

THE STRATHCONIAN



Lord Strathcona's Horse
(Royal Canadians)

100TH ANNIVERSARY OF
THE BATTLE OF MOREUIL WOOD



EXCELLENCE DEFINED

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We salute and thank you.



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MEADOWS**

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ROLEX
'National'

CSI 5*

June 5-9, 2019

ROLEX
'Continental'

CSI 5*

June 13-16, 2019

ROLEX
'Pan American'

CSI 5*

June 27-30, 2019

ROLEX
'North American'

CSI 5*

July 3-7, 2019

ROLEX
'MASTERS'

CSIO 5*

September 4-8, 2019



**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

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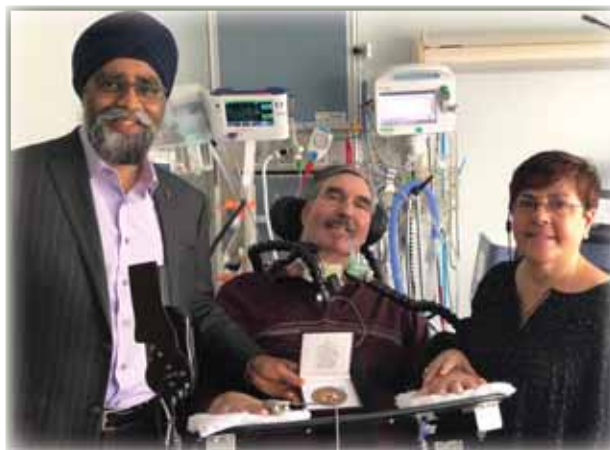
**Lieutenant-Colonel E.D Angell, CD
Commanding Officer**

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Message from the Colonel of the Regiment

Colonel Greg Hug



Our annual journal, the Strathconian, captures the major activities of the Regiment over the past year. This issue reflects a very busy year with operations, training, and commemorations. Changes in leadership as well as other activities such as sports competitions and the Regimental Society make for challenging times. I am proud to say that the Regiment has met all of these challenges with ease.

Operations saw the Regiment deploy to British Columbia twice: first for the floods and then for the forest fires. As of July, the Regiment started the Road to High Readiness training in preparation for overseas operational deployments either later this year or in 2020.

March 2018 marked the 100th anniversary of the Battle of Moreuil Wood. The Regimental Family gathered at commemoration events, which from all accounts were outstanding, from coast to coast and in France. The Regiment's parade in Edmonton immediately followed by the commemoration in the village of Moreuil with the Mounted Troop, battlefield tour and Freedom of the City highlighted the flexibility and agility of our leaders and soldiers. Thank you to our sponsors, especially Spruce Meadows.

The Minister of National Defence, **Harjit Sajjan**, presented me with his personal commemorative coin in November. He spoke very highly of the Strathconas and had fond recollections of his interactions with the Regiment.

It has been my privilege to serve as your Colonel of the Regiment for the past four years. This will be my last official article for the Strathconian. Thank you for your support for me and more importantly your support to our Regiment. They continue to achieve the outstanding standards that have been set by our predecessors. I continue to be impressed with the leadership, dedication, and professionalism of our officers and soldiers.

Finally and most importantly I wish to thank our families for all of their support behind the scenes. Without their strength and resilience on the home front, we would not be able to successfully complete all of the training and operational commitments. You are the ones who deserve the medals.

So get comfortable and read about the diverse accomplishments of your Regiment over the past year. You will be proud of them, as I am.



A Word From the Senior Serving Strathcona

Brigadier-General Trevor Cadieu

I have been blessed this past year to observe Strathcona soldiers deployed on operations, training for combat, commemorating our rich history, and engaging with Canadians in public.

On many of those occasions, senior military and civilian leaders have approached me to communicate how impressed they are with the men and women of our Regiment. Strathconas are known throughout the world for their courage, warrior spirit, professionalism, compassion, and strong respect for family.

