

# THE FALCON PARADE STATE

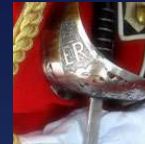


Keeping 48th Highlanders Informed!



*The 15TH BN Vimy Cross, previously featured on page 41 of "The Falcon Yearbook 2016," is now on temporary loan and display at the new Vimy Education Centre in France. Other 15TH BN Project displays, at various World locations, are featured on page 16 of this Issue.*

JUNE 2017



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This issue of THE PARADE STATE is published by the FALCON staff:

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**TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 12, 2017**

## A Message from the Commanding Officer

As always, it is a pleasure to have the opportunity to touch base with the Regimental Family and to keep everyone informed on current Regimental affairs. Since my last Falcon Article, the active Regiment has been busy with training, operations and Unit expansion.

The Active Battalion spent the period of January through March conducting Winter Warfare training at CFB Burwash, 4th Canadian Division Training Centre Meaford and Fort Drum, New York. Those on the Basic Winter Warfare (BWW) Course spent the time learning to live and survive in winter conditions while those already with their BWW qualification refreshed their skills and developed their ability to conduct combat operations in a cold weather environment. In April the Battalion prepared for the new training year and refocused on combat fitness, marksmanship and the completion of the annual Individual Battle Task Standards (IBTS). It should also be noted that the last few months have seen the culmination of our internal Pre-Section Commanders Course (Pre-PLQ), which has positioned our soldiers for success on junior leadership training this summer.

Over the course of the last few months the Battalion has been heavily involved in real time operations. Several of our soldiers are currently preparing for deployment overseas this summer/fall and a large number of soldiers deployed domestically to assist flood ravaged areas of Quebec. In both cases, the number of Unit volunteers exceeded operational needs. With 2 Canadian Mechanized Brigade Group (2CMBG) deployed over the past several months on High Readiness Training at the Canadian Maneuver Training Centre in Wainwright Alberta, manning of the Division's Immediate Response Unit (IRU) fell to the Reserves. As such, when the OP LENTUS domestic callout developed 32 Canadian Brigade Group (32CBG) raised and sustained a Domestic Response Company (DRC) for approximately three weeks. As your Commanding Officer, I am very pleased to tell you the 48th Highlanders deployed the highest number of soldiers amongst the Brigade Infantry units, with over 15% of our active members deployed.

Unit expansion continues to move forward. With the start of the new fiscal year in April, the number of soldiers allocated by 32CBG to the 48th Highlanders has been increased, with a target of manning our second rifle company



within three years. The Unit will be receiving a minimum of sixty new recruits this year and has been given priority over other units for Junior Leadership Training positions, in order to ensure that we have the leadership in place to support the expansion. Everything is currently on track and the growth of the Regiment has begun.

Looking forward, the Active Battalion will be standing down for the summer on June 10th, 2017. It will not be a quiet summer as the 48th Highlanders will be leading this year's 32CBG Collective Training Exercise, Ex STALWART GUARDIAN 2017 (SG17), from 25-31 August 2017. This Exercise will focus on offensive dismounted infantry operations at the Section, Platoon and Company level and should be an excellent training opportunity for all involved.

Before I close, I would like to thank all Highlanders for their commitment to the Regiment. This is my second year as Commanding Officer and I know that the Regiment's success is based on the efforts exerted by its members. Our Regiment is strong. The currently serving highlanders are well trained, competent, dedicated and motivated to deploy. Relationships amongst the Regimental Institutions such as the St. Andrew's Society, the St. Andrew's Church and the Regiment's two affiliated Cadet Corps are excellent and the Regimental Family continues to support the Regiment with a "can do" attitude. For this I and the Active Battalion thank you.

The RSM and I wish success to those going away on training this summer. For those Active Battalion Members not going away,

please enjoy the coming break and return refreshed and ready to train. I look forward to seeing you at Stalwart Guardian 17 and the start of the training on September 9th, 2017!

**DILEAS GU BRATH!**

**H.S. PEDWELL**

**LIEUTENANT-COLONEL**

**COMMANDING OFFICER**

## LETTER TO THE EDITOR

from Major Bob Nuttall (Retd)

Congratulations to the Falcon Editorial Team on their 2016 Yearbook. This is indeed an acknowledgement of the worth of all involved.

Of particular interest to me, are pages 30 and 31, which detail a very profound memory of one of the finest officers and gentlemen I humbly recall as my Commander and friend. On the date of the passing of Lieutenant Colonel Don MacKenzie, I was a platoon commander in Able Company, deeply affected by his loss, which was an omen of my own wounds suffered shortly afterward.



I recall the takeover of the Battalion by Major Jim Counsell, who was Don's 2 i/c. I can still hear Major Geordie Beal's voice informing us of or tragic loss. In 1944 LCol MacKenzie became the Commanding officer and on one occasion took me aside and expressed his comforting views pertinent to my age, 19 and at the same time mentioning Sgt; Herb Pike who was my age also, born in the same month. In addition, I wish to thank you all for the inclusion of my letter to LCol Pedwell on page 29 of the 2016 Yearbook.

It is my hope that friends and aspiring Highlanders will take advantage of the Regimental Website, [www.48highlanders.com](http://www.48highlanders.com) in order to be apprised of a salient part of Canada's history.

In heartfelt respect to a wonderful person and to Canada's fallen,

*"I have eaten your bread and salt, I have drunk your water and wine. The deaths ye died, I have watched beside- and the lives ye led were mine. Was there aught that I did not share, in battle duty or ease, one tale of woe that I did not know,- DEAR HEARTS across the seas?"*



# ACTIVE BATTALION

## EX HIGHLAND SHOOTER FORT DRUM, NEW YORK

By: Capt Nick Butler

March 24-26 saw the Regiment traveling to Fort Drum, New York, to conduct live fire section attacks, building to live fire platoon attacks.

Due to some double booking, we had the opportunity to share Range 44 with units from 33 CBG, the Princess of Wales' Own Regiment, The Brockville Rifles, and the Hastings & Prince Edward Regiment, who were conducting a gun camp shooting M72s, 84mm, M203, as well as small arms.

Soldiers from C Coy and D Coy made the trip to the home of the 10th Mountain Division near Watertown, NY, arriving in New York Army National Guard barracks in the wee hours of Saturday morning before being bussed up to the ranges after a short sleep.

There was no shortage of ammunition for us this weekend, indeed, few of those attending had ever seen an ammo point as well stocked as the combined allotments for the Regiment and the 33 CBG units. The weather hinted at Spring for the most part.

