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Cadets honoured during review

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TRURO – Warrant Officer Raya Parsons is moving up in the ranks.

The 16-year-old from Truro was awarded the Royal Canadian Legion medal of Excellence on Sunday at the 35th annual cadet review in Truro. “It’s just amazing,” said Parsons.

The award recognizes an individual whose endeavors of a citizenship nature go beyond the objectives of the cadet program.

The Ecole acadienne de Truro student has been in the program for four years. “I can speak clearly with somebody,” said Parsons. “I have a lot more confidence in my speech.” Parsons, who plays the flute in the cadet band, will be attending advanced band camp in St. Jean, Que. this summer. It will be her fourth time and she is excited. “It’s just a lot of fun.”

Parsons was also awarded the top gold star, a national star certification exam knife, and was named the top national star certification exam cadet.

Another major award winner Sunday was 16-year-old Francis Castein, who was presented the Lord Strathcona Medal during the review. The Lord Strathcona Medal is the highest award that can be awarded to a cadet in recognition of exemplary performance in physical and military training.

Castein was overjoyed to have won such a prestigious award. “It reminds me exactly what I’ve done in this cadet corp.,” she explained. “It shows my determination and dedication throughout the entire experience.”

The Truro resident said that she has learned people and leadership skills. “I had great leaders to help me learn to adapt my skills and knowledge, and then I was able to pass on my skills to younger cadets.”

The Chief Warrant Officer will be heading to Australia this summer to train with cadets from around the world. “It’s a great way to learn about other cultures.”

Her time in Australia will be spent training, camping and just having fun with other cadets.

Castein also received awards for top shot scoring, top shot kneeling, top biathlete, top fitness, top drill instructor, and most active in cadet citizenship.

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