Dìleas Despatches

FEBRUARY 2026, ISSUE 2602

Dutch Soldier's Grave Adopted by the 48th

Notwithstanding the 15 May 1940 surrender of The Netherlands to Nazi Germany, the Government of The Netherlands, from exile in London after the capitulation, reminded Dutch nationals living outside of The Netherlands that they were still subject to conscription and that they should identify themselves to local authorities for military service. The goal was to build a fighting force that would one day help reclaim the home territory lost in the 1940 German invasion. There were also far-flung Dutch colonial territories that needed protection from Japanese attack. Soldiers were desperately needed.

In Canada, more than 200 such Dutch nationals stepped forward for service with the forces of their homeland. Many other Dutch immigrants, of course, enlisted with the Canadian Army, the Royal Canadian Navy and the Royal Canadian Air Force. The intent was that those who stepped forward for service with Dutch forces would train in Canada and then join either Dutch infantry forces (later known as the Koninklijke Prinses Irene Brigade) or fly with the RAF or the RCAF.

However, training for war is dangerous, and there were at least 17 Dutch nationals who died while stationed in Canada. A plaque commemorating this group is located at Beechwood Cemetery in Ottawa, but there are also individual graves of fallen Dutch soldiers scattered about. One such grave is located in Toronto, at Mount Hope Catholic Cemetery (305 Erskine Avenue, on the west side of Bayview Avenue, five blocks north of Eglinton Avenue)..

Soldaat (Private) Petrus van den Berg died on 12 August 1941 at Stratford, Ontario. It can be assumed that he died in a training accident, since Stratford is where the barracks for the Dutch nationals was located. He left behind a wife and two children, but an enquiry with the Oorlogsgravenstichting (i.e., The Netherlands War Graves Commission) revealed that no next-of-kin was associated with Pte van der Bergh, and his grave was unclaimed and untended. This was disappointing to

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hear since we all know how well the graves of fallen Canadian soldiers are cared for in the Netherlands.

So we've done something about it! The 48th Highlanders of Canada have now officially adopted the grave of Petrus van der Bergh. The Regiment plans to hold a ceremony at Mount Hope later this year to mark this event. Watch for further details in a future issue of Dileas Despatches.

It is perhaps poignant that Pte van der Burgh was born on 3 Apr 05 in the town of Groesbeek, the location of Groesbeek Canadian War Cemetery (near Nijmegen), one of the three principal Canadian War Cemeteries in the Netherlands (the other two being Holten Canadian War Cemetery (which contains the graves of twenty fallen 48th Highlanders) and Bergen-op-Zoom Canadian War Cemetery (located in the province of Noord-Brabant near the Belgian border).

Captain Willem (Pim) van der Toorn
Alpha Coy 2ic
48th Highlanders of Canada

Dutch troops at Stratford Railway Station, January 1941
(Photo courtesy Stratford-Perth Archives)

Stay up to date with 48th events and happenings by following us on Social Media and more:

https://www.facebook.com/48th.highlanders

https://www.instagram.com/48highlanders

https://www.facebook.com/groups/6142195853/

https://www.facebook.com/groups/843575856446772

https://www.youtube.com

https://48thhighlanders.ca

https://museum.48thhighlanders.ca

https://15thbattalioncef.ca

"Campaign" Shirts For Sale

In time for the 135th Anniversary of The Regiment, there are still 48th Highlanders Campaign Shirts available, though quantities in some of the popular sizes are getting low. Cost is $90 all-in. These shirts are 100% Canadian made and feature two Velcro patch panels. Contact Capt van der Toorn at **willem.vandertoorn.48@gmail.com** to purchase. There will be 135th Anniversary patches made that will be perfect to customize your shirt!