Flexibility is a key principle of war, and Ex HIGHLAND SHOOTER tested our adaptability on learning that some of the training we planned was not possible due to some hiccups with our American friends.

Capt Lau and Lt Blake, together with MWO Carswell, MWO Kwok, and WO Hansen had to make some modifications to the initial plan. We carried dry rehearsals as planned and made use of the wide array of pop up targets at a variety of ranges.

This type of training was set up to work on instinctive shooting, fire control orders, target indication, and other skills particularly of interest



Cpl Su, C, firing the C6



Unknown troops engaging targets at night with paraflare illumination. Photos by Capt JL Lau



Cpl T and Rahman on the Firing Line. 25. 3. 2017 14:50



Waiting for closing with and destroying the enemy. 30

to the Regiment's junior leaders as they prepare to carry on to their courses this Summer. A night shoot under paraflares was also conducted.

In contrast to a shoot on a Canadian conventional range, where shooters must move firing points to engage targets at different ranges, US Army ranges have computer controlled pop-up targets at ranges from 25m to 1500m, something not normally achievable on a range weekend. This also allowed for a good discussion of defensive operations, which will soon become the focus of the 32 CBG.

Sunday morning saw a bit of remediation, and the CO's promotion of several new Corporals, including Cpl Lovell, who has been attach

posted to PWOR. It was then back to Moss Park Armoury for an afternoon of cleaning weapons well used over the weekend.

Ex HIGHLAND SHOOTER did not quite go according to the original plan, but the adaptability of all in attendance ensured good training and valuable lessons for future exercises and operations.



Practicing indoors



Cpl Bender C-9 25. 3. 2017 10:50



Promotion time- A round for those in the U.S. and those in the Jrs. 26. 3. 2017 8:4



# ACTIVE BATTALION



**Highlanders inspect small arms damage to Figure 11 targets in front of and behind snow defences constructed by 32 CER on Exercise HIGHLAND BLIZZARD I.**

## C COMPANY REPORT

By: Mayor T.D Wentzell

C Company has had an active training year in 2016-2017.

With another Company of soldiers on their way, the goal has been to give as many Highlanders as possible the opportunity to show their mettle as junior leaders. Consequently, the focus has been on training troops in tasks where junior leadership counts the most: conducting reconnaissance patrols, and leading section attacks in open terrain and stacks in urban operations.

The bulk of Winter training focused on reconnaissance patrols. After some pre-training in garrison, junior soldiers conducted their Winter warfare refresher on Exercise HIGHLAND BLIZZARD I in Burwash, Ontario (immediately south of Sudbury), followed by a “shake-out” recce patrol.

Soldiers also had opportunity to fire on improvised snow defences constructed by 32 CER and see how effective they can be against small arms fire. C Company returned to Burwash for Ex HIGHLAND BLIZZARD II for more recce patrols.

Ex HIGHLAND FALCON IV built on previous training. After a day of junior soldiers leading section attacks, junior leaders were again tasked with conducting recce patrols through the night. The soldiers’ growing familiarity with battle procedure and patrolling tactics was evident.

Highlanders who had previously been participants on only a few patrols were now showing proficiency in planning and commanding them in Winter conditions. C Company ended the exercise with its first platoon attack of the year. It was a taste of things to come as the company progresses to platoon and company level offensive operations next year.

All told, the year was a success. C Company worked closely with the soldiers in D Company’s “Pre-Primary Leadership Qualification” training program to ensure that everyone got the most out of their training.

Junior Highlanders (whether they were preparing for immediate leadership courses or not) were asked to step up in anticipation of the arrival of new troops, and they did. The Highlanders of C Company look forward to the arrival of reinforcements.



**A C9 gunner takes up a firing position on Ex HIGHLAND BLIZZARD I in BURWASH.**



**Highlanders react to instruction during the ROGERS CUP stretcher race..**



**Highlanders re-assemble a C9, shotgun, and 9mm pistol as part of the ROGERS CUP.**



**5: Corporal Veiras playing hockey at the ROGERS CUP.**

# ACTIVE BATTALION

## D COMPANY REPORT

By Captain E.R. Gorham

The Winter training season was a busy time for the Training Company.

With “Basic Winter Warfare” indoctrinating new Highlanders on how to operate in cold conditions, “Pre-PLQ” teaching candidates on battle procedure in the context of reconnaissance patrols, and capping off a “Weapons Det Member’s” course, our weekends were full.

Where we could, we combined resources and training with C Company, which allowed the junior leaders to really step into their roles.

For D Company, Ex HIGHLAND BLIZZARD II and HIGHLAND FALCON IV were the crux of the training this season.

Leading up to these exercises, “Pre-PLQ” troops had spent many hours learning about “Battle Procedure”, how to conduct “Mission Analysis”, “Time Appreciation” and “Leader’s Recces”.

By their own admission, they did not realize the amount of work it takes to conduct even a detachment-sized task like reconnaissance patrols of a specific location.

The exercises put their hard work to use, emphasizing the process to follow and the set of orders they had to generate.



The predictably unpredictable Canadian Winter saw the troops pelted with rain and sleet on Ex HIGHLAND BLIZZARD II, and endure bitter wind and cold on Ex HIGHLAND FALCON IV, while the temperature back home was in total thaw.

Despite these factors, attendance on these exercises was robust, pointing to the high morale exhibited by the troops. Their “esprit de corps” will serve them well when they are training the new cohort of troops this time next year.





# ACTIVE BATTALION



## ADMIN COMPANY REPORT

By: Capt Bill Darling, OC Admin Coy



As the calendar year for 2017 continues to progress, and with our Annual Technical Inspection behind us, Admin Coy has remained fully engaged in support of Regimental training with an eye towards the upcoming Regional Summer Training Program and Ex STALWART GUARDIAN.

Admin Coy received top marks from ASU and Brigade on the ATI, a testament to the hard work of the Admin Coy staff along with a huge assist from both C & D Coys. As busy time for all and well done to all.

April 2017 saw the Regiment taking over the TBG lead and we are continuing with support for that tasking. Couple this with ongoing QM preparations for the Regiment gaining a new sub-unit under the supervision of the RQMS, Sgt Kinkaid, has made it has been a very busy time for all, especially with the RQMS planning out his wedding at the same time. Heartfelt congratulations to Sgt Kinkaid and his bride-to-be Vee on their upcoming nuptials.

Regimental Stores have been a busy place with kitting out our newest soldiers in Regimentals as the main task, with a busy spring including our annual Church Parade to St. Andrew's as well as several high profile ceremonial duties at Toronto sporting events.

