



THE FALCON

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THE NEWSLETTER OF THE 48TH HIGHLANDERS OF CANADA REGIMENTAL FAMILY

FALL 2007



48TH HIGHLANDERS CHAPTER IODE- CELEBRATES 100 YEARS OF SERVICE

by Karen Barker, Regent 48th Highlanders Chapter IODE

On 03 May 2007, the 48th Highlanders Chapter IODE celebrated its 100th Anniversary.

Thanks to the efforts of our Honoraries, Colonel Bob Darling and Lieutenant Colonel Geordie Beal, the members of the Chapter were entertained by a luncheon at the Royal Canadian Military Institute. At the luncheon, our Honorary Regent, Nancy Beal, presented the Regent, Karen Barker, with a beautiful cake knife set, which was in a wooden box engraved with the Falcon and inscribed "The 48th Highlanders Chapter IODE, 100th Anniversary, May 3, 1907 - 2007".

In May, the Chapter received the honour of being seated with the Regiment at the Annual Church Parade. The Regent, along with Commanding Officer, read from the scriptures. Following the Church Parade, the members of the IODE lined up, beside the saluting base, as the Regiment marched past Colonel Dick Read.

Later, at the Sergeants' Mess, the President

...CONTINUED ON PAGE 6

EX HIGHLAND STRYKER

by Major McEwen, Deputy Commanding Officer

From May 30th to June 3rd, members of the Regiment deployed to CFB Borden in order to take part in EXERCISE HIGHLAND STRYKER. The aim of the Exercise was to conduct the Annual Weapons Refresher on the C7 rifle and 9mm Browning pistol and to qualify several Junior NCOs on how to conduct a range.

As part of the Exercise, the unit conducted a March and Shoot Competition, which required the soldiers to march 5km in Full Fighting Order and then complete a shooting practice firing the C7 and switching to their alternate weapon, the pistol and finally switching to a shot gun. In the end, the Section with the best overall time and scores was 12A, led by MCpl Duff. The Exercise culminated with some rappelling, a BBQ and the presentation of Annual Unit Awards. The list of this year's winners are as follows:

EATON AWARDS

Top Junior NCO	MCpl Duff
Top Senior NCO	Sgt Vienneau
Top Subaltern	Lt Martinis

CARPENTER AWARD

Cpl Marga. I

DYER AWARD

Cpl Frank

SOUTH AFRICA TROPHY

Section 12A

Another Highlight of the FTX was the visit by the employers and supervisors of our soldiers. They were invited so that they could see the training that their employees undergo and that the time off that they grant them is time well spent. It was also an opportunity to encourage them to support their reserve

...CONTINUED ON PAGE 8

48TH HIGHLANDERS IN TASK FORCE 1-07 IN AFGHANISTAN

by Capt Best, OC A Coy

Both Capt David Tsuchiya and myself have now returned from our 7-month tour in Kandahar, Afghanistan, exhausted but satisfied. Capt Tsuchiya was the Adjt for the Observation Mentoring Liaison Team (OMLT), which is responsible for training units from the emerging Afghan National Army (ANA), while I worked with 2 RCR Battle Group. My specific role was as the S3 Info Ops O, overseeing the planning and execution of CIMIC, PSYOPS, Public Affairs, Electronic Warfare, and HUMINT within the BG's Area of Operations (AO). With the level of scrutiny currently experienced by the Mission in Afghanistan, Info Ops became a very focused undertaking that was led by a LCol who answered directly to BGen Grant, the Task Force Commander. At



Capt Allan Best at the summit of Mas'um Ghar, Panjwayi District.

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An Audience with our Colonel-in-Chief

by R G Darling, CO, LCol (ret'd), Honorary Colonel

On July 18, 2007 Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II honoured Pipe Major Sandy Dewar for his 48 years of service to the Regiment at an Audience in Buckingham Palace. This well-deserved honour was announced during the February 9th Change of Pipe Majors Parade and the July date was chosen by Her Majesty. One of the retirement gifts from the Regiment for Sandy and his wife Carolynne was the trip and the Audience related expenses in London.

Accompanying the Dewars on this unique trip were LCol Paterson, our Commanding Officer, HCol Beal and his wife Nancy as well as my wife Alison and myself. What a fabulous experience! Let me relate the happenings in detail.

We all arrived in London just before the big day. The Dewars, the CO and the Darlings stayed at the Cavalry and Guards Club – a short walk from the Palace across Green Park. The Beals stayed close by. We met at the Club on the morning to plan for the Audience. It was scheduled for 1240 hours and we were asked to present ourselves at the gates to the Palace at 1230. Assuming that there would be time required to be processed and reach the Audience room, we felt that the timings were a bit tight so we determined to go earlier to make sure we were on time.

We also knew that the Changing of the Guard Ceremony would make getting to and through the gates a bit tougher so we decided to witness the Ceremony before we went into the Palace so off we headed in plenty of time to see the whole Ceremony. When we arrived the Old Guard was already formed up but the New Guard hadn't arrived. I went to check with the Police at the north gate to see which gate we should report at and when I had finished my business with them I turned around to find my cohorts surrounded by camera toting hordes intent on having their photos taken with "the soldiers" – they didn't care who we were or where we were from – we were just men in

uniform so snap a pic!! It was quite a mob scene and was all we could do to keep the CO from strengthening the Regimental coffers by charging an exorbitant rate for each picture taken!

Suddenly there appeared a gentleman in mufti who suggested to me that if we moved to the south gate the police would admit us and we could watch the ceremony from inside the fence. It turned out that this man is the head of security for the Palace, fully aware of our presence and knew that the next hour or so would be hell for us if we didn't get away from the camera toting horde. So to the gate we went and through we were escorted, across



At the gates of Buckingham Palace before the Audience. L to R - HCol G.W. Beal, Mrs. Carolynne Dewar, PM (WO1) A. Dewar, HCol R.G. Darling, LCol A. Paterson

the parade square to witness the Ceremony with our backs to the Palace – quite a relief!