(Editor's Note: The second image to the right was taken this past May just outside the village of Wilp, The Netherlands. The floodplain of the IJssel River is clearly visible in the background. That floodplain was traversed by The Regiment after crossing the IJssel River on 11/12 Apr 1945 during Operation Cannonshot. After traversing the floodplain, The Regiment continued its westward advance on Apeldoorn. The dyke in which the seventeen Highlanders killed during Operation Cannonshot (including Lieutenant-Colonel MacKenzie) were first buried before reinterment at Holten Canadian War Cemetery is also clearly visible in the image, arcing from right to left. The image depicts Captain van der Toorn thanking the Dutch citizens who organized the Operation Cannonshot battlefield tour for The Regiment's and Regimental Family's contingent which attended the 80th Anniversary celebrations.)

Upcoming and 135th Anniversary Regimental Family Events ...

Saturday, April 25. 48th Highlanders Freedom of the City Parade. The Regiment will march from Moss Park Armoury, with a Freedom of the City ceremony at Nathan Phillips Square starting at 1100 hrs. The Regiment's march to and from City Hall will exit and enter Moss Park Armoury via Shuter Street. After the parade the 48th Highlanders Association and the 48th Chapter of the IODE will organize a BBQ reception for serving members, friends and family at Moss Park Armoury, starting at 1230 hrs. Everyone attending is encouraged to utilize public transit services, as parking at MPA will be limited.

Saturday Evening, April 25. Marshall Dinner (Annual Officers' Dinner), Royal Canadian Military Institute.

Sunday, April 26. Annual St. Julien Parade, with Act of Remembrance at St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church. A new Book of Remembrance will be dedicated as part of the church service. A reception at the church will follow the dedication. Further details will follow in our next issue.

Saturday, May 30. Association Shoot, CFB Borden. Further details to follow in our next issue.

***** SPECIAL NOTE ***** We expect to have a certain number of our friends from The Netherlands (including The 48th Highlanders of Holland Pipes and Drums) joining us for each of the April 25 Freedom of the City Parade and the April 26 St. Julien Parade. We very much look forward to their attendance and participation. It's a great opportunity for us to strengthen the continuing bonds between The Regiment, the Regimental Family and the many Dutch citizens who remain so grateful for The Regiment's role in the 1945 liberation of The Netherlands.

Friday, July 10. Pachino Day Parade, Belleville. Further details to follow in an upcoming issue.

Saturday, August 22. Warriors Day Parade, Canadian National Exhibition. Further details to follow in an upcoming issue.

Friday, October 16. "All Welcome" 135th Anniversary Celebration, Moss Park Armoury. Save the Date; further details to follow in an upcoming issue.

Saturday, November 7. Act of Remembrance, Mount Pleasant Cemetery.

Sunday, November 8. Remembrance Parade, Queen's Park. Service of Remembrance at the Regimental Monument. Post-Service Reception at Victoria College, University of Toronto

To stay up to date on upcoming events make sure you bookmark the 48th calandar at this link:

https://48thhighlanders.ca/calendar/

Our 48th Highlander veterans leading the parade in Apeldoorn - 2005.

135 Years of Regimental History Unlocked: The 48th Highlanders of Canada Digital Experience: A Hidden Gem that Punches Far Above its Weight

Located in the heart of Toronto, the 48th Highlanders Museum holds one of the most significant military collections in the country - from the Vimy Cross to rare documents recording the unconditional German surrender at Luneburg Heath on 04 May 45 to Field Marshal Sir Bernard Montgomery.

If you haven't yet had the opportunity to visit us in person at the museum (which is housed in St. Andrew's Church at 73 Simcoe Street (on the southeast corner of King Street West and Simcoe Street, just west of University Avenue)), we are bringing the museum collection to you. We've launched an immersive Digital Guided Tour designed to give you a front-row seat to The Regiment's legacy, right from your own screen. You can watch the brief video at this link to see what the tour has to offer:

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=mDMtADje_BA

"Using the virtual app to explore the history of Canada's most famous and storied regiment is like finding a treasure trove of your family's history in a box in the attic. You can now spend hours poring over the fascinating exhibits from literally anywhere. It is an interactive tour de force of Canada's military history and the major part the 48th played in much of it. There is honour, glory, tales of great deeds, sadness, grief and heartbreak ... but also humour, comradeship and unwavering loyalty. If you cannot visit this famous regimental museum, the digital tour is almost as good as being there in person."