Our young troops, leaders, and veterans alike have earned that reputation for our Regiment, and for Canada. We should never take it for granted. That powerful commitment to our values is what encourages our friends to so generously give of themselves to our soldiers and their loved ones. It is why allies want to fight alongside Strathcona soldiers. And, it is that commitment to excellence that compels senior Army leaders to choose Strathconas for the toughest missions.

That is exactly why Strathcona's will be deployed this coming year to places like Latvia, Ukraine, and throughout the Middle East.

We should all be grateful to be affiliated with the Strathcona's and to have that myrtle green running through our veins!





Commanding Officer's Message

Lieutenant-Colonel Eric Angell

Since assuming command in late-June, I feel as if time has sped up! It is hard for me to believe that my time as CO is already approaching the half-way mark. As always, the Regiment is busy and the future holds great opportunity. Largest on the horizon is the fact we have been named to lead Operation REASSURANCE Rotation 13 in Latvia in 2020. I have no doubt our Regiment is up to the challenge.

I would be remiss if I did not take this opportunity to thank the greater Strathcona family in general and a few folks specifically. My continued thanks to my mentors (you know who you are!), most especially to our Colonel of the Regiment, **Col Greg Hug**. His steadfast advice and occasional "kick in the ass" during Regimental Society meetings have gone a long way to keep me on the path.

I also wish to thank my personal fire team partners, **CWO Rob Clarke** and **Maj Al Wong**. These two old warriors have provided me the sage advice and continuity required in order to ensure our soldiers get the training, attention and care they deserve.

My thanks to the Editor-in-Chief, **Maj James Anderson**, and his team for putting together this fine publication. All I can say is I can feel your pain, as I have been there, done that! Also we all know the Strathconian wouldn't be possible without **Mrs. Kathy Batty**, keep doing what you do: making us look good!

Lastly, I wish to pass on my thanks and admiration to the officers and soldiers of our Regiment. They continue to inspire me and make me fiercely proud to be a Strathcona, every single day.



Regimental Sergeant-Major's Observations

Chief Warrant Officer Rob Clarke



As I pen my final article for the Strathconian as the RSM, I will do my best to keep it short and to the point since the following pages will fittingly highlight just how impressive and diverse our soldiers are in both print and picture – hopefully doing justice to what our soldiers and their families accomplish on a yearly basis.

Clear to see through various challenging exercises, multiple domestic & international deployments, and impeccable Moreuil Wood commemorations in both Canada and France, **all ranks & trades** within the Regiment excelled and continued to lead the way within 1 CMBG, 3rd Cdn Div, and the Army in 2018. Needless to say, none of this would have been possible without the families behind the scenes, so be proud of what you accomplished this past year, and if new to the Strathcona team family, welcome, as we all wear the black beret for a reason.

Defining what 3 years as your RSM has meant to me in this short article would be futile - and attempting to thank everyone would be a slippery slope - so I would just like to say that I've been blessed to have served alongside consecutive exceptional Commanding Officers, honoured to have soldiered shoulder-to-shoulder with most of you on operations, battled at your side on the sports field, and even grappled a select few on the mats. I've been

privileged to complete my tenure with our CoTR, **Col Greg Hug** - a man that personifies our motto - and have met countless dedicated members of the 'Old Guard' that have me convinced that we are stronger than ever before. To steal a line from a former well-respected CO; a Unit does something – a Regiment is something. So true and every single one of you plays a big part. Thank you for the steadfast support.

Yes, turning a page on almost 30 years of service to the Regiment will be tough, especially as we set our sights on numerous operational deployments in 2019-20, but knowing that an impressive and devoted leader in **Kevin King** will be assuming the position - supported by **Seema, Jasmine, Tarin** and a host of exceptional Snr NCOs at his side - I have no doubt the Regiment is in good hands for years to come.

