

# THE STRATHCONIAN



Lord Strathcona's Horse  
(Royal Canadians)

75TH ANNIVERSARY OF  
THE BATTLE OF MELFA RIVER



# EXCELLENCE DEFINED

Integrity, caring, agility and collaboration —  
values we share with the Lord Strathcona's Horse (Royal Canadians).

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With pride, Spruce Meadows  
remembers and honours the  
brave men and women of  
Canada who serve.

We salute and thank you.



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'National' CSI 5\* presented by Rolex

June 04 - 07, 2020

'Continental' CSI 5\* presented by Rolex

June 11 - 14, 2020

'Pan American' CSI 5\* presented by Rolex

June 25 - 28, 2020

'North American' CSI 5\* presented by Rolex

July 01 - 05, 2020

'Masters' CSIO 5\*

September 09 - 13, 2020



**Lord Strathcona's Horse (Royal Canadians)  
Battle Honours**

*South Africa*

**South Africa, 1900 - 1901**

*First World War*

**Festubert 1915, Somme 1916, '18; Brazentin, Pozières, Flers-Courcelette,**

**Cambrai 1917, '18; St. Quentin, Amiens, Hindenberg Line,**

**St. Quentin Canal, Beaurevoir, Pursuit to Mons,**

**France and Flanders 1915 - 1918**

*Second World War*

**Liri Valley, Melfa Crossing, Torrice Crossroads, Gothic Line,**

**Pozzo Alto Ridge, Coriano, Lamone Crossing, Misano Ridge, Casale,**

**Naviglio Canal, Fosso Munio, Italy 1944-1945, Ijsselmeer**

**North-West Europe 1945**

*Korea*

**Korea 1951–1953**

**Afghanistan**

*(Battle Honours approved for emblazonment are in heavy type)*





## The Strathconian

Is the annual journal of Lord Strathcona's Horse (Royal Canadians)  
And is a Strathcona Regimental Society publication published by permission of

**Lieutenant-Colonel E.D Angell, CD**  
**Commanding Officer**

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## Message from the Colonel of the Regiment

*Brigadier-General (Retired) Craig Hilton*

It has been my observation that regimental journals like ours are unique in the Army today, which is unfortunate. This edition of **The Strathconian**, like its predecessors, captures ‘a year in the life’ of our Regiment, recording with an observer’s eye and a good deal of humour the activities, achievements and events that have defined the year 2019 in a manner no official war/operations diary could ever hope to equal. For those serving at Regimental Duty, on mission deployments, and ERE, this edition will hit close to home, recalling the lighter moments of a busy year. For those members of the Regimental Family farther removed, it offers reassurance that life unfolds as we remember in a Regiment that continues to field the best of the best.

Following on the heels of the Centennial Commemoration of the Battle of Moreuil Wood, it might have seemed that 2019 should have seen a return to routine. Not so. Once more, historical milestones were featured in force, serving to remind us that the reputation we enjoy as Strathcona’s was hard won and at considerable cost. The 2019 Moreuil Wood Parade saw our latest **Battle Honour: Afghanistan** paraded on the Guidon before the Regiment for the first time. The significance of the moment was made clear by an accompanying video presentation that made real for all our Regiment’s achievement in that relentless, grinding war, so close in the memories of many of us.

Similarly, the month of May witnessed the **75th Anniversary of the Battle of Melfa River** and commemoration of the most significant set-piece tank battle for the Regiment, and indeed the Canadian Army, in the Second World War. The battle site visit by an intrepid team of twelve serving Strathcona’s from across Canada, joined in location by Regimental Association member **Dave Letson**, is featured in this edition. Special mention also to **Major (Ret’d) Jim and Bea Grey** for sponsoring a remarkable **Melfa Roll of Honour** that will stand as a testament for all Strathcona’s, present and future.

Equally significant are the present mission deployments described herein, which show the Regiment once again in the thick of world affairs. History in the making without doubt, but tempered by the many tales of hard work and humour recorded in these pages, that continues to be the stuff of soldiering in this Grand Old Regiment. I encourage you to reflect and enjoy.

Perseverance





# *A Word From the Senior Serving Strathcona*

*Major-General Trevor Cadieu*

Now posted back to Ottawa, I miss our Regiment and the Army of the West deeply. We have an incredible Regimental Family and a tremendously supportive community backing it.

As **Jamie Cade** once said to me, I may be wearing a green beret now, but my heart will always be black!

That said, I've now been given a different vantage point – a chance to see more of our team, and what they are doing throughout Canada and the world. In short, it's impressive.

Our Commanding Officer and Regimental Sergeant-Major are – with the reinforcing fires of hundreds of other Strathcona's and combined arms teammates – leading the enhanced Forward Presence Battle Group in Latvia. That operation is one of Canada's most strategically impactful missions. It is a highly value-added commitment to the NATO alliance, and we are showcasing the professionalism and innovation of Strathcona's abroad. The Regiment also features prominently on operations throughout the Middle East and Europe.

Equally critical is the contribution that Strathcona soldiers and leaders are making elsewhere. Our Regiment is well-represented at all training centres and schools throughout Canada, and our people are undertaking the serious task of mentoring and developing the next generation of war fighters. Strathcona leaders are also working tirelessly at all echelons and staffs to mobilize support for troops, while untangling complex national security problems.

Hundreds of ranchers rushed to join the Strathcona's when our Regiment was established in 1900 to fight in the Boer War. Fortunately, their bias to action runs through our veins today. Our Regiment, as part of the Canadian Armed Forces, will continue to evolve and must be ready to confront emerging threats ranging from climate change, hostile state actors, violent extremist organizations, and pandemics.

I am grateful to all members of our Regimental Family – serving members, the Old Guard, family and friends alike. Everything you do in support of our men and women is important to them, to our mission and to our country.





## Commanding Officer's Message

*Lieutenant-Colonel Eric Angell*

Another year, another awesome edition of The Strathconian! This one is bittersweet for me as it will be my last as CO. Dear reader, I know you all will shed a single tear for me in private. I thank you in advance.

This year has been incredible, with Strathconas fighting through the Road to High Readiness and deploying around the world. As you read this edition your Regiment will have soldiers and officers deployed to Latvia, Ukraine, Lebanon, Jordan, and Iraq. Reflect on that for a minute. I ask that you keep them and their families in your thoughts. I assure you they are doing good work and rising to every challenge.

I also ask that you think about those Strathconas that remain at their home stations. They are working their collective a#ses off to ensure the Leopard 2 fleet remains viable, that Western Canada will receive disaster assistance if required, that the School keeps delivering young Troopers, that the Harvey Building does not burn down in the RSM's absence etc.. They persevere as you expect!

As always, my job is easy and I take no credit in the creation of this finest of publications. I offer my thanks to those who do the real work: this year's Editor-in-Chief and OC Recce Sqn, **Maj Dan Gray** and his team who put this together. I could never forget the real driver behind this publication, **Mrs. Kathy Batty**, who just this year celebrated her 20th year as a Strathcona!

Perseverance



## Regimental Sergeant-Major's Observations

*Chief Warrant Officer Kevin King*

I will attempt to put into words the amazing year the Regiment has had and I encourage each and everyone to take the opportunity to enjoy the articles and pictures included in this year's Strathconian. These articles and pictures will help you understand and also highlight the amazing accomplishments completed this year by all ranks and trades within the Regiment and also those Extra Regimentally Employed (+/- 270 of them).

I was privileged to return to the Regiment in June. Luckily before my return, I was given the opportunity to observe the Regiment during their Road to High Readiness training in April and May. The training truly started early in the new year with numerous Primary Combat Function (PCF) courses and many hours of preparation and maintenance. The dedication to the Regiment by all ranks paid off tenfold, as we were able to deploy more vehicles and personal than we had in years. After a quick refocus and recharge, September saw the second round of PCF courses and Fall Ex. As we rolled into November and moved closer to the final bound of 2019, those deploying in January, completed the Pre-Deployment Training for the upcoming Strathcona led Battle Group to Latvia in January 2020 (Task Force STEELE). As you will see in the following pages of this year's edition, the multitude of training events, support tasks and the hard work of those Extra Regimentally Employed hasn't slowed down or wavered.

I would be remiss if I didn't mention we received 72 new Troopers, trained 237 members with a new PCF, deployed 48 members to various locations mid-2019 and deployed 122 members in January 2020. The days are long gone of deploying a Regiment. We have worked hard to deploy as many soldiers and officers as possible while also keeping our Regiment functioning without missing a target of opportunity.

Lastly, former RSMs and other personal mentors, thank you for the guidance and mentorship over the last 30 years of my life as a Strathcona. You have made me the soldier I am today and I would not be here without you. You may not realize that you are still a part of the Regiment, but trust me, a part of you is with me.





## Editor-in-Chief Forward

*Major Dan Gray*

When I was first posted back to the Regiment as OC Recce Sqn, I couldn't help but feel a little bit of happiness knowing that I had successfully dodged the Strathconian Editor-in-Chief task as over the last few years it has gone to OC B Sqn. Despite the great pride that comes with the position, the workload can be daunting, especially when one is forced to track down dozens of articles from authors with priorities and skills other than writing and photography. Fast forward a month later, being the only OC back at the Regiment with the deployment to Latvia looming, it became apparent that as the last man standing, the job would fall to me.

Fortunately, I was given an amazing team as always with Editor **Capt Shaun Rogozinski** who tirelessly compiled articles and photos prior to jetting off to Latvia at the last minute. I must also thank the numerous authors who wrote the content and submitted photos without which this publication would not exist. Most importantly, I must thank **Mrs. Kathy Batty** who really did most of the heavy lifting in terms of article compilation, design, and layout work to make the Strathconian truly what it is.

As is tradition for the Editor-in-Chief, I must make the required "it's been a busy year for the Regiment" comment. With the long Road to High Readiness, the deployment to Latvia, as well as deployments to Jordan, Lebanon, Iraq, Kuwait, Ukraine, and many other places, I can easily make this statement and know it to be true. Although a constant, you will see through the articles that this has likely been one of the busiest years the Regiment has had.

The Strathconian is one of the most important pieces of our historical record and tradition, giving all soldiers of the Regiment a tangible piece of history to hold on to, share, and remember their time at the Regiment. It is my hope that this year's edition provides that piece of history for all to share with pride while displaying the great soldiers and proud history of our Regiment.



### Business Address:

Editor, *The Strathconian*, Lord Strathcona's Horse (Royal Canadians)  
Steele Barracks, PO Box 10500 Station Forces, Edmonton, Alberta, T5J 4J5



# Year in Review





## **Births and Marriages**

**Cpl Skafar's** son Calder was born on 25 January  
**MCpl Townsend's** son Grayson was born on 29 January  
**Capt Couture** married Emily Couture on 9 February  
**MCpl Ferguson's** daughter Marissa was born on 5 February  
**MCpl Schijns'** son Maddax was born on 15 February  
**Tpr Smallwood's** daughter Everly was born on 22 February  
**Cpl Kozack** married Kimberly Janzen on 22 February  
**Tpr Farrell** married Raelyn Farrell on 3 March  
**MCpl Stratford's** son Sam was born on 6 March  
**Cpl Smith's** son Noah was born on 12 March  
**MCpl Nieuwhof's** son Benjamin was born on 14 March  
**Sgt Churchill's** daughter Ivy was born on 20 March  
**Cpl Rawson's** daughter Elizabeth was born on 13 April  
**Cpl Yoo's** son Hendrix was born on 30 April  
**Cpl Wright's** son Theoden was born on 2 May  
**Maj Kim's** daughter Kayla and son Kayden were born on 9 May  
**MCpl Nicholson's** son Keegan was born on 13 May  
**Cpl Blanchard's** son William was born on 17 May  
**Maj Beitz'** daughter Neva was born on 18 May  
**Cpl MacFadyen's** daughter Mary was born on 30 May  
**Cpl Ford's** son Wolfgang was born on 3 June  
**Capt Mellow's** daughter Cassidy was born on 9 June  
**Cpl Machin** married Raeanne Moore on 30 July  
**Sgt Crowe** married Kaitlyn Nelson on 3 August  
**Cpl Brenton** married Cheyenne Koblun on 10 August  
**MCpl Monge** married Carly Monge on 17 August  
**Cpl Demille's** son Gavin was born on 19 August  
**Tpr Lockhart** married Rebecca Schulze-Lockhart on 17 August  
**Lt van Heerden's** son Dominic was born on 11 October  
**MCpl Radford's** son Bruce was born on 20 October  
**MCpl Purdon's** daughter Lauren was born on 21 October  
**Tpr Ross'** daughter Ella was born on 9 November  
**Cpl McIntosh** married Chelsea McIntosh on 16 Nov  
**Cpl McKenzie's** daughter Isabel was born on 27 November  
**WO Davidson's** son Jack was born on 29 November  
**Cpl Coughlin's** daughter Scarlet was born on 29 November  
**MCpl Sawyer** married Chris Maisonneuve on 21 December  
**Cpl Moceton-Velasquez'** son Owen was born on 24 December  
**Tpr Long** married Alex Long on 28 December



## Honours and Awards

### **Member of the Order of Military Merit**

CWO Chenier

### **Canadian Forces Decoration First Clasp**

Maj Selberg  
Cpl Clendennin

### **Canadian Forces Decoration**

Capt Vahal  
Sgt Gironne  
Cpl Wood

### **Commissioning Scroll**

Capt Delaney

### **Special Service Medal (NATO Bar)**

MCpl Nancarrow

### **Operational Service Medal (Expeditionary Ribbon)**

Capt Rogozinski  
MCpl Weir

### **Meritorious Service Medal**

Col Lubiniecki  
CWO Clarke

### **Defence Meritorious Service Medal (USA)**

Colonel Major  
Major Hevenor

### **Chief of Defence Staff Commendation**

Capt Vahal

### **Commander 1 Canadian Mechanized Brigade Group Commendation**

MWO Churchill  
Cpl (Ret'd) Hodge

### **CO's Coin**

Capt Kirkham  
WO Clarke  
WO McLoughlin  
WO Mills  
Sgt Davidson  
MCpl Burton  
MCpl Comeau  
MCpl Richardson  
MCpl Snoek  
MCpl MacDonald

MCpl Valad

Cpl Davies  
Cpl Desjardins  
Cpl Ford  
Cpl Fuchs-Perry  
Cpl Gauthier  
Cpl Kozack  
Cpl Parkes  
Cpl Scott  
Tpr Bingley

### **RSM's Coin**

WO Eddy  
WO Schuba  
Sgt Francis  
MCpl Ramphal  
Cpl Blanchard  
Cpl Boileau  
Cpl Dillon  
Cpl Friel  
Cpl MacDougall  
Cpl Moceton-Valasquez  
Cpl Wiggan

### **Fox Bugle**

MCpl William Rayment

### **Colonel of the Regiment Silver Stick**

MCpl Herald Mijares

### **Milroy Crossbelt**

Sgt Tom Underwood

### **Neatby Pace Stick**

WO Nathan Mills

### **Hessin Memorial Sword**

Capt Tom Hume

### **Macaulay Sword**

Capt Phil Carey

### **The Ross Gear**

Cpl Derick Blanchard

### **The Olympic Torch**

Cpl Andrew Lonegren

### **Prince of Wales Trophy**

HQ Squadron



## Promotions

Maj Dullege	Sgt Wry
Maj Elliott	Sgt Wojcicjowsky
Maj Prince	MCpl Deringer
Capt Horlings	MCpl Elms
Capt Kelly	MCpl Friolet
Capt Lee	MCpl Fulljames
Capt Maclean	MCpl Germann
Capt Mansour	MCpl Gibbons
Capt Patt	MCpl Gilroy
Capt Perry	MCpl Grubber
Lt Clackson	MCpl Kelly
Lt Keewatin	MCpl Lachapelle
CWO Chenier	MCpl Maendel
CWO King	MCpl Martin
MWO Babin	MCpl McKenzie
MWO Eddy	MCpl McNeil
MWO Holmes	MCpl Paquette
WO Arseneau	MCpl Radford
WO Davidson	MCpl Rayment
WO Kearns	MCpl Stender
WO McMurtry	MCpl Stephenson
WO Murdoch	MCpl Wagner
Sgt Adby	MCpl Watson
Sgt Cheng	MCpl Wheeler
Sgt Davidson	MCpl Williams
Sgt Dunford	Cpl Annaert-van der Werf
Sgt Howse	Cpl Bakos
Sgt MacDonald	Cpl Barrette
Sgt Mijares	Cpl Bosa
Sgt Popoff	Cpl Coulthard



Cpl Duke	Cpl Steele
Cpl Durrant	Cpl Tate
Cpl Engelbrecht	Cpl Taylor
Cpl Feldmann	Cpl Thompson
Cpl Foster	Cpl To
Cpl Frizzell	Cpl Van Dijk
Cpl Gendron	Cpl Villiers
Cpl Genge	Cpl Wilson
Cpl Guest	Cpl Wright
Cpl Hammond	Cpl Wysocki
Cpl Hogan	Tpr(T) Benoit
Cpl Joncas	Tpr(T) Bjarnason
Cpl Jones	Tpr(T) Blair
Cpl Kelly	Tpr(T) Blanco
Cpl Kroeker	Tpr(T) Briggs
Cpl Kroeker	Tpr(T) Brown
Cpl Lepage	Tpr(T) Charron
Cpl McGowan	Tpr(T) Clauson
Cpl McKelvey	Tpr(T) Francis
Cpl Payette	Tpr(T) Goralchuk
Cpl Perry	Tpr(T) Kentfield
Cpl Reynolds-Tack	Tpr(T) Keyes
Cpl Salvador	Tpr(T) Kleemaier
Cpl Scott	Tpr(T) Lockhart
Cpl Serrano	Tpr(T) Long
Cpl Skinner	Tpr(T) Morris
Cpl Smith	Tpr(T) Reiter
Cpl Smith	Tpr(T) Rice
Cpl Smythe	Tpr(T) Shulba
Cpl Springer	Tpr(T) Williamson
Cpl St. Laurent	Tpr(T) Works
Cpl Stamp	





#### ORIGIN AND OBJECTIVES OF THE LdSH(RC) REGIMENTAL SOCIETY:



In 1974, the need for an organization dedicated to the preservation of the history and traditions of Lord Strathcona's Horse (Royal Canadians) Regiment was realized when the Regimental Society was formed. Today, the Society has grown into a large charitable organization that has retained its original objectives while at the same time expanding its operations to see increased benefits to soldiers, families and the Canadian Public. Society programs, while providing a lasting benefit for Canadians, also provide unique opportunities that mitigate the stress of operational deployments and long periods of separation.



#### MEMBER AND FAMILY SUPPORT

We are committed to mitigating the stress of military service on families to the greatest extent possible through employment and activities that contribute to the mental and physical well being of soldiers.

- Scholarships
- Sports Teams
- Stable & unique employment opportunities
- Spousal Events



#### REGIMENTAL HERITAGE

Our history is very important in recognizing who we were and who we have become. The Regimental Society enriches our heritage and supports our future through several unique initiatives.

- Strathcona Ceremonial Mounted Troop
- The Historical Vehicle Troop
- Strathcona Museums
- Strathcona Pipes and Drums Band

#### THE STRATHCONIAN



#### THE STRATHCONIAN

First produced in 1914, the Strathconian is the Regiment's yearbook. It is produced through the financial support of the Society. Strathconas and Friends of the Regiment worldwide cherish this journal of the exploits and life of the Regiment.

- Recognizing Regimental accomplishments
- Remembering the year's events
- Keeping all members informed of activities
- Spreading awareness of the Regiment

#### HOW TO DONATE:

**CHEQUE:** Payable to Lord Strathcona's Horse (Royal Canadians) Regimental Society, c/o Regimental Accounts Office, PO Box 10500 Stn Forces, Edmonton, AB T5J 4J5

**CREDIT CARD or PAYPAL:** Visit [www.strathconas.ca](http://www.strathconas.ca), and click "How you can Help" for more information

**Serving Members can donate through pay allotment to Y006**

**\*DONATIONS ARE TAX DEDUCTIBLE, AND ALL DONORS WILL BE ISSUED A TAX RECEIPT**

**Contact the Regimental Society at [treasurer@strathconas.ca](mailto:treasurer@strathconas.ca) or call (780) 973-4011 ext. 3124 for more information.**

# Regimental Roll

## Colonel-in-Chief

His Royal Highness The Prince of Wales

## Colonel-of-the-Regiment

BGen (Ret'd) Hilton

## Commanding Officer

LCol Angell

## Regimental Second-in-Command

Maj Johns

## Regimental Sergeant Major

CWO King

## Adjutant

Capt McHugh

## Commanding Officer's Secretary

Kathy Batty

## Operations Officer

Capt Lee

## Regimental Headquarters

### Command/Operations Cell

Maj Elliot  
Capt Couture  
Capt Smith  
Capt Shumka  
WO Eady  
WO Mills  
WO Brister  
Sgt Popoff  
MCpl Snoek  
MCpl Job  
Cpl Watson  
Cpl Maisonneuve  
Cpl Gibbons  
Cpl Dillon  
Cpl Schemenauer  
Cpl Blair  
Tpr Coulthard  
Cpl Kibzey  
Tpr Reymers  
Tpr Bakos  
Cpl Tate

### Regimental Orderly Room

WO Brooks  
PO2 Morris  
MCpl Burton  
Pte Pighin  
Cpl Woodhouse  
Cpl Parkes

### Signals Troop

Lt O'Sullivan  
WO Mitchell  
Sgt Scott  
MCpl Agnew  
MCpl Gaudreault  
MCpl Livingstone  
Cpl Bouffard  
Cpl Poole  
Cpl Fuchs Perry  
Cpl Kimmell  
Cpl Smith  
Cpl Diaz Gonzalez Shapiro  
Sig St. Laurent  
Sig Kipke-Briggs

### Training Cell

Capt Delaney  
WO Sebo  
Cpl Martin

### Intelligence Troop

Capt Lim  
2Lt Ku  
Cpl Coughlan

## A Squadron

### Officer Commanding

Capt McTavish

### Squadron Sergeant Major

MWO Babin

### Squadron Headquarters

Capt Carter-Wright  
MCpl Monge  
MCpl Sawyer  
MCpl Talmage  
Cpl Chen  
Cpl Friel  
Cpl Gill  
Cpl Laperriere  
Cpl Marshall  
Cpl Poitras  
Cpl Salvador  
Tpr Solomon

### First Troop

WO Dickey  
Sgt Dunford  
MCpl Andrews  
Cpl Buell  
Cpl Edgson  
Cpl Genge  
Cpl Marcotte  
Cpl Munger  
Cpl Pecarskie  
Cpl Wright  
Cpl Wysocki  
Tpr Fitzpatrick  
Tpr Graystone

Tpr Lutz  
Tpr Masse  
Tpr Ukis

### **Second Troop**

Lt van Heerden  
Sgt Carnevale  
Sgt Gironne  
MCpl McKenzie  
MCpl Nancarrow  
Cpl Boothman  
Cpl Chapman  
Cpl Jones  
Cpl Logan  
Cpl Moceton-Velasquez  
Cpl Smith  
Cpl Warren  
Tpr Andreassen  
Tpr Bockus  
Tpr Gibson  
Tpr Grant  
Tpr Lagarde

### **Third Troop**

WO Davidson  
MCpl Friolet  
MCpl Talty  
Cpl Cox  
Cpl Frizzell  
Cpl Loiselle  
Cpl Milwain  
Cpl Rawson  
Tpr Briggs  
Tpr Brown  
Tpr Gratto  
Tpr Harris  
Tpr McBroom  
Tpr Rodriguez

### **Admin Troop**

WO McLoughlin  
Sgt Wright  
MCpl Stender  
MCpl Stevenson  
Cpl Doan  
Cpl Gillis  
Cpl Ned  
Cpl Neufeld  
Cpl Smith  
Cpl Snowden  
Tpr Green  
Tpr Kuypers  
Tpr MacNeill

### **Deployed on Op IMPACT**

Capt Patt  
Capt Perry

## **B Squadron**

### **Officer Commanding**

Maj Timms

### **Squadron Sergeant Major**

MWO Churchill

### **Squadron Headquarters**

Capt Simpson  
Sgt Hodgins  
MCpl Elms  
MCpl Doan  
Cpl Taylor  
Cpl Thibault  
Cpl Maendel  
Cpl McGowan  
Cpl Stamp  
Tpr Benoit  
Tpr Clauson  
Tpr Charron

### **First Troop**

Sgt Crowe  
MCpl Nicholson  
MCpl Comeau  
Cpl Hutchinson  
Cpl Andrews  
Cpl Barrette  
Cpl Pittman  
Tpr Williamson  
Tpr Blair  
Tpr Francis  
Tpr Blanco  
Tpr Vivian  
Tpr Vahey

### **Second Troop**

Capt Horlings  
Sgt Koolman  
MCpl Gross  
Cpl Thompson  
Cpl MacFadyen  
Cpl Hammel  
Cpl Farquharson  
Cpl Engelbrecht  
Cpl Feldmann  
Cpl Fancy  
Cpl Wilson  
Tpr Morris  
Tpr Rutko  
Tpr Ross

### **Third Troop**

Lt Lee  
Sgt Davidson  
MCpl Nieuwhof  
Cpl Crackle-Skulason

Cpl St-Onge  
Cpl McGee  
Cpl McKenzie  
Cpl Rose  
Tpr Kentfield  
Tpr Kleemaier  
Tpr Rice  
Tpr Gillies-Smith  
Tpr Worden  
Tpr Stegerman  
Tpr Jones

