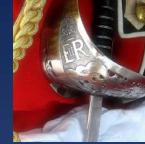


# THE FALCON PARADE STATE

Keeping 48th Highlanders Informed!



JUNE 2018



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

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**DUE DATE FOR ALL SUBMISSIONS:  
FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 14, 2018**





## A MESSAGE FROM THE COMMANDING OFFICER

**H**IGHLANDERS! I am pleased to have another opportunity to provide you with an update on what the Active Battalion has been doing during the winter and spring months of 2018.

We have continued to actively recruit new soldiers and are seeing a significant upswing in overall Unit strength. The efforts 32 Brigade to direct recruits to the 48th Highlanders of Canada under the “Strengthening the Army Reserve” program and the dedicated work of our own recruiters are key factors in this achievement. This has been aided by a streamlined recruiting process and the new Full Time Summer Employment Program recently introduced by the Army.



The Battalion has one of the most qualified and capable Officer and Senior NCO corps within the reserves. I am happy to say that our recruiting success is building on this and we have recently brought in ten new Junior Officers and filled all of our allocated Officer positions. This achievement will help us continue to build and strengthen our junior and senior leaders corps within the Unit.

### ON THE COVER:

**Sgts Ferdinand General and Kyle Kowalenko, in 15th battalion uniforms, salute the Regimental colours, as part of the “Book of Remembrance” ceremony, at the annual St Andrew’s Church Parade, which event also included the return home of our World War I Vimy Cross.**

A strong Officer and NCO leadership cadre will be a vital to our success as we move forward in staffing our recently allocated Rifle Company and look to fulfill one of the new secondary roles that are being assigned by Army. There will be more to follow on secondary role allocations once the Regiment has been given more details from higher headquarters.

In the coming year we will be working closely in a combined Training Group environment with the Toronto Scottish and Lorne Scots. The combined environment will allow us to better utilize resources and leverage each other’s strengths in delivering superior training to our soldiers.

We continued to have soldiers deployed internationally in the Ukraine and Iraq as well as domestically where we assisted the City of Toronto in operating a cold-weather shelter at Moss Park Armoury. The domestic support task found us heavily involved in the operation with the unit BOR providing administrative assistance, the unit RQ supplying logistical support and many of our soldiers and leaders directly involved in executing the mission itself. The Unit was proactively involved throughout and has been recognized as being instrumental in the shelter’s success.

Our Regimental commitments this year have included hosting the Army Commander for his January visit to the “Capt George W. Elms Tartan Shoot” run by the 48th Highlander Cadet Corps and attended by cadet units from across the GTA. Later, in April, we conducted our Church Parade weekend where the officers won the annual Mackenzie Shoot, we conducted our annual Officer Association Dinner and we completed our annual Church Parade Service. Church Parade this year was particularly moving as the unit not only had the opportunity to reengage with St. Andrew’s Church but also had an opportunity to learn more about and honour the sacrifices made by the Regiment as we welcomed back the 15th Battalion Vimy Cross.

I will close by thanking all members of the active Battalion and our Regimental Associations for their continued hard work. It is a great honour to lead such a dedicated and capable group of Highlanders.

Skilled, Fit, Ready!

*DILEAS GU BRATH*  
*H.S. PEDWELL*  
*LIEUTENANT COLONEL*  
*COMMANDING OFFICER*





# VIMY CROSS

## THE 15TH BATTALION'S VIMY CROSS RETURNS HOME AGAIN!

On 10 April 1917, following the assault on Vimy Ridge, the 15th Battalion erected a Regimental Celtic cross at a designated burial site on that battlefield. The names of fifty-seven Highlanders killed at Vimy were inscribed on the cross. Five years later, in 1923, the Regiment acquired the cross from the CWGC and it was brought to Toronto and put on display. It remained there until,



through a special arrangement, coordinated by BGEN (Retd) Greg Young, it was loaned to Veterans Affairs Canada and sent back to France to be displayed at the new Vimy Visitor Education Centre, from April 2017 to April 2018, as part the Centenary recognition of the Battle.

At a formal ceremonial event, part of the Annual Regimental Church Parade and, also organized and conducted by BGEN Young with the assistance of three of our currently serving NCOs, the cross was welcomed home again from the Battlefields of the Western Front. Family members of many of the fallen Highlanders, whose names are on the cross, were also in attendance at the ceremony.

The photographs on this page display key parts of this most significant Regimental Event.





# SPECIAL PRESENTATIONS

## NEW COLONEL IN CHIEF PORTRAITS PRESENTED

December 7, 2017 marked the Platinum Jubilee of the appointment of Her Majesty as our Colonel-in-Chief. The official Regimental Portrait that marks HM's 80 years of service as a Highlander now hangs in the Officers, Warrant Officers and Sergeants and Pipes and Drums Messes. Others will soon hang in the Junior Ranks Mess and in unit lines. The project was created and coordinated with Buckingham Palace by HCol Elms and Scott and funded by the 48th Highlanders Trusts.