As the Ceremony was ending our Security friend showed up again and said that it was time that we progressed through the tunnel that goes to the inner courtyard, across that courtyard and in through the main entrance to the Palace. Our exit from the tunnel was delayed because there was a horse-drawn carriage at the front entrance waiting for the new Ambassador from Tunisia who was in the Palace presenting his credentials to Her Majesty. So wait we did for some time. Apparently they take these folks to and from their Embassies by carriage and, if they wish, the top can be down. Well, apparently this gentleman decided he wanted to return with the top down and they were having a merry old time getting it down! So we waited until one of Her Majesty's Equerries got concerned that we would be late and came out and waved us across the courtyard and into the Palace. So off we went through the carriage mess and in through the entrance. "Headdresses on the table please and up we go to the Anteroom where you will be briefed" was the word from the Equerry and up a magnificent very wide stairway we went, through several large reception rooms and into the Anteroom.

At this point it became apparent that

we were well within the time expected and would have to wait until two generals had been granted Audiences before it was our turn. Commander (N) Ackland, the Equerry who led us through was very gracious and explained that we would line up outside the door to the Audience Room and proceed in after a doorbell rang and the door was opened. We were in two lines with the Equerry, Sandy and Carolynne in front and the CO, Geordie and myself in the rear. The door opened and we advanced until we reached the rug at which point we stopped. Dressed simply but elegantly and wearing our Regimental badge presented to her on her visit in October 1951 (encrusted with rubies and diamonds), she was impressive to behold.

The Equerry introduced each starting with Sandy and we advanced to Her Majesty who was standing some 20 feet ahead waiting to greet each of us in turn.

Halt in front, bow from the neck or curtsy (I did the former) and shake hands – no gloves, no purse (I knew someone would ask). Stand aside until all five of us are introduced and greeted.

She then proceeded to talk with each starting, again, with Sandy. Very friendly and informal – she was taking great care to be sure we were relaxed. After that she initiated several general discussions of matters in which she thought we might have interest. We had the opportunity to thank her for her support over all the years and to point out that December 1st will mark the 60th anniversary of her appointment as our Colonel-in-Chief. When she felt the Audience was over she thanked us for coming so far, wished us and her Regiment well then turned and pressed the button that rang the bell and the door opened. Move to the door (one doesn't back out any more), turn to her and bow or curtsy and then out the door. We had a full ten minutes with her. It was an incredible experience. She could not have been more courteous and warm.

Down to the entrance reception area and a pleasant interlude of conversation with Commander Ackland (outbound Equerry), Squadron Leader Calume (inbound Equerry), The Lady Elton (Lady-in-waiting) and Pipe Major Cuthbertson (the Queen's Piper) and off we went back to the Cavalry and Guards Club to prepare for the small reception we had for those 48th that we could find who could make it including Maj Harry Faulkner-Brown, MC and Douglas and Diane Ross plus others

suggested by the Gordons or representing the Government.

As we left the Palace Pipe Major Dewar was presented with a letter from Her Majesty which read as follows:

What a marvelous way to cap off a great career. Well done Sandy. You have served well and faithfully. I appreciated being able to be a part of this historic Regimental event.

R G DARLING, CD, LCOL (RET'D)
HONOURARY COLONEL
48TH HIGHLANDERS OF CANADA

Buckingham Palace

17th July, 2007

As your Colonel-in-Chief I wish to acknowledge your devoted service to the 48th Highlanders of Canada over the past 48 years.

I note your admirable accomplishments and efforts as Pipe Major, starting with your appointments as acting Pipe Major in August 1985 and as Pipe Major in January 1986. I understand that under your leadership the band has continued to flourish and is widely recognised as one of the premier Bands in Canada.

At the completion of your 48 years of service, I thank you for your loyalty to the Canadian Forces and the 48th Highlanders of Canada.

SIGNED ELIZABETH R

CHIEF WARRANT OFFICER A. L. DEWAR, MMM, CD.



WHERE ARE THEY NOW?

Good Morning Sir – in tidying up my files this morning I came across your December Newsletter 2003 and read again with renewed interest the story of Jimmy Raffan and his being posted to “D” Coy’s #16 Platoon, under the command of Dawson Corbett. This is exactly what happened to me when I was posted to “D” Coy under the command of Ian Johnston on 6 June, 1941 and to #16 Platoon under the command of Dawson Corbett when the regiment was stationed in Kingswood, Surrey. How lucky can you be? And I served with the regiment until 9 February 1944 when I was attached to Bde HQ as Liaison officer. Both Ian and Dawson remained very close friends right up to the time of their deaths.

And at the same time, this photo surfaced showing my meeting the Queen in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, in 1989. I was living in Kuala Lumpur from 1983 to 1996, there as Director of a new Pre-University Program at Taylor’s College. The Queen was there to officiate at the opening of the Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting (CHOGM). And I was invited to attend a ceremony that was taking place at the Commonwealth Cemetery. Security was very tight – no cameras, no uninvited guests, etc. This photo thanks to the official photographer. There were very few invitations issued and most of the some 25-30 who were there were members of the diplomatic corps, High Commissioners, etc. And anyone from the Services as sporting his/her decorations. Mine were all in Toronto! The only decoration I had was a tiny Canadian pin fastened to the breast pocket of my white shirt and this is what immediately caught the sharp eye of the Queen. “What are you doing here?” she asked me. And I replied that I was here because of my WW2 experience with the 48th Highlanders of Canada. That was all HM needed. Her face lit up, beaming with surprise and delight at this mention of Her own regiment! And I went on to add “I believe that Your Majesty will be in Toronto next year to celebrate The Trooping of the Colors of the Regiment. And she moved on to let Prince Philip take her place and I repeated what I had said to the Queen re the Toronto visit. And he looked at me in surprise saying, “Good God, let’s get one year over at a time!”

J. STAN MACFARLANE

Please note this correction regarding the last issue:

Dear editor,

In reading Issue 11 of the on line Falcon spring newsletter I noted in your article re MEDALS OF THE 15TH HIGHLANDER KILLED AT VIMY DONATED TO MUSEUM that William Clarke was present at the 48th Highlanders Museum to donate C.A. Jensen’s medals on behalf of the London Numismatic Society and was interviewed by CBC re C.A. Jensen’s medals. A correction is needed in reference to this information.