Sgt. Frank MacKay CD (ret'd),
48th Highlanders of Canada

Why This Matters for The Regiment

This isn't just a website. Rather, it's a high-definition tactical breakdown of the kit, the battles, and (most importantly) the people who have defined the 48th Highlanders. We gave a few members of the Regimental Family - both active and retired members - early access to go for a digital experience spin. Here's what they have said about their digital tour experiences:

Explore in High Definition

The app works well on a phone but, to see the collection in full detail, we recommend viewing the tour on a tablet or laptop.

- Visit the link below on your preferred device.
- Explore the collection at your own pace, whether you're at home or the Armoury.
- ***Click here*** to see how to Install the 48th Highlanders Guided Tour or simply visit the Museum site and click "Visit us"

The Museum Team

"I believe that this is an excellent resource that not only showcases the display cabinets but also allows for closer inspection of the items they contain. The accompanying descriptions help readers better understand each item and the historical context associated with it. This resource would be extremely valuable for students and historians alike, as well as collectors seeking additional information or conducting research. It will certainly assist me in gathering further historical insight for my personal collection and ongoing research. The app is also very easy to use, and the filters help with the access to information."

Sgt. Graham Robertson,
48th Highlanders of Canada

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48th Digital Guided Tour app continued...

[Editorial Team's Note: We echo the very many glowing reviews which have been submitted by others regarding the new digital museum tour app. It's through the use of the app that one comes to appreciate the incredible volunteer effort which was required to produce such a wonderfully engaging experience for the app user. We want to draw particular attention to the dedicated volunteer efforts of Colonel Bill Jensen (ret'd) as app creator, Colonel Geordie Beale (ret'd) as museum curator, Peter Olsen as the system designer and the many volunteer museum staff members - particularly Allan McBride, Bruce Cane, Kevin Tang, WO Dianne Love ret'd, Corporal Stephen Love ret'd and Ral Wulff - who did so much work preparing images, creating content and doing artifact renewal to make the digital tour as engaging as it is. We thank the entire team for all they have done in preserving The Regiment's storied history and for making that history come alive through such an engaging and easy to use app.]

"An IT dinosaur like me was easily and quickly able to follow the simple app instructions and I'm now able to quickly and easily visit the museum and its archives. It's easy to use and easy to apply filters to tailor whatever rabbit hole that you wish to go down. Be prepared to spend significantly more time than you originally planned as one thing leads to another, to another, to another... It's fantastic."

Captain Bill Darling (ret'd),
48th Highlanders of Canada

The photo above depicts the 04 May 45 German surrender at Luneburg Heath. In the photo, Field Marshal Montgomery (seated, wearing beret) reads out the terms of the surrender to German Rear Admiral Wagner and German Admiral von Friedeburg. Standing second from left of the dark tent post and wearing a 48th-badged glengarry is LCol Trumbull Warren of The 48th Highlanders of Canada, who at that time was serving as a member of Field Marshal Montgomery's staff. LCol Warren subsequently served as Honorary Lieutenant-Colonel of The Regiment from 1972 to 1977 and as Honorary Colonel of The Regiment from 1977 to 1979.]

CLICK HERE TO GET STARTED!

Winter Training 2026

On February 6-8 2026, members of the 48th Highlanders of Canada were on course for their Cold Weather Operator qualification.

This course generates the foundation required to survive, operate, and excel in Canada's harsh winter environment.

Photos by Cpl Garduce

The Simpsons Department Store Roll of Honour

Upon the outbreak of the Second World War, Canadians from all walks of life left their jobs to volunteer for military service. After the war, the schools, workplaces and organizations to which these volunteers belonged erected memorials to remember their service and sacrifice. One such monument was a Roll of Honour put up in the Simpsons department store in downtown Toronto. An incredible 52 Simpsons employees gave their life during the Second World War.

