



# Dileas Despatches

DECEMBER 2025, ISSUE #1

## Welcome to Dileas Despatches!

By way of this new form of communications among and with the Regimental Family, we intend to keep everyone informed of Active Unit activities, Regimental Family updates and upcoming events, all while also providing our readers with interesting articles and updates regarding The Regiment's storied history and its enduring traditions and contributions to not only the defence of Canada but also to Canadian society and culture generally.

We have chosen the name "Dileas Despatches" as a nod to the historical military tradition of sending official reports, or "despatches", from battlefield commanders to higher command, detailing operations and often including lists of personnel who had committed acts of particular bravery (hence the origin of the "Mentioned in Despatches" decoration used by Commonwealth nations). While we do not anticipate acts of bravery to be necessary in the editorial room, we are keen to ensure regular reporting of Regimental activities to all members of the Regimental Family.

We are looking for members of the Regimental Family to join our editorial team! No prior experience is necessary, and no contribution is too small. The only requirement is enthusiasm for spreading news of what The Regiment and the broader Regimental Family is all about: camaraderie, esprit de corps, and respect for and remembrance of those who came before us and the principles and ethos under which they fought and died ... coupled of course with an enduring optimism for the future of Canada and The Regiment's role in defending Canadian freedom and values. Anyone wishing to join our editorial team is encouraged to contact our editor, Lt. Peter MacGowan (ret'd), at 647-500-2731.

Dileas Despatches are anticipated to be distributed monthly. All contributions ... photographs, articles, personal milestones, amusing anecdotes, historical articles, news flashes, etc. ... are welcome. Don't hesitate to send your submissions and/or suggestions by [clicking this text here](#). We will definitely be in touch with you!

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# Steadfast Response 2025: 25/26 October

*Editor's Note: The author of this article, Sgt. Guy Bowie (Ret'd) is a former member of the Active Unit and now serves as a volunteer with the Canadian Coast Guard Auxiliary. He also serves as the President of The 48th Highlanders Regimental Association. Sgt. Bowie was a member of the Coast Guard team providing search and rescue support during the 25/26 Oct 25 Operation Steadfast Response exercise. He is uniquely positioned to provide insight as to the coordinated efforts of The Regiment, 32 Brigade, HMCS York and the Canadian Coast Guard Auxiliary in ensuring the success of Operation Steadfast Response. Ed.*

As a volunteer with Toronto Search and Rescue – Marine, attached to the Canadian Coast Guard Auxiliary, I recently had the opportunity to work with the 48th Highlanders during Operation Steadfast Response. Having spent over 14 years with The Regiment, it was great to work with the active unit once again and to witness the level of professionalism the members of The Regiment bring to their tasks.

Toronto Search and Rescue – Marine currently patrols the waters of Lake Ontario. We are specifically responsible for an area between Scarborough Bluffs in the east and Port Credit in the west. This area includes the busy Toronto Harbour.

Our vessel, call sign TSAR2, is tasked by the Joint Rescue Coordination Centre (JRCC) based in Trenton, Ontario, to assist with search and rescue missions. This can involve vessels in distress, people suffering medical issues, and conducting coordinated searches for persons in the water. In between taskings, we spend our time training on the water for the types of scenarios we are likely to encounter. The boat carries a crew of up to six personnel, and the roles on board include Coxswain, Helm, Radio Operator, Navigator and deckhands. Crew members are trained to carry out each of these



**Photo: Soldiers from 32 Brigade travelling by boat to their target during Exercise Steadfast Response.**

roles, and take specialty training with the CCGA including Phase 1 and 2 training, Marine First Aid (w/AED, CPR), Restricted Radio Operators Certificate-Marine (RROC-M), Pleasure Craft Operator Card (PCOC), and the Cold Water Survival Course.

The involvement of TSAR and the CCGA came about via the initiative taken by The Regiment's Commanding Officer, LCol. Wentzell. LCol. Wentzell reached out to me early in the summer to see if TSAR would be interested in taking part in a series of upcoming exercises involving assault boat training in Toronto Harbour and Georgian Bay. We had the opportunity to give LCol. Wentzell a tour of the boat and to explain its capabilities and the experience of the crew. Since the Canadian Coast Guard has recently been made part of the Department of National Defence, the timing for this collaboration worked out well.