The portraits which show Her Majesty wearing the Regimental Brooch presented to her on her accepting the appointment of Colonel-in-Chief were created by the Regimental Photographer - Ian MacDonald.



**Col Elms, HCol Scott, RSM Kwok and Regimental Photographer, Ian MacDonald following presentation of new official portrait to WO&Sgts Mess.**



# SPECIAL PRESENTATIONS

## SGT AL KOWALENKO AWARDED SOVEREIGN'S MEDAL FOR VOLUNTEERS

By Col Geordie Elms MSM, CD (Retd)

CSA President, Assistant Falcon Editor and OCA Veterans Services Officer are some of the responsibilities that Al has volunteered to take on since he took off the uniform. In addition Al has served for 45 years in a number of other community organizations including, the Canadian Red Cross/Canadian Blood Services, the Canadian Helen Keller Centre/Deaf-Blind Association of Toronto.

Al's volunteer service has been recognized by the award of the Sovereign's Medal for Volunteers. His was the first awarded to a Highlander by the Governor General on behalf of the Queen. The medal was presented by HCol Scott at the post Church Parade gathering in the WOs&Sgts Mess.



**The Sovereign's Medal for Volunteers recognizes the exceptional volunteer achievements of Canadians from across the country in a wide range of fields.**





# CADET EVENTS

## 48TH CADET



Captain George W. Elms – Tartan Shoot



LGEN Paul Wynnyk, the Commander of the Canadian Army, visited the 48 Highland Cadet Corps, in January, to meet Cadets and observe the Unit conducting its annual “Captain George W. Elms – Tartan Shoot.” While there the Unit presented him with an Event sweatshirt and he presented his Commanders Coins to the Corps CO and two of two of its Senior Cadets.



Humboldt Tragedy Memorial Parade

## ST ANDREW’S COLLEGE (SAC)



SAC Cadets prepare to march during their Annual Aurora Church Parade.



# UPDATES AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

## 48TH VETERANS SERVICES UPDATE

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

This past February, 2018, I attended the annual Veterans Services Officers Seminar in Aurora, Ontario, presented by the Royal Canadian Legion (RCL), Ontario Command.

The Seminar presented a variety of information on Veterans Programs which are available through Veterans Affairs Canada (VAC), the RCL, or allied veterans organizations.

Here are some seminar highlights, as well as news from VAC and the CF affiliates:

### RCL HOMELESS VETERANS PROGRAM

To address the growing problem of CF homeless veterans, the RCL has established a program called "Operation: Leave the Streets Behind". During the past few years, this initiative has helped 597 homeless veterans (including 55 female veterans) in 123 communities across Canada at a cost of \$1.6-million.

The program does provide items such as apartment kits to veterans, comfort back packs, dental assistance, and housing placement as appropriate.

If you know of any homeless CF veterans who need support, please refer them to a local Legion branch and assistance will be immediate and free of charge.

### VETERANS PENSION APPLICATIONS

For veterans who have experienced any type of injury or resulting health issues as a result of their CF service, the local RCL branch is the best way to submit your applications for VAC compensation review.

Each RCL branch has a Veterans Services Officer who is knowledgeable about VAC disability pension applications and can assist with all the requirements. It is important that you provide appropriate documentation (i.e. official release certificate, medical reports, current doctor's assessment, etc) so that your application can be processed properly by VAC.

This service is also free at your local Legion branch and you do not have to be a Legion member to obtain assistance. The RCL has had a good track record representing veterans to VAC.

### OPERATIONAL STRESS INJURIES IN THE VETERAN COMMUNITY

Operational Stress Injury (OSI) refers to "...any persistent psychological difficulty resulting from operational duties performed while serving in the Canadian Armed Forces or as a member of the RCMP." OSI can result "...during combat duties, after serving in a

war zone, in peacekeeping missions, or following other traumatic or serious events not specific to combat."

The RCL has emphasized that OSI includes a range of issues such as Post Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD), other anxiety disorders, depression, substance use disorders and other conditions that may interfere with daily functioning.

VAC also reports that about 20% of Canadian veterans experience a diagnosed mental health disorder (e.g. depression, PTSD, anxiety disorders) at some time during their lives.

An effective support program is now available called "Operational Stress Injury Social Support" (OSISS) and can be accessed free of charge through their website [www.osiss.ca](http://www.osiss.ca) or call 1-800-883-6094. Counsellors are former CF veterans and all contact and follow-up is done confidentially.

### SUNNYBROOK HOSPITAL – K WING: VETERANS ADMISSIONS

With the Canadian WWII and Korean War veteran population rapidly declining in number, post-war/modern era veterans are now becoming eligible for possible admission to Sunnybrook Hospital, Toronto, K-Wing (Veterans). Assessment for admission is done on a case-by-case basis and more information is available at the website [www.sunnybrook.ca](http://www.sunnybrook.ca) or call 416-480-6100 and ask for Veterans Admissions and they will review criteria with you.