Bill Clarke was not present at the museum to donate the medals and be interviewed by CBC. David Smith, on behalf of Bill Clarke and the London Numismatic Society donated the medals to the museum and was interviewed by Ron Charles of CBC News and it was David Smith who displayed the three medals holding them up to the name

of Private Jensen painted on the cross.

Further about a month later Graham Esler a member of the LNS donated the Death Plaque of C.A. Jensen to the museum on behalf of the LNS.

Also on this second visit in May David Smith donated the medals of Wilfred Neely who died at the Battle of Vimy Ridge to the museum.

I greatly appreciated receiving a thank you letter from Lieutenant Colonel Beal dated May 29th, 2007 for my involvement in the donation of the medals of C.A. Jensen and Wilfred Neely to the 48th Highlanders Museum.

Regards,

David Smith

Bill Clarke London Numismatic Society

Graham Esler London Numismatic Society

FROM THE 48TH ARCHIVES EVENTS IN AUTUMNS PAST

by HLCol Geordie Beal

115 Years Ago – In 1892 the Brass Band, later to be renamed the Military Band, was formed. Early that year, the Regimental Committee, perhaps noting the impact created by the Pipe Band, decided to establish a brass band to add further to the presence of the 48th. They persuaded John Griffin, a graduate of Kneller Hall Military School of Music in the United Kingdom and Bandmaster of the 63rd Imperials to come to Canada for a three-year term. By the fall the band was organized and outfitted in uniforms and instruments, thanks to \$5000 raised privately by the committee. A multi-year tour by the band in the late 1890s across the United States and Canada took the continent by storm. By 1932 over 50 regimental and private kilted bands traced their rise to the 48th influence. During the Great War, the Honour Roll shows at least 42 bandsmen who enlisted in the Canadian Expeditionary Force. Of these, eight were appointed bandmasters, nine band sergeants and one, bandsman W. Lloyd Algie, was awarded the Victoria Cross (posthumously) for rushing two German machine guns at Cambrai on 11 October 1918 while serving with the 20th Battalion, 4th Infantry Brigade. In 1965, as part of a government cutback, the Military Band was struck off strength. The reaction of the Regimental Committee was to recognize that the band was too important to the Regiment, and to the public visibility of all reserve regiments in Toronto, to disappear for the sake of funds. They determined to fund the uniforms and regimental expenses of the band, with members becoming volunteers. The Military Band continues today as a civilian band, still in uniform and still proudly 48th.

70 Years Ago – On Sunday, 7 November 1937 “The Highlanders Window” was dedicated in the 48th Highlanders’ Regimental church, St. Andrew’s. The stained glass window, designed by Peter Haworth, was donated by Mrs. Thomas J. Clark out of her admiration for the regiment. The central figure in the window, that of a Highlander in full dress scarlet, standing with reversed arms, hands clasped on the butt of the rifle, head bowed, had as its model Sergeant George Elms. Sgt Elms, who had served with the 15th Battalion in WWI, posed for the window, not knowing at that time that his son (CCWO W.P. Elms MMM, CD) and grandson (LCol R. Geordie Elms CD – currently Military Attache in Kabul) would both serve with distinction in the 48th Highlanders and the Canadian Forces.

On each side of the Highlander figure in the window, of similar dimensions but in perspective behind, are two great soldiers of the Old Testament, Joshua and David the King, armed as in the days when they too fought and suffered and grieved for fallen comrades.

55 Years Ago – In 1952, after four wars and sixty years a piper (39 as Pipe Major of the 48th Highlanders Pipes and Drums) P/M James R. Fraser retired. Fraser, a corporal piper, had served with the Gordon Highlanders for 21 years, coming to the 48th Highlanders who had asked the Gordons for a “competent pipe-major”. Under Fraser the band was reorganized with classes established for beginner pipers. During the Great War, Fraser provided pipe bands for the 15th, 92nd and 134th Battalions, while maintaining the core strength of the pipe band at home in Toronto. During the Second War the home band again became a source for yet another generation of pipers and drummers for active service with the 1st Battalion overseas. Finally in 1952 Pipe Major Fraser retired, turning the band over to Pipe Major Archie Dewar CD who had brought the 1st Battalion’s pipe band home at the end of the war. (Long service has been a hallmark of the 48th Highlanders Pipes and Drums. The combined service as Pipe Major of James Fraser and Alexander Dewar (son of Archie) totals 61 years, over half of the regiment’s 116 years since our founding in 1891.)

50 Years Ago – In October 1957 the idea of a 48th Highlander Regimental Museum was made official. An article in *The Falcon*, Vol. 8, No. 3 reported: “Under authority of the Commanding Officer Lt Col H. K. MacIntosh MBE, ED a committee has been formed for the purpose of establishing a Regimental Museum. Chairman of the Committee is Lt Col M.E. George CD.” Members of the committee represented each period of the regiment’s history: Sgt George Eyles – World War I; Sgt James Brannan, Majors Harry Brown MC and Andrew LeMesurier with Drum Major William Elms – World War II; and, with service in three wars (South Africa, and two world

wars) Major Aleck Sinclair VD. Two years later, after a treasure trove of artifacts came from the homes of 48th Highlanders across the city and from items carefully kept in regimental stores in University Avenue Armouries by Pipe Major Fraser, the museum was opened for the first time in the Old Comrades Memorial Hall on Church Street. When Memorial Hall moved, so did the museum, first to King Street and then Leslie Street. Finally, with attendance by the veterans at the Memorial Hall in decline due to the inexorable march of years, the decision was made to unite the museum with the 48th regimental church, St. Andrew’s.