### **Administration Troop**

WO Williams  
MCpl Schafer  
MCpl Townsend  
MCpl Stratford  
MCpl Ouellet  
Cpl Guigue  
Cpl Evers  
Cpl Cyr  
Cpl Fortin  
Cpl Croft  
Cpl Brenton  
Cpl Armstrong  
Cpl Young  
Cpl Bursey  
Cpl Gaona  
Tpr Shulba  
Tpr Bjarnason  
Tpr Howes  
Tpr Lee  
Tpr York  
Tpr MacQuarrie  
Tpr Knutsson  
Tpr Maisonneuve  
Tpr Marco  
Tpr McDonald  
Tpr Breustedt

### **Deployed on Op IMPACT**

Capt Tapp  
Sgt Churchill  
Sgt Burris  
MCpl Richardson  
Cpl Vantournout  
Cpl Lopez

### **Deployed on Op UNIFIER**

WO Chuback  
WO Kearns

## **Reconnaissance Squadron**

### **Officer Commanding**

Maj Gray

## **Squadron Sergeant Major**

MWO Holmes

## **Squadron Headquarters**

Capt Rogozinski  
WO McAtasney  
Sgt Rodgers  
MCpl Miller  
MCpl Bondy  
Cpl Beck  
Cpl George  
Cpl Lang  
Cpl Belliveau  
Tpr Robinson

## **First Troop**

Lt Keewatin  
WO Charette  
Sgt Icala  
Sgt Mijares  
MCpl Schijns  
MCpl Kelly  
MCpl Radford  
MCpl Weeden  
Cpl Price  
Cpl Hogan  
Cpl Kimmell  
Tpr Duke  
Tpr Chauhan  
Tpr Farrell  
Tpr Joncas  
Tpr Kwak  
Tpr Lafond  
Tpr Mutia  
Tpr Obsipo  
Tpr Skinner  
Tpr Villiers  
Tpr Pearson  
Tpr Nicol

## **Second Troop**

Capt Kelly  
WO Hodgson  
Sgt Jesse  
Mcpl Ferguson  
MCpl McDougall  
MCpl McQueen  
Cpl Annaert-van der Werf  
Cpl Jones  
Cpl Lonegren  
Cpl McKelvey  
Cpl Mullens  
Cpl Silverman  
MCpl Stephenson  
Cpl Thompson  
MCpl Wheeler  
Cpl Crockett

Tpr Burton  
Tpr Foster  
Tpr Hachey  
Tpr Brown

## **Third Troop**

Lt Clackson  
WO Pickell  
Sgt Peachey  
MCpl Loykowski  
MCpl Kelly  
MCpl Symington  
Cpl Snelgrove  
Cpl Foster  
Cpl Stone  
Cpl Tuomisto  
Cpl Colville  
Cpl Hogan  
Cpl Shute  
Cpl Breau  
Cpl MacKenzie  
Tpr Smythe  
Tpr Springer  
Tpr Kroeker  
Tpr Henderson  
Tpr Payette

## **Administration Troop**

WO Johnson  
Sgt Norman  
Sgt Adby  
MCpl McNeil MC  
MCpl Weeden  
Cpl Kelly TM  
Cpl Beauparlant  
Cpl Munro  
Cpl Hall  
Cpl Demeulenaere III  
Tpr Kalf  
Tpr Keyes  
Tpr Long  
Tpr King RTA  
Tpr Fujita  
Tpr Miguel  
Tpr Moreau  
Tpr Nicol  
Tpr Novak  
Tpr Currie  
Tpr Friesen  
Tpr English  
Tpr Crouse  
Tpr Wittman

## **Deployed on Op IMPACT**

Sgt Underwood  
Cpl Tanner

## **Deployed on Op REASSURANCE**

Sgt Johnston

## **Headquarters Squadron**

### **Officer Commanding**

Maj Anderson

### **Squadron Sergeant Major**

MWO Shiells

### **Squadron Headquarters**

Capt Vahal  
2Lt Smith  
MCpl Sherlock-Hubbard  
MCpl Kalinowski  
Cpl Frew  
Cpl Webster  
Cpl Williston  
Tpr Rochemont  
Tpr Balaneski  
Tpr McCauley

### **Transport Troop**

Capt Hume  
WO Zubkowski  
Sgt Keefe  
MCpl Deringer  
MCpl Fulljames  
MCpl Rayment  
Cpl Braconnier  
Cpl Cowen  
Cpl Houston  
Cpl Kearns  
Cpl Kelly  
Cpl Landry  
Cpl Mancini  
Cpl McIntosh  
Tpr Bebee  
Cpl Bosa  
Tpr Elliott  
Tpr Jampen  
Tpr Lockhart  
Tpr Nantais  
Cpl Serrano  
Tpr Slobozian  
Cpl Smith  
Cpl Steele  
Cpl To  
Cpl Van Dijk  
Tpr Works  
Tpr Sherwood  
Tpr Wesley  
Tpr Pezzelato  
Tpr Eckert

## **Mounted Troop**

Capt Giajnorio  
Sgt Kruhlak  
MCpl Paquette  
Cpl Aguila  
Cpl Brown D  
Cpl Brown A  
Cpl Choquette  
Cpl Cocker  
Cpl Dunne  
Cpl Ford  
Cpl Fraser S  
Cpl Gauthier  
Cpl Gendron  
Cpl Hodgins  
Cpl Langlands  
Cpl Lees  
Cpl Maddison  
Cpl Morin  
Cpl Prosser  
Cpl Senff  
Tpr Reiter  
Tpr Barrett  
Tpr Remeshylo  
Tpr Stewart

## **Regimental Accounts**

Capt Peterson  
Cpl Eidt  
Cpl Manaigre

## **Family Support Troop**

Lt (N) Jackson  
Sgt Barsotta  
Sgt Torney  
Cpl Blacklock  
Cpl Clendennin  
Cpl Durrant  
Cpl Belding  
Cpl Wood  
Tpr Gratton

## **Quartermaster Troop**

Capt Carey  
MWO Leclerc  
WO Schuba  
Sgt Daniel  
Sgt Francis  
Sgt Woods  
MCpl Adams  
MCpl Denommee  
MCpl Gordon  
MCpl McCabe  
MCpl Shepherd  
MCpl Talip  
Cpl Allard  
Cpl Aube  
Cpl DeMille

Cpl Dubois  
Cpl Finkle  
Cpl Ford  
Cpl King-McAuslan  
Cpl Langboun  
Cpl Lepage  
Cpl Mann  
Cpl Olaes  
Cpl O'Leary  
Cpl Otis Monat  
Cpl Pelletier  
Cpl Perry  
Cpl Poitras  
Cpl Savaris  
Cpl Sullivan  
Cpl Guest  
Cpl Tellier-Normand  
Cpl Wood  
Cpl Gavriel  
Tpr Dinh  
Tpr Ma  
Tpr Phills

## **Regimental Maintenance Troop**

Capt Brown  
MWO Walsh  
WO Bigras  
WO Cowan  
WO Greenlaw  
Sgt Broadfoot  
Sgt Ikert  
Sgt Larrivée-larouche  
Sgt Sarraïno  
Sgt Wiscombe  
MCpl Balsdon  
MCpl Blanchard  
MCpl Bremner  
MCpl Buaga  
MCpl Gaudet  
MCpl Graham  
MCpl Hagar  
MCpl Hamilton  
MCpl Harzing  
MCpl Martel  
MCpl Miller  
MCpl Mountenay  
MCpl Paquette  
MCpl Purdon  
MCpl Ramphal  
MCpl Rioux  
MCpl Simmonds  
MCpl Veltmeyer  
MCpl Waddell  
Cpl Barnard  
Cpl Blanchard  
Cpl Boileau  
Cpl Boutilier  
Cpl Breton  
Cpl Burke

Cpl Davies  
Cpl Desjardins  
Cpl Dicaire  
Cpl Docherty  
Cpl Dulong  
Cpl Edmond  
Cpl Gilbert  
Cpl Hamilton  
Cpl Hurtubise  
Cpl Kozack  
Cfn Lee-Savoury  
Cpl MacDougall  
Cpl Machin  
Cpl Mastalerz  
Cpl Murray  
Cpl Paquet-Clapin  
Cpl Scholotiuk  
Cpl Scott  
Cpl Skafar  
Cpl Smith  
Cpl Walker  
Cpl Walker  
Cpl Wiggan  
Cpl Wilkinson  
Cpl Wills  
Cpl Hammond

## **SQMS**

WO Christopoulous  
MCpl Kewley  
Cpl Steinke  
Cpl Tong

## **UMS**

Lt(N) Traverse  
MCpl Nichol

## **Museum**

Capt Webster  
Sgt Giberson



# The Year in Review

## January

Ex STRONG CONTENDER: 14 – 18 Jan 19

Ex STEELE WINTER: 28 Jan – 1 Feb 19

## February

Ex UNIFIED RESOLVE: 2 – 7 Feb 19

Ex STEELE BEASTS (Fort Hood, Tx): 9 – 24 Feb 19

Ex STEELE SCHOLAR (Calgary): 28 Feb – 1 Mar 19

## March

Change of Colonel of the Regiment: 13 Mar 19

All Ranks Dinner and Dance: 15 Mar 19

Moreuil Wood: 18 – 22 Mar 19

Spring Break Block Leave: 23 Mar – 31 Mar 19

## April

Ex ORNERY RAM (Wainwright): 1 Apr – 19 Apr 19

Ex MAPLE RESOLVE (Wainwright): 30 Apr – 26 May 19

## June

Regimental IBTS Concentration: 10 – 25 Jun 19

Melfa River: 13 Jun 19

RSM Change of Appointment: 14 Jun 19

MCpl's Golf Tournament: 26 Jun 19

## July

CTAT-Jordan and Lebanon Deployment: 2 – 7 Jul 19

Calgary Stampede / Spruce Meadows: 4 – 15 Jul 19

Ex STEELE HOOK (Fishing Tournament): 11 – 12 Jul 19

Summer Block Leave: 13 Jul – 5 Aug 19



## **August**

Fall PCF Cycle: **9 Aug – 13 Sep 19**

Family Day: **24 Aug 19**

Ex MOUNTAIN MAN: **29 Aug 19**

## **September**

Op REASSURANCE 19-02 Integrated Capstone Exercise (Adazi, Latvia): **14 Sep – 6 Oct 19**

Regimental PCF Gun camp (Wainwright): **16 – 22 Sep 19**

Ex STEELE SABRE (Wainwright): **16 Sep – 11 Oct 19**

Ex WORTHINGTON CHALLENGE: **22 – 27 Sep 19**

Army Run (Ottawa): **19 – 22 Sep 19**

## **October**

Op REASSURANCE 20-01 Tac Recce/Leadership Development Program (Riga, Latvia): **7 – 10 Oct 19**

Op REASSURANCE 20-01 Pre-Deployment Training: **21 Oct – 15 Nov 19**

## **November**

No Stone Left Alone: **4 and 9 Nov 19**

Ex STEELE FORGE (NATO eFP Multi-National Integration): **5 – 7 Nov 19**

Ex TACTICUS RAM: **13 – 22 Nov 19**

Grey Cup Support: **19 – 24 Nov 19**

Ex STEELE RESILIENCE: **25 – 27 Nov 19**

Kids' Christmas Party: **30 Nov 19**

## **December**

Ex STEELE BLACK HAT: **4 Dec 19**

Christmas Block Leave: **14 Dec 19 – 5 Jan 20**



# Squadron



# Articles



# Regimental Headquarters



## Regimental Headquarters The Iron Temple

*Master Corporal Ed Snoek and Corporal Adam Tate*

As we all know, the CAF Managed Readiness Plan sees each Brigade rotate through three phases: Road to High Readiness, High Readiness, and Reconstitution. As 2019 began 1 CMBG was on the Road to High Readiness which eventually turned into being the High Readiness Brigade in the summer. In layman's terms it means that the Regiment, and of course RHQ, was extremely busy all year.

As the snows melted, RHQ was gearing up for a roughly two-month deployment to Wainwright to participate in Exercises ORNERY RAM and MAPLE RESOLVE 2019. Under the watchful eyes of the Ops O and Ops WO, **Capt Karl Tams** and **WO Nathan Mills**, RHQ performed very well, often choosing locations for the Main CP that even the Brigade Comd's TAC had a hard time finding. A keystone in the Main CP was of course the Signals Troop headed up by **Capt Ryan "Hey did you hear Tiger won the Masters?" O'Sullivan**, who routinely ruined everyone's days by providing them with unsolicited sports updates spoilers. Once the trees began to bud and the grass turned from dark yellow to



medium yellow everyone in the LdSH(RC) Battle Group, aptly named the WARPIGS by the CO, applied their cam paint in preparation for validation on MAPLE RESOLVE. Once the enemy had been defeated, with or without the delivery of ADREPs, the team struck their tents and departed Peregrine 9 (P9) for Edmonton.

With the deployment of the LdSH(RC) Battle Group to Latvia on Op REASSURANCE closing in, the hectic year for RHQ was only just underway. Within the Squadron, troops were squaring away their unit qualifications, courses, IBTS training, and personal effects prior to their eventual deployment early next year. Predictably, the training side of RHQ has been busier than ever working side by side with our friends at Brigade HQ. The Ops bubble, consisting of the finest and wisest Strathcona NCOs and Officers in the Regiment, worked tirelessly with Brigade to push briefings and mandatory courses for the troops to get them fully qualified across the board to deploy.

In addition to deployment preparations, RHQ personnel have been busy with PCFs and career courses being conducted in house and out. The incredibly high tempo provided some excellent opportunities for RHQ's junior members to step up and learn new positions as well as complete tasks otherwise completed by their supervisors.

We were fortunate as this year blessed us with clear skies and clean air to breathe, meaning, for the first time in years, not having to deploy to BC for any fires (or floods). We were able to take this opportunity to focus on our training towards the Regiment's annual fall exercise, Ex STEELE SABRE (SS), Brigade mandated D+90 continuation training, and overseas deployments including: Op REASSURANCE, Op IMPACT, CTAT-Jordan, and CTAT-Lebanon to name a few.

RHQ hit the ground running when it deployed again to our favourite training area to conduct Ex STEELE SABRE 19 and saw a hybrid CP created as C/S 0 merged with C/S 8 at P9. Not only were the two major Strathcona CPs merged but **Capt Varun "I own it all" Vahal** got to try his hand at being the entirety of 1 Service Battalion, 89er, 89A, and 9B while answering daily to the A/CO, Regimental 2IC **Maj Matt Johns**. Again, many RHQ soldiers were given more responsibility to fill senior positions and complete tasks of higher ranks as the majority of the Regiment's senior leadership were deployed in Latvia supporting Op REASSURANCE ICE 19-02. **Sgt Derrick "Ron Swanson" Popoff** and **Cpl Travis "Ok, listen up" Gibbons** thoroughly enjoyed themselves at their gun camp, crushing rounds down range for the first part of Ex SS.

With the relatively few numbers we have, RHQ has proven once again we can come together and push through the continuous waves of needs we are asked to complete for the Regiment. On a comical note **Cpl Zach "The Binge Drinking" Kibzey** outshone all others at the Ex SS smoker by doing what he does best: shot gunning beers. After a brief but not so subtle outburst of song lyrics we cannot print here, he was, somewhat unwillingly, escorted to bed by his amused chain of command.

Worthington Challenge had our very own **MCpl Ed "Babyface" Snoek** and **Tpr Fedor "Only crew commander qualified Tpr in NATO" Reymers** man key positions. Our team gave everything they had and achieved the 2nd highest score on the live range portion overcoming the terribly poor visibility and weather conditions. **MCpl Snoek** displayed excellent leadership and received a CO's coin for his role.

Our very own **WO Nathan "Eagle upon Seagulls" Mills** attended his DP4 SSM course this fall in Gagetown. Not only was he the sole Strathcona on course, but he set the standard by consistently displaying outstanding performance which led to him being awarded Top Candidate.

RHQ continues to (somewhat) willingly take on tasks sent down from Brigade. Dog and ponies, both for the military and public eye, were conducted in the most professional manner to educate the public on our careers, training, equipment, and how we do our jobs. Our soldiers are, and will continue to be, the best at what we do; to say that we are proud of that would be a massive understatement. During this past year RHQ has had to continue to adapt and overcome challenges. Even now at the end of the year there is no stoppage to the endless work needing to be completed to get the WARPIGS deployed to Latvia.

# A Squadron





## A Squadron

### *Corporal Tishyna Ned*

It has been a very busy year for A Squadron. As usual, the year started out slow but very quickly ramped up. We started the year out with Ex STEELE BEASTS in Fort Hood, Texas, to conduct training on the Abrams tank and Bradley AFV simulators, then quickly transitioned to supporting B Squadron with Ex ORNERY RAM and MAPLE RESOLVE. A nice break was not long behind with support to Spruce Meadows, Calgary Stampede Parade, and a static display for each during the summer, and a much-needed summer leave for the troops, after which we were ready to come back and hit the ground running back into training.

Both A and B Squadron were given the opportunity to train in Fort Hood, Texas for Ex STEELE BEASTS. Each Squadron was there for 7 days, where we conducted several scenarios with an entire Squadron linked together on their Abrams and Bradley simulators. There was a steep learning curve with the equipment the Americans use. The headsets were built into the helmets with different switches to talk on the intercom and the radio, which made for some interesting radio traffic. The gunners controlled ammunition selection, and had access to 50x zoom that could see anywhere on the battlefield, and the driver's throttle was designed like a motorcycle throttle. One of the interesting features that their simulators featured was known as the "God Screen." It was controlled by a civilian contractor, and could access every vehicle's bird's-eye view, could see who had been destroyed and who was still in the fight, and where friendly and enemy forces were. This allowed excellent feedback on each crew's actions during the scenarios. One difficult obstacle to get around was the "wadi." It was a dry riverbed that was difficult to see due to the graphics, but if you hit it too fast, your tank would explode on the spot (which proved to be more devastating than the enemy at times). The feedback for Ex STEELE BEASTS was fantastic, with soldiers training during the day, and exploring the surrounding area of Killeen, Texas during the evenings. Troops were also able to experience different positions in the tanks, such as Corporals and Troopers being put into the Commander's seat to "fight the good fight". They allowed them to better understand the leadership role in the tank, battle procedure, multitasking, and also sending reports over the radio. Importantly, they began to learn how to position themselves and maintain communication with their fellow troops to maintain effectiveness of firepower during the battle.

A Squadron also supported B Squadron during their high readiness training on both Ex ORNERY RAM and MAPLE RESOLVE, and even had some soldiers sent to B Squadron to fill in positions in the tank crews.

A Squadron was then honoured to host the Calgary Stampede Static Display with a Leopard 2 A4, as well as the Calgary Stampede Parade and Spruce Meadows Static Display with the mighty Leopard 2 A4M variant. The Stampede Display included members: **Sgt Noel Reid, Cpl David Gillis, Cpl Aaron**



**Postras, Cpl Samuel Laperriere, Cpl Dylan Friel, and Cpl Phillipe Munger.** They worked six hour shifts so that they could sub-out, and in their off time they could enjoy the Stampede grounds. **Cpl Samuel Laperriere and Cpl Dylan Friel** were both recognized as Deserving Soldiers and stood on the stage for the Grand Stand Show in their Dress Environmental Uniforms. They stood proudly representing the Regiment as a quick biography was read out to hundreds of people in the stands. The other tank crew that participated in the Stampede Parade and Spruce Meadows Static Display included: **WO James Hamilton, Cpl Bradley Logan, Cpl Tishyna Ned, and Tpr Jordan Soloman.**



In the fall, A Squadron sent two tank crews to Gagetown, New Brunswick for the Worthington Cup Challenge. The crews consisted of: **WO Tim Dickey, MCpl Ed Snoek, Cpl Bradley Logan, Cpl TJ Gill, Cpl Samuel Laperriere, Cpl Tishyna Ned, Cpl Michael Salvador, and Tpr Jordan Soloman.** The tank crews “shattered” an Armour School record for the stab run for most targets engaged and fastest time completed on the worst day of the range. Heavy fog and rain meant they could barely see 1,100m in front of them for the static shoot, and even less on the stab run. But as A Squadron troops always do, they PERSEVERED through it and absolutely destroyed an Armour School record.

Ex STEELE SABRE and the Primary Combat Function Gun Camp for the gunners and the loaders course was another short, but focused exercise. It was a total of 14 days to qualify the individual gunners and loaders, as well as completing the Squadron Gun Camp for A Squadron complete.

It was a busy year for A Squadron, starting out at a slow pace but able to excel as the following months started to fill with tasks. As well as lending A Squadron personnel out. But A Squadron soldiers always strive for PERSEVERENCE to get whatever job that is in front of them done to a high standard.





# B Squadron



# B Squadron Year of the Earth Pig

*Captain Josh Horlings*

On the cold night of 5 February 2019, while most of B Sqn lay in bed soundly asleep (minus those on night shift for Ex UNIFIED RESOLVE 19), the Chinese lunar year came to a brilliant conclusion and commenced into the year of the Pig. More specifically, the Earth Pig. To write this article I consulted a wise Chinese astrologer, **2Lt John Ku** Regimental Int O, to learn more, and soon discovered that there are multiple types of “pig years”. There is Metal Pig, Water Pig, Wood Pig, Fire Pig and Earth Pig. Coincidentally B Sqn spent a large portion of this past year in LdSH(RC) Battle Group War Pigs. Here is the story of the B Sqn Pigs:

## METAL PIG

B Sqn soldiers spent a large portion of the year mastering their *Metal Pigs*. Aside from just eating *BBQ Pigs* on Ex STEELE BEASTS, B Sqn developed the groundwork for their year by training in an outstanding simulation center at Fort Hood, Texas. Crews were forced to master their vehicles as they fought an aggressive and well equipped adversary. In a way that conventional training struggles to match, the simulators forced crews and troops to effectively react to contact and conduct rapid drills to beat a peer enemy or end up as *Dead Pigs*. Facing swarms of enemy denser than Texas cornbread, B Sqn showed it was ready to the challenges of field training.

## WATER PIG

22B quickly learned the importance of water when they almost became Dehydrated Pigs on Ex MAPLE RESOLVE. Swapping into a comms crippled callsign three minutes prior to a Brigade road-move, the crew found themselves isolated away from any other living soul and without radios. Following the 1 Canadian Mechanized Brigade “Way of War”, the crew of **Sgt Aaron Hodgin**, **Cpl Sam Laperriere**, **Cpl Brad Logan** and **Tpr Quenton Francis** camouflaged their vehicle and completed a full hide adoption to avoid detection. When Exercise Control came searching for the *Lost Pigs*, there was no sign of the now phantom tank. Meanwhile the crew conducted maintenance, built themselves a small camp, and prepared to spend the duration of the Ex hidden at Fort Recce. Alas, after 72 hours they were saved by Range Control and returned to the Pig Pen.



## WOOD PIG

Throughout the year B Sqn enjoyed its fair share of smokers and social events. From Bare Bones BBQ and Somewhere Else in Fort Hood to the coldest smoker in recorded history during Ex STEELE WINTER, the Sqn was always ready to consume a few cold (or frozen) beers and gather around for a few good war stories. However, no smoker is ever quite complete without a good fire. Of course, in the absence of any wood, fires become a lot harder to construct, as discovered by SSM **MWO Steve Churchill**. A few cardboard boxes later and the mess tent no warmer, that lesson settled in hard. Thankfully, come Ex ORNERY RAM the warmer weather facilitated more enjoyable smokers and the discovery of **Sgt Derek Popoff's** ability to perfectly dub Careless Whisper by George Michael.



## FIRE PIG

Ex ORNERY RAM unleashed the firepower of B Sqn in devastating proportions. Turning targets into ash, the Sqn lit up the night sky. Conducting ranges from level 2 to level 5, each crew had the opportunity to hone their skills and work as a team. For many soldiers this was their first exposure to live fire combat-team attacks which flowed over a series of complex and well defended objectives. **Maj James Anderson** led the Sqn with the aggressiveness of a wild boar to achieve rapid and decisive ranges on each iteration. Ex STEELE SABRE further developed these skills as **Maj Mike Timms** focused the Sqn in on perfecting their gunnery drills and mastering their machines under the mantra “Tanks don’t miss.”

## EARTH PIG

For the first time in years B Sqn’s *Earth Pigs* went plow-down on Ex STEELE SABRE to trial the new mine plow. Commanded by **MCpl Steve Gross** and **MCpl Kyle Nieuwhof** these Warpigs provided insight into improvements needed for the mine plow and developed minefield breaching tactics within the Brigade. Lifting up the earth onto the plows with no easy method of removal left **Tpr Clauson** and **Tpr Jones** as **Blind Pigs** driving their callsigns.

## WAR PIG

Under LdSH(RC) *Warpigs* B Sqn developed their warfighting and tank commanding skills over the past year to a level of excellence. The soldier development was clear as was the capability and readiness of B Sqn. Called upon to perform in all conditions B Sqn was always right at home sending rounds to center of mass and cranking road-wheels and track.

Overall, an excellent year of training has B Sqn prepared for the challenges of 2020. If zodiac signs and lunar years mean anything than the omens are good as 2020 promises to be “strong, prosperous and lucky”...that is for anyone except those trying to face B Sqn in the field of battle.



# Recce Squadron

*Sergeant Nick Norman and Sergeant Alan Rodgers*



To say 2019 was an eventful year would be an understatement. The preparation, training, and the journey on the Road to High Readiness created a high tempo that would put everyone to the test; from the crustiest SSM to the newest button-head. This year, the Brigade as a whole was challenged, a challenge that culminated with the Brigade's successful qualification as a battle ready team with Recce Squadron as its forward element. But that was only the first half of the year; following our redeployment from the exercises, we said goodbye to 2 Troop as they departed for Op REASSURANCE and spent the remainder of the year preparing 3 Troop to relieve them in early 2020.