The HCol, HLCol, DCO and the RSM have been instrumental in continuing procurement some much needed additional Regimental kit and that has kept our main stores volunteer, Brian Rogerson, busy and in his usual good cheer.



# ACTIVE BATTALION

## 48TH PIPES AND DRUMS

By: Drum Major (MWO) Chris Reesor, CD

It has been several months since we last updated the Regimental Family at large about the Pipes and Drums. But as expected, we have been busy as always.

In January we provided piping support to our normal routine of Burns' Mess Dinners – including the Officer's Association Burns' Dinner.

On February 6th, the 48th Pipes and Drums were tasked to provide some musical entertainment for the Conference of American Armies being held in Toronto. The biggest part of the request was for the drummers to do the drum salute under Black Light. 4



Div purchased or rented all of the necessary supplies and we put on a great, albeit brief, show.



**(L-R: Cpl Tom Cuming, Drmr Tom Litherland, Lead Drmr John Bridge, Cpl Brian Turner)**

That was followed later that week on February 10th with a Mini band at the TEMA Illuminate Heroes Tribute Gala. Tema Conter was murdered in 1988 and it affected the first responders who were first on scene. One of them created a foundation to honour Tema and support first responders, including the Military, who suffer from PTSD issues. The guests of honour that night included Enrico Colantoni from FlashPoint and his good friend David Eigenberg from Chicago Fire.



**Photo Courtesy the Drum Major**

a busy month as we provided a mini band for the Change of RSM for the 32 Service Battalion and then on February 25th, the Pipes and Drums provided a mini band for the Garrison Officer's Ball. The Pipe Major also did his duty as the Lt. Governor's Piper and piped Her Honour into the dinner and played for the act of remembrance.



**Photo Courtesy the LG of Ontario office Cpl Sean McKenzie-Mardelli was tasked to provide piping to the Canadian Forces International Women's Day event on March 8' at the Armour Heights Officers' Mess.**



At the end of March, the Pipe Major and Drum Major attended the Highland Regiment's gathering in Ottawa. It was a great weekend to connect with other Pipe Major's from across Canada and there were some excellent discussions about the future of the Pipes and Drums trade and uniform issues. The Mess Dinner on the Saturday



**L-R: DMaj Reesor; PMaj Peters, Lake Superior Scottish; PMaj Reid, RHfofC; PMaj Clark, CG; PMaj Lang; PMaj Stevens, BW; PMaj Wickham, LSR; PMaj Swann, TSR; WO Wilson, ASHofC and DMaj of CG; PSgt Killick, TSR; PMaj Reasbeck, CHofO. Seated is Brig Alastair Bruce**

night was great and the Pipers of the Cameron Highlanders of Ottawa were spectacular.

The Pipes and Drums were not parading for any Vimy 100 events, but on April 8th, the Toronto Maple Leafs paid tribute to the units in the GTA who participated in Vimy by having one representative from each unit.

The Drum Major was honoured to be chosen to represent the 48th for this. And the Leaf's clinched a post season spot that night too.



**(L-R: DMaj Reesor; ASHofC; GGHG; OntR; CWO (Ret'd) Brian Budden, QOR; QYR; RHLI; TSR; RRofC) Photo Courtesy MLSEd)**

Unfortunately, their playoff run was short lived.

And then on Sunday April 9th, there was a special Brunch held in Toronto where, after protocol stuff finished, they live streamed the event from France for all. Cpl Sean McKenzie-Mardelli was there to pipe in the Div Comd.

Finally, at the 48th Church Parade, we said goodbye to Cpl Cuming who has moved back to Nova Scotia and transferred to the Nova Scotia Highlanders. He will be greatly missed.



**Photo courtesy of Danielle Reesor Photography**



**Photo courtesy of Danielle Reesor Photography**



**Photos Courtesy of Danielle Reesor Photography**

And for the 48th Military Band, we said goodbye to Mike Lawson. And so did the RSM.



# WE WILL REMEMBER THEM...

## COLONEL JOHN MONTGOMERY LOWNDES, OSTJ, CD, QC (RETD)

John Lowndes was, in the words of a fellow Commanding Officer and friend, “The Consummate 48th Highlander.” He always led by example and, as both Commanding Officer and later Toronto District Commander, demanded a very high level of performance from his troops, especially his officers and NCOs. His firm, but always supportive, leadership style made all of us, who were fortunate to serve under his command, into far better soldiers than we ever thought we could be, because of the example he provided.

Colonel Lowndes was Commanding Officer (1964-67), Honorary Colonel (1988-92), Commander, Toronto Militia District (1974-76), H/ADC to the Governor General, (1967-76) and a “Geriatric Jumper” (1975). He also served, in Canada and the USA, during World War II (1944-45), as a member of the Royal Canadian Regiment, ending his Regular Army wartime service, at age 18, as a Lance Corporal.

He was also a Life Member of the Law Society of Upper Canada who enjoyed the practice of law for 53 years, a Life Governor, former Chairman and H/Solicitor of the Canadian Corps of Commissionaires, Great Lakes Division, honoured and Life Member of the 48th Highlanders Old Comrades Association and proud past commander of the OCA Veterans. He was also a past member of: the B&R Club, the Toronto Golf Club, Royal Canadian Legion branch 165, the Rosedale Walking Club and until November, 2016, a wheelchair pusher at K and L Wings, Sunnybrook Hospital.

Colonel Lowndes loved his family, his Regiment and his profession. He truly was one of the good guys.

*DILEAS GU BRATH. 🐉*



## CWO REAY MACKAY, CD, MA ED PIPE MAJOR 1975-1985

Pipe Major (CWO) Reay MacKay one of Canada's greatest leaders and ambassadors of the pipes, died on March 14, 2017. Reay followed his father Sgt Colin MacKay into the Pipes in Drums in 1950 and served till he retired in 1985. Reay was a piping prodigy who stormed onto the Ontario competition piping scene.

By 1953 – at the age of 13 he was ready for his first professional solo piping contest: the Toronto Indoor Games. Against the greats of the day, including his teacher the legendary John Wilson he won the march as well as and the strathspey and reel events. He won all the prizes of his time (as a remarkably young person), including the North American Championship, Maxville, six times in a row before stepping away at the age of 22 to concentrate on his growing family, teaching and stewarding the 48th competition band to success in the Grade 1 competing circuit.

After his retirement as Pipe Major, Reay took over the Toronto Police Grade 2 band leading it to victory at Cowal Games in 1986. He remained an active Honorary Life Member of the Pipers Society and a sought after piping judge for the rest of his life. True to form, in his final weeks he insisted on attending the Final of the Toronto Knockout Competition held in the 48th Highlanders WOs & Sgts Mess where his grandson Colin was competing.