10 Years Ago – On 29 June 1997, forty years after its authorization, the new 48th Highlander Regimental Museum in St. Andrew’s church was opened by Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II. Accompanied by the Honorary Colonel at the time, BGen Peter Cameron, Her Majesty proceeded to the museum to unveil a plaque commemorating the opening. A brief tour followed and, as requested by Her Majesty, “an informal family discussion” was held with the heads and their spouses of the Regimental family and of the museum. Her Majesty’s final words as she was departing were: “You have yet another milestone here in the annals of a proud and famous regiment. Do keep it up. Relatively few of our regiments at home have such an impressive link with their past.”

BG level, I answered to the Ops O and moved as part of our CO's 9 TAC HQ formation of 4x LAVs.

Many Highlander's who already served in Afghanistan have described the physical conditions of the country: hot, dry, and dusty. The Province of Kandahar, which under the current ISAF mandate is Canada's responsibility, is roughly the size of New Brunswick with a population of 800,000. Most people live in Kandahar City (5-600,000), while the rest are squeezed along the Arghandab River



west of the City through Zhari and Panjwayi Districts, or down near the Pakistan border in Spin Boldak. Unlike neighbouring Helmand or Uruzgan provinces, only 9% of Afghanistan's Poppy crop comes from Kandahar Province, with grapes and pomegranates being the mainstay crop. The tribal make-up of the Pashtu people is complex, but needless to say they are all Sunni Muslims who come from either the Durrani or Ghilzai tribes. Illiteracy in the rural areas is at 70% while the average life expectancy is 42, a number that increases slightly in urban centers like Kandahar City.

Canada's methodology in Kandahar follows that of all major NATO nations in theatre, with a focus on Security, Governance, and Development as outlined by the United Nations. The latter two functions fell under the umbrella of the Provincial Reconstruction Team (PRT), working closely with the Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA) and RCMP, while Security was encompassed by the BG and OMLT. This consisted of things as

varied as Presence Patrols and Key Leadership Engagements (KLE) during the quiet winter months, to Coy and BG level deliberate operations in the traditional fighting months of summer. The BG itself consisted of 1,200 personnel made up of 3x Mech Infantry Coys, a Leopard tank Sqn, Recce Sqn, Engineer Sqn, Artillery Battery, CSS Coy, Sigs Troop, Tactical PSYOPS Team (TPT), MP Pl, and a BG HQ. All other supporting elements, such as Electronic Warfare or Close Air Support (CAS), were controlled at Brigade or higher, with various assets TACON to the BG when needed. The operational tempo was high with multiple "Troops

in Contact" (TIC) and Improvised Explosive Device (IED) events a week, sprinkled in with sustained rocket and mortar attacks on both our Forward Operating Bases (FOB) and Kandahar Airfield (KAF).

Is the International Community succeeding in Afghanistan? If one looks at the mandates set forth under the Bonn Agreement then the answer is yes. Thirty of 34 Provinces are now stable; 5 million students are back in school, and women's emancipation has begun in earnest, while 95% of Afghan children have been vaccinated against Polio. According to several polls conducted during our stay, by and for indigenous Afghans within Kandahar Province, few wish a return to the Taliban regime, particularly since most of their ranks are now made up of foreign fighters (Pakistani, Uzbeks, and Chechens). Note, Pashtuns in particular loathe Pakistan and blame it for much of the Taliban's influence. The Taliban as a conventional

fighting force have largely been defeated, forcing them to rely on IEDs and kidnappings to gain influence. As a poignant example, of the 19 KIA suffered by 2 RCR BG during our tour, not a single one was to direct action. Most were the tragic result of IEDs. Afghanistan is slowly on its way to recovery after decades of neglect. The Police force is still woefully corrupt, while the menace of the Opium trade has yet to be resolved, but, in general, the country should be back on its feet within a generation.

On a personal note, deploying as a member of the 2 RCR BG was one of the hardest,

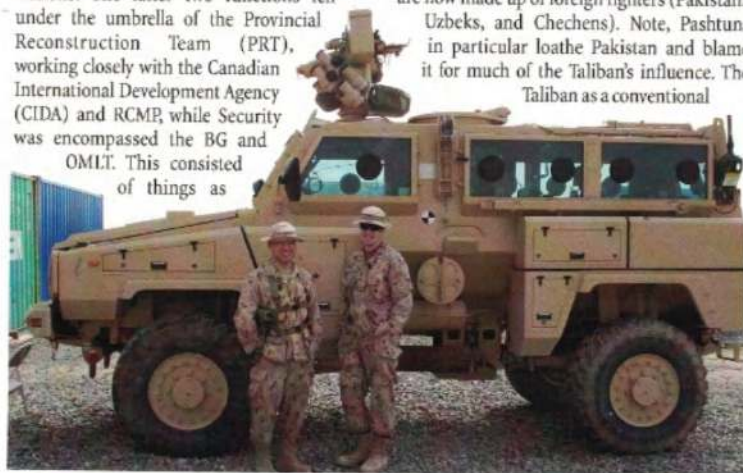


Capt Allan Best attending a Key Leadership Engagement (known locally as a Shura) with Niaz Mohammed, Panjwayi District Leader, in his compound at Bazarj Panjwayi.

yet most rewarding undertakings of my military career. It goes without saying, that on a number of occasions, we were faced with several intense and frightening situations, though thankfully, they were the exceptions and not the norm. Despite what the media may present, the conflict in Afghanistan, like so many similar struggles in history, is 90% monotony and only 10% action. Fear is a natural human instinct in response to danger, and we all learned to deal with it in our own way. Still, when one finds oneself in the adrenaline-pumping situation of center LAV in a Square Combat Team advancing through the desert, most anxiety evaporates to stunned awe. Overall the experience was amazing and I encourage any Highlander wishing to serve in Afghanistan to submit their name through the Chain-of-Command for consideration. Get trained, deploy, then come home and pass on what you have learned.

DILEAS,

AR BEST
CAPT
OC A Coy



Capt Allan Best & Capt David Tsuchiya in the shadow of an RG-31 NYALA at Kandahar Airfield.



100th ANNIVERSARY OF THE IODE...CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

of the Old Comrades Association, Mr. Harry Wignall, presented the members of the IODE with a one-year membership in the OCA.

