andy Forgie, promotions director for the Empire.

Once the show started, the music and

cheering could be heard from the lobby. The audience sat back in their seats and just enjoyed the show.

The band started the evening with a fan favourite, *Cynthia*, and introduced every member of the band with a single white spotlight.

"I was just saying how great they harmonize, and how that comes with playing together for so long," said Deana Bangs, 54.

Along with the 2012 induction into the Canadian Music Hall of Fame, Blue Rodeo has recently been honoured by the city of Toronto with a proposed street to

be named after them. Blue Rodeo Drive will be located in the Riverdale neighbourhood in the east end of Toronto.

Marie Milliard, 27, bought her tickets two minutes after they went on sale online as a surprise Christmas gift for her husband, Rick Bensch, who has been a fan since seeing the band in Waterloo the late 1980s.

"I was glad to see them come to the Empire as any trip avoided to Toronto is great," said Milliard.

The tour will be coming to Kingston's K-Rock Centre, on Saturday, Feb. 9.

Sleepout fundraiser helps CMHA

By Jeff Peters

About 130 people took to Market Square last Friday in support of the Sleep Out so Others Can Sleep In fundraising event for the Canadian Mental Health Association.

The participants built cardboard box huts and wrapped themselves in layers of winter clothing to stay warm. The event had participants raise pledges from family and friends to help the CMHA raise funds and awareness for mental illness and homelessness locally and at the nationally.

The money raised from the event will go to support repairs, maintenance and upgrades for CMHA's homes in Belleville and the surrounding area, said Executive Director Sandy Sidsworth. She said that the event has had its largest participation since it began six years ago.

"It has grown every year. People who do it once do it again and they bring people. So it is just growing because people want to take part in it," said Sidsworth.

"It's fun up until about two o'clock in the morning ... every body was talking about how cold it was ... one of our coldest sleep outs was the second year, it was - 32C," said Sidsworth.

St. John Ambulance members made rounds of the encampment. A major medical concern for those sleeping out was the risk of hypothermia and dehydration. This year's event saw one young woman treated for an unrelated illness, thought to be the flu.

Alexander Davis, a senior at Albert College braved the -17C temperatures. Davis, who is originally from Smith Parish, Bermuda, took part in the Sleep Out for the second time in two years. Davis made sure he packed extra thick socks, and suggested any newcomers to the event do the same.

"It was very shocking to see that, wow, this is what some people go through every single night," said Davis.

Davis slept out with 35 other Albert College students, who collectively raised more than \$500 for the CMHA.

Idle No More movement continues in Belleville

By Richard Barclay

Even though Chief Theresa Spence has completed her hunger strike, Idle No More rallies continue to spread throughout Canada.

On Friday, Jan. 25, there was a small rally in Belleville's Market Square. Idle No More activist Rebecca Boldt organized the rally. A group called Idle No More Belleville that came together on Facebook attended the demonstration. The Facebook group is primarily used to share information and organize demonstrations.

About 10 to 15 people showed up to raise continued awareness with regards to the Idle No More movement. Due to the extremely frigid temperature the protest was cut short, lasting from noon to 1:30 p.m.

The Idle No More supporters engaged in circle dances, drumming and singing native songs. The message they were communicating was that the issue is not only a native one. They said whoever lives off of the resources that the land produces will be affected by Bill C45.

"The Idle No More movement is basically about protecting the land, because of the Bill C45 that was passed it

'The Idle No More movement is basically about protecting the land, because of the Bill C45 that was passed, it takes a lot of protected bodies of water away and leaves very little left to be protected.'

Awaiagon Whiteman

takes a lot of protected bodies of water away and leaves very little left to be protected. Before Bill C45 was passed there was 2,000,000 lakes and rivers that were protected and now there is just under a hundred," said Awaiagon Whiteman, who lives in Belleville and has been a supporter of the Idle No

More movement since it began.

When Boldt was asked whether she felt that the Idle No More movement will have less impact since Spence has stopped her hunger strike, Boldt said, "No I don't think it will. Even though Chief Spence was a key role in Idle No More, she herself was not Idle No More."

The rally in Market Square was not as big a turnout as Boldt would have liked, but it still shows that the Idle No More movement is still active, even in smaller communities.

This was first Idle No More demonstration in the city of Belleville. There was no negativity towards the demonstration from people passing by. Everyone seemed fairly supportive of the group's message, and what they were doing.