

Local cadet represents Pleasantville on Churchill expedition

COUNTY - Cadet Dylan Allen, 18, from Pleasantville, travelled to Churchill, Manitoba, recently to participate in a challenging expedition that included trekking, portaging and canoe paddling over a distance of approximately 120 kilometres.

Along with 15 other Royal Canadian Army Cadets and three Cadet Instructors Cadre (CIC) officers from across Canada, Mr. Allen participated in the National Army Domestic Expedition from June 4 to 18, where he was required to backpack along the western coast of Hudson Bay. Then after a four-day trek, the expedition left Churchill for the Manigotagan River system where the participants had to paddle, portage and camp along the river system.

The son of Tony and Jacquelyn Allen, Mr. Allen is a five-year member of 2688 Royal Canadian Army Cadet Corps and will graduate from Park View Education Centre. He has a keen interest in track and field, sports and learning new skills.

The goal of this expedition was to explore "the land of little sticks" where they would experience an adventure which was challenging, rewarding, emotional and fun.

This experience offered a rich selection of cultural experiences for the cadets. The expedition was to trek the Western Peninsula along a route that provided the opportunity to explore the glacier-sculpted boulders, tundra and miniature shrubs that poke through the permafrost. It was also to allow for personal exploration of the remains of Pre-Dorset civilizations, fur traders and settlers. Indeed, the expedition was to bring cadets to areas not seen by many, and experienced by even fewer.

The Army Cadet expedition is the premier Army Cadet activity that challenges the top army cadets in Canada to new levels, and is the culmination of at least four years of training, requiring a superior level of fitness and maturity. This domestic expedition provides cadets with the opportunity to put into practice self-reliance, leadership and the spirit of adventure.

The Cadet program is a national program for youth ages 12 to 18. It is sponsored by the Department of National Defence in partnership with three civilian organizations - the Navy League, Army Cadet League and Air Cadet League.