Perhaps the highlight of the year, was the Garden Party held at Old Fort York on Sunday, 13 June 2007. More than 100 people were in attendance, with representatives from all members of the Regimental Family. Pipe Major Ian Laing and Piper Linda Laing entertained the guests with a number of tunes including, of course, Highland Laddie.

Introductions, made by the Regent, included the National President, the Provincial President and the Municipal President, all of whom brought greetings from their respective chapters. The heads of the Regimental Family, who were present, were also introduced.

The Honorary Regent gave the toast to the Queen and Honorary Colonel Darling

responded and spoke of the history of the Chapter and its work with the Regiment over many years.

Mrs Gerry Turner gave the Toast to the Regiment and the Commanding Officer, Lieutenant Colonel Andrew Paterson, gave the response.

The National President, Chris Bateman, brought greetings from The National Chapter of Canada IODE and thanked the 48th Highlanders Chapter for their dedication to IODE and the Regiment over the last 100 years. She then proposed a toast to the Chapter.

The Regent responded to the toast and highlighted some activities of the Chapter throughout the past century, emphasizing those of the past 50 years.

Our chapter started with 32 members in 1907, and to keep with tradition we will

commence our second century with 32 members. The first new member to be installed in the second century was Linda Laing, piper in the Regiment and wife of Pipe Major Ian Laing. The National President, Chris Bateman, installed Linda. This was very appropriate, since Linda's husband, Ian, trained under Chris's brother, Scott McAulay.

In addition to all of this, the President of the Continuing Sergeants Association, Mr. Dave Crook, presented the Chapter with a gavel, duly inscribed with the IODE badge affixed on the stand.

Following the presentations, the Regent cut the anniversary cake, with the assistance of all of the past regents present: Molly Haldenby, Sue Cameron, Gerry Turner and Marjorie Harding.

We were also pleased to have in attendance at the garden party Lieutenant Colonel Geordie Elms and his wife Shirley. Geordie was on leave from Afghanistan.

It was a great day and congratulations go out to the 100th Anniversary Committee: Janet MacKay (Chair), Diane Love, Beth Fullerton, Jean Pringle, Pat Scallan and Gerry Turner.

I would like to again, thank the Honorary Colonel, the Honorary Lieutenant Colonel, the Commanding Officer and the Regimental Sergeant Major, for their support throughout this year and past years. As we carry on celebrating 100 years of service to IODE, the Chapter looks forward to continuing to serve the Regiment.

DILEAS!

**KAREN BARKER, REGENT 48TH
HIGHLANDERS CHAPTER IODE**



Marjorie Harding, Gerry Turner and Karen Barker cutting the cake.



48TH HIGHLANDERS CHAPTER IODE- CELEBRATES 100 YEARS OF SERVICE

Clockwise from top left: 1- Linda Laing and Chris Bateman. 2- Mary Kay Anderson. 3 - Ann Mason. 4- RSM Dave Crook and his daughter Sue Sotnick, LCol Beal. 5- Karen Barker and Chris Bateman. 6 - Bessy Carter, Gene Gordon and her sister in law. 7 - Gerry Turner. 8 - Col Patterson, Tom Ellard and Geordie Elms. 9 - Doug and Stella Chappell, Carolyn Kostar, Col Darling and Geordie Elm. Photos by Marjorie Harding



Pipes and Drums Summer 2007

by Pipe Major MWO Iain Lang, CO



Eric Idle and John du Prez (composer of *Not the Messiah*)
Pipers are: PM, Paul Forsyth, Marilyn Willis, Iain Dewar

The summer of 2007 was an extremely busy one for the Pipes and Drums. June was the busiest month; there were only four days in that period with no one performing somewhere in the GTA. Our two most notable performances were with Eric Idle (of Monty Python fame) and the Toronto Symphony for *Not the Messiah* and with Andrew McKinnon's production of *Scotland the Brave*.

Not the Messiah is a sixty minute comedic oratorio based on Monty Python's *Life of Brian*. It was written by Eric Idle and composer John Du Prez. The world premiere was on one of the Gala nights of Toronto's Luminato Festival. All three performances sold out and the audience erupted when we entered for our surprise appearance onstage. It was a truly unique experience working with Eric Idle and John Du Prez. Interestingly, TSO Conductor Peter Oundjian is Idle's first cousin; their mothers are sisters.

The *Scotland the Brave* show is Australia's Premier Scottish Variety Show with over 100 performers, including a live orchestra, choir, pipe-band, highland dancers and celtic fiddlers. It performed two shows in Toronto and one in Hamilton. The soloists included tenors Greg Moore and, from the Ontario production of *Phantom of the Opera*, David Rogers, soprano Mirusia Louwerse, fiddler Marcus Holden, and piper Andrew Fuller. The conductor of this production was Sean O'Boyle.

In addition to these efforts, we once again prepared a show with the Band of the Royal Regiment and performed at the Lindsey 150th Tattoo, the Fergus Tattoo, and the Warriors Day Tattoo.

In July, 32 Brigade created a large combined band, in which we participated. It was drawn from all of the bands in the Brigade and performed for large events in Toronto, such as the opening ceremony of the Steelback Grand Prix and the Under 20 World Cup.

In August, we performed in Aurora, with the 48th Military Band, in front of a very large crowd. This was an in-the-park concert and was a great

success. It was great to see the number of people that turned out to hear this concert.

It was also great to attend the Regimental Picnic in Acton. The Pipes and Drums busy schedule always seems to conflict with the picnic's date, but we hope to be able to support this event next year as well.

Upcoming this fall we have the following events, many are annual occurrences:

Wed Oct 3	Leafs Opener. ACC
Sun Oct 21	RCMI Concert, Roy Thomson Hall
Sat Nov 24	St Andrews Ball at the Royal York.

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EXERCISE HIGHLAND STRYKER ...CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1



A civilian discovering our gourmet field rations!

employees with time off for courses and deployments.

Joining the employers were several members of the OCA who kept the civilians amused throughout the day, regaling them with stories, some of which were even true.