In closing, a bit of parting advice: be the soldier you joined to be every day and don't let passing trends or peer pressure sway your original goals. You miss every target you don't aim for, so set your sights on what you want to achieve and get after it by being physically & mentally fit, dependable & deployable, and being a contributing member of every team you're part of. Careers are marathons, not sprints, so stay the course and fire it up!!





Editor-in-Chief Forward

Major James Anderson

Well, another year has come and gone, and once again the Strathconas have proved ourselves to be an indispensable asset for the Canadian Armed Forces, demonstrating our excellent soldiering skills and leadership at home and abroad, through training exercises, operations, and unit exchanges with our allied partners. I am very proud of the achievements that our Regiment accomplished over the past year and it has been my pleasure working in my role as the Editor-In-Chief to attempt to showcase all of the hard work and dedication from our soldiers, leaders, and families.

As always, this publication would not be possible without the tireless efforts of **Mrs. Kathy Batty**, who once again produced a Strathconian of top notch quality, keeping both myself and our publisher on the straight and narrow. I would also like to thank my second in command, **Capt Ryan Lee**, for all his work in ~~harassing~~ politely reminding people both inside and outside the Regiment to submit their articles on time(ish). Without the dedication and professionalism of this team, the Strathconian would not have been possible, so again, a heartfelt thank you to you both. I would also like to take this opportunity to thank our sponsors and their continued generosity towards making the Strathconian a truly worthwhile endeavour we can all be proud of.

The Regiment has been, and will continue to be, extremely busy. I invite you all to enjoy the wonderfully crafted and humorous articles presented by both serving and retired Strathconas, there will certainly be something of interest to everyone related to our Regimental family. As we ramp up once again to deploy on international operations, there will no doubt continue to be plenty of material for next year's edition of the Strathconian and I invite anyone interested to keep this in the back of their mind as they go through training or deployments, to write an article on what they and the Regiment is doing, as it will no doubt be of interest to others.



Year in Review



Births and Marriages

Cpl Danczak's twin boys Caleb and Emmett were born on 8 January 2018

Tpr Schemenauer married Randall Eve Thacker on 18 February 2018

OCtd Lauterbacher's son Evan was born on 2 April 2018

Cpl Smith's son Jaxson was born on 19 April 2018

Sgt Foster's son Wyatt was born on 13 May 2018

MCpl Davidson's son Tucker was born on 25 May 2018

MCpl Veltmeyer's son Bennett was born on 14 June 2018

Sgt McKenzie's daughter Tara was born on 18 June 2018

MCpl Deschambault's son Thomas was born on 27 June 2018

Capt Elliot's son Ryan was born on 3 July 2018

Sgt Murdoch married Veronica Holt on 7 July 2018

Capt Timms' daughter Grace was born on 9 July 2018

Cpl Hill's son Konnor was born on 16 July 2018

Lt Horlings married Amanda Harness on 21 July 2018

Sgt Daniel's son Leo was born on 26 July 2018

Tpr Wright married Amanda Hunter on 11 August 2018

Tpr Kleemaier's son Torsten was born on 19 August 2018

Capt Vahal's son Laksh was born on 22 August 2018

Tpr Rodriguez's daughter Olivia was born on 29 August 2018

Cpl McKenzie married Tamara Kielstra on 8 September 2018

Lt Patt's daughter Aurora was born on 30 September 2018

MCpl Campbell and Cpl Guigue's daughter Paisley was born on 21 October 2018

MCpl Paquette's daughter Elise was born on 24 October 2018

MWO Parent's son Tommy was born on 31 October 2018

Tpr Tate's son Nash was born on 8 November 2018

Cpl George's son Ares was born on 26 November 2018

Cpl Gaona's son Ódin was born on 4 December 2018

WO Chuback's daughter Harper was born on 11 December 2018

Tpr Charron's daughter Ellie was born on 21 December 2018



Honours and Awards

Canadian Forces Decoration Second Clasp

Sgt Giberson

Canadian Forces Decoration First Clasp

MWO Churchill

WO Babin

Sgt Scott

Sgt Bell

Canadian Forces Decoration

Capt Elliot

Capt Lim

Lt Mansour

Sgt Thomas

Sgt McMurtry

Sgt Churchill

Sgt Hodgins

MCpl MacLeod

MCpl Miller

MCpl Davidson

MCpl Mijares

MCpl Valad

National Defence Medal (France)