The year began with an exercise in command and control as most of the Squadron leadership completed Ex UNIFIED RESOLVE. While most of us stayed warm and comfortable inside the Lecture Training Facility, **Capt Steve "Adrep More Cam Paint" Couture** and **WO Jesse "Tent Eyes" Patterson** spent most of the exercise in a frozen CP. After a week of virtual battle, the command framework was set for the *real* exercises to come.

In April, we said goodbye to our loved ones as we prepared to engage in spring exercises. Beginning with Ex ORNERY RAM, the Sqn got the opportunity to play the bad guys as we faced off against the Brigade's newest combat team commanders over and over again; this part of the exercise was aptly named Op SISYPHUS. The lessons we learned prepared us for the challenges to come (such as **Tpr Ivy "There's Got To Be A Better Way" Keyes'** lesson on how to use a fuel spout) and we would soon have the opportunity to apply them. After a short respite, we were back in the field again for the final test.

Ex MAPLE RESOLVE was the final assessment in a long and difficult road to confirm we had what it took to deploy overseas as the Brigade's Recce Sqn. After two weeks of steady battle, the Brigade Commander was satisfied and called for End Ex; however, this was not before the acting OC **Capt Tim "Got Em" McHugh** tried to convince the Sqn we had another three days of work to do. The Sqn celebrated a job well done with a final smoker back in our old stomping grounds, Fort Recce. It was at this time that **MCpl Lawrence "Black Larry" Emery** proved that covering yourself head to toe in cam paint is a viable option for getting a shower run.

With a new command team arriving in the summer, we said goodbye to **Maj Selberg** and **MWO Parent**, and welcomed in **Maj Gray** and **MWO Holmes**. The Squadron knew there would be friction as the new OC and SSM had a friendly disagreement early on about PT strip colour. But there was no rest for wicked. As soon as summer leave was over, the Sqn was right back at it with PCFs to qualifying personnel for upcoming deployments and exercises. This year in particular had the most courses Recce



Sqn has ever run at one time; from MUAS Operator, to Coyote & MLVW Driver, to the various gunnery and conversion courses used for the Sqn's vehicle platforms. With so many keen students willing to learn, it was **Sgt Andre "I Can Swim" Icala** who set the best example of equipment capability by demonstrating to his students that Coyotes are not amphibious. Although the long days and fast tempo took its toll on Recce Sqn, once again we persevered and excelled as the Regiment's most elite Sqn during Ex STEELE SABRE.

In September, the Squadron deployed on Ex STEELE SABRE; but this time there was a twist. The new OC, **Maj "Danger Dan" Gray** wanted something new: a dynamic range and a Squadron gut-check known as RECCE FORGE. The range was planned and executed by **WO McAtasney** and **Sgt Nick "White Light" Norman**. Participants operated multiple weapons platforms in a high intensity, fast paced scenario while being chased and berated by **WO Nathan "Left Wheel, Soldier" Johnston**, forcing soldiers to show their most vulnerable state. This was an introduction for what was to come.

RECCE FORGE was a two day gauntlet of physical and mental toughness, where participants were subject to the sadistic musings of **Sgt Mark "ONE COOKIE" Peachey** and **WO Ed "Ring the Bell" Pickell**. By the end, 70% of the participants earned their patch by demonstrating the virtues of Recce soldiers and pushing themselves to their limit. Not only was it challenging by design but, without fail, Mother Wainwright added its special "four seasons one day" weather into the mix with sun tanning by day and snowfall by night.

This has been a highlight reel of one of Recce Sqn's busiest years, as we had to perform to the highest standard to have members shipped to Latvia. As the Sqn deployed two troops at separate times, many have stayed behind to carry the torch to keep Recce Sqn moving forward as the tip of the 1CMBG spear.



# Headquarters Squadron





## Headquarters Squadron

*Captain Phil Carey*

After a well-deserved Christmas Leave, Headquarters Squadron (HQ Sqn) immediately got back to business in order to prepare for a busy year which would include Exercises ORNER Y RAM and MAPLE RESOLVE 19.

First, however, was a trial run as SHQ tackled Exercise UNIFIED RESOLVE. They set up the CP on the parade square and enjoyed a week of extremely cold temperatures. Whether it was blue/red lines that weren't working or heaters going down, it gave **MCpl Curtis Schafer** plenty of practice for the exercises to come. **Capt Phil Carey** was around for a few days before taking off to warmer climes to support the Sabre Sqs in Exercise STEELE BEAST. **Cpl Giani Mancini** put his cowboy boots to good work as the Duty Driver down in Texas, doing his best work introducing **Sgt Christian Daniel** to the many forms of country music.



Once everyone was back on the ground from all this fun, it was a few weeks madly packing up all the kit before heading off to Wainwright. First up was ORNER Y RAM where we worked out all the kinks.



**MWO Timothy Pawson** had maintenance moving right along, with everyone wondering where the mythical VUR was...the promised land of vehicle bays, spare parts, hot food. QM Troop tracked down all the missing dumpsters and handwash stations, but not a Blue Rocket in sight...except maybe Range 25. SHQ got their hands on some extra vehicles and must have convinced SMT that some of the vehicles were horses, because before you knew it there was a patrol worth of riders manning the radios and defensive positions. Everyone knew when **Capt Carsten MacLean** was Duty Officer as he made sure that no visit to the CP was complete without a fresh cup of coffee. The SQ's main problem was faulty generators and temperature gauges that only go so high, as climate control was required to keep the stores safe you see. It had hardly begun before it seemed like we were loading up buses to head home for a week off. The TQ's rear party finally got a reprieve from the constant demands of daily shuttles from Edmonton and **Capt Phillip Buckingham** had to pull out his



red pen and start marking up some PERs, since it was the season. After a short week off and swapping out a few people, we went back for the main event. Almost...because before you can do MAPLE RESOLVE, you must do a full dress rehearsal (there was a smoker in there), and with **WO Terrance Schuba** and the cooks delivering a field pig roast that was very tasty. Once we were in the "Box", the SSM's Fast Pac started to earn its pay, with **MCpl Christopher Veltmeyer's** ARV always on the move. Transport continued its successful delivery schedule and somehow always found the BSA as the nearest hide location. More than likely, this was **WO Jamie Clarke's** work as **Capt Leland Kirkham** had auditioned for and claimed role as shitter barrel technician number one. Tanks and **WO Conway Eady** kept maintenance working away, even when light discipline got in the way. Frustration

with having to down tools was never more evident than when they charged a mounted enemy force on foot and chased them off, never to return. The rear CP was a blur of activity, with **Cpl David Olaes** wondering if there was any job that was not his. There wasn't. The forward CP was sailing along, until a case of mistaken identity put them directly in the crosshairs. One fierce battle later and it turns out that eating orders is the actual destruction plan. Good job **Capt Jared Mellow**. The unlucky ones got to come all they way back to Zombieland for a good night's sleep without any stand-to.

Once ENDEX was finally called and we all returned from Wainwright, it was time for the Melfa River Sports Day. It was **Maj Jeff Brown's** last big hurrah while in charge, but we were not crowned champions on that day. Just before block leave, we welcomed the new OC, **Maj James "I'm the COS now" Anderson**. After block leave, it was time for another deployment to Ex STEELE SABRE in beautiful Wainwright. Located at the Strathcona's 2nd home in Alberta, (AKA Peregrine 9) and led by **Capt Varun "I love my evening O-groups" Vahal** and **SSM MWO Ken "Do I have to continue briefing about outside the wire shirts in the field?" Shiells**, the Sqn continued to do what it does best, AKA support!



From Maint Tp working long hours, to the KO trying to figure out (for the umpteenth time) how many mouths to feed, to Tpt completing dozens of taskings and setting up an awesome OP, to CS 0 and 8 working as one, and **MWO Andrew Leclerc** ensuring the troops got equipment and ammo, HQ Sqn delivered behind the scenes as is always does. Oh, and it helped that weather was awesome too!



# Training







## Ex STEELE BEASTS

*Lieutenant James Lee*

Ex STEELE BEASTS 19 kicked off with a lovely meeting time of 0240 hrs in the B Squadron (Sqn) hangar on Saturday, 9 February, much to everyone's delight. Passports were handed out as the troops arrived, and everyone loaded onto the busses for the drive to the airport. After mixed flight success with the 1st chalk having a one hour delay in Denver, Colorado, everyone eventually arrived at North Fort Hood and settled into the "luxury" 100 person barracks. The next morning consisted of a recce of the simulation centre followed by a far more important close recce of the local watering holes.

Monday saw the Sqn kick off with a familiarization of the simulators for the morning and a practice trace in the afternoon. The remainder of the week saw the Sqn transition between offensive and defensive operations. The week's training culminated with a force on force, troop vs troop, scenario for fun (read: bragging rights). Throughout the week, the Sqn visibly pulled closer together and improved as essential skills were refreshed. Crew Commanders learned how to operate at full capacity within the confines of the simulations.

The simulators as a whole were an interesting experience due to the marked differences between the Abrams and the Leopard 2. The basics were picked up fairly quickly, but most Crew Commanders had fun learning how to operate the Blue Force Tracker and the .50 Cal Remote Weapons System. Tips and tricks were picked up as the week progressed, such as the ability to laze and determine a grid as well as the ability to see a grid while using the .50 Cal. Sadly, some of these helpful tricks weren't learned until the very last afternoon, but the training overall was very successful.

To say that the exercise was all work and no play wouldn't quite be true; besides training in Texas another enjoyable task was to sample the local food. Throughout the week the soldiers of B Sqn accomplished this "task" whole-heartedly by exploring many bars and restaurants. To everyone's delight, the saying "everything is bigger in Texas" turned out to be literally true with pounds of brisket and ribs being served as well as local kegs being emptied. The food wasn't always glamorous however: lunch throughout the week was one of only two possible ration options. The first option was "beef" tacos with various snacks and the second option was tuna. Despite several comparisons to cat food throughout the week, everyone survived and returned to normal food once home.

Overall, the week of training in Texas was very worthwhile with the simulator training helping improve the Sqn's abilities and the local area helping give everyone a break from the -40 weather.







## Ex ORNERY RAM

*Corporal Bradley Logan*



In April 2019, LdSH(RC) deployed to Wainwright to participate in Brigade live fire training up to the Combat Team level, known as Exercise ORNERY RAM (Ex OR). B Sqn and Recce Sqn conducted training up to level 5 live while HQ and A Sqn provided support. A Squadron did not just lend their best gunners and loaders to their brothers in B Squadron, they were responsible for all the background activities to make this range work so well. This included assigning troops all over the training area for the initial build and reconstruction of the objectives, flags and barrier sentries and supplying the combat team with ammunition.

A Squadron deployed to the field first to start the range build in Wainwright. The Sqn, led by our fearless leader **Maj Jack Nguyen**, and enforced by **Sgt Cameron Davidson**, had the troops laying hundreds of meters of barbed wire pickets, the precise location of tank and armoured personnel carrier (APC) targets, to be seen by the fire base and building all of the main objectives for the combat team to engage as they swept the battlefield.

Flash to bang, the range began. With A and HQ Sqn in support, B and Recce Sqn conducted two weeks of intense and invaluable live fire training. HQ Sqn kept the Leopards rolling and able to get rounds down range to deliver mass

destruction in support of the infantry. **Sgt Ken Wright** oversaw the sentry plan, ensuring they were fed and supplied with only the best food and red glow sticks the SQ staff had to offer. **MCpl Andrew “Billy” Goodwin** dished up only the best ammunition from “*Billy’s Bullet Barn*” for the combat teams’ success, and **Cpl Colby “I can’t make this turn” Smith**, drove hundreds of targets on the bed of a beaver tail to ensure the ranges were realistic and challenging.

Overall, Ex OR proved to be a great month of training. The weather was on our side and there were no serious injuries. The Regiment came together as a team and carried out their role with the efficiency and competency that is known and expected of Strathconas. LdSH(RC) played a crucial role in this combined arms exercise and enabled all the other units within the Brigade. The training was a complete success, and everyone left very satisfied with the destruction that LdSH(RC) had accomplished.







## Ex MAPLE RESOLVE

*Captain Joshua “Fire bottles blew again” Horlings and  
Captain Ali “I’m going to flank them” Mansour*

This year Exercise MAPLE RESOLVE ran from the 6th to the 25th of May and included soldiers of 1 Canadian Mechanized Brigade Group (1 CMBG) from Edmonton and Shilo. During the exercise approximately 5500 soldiers, including 900 from the U.S. Armed Forces, 150 from the British Army, and 40 soldiers from the French Army, participated in a complex exercise simulating the full spectrum of war. The exercise served as the main verification for soldiers of 1 CMBG in their road to high readiness. The “War Pigs” Battle Group (BG) and Recce Sqn were put to the test through a range of operations over the two week long, grueling exercise.

The Regiment’s skills were tested from the very start of the Ex with the conduct of stability operations in a dispersed EMCON 1 environment. As 22B **Sgt Aaron “We may need the Aurora” Hodgkin** quickly found out, EMCON 1 can prove quite the challenge when experiencing extensive maintenance issues. Ready to react at a moment’s notice, B Sqn waited and prepared to strike from their camouflaged hides. Moving into the offensive phase of the exercise, the BG pushed into hostile territory under the cover of darkness. Following a rainy night in perhaps the smallest leaguer ever adopted by a mechanized force, the offensive began early in the morning. The War Pigs BG quickly reacted and began doing what tanks do best. Excited to finally be on the attack, B Sqn launched and rapidly pushed into enemy territory conducting multiple Combat Team attacks. High tempo offensive operations continued for multiple days and cumulated into a Brigade attack on a large urban objective. For many soldiers in the BG, this experience was unique as they witnessed for the first time the vast size and abilities of an entire Mechanized Brigade. Transitioning into defensive operations, the BG held the line and protected the Brigade as vast defensive preparations were made.

Following the destruction of the enemy counterattack, the BG once again resumed the advance with the Brigade to engage the final enemy objective. With weeks to prepare, the objective was incredibly fortified and well planned. Yet not bulletproof enough to stop B Sqn OC **Maj James “Modern Viking” Anderson** from rolling up on their Command Post and delivering a deathblow to what was a formidable enemy.

The Regiment as a whole was put to the test and it was the great opportunity for the Regiment to operate as a BG with all of the enablers in a realistic force-on-force environment. Recce Sqn was also put to the test, conducting reconnaissance for the Brigade both on the ground and in the air.

Overall Ex MAPLE RESOLVE 19 provided an immersive training experience for the entire Regiment. As always, everyone returned to Edmonton with a few good stories, a lot more knowledge and a keen desire to continue leading the way for the Brigade.





## Ex STEELE SABRE: A Sqn

*Sergeant Kenneth Wright*

Having completed Road to High Readiness training last spring as part of TF 1-19, A Sqn deployed to 3 CDSB det Wainwright for the fall exercise and gun camp Ex STEELE SABRE 19. This included the Regimental Gun Camp, collective Squadron-level training, and IBTS which included small-arms ranges and Combat First Aid.

There is always a lot of preparation required before the Strathcona's are able to deploy, and SS 19 was no different. This included hundreds of hours of vehicle maintenance and all hands on deck to prepare the Leopard 2 and other support vehicles for deployment. A lot of Squadron level training was also required to include simulator crew level training, ROC drills, and working at every level to establish our unit SOPs.

Along with the Regimental advance party, the first to deploy this year was the Worthington Challenge 19 team led by **Lt van Heerden** and **WO Dickey**. The team, as always, included members from the Sabre and Recce squadrons, but also included members of 2 PPCLI and TAPV crews from 41 CBG Army Reserve Units KOCR and SALH.

Soon to follow were the soldiers and staff participating in the Fall PCF cycle which included Leopard 2 Driver, and gunnery courses to include 120mm, 25mm and AGLS C-16. Once the course shooting and driving was completed, a new group of Crew Commanders, Gunners and Drivers were fully qualified and ready to rejoin their perspective Squadrons for the start of the Regimental Gun Camp.

At the start of the gun camp, both A and B squadron were very excited to start shooting a newly constructed Range by **Capt Delaney**. With A Squadron under the Command of **Capt McTavish** and **WO Mcloughlin**, and B Squadron led by **Maj Timms** and **MWO Churchill**, both Sabre Squadrons took part in both a day and night 120mm Level 2 range with B Squadron doing an additional 3-4 days of Level 3 dry training as individual troops. After the conclusion of the Gun Camp, B Squadron continued on as a driving force in 1 CMBG D+90 training which included EL3 Live and Level 5 Combat Team dry training while A Sqn redeployed home.





## Ex STEELE SABRE: B Sqn D+90

*Captain Bryce Simpson*

After what seemed like an impossibly short summer, B Squadron (B Sqn) returned to Wainwright for the Regiment's annual Fall Exercise 'STEELE SABRE' where it completed Individual, Crew, Troop, Sqn and Combat Team training events over the course of a month. The inevitable post-Annual Posting Season shuffle over the summer meant that much of the B Sqn team were operating in new positions and roles, which made for a steep learning curve as we progressed towards the culminating event of the Exercise: Dry Level 5 (Combat Team) training by day and night.

B Sqn started things off by brushing up on our individual skills through the conduct of small arms ranges under the critical eye of **Sgt Aaron Hodgin** before quickly transitioning to our Tank Level 2 Ranges. The Battle Captain, **Capt Bryce Simpson** and the Sqn Gunnery Warrant Officer, **Sgt Isaac Koolman** put their heads together (sometimes violently) to execute the required Crew static and battle-run shoots, but not before the Sqn conducted a very deliberate bore-sighting and zeroing process. The time dedicated to this task paid dividends later in the Ex, as tanks consistently achieved first round hits with all ammo natures.

While still putting the remainder of 11 crews through their Level 2 gateway shoots, the Sqn concurrently transitioned to dry and live Enhanced Level 3 (EL3) ranges with the infantry platoons of 1st Battalion, Princess Patricia's Canadian Light Infantry (1 PPCLI). For many of our PPCLI brethren, this was their first exposure to tank-infantry cooperation, and the Sqn's crew commanders quickly (and loudly) dissuaded a number of infantry dismounts of the notion that tanks could not fire their main guns while conducting intimate support.

Shortly after completing the EL3 ranges with 1 PPCLI, the Sqn began battle procedure for day and night iterations of dry Level 5 training with C Coy, 1 PPCLI. Facing a hodge-podge of hostile Arianian forces (represented respectfully by B Coy, 1 PPCLI and our friends in Recce Sqn), C Coy Combat Team rolled out and conducted a series of hasty attacks against complex obstacles and well-fortified objectives. **MCpls Steven Gross** and **Kyle Nieuwhof** struggled with the somewhat temperamental Leopard 2 mine ploughs, but led the combat team through the required breaches against both day and night objectives. Despite some navigational confusion during the assault on the night objective, aggressive manoeuvre by individual crew commanders ensured that C Coy's dismounts found their way onto the objectives, and completed the dirty work of rooting out their now-Arianian friends from B Coy.

A reinvigorated culture of crew stewardship (accompanied by some creative re-christening of B Sqn tanks) and some Herculean effort by **Sgt Rob Broadfoot's** maintenance team kept the Sqn's tanks running and gunning for much of the exercise, and the Sqn finished on a high note with all of its tanks completing the requisite training without a single recovery required and all tanks reaching their destination under their own power. With Level 5 validation complete, the Sqn returned to Edmonton and prepared to take their next bound.





## Ex STEELE SABRE: Recce Sqn

### *Corporal Phoenix George*

To achieve excellence in the application of mounted reconnaissance we are required to sharpen our skills through consistent training with consistent outcomes and be able to perform and excel in demanding conditions. While deployed to Wainwright, Ex STEELE SABRE 2019 saw Recce Squadron achieve mandated milestones and implement the ability to complete unique and specialized training opportunities.

Commencing with the PCF Gun Camp, the Squadron acted as OPI for the TAPV RWS, 25mm Coyote Gunnery, LAV6 Conversion, and Coyote Driver courses while ensuring successful and safe ranges. Recce Squadron then moved on to conduct a dynamic multi-weapon range at Range 21 to ensure soldiers maintained a high level of efficiency and accuracy with their personal weapons. This scenario driven, controlled, live fire range included the Shotgun, Pistol, C7, C6, C9 and M203.



From there the Squadron continued on to Ex RECCE FORGE. Officers and Crewman are required to be competent and both mentally and physically resilient. RECCE FORGE was a dismounted patrol event designed to test these qualities with realistic and demanding dismounted training focused on providing a tough but rewarding experience. Troops were woken by artillery simulations and then run through a physical fitness test and a kit check to ensure they were prepared for the challenge ahead. The event took soldiers throughout the training area and included the obstacle course, ruck marches, dismounted patrols,

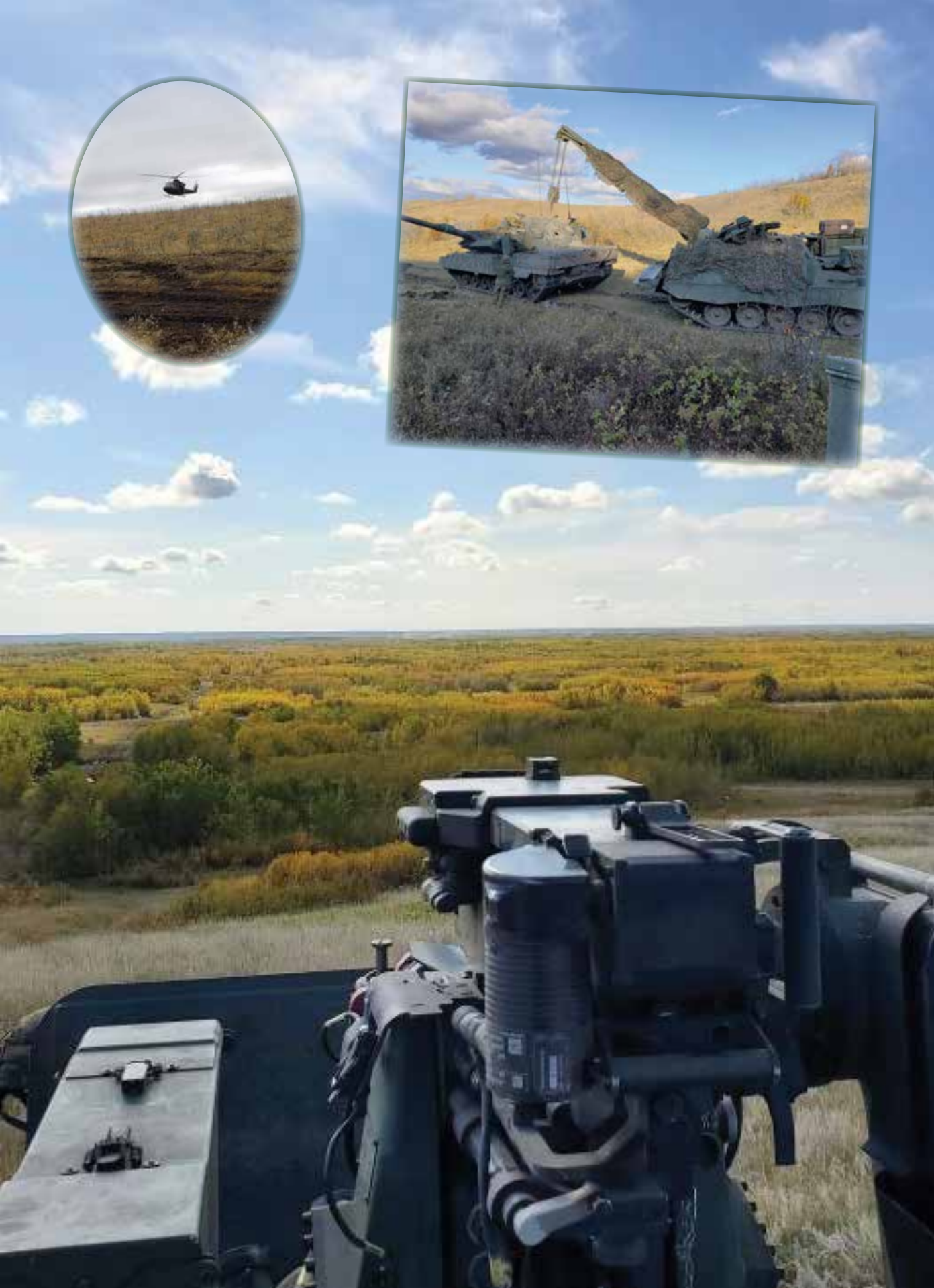
AFV recognition, Combat First Aid, weapons handling and an escape and evade scenario. Successful participants received a Recce Tab as a physical token to mark their accomplishment. This training will hopefully become an annual event meant to motivate and develop effective Recce soldiers.



Squadron Level Live Fire and Troop Level Training followed. The Level 3 live-fire training at Range 25 was designed to challenge our AFV crews with multiple engagement types under various range bands despite constraints imposed by training area use and positive safety restrictions. Emphasis was also placed on training at the troop level which gave each troop the time and resources to conduct their own decentralized and comprehensive training plan.

Ex STEELE SABRE 2019 ended with the execution of a complex Level 5 dry range for 1 CMBG Sub-units in order to achieve mandated D+90 Canadian Army High Readiness continuation training requirements. This was based on an offensive scenario and used combined arms forces and maneuver to engage with Recce Squadron who acted as the reactive enemy force for combat team attacks.