Sgt Westrop explaining the basics of the 9mm Browning to our civilian visitors.



Putting on a firepower show for our civilian employers.

If you would like to contribute to future issues, please e-mail your stories and pictures to:

falcon_newsletter@hotmail.com

PLEASE NOTE:

THE DEADLINE FOR SUBMISSIONS FOR THE NEXT ISSUE IS:

23 NOVEMBER 2007

Thank you to all those who made submissions to this issue.

This issue of the Falcon published by:

Capt Steve Gilbert – Editor
Adam Bernard – Assembly

48TH PADRE RECEIVES PRESTIGIOUS AWARD FOR WORK IN SUPPORT OF CANADA'S TROOPS

At a conference of Canadian Forces Chaplains held earlier this year Captain the Reverend Greg Bailey, the padre of the 48th Highlanders attach-posted to 1 RCR in Petawawa, was awarded the J. W. Foote VC Award for Operational Ministry. For the past year Captain Bailey has been travelling every week to Petawawa from his home in Markham, returning on weekends or when time permitted. Service to the needs of soldiers, the families of those deployed and the communities in which they lived was his personal commitment and priority.

"The citation was for my work as rear-party chaplain to 1 RCR in Petawawa", Padre Bailey explained. "This involved caring for the approximately 200 soldiers in the rear party, as well as looking after the needs of the families of all the deployed. Understandably the toughest job was to knock on someone's door with the message that their loved one had been killed in action, and this I did on many occasions. I am told that I buried more CF personnel than any other chaplain since Korea, and if this is so, it is a record I never wished to attain. I conducted memorials and burials, but also weddings and baptisms. I had the opportunity to do some public ministry as well, speaking at Legion events and blessing a memorial bridge in Petawawa. My days would be full because when I was not caring for the bereaved, I counselled many of our members who were having difficulties. I was in touch with KAF almost every day, assisting with family or personnel issues both here and in theatre."

The J.W. Foote Award, named for Captain the Reverend J. W. Foote who was awarded the Victoria Cross for his gallantry on the beaches of Dieppe in 1942, can be awarded to any member of the Chaplain Branch of the CF, whether regular force or reserves. Captain Bailey explained that as the citation was being read he began to realize that the contents were becoming more and more familiar. "This award was definitely not on my radar, and I went quite numb when it was presented" he continued. "I could not help feeling that I had only done my job, just as the other chaplains had done theirs. However, I am truly grateful for the opportunity to have served 1 RCR at that crucial time in their history."

In June this year, Padre Bailey succeeded



Capt Greg Bailey receives the J.W Foote Award from the Chief of Military Personnel, RAAdm Tyrone Pile, in the presence of BGen Stan Johnstone.

Padre Jonczyk as 1 RCR Unit Chaplain, a position he will hold for the next year.

The citation reads:

J. W. Foote Award for Operational Ministry - 2007

The John Foote award for Operational Ministry celebrates ministry in support of Military Operations. These varied ministries showcase the often unknown and valiant ministry not only of Chaplains deployed internationally, but also nationally within the borders of our own country, as well as the ministries that support Canadian Forces Operations through the challenges of "Rear Party" ministry.

The winner this year is recognized for his remarkable faith, as well as his compassion for and commitment to those for whom he was responsible. Answering the call for help that had been issued, he agreed to take on the challenge of practising the principal ministry with the 1 RCR Rear Party. Although his ministry entailed the usual concerns that all chaplains face, the award winner's main tasks included taking care of the wounded and the repatriation and funerals of servicemen killed in action, as well as providing pastoral services to the families of victims and to their unit. Although the bulk of ministry responsibilities were shared among chaplains throughout Canada, he was in charge of religious and pastoral support with respect to nine of our 18 soldiers killed in combat in the course of the rotation and participated personally in these activities.

His Commanding Officer stated: "It is clear to me that without his sustained effort, many times over and above the norm, that the rear party mission would have failed."

In the course of a particularly demanding period of ministry in Petawawa, in times of loss, sorrow and confusion, he was present with

the families of victims, with members of the 1 RCR Rear Party, and with the Petawawa chaplaincy, demonstrating faith and quiet confidence. Without his constant presence and tireless effort, the experience of 1 RCR and the Petawawa chaplaincy would have been very different in these difficult moments.

In recognition of his outstanding, dedicated ministry the 2007 John Weir Foote Award for Operational Ministry is awarded to Captain Greg Bailey.



DID YOU KNOW?

During the War of 1812 the Royal Newfoundland Fencibles aided in the defence of Upper Canada including a detachment in the Town of York. Several soldiers perished in this defence and a Monument was erected in their honour and to commemorate the actions of the Royal Newfoundland Regiment.



Each year, on April 27th, the 48th Highlanders conduct a ceremony on behalf of the Royal Newfoundland Regiment and the People of Toronto at the Monument in Victoria Park.

Earning a Victoria Cross in Afghanistan

Associated Press in Wellington Tuesday July 3, 2007
The Guardian submitted by Douglass Chappell

A 35-year-old corporal who carried a badly wounded colleague to safety across a battlefield in Afghanistan has been awarded the Victoria Cross. Corporal William Apiata became the first New Zealander to win the medal since the second world war, the prime minister, Helen Clark, said yesterday, announcing the award and praising Cpl Apiata's actions. "Cpl Apiata carried a severely wounded comrade over 70 metres across broken, rocky and fire-swept ground, fully exposed to the glare of battle, heavy opposing fire and into the face of return fire from the main New Zealand troops' position," Ms Clark told reporters. "This brave action saved his comrade's life," she said.

Three other members of Cpl Apiata's squad, from the Special Air Services commando unit, were awarded medals for actions in the battle, in Afghanistan in 2004. Cpl Apiata was a member of the SAS squad that won a presidential citation from George Bush in 2004 for their actions in Afghanistan. The soldier said he was "overwhelmed" by the honour. "At the time I was just doing what I've been trained for, doing my job," Cpl Apiata said, adding he had only been "looking out for my mates". "I see myself as Willy Apiata. I'm just an ordinary person and this is me," he told reporters.

