

# THE FALCON BULLETIN



ISSUE NO. 7

The OFFICIAL EVENT UPDATE of the 48<sup>TH</sup> HIGHLANDERS of CANADA

SEPTEMBER 2020

## FROM THE COMMANDING OFFICERS DESK

### **Greetings Highlanders -**

This is my second autumn as Commanding Officer, and the second autumn where I've had to ask the FALCON Staff to send out a "Special Edition" FALCON Bulletin about Regimental Parades.

This time however, the changes are being driven by COVID-19 and the resulting restriction aimed at preserving the health of soldiers and all Canadians. Like all Canadians, and all organizations, the CAF and the Regiment are having to adapt and implement new ways of continuing to honour our traditions and heritage with appropriate dignity and ceremony.

There are several significant Regimental Events that were to take place in October and November 2020 which are going to be impacted. I want you to hear about the affected Regimental Events, and the mitigation measures we are going to implement, from me.

Comd 32 CBG has confirmed that we are authorized to resume Class A training using a combination of "remote" and "in-person" work. The Adjt and Ops O are currently developing the Regimental Business Resumption Plan, and working with the OCs to finalize the revised Unit Training Plan. One thing that the Comd was abundantly clear in, was that there will be no parades - not for Changes of Command, Changes of RSM or any other significant events, including Remembrance Day. So, like all good infantry soldiers, we will practice the principals of Selection and Maintenance of the Aim; Economy of Effort; and Flexibility, and develop alternate ways of achieving the same effect by using alternate methods.

Think about how we conducted the Act of Remembrance Parade back in May - we will be doing something similar for upcoming Regimental events scheduled for this fall:



### **Change of Regimental Sergeant Major**

The position of Regimental Sergeant Major will pass from CWO Kwok to MWO Reesor on Friday 16 Oct 20. A change of RSM is significant event in the life of a Regiment, particularly an Infantry Regiment.

Although we will not be able to mark this occasion with a formal Change of RSM Parade, we will mark this important Regimental milestone, thanking RSM

Kwok for his service and dedication as RSM, and congratulating MWO Reesor on his new appointment.

This event will be conducted in the WO & Sgt Mess on 16 Oct, and will be live-streamed, which will allow you to witness this event, even though you can't attend in person. The recording of this event will be placed onto the Regimental social media sites, and link will be sent out.

### **WO & Sgt Mess Dinner: Sat 17 Oct 20**

This event has been cancelled.

### **OCA Remembrance Parade: Sat 07 Nov 20**

I have spoken to the MWO (Ret) Mark McVety, President of the OCA. In keeping with the current COVID restriction, this parade is also going to be conducted with "minimum manning". Attendance at this event is going to be limited to the President of the OCA, a Piper and Bugler, the Padre, the RSM and myself. We will conduct the laying of the wreath, the Last Post, Lament and Reveille while maintaining the appropriate physical distancing requirements. This event will be recorded, placed on the Regiment's social media sites and a link will be sent out.

### **OCA Dinner of Remembrance: Sat 07 Nov 20**

This event has also been cancelled.

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## **Regimental Remembrance Day Parade: Sun 08 Nov 20**

The key parts of this most important ceremonial event of the year will be maintained. The Monument Sentries will be mounted; proper respects paid to the Regiment's Fallen, a wreath will be placed, the

Last Post, Lament and Reveille will be played, and the Sentries marched off the Monument. Again, participation will be limited to the Sentry Party (5), a Piper and Bugler, the Padre, RSM and myself.

We will try to live-stream this event, but may only be able to record it and post it to the Regimental social media sites later in the day.

## **Change of Honorary Appointment Parade: Sun 13 Dec 20**

Honorary Colonel Mike Scott completes his term of service as Honorary Colonel of the 48th Highlanders of Canada on Sun 13 December, 2020. HCol Scott was a Subaltern with the Regiment in the late 1970s and early 1980s. His civilian career then took him elsewhere. When he retired and moved back to Southern Ontario, he re-engaged with the Regiment. This re-engagement culminated with his appointment as HLCol in 2014, and ultimately HCol on 2017. He has been a strong supporter of the Regiment, and has worked tirelessly and selflessly for the past 6 years. I have worked with HCol Scott for 5 of the last 6 years, and can attest to how effective he has been as HLCol and HCol.

HLCol John MacIntyre will be appointed HCol. We are all well acquainted with HLCol MacIntyre's work and support to the Regiment. He has worked diligently to further the Regiment's interest over the past 3 years, and I look forward to his continued support in his new role and appointment.

Ms. Sasha Darling will be appointed HLCol. Ms. Darling has strong family ties to the Regiment - her great-grandfather and grandfather were both Commanding Officers, her father was the DCO before becoming CO with the ASH of C, and her cousin is currently serving as OC B Coy. I am confident that she will continue the family tradition of service to the Regiment as she assumes her new appointment.

Unlike other Regiments, the 48th Highlanders of Canada does not typically conduct a Change of Honorary Appointments Parade, and we are



not going to start adding events to the Training Schedule. But by using technology, we are able to recognize and congratulate these individuals and their contributions to the Regiment. Similar to the other Regimental events, this will be recorded, and posted to the Regimental social media sites.

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For the Officers, the St Andrew's Charity Ball has been cancelled, and the decision regarding the Garrison Ball has been deferred until October.

We don't yet know about the Ranger Cup (32 CBG Hockey Tournament), nor do we know if the Regimental Soldier's Dinner will be authorized.

There are many more things that I would like to bring you up to speed on - courses, promotions, what the Regiment did during Op LASER and an update on the work of the Regimental Association Restructuring and Social Media Teams. But that will be deferred to the next issue of the FALCON.

We know there will be changes to training and to Regimental Events this year. However, I am confident that the soldiers, NCOs, officers, and the Regimental Family are able to adapt and work within the "arcs of fire" that the current situation demands.

I would like to close by saying thanks for your work, efforts and dedication in support of our Regiment and our Country.

***DILEAS GU BRATH***

***R.A. Alkema  
Lieutenant-Colonel  
Commanding Officer  
48th Highlanders of Canada*** 🇨🇦

**Dileas Gu Brath!**