## Integrated Capstone Exercise 1902

*Lieutenant Tom Clackson*

From 14 September – 07 October 2019, key leadership from the Regiment had the privilege to travel to Camp Adazi, Latvia and act as Observer Controller Trainers (OCT) during Integrated Capstone Exercise (ICE) 1902. As a primer to the upcoming Regimental deployment on Op REASSURANCE Enhanced Forward Presence Battle Group Latvia 20-01, ICE 1902 provided Strathcona leadership with the opportunity to gain crucial insight into the inner workings of the deployed Battle Group (BG), in addition to providing mentorship and liaison communication with our multinational allies.

Upon arrival in Camp Adazi, we were immediately made aware of how multinational and diverse the eFP BG is, hearing conversation in no less than six different languages between the kitchen and the tent lines. A lesson all on its own, we learned that communication would be a key challenge in future operations.

Undeterred, Strathcona Officers and Senior NCOs were assigned as OCT counterparts to positions they would fill on the coming rotation in January 2020, acting as part of a larger mentorship and control team from the Canadian Maneuver Training Center.

Led by BG Commander **LCol Mike “The Reaper” Reekie**, the scheme of maneuver for ICE 1902 was challenging and ambitious. Determined to exercise the BG’s connectivity, deployability, and response time, elements of the BG torture tested communications equipment, planning processes, and the readiness of its soldiers. Despite these challenges, the BG was dedicated to success and improvement. With **LCol Eric “Chief OCT” Angell** and **CWO Kevin “I Just Have a Few Points” King** at the helm of our OCT team, Strathcona representation in Latvia was in good hands, and had a vast array of opportunities





to mentor, learn, and at times give critical feedback to our allies in theater. Indeed, the author learned a fair bit about OCT life as well, taking the time to look at operational planning from a completely different perspective, and absorbing differing strategies for force employment. Following our assigned elements around the countryside, Strathcona OCTs had many chances to see why Latvia should be so strongly

defended – beautiful vistas, sprawling fields, dense forests, and particularly delicious bit of gas station cuisine known as a ‘double sock dog,’ which is a mix between a double classic hot dog and a burrito.



Of course, our primary goal in Latvia on ICE 1902 was not to eat hot dogs, but to form relationships with our allies in theater, and ensure their success in the challenges put before them. No easy task, as the eFP BG combined elements of Canada, Latvia, Spain, Italy, Slovakia, Slovenia, Albania, Czech Republic, and Montenegro in one battle space. When the dust settled and ‘End Ex’ was called, CMTC declared the BG combat ready and successful, and we Strathcona’s were reminded of the challenges that lay ahead on our own pre-deployment training, and multinational force integration. With a newfound respect for our Latvian allies, and their ability to host such a diverse organization of nations, we returned to Canada to consider our own plans to defend the Latvian countryside.



## Ex STEELE FORGE

*Captain Joshua Horlings*

The Strathcona led enhanced Forward Presence (eFP) Battlegroup (BG) deploying to Latvia on Op REASSURANCE 20-01 recently had the opportunity to complete a multi-national training event known as Ex STEELE FORGE. Like iron strengthened by alloys, the Ex allowed all elements of the BG to showcase their abilities and discuss how they will come together to form the same weapon.

Ex STEELE FORGE saw officers and soldiers from other partnered nations of the BG join us in Edmonton for three days. The goal of the Ex was to enhance the understanding of one another's abilities and build the relationships that will enable the BG to deploy together as an effective team. From Italy, Spain, Poland, Slovakia, Czech Republic and across Canada, the team came together. Although speaking a range of languages it was quickly apparent that everyone spoke the same language in a way; all nations spoke "army" and understood the importance of their operational task.

The event provided great value to all in attendance, as each nation learned about the capabilities of their allies and what unique capacity each nation would bring to the fight. The team heard from a former BG commander and the current BG RSM, who relayed some of the amazing opportunities and challenges they experienced. Each nation had the opportunity to ask questions, provide answers and talk to one another. Aside from the formal presentations and training activities, side conversations built the groundwork for command relationships and new teams. The deploying team also had the opportunity to get a head start on their planning process, as the BG Chief of Staff, **Maj James Anderson**, and BG S5, **Maj Gord Elliot**, led a discussion and practical demonstration of how operations would be planned. BG Commander, **LCol Eric Angell**, and BG RSM, **CWO Kevin King**, also laid out their vision for the BG and gave their guidance so each nation could return home with a clear understanding of their mission and the expectations of their commander.

Of course, the exercise would not have been complete without a few cultural and social events, to bring everyone together in a casual environment. Everyone (including a few reluctant Canadians) had the opportunity to check out the Mounted Troop and ride one of their horses. The Italian contingent had the opportunity to try Canadian pizza, which they diplomatically asserted was as good as that of their home country. A final social event at the cornerstone of Edmonton Culture (the West Ed Mall) Rec Room allowed all attendees to relax, have a few drinks and enjoy some Canadian cuisine.

Overall, Ex STEELE FORGE set a solid foundation for the deploying BG. The weapon is ready in the forge and will only get sharper with further training and integration.





# Annual Events





## Moreuil Wood

### *Captain Tom Hume*

One hundred and one years ago, The Canadian Cavalry Brigade - made up of 450 Strathcona's along with equal numbers of brothers from the Royal Canadian Dragoons and Fort Garry Horse – prepared to clear a patch of trees near a small town called Moreuil, in France. By now, every Strathcona should know the story of that fateful day when Lt. Flowerdew ordered “it’s a charge boys” and overran the German position, earning him a posthumous Victoria Cross and securing the place of the Regiment in history. Though much has been said about the heroic and untimely deaths of the soldiers riding straight into certain death, little has been noted about the backs that carried them into the fight and out of this world. Of the one hundred and fifty horses involved in the charge at Moreuil Wood, only four survived to carry soldiers into subsequent battles. It is estimated that 8 million horses and 15 to 19 million soldiers perished during the Great War and considering that cost, I think the horses deserve mention. Though it’s been a long time since we rode into battle on the back of another living being, much can be compared to our new steeds and our relationship with them.

In the poem “*Dumb Heroes*” written near Ypres, by **Captain Theodore A. Girling** in 1916, he speaks of the shared experience of horse and rider and the disparate reward for each, should they survive:

#### “Dumb Heroes”

There’s a DSO for the Colonel  
A Military Cross for the Sub,  
A medal or two when we all get through,  
And a bottle of wine with our grub.  
  
There’s a stripe of gold for the wounded,  
A rest by the seashore,  
And a service is read when we bury our dead,  
Then the country has one hero more.  
  
But what of our poor dumb horses?  
That are sent without choice to fight;  
That strain at the load, on the shell swept road  
As they take up the rations at night.  
  
They are shelling on Hellfire Corner,  
Their Shrapnel fast burst on the square,  
And the bullets drum, as the transports come  
With food for the soldiers there.  
  
The halt till the shelling is over,  
The rush through the line of fire,  
The glaring light, in the dead of night  
And the Terrible sign in the mire.  
  
It’s the daily work of heroes,  
And they answer the spur and rein  
With quickened breath, mid the toll of death  
In the mud and holes and rain.

There’s a fresh-healed wound in the chestnut,  
And the black mare’s neck has a mark;  
The brown mule’s new mate won’t keep the same gait,  
As the one killed last night in the dark.  
  
But they walk with the spirit of heroes,  
They dare not for medals or cross,  
But for duty alone, into perils unknown  
They go, never counting their loss.  
  
There’s a swift painless death for the hopeless,  
With a grave in a shell-hole or field;  
There’s a hospital base for the casualty case  
And a vet for those easily healed.  
  
But there’s never a shadow of glory,  
A cheer or a speech in their praise,  
As patient and true they carry us through  
With the limber on shot-riven ways.  
  
So here’s to the dumb heroes of Britain,  
Who serve her so nobly and true  
As the best of her sons, mid roar of the guns,  
And the best of her boys on the blue.  
  
They’re shell-shocked, they’re bruised, and they’re broken,  
They’re wounded and torn as they fall,  
But They’re true and they’re brave – to the very grave,  
And they’re heroes – One and All.

Though without a heartbeat or a soul, our modern steeds share similar places in our hearts as we traded flesh and hay for metal and diesel. Riders know everything about their shared steeds: which ones perform and which ones fail. “Bengal” may have a hitch, and “Crete” some lag but the characteristics that cause us to curse and sometimes the desire to beat these “Dumb Heroes”, also bond us to them. In both training and war, we must never forget that Cavalry Soldiers are nothing but Infanteers without their beasts underneath.



# All Ranks Dinner and Dance

## Corporal Howie Wright

Each year, we cut loose as a Regiment for the All Ranks Dinner and Dance (ARDD). The Regimental Society and the Regimental Non-Public Property hosted this year's ARDD at Schanks Sports Grill on the 15th of March, 2019. As is the trend, Schanks offered up a night of mini games and great food, while the Regiment had their own contests and prizes planned. Amidst the busy operational tempo of the Regiment, the ARDD was an excellent opportunity for members of the Regiment and their spouses to enjoy some well-deserved entertainment.

Upon entering the event guests were treated to complimentary drink tickets, and an entry for some great door prizes. The greeter, **Capt Leland Kirkham**, handed out boxes filled with handy stainless steel Regimental travel mugs with carabiners, which definitely have not been used as clandestine beverage transporters. Moving past the main door tables were the array of mini games that Schanks has to offer to include mini golf, pool tables, the bowling alley, the digital driving range, and dart boards scattered around the venue. As is the norm, there was constant camaraderie amongst the overly competitive, well fed and "watered" Strathconas.

After some time to their own devices and the provided entertainment, the buffet, of monstrous ribs and chicken, rolled out in full force and was almost instantly overwhelmed with hungry families. The line persisted continuously throughout the night after our beloved "seconds!" was called. As dinner came to an end, **Cpls Edward Thibodeau and Coleman Germann** took over the PA and cut the music to announce the prize portion of the evening. The roughly 500 guests were ushered to the main stage to hear the winners of such contests as best shoes, best dressed couple, hole in one mini golf putt, the longest drive, and bowling strike competitions. The door prizes were also announced, **WO Kearns** won a smoker for his entry, and (now) **MCpl Quinton Stender** won two tickets to an Oilers game that took place during March break.

The ARDD was well timed and well deserved. The great food, top tier company, and prizes were an excellent opportunity to remember all of the great times that the previous year had to offer before kicking off with a busy spring of high readiness training. Events like the ARDD exemplify the importance Regimental family and strengthen the *esprit de corps*.





## LdSH(RC) Family Day

*Master Corporal Alison Sawyer*

On 23 August 2019, we hosted the annual Family Day at the Regiment and this year, the general consensus was that it was the best Family Day to date. **Capt “CDub” Carter-Wright** was the brains of the operation to ensure that everything went smoothly, and that fun was had by all. There were many activities which included Tank & LAV 6 rides, a petting zoo, a dunk tank, a Buffalo mine-resistant vehicle, a fire truck, face painting, Disney princesses, and the obstacle course (made by yours truly) and many more. As families arrived, the laughs and pure joy increased. Seeing the families spending time together makes this event my favourite of the year.

I personally was in charge of setting up the obstacle course. I had a team of ten that assisted with the set up and testing for quality assurance purposes. **Cpl Evan “Best tank driver in NATO” Cox**, **Cpl Justin “Farmboy” Milwain** and **Cpl Robert “Rob” Taylor** were the muscles and the brains to ensure the obstacle course stayed intact throughout.

During the day we found some eager young lads with good throwing arms and offered them extra prizes for a task. They were to dunk the current A Squadron **SSM Hugo “Bab” Babin** as well as HQ Squadron **SSM Ken “HATES beards” Shiells** into the dunk tank. Thank you again to those involved in the fun.

Family day is a wonderful day for families to spend time together, an opportunity for us to show our families a day of fun and appreciation for the support and love that you show us all year round. Family Day is a day that we are able to show off our Regiment, our equipment, and makes it a great day to introduce family to our regimental family.





## Remembrance Day

*Corporal Mike Loiselle*

It was a cold and somber November morning as soldiers from A Squadron and the rest of the Regiment mounted an honour guard and vigil party at Beechmount Cemetery Cenotaph. They were accompanied by various other Strathconas who paired with school children to guide them through the rows of veterans' headstones to pay their respects. Once again, the Regiment had the honour of participating in No Stone Left Alone. This organization, which connects Canada's youth to its history *by having students place poppies on the headstones of soldiers*, is now recognized across Canada and also internationally with a ceremony held in Krakow, Poland. This year's ceremony featured over 9000 students in 105 cemeteries across Canada honouring fallen soldiers, and gives a physical, one on one connection between student and soldier. This year, 95 year old **Dr. Eva Olsson**, a holocaust survivor spoke about her story.



One week later was Remembrance Day, a very special day to most Canadians. This year, Strathconas had the opportunity to participate in ceremonies across Edmonton and the surrounding communities. Small groups of members visited **Tpr Michael Hayakaze's** grave in Edmonton, as well as Nanton, AB to pay respects to **Cpl Nathan Hornburg**. Remembering those who fought and died for Canada was a solemn success in 2019. With traditions like No Stone Left Alone gaining more momentum each year, those soldiers who came before us will never be forgotten.



## Kids' Christmas Party 2019

*Captain James Lee*

This year's Kid's Christmas Party was a wonderful success. As always, all 6 of Santa's Elvish Subbies were out in full force delivering presents in style. Luckily the event went off smoothly with no huge lineups developing for presents. Due to last year's success, B Sqn had the honour of planning this year's event and based on the kid's reactions, it was a huge success.

Continuing the Regiment's long association with royalty, Disney Princesses Moana and Belle graced the children with their presence. Another highlight was the 'Kiddie Commando Course' which was setup by **MCpl Luke Doan** and **Cpl Mitch Thibault**. The obstacle course seemed quite a hit with many kids as they completed it multiple times. In the RHQ hangar **Sgt Gerri-Anne Davidson** ran games and concessions with 75 boxes of pizza disappearing into the crowd quickly after arrival, and several games being popular with kids and parents.



Of course, a Christmas party wouldn't be complete without a visit from Santa (who looked suspiciously like **Cpl Rob Taylor** this year), although as expected some kids preferred a photo with a tree instead of Santa. Despite the odd terrified child setbacks, many were extremely excited to tell Santa what they wanted for Christmas. One child of note ran and told Santa his wish before darting to see the vehicle display instead of sitting for a photo.

As always, shopping for this year's event was quite fun with Toys R Us setting aside a waiting area as 6 carts of toys were purchased. **Capt Bryce Simpson**, **Capt James Lee**, **Lt Leon Vanheerden** and **Cpl Mitch McKenzie** were lucky enough to be choosing presents this year and were finally able to get all the toys Santa had told them they were too naughty to receive as children. Following the mass shopping all available subbies spent an afternoon wrapping and organizing presents although standards did vary. Overall the event was a great success with Santa giving presents to many on the Nice List, and many more on the Naughty List. The Military Family Resource Centre (MFRC) was nice enough to take great photos which were subsequently emailed out to families.





## Christmas Celebrations

*Captain Andrew Kelly*

Each year the Regiment actively celebrates the Christmas season with a plethora of events strategically designed to combine libations, cheer, sports, and more libations. This year's festivities started with a perennial favourite – The Trooper Funk Games. Especially excited to participate in the event for the first time was **Lt Kai** *"I combine push ups with the worm dance"* **Keewatin**. His excitement evaporated quickly once he realized that a vulnerable Subbie is the obvious target for a crowd equipped with paintball guns.

The annual Regimental Sports Day took ice rink based sporting to a whole new level this year with the return of an old fan favourite – ice soccer. Slipping and sliding all over the rink caused for many falls and many laughs. These falls were often aided by **MCpl Joey** *"I thought we were playing ice tackle football"* **Schijns**.

A few drinks, delicious food, a few more drinks and some comedic events cause for the Soldier's Appreciation Dinner to be enjoyed by all...apart from **Capt Erik** *"can someone serve for me so I can play instead"* **Giajnorio** when a section of the event decided to have a paper airplane launch contest. **Sgt Gord** *"bardowski"* **Carnevale** will be looking to exact some revenge down the line following a cake to the face attack from **Tpr Kristofer** *"baked goods are for fighting with"* **Fujita**. Bold move Cotton, let's see how this plays out. Following the dinner the Regiment scattered to the Elhorn Room and the Lamplighter for some further Christmas Cheer. The Elhorn Room was blessed to see various shapes and sizes of ugly Christmas sweaters, a charge led by **RSM Kevin** *"this is definitely in the dress regs"* **King**.

All in all it was a great season of celebrations and we can all look forward to a new crop of Subbies to paintball next year.





# Sports and Fitness



START / FINISH





## Regimental Sports

*Major Dan Gray*



One thing that is for sure about sports in the past year is that the competitive spirit within the Regiment is alive and well. 2019 was a year to shake things up in Regimental sports and try new things all while demonstrating the sporting prowess that this Regiment truly has to offer.

The new year kicked off with 1 CMBG's annual Ex STRONG CONTENDER which saw the Regiment place a respectable 4th overall within the Brigade, winning bronze medals in Ice Hockey, Ball Hockey, and Tactical Athlete (the only sports that count!).

Due to preparations for the spring training exercises, the traditional Moreuil Wood Sports Day was postponed in favour of a Melfa River Sports Day once the Regiment returned from several months in Wainwright. This sports day went a new direction with an emphasis on track and field, something I think everyone can agree on isn't a traditional strength of the Strathconas. Despite that, it proved to be a great competition and broke the mold of our traditional sports. Recce Sqn was victorious of course thanks to their little known track and field abilities.

In addition to all of the normal annual sporting events, the Regiment also participated in some new ones adding to the variety of sports and skills within the unit. These included the Canadian Death Race with two teams and several individual competitors completing the grueling 125km race over three mountain summits in the Canadian Rockies.

Of note, **Cpl Spencer "Vegan Power" Kelly** completed the entire race solo in an impressive 23 hours, 43 minutes. The Regiment also sent a team to participate in the Canadian Pacific Railway's Spin for a Vet, cycling competition. This involved a 24hour spin-a-thon of non-stop cycling where the team placed 4th overall, while helping raise half a million dollars for the Homes for Heroes Foundation.

The Regiment continued to shine on the Brigade stage with a 3rd place overall finish on Ex MOUNTAIN MAN in the Edmonton river valley with the fastest time going again to **Cpl Kelly**.

With a significant portion of the Regiment on leave during the "silly" week lead up to Christmas, the traditional Christmas sports day was forced to take a new direction. Rather than the normal Mess versus Mess competition, it became an inter-Sqn competition of the controversial "Ice Ball" which only claimed a few victims followed by the "feats of strength". Despite a shake-up of the normal sports day routine, a good time was had by all with A Sqn coming out on top.

As usual, Regimental Sports has been an outlet for the stresses of our daily job and a point of pride for the Regiment. Strathconas continue to demonstrate their athletic abilities both within the Regiment and on the Brigade stage.





## Canadian Death Race

*Trooper Daniel Kentfield*



Running an Ultra-Marathon is something everyone dreams of doing, or has nightmares about. Luckily for six members of B Sqn and seven members of Recce Sqn, they found themselves living this dream/nightmare on 3-4 August 2019. The Canadian Death Race is an inspiring 125 km relay or solo race that occurs in Grande Cache, AB every year at between 3030 to 6986 ft in elevation. This year from B Sqn, **Tpr Ernest Rice**, **Tpr Daniel Kentfield**, **Tpr Miguel Blanco**, and **Cpl Tristan Feldmann** under the direction of **Lt James Lee** all signed up to do the relay. **Sgt Gerri-Anne Davidson**, a seasoned ultra-veteran also from B Sqn signed up for the 125 km solo. Competing alongside them, Recce Sqn had **Tpr Liam Kroeker**, **Tpr Reagan Henderson**, **Cpl Jackson Steinke**, and **Cpl Lukas Mackenzie** under the direction of **Cpl Jordan Schemenauer** while **Cpl Trevor Kelly** and **Cpl Stone** signed up as soloists.

The course is made up of five legs which vary in distance from 19 Km to 37 Km. The race kicked off on 3 August with all relays and solos starting out at 0800h and **Tpr Tristan Feldmann**, and **Cpl Jackson Steinke** doing leg 1. After establishing a lead over Recce, **Tpr Ernest Rice** kept this up despite having major leg cramps in leg 2. Kicking off Leg 3 **Tpr Miguel Blanco** and **Tpr Reagan Henderson** found themselves on a goat path scaling an almost vertical cliffside. **Cpl Jordan Schemenauer** and **Lt James Lee** decided to do the Hammel assault, a grueling 37km stretch starting at the base of a 6000ft climb to the top of Mount Hammel. Arriving at the top of the mountain left the two with some breathtaking views minutes before sunset. The final leg required a few lights as the participants **Tpr Daniel Kentfield** and **Cpl Lukas Mackenzie** started running just before midnight, finishing the race at around 0300. During this leg they had to earn passage by giving the boat keeper "Charon", the death race coin before being allowed to continue the race.

Once the race was finished and the participants from both teams crossed the finish line the only thing on their minds was to see who came in first and who was the faster team overall. While the B Sqn team finished 48th overall this was considered a resounding victory as their counterparts in Recce finished 53rd of 116 teams.





## Ex MOUNTAIN MAN

*Trooper Ernest Rice*

On a cold September morning, the 245 competitors Of Ex MOUNTAIN MAN 2019 mentally prepared themselves to start 1 Canadian Mechanized Brigade Group's premier physical competition. The event kicked off at 0530h in Rundle Park, so most competitors had a 0400h alarm set except for **Cpl Mark Cyr** who apparently preferred the comfort of his own bed and was nowhere to be found.

Starting out in the dark, most competitors couldn't see much more than a few metres in front of them due to the volume of competitors. By the time we witnessed the sunrise, the racers were spread out over kilometers making running a bit easier. Passing the 20km mark, most competitors were visibly showing their fatigue and this increased as they reached the portage start.

Arriving at the portage the Brigade had setup a nice refreshment stand just before the competitors received their canoes. Many participants had only seconds to grab something before the general duty staff yelled that their canoe was ready. Starting the portage is often the hardest part of the race and this was evident again this year as some competitors were already taking a break after 100 metres of the 3km route. As competitors push through the end of the portage it comes as a welcome relief to get the canoe off them as they start the 11km canoe portion.

The canoe section always seems to drag on, with many first time competitors always thinking the end is just around the bend, but this is rarely the case. Starting the 3rd leg is often a hard point for competitors as you get out of the canoe and immediately get your ruck thrown on your back before stepping off on the last 5km run of the race back to the start point. As competitors come to the end they thankfully get their ruck taken off and get some food as they wait for teammates.

This year the Regiment's competitive 8 person team finished in under an impressive 6hrs and 30 minutes (average). This meant we scored high enough that LdSH(RC) finished 3rd in the Major Units which hadn't been done since 2015. Next year, the Regiment hopes to build upon this year's success and get more personnel competing. We look forward to seeing the same faces back next year plus new faces who wish to challenge themselves mentally and physically. Shout out to **Tpr Charles Jones** who finished last out of the Regiment, but kept pushing for the whole 9 hours and 57 minutes it took him to complete the race. **Perseverance** at its best.





## Canadian Army Run

*Captain Tim McHugh*

Due to being the only person not on exercise and not on MELs, the Regimental Adjutant was the sacrificial lamb laid at the altar of a half-marathon. I was not chosen due to my incredible running ability, which doesn't exist, but due to scheduling issues that seem to arise every year, fall exercise coinciding with the Canadian Army Run. Once my sacrifice was affirmed I took to rigorous training plan to ensure I would be prepared for the trials ahead.

I worked long hours on my administration, as I felt the misery of the daily trudge would allow me to build enough resilience to withstand the horrors of a half-marathon. I purposefully avoided running as I felt that would be such a small aspect of the event that it would take care of itself, my mental fortitude and ability to deal with mundane and repetitive tasks was the sole focus of my training regime.

The day of the race arrived and I could not have been more pleased with my choices leading up to that fateful morning. The long hours spent in traffic during my commute and the ages studying the minutiae involved in even the most basic administration had me well prepared. As I toiled along the varied and



beautiful landscapes that presented themselves to me slowly throughout the race, I reminded myself how this moment was still better than the alternatives. Even as the hours and other competitors passed me by, I was buoyed by my lack of a computer, as the pain grew greater so did my joy due to the freedom felt by being unbound from my desk.

After the event I was immediately brought back down to earth as my limbs grew weak and my heart heavy, for this was the last fleeting moment of freedom. I enjoyed a beverage, a Borjomi, a meal, and prepared myself for the greatest challenge yet.....getting out of bed the next day.





# Key Events





## Colonel of the Regiment Change of Appointment

*Major Sandy Cooper*

**Colonel (retired) Greg Hug** handed the reins over to **Brigadier-General (retired) Craig Hilton** at a ceremony in Ottawa on March 13, 2019. These two men have served as mentors to countless generations of Strathcona soldiers and officers alike, and we continue to learn from their wisdom.

In the Canadian Army, this position is reserved for retired officers who have achieved great things both during and after their service. Colonels of the Regiment are the guardians of their unit traditions, the keepers of the secrets, and the exemplars of what leadership means.

Greg was, and continues to be, all these things. Shortly after his appointment, while on holiday in the Caribbean, he suffered a terrible accident on the water, rendering him quadriplegic. Through this tragedy, and with the support of his amazing wife Maria, he persevered as our leader, providing us the guidance we needed to continue to serve Canadians.