BGen Kelsey (Gold Echelon)

Maj Day (Silver Echelon)

Commissioning Scroll

2Lt Clackson

Special Service Medal (NATO Bar)

Maj Anderson

Capt Buckingham

Lt Hume

WO Paterson

Sgt Scott

Sgt Kentfield

MCpl Wry

MCpl Cheng

MCpl Dunford

MCpl Martel

MCpl Van Den Born

MCpl Stratford

MCpl Nieuwhof

MCpl Croxall

MCpl Schijns

MCpl Francis

Cpl Norring

Cpl Finkle

Cpl Kelly

Cpl Hibbert

Cpl Roy

Cpl Wuerch

Cpl Davidson

Cpl Sayyeau

Cpl Graham

Cpl Hartman

Cpl Deringer

Tpr Audette

Tpr Kelly

Tpr Beauparlant

Tpr Schemenauer

Tpr Lawrence

Tpr Gano

Cpl Martin

Cpl Feenstra

Cpl Radford

Pte Tellier-Normand

Special Service Medal (Expeditionary Bar)

Cpl Grubber

General Service Medal (Expeditionary Ribbon)

MCpl Miller

MCpl Lucas

MCpl Young, BS

Cpl Martin

Cpl McKenzie

Cpl Oaten

Operational Service Medal (Expeditionary Ribbon)

Capt Lim

Chief of Defence Staff Commendation

Maj Brown

Commander Canadian Army Commendation

WO Delaney

Sgt Kearns

Commander Canadian Joint Operations Centre Commendation

Capt Giajnorio

Sgt Kearns

Commander 3rd Canadian Division Commendation

Sgt Carnevale

Commander Latvian Land Force Mechanized Infantry Commendation

WO Kentfield

Commander Joint Task Force Pacific Commendation

Cpl Ford

Cpl Boutilier

Commander 1 Canadian Mechanized Brigade Group Commendation

OCdt Lauterbacher

Sgt Hayes

Sgt Murray

Sgt Woods

Cpl Lonegren

Tpr Springer

Commander 1 Canadian Mechanized Brigade Coin

MCpl Ferguson

MCpl MacDonald

Cpl Bell

Tpr Keyes



CO's Coin

Capt Carey
Capt Peterson
Capt Williams
Lt Clackson
WO Urquhart
WO Eddy
MCpl Eged
Sgt Woods
Cpl Comeau
Cpl Deringer
Cpl Stender
Cpl Thompson
Tpr Van Dijk
Tpr Feldmann

RSM's Coin

Cpl Gillis
Cpl Ratcliffe
Cpl Rayment
Tpr Wellings
Tpr Keyes
Tpr Thibault
Tpr Payette

RSM Shield – PLQ Top Candidate

Cpl McNeil



Promotions

Maj Williams
Maj Gray
Maj Timms
Maj Whalley
Capt Manser
Capt Kirkham
Capt Carey
Capt Hume
Lt Patt
MWO Churchill
MWO Parent
MWO Delaney
WO Hodgson
WO Sebo
WO Brister
WO Kentfield
WO Chuback
WO Ouellet
WO McAtasney
Sgt Burris
Sgt Johnson
Sgt Hodgins
Sgt Clare
Sgt Ford
Sgt Wright
Sgt Sarraino
Sgt Jesse
Sgt Balfour
Sgt Norman
MCpl Schijns
MCpl Dobson
MCpl Nicholson