Cpl Apiata, born in the North Island town of Mangakino in 1972, joined the army reservists in 1989 and the regular army in 1999, before gaining selection for the SAS. His medal is the first Victoria Cross awarded to a serving member of the Special Air Service anywhere in the Commonwealth, Ms Clark said. Cpl Apiata is one of only 13 living recipients of the Victoria Cross and the only New Zealander.

The last New Zealander awarded a Victoria Cross was Squadron Leader Leonard Henry Trent in 1946. Trent was awarded the medal for gallantry over Amsterdam in 1943 when he guided a formation of Ventura bombers to their target while under continuous attack from German fighters. Six other New Zealanders have won the Victoria Cross while serving with other forces.



HIKING TOUR OF THE CROW'S NEST AND CANAL DU NORD BATTLES OF 1918 TO BE HELD IN SEPTEMBER 2008 TO MARK THEIR 90TH ANNIVERSARY

On August 30-31 2008, Michel Gravel, a noted Canadian historian of the First War battles of Canada's 3rd Brigade (of which the 15th Battalion - 48th Highlanders were part) will be hosting a two-day hike, from the City of Arras to Cambrai (a distance of 35kms). The hike will retrace the exact route taken by the 14th Battalion (Royal Montreal Regiment) CEF, from the suburbs of Arras to the Suburbs of Cambrai (August 26th to October 1st, 1918.) As the 15th Battalion fought beside the 14th Battalion through these battlefields, the hike on the exact ground and Michel's in-depth knowledge of the battles, the result of seven years of research and frequent trips to France, will be of interest to members of the 48th Highlanders.

From August 26th to October 11th, 1918, the Canadian Corps advanced from Arras, through multiple German defensive positions, and invested the city of Cambrai, the most important German-held communication hub in the northern Western Front. The Canadian Corps suffered over 30000 casualties during this period. Anyone with an interest in the operations of the 3rd Canadian Brigade during the closing campaign of the war, or in the detailed study of Canadian operations during the Great War will find value here.

On August 30th, the hike will leave from the British cemetery in Tilloy-les-Mofflaines (in suburban Arras) and end in Cagnicourt. On the 31st, the hikers will reconvene in Cagnicourt, walk to, and cross over, the Canal du Nord to finish at Sannoist British Cemetery in suburban Cambrai. Although the walk is geared for the 'locals' the commentary will be in both French and English.

As a bonus to the 48th Highlanders, Michel Gravel is willing to offer his services (on a volunteer basis) to prepare a tour of the battlefield of September 1-2 1918, focusing on the operations of the 15th and 16th Battalions, CEF. This would cover the ground of 48th battle honours of *Drocourt-Queant* and *Canal du Nord*. A highlight will be The Crow's Nest, a high promontory on the extreme right flank, shaped like Gibraltar and dominating the ground in front of the Drocourt-Queant Line. The 15th Battalion took The Crow's Nest single-handedly at night to enable the 3rd Brigade to attack successfully. Michel's special tour will take place, rain or shine, on September 1st, 2008, the day after the two-day hike.

Michel Gravel is making his services free for the entire tour, and the special 48th day, to any member of the 48th Highlanders, past or present. Travel costs, accommodation and other expenses are the responsibility of each attendee. Michel has offered to assist with information on accommodation and other local arrangements.

Members of the 48th Highlander family who are interested should contact Michel directly before the end of 2007 so that he can prepare the special tour and make contacts with the leaders of the local towns. Those who participated in a similar trip to the town of Cagnicourt in 2003 can recommend highly Michel's leadership, knowledge and dedication. He can be reached at:

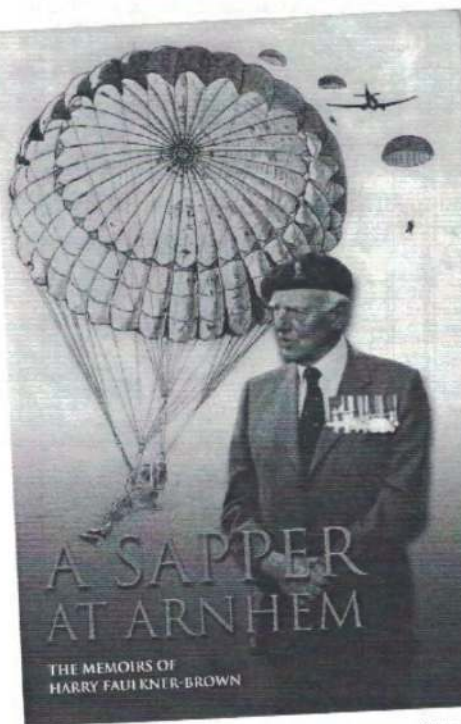
Michel GRAVEL
756 Montcalm Ct
Cornwall ON
K6H 6C3
613-930-1889

Please also notify Harry Wignall, President of the Old Comrades Association, if you plan on going so that Harry can put all 48th attendees in contact with each other and coordinate the 48th family participation.

THE OLD COMRADES
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Book by Major Harry Faulkner-Brown on Arnhem Battles
of 1944 now Available

A Sapper at Arnhem

THE MEMOIRS OF A ROYAL ENGINEER AT THE BATTLE OF ARNHEM 1944

By Harry Faulkner-Brown

128 pages 76 illustrations 3 maps
ISBN 10 9080471895

Harry Faulkner-Brown was dropped at Arnhem on 18 September 1944 with the 1st Airborne Division. At the time he was a Captain RE Officer Commanding No. 3 Troop in the 4th Parachute Squadron. He has published his memoirs of the event and the battles for the bridge at Arnhem as part of operation Market Garden launched by Field Marshall Montgomery. The narrative of the book is based around his personal recollections of the fighting with the 4th Parachute Brigade.

His account details the fighting in the woods, then later in the Oosterbeek perimeter, where he assisted in ferrying the Poles across the river Rhine in the futile attempt to reinforce the surrounded 1st Airborne Division.