CWO Reay Sutherland MacKay was born in Toronto in 1939. He served as Pipe Major of the 48th Highlanders of Canada from 1975 to 1985. In civilian life, he taught Mathematics and Science at Fairbanks Senior Public until he retired in 1994. He was also an accomplished accordion player who played with the Bobby Brown Dance Band. He is missed by his wife, Joan and family, Sheila (Michael), Glenna (Alasdair) and grand-children, Katryna, Colin and Kayleigh and his friends from the piping community around the world.

*DILEAS GU BRATH. 🐉*





# WE WILL REMEMBER THEM...

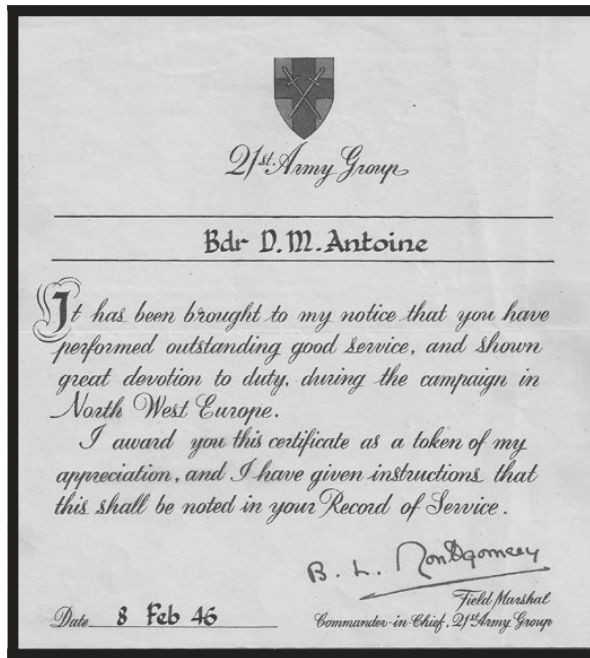
## SGT DONALD ANTOINE 1ST BATTALION 48 HIGHRS (1940-45)

Sgt Don Antoine passed away on March 31, 2017, in his 95th year. He and his wife, Mimi, were residents of Sharbot Lake, Ontario, and he was the father of six children.

Don was a 48<sup>th</sup> Highlanders WWII veteran of the Italian Campaign (1943-45) and of the Liberation of Holland (1945).

He initially enlisted in Kingston during March of 1940, and was originally trained as an artilleryman. At CFB Petawawa, during his recruit training, he set a camp record by running the 5-mile course in 31 minutes and 41 seconds.

Don's first tour of



duty was in Africa with the RCA before being transferred to the 48<sup>th</sup> Highlanders and joining them during the Invasion of Sicily (Operation Husky) on July 10, 1943. He eventually became a Platoon Sergeant and participated in several battles in Italy including the hard fought Battle of Ortona in December, 1943.

Over the years since WWII, Don was a regular participant at many 48<sup>th</sup> anniversaries and reunions at Pachino Day (July 10<sup>th</sup>) at the Belleville Armouries as part of the 48<sup>th</sup> OCA Guard.

Most recently, Don was an honored guest at the 48<sup>th</sup> Highlanders 125<sup>th</sup> Anniversary parade at Old Fort York, May 2016, when the Regiment saluted all its remaining WWII veterans.

Don's friendly and outgoing personality and support of the Regiment will always be remembered by 48<sup>th</sup> OCA Life Members and all those who knew him.

**DILEAS GU BRATH DON!** 🇮🇪

## ROBERT FRASER: 1ST BATTALION 48 HIGHRS (1940-45)

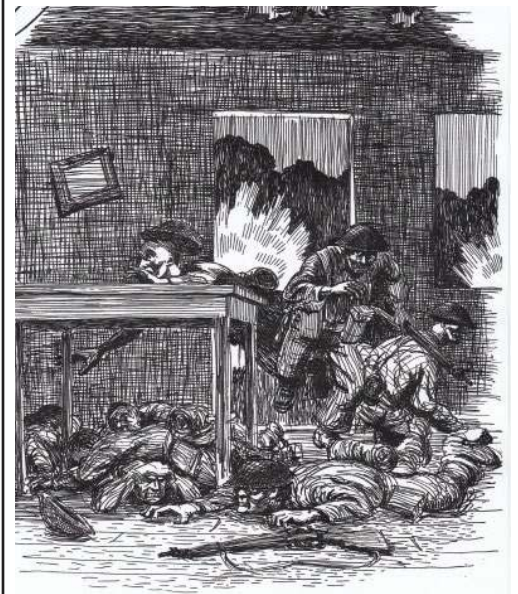
By: Sgt Al Kowalenko (Retd), OCA Veterans Services

Robert "Bob" Fraser, 48th veteran of the WWII Italian Campaign and Liberation of Holland, passed away on April 17, 2017, at Sunnybrook Veterans Wing, Toronto, at the age of 92.

In two previous articles in The Falcon, Bob had been featured in stories about his life and work as a professional artist. The latest article was in The Falcon Yearbook 2015 which was a reprinted story from the Beach Metro News to mark the naming of a special street after him – "Bob Fraser Lane" – in the eastern Beaches area of Toronto. Bob resided in the same house on Silver Birch Avenue, south of Kingston Road, for more than 90 years, certainly a record for the area.

At a memorial service for Bob on April 29th held at the Giffen-Mack Chapel in Toronto, Sgt (Retd) Al Kowalenko gave a tribute speech highlighting Bob's military service and time with the 48th in WWII, as well as his post-war involvement with the 48th Regimental Family.

Bob was in the front lines during the Battle of the Hitler Line (May, 1944) south of Rome and also at the Battle of the Gothic Line (September, 1944) near Rimini. On both occasions, the 48th Highlanders had to overcome stiff opposition to defeat professional German divisions who were in well-defended fortifications. During the 20-months of the WWII Italian Campaign, more than 93,000





# WE WILL REMEMBER THEM...



**Drill and training in England WWII - Bob on the far right**



**48th Comrades - Bob's last painting**

Canadians served in theatre, approximately 6,000 were killed and 20,000 wounded.

In May, 1944, Bob was on hand during the Victory Parade in Apeldoorn to celebrate the Liberation of Holland and the end of WWII. He was also part of the homecoming festivities held in Toronto on October 1, 1945, when thousands of citizens came out to cheer the 48th Highlanders' arrival at Union Station and watch the Regiment parade up Yonge Street then over to the University Avenue Armoury. The day was rainy but everyone's spirits were happy at the return.