It would have been understandable if Colonel Greg stepped down. Indeed, perhaps that was what was expected. But he didn't let a little thing like a life changing injury slow him down. No. He kept going, and shepherded the regiment through many seminal events, including the *100th anniversary of the Battle of Moreuil Wood*.

If ever there was an officer who has personified our unit's motto, it is Greg. What an honour for us to share a military family heritage with him.





## Ex STEELE MELFA

*Corporal Dylan Friel*

On a foggy May morning in the small town of Cassino, Italy, 11 members of LdSH(RC) set out on the windy roads of the Liri Valley to various battle sights and monuments commemorating the 75th anniversary of the Italian Campaign. The day was filled with many stops; some of them for Professional Development (PD), others were ceremonies held in small towns. The ceremonies were put together by townsfolk honouring not only the Strathconas that fought in WWII during the Italian campaign, but all Canadians that fought and died during the campaign to liberate Italy.

Our first stop was Monte Cassino, a massive monastery on top of a mountain overlooking the town of Cassino and a huge portion of the Liri Valley. Half way up the mountain we stopped at a lookout point which had a great view of the valley (minus the fog). It was here **Maj Jack Nguyen** and **MWO Ken Shiells** gave us “the lay of the land” and pointed out exactly how the Germans had setup positions overlooking the Valley. We got a very good indication of what the Allies had to go through to fight their way through the valley and how difficult it must have been to fight their way to victory. After an informative PD session, we carried on up the mountain to the monastery.

Later that day we set out to attend ceremonies at two small towns that Canadians had liberated, Pontecorvo and Roccasecca, and of course there was some PD along the way. On the windy roads in the farm lands, we found a



place to pull over to get a feel for what the ground was like during that time (especially for tanks). The ceremonies in the small towns were held almost like a parade. We formed up, as we would as Strathconas, and listened to leaders from the town as they thanked Canadians for what they had done for their people during the Italian Campaign. The amount of appreciation and gratitude that the townsfolk had for us was incredible to see. Each town had dedicated plaques to Canadians that fought in the war.

The next day we set out to the Melfa River crossing where the ancestors of our Regiment had crossed. We went within 100m of the exact spot the Strathconas had crossed the river 75 years ago to that very day. Stepping down to the river bed was a surreal experience for current serving Strathconas as we got to “walk the path” that our predecessors had battled through 75 years ago.



## Calgary Stampede & Spruce Meadows

*Captain Joshua Horlings, Master Corporal Andy Elms & Trooper Steed Rice*

This year, once again, the Regiment made its way down to Calgary with 107 soldiers for the Calgary Stampede Parade and Spruce Meadows. While the more experienced contingent members prepared their minds and bodies, not only for the Parades but for the upcoming nights, those participating for the first time seemed to buzz with excitement as they made plans on the ride down.

As per tradition, on Friday morning the troops did not show the same energy levels as they had the day before. The Calgary climate, it seems, takes a toll on even the most stalwart trooper; it must have something to do with the altitude. But after some coffee and electrolytes, they were ready to march the streets of Calgary.

Unlike past years, the Strathconas were placed in the middle of the parade rather than at the end. Fortunately, this gave the soldiers the opportunity to see a good portion of the parade as they waited and ensured that the crowd was reinvigorated by the most exciting of all entries—the Leopard 2 Main Battle Tank.

Commanded by **WO James “Don’t interview me” Hamilton** and with **Cpl Brad “Sunday-to-Sunday” Logan** as the Loader, the Leopard 2 managed to drown out even the most excited fans as it performed for the eager crowd. Not to be outdone, the ARV crew set to work performing doughnuts as often as possible. In behind the Leopard 2, the TAPV, LAV 6 and even an intrepid G-Wagon attempted (with varying levels of success) to soak in the glory of the finest machine in the Canadian Army.

After having participated in the Calgary Stampede Parade the day before, the Strathcona contingent conducted our first event at Spruce Meadows on 6 July. The ceremonies kicked off with a small honour guard by Guard Division 2 for the Commander of 3rd Canadian Division **Brigadier-General Stephen Lacroix**. Despite the guard commander nearly being run over by Mounted Troop, the inspection went well and Guard Division 2 headed back to our changing location for some lunch. Next up was the main performance with the whole guard contingent of 107 Strathconas on parade. Under the control of OC B **Maj Mike Timms** the display went off without a hitch, with a royal salute to the Honourable Lieutenant Governor Lois E. Mitchell and a Feu De Joi “aka everyone firing off a blank round in order” occurring.

Sunday had the same routine as the previous day, minus the initial honour guard. We marched out and paraded in front of the Commander, 3rd Canadian Division and performed our same drills to a similarly high standard. Despite someone deciding that “*rifle magazines were over rated*” everything went well and no other mistakes were made. Once again the sun came out and luckily it wasn’t too sunny or raining. After the parade we handed in our weapons and belts with attached bayonets and boarded the buses to head on back to CFB Edmonton for some well-earned rest.





# Exercise Worthington Challenge

*Corporal Michael Salvador*

Exercise Worthington Challenge (Ex WC) is an international skills competition run by the Royal Canadian Armored Corps School (RCACS) with participants consisting of numerous NATO allies, Canadian reservists, and Regular Force members. The 3rd Canadian Division Team was led by Lord Strathcona's Horse (Royal Canadians) and consisted of crews from A Squadron (Sqn), B Sqn, Recce Sqn, South Alberta Light Horse, and 2nd Battalion, Princess Patricia's Canadian Light Infantry.

Training began 4 weeks prior to the competition where the team honed in their proficiency in All Arms Call for Fire (AACFF), shooting on the move, combat first aid, vehicle recognition, and physical fitness. The majority of training occurred at 3 CDSB Edmonton and culminated with live ranges at 3 CDSB det Wainwright.

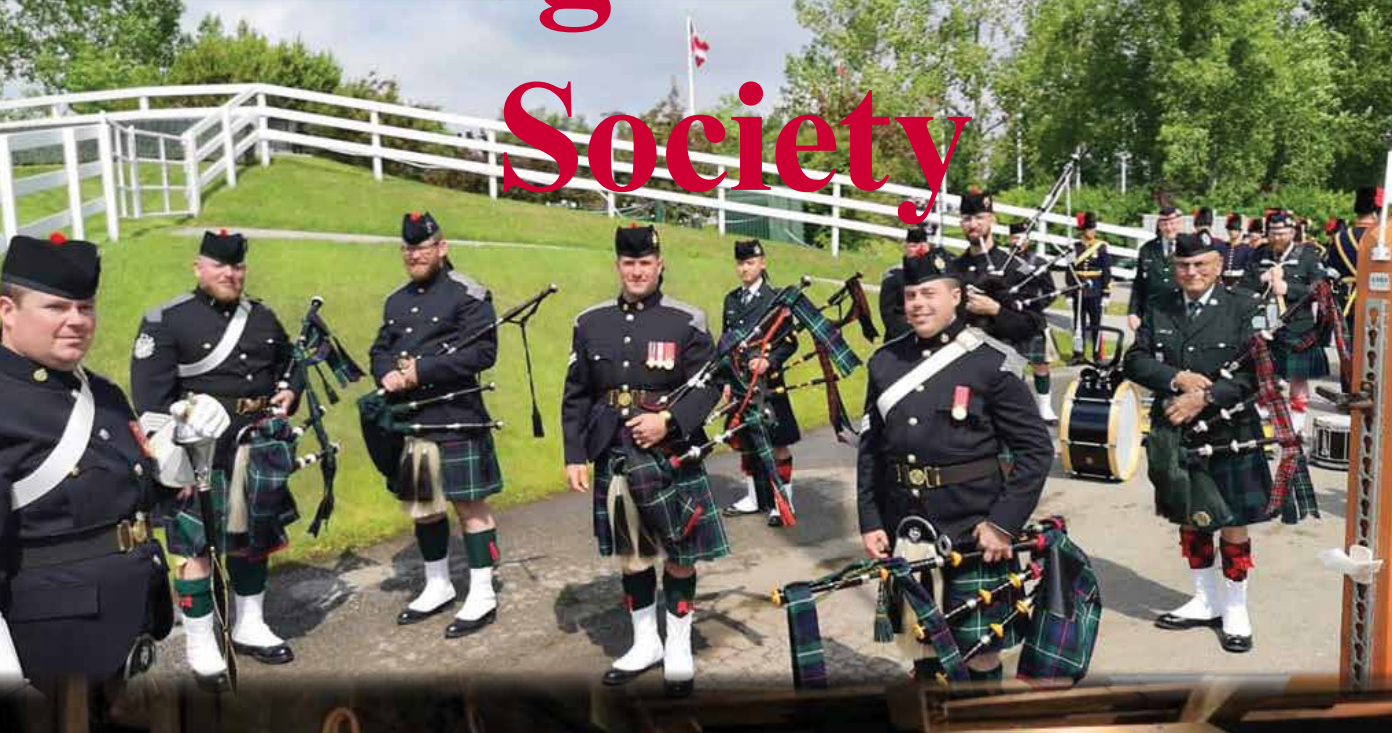
During the competition, the team competed in precision live fire, precision driving, casualty evacuation/triage, AACFF, dismounted and mounted navigation, and a 13km ruck culminating with a small arms range. The lead up training that the *Army of the West* received was both complex and challenging resulting in the 3rd Cdn Div tank crews shattering a RCACS record for the most targets hit, in the fastest time despite the worst weather conditions seen during Ex WC, Perseverance. The Recce crews crushed the mounted navigation and dismounted challenge consisting of a simulated gas exposure, maneuver traces, and a memory game. Our team finished with a time of just over an hour, compared to the average team finishing around the 2 hour mark. It goes to show how the *Recce Ravens* lead the way. A round of applause goes to the RCACS who developed an amazing triage stand. During the challenge, the team had to remove 12 casualties from a Leopard 2, a LAV6, and a Coyote. The added smoke, sound effects and actors created a realistic experience that challenged competitors. During the march and shoot, morale was kept high the entire time with the troops cracking jokes to each other and always going back to "it's still better than being in Wainwright!" After the ruck portion, 2 members were randomly selected for a small arms shoot consisting of hitting targets with a C7 and Shotgun.

After the competition was said and done all the teams gathered for the closing ceremonies. Beers were had, patches were exchanged, and excellence was achieved. The 3rd Cdn Div team finished with a final score of 3rd place.





# Regimental Society



## Strathcona Community Relations

*Corporal Shane Eidt*

Lord Strathcona's Horse (Royal Canadians) is generally one of the busier units in the Canadian Army when it comes to Community Relations (COMREL), and 2019 was another very eventful and rewarding year. Key events this year included the Calgary Stampede, Spruce Meadows and No Stone Left Alone. Other events this year included Melfa River 75, Family Day, and The Kids Christmas Party. Although they can happen at any time and for any reason, sometimes it is as simple as a Trooper shaking an individual's hand and speaking a few words with them, COMREL activities really come to the forefront during the summer season.

The crown jewel of our Regimental COMREL activities is always the Calgary Stampede and Spruce Meadows. The 100 Man Guard, and of course the presence of the tanks, is always a huge hit with members of many of the surrounding communities. These events are not just important to the public, but are also important to the soldiers who are at these event, as it allows them to interact with the public and show their appreciation for the support, we as Stathconas, receive from the communities across Alberta and beyond.

One of our more unique events this year was the celebration of the 75th anniversary of the Battle of Melfa River. The Regimental commemoration ceremonies included dedications in the towns of Pontecorvo and Roccasecca, in the province of Frosinone. These towns were both liberated with support from 2nd Canadian Armoured Regiment (of which the Strathconas were a part) and the Westminster Regiment (Motorized). In Roccasecca, a belvedere was dedicated in honour of **Major Jack Mahoney, V.C.** The Regimental delegation spent time exploring the crossing site at Melfa River, following Perky Perkin's approach down into the riverbed and up over to the small farmhouse where he captured eight German soldiers. They visited fallen brothers-in-arms at the Cassino War Cemetery, and honoured their foes buried at the German Military Cemetery in Cassino. The delegation visited the Torrice Crossroads, and retraced the steps of a major battle that took the lives of nine Strathconas and earned the Regiment one of its Battle Honours.

Alberta, Western Canada, and many communities across the world have happily embraced the Strathconas as a part of their communities. When travelling through Alberta it's not hard to notice the name "Stathconas" on a sign or side of a building. It's a name, and history that these communities have embraced and all Strathconas are proud to display it on their cap badge each and every day.



# Ceremonial Mounted Troop

*Captain Erik Giajnorio*

The 2019 season officially started in October 2018, when CMT welcomed the addition of five new riders to the Troop. Through hard work and dedication, **Tpr Andrew “this is my t-shirt” Reiter**, **Cpl Daniel Choquette**, **Cpl David Lees**, **Cpl Gabriel Gendron**, and **Cpl Alex Mortin** were welcomed into the fold.

The season began with a ride for the students of the Corpus Christi School in Calgary, and was followed by the yearly opening of the Spruce Meadows Summer Series. **Ride Master Paul Kruhlak** brought a few lucky soldiers to Cranbrook, BC while the remainder of the troop stayed in Calgary during the Continental and Pan-American Tournaments. In Cranbrook, BC the five man team went back to our cavalry roots during Sir Sam Steele Days. The riders took part in various events at the Fort, showing off their cavalry skills to the citizens of the Kootenay Region.



As the calendar turned to July, the Troop wrapped up its Summer Series duties at Spruce Meadow and transitioned to the Calgary Stampede. Due to record breaking rain in Calgary, the Troop was unable to free our 20 horse trailer from the mud. In true Army fashion, we improvised and persevered, sending four riders to lead the 2019 Calgary Stampede Parade. This was followed with two shows at the Stampede, including a full house at the Grandstand. Following the Stampede, the Troop had a few weeks off, then headed north for the Lac La Biche Pow Wow. This was followed by a trip to Swift Current, SK, much to the pleasure of the hometown boys **Cpl Daniel Choquette** and **Cpl Justin Hodgins**. September once again brought the Masters Tournament at Spruce Meadows, and a visit to Prince Charles School. The season officially ended during Grey Cup Week, as the Troop escorted the cup to the City of Calgary.







## Family Support Troop

*Corporal Ryan Blacklock*

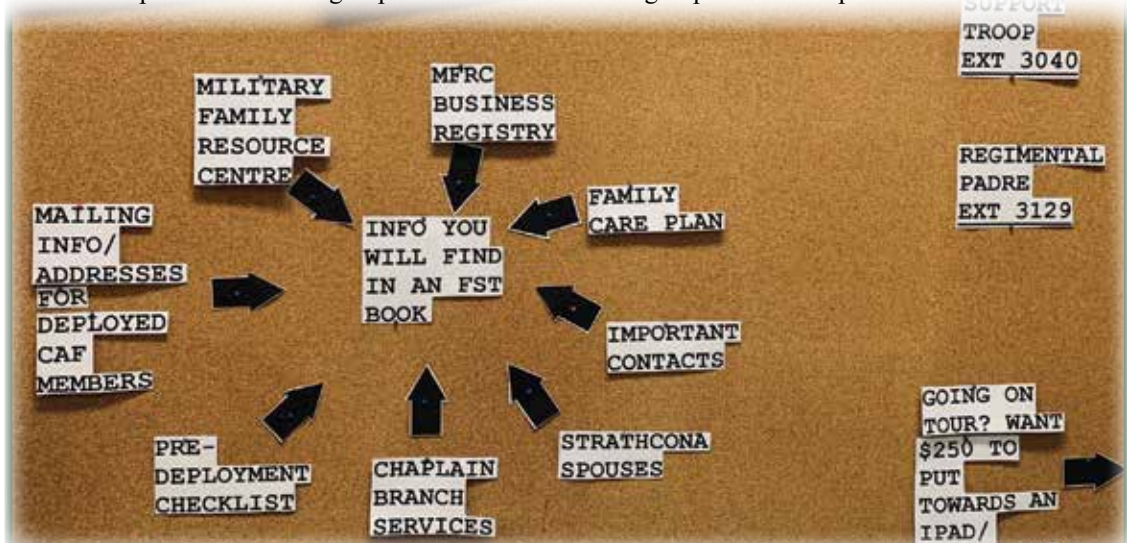


In 2019, transformative changes were made to the Regimental Family Support Troop (FST). **Sgt Ryan Torney** and **Cpl Justin Wood** were brought into the ranks of FST where their support proved to be very beneficial for the members and their families. Working closely with the base Military Family Resource Center (MFRC) was instrumental in the development and improvement of policies centered on helping military families. A new FST handbook was made readily available to every family. It provides vital information on pre-deployment checklists, important contact numbers, and family care plans to name a few examples.

This year, improved communication with military families was a central goal. With Regimental members deploying to Op REASSURANCE, Op UNIFIER, and Op IMPACT, this was the opportune moment to achieve this. Monthly phone calls were made to families of deployed members, allowing passage of information ranging from reasons for delayed communications with loved ones, to the Support Our Troops Funding Announcement. Interaction with families was met with enthusiasm and support, helping solidify the statement that we are the link between Regiment and Family.

The New Year brings with it a Regiment wide deployment on Op REASSURANCE. This is not an easy time for soldiers; long periods of time away from home and family can lead, among other things, to increased levels of stress. FST hopes to help relieve this stress by providing whatever appropriate assistance your families require. We are optimistic about what the future holds, and we are ready to face any difficulties that your loved ones may encounter. Although improvements to FST have been made in the past year, we will work to further strengthen the policies and procedures currently in place, with the goal that your families will be better served.

As always we are available to help at 780-973-4011 extension 3040. You are also invited to join the Strathcona Spouses Facebook group at [www.facebook.com/groups/LdSHRCSpouses](https://www.facebook.com/groups/LdSHRCSpouses).



## Historical Vehicle Troop

*Corporal Billy Clendennin*

It has been another great year in the Historical Vehicle Troop (HVT). To re-cap, in 2019 we participated at Spruce Meadows, The Veterans' Motorcycle Show, Shine and Spin hosted by Canadian Pacific Rail for the Homes for Heroes all featuring **Catherine** our Sherman. A new partnership has put us in contact with a local company that may be able to help us out with Sherman track replacement. We have also grown our numbers in the Troop from last year's 10 to 17 of all ranks this year.

Looking ahead at 2020 as some of our troop member are getting ready for their overseas tasking, the rest of the team is ready to support them and push forward with the Troop's projects. Some notable projects include the engine rebuild for the **Alberta** Centurion tank being led by **Cpl Beck** and a full rebuild of the Ferret Scout Car for the guidon party led by **Cpl Smith**. An additional Ferret scout car is still planned to be painted UN Peacekeeping colors to honor that part of LdSH(RC) history.

With **Cpl Sullivan** leading the charge on the 1942 WLC Harley Davidson Motorcycle project, it will be looking beautiful in no time, back out in the front foyer of the Regiment. With a little luck, love and hard work from this team, we can have **Catherine** the Sherman ready to show our Regiments pride and its great history to the Canadian public. With support from the Regiment, our Society, and of course our soldiers, HVT will be building long lasting partnerships, and strong friendships within the community.





## Pipes and Drums

*Corporal Adam Davies*

The 2019 playing season for the Regimental Pipes and Drums was a great success. Many inter-departmental and Regimental relationships were cultivated and solidified throughout the parade season.

The Regimental band, under **Cpl Adam Davies** (Pipe Major) attended the Spruce Meadows annual military appreciation weekend and Calgary Stampede. In the spirit of Regimental cohesion, the band was joined by members of the Calgary Highlanders Pipes and Drums. This welcome addition of playing members resulted in the perfect construct of sound deserving of the troops within the contingent.

Following the close of the parades, the outgoing Drum Major, **WO Kyle Chuback**, along with the Pipe Sergeant, **Cpl Sean Coughlan**, presented the members of the Calgary Highlanders with several bottles of liquid courage along with a Regimental Flag of the LdSH(RC) for their band room.

In keeping the spirit of tradition alive, a historical relationship between the Regiment and the NWMP/ RCMP was nurtured. With a unique opportunity presented, the Pipe Major **Cpl Adam Davies**, attended the RCMP/CAF Drum Major Course at RCMP Depot in Regina, Saskatchewan. For the course, RCMP Depot welcomed candidates from several other agencies like; RCMP, Corrections Canada, Edmonton Fire Services, Halton Police, Vancouver Police, and 49th Field Artillery Regiment. Throughout the duration of the course, candidates paraded a total of 117 kms on the parade square while in highland dress. **Cpl Adam Davies** completed the course as top candidate.

The band has welcomed **WO Matt Williams** as the new Drum Major and is embracing a new era. The band also welcomed back some other familiar faces: **Sgt Izaak Koolman** and **Sgt Cameron Davidson** upon their return from extra-regimental postings. The band is continuing to grow and is constantly seeking interest from within the ranks of the Regiment to continue to build a lasting tradition.





## The Regimental Museum

*Captain Phil Webster*

Another year in Calgary, another morning spent trying to come up with a clever and witty theme for my Strathconian article befitting the brilliant, handsome, and modest staff which run the Strathcona Museum full time. Yes, since you ask, I lifted that introduction from two years ago, however if it isn't broken, don't fix it. Regardless of my clever method of getting an additional fifty four words into my mandated five hundred, we have had a busy year, so I suspect I should talk about that.

Using my fair to average leadership skills, I was able to convince our Curator Emeritus, **Warrant Officer (Retired) Ted “Seriously, this year don't mention me” MacLeod** to put his considerable miniature and modeling skills to work for the 75th anniversary of Melfa River. Sadly, we're not talking in an Instagram or fashion show sense, but rather working on several displays which detailed the Battle itself, and many of the heroic deeds that went down that day in May 1944. Along with our resident volunteer extraordinaire, **Grant “Mr. Peabody” Dyck**, WO (Ret'd) MacLeod painted, modelled, soldered, and hammered together our battle and displayed it for all to see at the Museum. This, along with the medals and artefacts in the Lt. Col Paddy Griffin Collection, on loan from the Griffin family, were the centrepieces of a month long D-Day Dodgers display which we held in May-June of this past year. Our Museum was (of course) noted as having one of the best overall displays, and the event was critically acclaimed.

This year saw our efforts to upgrade the Museum extend to a new lighting project (no blindness injuries occurred this time) as well as a sports related display (the pride of Sgt Giberson.) We participated in many outreach activities with the City of Calgary, The Calgary Stampede and Spruce Meadows, making our presence known quite regularly across the summer. We had the opportunity to engage in our own detective story, one that will go down in history as **“Sergeant Giberson and the Haunted Urn.”** (Please note: the urn was not actually haunted, sadly.) Next time you see him, ask him all about it. The Museum remains in good hands, moving into the twenty twenties, with an overhaul and redesign on the horizon. With any luck, next time I write one of these, it'll be with a completely new and modern gallery.

Addendum: The awards for this year in the LdSH(RC) Museum are many and varied, however in order to save space, I'll just mention a few. **Captain Webster** was awarded the vaulted title of “World's Okayest Boss,” weeping openly when presented with the trophy. **Captain Laurel “Frazzled” Frizzell** was noteworthy for her complete absence on something called “maternity leave” though we were assured that this had been cleared by the proper channels. **Sergeant Giberson** spent a total of sixteen non-consecutive days lost in the bowels of the museum during his frequent Museum Orientation lectures. Nevertheless he did manage to come in eighth overall (of six entrants) just nudging out the PPCLI Museum in the 1st Annual Flat Earth Pageant and Spherical Talent Show.



Extra

Regimentally

Employed

## Strathconas in Gagetown SITREP from the Home of the Army

*Captain Ali Raju*

A wise man once said that if you are not fighting than you must be training. That's why Strathconas far East of Steele Barracks are training future armour officers and soldiers on various platforms and tactics. Last summer **LCol Vince Kirstein** left the Royal Canadian Armoured Corps School (RCACS) to be the deputy commander of Latvian brigade, however, he left behind many Strathconas to shape armour training within this fine institution. What follows below is a quick SITREP from the squadrons.

Within Regimental Headquarter, Regimental Sergeant Major (RSM) **CWO Leigh Taylor** is shaping the future of all corps armour soldiers while providing the Commandant with expert advice. **WO Martin Levis** is resourcing and deconflicting school activities as the schools only Operations Warrant Officer with the assistance of **Sgt Stephen Thomas**, who is a one man army juggling multiple responsibilities with extreme professionalism while working with Range Control and local area units to ensure smooth sailing within the Ranges and Training Area.

A Sqn, "Canada's only Tank Training Squadron" as claimed by **Maj Tyler Collings**, is shaping all tracked vehicle training when their Officer Commanding is not too occupied with his yacht and newborn son. **Capt Erica Young** is helping train future tank crew commanders and troop leaders when she is not too busy travelling the world while **WO Joseph Gushue** is running the day to day operations and ensuring that the training received by the students is second to none.

B Sqn is in capable hand of **Maj Cam Meikle** who has a keen interest to shape officer training along with reminding people how to use battle procedure and to provide clear direction. Last year's SITREP provider **Capt Joe Aguis** was stolen by B Sqn upon completion of time as AO HQ to go back to teach our next group of armour troop leaders in the field. Although B Sqn is filled heavily with 12e Régiment Blindé du Canada and the Royal Canadian Dragoons, **Sgt Richard Ford's** recent arrival to the Sqn has brought some more Strathcona flair along with some much required Unmanned Aerial Vehicle expertise.