MCpl Goodwin
MCpl Lawrence
MCpl Meaney
MCpl Job
MCpl Doan
MCpl Hamilton
MCpl Goodwin
MCpl Purdon
MCpl Emery
MCpl Ramphal
MCpl McQueen
MCpl Danczak
MCpl Weeden
MCpl Comeau
MS Chalmers
Cpl Beck
Cpl Poitras
Cpl Guigue
Cpl Hurtubise
Cpl Tsui
Cpl Smith
Cpl Parkes
Cpl Martin
Cpl Choquette
Cpl Fancy
Cpl Pelletier
Cpl Andrews
Cpl Oleary
Cpl Gill
Cpl Lopez
Cpl Braconnier
Cpl Walker

Cpl Hughes
Cpl Wynen
Cpl Kelly
Cpl Boileau
Cpl Pittman
Cpl King
Cpl Loisel
Cpl Cocker
Cpl George
Cpl Smith
Cpl Reetz
Cpl Mancini
Cpl Tellier-Normand
Cpl Hower
Cpl Cyr
Cpl Edgson
Cpl Brenton
Cpl Friel
Cpl Beauparlant
Cpl Savaris
Cpl Colville
Cpl Logan
Cpl Stone
Cpl Jones
Cpl Kibzey
Cpl Cox
Cpl Adey
Cpl McIntosh
Cpl Gano
Cpl Tong
Cpl Munger
Cpl Kimmell

Cpl Schemenauer
Cpl Thibault
Cpl Peacher
Cpl Lawrence
Tpr(T) Chapman
Tpr(T) Cruickshank
Tpr(T) Hutchinson
Tpr(T) Durrant
Tpr(T) Lambert-Barnett
Tpr(T) Guest
Tpr(T) Annaert-van der Werf
Tpr(T) Sibbet
Tpr(T) Perry
Tpr(T) Kelly
Tpr(T) McKelvey
Tpr(T) Jones
Tpr(T) Feldmann
Tpr(T) Foster
Tpr(T) Wysocki
Tpr(T) Salvador
Tpr(T) Sanders
Tpr(T) Engelbrecht
Tpr(T) Pollard
Tpr(T) McGowan
Tpr(T) Smallwood
Tpr(T) Taylor
Tpr(B) Worden
Tpr(B) McDonald
Tpr(B) Breustedt
Tpr(B) York
Tpr(B) Obispo
Tpr(B) Remeshylo



LORD STRATHCONA'S HORSE (ROYAL CANADIANS) REGIMENTAL SOCIETY

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

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, 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 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

Col Hug

Commanding Officer

LCol Angell

Regimental Second-in-Command

Maj Wong

Regimental Sergeant Major

CWO Clarke

Adjutant

Capt Shumka

Commanding Officer’s Secretary

Kathy Batty

Operations Officer

Capt Tams

Regimental Headquarters

Command/Operations Cell

Capt Smith
Capt Neshcov
WO Mills
Sgt Kearns
MCpl Sherlock-Hubbard
MCpl Bondy
MCpl Weir
Cpl Watson
Cpl Hall
Cpl Maisonneuve
Cpl Gibbons
Cpl Dillon
Cpl Munro
Cpl Blair
Cpl Kibzey
Tpr Tate

Regimental Orderly Room

WO Lywood
Sgt Arseneau
MCpl Howse
MCpl Eged
MCpl Burton
Cpl Parkes
Pte Woodhouse
Pte Rosvold

Signals Troop

Capt Manser
Lt O’Sullivan

WO Mitchell
Sgt Scott
MCpl Agnew
MCpl Gaudreault
MCpl Livingstone
Cpl Bouffard
Cpl Doucette
Cpl Fuchs Perry
Cpl Kimmel
Cpl Murray
Cpl Diaz Gonzalez Shapiro
Sig Kipke-Briggs

Training Cell

Capt Rogozinski
WO Sebo
Cpl Martin

Intelligence Cell

Capt Lim
Cpl Coughlan

Attached Out

Sgt Torney – 3 CDSB
Cpl Hatter – 3 CDSB
Cpl Wood – 3 CDSB
Cpl Brown – 408 THS
Cpl Oullette – 408 THS
Cpl New – 408 THS