Prior to the Regiment's 120th Anniversary in 2011, Bob was interviewed and included in a special 48th documentary DVD entitled "That Dileas Spirit" which covered the Regiment's 1943-45 War years in Italy and Holland.

Bob also attended the "Peace Through Valour" Dinner in October, 2013, as one of the honored 48th veterans of the Italian Campaign. This was followed by his attendance at the dedication of the Italian Campaign memorial statue at Toronto City Hall in June, 2016. As well, he would regularly attend 48th



Remembrance ceremonies at the Regimental memorial at Queen's Park each November.

Bob's artwork covered a number of subjects and included paintings of local scenes of Toronto's eastern Beaches and Queen Street East area. He also did a number of paintings and sketches of WWII scenes as well as modern day images of the 48th Pipes & Drums and 48th Military Band playing in Kew Gardens.

As pointed out at the memorial service, Bob was a fine example of the courage and determination that made our Regiment successful in WWII. Bob summed up his service in this quote: "I was proud to serve in the 48th Highlanders because it was a good Regiment and the job we did in the War was effective and necessary."

The 48th will also always be proud of WWII veterans like Bob and remember his bravery in going overseas and fighting to protect our democracy and freedoms.

**BOB FRASER - DILEAS GU BRATH! 🇨🇦**

## DOUGLAS GARDINER 1ST BATTALION 48 HIGHRS (1940-45)

Passed away peacefully at Sunnybrook Veterans Centre on Sunday, May 7, 2017 at the age of 101.

He will be sadly missed by his many nieces and nephews.

Doug was a World War II Veteran with the 48th Highlanders and was a TTC Employee for over 30 years. He was an avid sports enthusiast and a lifetime member of the Westview Golf Club.

The family would like to extend their thanks to all of the staff of K3-Wing at the Sunnybrook Veterans Centre and a special thank you to his personal caregiver.



Douglas Gardiner  
RIP Old Timer

**DILEAS GU BRATH. 🇨🇦**



# REGIMENTAL EVENTS (JAN - MAY)

## 48TH CADETS



The Corps Flag Party Marches on



The Corps formed up on Parade



The Corps March Past for The Inspecting Officer

## AN IODE UPDATE FROM REGENT BETH CROOK

An IODE Update from Regent Beth Crook  
 On March 25, 2017, the Regimental Chapter of the IODE donates a television to McDermott House, the palliative care centre at Sunnybrook Hospital. In the photo, members of our Chapter are joined by a nurse named Anna and



Stephanie Wilsack, executive director of the McDermott Foundation.



The other photo is from our birthday luncheon April 30, 2017 held in the Officers' Mess. Bea Corbett, seated was our Regent in 1966-67 and in December 2016 was presented with the Bletchley Park Commemorative Badge for her code breaking work

at Gordon Hill during WWII on the west coast of Canada between Japanese warships.

In order, left to right, in the photo are: Beth Crook, Regent, Gerry Turner (Regent 1977-84), Bonnie Rees, National President, Bea Corbett, Renate Schuetz (Provincial President), Janet Mackay (Regent 2012-2014) Karen Barker (Regent 1994-2011).

On May 3, 2017, the 48th Highlanders Chapter IODE officially celebrated its 110th Anniversary. Formed in 1907 it is the oldest serving military chapter in Canada.

### IODE meeting for the preparation of kit bags for the 48th Highlanders Cadets on May 12th



Each bag contains: Shampoo/Conditioner, Tooth brush/Tooth Paste, Deodorant, Hand Cream, Sun Screen, Shoe Polish Kit, Lint Brush, Sewing Kit, Razors, Emery boards (Girl's only), Hair Pins (Girl's only)



# REGIMENTAL EVENTS (JAN - MAY)

## VIMY 100

A personal reflection by Jane Westlake

In early April one lovely spring morning in the French countryside, I stood weeping. Overwhelmed by sadness, I was overcome with immense grief for those unknown to me, the youth of a different nationality who suffered such immense losses during the devastation of warfare a century ago. I was standing in the Neuville St.Vaast Cemetery where between 1914 and 1918, 44,833 German soldiers lost their lives and were buried.

Extending as far as the eye could see are crosses. Beneath each one lie four bodies where, more often than not, names, dates of birth and death are missing. Such was my introduction to the staggering number of lives sacrificed in WW1 while participating in the Government of Canada's Delegation to commemorate the 100th anniversary of the Battle of Vimy Ridge, a watershed moment for our nation when all four divisions of the Canadian Corps, soldiers from coast to coast, collaborated in combat for the first time.

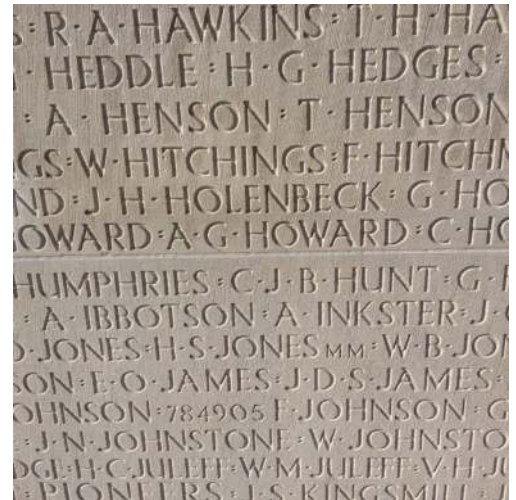
It was a great privilege to be included in this marvellous, national commemorative event, thanks to my friend Former Commanding Officer (1970-1973) Colonel Richard Read who was selected as its delegate by his Regiment, the 48th Highlanders of Canada. Col. Read's father, Captain Charles Read was wounded at the end of WW1, served at Vimy Ridge, received the Military Cross at Passchendaele and was recommended for a bar at Amiens. He was only TWENTY years old at the time.

Organized by Veteran's Affairs Canada, the delegation included Veterans and Indigenous Representatives, Regimental Association Veteran Representatives, Youth and Youth Leaders, Special Guests (family members of WW1 Silver Cross Mothers) Caregivers, DVA Conducting and Medical Staff.

**Note to readers: A full version of Jane Westlake's account of "Vimy 100," will appear next January in the 2017 Falcon Yearbook.**



Photos by Jane Westlake  
Re: Vimy 100 in France, April 2017.





