

## **Shelagh Stevens BIO**

Shelagh Stevens is a Probus Perth club member who has had significant Canadian Peacekeeping experience. On Wednesday March 2, Shelagh will give us an overview of her military experience with an emphasis on the role women have played in these longstanding United Nations peacekeeping missions.

Shelagh enrolled in the Regular Officer Training Plan (ROTP), graduated with honours from the University of Guelph, was-commissioned as a logistics officer and served in the typical roles at unit, base and at National Defence Headquarters (NDHQ) in Ottawa. At NDHQ, she served on the Joint Staff which was heavily involved in the deployment to and redeployment from various peacekeeping missions.

In 1987 Shelagh served her first peacekeeping mission in Egypt (1.5 years) with the Multinational Force and Observers, followed in 1989 by her first UN peacekeeping tour in Namibia (UNTAG) (one year), another in Croatia (UNPROFOR) (seven months) and was then seconded in 1995 for three years to UN headquarters in New York where she served in what would now be the Department of Field Support. Upon her return to NDHQ, she filled the role of a United Nations arrangements position (negotiated arrangements between the Canadian military and the UN for deployments of Canadian peacekeepers to UN missions).

Shelagh left the military at the beginning of July 2004 and before the end of the month, started working for the UN as a logistics Section Chief at the UN mission in Côte d'Ivoire (CDI). After almost two years, she left CDI in 2006.

Back home in Canada, Shelagh soon found her extensive military experience put to work as a contracted instructor with the Pearson Peacekeeping Centre. She was recruited to give UN Staff Officer courses on Peacekeeping Logistics in Canada and at various overseas locations including the Kofi Annan International Peacekeeping Training Centre (KAIPTC) in Accra Ghana and the Kenyan peacekeeping centre in Nairobi.

On the basis of her extensive experience and expertise, Shelagh was also contracted by the US State Department to give UN instructor, staff officer and logistics courses and exercises from Mongolia to Tunisia, from Malaysia to the Ukraine. Moreover, as she is bilingual, she also worked for the Organisation de la Francophonie (OIF) offering the courses and training in French in Mali, Sénégal, Burkina Faso, and Chad.

At the time Shelagh left the military, she had more peacekeeping experience than any other woman in the Canadian Armed Forces.