When Simpsons was acquired by the Hudson's Bay Company in 1991, the Roll of Honour remained on display in the basement of Simpsons Tower. When the last of the Hudson's Bay Company stores closed in 2025, the Roll of Honour found itself without a home. Thanks to the hard work of people like Patrick Shea, a lawyer and member of the 48th Highlanders' Senate, it has since been moved to the TD Bank branch on Toronto's front street, located at the same site as a former Simpsons warehouse.

Two of the names from the Simpsons Roll of Honour were members of the 48th Highlanders of Canada: Lieutenant Edward Drew Glass and Highlander Roy Andrews.

Photo of the Simpsons Roll of Honour by Brandon Corazza

Lieutenant Edward Drew Glass

Edward Drew Glass was the son of Edward Murdock Glass, a veteran of the First World War. The father had served in the 48th Highlanders before the First World War, then fought with the 15th Battalion (48th Highlanders) in Flanders. The son followed suit, joining the 48th Highlanders in 1937 at the age of 16, and got his first civilian job at the Simpsons' Department Store. In 1939, he left his job and volunteered for overseas service with the 48th, leaving his father and sister behind. His mother had passed away years earlier.

By May 1943, Glass was an acting sergeant and selected for officer training in Canada. His evaluation described him as "a very fine type, splendid experience in the army, straightforward, highly intelligent and definitely the leader type." He returned to England in May 1944 as a newly trained officer. He was assigned to the CANLOAN program— a Canadian program through which "surplus" officers were "loaned" to British regiments needing combat leaders. Glass joined the 1st Battalion, Gordon Highlanders – the sister regiment of the 48th Highlanders. He went to Normandy in July 1944 as a platoon commander in Dog Company.

On the night of August 14, near the village of Fierville, the Gordons endured an accidental Allied bombing—one of many such tragedies

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The Simpsons Roll of Honour continued...

in Normandy. Miraculously, they suffered no casualties. At dawn on August 15, the Gordons continued their advance and cleared German positions around St. Sylvain. As they began to dig in for the night, German aircraft struck. The bombs killed Glass and two other members of Dog Company and wounded twenty more. Glass was buried near St. Sylvain before being moved to the Bretteville-sur-Laize cemetery. His father chose the epitaph: "Gone to join his mother."

Photo above: Edward Drew Glass, August 15th, 1944

Highlander Roy Andrews

Roy Andrews left school after grade five to support his family—his mother, older sister, and five-year-old brother. His father had abandoned them during the Depression. At fifteen, Andrews began working at Simpsons as a packer. Co-workers remembered him as "clean-cut. Intelligent. Anxious to please." In January 1942, he volunteered for the army and asked to join the infantry. He chose the 48th Highlanders and sent $40 home to his mother every month—a substantial sum for a private's pay. After training in Guelph and Borden, he sailed for Britain in June 1942.

A year later, the 48th Highlanders quietly boarded ships for a secret mission. Only after they were at sea did they learn they were bound for Sicily. On July 4, as the vast convoy passed Gibraltar, German U-boats attacked and sank two of the troop-carrying ships. Andrews survived and was taken to Algiers before being assigned to a new ship and rejoining the division. The Canadians landed in Sicily on July 9, 1943. After weeks of hard fighting, they crossed to mainland Italy in September and pushed north. They eventually reached Campobasso, which became an essential Canadian administrative centre. But the town was still within range of German guns. The Highlanders were ordered to clear enemy positions at Torella and first needed to find safe crossing points over the Biferno River.

Andrews was in No. 4 (Scout) Platoon, the battalion's reconnaissance troops. On the night of October 22, two patrols went out to locate crossing sites. One succeeded. The second never reached the river. Led by Sergeant Midge (Gordon) Major, the second patrol entered a German minefield. Corporal George Ardagh triggered a tripwire mine, which ignited a phosphorous grenade he was carrying. More mines detonated in the chaos. Only Sergeant Major survived. Badly injured, he crawled away, passed out, woke again, and crawled farther until a patrol from The Royal Canadian Regiment found him. When the 48th Highlanders reached the area the next day, they found Highlander Ronald Ward still alive, though he soon died of his wounds. Andrews and the other scouts were all killed.