Later evacuated across the Rhine, his story also includes his time in Norway during the disarming of the German Garrison there. This is followed by his time in Canada, serving with

the 48th Highlanders, as he pursued his architectural career.

In 1947, Major Harry Faulkner-Brown MC, having qualified as an Architect, moved to Canada with his wife Maxine with the goal of gaining broad architectural experience. In his search for employment, he met Brigadier Eric Haldenby of Mathers and Haldenby, Architects and joined that firm. Harry and Doug Haldenby, who was also with the firm and the son of Brigadier Haldenby, became close friends. Naturally, with Brigadier Haldenby having taken the 48th overseas as CO in 1939 and with Doug an officer in the Regiment, Harry

was encouraged to join the 48th Highlanders. He joined in 1950 and soon became Company Commander of B Company, serving with the Regiment for five years. In 1959 he and Maxine returned to Britain. They maintain contact to this day with many members of the Regimental family including Mrs. Molly Haldenby, Major George Pearce and Major John Brown.

Many of the photos in the book have never been used before and the personal perspective complements well other previous works on Arnhem from R N Sigmond Publishing such as 'Red Berets and Red Crosses' and 'By Land Sea and Air'.

This book is recommended to everybody with an interest in the Battle of Arnhem and Airborne Forces. It will hold special interest to those in the 48th Highlanders of Canada who served with Major Faulkner-Brown during his years with the Regiment in Toronto.

A few copies of A Sapper at Arnhem are available from the 48th Highlanders BOR. The price is \$30 for those able to pick up their copy at Moss Park Armoury or it can be mailed within Canada for \$5 postage.

Order Form

I wish to purchase *A Sapper at Arnhem*. I enclose my cheque payable to "48th Highlanders Trusts".

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I will pick up at the BOR (please circle one) Yes/No

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(aka Victorian Scottish Regiment)
Melbourne, Victoria, Australia
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www.intergon.net/rvrpd

SCHEDULE OF THE 48TH HIGHLANDERS OF CANADA REGIMENTAL FAMILY

Tue Oct 2	OCA Life Members Meeting	Sergeants Mess	1200 hrs
	OCA Drill Team Meeting	Sergeants Mess	1900 hrs
Wed Oct 3	Pipes and Drums - Leafs Opener	ACC	
Fri Oct 5	Thanksgiving Stand down		
Sat Oct 13	OCA Fall Colour Boat Cruise	Gravenhurst Docks	1030 hrs
Sat Oct 13	WD & Sgts. Mess Annual Dinner	Moss Park Armoury	1800 hrs
Sun Oct 21	Pipes and Drums - RDMI Concert	Ray Thomson Hall	
Oct 19 - 21	Exercise AGGRESSIVE VIPER I	Field training exercise	
Fri Oct 26	Formal Dismissal		
Tue Nov 6	OCA Executive Meeting	Sergeants Mess	1030 hrs
	OCA Life Members Meeting	Sergeants Mess	1200 hrs
	OCA Drill Team Meeting	Sergeants Mess	1900 hrs
Sat Nov 10	Sergeant's Mess Annual General Meeting		
	OCA Memorial Service	Mount Pleasant Cemetery	1030 hrs
	OCA Remembrance Dinner	York Reception Centre	1800 hrs
Sun, Nov 11	OCA Bus Departs for Parade	Moss Park Armoury	0930 hrs
	48th Memorial Parade & Service	Queens Park	1000 hrs
Nov 16 - 18	Ex GU BRATH TREK	Field training exercise	
Sat Nov 24	St. Andrew's Bell	Royal York	
Fri 30 Nov	Formal Dismissal		
Dec 7 - 9	Ex STEADFAST RESPONSE	Brigade field training exercise	
Fri Dec 14	Unit all-ranks Christmas Dinner		

LAST POST

The following Highlanders passed away recently:

Robert W. (Bob) BENNETT	April 1/07	Port Carling
Major Donald KEELING	April 29/07	Dalston, Ont.
Wilfred Thomas GRAY	May 3/07	Hamilton, Ont.
Ronald Edward JONES	June 14/07	Scarborough Ont
Alfred (Curly) CRAWFORD	July 11/07	Mount Albert
Robert (Speedy) KENNETT	July 20/07	Toronto
Donald SMITH	Aug. 4/07	Toronto Ont.
Ernest Samuel MORRISON	Aug 28/07	Casleton Ont.

At the going down of the sun, and in the morning We will remember them.

CONFINED TO BARRACKS

1) SUNNYBROOK HOSPITAL - VETERANS WING

- Jack Follett - 3W Room 88
- Nelson Liston - K3E Room 21
- Jim McCallen - L2 Room 34

2) BAYCREST HOSPITAL - 3560 BATHURST STREET

- Lloyd Tucker - 7th floor

3) SPECIAL CARE UNITS

- BILLINGS - Henry David,
- CARTER - Clifford W.,
- GIRDLESTONE - R.J.,
- JACKSON - Keith (KC),
- McCRON - Don,
- PICKERING - Jack,
- VIRAG - Wendell,
- WALKER - George

4) CONFINED AT HOME - PROBLEMS GETTING AROUND

- CAROTHERS - W. (Curly),
- COLTON - G.E.,
- FOREST - Ed,
- McKENNA - Jack,
- SOPER - Kenneth.

For addresses and/or telephone number of above Highlanders, please contact Harry WIGNALL at 705-431-2765 or hwignall@rogers.com

These Highlanders will be pleased to hear from you. Give them a call or better still, pay them a visit.

Don't forget, they are Dileas, as are we.

- HARRY WIGNALL

TICKETS for the OCA MEMORIAL DINNER may be purchased from:

Harry Wignall, 1993 Craig Road, Innisfil, Ontario, L9S 1W8

Cost \$50.00 per person. Make cheque payable to 48th Highlanders O.C.A.

The YORK RECEPTION CENTRE is located at 1100 Millwood Road, Toronto.

Cocktails: 1800 hrs. Haggis, warm-reekin, rich Dinner: 1900 hrs.