Prince of Wales Squadron (A Sqn)

Officer Commanding

Maj Nguyen

Squadron Sergeant Major

WO Babin

Squadron Headquarters

Capt McTavish
Sgt Reid
MCpl Chen
Cpl McKenzie
Cpl Sawyer
Cpl Poitras
Cpl Marcotte
Tpr Laperriere
Tpr Salvador

First Troop

Lt Patt
WO Hamilton
MCpl Davidson
MCpl Goodwin
Cpl Gill
Cpl Smith C.J.
Cpl Edgson
Cpl Munger
Tpr Wysocki
Pte(B) Wright
Pte(B) Genge

Second Troop

Lt Van Heerden
Sgt Wright
MCpl Talmage
Cpl Moceton Velasquez
Cpl Hill
Cpl Smith C.A.K.
Cpl Neufeld
Cpl Ned
Cpl Logan
Cpl Jones
Tpr Boothman
Pte(B) Bakos

Third Troop

Lt Perry
MCpl Campbell
MCpl Meaney
Cpl Reetz
Cpl Loisel
Cpl Friel
Cpl Rawson
Cpl Friolet
Pte(B) Frizzell
Pte(B) Lastowski

Administration Troop

WO McLoughlin
Sgt Balfour
MCpl Monge
Cpl Doan
Cpl Buell
Cpl Gillis
Cpl Warren
Cpl Hogan
Cpl Snowden
Cpl Pecarskie
Tpr Guest
Tpr Chapman
Pte(B) Coulthard

B Squadron

Officer Commanding

Maj Anderson

Squadron Sergeant Major

MWO Churchill

Squadron Headquarters

Capt Tapp
Sgt McMurtry
MCpl Doan
MCpl Richardson
Cpl McKenzie
Cpl Elms
Cpl Grubber
Cpl Hughes

Cpl Andrews
Tpr Stamp
Tpr Wilson
Tpr Thompson

First Troop

Lt Mansour
WO Chuback
Sgt Churchill
MCpl Taborowski
MCpl Townsend
Cpl Lopez
Cpl Gaona
Cpl Brenton
Cpl Evers
Cpl Cyr
Tpr McGowan
Tpr Hutchinson
Tpr Benoit
Tpr Barrette
Tpr Vivian

Second Troop

Lt Horlings
WO Brister
Sgt Hodgins
MCpl Snoek
MCpl Ouellet
Cpl Fancy
Cpl Young
Cpl Hammel
Cpl Pittman
Tpr Engelbrecht
Tpr Williamson
Tpr Francis
Tpr Clauson
Tpr Kleemaier

Third Troop

Lt Lee
WO Williams
Sgt Burris
MCpl Sandhu
Cpl Maendel
Cpl Rose
Cpl Thibault
Cpl Wagner
Tpr Taylor
Tpr Bjarnason
Tpr Rice
Tpr Dunn
Tpr Kentfield
Tpr Charron
Tpr Grayston

Administration Troop

Capt Lee
WO Vigar
MCpl Popoff
MCpl Shepherd
MCpl Stratford
MCpl Comeau
MCpl MacLeod
MCpl Nicholson
Cpl Belding
Cpl MacFadyen
Cpl Adey
Cpl Bursey
Cpl Guigue
Cpl Gallagher
Cpl Vanthournout
Cpl Croft
Cpl McGee
Cpl Fortin
Tpr Pollard
Tpr Sanders
Tpr Feldmann
Tpr Shulba
Tpr Worden
Tpr Ross
Tpr Joncas
Tpr Morris
Tpr Blair
Tpr Blanco
Tpr Mcdonald
Tpr Breustedt
Tpr York