Initially buried near the Biferno River, Andrews was later moved to the Moro River Cemetery. His mother chose this inscription:

"Oft we see his smiling face
As he bade his last goodbye
And left his home forever
In a distant land to die."

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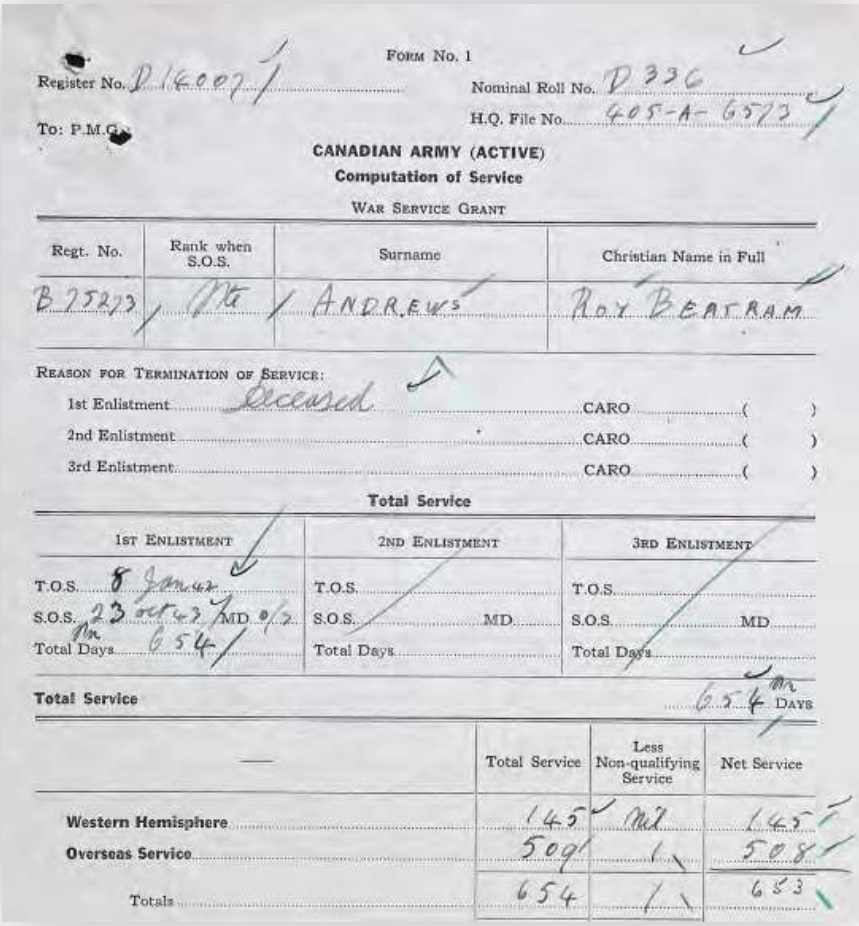
The Simpsons Roll of Honour continued...

Remembering the Names and the Monuments

The stories of Lieutenant Glass and Highlander Andrews illustrate the many ways that Canadians served and sacrificed. Lieutenant Glass was one Canadian serving in a British unit, fighting in Normandy while the rest of his regiment fought in Italy. Highlander Andrews was not killed in a large battle, but in a minefield as part of a small reconnaissance patrol. Their names can easily be forgotten, much like the Simpsons Roll of Honour itself. Businesses are acquired and closed; community halls shut down. Memorials can be lost or fall into disrepair, but each of the 52 names on that Roll of Honour deserve to be remembered.