Standards Sqn is highly augmented with the presence of three Strathcona **WOs**, **Daniel Charette**, **Jeffrey Gibson** and **Neil Miller**, along with **Sgt Sean Collins**. Needless to say, all four characters are ensuring the school maintains high training standards in gunnery and tactics all while not busy sharing war stories and extracurricular activities. On the other hand, **Capt Mark MacInnis** has made it onto





the Army Operations Course and is simultaneously running the gunnery cell and planning his next bound. **Capt Dave Jung** is guiding the corps on all technical matters and travelling the world to better advise on future development. Those who know **Chris Kitching**, a former RCACS RSM and Strathcona Chief Warrant Officer/Captain, he is currently employed with Calian and is helping format TTPs and doctrine manuals all while providing expert and calculated guidance to Second in Command of Standards Sqn.

Headquarter (HQ) Sqn is where **Capt Evan Wiome** runs the transport cell when not busy talking your ear off about football, his twins, or being double-tapped as the Battle Captain for DP4 Squadron Sergeants Major's Course course. **WO Mike "George" Gratto** is helping out the Quarter Master and diverting all requests to the correct authorities, practically making the Squadron Quartermaster Sergeant Job seem like a walk in the park. **Capt Alex Neshcov**, newly posted to the School last summer, arrived with tremendous regimental experience and is superbly managing Worthy Troop which currently contains around 300 untrained Noncommissioned Members...basically the same size as the rest of the school combined.

I would be remiss if I didn't mention all the other Strathconas leaving their mark in the day to day operations of the base and Combat Training Centre (CTC). **Maj Jamie Hunter** is keeping the Base HQ alive and functional, **Maj Clyde Penney** is taking care of the transition of our wounded service personnel, and **Capt Darrin Walters** is ensuring CTC HQ and other Base units are on right track with information management.

Last but not least, the School's most important assets are its many fine Strathcona Troopers, Corporals, and Master Corporals without whom the school would cease to exist and vehicles not run. Also, many other prominent Strathconas may not have been mentioned in this general SITREP due to their outstanding camouflage and ability to stay out of sight of the author.

SITREP Ends!







## Strathconas in Ottawa Life, Love and Parking in the NCR

*Major Jeff Brown*

Another year rolls on and the Strathcona's in our nations National Capital Region, more colloquially known as Ottawa or The Town, continue to do our very best to add a bit of class to what would otherwise be a scene right out of Office Space. Did you get the memo? M'ya I'm going to have to go ahead and ask you to come in on Sunday too... The view from our cubicles may not be grand but while the horizon may not be inspiring, the work we do is the gummy stuff that keeps the CAF moving forwards each day. Many of us have managed our move from various nooks and crannies all over the NCR to the new Carling Campus and are adapting to workplace 2.0, which is a lot like workplace 1.0 just with smaller cubicles and shorter walls, but hey, there is a Starbucks in the building!

As DComd CA **MGen Derek Macaulay** has the daunting task of riding herd on an unruly band of Strathconas in CA HQ. **LCol Dave Macintyre** returned to familiar surroundings this year ending up in Director Land Requirements (again) but since he was appointed as PMC of the CA Officers' Mess he has certainly spent more time by the bar than at his desk. Not to be outdone, **LCol Mike Mallette** leads his merry band of frequent fliers and globetrotters in the Directorate of Army Staff International Program.

Elsewhere in the staff trenches, **Maj Sandy Cooper** is the G33 of the Army – proving once again that you don't need to be a LCol to do a LCol's work. The CA HQ team will bid fond farewell to **LCol Brian Corbett** this year, who is hanging up his spurs and riding off to greener pastures on civvie street. Just down the hall, **Maj Darryn Gray** and **Capt Dave Wright** are generally improving the quality of conversation in Chief of Force Development. **Maj Gray** has supported the development of the Future Operating Environment 2040 as written with our closest allies and is now working in Capability Based Planning to close the gaps between then and now. As **Maj Gray** says, "Employment in CFD is not something that you ever train for, but by putting on a joint lens, with focussed attention to the future we can forge a way forward for the CAF with future capability requirements and assist in procurement oversight." Big brains only need apply... Technically **Maj Tom Lacroix** is also part of the CA HQ team, although he's away at University of Ottawa toiling through Master's studies; he has the dubious distinction of being the only person in the army on TD away from Wainwright!

Over in CJOC, **Maj Dave Cronk** and **Maj Warren Deatcher** wave the Strathcona banner, Dave as the EA to the DComd, MGen Seymour, and Warren as the J5 CRBN SME. **Maj Deatcher** continues to wage war against the forces of biological and chemical contamination one briefing note at a time, while **Maj**





**Cronk** works hard to ensure the DComd is on time and on target, I mean subject. At least they get to wear CADPAT unlike some of us other (fill in your word for staff officer here).

The new and improved Strategic Joint Staff, commanded by none other than **MGen Trevor Cadieu** as the Director of Staff, is home to both **Majs Jeff Brown** and **Sheldon Holmes**. **Maj Holmes** and the team in the Directorate of Strategic Targeting and Effects has the responsibility for developing the CAF Joint Targeting Process. His involvement in information operations and non-munition based effects involves such exciting things as Strategic Communication, Information Operations, the use of information related capabilities such as Key Leader Engagements,

PSYOPS, Presence Posture Profile, and Cyber, to name a few. For his part, **MGen Cadieu** has imbued the SJS with his trademark energy and personal concern, and can often be found patrolling our cubicle farms hunting for that elusive piece of information upon which the CDS makes decisions.

**LCol Chris Adams** sends all his best from second language training across the mighty Ottawa River at the Asticou Complex in Gatineau, where, the paragon of linguistic virtue he is, he is valiantly mastering the varied complexities of French. Elsewhere, **Maj Alex Nitu** and **Capt Mike Labreque** have been

Finally, **Sgt Curtis Romkey** has been doing yeoman's work at the CAF Transition Group Headquarters. He has been developing the Soldier On program for the past few years with the Grants cell to provide sports equipment with the Grants cell's to help in the recovery of ill/injured members, as well as in operations and helping to organize various camps and events across the country. Recently appointed Canada's assistant team manager for Invictus Games 2020 in The Hague, **Sgt Romkey** deserves a hearty well done!

That's all for now from the team here in sunny Ottawa!





## Strathconas in Kingston

### *Captain Moses Pano*

Despite Kinston's leisurely appeal, those who work here are anything but, busily personifying the Regimental Motto "Perseverance" on many fronts.

As professional development is one of the main cornerstones in the CAF, it seems only right to lead with **Maj Tanya Grodzinski**. Ph.D, Associate Professor, at Department of History, RMC. She impresses upon students of all ages the value of learning lessons from history with **CWO Robert Clarke** in academic pursuit.

Meanwhile at the CACSC both **Maj John Rickard** and **Maj Clayton Fifield** are instrumental in the professional development of the next generation of senior officers. On the other side of the base, **Maj Mike "I love Ragnar Races" Dullege** is employed as the Ops and Plans O for the Canadian Army Simulation Centre as part of CADTC, providing the very best in simulation support for highlight events such as Ex UNIFIED RESOLVE. In his "spare" time he looks for ways to leverage moral and welfare opportunities for soldiers in grueling feats of physical endurance. Also at CADTC, **Maj David "The Skip" Williams** is busy within the 3 shop enabling army collective and individual training needs and will be shortly deployed to the sunny sands of South Sudan as a UN observer on OP SOPRANO. However it is not all work as he led an ad hoc team to victory at the 2018 Armour Corps Curling Bonspiel, alongside yours truly, **Capt Moses "It was a Cinderella Story" Pano**, **Sgt Adrian "but I have never curled before" Droogers** and retired **Lt (ret'd) Robert "We have a chance!?" Hicks**, beating out notable Armour Corps personalities.

Within the collective training world, **LCol Shane "plan early, plan many times" Gifford**, the Chief Formation of Training for CMTC Det Kingston, tirelessly defines, designs, and delivers High Readiness Training at the Brigade Headquarters Level and acts as the Centre of Excellence for Formation Level development in the CAF.

At the Peace Support Training Centre, **Sgt Droogers** is a Psychological Operations instructor teaching information related capabilities at the tactical level.

At 1 Division HQ, **Sgt Matthew "just finishing off ISIS" Burke** and **Maj Islam Elkorazati** are both extending CAF influence in the Far East, protecting the fragile blanket of freedom.

Finally none of this would materialize if it wasn't for the tireless administrative support of Base Kingston HQ, where both myself, as the Operations Officer and **LCol Paul Pickell**, Deputy Base Commander, enable lodger units operational needs.





# Strathconas in Wainwright

*Major Charles Prince*

Each year, many soldiers from Lord Strathcona's Horse (Royal Canadians) become familiarized with the wilds of the Wainwright training area. Despite their devotion to the land of milk and honey that is Edmonton, a few wayward souls find themselves picked up by the tornado that is the Army Posting Season and are deposited into the hinterlands of Wainwright once again. These "*happy few*" are posted to CFB Wainwright to be part of base operations or to further Canadian Armed Forces (CAF) institutional requirements by acting as essential cogs within the machines of individual or collective training.

This year, Strathconas within 3 Canadian Support Base Edmonton (3 CDSB) Detachment Wainwright saw **Sgt Michael McGarity** begin a new chapter. After serving 28 years within the Canadian Armed Forces, **Sgt McGarity** had his Departure with Dignity at the Wainwright Warrants and Sergeants Mess on the 7th of November 2019. He was extended best wishes for success on the other side of the road as he continues to work in support of base operations as a civilian, living the aphorism of "same stuff, different pile". He is survived at 3 CDSB by **Cpls Booth** and **Smith**. This passing of the torch was witnessed by a delegation from the home Unit to include **Sgts Gordon Carnevale** and **Maxime Gironne**.

Over at 3 Canadian Division Training Centre (3 CDTC), there are currently nine Strathcona's on permanent staff within A Company, currently led by **Maj Lenny Dunn**. Employed as staff on different serials of the CAF Primary Leadership Qualification (PLQ) and Army Junior Leadership Course (AJLC), these masterminds are forcefully shaping the young minds of the next crop of leaders for the CAF. Clearly, these Strathcona's are the go-to subject matter experts for this infantry focused courseware. They are known for the fine stage 6 trenches, coffee stations included, dug along the Battle River on each of the major field exercises. In addition to the folks in A Company, the unit is kept afloat by the frantic water treading of the Unit Operations Officer, **Capt Nathan Bugg**. These armoured soldiers stalk the hallways of 3 CDTC, showcasing the corps to an infantry-centric audience.

At other points on the Wainwright base and throughout the training area, the Canadian Manoeuvre Training Centre oversees the high readiness crucible of collective training validation for the brigades of the Canadian Army. Strathconas find themselves ensconced within the Headquarters and Operations Group, the Observer Controller Trainer (OCT) group, Administration Company and the Contemporary Operating Environment Force (COEFOR). In addition to reliving repeated iterations of Ex UNIFIED RESOLVE, Ex MAPLE RESOLVE and the Integrated Capstone Exercise (ICE) in Latvia, Strathcona OCTs and COEFOR soldiers were whisked away to support training events in Australia, Labrador, California and the National Capital Region. On the rare occasion where all soldiers were back in Wainwright, CMTC fanned the flames of personal fitness, holding an obstacle challenge in October 2019.

Though soldiers of the Regiment are most comfortable within the home barns for their steel mounts, those currently corralled in Wainwright are making an impact at both national and international levels.





## Strathconas in Suffield

*Captain Jon Miller*



The past year was another busy one for members of the Regiment at CFB Suffield.

British Army Training Unit Suffield (BATUS) continued their efforts to ensure soldiers were successful in completing Battle Group training with two Ex PRAIRIE STORM serials. Never faltering, BATUS efforts continued into the fall with a comprehensive training area rebuild and construction of a new village in preparation for an ambitious 2020 training calendar. Defence Research Development Canada (DRDC) Suffield fulfilled their core mandate to provide Canada with advanced scientific and technological activities. Cutting edge trials and evaluation were focused on military engineering, autonomous systems, weapons testing, and chemical-biological defence while the Counter Terrorism Technology Centre (CTTC) conducted critical CBRN(E) training scenarios for domestic and international partners. With this kind of tempo, it was often hard for the Primary Reserve to find space to train

but SALH, KOCR, 20 IFB, 41 CER, and HMCS Tecumseh managed to make it work. Aside from the military, the training area hosted the eighth iteration of the Suffield Elk Herd Management Program; environmentalists preserved species at risk; ranchers grazed thousands of cattle; and oil and gas built infrastructure and pipelines all over the training area.

The competing demands of these diverse stakeholders taxed the resources of CFB Suffield but Strathconas filled essential positions in the HQ and formed the backbone of Range Control with years of experience and dedication.

In the HQ, **LCol Mike Onieu** decided that nothing would compare to commanding CFB Suffield and retired, taking a position with the Historic Clay District in Medicine Hat while **Maj Chris Whalley** headed on to greener pastures with DRDC. Fortunately, **CWO Marcel Chenier** was posted in to fill the vacuum as the new Base RSM.

At Range Control, the Field Operation Sections worked closely with British counterparts and the Fire Hall to extinguish ninety-seven fires and maintain security over the largest training area in the Commonwealth. It must have seemed like a slow season for **Cpl Michael Maxwell** and **Cpl Jorge Valenzuela** who took the opportunity to spend some quality time at home on PATA leaving the firefighting and patrolling in the capable hands of **Cpl Jesse Maw** and **Cpl Jeremy Gray**. Meanwhile, **Cpl Michael Allman** remained ever vigilant in the Ops Room as a Shift Supervisor.

CFB Suffield continues to provide members of the Regiment with a full calendar and complex learning opportunities in a unique and challenging environment found nowhere else in the CAF.





## Strathconas in 1 CMBG

*Captain Michael Forestell*

Over the last year 1 Canadian Mechanized Brigade Group completed the Road to High Readiness and took on the responsibilities of the Canadian Army's High Readiness Brigade, deploying soldiers and officers on operations around the world.

Led by **Maj Nathan "Ride the Lightning" Hevenor**, **Capt Owen "This is the grid they gave me" Lewis** and **Capt Mike "Not another Grievance!" Forestell** successfully completed Ex ORNERY RAM and Ex MAPLE RESOLVE 2019 as the Brigade Rear, a.k.a. *"The Rearward Front."* **Capt Lewis** quickly took an opportunity to escape the G1 Branch and accepted a posting to our US allies as part of the G3 Branch of 2-2 Stryker Brigade. Since the summer **Capt Forestell** completed the Advance CBRND course and **Maj Hevenor** is now qualified to lead Combat Teams! As you can tell the G1 Branch is exciting and you should definitely ask to come here... as soon as possible.

**Capt Darren "Good Go's Only" Carter-Wright** returned to the Regiment last summer and we welcomed his replacement **Capt Phil "Ya, I know" Buckingham** as the G3 Training and Resources. **Capt Buckingham** made an immediate impact in the headquarters and quickly became a value-added member of the G3 branch. So far this year he successfully completed Ex MOUNTAIN MAN 19, a gruelling test of physical and mental endurance. He is currently preparing to deploy on Operation UNIFIER in early 2020.

We also welcomed **Capt Ali "All Smiles" Mansour** to the headquarters this year. As the Personal Aide to Commander 1 Canadian Mechanized Brigade Group, **Capt Mansour** has done it all: a helicopter ride to Wainwright, crew commanding a LAV in Shilo, and travel from Ottawa to Kiev to Riga. Admittedly, he says the best part of his travels around the world is running into fellow Strathconas and he is looking forward to visiting them on Operation REASSURANCE in early 2020.

Regardless of the demands and pressures of being the High Readiness Brigade and all of the associated deployments, this past year has been one full of successes, with some fun added in, and we are all looking forward to the next challenge!





## Strathconas in 3 Cdn Div and JTFW HQ

*Captain Matthew Hoffart*

As the newly posted in and junior Strathcona officer at 3rd Canadian Division (3 Cdn Div) Headquarters (HQ) I was naturally tasked with summarizing the events of the previous year. After reviewing last year's article and realizing that there was little that I could plagiarize for this year, I have instead been left to draft my own interpretation of the 3 Div HQ "year in review."



With the departure of **MGen Trevor Cadieu** as well as **Maj Mike Timms** and **Maj Mike Rogers** there was a heavy infantry trend developing in the HQ. To offset this and support the remaining Strathcona, **LCol Fred Hayward**, both **Maj Al Wong** and myself were posted in. **Sgt Ryan Pasuta** rounds out the Strathcona presence as a watch keeper in the 3 Cdn Div Joint Operation Center (JOC) though he has not yet been seen in the building to confirm that he actually works here. Though few in numbers we are well positioned to help steer the Army of the West in the right direction. Floating around are also a few former Strathconas who have transitioned to the Army Reserve but kept their hearts (and berets) black. As a final proof that 3 Cdn Div is in good hands is the recent appointment of **BGen Stephen Lacroix**, another armour officer, to the position of Comd 3 Cdn Div.

As I transitioned into my first HQ posting I have had to adjust to the following work demands imposed on me as a division staff officer:

1. Work starts at 0900h and ends by 1530h.
2. As a staff officer your principle function is to say "no" to subordinate formations and units. This is preferable to, and easier than, doing work.
3. Add bureaucratic red tape at every opportunity.
4. Uniforms are an optional order of dress.

As well here is a summary of how Strathconas are supporting all 3 Cdn Div activities:

**LCol Fred Hayward** – G1 / former G3. Gets involved in unquantifiable projects. Ensures that he can do a lot of consulting, advising, and attending meetings while avoiding anything with a hard and fast deadline.

**Maj Al Wong** – G33. Is the 3 Div HQ garbage man who is left to take out the trash (proverbially). Strongly opposed to workplace 2.0.

**Capt Matt Hoffart** – G37-CT. Fills in spreadsheets with information which are then used to fill PowerPoint slides with information.

**Sgt Ryan Pasuta** – JOC watch keeper. Waits for an emergency to happen while hoping that it does not happen during his shift.

**Maj Lena Angell** and **Mrs Krista Johns** may not be Strathcona's by trade but as the spouses of the current Commanding Officer and Regimental Second-in-Command they continue to represent our interests through their work in the Public Affairs office.



## Strathconas in 3 CDSG

*Captain Richard Lund*

The Strathcona's are the driving force behind 3rd Canadian Division Support Group (3 CDSG), they continue to work tirelessly to keep the Formation moving forward so that we can continue to support the activities of all 3rd Cdn Div units.

3 CDSG Ops and Plans has received a significant boost in the last year thanks to the hard work of **Maj Peter Beitz**. 3 CDSG and 3 CDSB Edmonton has finally been able to make progress on key files, such as security and DOMOPs, two files which had stagnated prior to his arrival.

The Range and Training Area Management (RTAM) team, led by **Maj Tom Pett**, continue to punch above their weight as they manage training areas and infrastructure across all of Western Canada, from Thunder Bay to Vancouver Island, and north to Yellowknife. His efforts have not gone unnoticed, this year he was promoted to the rank of Major and also received 3 Div Comds Commendation for his role in high level meetings on First Nations land claims within the Chilcotin Valley.

Our face to the public is **MWO Rob Baglole**, who deals daily with request from every type of interest group you could imagine: from Cub Scouts and Cadets, to high power businessmen and sports teams. He deals with every request from groups that either want to get involved with the CAF, come to see what we do, or invite CAF members to their events. It is a difficult and often thankless job, but he is the one who helps filter out some of the crazy requests, and makes sure that all soldiers benefit from the good opportunities. Of course, he saves the best for the Strathcona's.

Our team at Edmonton Range Control continues to do what they have done for years, support training. While it does mean the occasional late shifts and weekends, **Sgt Tyler Baldwin** with the support of his 2IC **Cpl Derek Steeves** and their Range Control team (which includes **Cpl Matthew Jesse**) are always ready to step up to make sure 1 CMBG units can achieve their training goals. **Cpl Francine Riopelle** is our expert at the Automated Targeting System ranges, somehow she manages to keep that system up and running.

Lastly, we have the Adjutant **Capt Stephanie Clubine** who will always remind everyone in our unit what it means to be a Strathcona. From admin to coffee breaks, it's always the Strathcona way of doing things.





## Strathconas in Latvia Op REASSURANCE Roto 12

*Trooper Trent Burton*

Life in Camp Adazi usually consisted of a rousing lessons from **MCpl Reg “The Professor” Ferguson** or trying to track down **Cpl Riley “where the f\*#@# is” Reynolds-Tack** for the keys to the sea can. Once the tasks for the morning were complete it was off to the DFAC for some pig slop. After choking down an undercooked meal and warm drinks (seriously, has this place ever heard of a fridge?) we would maintain the vehicles under slave driver **Cpl Matt “Vape Lord” Jones** or cut to the gym to get your swell on with **Cpl Jake “Chad” Thompson**.

Despite there being a language barrier between us and our allies, the opportunity to work together and build camaraderie between the nations proved invaluable. Within a month of being in country the Poles (C/S GRIZZLY) had us behind the wheel? sticks? Of their tank, the PT-91.

The Czech Army put on a shooting skills competition in mid-October to test our skills with the service rifle and pistol of their nation. The Strathconas fielded two teams of four. **Cpl Lucas “Deadeye” Mullens** was the top Canadian rifle shot, and **MCpl Reg “Blaster Corporal” Ferguson** was the top Canadian pistol shot. The competition ended with a Polish victory and the Canadians south of the middle. I guess that's what happens when you shoot twice a year. After the competition, competitors were allowed to test Czech equipment.

During our Certification Ex, C/S POISON, our Recce Troop excelled against the Matadorian threat. Charlie Patrol found themselves sitting on the banks of the Daugava River. Forced to abandon our first position due to objections from local law enforcement, we moved to the parking lot of a gas station. The highlight of the exercise was when a class of kindergarteners approached us. It was then that we saw a side of **Sgt Kerrie “Mean Muggin’ Straight Thuggin’” Jesse** that we had never seen before. Watching as he hoisted the kids into the GIB hole and handed out glow sticks was truly a heart-warming experience. The one time the Raven was in the air it was like magic for our infantry command team and dismounted recce counterparts to see the picture the drone can paint. However, the rest of the ex had us running all over the training area setting up and tearing down the Raven resulted in many B.R.U.H. (Boys, Repack, Uproot, Head out) moments.

POISON was instrumental in Ex IRON SPEAR, spearheaded by **WO Keith “The Puppet Master” Hodgson**. Under his leadership, we were able to run the competition that included the largest variety of Main Battle Tanks in the history of Western Civilization. Seeing the combined firepower of the entire eFP sent a strong message to any aggressors that we all are here to stay.

To sum up Op REASSURANCE in a few paragraphs would be impossible. It was an eye opening experience that will keep Latvia free, strong, and ready to beat back the beast to the east.



## Op PROTEUS

*Captain Justin Salter*

Operation PROTEUS is the Canadian contribution to the Office of the United States Security Coordinator for Israel and the Palestinian Authority, charged with mentoring, advising, and building the capacity of the Palestinian Authority Security Forces (PASF) with a view to making them self-sufficient in training, operations, and logistics. Now in its 20th rotation, the mission has been running since 2005 under the supervision of the U.S. Secretary of State and, as the reader can surely imagine, it is a dynamic and sometimes difficult mission that presents each rotation with unique challenges and opportunities. Alongside a diverse team of Americans, British, Dutch, Turks, and others, the Canadians here are themselves a diverse group of soldiers, sailors, and aviators hailing from all across the Canadian Armed Forces but all with the shared goal of promoting peace in the region.

And thus, a single Strathcona officer has found himself deployed to Jerusalem, a city with immense significance to Islam, Christianity, and Judaism alike. Even those without strong religious beliefs cannot help but marvel at the history and beauty that can be found around every corner, be it the Dome of the Rock or the Mount of Olives or the Church of the Holy Sepulcher or the delicately conducted orchestra of madness that is driving through the local traffic. Armoured personnel, too, have their own "holy site" in this part of the world: the tank museum at Latrun. It boasts over 100 different tanks and armoured vehicles and rivals even Borden's Worthington Park and the Deutsches Panzermuseum in its importance to those of us in the Corps. That I have now been so lucky as to visit all three will never cease to amaze me.



The history in the region speaks volumes, and I include the history of the mission itself in that statement. I believe that the ongoing tradition of Strathconas participating in this mission speaks to the flexibility, professionalism, and hard work of all of my predecessors from the Regiment and across the Corps that have served here on Op PROTEUS. It is humbling to know that I walk in their footsteps as if I am making a pilgrimage of my own. Even though it is far removed from combat team attacks in Wainwright, or live-fire ranges in Ukraine, or NATO exercises in Latvia, I know with utmost certainty that the work here with the PASF can still benefit from everything that the Regiment's soldiers and officers have to offer.





## Op IMPACT Strathconas in Kuwait

*Sergeant Andrew Burris*

Canada's training mission in the Middle East is responsible for delivery of training to our allies in Iraq, Lebanon, and Jordan in order to increase the stability of the region. Pushed forward into Iraq are elements from 3rd Battalion Princess Patricia's Canadian Light Infantry and 1 Combat Engineer Regiment. Supporting these members are the 200 Canadians stationed at Ali Al Salem Air Base. Those providing second line support including yours truly belonging to the Operational Support Hub South West Asia. (OSH-SWA)

One may ask why CAF are involved with Iraq and for the answer to that we must look back to the events of 2014. On 20 October 2014, WO Patrice Vincent was struck and subsequently killed by an ISIS sympathiser driving a vehicle outside a recruiting centre in Saint-Jean-Sur-Richelieu, Quebec. Two days later Cpl Nathan Cirillo was killed while manning his guard post at our Canadian National War Memorial by another Canadian ISIS sympathiser. These acts of cowardice galvanized Canadian public opinion and reinforced the need for military intervention in Iraq for the sake of our own national security. On 2 November 2014, the first bombs were dropped on ISIS targets in Iraq by CF-18s.