# REGIMENTAL EVENTS (JAN - MAY)



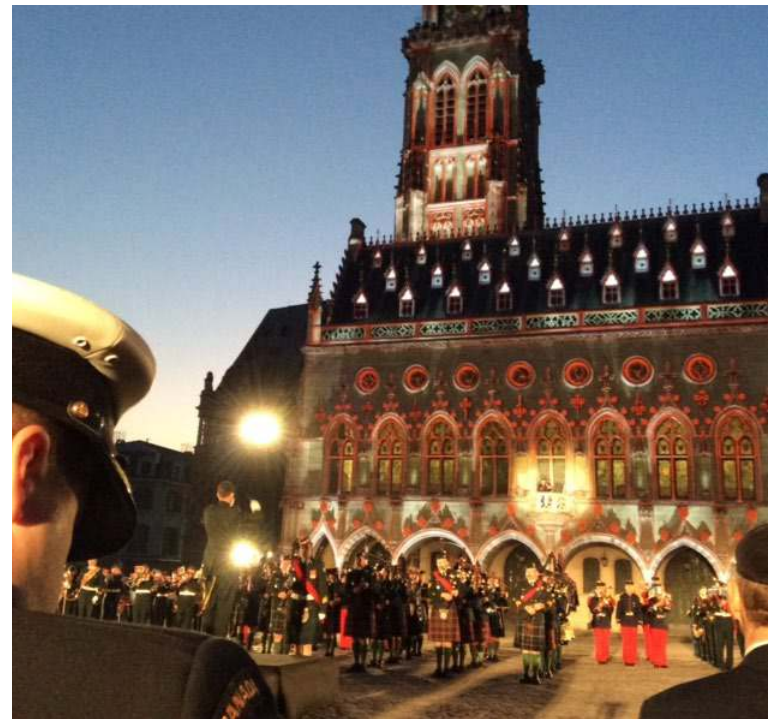
*The museum was occupied by the Germans in WW2: note the pitting caused by bullets.*



*Col Read guides the Prime Minister and his wife on a tour of the reconstructed trenches at Vimy Ridge*



*Jane Westlake and Col Read at the Vimy 100 Memorial Ceremony*





# REGIMENTAL EVENTS (JAN - MAY)

## HRH PRINCESS MARGRIET OF THE NETHERLANDS, VISITS THE REGIMENTAL MUSEUM

By Ian Macdonald, Falcon Chief Photographer

The 48th and St Andrews Church greeted HRH Princess Margriet of the Netherlands and her Husband Professor Pieter van Vollenhoven on a short visit to the Regimental Museum on May 17th while on a visit to the GTA.

HRH was greeted by Hon. Col. Elms and introduced to our Commanding Officer, Lt.Col. Pedwell, Rev. Will Ingram, Senior Minister of the Church a small gathering of the Regimental Family and presented once again to our own Holland campaign veteran Herb Pike. Her Royal Highness, sister of Queen Beatrix, was born in Ottawa in 1943 while the Royal Family was in exile.

Herb Pike and Princess Margriet shared big smiles, as they greeted one another again. Herb and other members of the 48th who fought in Holland have over the years returned many times, having been introduced to the royal family many times, it's obvious that Herb is admired by the Dutch Royal Family.

HRH mentioned to Herb that her son Prince Maurits of Orange-Nassau, van Vollenhoven had phoned her the night before to say if she saw Herb to pass on his best wishes. Herb said his favourite place beside Canada is Holland which gave HRH a big smile. She said he must visit again sometime and he said at 94 he's "pretty old" which got a laugh from everyone.

Geordie Beal led the royal party to the 48th Highlanders Museum where he gave a tour stopping at exhibits of interest to the party. Geordie did us all proud with his expert knowledge, his warmth and the royal party were genuinely very interested, asking many questions, recognizing items and photographs. HRH stopped at a photograph of the annual placing of Christmas candles on Canadian graves in Holland and knew the cemetery instantly. Geordie had pre-arranged some items to talk about including a World War II Pipe Majors Baldric sash and items used by the padre in battle.

Professor van Vollenhoven asked about the Vimy Cross and was very curious about a display of photographs and medals from the Italian campaign. He asked Geordie many questions about the 48th's involvement, movements and Geordie not only knew every detail but also told them about individuals whom the medals had been awarded to.

HRH having already seen the display on Col. Marshall as she entered, stopped once again to look at it and asked Hon. Col. Elms about the Colours displayed. Col. Elms explained their significance and that others hung in the church upstairs.

Geordie Beal pointed out a photograph of a Dutch cemetery with 48th buried in it taken on Christmas Eve. In the picture, each Canadian gravestone has a candle glowing in front of it. HRH knew the cemetery well and said how beautiful it was and how it is part of everyone's Christmas tradition. Dileas Gu Brath indeed!



HRH greeted by HCol. Elms



Jim Cassie and Herb Pike await the royal arrival



HRH looking at the Col Marshall exhibit



HRH Princess Margriet signing our guest book



# REGIMENTAL EVENTS (JAN - MAY)



Kingdom of the Netherlands

L-Col H. Pedwell  
Commanding Officer  
48th Highlanders of Canada  
130 Queen Street  
Toronto, ON M5A 1R9

Public Diplomacy, Press & Culture  
Embassy of the Kingdom of the Netherlands, Ottawa

350 Albert St., Suite 2020  
Ottawa, ON  
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Canada  
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Contact  
Anna Rijk  
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Our ref.

Cc

Encl.

Date 25 May 2017  
Re Visit of Her Royal Highness Princess Margriet and Professor Pieter van Vollenhoven

*Dear L-Col. Pedwell,*

Also on behalf of H.R.H. Princess Margriet of the Netherlands and her husband Professor Pieter van Vollenhoven, I wish to thank you for the warm welcome in the Museum of the 48th Highlanders of Canada during their official visit to Canada from May 12 until May 17, 2017.

The visit of H.R.H. Princess Margriet and Professor van Vollenhoven was a tremendous success. Not only did it pay tribute to the role Canadian soldiers played in our liberation in 1945, it also displayed and supported the excellent bilateral relations our two countries have known since.

H.R.H. Princess Margriet and Professor Pieter van Vollenhoven sincerely enjoyed the warm reception at St. Andrew's Church, the introduction to rector Reverend Will Ingram and to the Second World War veterans, as well as the guided tour by curator Colonel George Beal through the small but impressive museum. The display of archival materials representing many aspects of the shared history between Canada and the Netherlands was very well received. The Princess and her husband insisted to visit the 48th Highlanders of Canada museum because of its pivotal role in the liberation of the Netherlands and in particular of the liberation of their home town Apeldoorn.

Please accept my sincere thanks for your efforts and involvement and extend my gratitude to your wonderful staff.