LCol Tyler Wentzell
Commanding Officer
48th Highlanders of Canada



FORM No. 1

Register No. D 14007 — Nominal Roll No. D 336

To: P.M.C. — H.Q. File No. 405-A-6573

CANADIAN ARMY (ACTIVE)
Computation of Service
WAR SERVICE GRANT

Regt. No.	Rank when S.O.S.	Surname	Christian Name in Full
B 75273	Pte	ANDREWS	ROY BERTRAM

REASON FOR TERMINATION OF SERVICE:

1st Enlistment ..... deceased ..... CARO ( )
2nd Enlistment ..... CARO ( )
3rd Enlistment ..... CARO ( )

Total Service

1ST ENLISTMENT	2ND ENLISTMENT	3RD ENLISTMENT
T.O.S. 8 Jan 42	T.O.S.	T.O.S.
S.O.S. 23 Oct 43 MD 0/2	S.O.S. MD	S.O.S. MD
Total Days 654	Total Days	Total Days

Total Service ..... 654 DAYS

	Total Service	Less Non-qualifying Service	Net Service
Western Hemisphere	145	Nil	145
Overseas Service	509	1	508
Totals	654	1	653

The Gaelic Corner

The fourth verse of the poem "For the Fallen", the famous World War I poem written by Laurence Binyon, is one of the most poignant expressions of mourning for and remembrance of our war dead ever recorded: "They shall not grow old, as we that are left grow old: Age shall not weary them, not the years condemn. At the going down of the sun and in the morning, We will remember them". This verse is, quite appropriately, read aloud at the Regiment's Monument each Remembrance Sunday at The Regiment's annual Service of Remembrance. We can perhaps increase the poignancy of the moment whenever we hear that verse, and whenever we repeat its last phrase … We will remember them … by taking note of and reciting the Scottish Gaelic expression of those words … Cuimhnichidh sinn orra. As with almost any Scottish Gaelic expression, the pronunciation is surprising … KWEE-niv ikh ee shin ORR-uh. But once you master the pronunciation and speak those Gaelic words, you contribute to The Regiment's identity and ethos by confirming the Highland spirit and traditions on which The Regiment was founded 135 years ago. You also thereby pay special tribute to those brave Highlanders who have died fighting for the freedom we enjoy. They were, and are, Dileas gu brath … faithful forever …and We will remember them … Cuimhnichidh sinn orra

DÌLEAS!

St. Andrew's College Celebrates 48th Highlanders Day

Photo: The Saint Andrew's College Varsity hockey team, sporting their 48th-badged hockey jerseys. These jerseys were worn by the team for their final home game of the season on SAC's 48th Highlanders Day, February 28, 2026"

February 28 was a momentous day for the St. Andrew's College cadet corps as we celebrated the long-standing relationship with our affiliated regiment by holding our first ever "48th Highlanders Day" in conjunction with the final First Hockey's home game of the season. The day was long in the planning.

The 48th Highlanders of Canada has been an important part of the legacy of the #142 St. Andrew's College Highland Cadet Corps since its inception in 1905, one hundred and twenty-one years ago. In those days, a full education for boys consisted of academics, athletics and military training, and many schools were connected to local militia units. With its Scottish Presbyterian traditions, and Rosedale location, it was only natural that St. Andrew's College would be officially affiliated with a Highland regiment located in Toronto.

Over the years, the Regiment has provided uniform items, training staff, equipment, support for field exercises, ceremonial drill instruction, and much more. Graduates of St. Andrew's College served with the 15th Bn 48th Highlanders in major battles of World War 1, including Vimy Ridge and Passchendaele. During the Second World War, graduates served with the 48th Highlanders during the Italian Campaign, and over the years, several St. Andrew's College Cadets have gone on to command the Regiment.

The Regimental motto, Dileas Gu Brath – Faithful Forever – is familiar to all Cadets at St. Andrew's College. Throughout the year, the Cadets receive lessons in military history emphasizing the values of leadership, loyalty and valour. Once every two years, the SAC Battlefield Tour conducts a pilgrimage to the Canadian battlefields of the first and second wars in France, Belgium and the Netherlands. Here, young men see first-hand the living history of war.