As the mission evolved the CF-18s continued to strip ISIS of ground equipment for the following 3 months. Later Polaris air to air re-fuellers were deployed along with Aroua surveillance planes to aid allied air power and enable accurate targeting. In 2016 Griffin helicopters were deployed to provide mobility to ground forces responsible for training Iraqi security forces. Two C-130J Hercules have been in theatre since 2017 and have moved a total of 11 million pounds of cargo for the coalition.

Currently Op IMPACT is the largest deployment across the Canadian Armed Forces with roughly 850 personnel deployed. Responsible for the training of over 4500 Iraqi security forces, 430 Jordanian Armed Forces and 1490 Lebanese armed forces, in various topics including combat first aid, weapons training and explosive threat training.

In the rear with the gear is the OSH-SWA. Although it isn't a glamorous job, the Operation Cell in Kuwait is responsible for receiving soldiers and providing them with the required briefs and kit before they are pushed forward to train our allies. Since my time in theatre the Operations Cell has coordinated over 3000 transits in and out of Kuwait for Canadian troops and visitors. One could say we are like 7-11, we're not always doing business but we're always open.



## Op IMPACT Strathconas in Iraq

*Sergeant Mark Bell*

From December 2019 - May 2020, 4 Strathcona Door Gunners deployed with 408 Sqn to Camp Taji, Iraq with the Tactical Air Detachment, NATO Mission Iraq, Op IMPACT.

Our time here in Iraq has been filled by providing NATO training teams a way to transit between Iraqi training locations, without having to use ground transport. Our main job is to man the left C6 machinegun on the helicopter, provide lookout for threats, and ensure the passengers get on and off at the correct locations.

We can't complain about the accommodations or camp facilities because, they are way better than we are used to. However they are not 5 star accommodations we assumed the air force would provide. Tac Hel is more like the army, than the traditional air force.

We will soon be back to our home at the regiment and transition back to austerity. Tac Hel is a nice break away, but makes us appreciate the structure, planning and comradery that makes the Strathconas great.





## Canadian Training and Assistance Team (CTAT-J) Strathconas in Jordan

*Captain Dale Patt*

Our mission is to build capacity within the Jordanian Armed Forces (JAF). CTAT-J provides training, infrastructure, and equipment on behalf of the Canadian Armed Forces. We work with multiple governmental and international partners to help to ensure the stability and security of the Jordanian state and its people. Whether it is providing basic soldier training to the only JAF female platoon, enhancing the combat service support capability of a premier JAF unit, providing training and equipment to the budding Joint Terminal Attack Controller program, or contracting a road along the northern border with Syria, CTAT-J does a little bit of everything. CTAT-J is set to deliver close to 40 million dollars in projects, training and infrastructure this year.

Out of all the operations on which soldiers of the Lord Strathcona's Horse (Royal Canadians) (LdSH(RC)) have deployed, this has to be one of the most divergent from the duties for which we usually train. Living in an apartment building, complete with ensuite bathrooms and marble flooring, eating out in one of Amman's phenomenal restaurants, and going to work in suits, slacks and polo's are some of the benefits of working where we do. However, it is not all fun and games; we are here to work after all.

The involvement of Strathcona soldiers in this mission has been persistent in recent years. Currently the following Strathcona's are employed at CTAT-J: Commanding Officer **Maj Michael Selberg**, Operations Officer **Capt Blake Tapp**, Projects Officer **Capt Dale Patt**, Force Protection Lead **Sgt Wallace Churchill**, Force Protection Second in Command **MCpl Spencer Richardson**, and the Force Protection Driver's, **Cpl's Colin Vanthournout and Monty Lopez**. Strathcona's who have served on this mission previously include: **Capt Colin Peterson**, **Capt Darren Carter-Wright**, **Capt Shaun Rogozinski**, **Sgt's Gerri-Anne Davidson and Colin Clare**, **MCpl John Livingstone** as well as **Cpl's Sean Tong, Justin Milwain, and Evan Cox**. In addition, the Canadian Defence Attache to Jordan is also former Strathcona Commanding Officer, **Col Pascal Demers**, and future rotations are preparing to provide yet more contributions from our Regiment. We will continue to champion our Regimental ideals and serve our country with honour. Jordan is a fantastic, and once in a lifetime opportunity for all who come here.

The soldiers of LdSH(RC) have permanently placed their mark on the enhancement of Jordanian military capacity and capability. Our efforts have helped to train and equip their soldiers, build their buildings, and construct their roads. We may have taken advantage of some of the comforts and opportunities that are available working in this beautiful and welcoming country, but can you blame us?





## Canadian Training and Assistance Team (CTAT-L) Strathconas in Lebanon

“نانبىل نم اب حرم : Greetings from Lebanon”

*Master Corporal Henry Chen*

On 6 July 2019, six members of LdSH(RC) deployed to support “Canada’s Training Mission in the Middle East,” as part of the Canadian Training and Assistance Team – Lebanon (CTAT-L), Joint Task Force-IMPACT. Lebanon is a very small country that would fit in-between Edmonton and Calgary. The country has a population of just over 6 million people; of which, more than 1.5 million are refugees as a result of the numerous wars the country, and neighbouring countries, have endured. Even though the country does not cover a large area, it still has a diverse landscape with mountain ranges reaching as high as 3,088 metres. In the Bekaa Valley, you will find rich agricultural lands with enough greenery to compare with the Okanagan Valley. Throughout the rest of the country, you will see remnants of Lebanon’s rich history, dating back over 7,000 years.

The purpose of our mission here at CTAT-L is to support Canada’s Middle East Engagement Strategy by building partner capacity with the Lebanese Armed Forces (LAF) in order to enhance regional stability. The focus of the capacity building programs include individual soldier skills, infrastructure, and individual soldier equipment. Through the delivery of combat first aid and winter survival training we have developed the LAF’s individual soldier skills; through the delivery of FOB toolkits we have improved the LAF’s infrastructure and ability to secure and thicken their borders; and, we have augmented individual soldier equipment with the delivery of wet weather clothing, further enabling the LAF to operate in extreme weather conditions.

Being a part of CTAT-L has been a rewarding experience both professionally and personally. It is satisfying knowing that our work here has a positive impact on the LAF; such as being able to see firsthand newly trained LAF soldiers provide effective tactical field care in realistic assessment scenarios, utilizing the knowledge and skills they have learned from Canadian soldiers here in Lebanon. We’ve also had the opportunity to explore and experience some of the culture that Lebanon has to offer, to include: exploring extensive cave systems, swimming in the Mediterranean, and indulging in the feast that is the true Lebanese mezza. I have no doubt that the rest of my time here in Lebanon will continue to be a rewarding experience as we continue to work towards CTAT-L’s Vision: “Regional stability through Canadian partnered capacity building.”

Mumtaaz



## Extra Regimentally Employed

MGen TJ Cadieu	SJS	Maj MA Lakatos	Cyber FD
MGen DA Macaulay	CA HQ	Maj PE Leonard	JTFN
BGen SR Kelsey	CA HQ	Maj JRF McEwen	SJS
BGen PJ Peyton	US Cyber Command	Maj RD McKenzie	5 CDSG
Col PPJ Demers	Canadian Defence Attaché	Maj MA McMurachy	MAGTFTC
	Jordan	Maj CW Meikle	RCACS
Col M Lubiniecki	VCDS Group	Maj J Nguyen	CTAT-J-Op Impact
Col JJ Major	CFC	Maj A Nitu	CANSOFCOM
Col DR Parsons	CDSO	Maj CS Penney	CAF TU NB-PE
LCol CR Adams	SLT	Maj TD Pett	3 CDSG
LCol RP Chiasson	JTFN	Maj CEJ Prince	CMTC
LCol JL Cochrane	CFC	Maj JN Rickard	CACSC
LCol MA Connolly	OUTCAN NATO - JFTC	Maj MD Rogers	36 CBG
LCol BD Corbett	NDHQ	Maj ME Selberg	CTAT-J-Op Impact
LCol CS Gardner	VCDS/C Prog/DDSPI	Maj DP Williams	CADTC
LCol SW Gifford	CMTC Det Kingston	Maj ASH Wong	3 Can Div
LCol VF Hayward	3 Cdn Div	Maj SR Wright	1 CRPG
LCol VG Kirstein	LAAT, Latvia	Maj CJ Young	Task Force Latvia, Riga
LCol EG MacEachern	CAF TG HQ Ottawa	Capt JF Agius	RCACS
LCol AD MacIntyre	CA HQ	Capt PA Buckingham	1 CMBG
LCol MJD Mallette	CA HQ	Capt NB Bugg	3 Cdn Div TC
LCol CO Nolan	5 Cdn Div	Capt ST Casey	CANSOFCOM
LCol PG Pickell	CFB Kingston	Capt SK Clubine	3 CDSB
LCol CJ Quinlan	The Windsor Regiment	Capt JA Daley	CANELEM NORAD
LCol RT Steward	HQJOC	Capt SP Danyi	39 CBG
Maj MA Barnett	NDHQ	Capt DWR Dixon	CANSOFCOM
Maj PD Beitz	3 CDSB	Capt MJ Forestell	1 CMBG
Maj MDRL Bentley	RCACS	Capt LA Frizzell	IPSC Calgary
Maj JS Boates	CDLS(W)	Capt M Hoffart	3 Cdn Div
Maj JW Brown	SJS	Capt H Jung	RCACS
Maj TL Collings	RCACS	Capt MA Kaye	KOCR
Maj RA Cooper	C Army G3	Capt AM Kenny	CAF TC Ver
Maj DR Cronk	CJOC	Capt SA King	FGH
Maj TWF Day	US Army Command & General Staff College	Capt LJ Kirkham	Sask D
		Capt M Labrecque	CANSOFCOM
Maj WS Deatcher	CJOC	Capt WA Laughlin	5 CDSG
Maj MRN Douglas	41 CBG	Capt OT Lewis	2/2 SBCT
Maj MC Dullege	CADTC		
Maj LA Dunn	3 CDTC		
Maj AC Dwyer	CFC		
Maj I M Elkorazati	1 Cdn Div		
Maj GR Elliott	CMTC		
Maj CS Fifield	CACSC		
Maj EJS Frost-Kell	5 Cdn Div		
Maj DM Gray	CFD		
Maj TJ Grodzinski	RMC		
Maj NRB Hevenor	1 CMBG		
Maj SW Holmes	SJS		
Maj JR Hunter	5 CDSG		
Maj BS Johnson	JTFN		
Maj JMJ Kim	CFLRS		
Maj TA LaCroix	CA HQ		



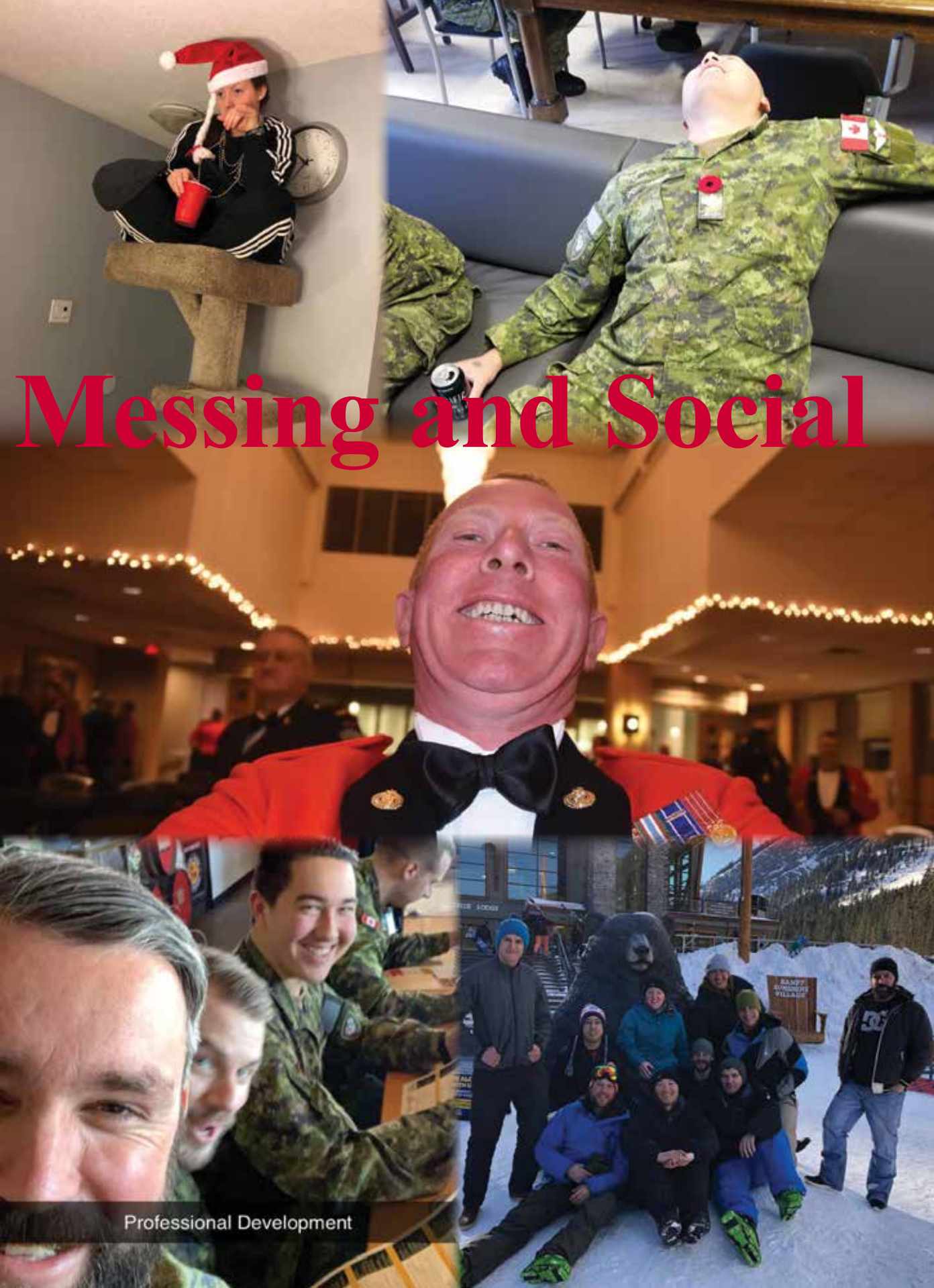
Capt RI Lund	3 CDSB
Capt MJ MacInnis	RCACS
Capt CJ MacLean	BCD
Capt AS Mansour	1 CMBG
Capt SJ McGuinness	1 H Svcs Gp
Capt CD McLean	5 Cdn Div
Capt JLEE Miller	CFB Suffield
Capt ACR Neshcov	RCACS
Capt MG Pano	CFB Kingston
Capt AA Raju	RCACS
Capt KA Reiten	IPSC Wx
Capt CJ Ross	RCACS
Capt J Salter	3 CDSB
Capt R Stacey	5Cdn Div Detachment Aldershot
Capt PF Stachow	CAF TC Kingston
Capt KD Tams	OLC
Capt AD Tardiff	BCR
Capt PJ Webster	Museum
Capt EJ Wiome	RCACS
Capt DM Wright	VCDS D Strat
Capt AJ Young	SALH
Capt EL Young	RCACS
OCdt TU Lauterbacher	3 CDSB
CWO AS Batty	3CDSB Pers Sp Svcs
CWO MAR Chenier	CFB Suffield
CWO RJ Clarke	RMC
CWO WJ Crabb	PEIR
CWO TC Holland	5 CDTC
CWO AS Mayfield	4 Can Div TC
CWO LM Taylor	RCACS
MWO RJ Baglole	3 CDSG
MWO RA Englehart	DGMC
MWO LR Hill	CSOR
MWO TW Hopkin	1 CMBG HQ & Sigs
MWO GC Moon	RCACS
MWO MMC Parent	CMTC
WO CJ Bulmer	RMC
WO SF Burtch	CMTC
WO DJJ Charette	RCACS
WO JD Gibson	RCACS
WO MAL Gratto	RCACS
WO JAJ Gushue	RCACS
WO JM Helliwell	8 CH Moncton
WO PA Jones	BCD
WO CA Kentfield	3 CDSG TC
WO RM Levis	RCACS
WO CW McDougall	SLT
WO DJ McMurtry	SALH
WO NC Miller	RCACS
WO ERG Morley	CATEU
WO DS Murdoch	BCR
WO BN Murphy	CAF TC Edm
WO JD Paterson	SALH
WO NA Patterson	38 CBG
WO AA Pociuk	Sask D



WO JJ Ribert	CFLRS
WO SD Thompson	JPSU
WO LJ Troop	FGH
WO RT Vigar	SLT
Sgt A Alwani	CFLRS
Sgt T Baldwin	3 CDSG
Sgt AE Balfour	1 CRPG
Sgt MS Bell	408 Sqn
Sgt JT Bolzan	BCD
Sgt FL Brown	CFRC Edm
Sgt MR Burke	1 Cdn Div
Sgt DN Chatzikirou	CANSOFCOM
Sgt LY Cheng	CFLRS
Sgt CD Clare	CAF TC Edm
Sgt C Clegg	FGH
Sgt MCF Collier	RCACS
Sgt SP Collins	RCACS
Sgt MR Croxall	RCACS
Sgt CJ Davidson	3 CDTC
Sgt JE Desjardins	CAF TG
Sgt AER Droogers	PSTC Kingston
Sgt RN Ford	RCACS
Sgt FJ Graham	RCACS
Sgt HA Hayes	3 Cdn Div TC
Sgt JD Hayes	RCACS
Sgt P Ives	CAF TC Edm
Sgt BR Loft	RCACS
Sgt SD MacKinnon	RCACS
Sgt MD McGarity	3 CDSB Edm-Det/Gar Wx
Sgt AD McKenzie	CAF TG
Sgt SM Parsons	5 CDTC
Sgt RB Partridge	RCACS
Sgt R Pasuta	JTFW
Sgt NA Reid	CFB Meaford
Sgt CDE Romkey	CAF TG/Soldier On
Sgt RJ Rushton	RCACS

Sgt SG Thomas	RCACS	Cpl MR Jesse	CMTC
Sgt AJ Usher	CAF Transition	Cpl WD Jones	RCACS
Sgt JC Wry	RCACS	Cpl RIJ King	CMTC
MCpl LT Banman	CSOR	Cpl CM Kipot	RCACS
MCpl DLM Brown	CMTC	Cpl K Leis	CMTC
MCpl BK Campbell	CFB Borden	Cpl MAJ Marion	RCACS
MCpl RLM Chase	CMTC	Cpl JN Matchett	RCACS
MCpl CJ Collier	RCACS	Cpl J Maw	CFB Suffield
MCpl AEM Cook	RCACS	Cpl MC Maxwell	CFB Suffield
MCpl GJ Dobson	3 CDTC	Cpl SM Milljour	5 CDSG
MCpl SD Fettes	CMTC	Cpl S Mireault	RCACS
MCpl GA George	3 Cdn Div TC	Cpl W Mitchell	RCACS
MCpl PWJ Grubber	CFLRS	Cpl TR Mosher	RCACS
MCpl IG Harding	CMTC	Cpl RT Mountford	5 Cdn Div
MCpl MJ Lachance-Webster	CFLRS	Cpl J Munro	RCACS
MCpl DW Lahay	3 CDSB Edm-Det/Gar Wx	Cpl RW Murray	RCACS
MCpl RJPJ Larcher Pelland	Sask D	Cpl MA Norring	CJOC
MCpl CJ Lawrence	3 CDTC	Cpl JD Oaten	CMTC
MCpl NJC MacFarlane	CFB Trenton	Cpl BD Peacher	CMTC
MCpl MM MacLeod	CFRC Cgy Det Wpg	Cpl JP Plante	RCACS
MCpl DA McNair	3 CDTC	Cpl FL Riopelle	3 CDSG
MCpl SY Mekhail	31 CBG	Cpl SHD Shwetz	SALH
MCpl J Park	RCACS	Cpl C Skibinsky	CAF TC Edm
MCpl IS Sandhu	KOCR	Cpl DR Smith	RCACS
MCpl TGC Silcox	3 Cdn Div TC	Cpl MR Smith	3 CDSB Edm-Det/Gar Wx
MCpl MMR Sirois	The Windsor Regiment	Cpl PJ Smith	RCACS
MCpl ST Taborowski	CMTC	Cpl D Steeves	3 CDSB
MCpl GD Veinot	SALH	Cpl EJ Thibodeau	RCACS
MCpl RK Wagner	RCACS	Cpl AM Vachon	CFLRS
MCpl MS Weir	SALH	Cpl JEA Valenzuela	CFB Suffield
MCpl JV Williams	CFLRS	Cpl KJ York	RCACS
MCpl DM Wynen	CFB Kingston	Tpr C Asprey	RCACS
MCpl BS Young	RCACS	Tpr D Beukes	RCACS
MCpl DAJ Young	BCR	Tpr S Brown	RCACS
Cpl MG Allman	CFB Suffield	Tpr C Ducharme	RCACS
Cpl Y Bertin	5 CDSG	Tpr R Gedge	RCACS
Cpl KH Bishop	RCACS	Tpr M Gregory	RCACS
Cpl JJJ Booth	3 CDSB Edm-Det/Gar Wx	Tpr C Hanvey	RCACS
Cpl M Brunskill	RCACS	Tpr TCV Hunt	RCACS
Cpl N Bryk	RCACS	Tpr K Klassen	RCACS
Cpl S Charles	RCACS	Tpr E Lee	RCACS
Cpl TW Ellis	RCACS	Tpr S O'Connor	RCACS
Cpl NF Fabischek	RCACS	Tpr S Phypers	RCACS
Cpl K Ferguson	3 Cdn Div TC	Tpr N Pierce	RCACS
Cpl AGR Foisy	CMTC	Tpr R Pietila	RCACS
Cpl S Fong	RCACS		
Cpl RM Fountain	RCACS		
Cpl JP Gray	CFB Suffield		
Cpl S Grenier	3 CDSB Edm-Det/Gar Wx		
Cpl MJ Guay	RCACS		
Cpl N Guay	RCACS		
Cpl TP Hayes	CMTC		
Cpl A Hill	RCACS		
Cpl WJK Hopper	RCACS		
Cpl CB Hornby	RCACS		
Cpl RPA Houle	RCACS		
Cpl AJ Hurley	3 CDSB		





# Messing and Social

Professional Development



## The Mariner Room

*Major Mike Timms*

As has become the cliché opening line Mariner Room Strathconian articles, I shall start by stating that Mariner Room activities this past year were continuously at odds with our officers' training and deployment tempo - but, that we of course upheld our fine traditions, from tasteful mess dinners, to epic mess parties, to bellyaching about dues and coffee. Who knew coffee would be as divisive as East versus West federal politics - I half anticipated a motion to split into the "Mariner Room" and the "Western Republic of Van Houtte Coffee Lovers Who Don't Like That They Lost The Vote."

From January to June 2019, the Mariner Room did pretty much nothing I assume, as my predecessor **Maj Jack "Good-go" Nguyen** was so eager to leave that he didn't provide much in the way of anecdotes from this period, and I was busy failing my way through staff work at the Division headquarters. I jest of course - the officers on strength had a roaring time at the Brigade Mess Dinner in January, a subaltern professional development trip to Calgary (during which they somehow got lost and ended up in Banff, which would explain the navigation skills observed during Ex STEELE SABRE 19), and a classy as always Moreuil Wood Mess Dinner in March, before deploying to Wainwright for the Road to High Readiness two month culmination. In all seriousness though, things finally started getting interesting in June, when boring majors left Regiment, and the fun majors took their place, leading the charge of debauchery.

The Strathcona's officers annually hosted garrison mess party, once again dubbed "Stampede Night," kicked off the summer season with a bang in June. ~~The bang being the sound of the Dan "The Duke" Guy line dancing contest, which was a very loud and raucous affair, that ended with a very loud and raucous dance floor.~~ (Editor's redaction. Once the dust settles, maybe we'll put it in next year's edition). Post party negotiations with the mess manager commenced immediately. In the end, the costs of a bench, a table, a metal fire bowl, some lumber, two pots of questionably expensive flowers, a few dozen pint glasses, and some sod were offset by the gains in



camraderie, warrior spirit, and a priceless picture of the outdoor wedding ceremony setup the next day - our fire pit may have grown a bit beyond the small, melted fire bowl.

The next Mariner Room hosted event was a team building day for the officers of the Regiment and our brethren from other 1 Brigade units who would join us to form Task Force WAR PIGS for the upcoming deployment to Latvia. **Capt Steve Couture** was gracious enough to host the event on his Freedom Ranch, the perfect venue for a fun filled afternoon of shooting clays, 3D targets, and drinking around the fire (after the shooting of course). Despite some rain and wind, it was a great success, and rumours of someone getting shot were moderately exaggerated.

Throughout the year there were of course many random fun TGIF nights, an enjoyable meet and greet with spouses, and a decent attendance at our 1 CER friends' Night in the Trenches (where **LCol Fred Hayward** joined us in celebration, conspicuously whenever rounds of jager-bombs were being handed out).

The year culminated with the Black Hat Mess Dinner and Subbies' Caroling. The Dinner was a true family affair, where we had the pleasure of dining out **LCol Brian "Grey Man" Corbett** and **LCol Mike "I promise" Onieu**. Thanks to our excellent cooks the meal was fantastic and hardy, **Capt Shaun Rogozinski** learned that a port decanter makes for a poor improvised gavel, and while some updates to the Regimental Manual may be required, we paid respect to our most important traditions. Not two days following the dinner, we launched right into Subbies Caroling. The party bus once again proved to be the ideal mode of transport, and with only average amounts of alcohol consumed, not too much of it came back up prematurely within the homes of the Officers Commanding.