Currently, 32 Brigade Territorial Battalion Group is commanded by LCol. Wentzell. The following publicly available description of the Group provides some sense of its purpose and function and the context within which it operates:

The Territorial Battalion Group (32 TBG) is an operational grouping within the 32 Canadian Brigade Group (32 CBG), and the 48th Highlanders of Canada is one of the infantry regiments that form a key component of this structure. The 48th Highlanders have been specifically selected to lead the TBG on multiple occasions.



**Above photos: Training for Steadfast Response, [CLICK HERE](#) to see more about these photos on our Instagram page.**

# Steadfast Response 2025: 25/26 October

*continued.*

The 32 CBG is a reserve formation of the Canadian Army's 4th Canadian Division, headquartered in Toronto, Ontario. It comprises over 3,000 part-time soldiers across 14 units.

The TBG is a specific configuration of these reserve units used primarily for domestic operations, such as responding to natural disasters, supporting civilian authorities (Aide to the Civil Power), or national mobilization efforts.

**Role:** The TBG is designed to provide a cohesive, trained body of reserve personnel ready to assist within Canadian borders, working alongside civilian partners like the OPP, firefighters, and paramedics. Training for the TBG focuses on domestic response skills and joint exercises with emergency services.

As one of the six infantry battalions within 32 Brigade, the 48th Highlanders contribute personnel to the TBG. In fact, The Regiment's senior leadership has been tasked with commanding the 32 TBG Headquarters, highlighting their central role in domestic operations planning.

In essence, the 48th Highlanders are a specific unit within the larger 32 CBG, and they play a leading role in forming the Territorial Battalion Group whenever the Canadian Army Reserve is called upon for domestic emergencies or training.

Operation "Steadfast Response" took place over the weekend of October 24-26, 2025 and involved upwards of 350 personnel from units within 32 Brigade, with the main infantry component being led by the 48th Highlanders. The scenario for the exercise included training for a "mass casualty" event in the harbour, with the goal of including civilian assets such as Toronto Fire, Toronto Police, Toronto Paramedics, Oakville Search and Rescue (CCGA) and Toronto Search



**Photo: Soldiers from 32 Brigade learning amphibious boat safety and drills at Moss Park Armouries**



**Photo: Soldiers from 32 Brigade practising their first aid training at Moss Park Armouries**

and Rescue-Marine (CCGA). The HQ for the Ex was HMCS York, and the troops deployed from that location. The amount of planning and coordination that went into this exercise was considerable, and the lessons learned were valuable for all involved. It was impressive to see the Infantry, Combat Engineers, Signallers, Medics, Navy and Coast Guard all working together.

Toronto Search and Rescue-Marine (CCGA) looks forward to working with The Regiment in the future.

**Sgt. Guy Bowie, CD (ret'd)**

**Coxswain, Toronto Search and Rescue-Marine (CCGA)**

**President, 48th Highlanders Regimental Association.**



**Above photos: Training for Steadfast Response, [CLICK HERE](#) to see more about these photos on our Facebook page.**



# Remembrance weekend and Remembrance day 2025:

Remembrance parades occurred on each of Saturday, November 8, 2025 and Sunday, November 9, 2025.

On Saturday, November 8, active and retired members of The Regiment gathered at The Regiment's monument in Mount Pleasant Cemetery for a commemoration of all who have served with The Regiment. The Flowers of the Forest was played by the Pipes and Drums and words of commemoration were delivered by The Regiment's padre, Major the Reverend Canon D. M. Aitchison. The gloriously mild and sunny weather was perhaps a warning that we should not expect the same for the next day for the Remembrance Sunday Service at Queen's Park.

The annual meeting of the 48th Highlanders Regimental Association had been planned for the lunch period immediately following the Mount Pleasant Remembrance Service. Due to a bout of illness suffered by the Association's President, the AGM had to be cancelled; it will be rescheduled for a future date. Nevertheless, a number of Highlanders who had attended the Mount Pleasant Service did gather for a lunch and refreshments (courtesy of the 48th Highlanders Trusts). The libations certainly contributed to a lively discussion about The Regiment's current activities and plans for the future. Such gatherings, which we expect will be a continuing feature of our Remembrance Week activities, are very worthwhile; we encourage all members of the Regimental Family to plan to attend next year's get-together.