*Yours sincerely,*

Henk van der Zwan  
Ambassador

## REGIMENTAL CHURCH PARADE - 23 APRIL, 2017



## 142 SAC CADET CORP CHURCH PARADE, 23 APRIL 2017 THE CORP CO'S MESSAGE OF CONGRATULATIONS

Congratulations to all ranks for a truly spectacular Church Parade day.

The bands were outstanding, the drill team was vibrant with enthusiasm and the and vigour.

Bravo Zulu to everyone for a truly fine effort!

Special thanks to all Company Coaches and Corps Staff who keep things rolling in the background. Three cheers to the Dining Hall staff for putting on a great reception in Town.

**B. McCUE**  
MAJOR  
COMMANDING OFFICER



Church Parade Pipes and Drums



Church Parade 2017

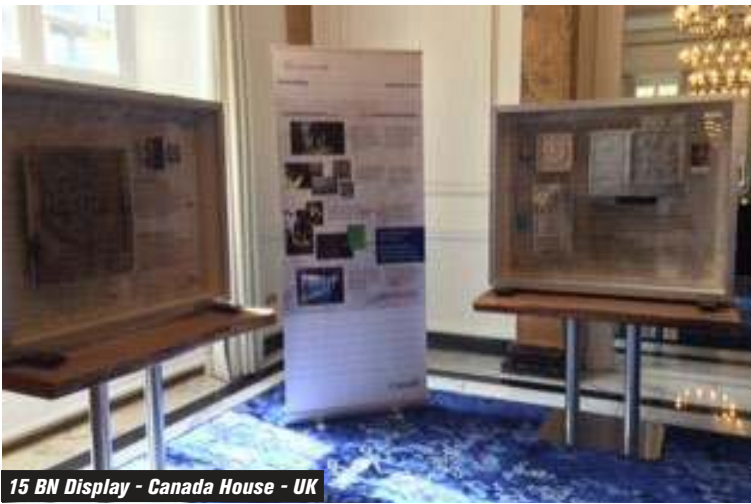
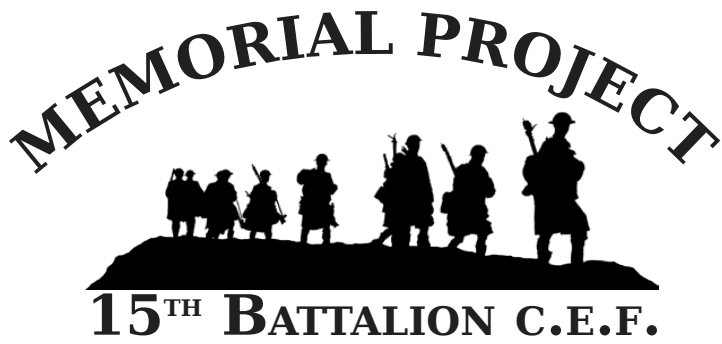
## THE REGT MUSEUM TAKES PART IN DOORS OPEN TORONTO





# REGIMENTAL EVENTS (JAN - MAY)

## THE 15TH BATTALION PROJECT ON TOUR IN EUROPE AND NORTH AMERICA.





# REGIMENTAL EVENTS (JAN - MAY)

## PIPE MAJOR LANG'S THANK YOU MESSAGE TO MAJ TOM WHITE

I would like to thank you on behalf of the Pipes and Drums for The Macallan Single Malt presented to the 48th pipe band at the Officer's Robbie Burns Dinner.

It has been opened and sampled when the Pipe Major of the Black Watch was in town in April for a Piping Conference. PM Stevens and I (and a few other including the drum major) enjoyed tasting it only later to find out how rare a whisky it is - A most generous gift from you.

The band is most grateful!



## SGTS MESS LEVEE 2017



## MACKENZIE SHOOT



CO getting CD 1 from HCol Elms



The results of the shoot are...



The results of the shoot are...



Major Poles - Retired getting CD 1



RSM receiving the cup for the WOs and Sgts winning the shoot again.



He shoots, he scores!



## REGIMENTAL EVENTS (JAN - MAY)

### A TOAST TO THE REGIMENT GIVEN AT THE OFFICERS ASSOCIATION DINNER, 09 APRIL 2016

by Colonel R.L. Read CD (Retd)

I have worn our Regimental insignia for 62 consecutive years – add a couple for my Rotary Cadet years and my Father served with our Regiment in both World Wars. Suffice it to say, the 48<sup>th</sup> Highlanders has been a huge and happy part of my life.

Through all those years, its funny (or maybe a reflection of my age), but the short few months with incredible highs and lows, as I think LCol John McEwan picked up on, when he asked me to do a short Toast to the Regiment at our Dinner tonight – a high itself, as I consider it an honour to do so.

However, back to my emotional roller coaster – the first involving my friend, Colonel John M. Lowndes – watching him battle a terrible invasive cancer and endure subsequent surgery was a terrible low – there are a lot of people here tonight who felt the same and know what I mean.

Then, I watched proudly, as John became at peace - with his fate – then came the high of seeing the hundreds who came to celebrate his wonderful life, at Timothy Eaton Church – what a so well-deserved tribute to the consummate 48<sup>th</sup> Highlander!

The next high / low experience was my recent trip to Vimy Ridge, representing our Regiment, on the 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Canadian Corp's victory there. Obviously, that event was a very proud high for me. But it was soon followed by the low feeling that came with remembrance and reflection about the hundreds of thousands of



Col Read gives the Speech to the Regt at the April OA Dinner



Cpts Joseph and Darling receive their Commission Scrolls from the CO



Col Read and friends at the OA Dinner

lives lost and changed – a whole generation. Our visits to Menin Gate and Beaumont Hamel (to name just two memorial locations) were incredibly moving.

The highs more than balanced the lows, however – the reception we, the delegates and villages with cheering crowds on the sites at Vimy Ridge and Menin Gate – especially our young people, who shone (with great pride) on the 9<sup>th</sup> of April and throughout the week of Remembrance, at daily dedications and celebrations.

To paraphrase Kim Beatty in his 1<sup>st</sup> Edition of Dileas – “The younger generation (like our current Highlanders) are carrying on the Traditions hard won in the wrath of Battle.”

These emotional experiences will always be incredible memories in my Regimental life – which, as I mentioned, is a large part of my life.

I am honoured to ask you to rise and join me in a Toast to our Regiment ...