Today, the Dileas spirit has thrived on our sports fields and particularly on the ice rinks in Aurora, the home of St. Andrew's College now for 100 years. So, when SAC Varsity Hockey Head Coach Dave Manning suggested a "48th Highlander Appreciation Day" last November, the answer was a resounding "Yes!" Coach Manning explained that over the years, the Regimental motto has become incredibly meaningful to the players in our elite hockey teams. It represents spirit, fight and determination, and it connects us with those who serve now and who have served in the military to protect our freedom. The planned date for the 48th Highlanders Day was marked for Feb 28th 2026, the final home game of the Varsity Hockey season, a game against Bishop Kearney Selects from Rochester, New York.

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St. Andrew's College Celebrates 48th Highlanders Day continued...

The year 2026 is important to the School in many ways. In addition to marking the over 120-year affiliation between the Regiment and the #142 St. Andrew's College Highland Cadet Corps, 2026 is the 100th anniversary of St. Andrew's College in the Town of Aurora, and is also the 135th Anniversary of the 48th Highlanders of Canada. The planning committee, consisting of Senior Cadets and key members of staff, worked collectively to build a plan that would capture the spirit of the day for our current students, Old Boys, family and the community.

On the morning of Feb 26th, the 48th Recruiting team led by Sgt Patrick Navarro arrived on campus to set up an elaborate Highlander display in the lobby of the La Brier Family Arena. The recruiting team spent the day meeting Cadets, friends and family, introducing one and all to the 48th Highlanders. MWO Rukman was also on hand to provide support and guidance as the day unfolded.

Prior to the game start, Coach Manning invited Honourary Colonel Darling, LCol Wentzell (CO – 48th Highrs) and Maj McCue (CO - #142 SAC Cadets) into the team dressing room. The Varsity Hockey team looked glorious in their 48th Highlander game jerseys which were adorned with a large 48th Highlander cap badge across the chest, the #142 SAC cap badge on the arm, and Dileas Gu Brath scripted across the back shoulders. Coach Manning gave a wonderful tribute to the Regiment, and the team presented a #48 hockey jersey to LCol Wentzell. The Commanding Officer's inspirational speech to the team set the tone for a very spirited hockey game.

The afternoon's proceedings had begun with a performance on the ice from the 48th Highlanders Pipes and Drums combined with the #142 SAC Pipes and Drums, a tradition that builds on the 48th Pipes and Drums opening the Toronto Maple Leafs' season every year since 1931, and the SAC Pipes and Drums opening the annual MacPherson Tournament. Special thanks to Pipe Major Alex Brown '12 for coordinating this outstanding musical performance.

LCol Wentzell, Mayor Tom Mrakas, Head of School Kevin McHenry and Cadet LCol Jason Roy-DiClemente conducted the ceremonial puck drop. Following a moment of silence in recognition of the fallen and the playing of the anthems, the hockey game was officially under way. During the first intermission, LCol Wentzell and Maj McCue had the honour of promoting 15 Senior Cadets including the Hockey Team Captain, Finn Kearns, who was appointed Company Sgt Major for Memorial Company.

The second intermission presented some levity in the proceedings with a Company Relay Challenge conducted by the Cadets using scooter boards on the ice. Quite a sight, indeed! The hockey team gave their full effort for a solid three periods, bringing the game to a 3-3 tie for an overtime 3 on 3 period. In the end, we were pleased to share the tie with Bishop Kearney Selects. The afternoon finished on a social note with a reception for members of the 48th Highlanders of Canada, VIPs and Guests in the Andrean Room.

The 48th Highlanders Day at St. Andrew's College was a monumental success. It proved to be an outstanding way to bring the #142 SAC Cadets together with the Regiment in celebration, and it was a wonderful day to share with our Aurora community. As the event came to a close, many were asking if we will do this again next year – perhaps the start of a new tradition.

Dìleas gu Bràth,
Major Brian McCue