

metro

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Wednesday, December 4-6, 2009

4 local

Parrsboro RCMP were investigating what they deemed a suspicious death Thursday. Police say they were called to a house fire in West Brook, Cumberland Co., around 1:18 p.m. where a 69-year-old man was found dead. The name of the deceased hasn't been released. **METRO HALIFAX**

Military families unveil holiday banner

Sign being sent to sailors aboard HMCS Fredericton

ALY THOMSON
for Metro Halifax

Across Canada

• The event was one of five similar events taking place across the country. Other cities taking part were Toronto, Vancouver, Edmonton and Quebec City.

Becky Pettipas will be missing her fiancé more than ever this holiday season.

That's because her fiancé — Ordinary Seaman Daniel Cox — is away overseas and won't be home for their youngest son's first Christmas.

"It's going to be tough, but we're going to videotape it (for him)," Pettipas

said next to their oldest son, six-year-old Dylan, who had just finished signing a large banner in green crayon that will be sent to Cox and his navy crew-

mates.

Military families gathered in front of the Sears at the Halifax Shopping Centre Thursday to sign a banner headed to their loved ones serving on the HMCS Fredericton in Somalia.

A black cloak was removed revealing the quilt-like banner, sectioned into squares and painted with colourful "I love you" and "I miss you" phrases.

The eight-by-four-foot holiday banner should be warmly received by the

250 sailors on board the vessel, which steamed out of the Halifax harbour on Oct. 25. The banner is expected to arrive in time for Christmas.

"We're taking it day by day and taking anything that comes one step at a time," Pettipas said about Cox being away.

This initiative is sponsored by Sears Canada in co-ordination with the Canadian Forces Personnel and Family Support Services and the Halifax Military Family Resource Centre.

Tara Bayne works at the resource centre and said it's important to have a solid support system for military families.

"We see military families as the strength behind the uniform, they're a big part of what we do," she said.

Bayne said families of



Becky Pettipas watches her six-year-old son Dylan write a message for his father — Ordinary Seaman Daniel Cox — on a banner being sent to those serving on HMCS Fredericton in Somalia.

the Fredericton signed the banner before it made its way to Halifax.

Haligonians were en-

couraged to add messages in support of the crew and their contributions overseas.

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