### CF1 CARD – CF APPRECIATION PROGRAM

The CF1 Card is now available to all Canadian Forces members, as well as veterans. It provides a variety of discounts to CF personnel and their families at many merchant and retail outlets across Canada. Also it can act as an ID card for those veterans who do not have a VAC or CF identity card. The card is free and sign up information is at [www.cfappreciation.ca](http://www.cfappreciation.ca) or call 1-855-235-3099 during hours of 0830 to 1600.

### VETERANS INFORMATION AND RESOURCE BOOK

The Toronto Military Family Services Program (MFSP) publishes an informative "Veterans Information and Resource Book".

The book contains sections on VAC, Canine Program, Wounded Warriors, OSISS, Soldier On, Helmets to Hardhats, Veteran Family Program, Transition Services, Veterans Ombudsman, Canada Company, RCL, CF1 Card, and VETS Canada.

*For more information on the Book, contact the Toronto MFSP at [www.cafconnection.ca](http://www.cafconnection.ca) or call 416-633-6200 ext. 4311.*

*Should you wish to speak to a 48th veterans representative on any of the above items, please contact Sgt Al Kowalenko (Retd) at email [ursa77@rogers.com](mailto:ursa77@rogers.com) or telephone 416-219-4967.*



# UPDATES AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

## 48TH HIGHLANDERS CALENDAR OF KEY REGIMENTAL EVENTS JULY-DECEMBER, 2018

Fri 15 June	Regimental Stand-Down Parade	
Fri 07 September	Regimental Stand-To Parade	MPA (2000)
Fri 12 October	Change of Command Parade	MPA (TBD)
Sat 13 October	48th WO/Sgts Mess Dinner	Officers' Mess (1800)
Sat 27 October	IODE Trench Lunch (WWI)	WO/Sgts Mess (1200)
Sat 24 November	St. Andrew's Ball	Royal York Hotel, Toronto (1800)

## 48th OCA UPDATE

By: MWO Mark McVety, CD (Retd), OCA President

The 48th Highlanders Old Comrades Association is now starting its busy season of events. The Drill Team will be attending several functions on behalf of the Association with John Perkins and John Stephens leading.

Our activities in June will begin with the Life-members Luncheon on June 5th, to be held in the WO/Sgts Mess at Moss Park Armoury. (See poster ad on the back page.)

In July, there will be two major events in one week. On Sunday July 8th at 1030 hours we will gather at the west side of Toronto City Hall to lay a wreath honouring the 48th veterans who served in the Italian Campaign. The monument is a wonderful depiction of the city of Ortona in December of 1943 and the monument commemorates all the Service Personnel who served in the Italian Campaign from July 1943 until May 1945.

On July 10th our merry band of Highlanders will go to Belleville, this being the 70th Anniversary of the Landing in Sicily. It is our turn to command the parade and LCol Dick Read (Retd) will be commanding the parade. Contact Mark McVety for bus reservation information.

August 18th brings us to Warriors' Day at the CNE and we always try for a good turnout. The Drill Team will have the Colour Party and we hope as many members as possible will parade for this event.

Change of Command parade will take place on October 12th and all OCA members should make an effort to attend to say good-bye to the current Commanding Officer, LCol Harry Pedwell, and welcome in the new CO.



THE 48<sup>TH</sup> HIGHLANDERS OLD COMRADES ASSOCIATION  
INVITES ALL MEMBERS OF THE REGIMENTAL FAMILY AND GUESTS

TO

## THE LIFE MEMBERS' D DAY DODGERS LUNCHEON

TUESDAY JUNE 5<sup>th</sup> 2018

1130 – 1400

WARRANT OFFICERS AND SERGEANTS' MESS

MOSS PARK ARMOURY

NO CHARGE

DONATIONS ACCEPTED

TICKETS AVAILABLE FROM

MARK McVETY

416-294-4543 OR 905-274-5585

markm131953@yahoo.ca

Saturday, November 10th we will parade to the Mount Pleasant Memorial and conduct a short service and lay a wreath. That evening we will hold our traditional remembrance Dinner. Sunday, November 11th, we will be part of the Regimental Parade to the Monument at the top of Queens Park. There will be a reception in the Warrant Officers and Sergeants' Mess after the parade.

On Tuesday December 4th we will have our Fall Life Members Luncheon in the WO/Sgts' Mess, beginning at 1130 and going until 1400. All are welcome, bring a friend and enjoy some fellowship and tell some stories.

Date	Function	Location	Timings	Dress
5 June	Life Members Luncheon	WO/Sgts' Mess	1130-1400	Casual
8 July	Italian Campaign	Toronto City Hall	1030 – 1130	Blues and Greys
10 July	Landing in Sicily	Belleville	1030	Summer Dress
18 August	Warriors' Day	CNE Toronto	1030	Summer Dress
10 Nov	Remembrance Parade	Mount Pleasant Cemetery	1030 – 1130	Blues and Greys
10 Nov	Remembrance Dinner	TBA	1730 – 2230	Formal
11 Nov	Remembrance Parade	Queens Park	1015	Blues and Greys
4 Dec	Life Members Luncheon	WO/Sgts Mess	1130-1400	Casual

## FALL STAND TO PARADE – FRI 07 SEPTEMBER 2018