Finally and genuinely, I would like to express gratitude from myself and the entire Mariner Room to the subalterns for all of gritty legwork to make all of our activities throughout the year happen - on top of all of the professional demands we place upon you, you tackled each polish party, mess dinner setup, mess party clean up, and so on with optimism and pride.

All in all, a bang up year. Perseverance.





## Sarcee Room A Year in Review

*Warrant Officer Stew McLoughlin*

The Sarcee Room is a mess where one must earn the right to enter. When you join the CAF, you automatically become a member of the Junior Ranks' Mess or Officers' Mess. To enter the Sarcee Room, however, you will face pain and suffering, victory and defeat as you progress through the ranks. Now that you are there, you confirm what you thought as a younger soldier: careers, at times, are decided over coffee and doughnuts.

What did we do this year? Well sit back, take a moment, and have a read (I was limited to 400 words). While there were many pictures, only some are appropriate. The first event of the year was the Candlelight Dinner where we had the opportunity to celebrate our partners with a fine meal at the St Albert Inn. Sadly that night was a non-typical winter storm which actually prevented **Sgt Paul Krulak** from attending. You should have gotten on your sled and ripped over. The dinner had only one real hiccup... or moment of gagging. So, fruit will no longer be served at these events (you had to be there). This is why we have safety talks.

Shortly after was the Moreuil Wood Mess dinner which was a good time and was good to see some retired members in attendance. At his request, we will, in the future, have additional handicapped parking so **Tom Falls** does not have to walk so far to get his free soup.

The Farewell BBQ in June was a multi-leveled gathering. First, we said goodbye and roasted 19 Sarcee Members who were posted to various locations. Included in that group was outgoing RSM, **CWO Rob Clarke**. You will definitely be missed, and don't be a stranger to the mess (as long as you are still paying mess dues). Lastly, at the BBQ we conducted a Depart with Dignity for **MWO Scott Brown**. No one saw that speech coming, but in the end, he presented a gift to all of us with his signature drawing on the back (those who weren't there can guess, and you'd be right).

With the year coming to an end, it was our turn to host the annual At Home. However, due to pre-deployment leave, the event was changed to the CO and RSM's Christmas Cheer. Good times were had, but because the At Home games were not played, the Horse's Ass Trophy will remain, for another year, where it belongs, in the Mariner Room.





## Green Point Lounge

*Master Corporal Alastair Gordon*



Snow has begun to blanket the earth, signifying the arrival of winter and another year passed. For the Green Point Lounge (GPL), it is met with mixed emotions. We are reminded of the alumni who have recently moved on, whether posted out or worse, promoted to the Sarcee Room. It is bitter sweet watching your friends, with whom you've shared many beers and tears, and uncountable hours of complaints with; move on to bigger and better things. There is a silver lining, however, as with most things: The fresh blood.

As old members leave, new MCpls are ushered in. Looking at the new batch, many of whom have been the bane of the Green Point Lounge during past Christmas Sports days, we can't help but be optimistic. There is much potential, not only to bring athletic glory to the GPL, but for the future in general. With the current members of the GPL, it is safe to say the future of our illustrious Regiment is in good hands.

With promotions and deployments decimating the ranks over the last year, attendance has been inconsistent and the leadership of the GPL has been in a state of flux. **Sgt Jeremy Dunford** saw his reign as PMC come to an end, and with no one else to turn to, the GPL voted in **MCpl Alastair Gordon**. Grudgingly, he took the helm. He is the PMC they deserve; time will tell if he is the one they need.

The highlight of the summer, as always, was the MCpl's Charity Golf tournament. Despite a last minute scheduling "hiccup", the mess managed to plan a successful outing on short notice. The venue this year was Fort in View Golf Course. This may have been our first tournament with them, but they were ready for us. They even donated a corporate membership for the silent auction. All the proceeds, a sum of \$2500, went to the "Jessica Martel Memorial Foundation." We look forward to building on the relationships we formed with these two great organizations.

The former PMC and his trusty side kick, **MCpl Andrew "Billy" Goodwin**, left some large shoes to fill. They managed to secure new furniture, at no cost to the lounge, and firmly established Popeye's chicken as the official food of the GPL. **MCpl Gordon** and his VPMC **MCpl Kyle Nieuwhof** have their work cut out for them if they are going live up to their predecessors.





## Track Pad

*Corporal Jan Neufeld*

As the year 2019 finishes, I can say that the Track Pad has remained a team I am proud to be a part of. Participating in, and organizing events for the Troopers and Corporals has been nothing short of a privilege. Events such as taco lunches, prize draws, pancake breakfasts and of course the ever amazing “Trooper Funk” games, a newer event for the Strathconas but one I hope endures far into the Regiment’s future.

To start off the year **Cpl Colton Shute**, President of the Track Pad Mess Committee, hosted a pancake breakfast and prize give away. There was lots of food to go around and some of the senior members in the Regiment, although not invited, even managed to sneak some bacon and sausages away. Of the several small prize raffles done throughout the year, none compared to the “taco bonanza” before summer leave. Game consoles, tattoo time, oil change vouchers, tools, clothing and a vast array of other gifts were raffled off while we ate a slew of burritos, tacos, tater-tots, and chicken. For now the masses had been appeased.

During the final months of the year the members of the Track Pad once again began to stir and become restless... it was time for the Trooper Funk games. Before the games could begin, they had to be planned. This would have been a dubious task without the support and outstanding effort from the members of the Track Pad committee. **Cpl Randy Rawson, Cpl Riley Docherty, Tpr Ivy Keyes, and Tpr Kristopher Fujita** were instrumental in the planning and success of Trooper Funk games. Two new games were enjoyed this year including “*The Great Escape Hatch*” an obstacle course involving Leopard 2 escape hatches and the tiny turret of a Coyote. The second was aptly titled “*Leadership Noises*” which involved team leaders standing on mobile staircases and playing a TRON themed snake game using drill commands; chaos is the word best suited to this game’s description. Of course “*Revolutionary War*”, the paint ball gun classic was back in a no holds barred, to the last man stand-off. To finish off the games and bring the new champion to light, dreaded by players and loved by spectators “*The Chug of War*”. Bungees, beer, and egg nog. Either choice, this game is not for the faint of heart, or stomach. Tested, tired, but having persevered and proved themselves the final four battled the bungees and a winner was determined. With **Tpr Kyler Bebee** newly crowned as Top Trooper, the Regiment went on to enjoy the Soldiers Appreciation Dinner, sports day, and one final work day before a well-earned winter holiday.

Looking back on the year is easy with twenty-twenty vision, and in hindsight it was a great year to be a member of the Track Pad.



## Subbie's Corner

**"Not the coffee we needed but the coffee we deserved"**

### *Captain Tom "Refrigerator With Legs" Hume*

It's rather fitting that this page is relegated to the end of this fine magazine, as its primary purpose is to absorb inevitable spills and protect the more valuable articles from damage. Like Groundhog Day, this year saw the same repetitive themes of years past, such as someone receiving the honour of being the course officer for PLQ in Wainwright and the Subbie's constant battle with coffee. Honestly, it's really a surprise that anyone could write anything "actually new" for the Subbies corner and that there isn't a stock template full of "insert name here" blank spaces. This year however, though seemingly identical to the past, had a subversive force growing under the surface. Elements from the middle three and the intermediate one, sought to disrupt the peace and quiet of the mariner room with a proposal too good to be true. "Let's Make Coffee Great Again" they said, "the subbies are totally capable of making good coffee without a pre-packaged system" they campaigned, and like stunned lemurs we checked a yes box and a majority vote was had. With a new/old era of coffee re-beginning, everyone had a role: **LtTom** *"I'm not counting, but that was definitely your second beer"* **Clackson** set to work informing everyone that "he didn't vote for this" as he and Mess Sec **Josh** *"I'm just doing what I'm told"* **Horlings** bracketed the perfect brew and our new Int Officer **2Lt John** *"Hot Water"* **Ku** debated the chemical composition of Edmonton water with **Lt Kai** *"Graphically Inadequate"* **Keewatin**.

Coffee aside (for now) the major theme this year was "doing more with less" as the subbies began to fall into their CFTPO positions for the many deployments around the world. **Dale** *"non-combat first aid"* **Patt** flew off to Jordan and **Emma** *"new definition of burner-phone"* **Perry** took off to Lebanon early in the year as **Capt Andrew** *"AK-41"* **Kelly** returned from Latvia to run PLQ in Wainwright. **Capt James** *"C&P"* **Lee** and **Lt Leon** *"touch of grey"* **Van Heerden** along with every other semi-competent/available subbie went off to Latvia, leaving only **Capt Erik** *"I just wear patches on my good side"* **Giajnorio** with a captive audience of horses and **Lt Kai** *"the last subberai"* **Keewatin** to take on all Regimental responsibilities in our absence.

In closing I'd like to recognize the subbies who are no longer with us. **Capt Leland** *"juicebox"* **Kirkham** has moved East to the great horizons of Saskatchewan and **Capt Carsten** *"how about lunch"* **MacLean** has gone West to the jammy hills of British Columbia. "Sandwiched" in the middle and close to home (for supervision), stayed **Capt Alex** *"I have no idea what I'm doing"* **Young**. These fine officers will be sorely missed, but only because there is literally no one left to make coffee.





## 10 (Polish) Armour Cavalry Brigade

Improving soldiers skills and gaining experience are definitely the main purpose for the 10th Armored Cavalry Brigade Commander **BGen Artur PIKOŃ**. The biggest and the most powerful Brigade is located in Świętoszów (Poland).

According to the idea predicated by the patron of the Brigade **Gen Stanisław MACZEK** "Let's fight toughly and chivalrously" the 10th ACB conducted many demanding trainings and ventures in span of 2019.

As far as the primary activities of Brigade are concerned, the most crucial undertakings are presented below.

The action and survival in specific combat environment were a subject of three-day training where the reconnaissance teams from the 10th ACB dealt with mountain terrain, snow, low temperatures and limited visibility.

In February 2019 the 10th ACB executed Battle Staff Training "KWISA-19". It was strenuous time for HQ in which we tackled a lot of issues regarding not only Brigade activities in case of different threats but also co-operation with host countries.

Three subunits namely: the Anti-aircraft Battalion, the Artillery Battalion and the Recce Company were tasked to carry out the training exercise on napalm lane.

The 4th of March was a very important day for soldiers from the 10th ACB who conducted training on Military Strip in Świętoszów. The 10th ACB had a pleasure to host the President of Poland **Andrzej DUDA** and the Ministry of Defence **Mariusz BŁASZCZAK**.

Three officers and one NCO from the 10th ACB took part in the 101-st Anniversary of the Battle of Moreuil Wood within polish-canadian co-action.

On an annual basis, the 8th August, was for soldiers from the 10th ACB a particular day. It commemorated the entry into battle of the 1st Armoured Division commanded by our patron **GEN Stanisław MACZEK**. On the occasion of Brigade Anniversary we payed respect for "black berrets" of the 1st AD.





On the occasion of Polish Armed Forces celebration the tankmen from the 1st Tank Battalion from the 10th ACB with Leopard 2A4 tanks participated in the parade in Katowice.

Tankcrews from the 10th ACB attended international competition WORTHINGTON CHALLENGE to verify the readiness to act and team working ability. This year the Brigade came fourth among tank crew participants.

During the LIVEX "KARAKAL-19" which took place in Nowa Dęba in October 2019 the President of Poland **Andrzej Duda** and the Minister of Defense **Mariusz Blaszczak** decided to honour Brigade with their presence.

A few days later in the capital of Poland Warsaw the Commander of the 10th Armored Cavalry Brigade **COL Artur PIKOŃ** was promoted to the rank of Brigade General.

According to the schedule of co-operation with the 41-st Mechanized Infantry Brigade within Cross Attachment project soldiers from the 10th Brigade participated in CAX "XENON SWORD-19" in Wildflecken in Germany.

It has been intensive and challenging year for the 10th ACB and consequently soldiers from "black brigade" achieved their goals.









## Photo Captions

6 'THE FORLORN HOPE' – EX IRONSIDES 2019 Lt-Col Farrer, Royal Lancers (QEO), LCol (Ret'd) Rankin,  
 9 Maj (Ret'd) Fournier, BGen (Ret'd) Hilton: Prior to being crushed by the Regimental Team  
 9 Affiliated Cadet Corps Visit  
 9 CWO Clarke Presents a German Helmet from Moreuil Wood  
 9 Jim and Beatrice Grey donate the Melfa River Roll of Honour to the Regiment on the 75th anniversary.  
 9 BG HQ and Adm Coy officers conduct PWT 3.  
 14 WO Johnston prepares to brief 99 on the Wainwright bluffs  
 17 Trooper Soloman, Warrant Officer Hamilton, Corporal Ned and Corporal Logan before driving downtown  
 Calgary for the Stampede Parade.  
 19 Sgt Aaron Hodgin leads Tp training in preparation for the Exercise.  
 20 A Coyote conducting Level 3 Live Fire  
 20 B Sqn on the flanks of a Combat Team Leaguer during Ex STEELE SABRE 19.  
 21 Sgt Popoff during winter warfare  
 21 Regimental 2IC Maj Matt Johns clearly up to no good  
 21 The Regimental Sig O trying his first Latvian double sock dog  
 23 Corporal Laperriere, Corporal Smith, Trooper Green and Corporal Doan. "No mess will get past the best."  
 24 Corporal Howie Wright setting up the range for the 2019 PCF Gun Camp.  
 25 A Squadron playing their favorite pastime game, "Werewolf."  
 25 A Squadron 2 Troop in front of an A-10 in Fort Hood, Texas.  
 26 The Metal Pigs in the Pig Pen on Ex STEELE SABRE 19.  
 26 2 Tp prior to stepping off on Ex MAPLE RESOLVE.  
 26 A B Sqn C/S advancing during Ex ORNERY RAM.  
 27 Cpl Engelbrecht checking out the new mine plow.  
 28 2nd Tp outside their tank simulators on Ex Steele Beasts.  
 28 Sgt Aaron Hodgin and Sgt Gerri-Anne Davidson teach gunfighter drills to B Sqn.  
 29 Capt Rogozinski in his normal working state  
 30 Recce Sqn on Range 16  
 30 Recce Sqn conducting Escape and Evasion training  
 31 Honour Guard for Colonel of the Regiment.  
 31 (L to R) Sgt Kruhlak, Cpl Aguila, Cpl Langlands, Cpl Thibodeau  
 31 Presentation of Forage Cap  
 31 Front Row (L to R) CO LCol Angell, COTR BGen (Ret.) Craig Hilton, Hon Capt Roger Flowerdew, Capt  
 Giajnorio, RSM CWO Clarke Rear Row (L to R) Sgt Kruhlak, Cpl Aguila, Cpl Langlands  
 32 Stampede Parade in Calgary (L to R) MCpl Baldson, Cpl Dejardins, Cpl Dulong  
 32 CO LCol Angell, Cpl Eidt, RSM CWO King  
 33 CO LCol Angell, Cpl Aube, RSM CWO King  
 33 SQ Life during Ex STEELE SABRE 19  
 34 A LAV 3 hull being brought to the range  
 34 Regimental Sig O Ryan O'Sullivan beaming with excitement to be standing next to what he referred to as  
 "that funny looking donkey."  
 34 When it comes to track maintenance, many hands make light work.  
 34 Lt Horlings poses with a Longhorn.  
 35 International participants viewing a performance by LdSH(RC) Mounted Troop.  
 36 SHQ Poses in front of the simulators.  
 37 23C MCpl Sandhu works on NAV during the Ex.  
 37 Capt Mansour, Lt Horlings, and Lt Perry pose in front of an Abrams MBT static  
 37 2 Tp  
 37 Apache Helicopters on display  
 38 Cpl Mike Loiselle trying to stay warm and dry  
 38 Cpl Tanveer Gill performing the hydraulic warmup before taking on the day  
 40 2 Tp B Sqn prior to stepping off on Ex MAPLE RESOLVE 19.  
 41 Members of Worthington Challenge Cup Team  
 41 MCpl Stevenson – Instructor Leo 2 D&M 0004  
 42 SSM MWO Steve Churchill (right, smirking slightly) discusses handover details with soon-to-be A/SSM WO  
 Matt Williams (left, mouth agape) who appears shocked at how much more work he is going to have to do.  
 43 Recce Sqn Smoker Fire



## Photo Captions...continued

- 43 Capt 'puppet master' Rogozinski and WO McAtasney  
44 B Sqn can confirm that the Wainwright Training Area weather machine is still fully functional.  
44 2 Troop following the successful conclusion of the Ex.  
44 Recce Sqn  
45 CH-146 Griffins supported the EL3 ranges lands.  
45 Top of Heart Hill in the TAPV.  
45 28E hard at work keeping the Leopard fleet in the fight.  
46 The Infamous OCT patch.  
47 LCol Angell, CWO King, and Capt Shumka conduct a map recce in the Adazi training area.  
48 eFP BG and LdSH(RC) CO and RSM with international participants.  
49 Due to budget cuts, the RSM had to double as one of the Princesses.  
49 Caleb, Ivy & Jonas Mills ready to go out in the tank.  
50 Photo of painting "Man" by artist Fortunio Matania - Photo courtesy of Blue Cross  
52 Captain Peterson & his son Wyatt heading out for their tank ride.  
52 Strathcona soldiers that assisted in setting up and running the obstacle course.  
53 Cpl Dylan Friel and MCpl Quinton Stender standing vigil.  
53 Cpl Dylan "Joe Sakic is my uncle" Friel stands vigil at the Beechmount Cemetary Cenotaphy.  
53 Capt Darren "everyone look at my moustache" Carter-Wright commanding A Sqn honour guard.  
54 Santa's Subbies  
54 Tpr Newton and Cpl MacFaden on the tank display.  
55 Christmas Parade - Passing of the Tpr Funk Belt  
56 Sgt Davidson after receiving 3rd Place Female  
56 Melfa River Sports Day long jump  
56 Cpl Kelly during the run  
56 Tpr Ernest Rice limps in to the start of Leg 3.  
57 Christmas Sports Tug of War  
57 Strong Contender Ice Hockey  
58 Tpr Daniel Kentfield after finishing Leg 5 at 3am.  
58 Lt James Lee on the summit of Mount Hamell during Leg 4.  
58 Tpr Reagan Henderson at the end of Leg 3  
60 Regimental Adjt Capt Tim McHugh contemplates his life decisions.  
61 New Zealand 25mm crews do a Haka at the awards ceremony.  
61 CO and RSM unveil the Roll of Honour to the Regiment  
61 Mandatory Peroni break after parade in Roccasecca.  
61 WO James Hamilton exploding with joy as he waves to the crowd.  
63 MWO Kenny Shiells Leading the march in Pontecorvo, Italy  
63 Cpl Mike Thompson posing in front of wild poppies.  
63 Maj Jack Nguyen "Crossing" The Melfa River.  
65 Cpl Grewal and MCpl Skaarup maneuver the vehicle during Ex WC19.  
65 Visibility on Range 25, 5 CDSB Gagetown during the live fire conduct.  
66 Battle of Melfa River Diorama - WO (Ret'd) Ted MacLeod and Grant Dyck  
66 Glamorous Stable Captain Phil Webster  
67 Soldiers of LdSH(RC) meet with members of the community during their visit to Italy to commemorate the  
75th Anniversary of the Battle of Melfa River  
69 Cpl Trae Prosser lets a student from Prince Charles School pet his horse Shamrock  
71 Catherine and a Ferret Scout Car on display at Spruce Meadows.  
71 An engine in the process of being re-built.  
72 Cpl Adam Davies on the Drum Major's Course in Regina Saskatchewan  
73 Capt Webster, Sgt Giberson, Grant Dyck  
74 WO Clifford Kentfield conducting horizontal supervision, ignoring the presence of two perfectly good cots.  
74 Maj Hunter Deputy Commanding Officer Personnel Support Service branch 5 CDSG at the Officers Mess  
74 Cpl Maw & Cpl Gray  
74 The Change of Command ceremony as Major Jack Nguyen and his fire team partner MWO Martin Tolton  
take command from the outgoing Command Team of CTAT-L.  
74 Sgt Droogers finishing a shura with Village Leadership and Language Assistant on the PSYOPS TACOP  
course at PSTC.



## Photo Captions...continued

- 74 Majs Darren Gray and Sandy Cooper enjoy a cigar.  
74 Corps Technical Adjutant and Battle-Captain of Standards Sqn Capt Dave Jung standing seriously.  
75 Armour School Change of Command parade portraying Capt Cam Ross, Maj Tyler Collings, LCol Vince  
Kirstein and CWO Leigh Taylor  
76 L-R: Cpts Evan Wiome & Ali Raju and Lt Van Heerden visiting Gagetown Range Training Area.  
76 L-R: Capt Raju, Sgt Collins, WOs Miller, Charette and Gibson and Capt MacInnis from Standards RCACS  
77 R-L: Maj Collings Officer Commanding A Squadron RCACS as DS on combat team commanders course  
explain tactics to his disciples Majs Gray and Hevenor.  
77 L-R: Sgts Rushton and Thomas, CWO Taylor, Cpls Smith & Ellis and WO Levis from RHQ RCACS  
77 Maj Meikle Officer Commanding B Squadron RCACS posing for official picture.  
77 WO Miller's Birthday is being celebrated by WO Charette.  
78 Strathconas at the Armour Corps Mess Dinner.  
79 LCol Mike Mallette receives the CDS Commendation.  
79 Ottawa Strathconas gather for an Oilers victory.  
79 Instead of enjoying one of the fine pubs in Edinburgh, Scotland, MGen Derek Macaulay and LCol Mike  
Mallette climb to the top of Arthur's Seat.  
80 Deputy Base Commander Kingston, LCol Paul Pickell describing a firsthand account  
to the G3 Ops O, Capt Moses Pano.  
80 L-R Capt Moses Pano, Maj Dave Williams, Maj Mike Dullege, Maj Clayton Fifield. Absent. LCol Paul Pickell,  
Maj Islam Elkorazati, Maj John Rickard, Maj Tanya Grodzinski, Sgt Adrian Droogers, Sgt Matt Burke.  
81 DWD of Sgt Michael McGarity. L-R Cpl Booth James Booth, Maj Charles Prince, Sgt Michael McGarity,  
Sgt Gordon Carnevale and Sgt Maxime Gironne.  
82 Maj Whalley & LCol Onieu  
82 Cpl Allman  
82 CWO Chenier  
83 Capt Ali Mansour checking in on Capt Phil Buckingham preparing for Ex MOUNTAIN MAN 19.  
83 Capt Phil Buckingham, Capt Mike Forestell, and Capt Ali Mansour.  
84 MGen Trevor Cadieu congratulates Fred Hayward upon his promotion to LCol.  
84 Strathcona ladies and 3 Cdn Div HQ Public Affairs experts Mrs Krista Johns (left) and Maj Lena Angell.  
86 C/S A on operations.  
87 Battle damage on display at the Latrun Armour Museum.  
87 Catching my breath after a hike up the side of the Masada mesa.  
88 DCOM COL Guiney greeting roto1 at Kuwait International Airport.  
89 Sgt Mark "Door Daddy" Bell, Cpl Matt "Door Baby" New,  
Cpl Matt "Yes I am Single" Ouellet, Cpl Josh "O'Rourke" Rourke  
90 Strathcona's present during the Change of Command at the Canadian Embassy. L-R: Cpl Justin Milwain,  
Cpl Evan Cox, MCpl John Livingstone, Maj Michael Selberg, Col Pascal Demers,  
Capt Blake Tapp, Capt Colin Peterson, Sgt Colin Clare, Cpl Sean Tong.  
91 L-R MCpl Sharon Eged, MCpl Henry Chen, MCpl Lukas McKenzie, Maj Jack Nguyen, Sgt Tom Underwood,  
Capt Emma Perry, and Cpl Meagan Tanner compose the core of CTAT-L.  
91 Strathconas after successfully completing the Canadian Army Run in Lebanon.  
92 Capt Salter with his first love (sorry Ken-Dell!)  
93 MWO Melanie Parent waiting for the train wreck with eyes closed during the CMTC Obstacle Challenge.  
94 C/S POISON out on patrol.  
96 Regimental Officers Visit General Harvey's gravesite.  
97 Cpts Shumka and Carey try to make coffee.  
98 WO Mills, Sgt Scott, WO Sebo, WO Kearns and WO Mitchell or Charlie's Angels Rejects?  
98 2019 Moreuil Wood Mess Dinner.  
101 Squat – Subbie's Carolling.  
102 The visit of the President of Poland.  
104 Premier Jason Kenney visits the Regiment.  
104 CWO Clarke Recieves his 1 CMBG branding iron from Col Ritchie and CWO Hessell  
105 Steve Critchley at Sgt Richardson's Gravestone  
105 Passing of the Pace Stick at the CoA Parade.



# PERSEVERANCE



## **ALLIED WITH**

THE ROYAL LANCERS  
(QUEEN ELIZABETH'S OWN)

## **PARTNERED WITH**

10 (POLISH) ARMOUR CAVALRY BRIGADE

## **AFFILIATED CADET CORPS**

1292 CADET CORPS - CALGARY  
1813 CADET CORPS - CRANBROOK  
2716 CADET CORPS - MAYERTHORPE  
2756 CADET CORPS - INVEREMERE  
2860 CADET CORPS - FORT SIMPSON  
3066 CADET CORPS - GOLDEN  
3070 CADET CORPS - EVANSBURG