**“THE REGIMENT!”**



# AROUND THE REGIMENT

## 48TH VETERANS SERVICES UPDATE

By: Sgt Al Kowalenko (Retd), OCA Veterans Services Representative

In February, I attended the annual Veterans Services Officers seminar in Aurora, Ontario, presented by the Royal Canadian Legion, Ontario Command, to update its members on Veterans Programs. Here is a summary of some key topics discussed, as well as other items of interest:

### RCL HOMELESS VETERANS SUPPORT

The number of Canadian Forces homeless veterans has grown over the years and many require assistance to get them back on their feet. The RCL program called "Operation Leave The Streets Behind" helps homeless veterans with a variety of support including short term funding, medical support, and apartment starter kits. If you know of any homeless veterans who need help, please refer them to a local Legion branch and assistance will be immediate and free of charge.

### OPERATIONAL STRESS INJURY SUPPORT

Dealing with "operational stress injuries" (formerly called PTSD) after service in the Canadian Forces can be a difficult experience for veterans. A support program is available called "Operational Stress Injury Social Support" (OSISS) and can be accessed free of charge through their website [www.ossis.ca](http://www.ossis.ca) or call 1-800-883-6094. Counselors are former CF veterans and all contact and follow-up is done in a confidential manner.

### SUNNYBROOK HOSPITAL – K WING (VETERANS) ADMISSIONS

Aging CF veterans who require long term medical care and are not WWII or Korean War veterans are now eligible for admission to Sunnybrook Hospital, Toronto, Veterans K-Wing. The assessment for admission is done on a case-by-case basis. For more information contact Sunnybrook via their website [www.sunnybrook.ca](http://www.sunnybrook.ca) or call 416-480-6100 and ask for Veterans Admissions.

### VETERANS AFFAIRS CANADA (VAC) SERVICES WEBSITE

VAC is currently updating its website for a pending move to a new website at [www.canada.ca](http://www.canada.ca). If you require any information about government services for veterans, please contact VAC at either [www.veterans.gc.ca](http://www.veterans.gc.ca) or call 1-866-522-2122 and speak with one of their case managers. There is also 24-hour counselling with a mental health professional at 1-800-268-7708, if required.



### RCL BRANCH SERVICES FOR VETERANS

Every branch of the Royal Canadian Legion has a Veterans Services Officer who is trained in handling CF veterans' claim forms to VAC. The Legion does not charge for any of this service and encourages veterans to make full use of their local Legion Branch. You do not have to be a member of the Legion to access veterans services. In most cases, the Legion is able to obtain substantial settlements for veterans due to their many years of experience in processing VAC claims.



### CF1 CARD – CF APPRECIATION PROGRAM

The CF1 Card is available to all Canadian Forces members, as well as veterans. It provides a variety of discounts to Canadian military personnel and their families. There is no charge for the card and further sign up information can be obtained at the CF1 website [www.CFappreciation.ca](http://www.CFappreciation.ca) or call 1-855-245-0330.

### GZOWSKI TROPHY PINS

For those 48th Highlanders veterans who were not able to pick up their Gzowski Trophy pins during the Regiment's 125th Anniversary in May, 2016, there is a limited supply available. The pins are free of

charge and are for those 48th veterans (all ranks, all sub-units) who served at any time during the five year period of September 1, 1965 through August 31, 1970, when the Regiment won the Sir Casimir Gzowski Trophy five years in a row as Canada's best Infantry Reserve Unit. These are very attractive pins and can be displayed with pride.

If you require further information on the above, please contact: Sgt Al Kowalenko (Retd) at email [ursa77@rogers.com](mailto:ursa77@rogers.com) or call 416-219-4967.



# UPDATES AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

## 48TH CALENDAR OF KEY REGIMENTAL EVENTS 2017

Sat 01 Jul 17	Canada Day	150th Anniversary
Sun 10 Jul 17	Pachino Day (OCA)	Belleville Armoury
Sat 19 Aug 17	Warriors Day (OCA+Regt)	CNE (96th Annual)
Fri 27 Oct 17	Change of RSM Parade	Moss Park Armoury
Sat 28 Oct 17	48th WO/Sgts Mess Dinner	Officer's Mess
Sat 11 Nov 17	Remembrance Day Parade	Queen's Park
Sat 11 Nov 17	OCA Remembrance Dinner	Location TBA
Sat 18 Nov 17	St. Andrew's Ball	Royal York Hotel
Mon 01 Jan 18	New Year's Levee	Moss Park Armoury



Save the Date



JOIN THE IODE 48TH HIGHLANDERS CHAPTER FOR AN AUTHENTIC FIRST WORLD WAR TRENCH LUNCH

GUEST SPEAKER BGEN (RETD) GA YOUNG, OMM MSM CD



21 OCTOBER 2017

48TH HIGHLANDERS WARRANT OFFICERS' AND SERGEANTS' MESS



FROM 1300 HRS TO 1500 HRS

\$20.00

RSVP: [iodesaelms@icloud.com](mailto:iodesaelms@icloud.com)

## OLD COMRADES ASSOCIATION (OCA) UPDATE

By: MWO Mark McVety, CD (Retd)

The Old Comrades Association's busy season is now upon us. On April 23rd, we completed the Regimental Church Parade at St. Andrews Church. Members of the OCA paraded as part of the Drill Team. Some members also manned the Museum to assist the visitors and there was a good representation attending the service in Blue or Green Blazers.

The next Sunday (April 30th), we laid two wreaths at the monument in Victoria Memorial Square. This park was originally the area of

York's Military Cemetery. One of the wreaths we laid was for the Newfoundland Fencibles (later the Royal Newfoundland Regiment). The other wreath was laid to commemorate the military and civilians killed that day during the Battle of York (April 27, 1813).

The June 6th OCA Life Members

Luncheon for the D Day Dodgers was a tremendous success. Nearly 30 members and friends attended and made it a great social event. The next Life Members luncheon is planned for the first Tuesday in December.

July brings the Commemoration of the WWII Italian Campaign. On Sunday July 9th we hope to lay a wreath and conduct a small service at the memorial on the west side of Toronto's City Hall at 1100 hrs. The next day (July 10th), we plan to go to the Belleville Armoury for a parade to honour the men of the 3rd Brigade. All are welcome and we hope to have an OCA bus to go to this event.

August 19th will be the Annual Warriors' Day Parade at the CNE grounds and I am hoping we will have a good turn-out as this is an important parade for all Torontonians to honour our warriors from all eras.

Date	Time	Event	Location
July 9	1100	WWII Italian Campaign Wreath Laying	Toronto City Hall
July 10	1000	Pachino Day Parade	Belleville Armoury
Aug 19	1030	Warriors' Day Parade	CNE

I hope to see you out to as many OCA events as possible. We need your support. Please remember that OCA membership dues are now past due.

Contact info:  
Mark McVety 416-294-4543

## FALL STAND TO AND DAG: 8 - 9 SEPTEMBER 2017