The weather turned rather abruptly on Saturday evening, with the result that the season's first snowfall (which was a slushy one at that) met all those who gathered at The Regiment's Queen's Park Monument for the November 9 Service of Remembrance. The Regiment, accompanied by both the 48th Cadets and the St. Andrew's College Cadet Corps, marched the traditional



**Photo: 48th Vets at the Mount Pleasant Monument during the ceremony on Saturday 8 November.**

route from the front of the Legislative Buildings up the east side of Queen's Park Crescent to the Regimental Monument. In addition to members of the Regimental Family, a large number of members of the public were also in attendance. This was likely a reflection of the renewed sense of patriotism so many Canadians are experiencing at this time of turmoil in international relations. A renewed commitment to the remembrance of the sacrifices of those who have died fighting for Canadian freedom was certainly evident in all in attendance.

After the Service of Remembrance, a public reception was hosted by the 48th Highlanders Trusts at Victoria College, a stone's throw from the Regimental Monument. The reception included patriation ceremonies pursuant to which the medals of three 48th Highlanders (viz., 77536 Pte David Maxwell (No. 4 Coy 15th Battalion C.E.F.), 77696 Sgt. William Byers (No. 2 Coy 15th Battalion C.E.F.) and Major J. Eardley Wright, DSO (1st Battalion, 48th Highlanders of Canada) were presented to The Regiment for safekeeping by the 48th Highlanders Museum.

The poignancy of any Service of Remembrance is always striking, and attendance is always worthwhile. We encourage all members of the Regimental Family to mark their calendars with the dates of our 2026 Services of Remembrance, those being Saturday, November 7 (Mount Pleasant) and Sunday, November 8 (Queen's Park). 🇨🇦



**Above photos:  
From the Queens Park  
ceremony, [CLICK HERE](#)  
to see more of these  
photos on our Face-  
book page.**



# 48th Milestones

Our plan is to include in each issue of Dileas Despatches notes regarding the whereabouts, goings on, activities and significant events in the lives of members of the Regimental Family. Births, passings, weddings, retirements, new jobs, trips, hobbies, activities in general ... everything is welcome. Please let us know of anything and everything that you would like to share with your fellow Highlanders.

To kick things off, as our inaugural Dileas Despatches “Milestone” we have included below a photo of Colonel Bill Stark (Ret’d). The photo was taken on October 25, 2025 on Vimy Range at CFB Borden during a range day for the “Royals” Association members and guests. . Thanks very much to Hon LCol. Adrian Praysner of The Royal Regiment of Canada for submitting the photograph. We are not aware of Colonel Stark’s score, but do understand that his enthusiasm for participating in the Shoot was matched only by his enthusiasm for subsequently going in to the Butts to pull targets. 🏹



Photo: Colonel Bill Stark (Ret'd) on Vimy Range at CFB Borden on 25 October, 2025



## Upcoming Events 2025 - 2026

Don't miss out on the upcoming Scotch Nosing - this unique event only happens once a year!

[CLICK HERE to see a larger version of the Scotch Nosing Poster.](#)

[CLICK HERE to contact WO Kowalenko to buy tickets.](#)

Here is a list of few other upcoming events in the next few months:

**12 April 2026 - Apeldoorn 1945 remembered - Apeldoorn**

**25 April 2026 - Officers Annual Dinner - RCMI**

**13 June 2026 - Georgetown Highland Games - Georgetown**


To see more events and details have a look at the calendar page on the 48th website at this link by [clicking this text](#).

THE  
48TH HIGHLANDERS WO'S  
& SGT'S MESS

# ANNUAL SCOTCH NOSING

JOIN  
US

24TH OF  
JANUARY  
2026



**Moss Park Armoury (130 Queen St E, Toronto)**

**1700 hrs - Mess open**  
**1800 hrs - Scotch Nosing begins**

**Tasting Ticket - \$80** (5 x Scotch Tasting + Appetizers)  
**Guest Ticket - \$25** (1 x Bar Drink Ticket + Appetizers)

Payment for reservations can be email money transferred (EMT) to:  
**kylekowalenko@hotmail.com**

\* Please ensure to identify when sending the EMT that the money is for the Scotch Nosing, the type of ticket (Tasting or Guest), the number of tickets, and names for the tickets.  
\* Cash only bar.

# Regimental Discovery Challenge #2: Our Digital Legacy

Following the success of our inaugural heritage challenge, we are proud to announce the second installment of our Regimental Discovery series. This challenge focuses on the three primary digital windows into our history: the Main Regimental Site, the Museum Site, and the 15th Battalion Memorial Project.

## ANNOUNCING THE WINNERS OF CHALLENGE #1

Before we dive into the new questions, we want to recognize the sharp eyes and historical knowledge of our members. Congratulations to the winners of the first Regimental Discovery Challenge:

*MCpl Tony Zapata*  
(Active Unit)

*Sgt (Ret'd) Frank MacKay*

Thank you to everyone who participated. Your enthusiasm for our shared history is what keeps the spirit of the 48th alive!

## THE CHALLENGE: THREE SITES, THREE QUESTIONS

The story of the 48th Highlanders of Canada lives online through three dedicated platforms. Explore them to find the answers to this month's challenge.

### 1. The Main Regimental Site: [48thhighlanders.ca](http://48thhighlanders.ca)

This is your gateway to the present and future of the Regiment, including links to current activities, leadership, and the wider Regimental family.

**CHALLENGE QUESTION #1:** *What battle honour was won on New Year's Eve 1943?*

### 2. The Museum Site:

[museum.48thhighlanders.ca](http://museum.48thhighlanders.ca)

A virtual repository of thousands of artifacts, uniforms, and medals that bring the past vividly to life.

### CHALLENGE QUESTION #2:

*What was the name of the special winter headdress issued during WW 2? On the one displayed in the museum, what is unusual about the cap badge?*

### 3. The 15th Battalion Memorial Project:

[15thbattalioncef.ca](http://15thbattalioncef.ca)

A dedicated memorial to the men of the 15th Battalion (48th Highlanders) in the First World War, featuring thousands of photos, details of all WW 1 battle honours and battlefield tour guides.

### CHALLENGE QUESTION #3:

*A memorial to the fallen of the 15th Battalion CEF in the shape of our Vimy Cross was erected by our project team. What date was it dedicated and in which town is it located?*



## How to Enter

Submit your answers to the three questions above using the entry form at the Regimental web site. (Click Home then select entry form. No log-in required.)

The first three complete and correct responses from each of the active unit and our retired/community members will win a 48th coffee mug and be recognized in our next update.

Take a look. Dig a little. You never know what—or who—you'll find. 🕵️

# Did you know? MILITARY JARGON TO EVERYDAY JARGON

Have you noticed how many common expressions, particularly those used in the workplace, often seem to have a military origin? What's with that?

It does seem that veterans returning from the battlefield, and particularly after WWII, brought home with them expressions used during their wartime service and, as they reintegrated into peacetime society, introduced to a civilian context many of those expressions. Over time, the expressions have become so commonly accepted that when we hear them being used, we hardly think about their military origins. It's quite thought-provoking how quick we are to use these expressions today without necessarily thinking about the tough, challenging, and downright scary context in which they originated.

So when you hear these expressions, and when you use them, don't forget about the heroes who created them.

Let's get the boots on the ground

We need all hands on deck

This is mission critical

It's on my radar

We're in the trenches

This is not a hill to die on

We need an all hands meeting

How can we best deploy our resources?

Someone will rise through the ranks

OK, let's rally the troops



## THE GAELIC CORNER

Did you know that The Toronto Gaelic Society was the catalyst for the initial meeting on June 30, 1891, attended by representatives of The Gaelic Society of Toronto, the St. Andrew's Society, the Caledonian Society and The Sons of Scotland Association of Canada, which resulted in the formation of The Regiment? And that the oath of service taken by the 152 men who were first taken on strength of The Regiment when it was first formed on October 22, 1891 was taken on a Gaelic Bible? And that The Regiment's motto, Dileas gu brath, is Gaelic, and means "Faithful forever"?

The contribution of Gaelic to The Regiment's traditions and customs is illustrated by not only our Gaelic motto but also by, for example, the exchange of Gaelic toasts between the Commanding Officer and the Pipe Major whenever there is a piping in of the haggis to the Officers' Mess ... the CO starts with A Mhàidseir na pioba, òlamaid deoch-slàinte! ... "O Pipe Major, let us drink to health!"

It's perhaps time to reintroduce an element of the Gaelic to life within the Regimental Family. To that end, in addition to the oft-used Regimental Motto, Dileas gu brath, we'd suggest the use of "Glè mhath" ... pronounced "glay vah" ... an expression which neatly and tidily captures the "yes can do" attitude which pervades life in The Regiment. Glè mhath is an effective substitute for any number of English/military phrases, including "very good", "consider it done", "too easy", "I will make that happen", "Bravo Zulu", "mission accomplished", "good to go", "Lima Charlie" and "Wilco".

Try using Glè mhath (glay-vah) whenever you want to convey an upbeat, can-do, positive attitude or when confirming that a request will be fulfilled ... it's a great way to strengthen our character as Highlanders and to continue the valued Gaelic traditions behind the original formation of the Regiment nearly 135 years ago.