Reconnaissance Squadron

Officer Commanding

Maj Selberg

Squadron Sergeant Major

MWO Parent (Parental)
MWO Delaney

Squadron Headquarters

Capt Couture
Capt Hume
WO Paterson
Sgt Rodgers
MCpl Lawrence
MCpl McNair
MCpl Symington
MCpl Emery
Cpl Radford
Cpl King
Cpl Tanner
Cpl Martin
Cpl Wynen
Tpr Keyes

First Troop

2Lt Keewatin
WO Kentfield
Sgt Carnevale
Sgt Ford
MCpl Barten
MCpl George
MCpl Veinot
Cpl Beck
Cpl Brown
Cpl Beauparlant
Cpl Deringer
Cpl Grewal
Cpl Kelly
Cpl Roy
Cpl Schemenaur
Cpl Snelgrove
Cpl Steinke
Tpr Fujita
Tpr Kelly
Tpr McClure
Tpr Obsipo
Tpr Remeshylo
Tpr Robinson
Tpr Stewart

Second Troop

Lt Kelly
WO Hodgson
Sgt Jesse
MCpl Ferguson
MCpl McDougall
MCpl McQueen
Cpl Annaert-van der werf
Cpl Fox
Cpl Hewer
Cpl Jones
Cpl Lonegren
Cpl McKelvey
Cpl Mullens
Cpl Shute
Cpl Stephenson
Cpl Thompson
Cpl Wheeler
Tpr Brown
Tpr Burton
Tpr Foster
Tpr Hachey
Tpr Smythe

Third Troop

2Lt Clackson
WO McAtasney
Sgt Johnson
Sgt Norman
Sgt Peachey
MCpl Adby
MCpl Kewley

MCpl Skaarup
Cpl Breau
Cpl Colville
Cpl Crockett
Cpl Kelly
Cpl Lang
Cpl Peacher
Cpl Stone
Cpl Tuomisto
Tpr Barrett
Tpr Cruickshank
Tpr Goralchuck
Tpr Henderson
Tpr Hogan
Tpr Kalf
Tpr Kroeker
Tpr Lafond
Tpr Long
Tpr Payette
Tpr Reynolds-Tack
Tpr Springer

Administration Troop

Capt McHugh
WO McDougall
Sgt Underwood
MCpl Job
MCpl Schijns
MCpl Stevenson
Cpl Davidson
Cpl Finkle
Cpl Fulljames
Cpl Gano
Cpl George
Cpl Graham
Cpl McNeil
Cpl Silverman
Cpl Williams
Tpr King
Tpr Kwak
Tpr McCauley
Tpr Miguel
Tpr Rochemont

HQ Squadron

Officer Commanding

Maj Brown

Squadron Sergeant Major

MWO Baglole*
MWO Shiells

Squadron Headquarters

Capt Buckingham
Lt Maclean
MCpl Schafer
Cpl Whitney

Cpl Frew
Cpl Webster
Cpl Williston
Tpr Skinner
Tpr Villiers

Transport Troop

Capt Kirkham
WO Clarke
Sgt Murray
MCpl Cheng
MCpl Mijares
MCpl Nieuhof
Cpl Aubé
Cpl Braconnier
Cpl Cowen
Cpl Houston
Cpl Kearns
Cpl Landry
Cpl Langboun
Cpl Mancini
Cpl Rayment
Tpr Bebee
Tpr Bingley
Tpr Bosa
Tpr Duke
Tpr Elliot
Tpr Lockhart
Tpr Nantais
Tpr Rodriquez
Tpr Serrano
Tpr Slobozian
Tpr Smith P.G.
Tpr Steele
Tpr To
Tpr Van Dijk
Tpr Wellings
Tpr Works

Mounted Troop

Capt Gianjorio
Sgt Kruhlak
MCpl Dobson
Cpl Aguilla
Cpl Brown
Cpl Choquette
Cpl Cocker
Cpl Dunne
Cpl Ford
Cpl Fraser S.
Cpl Gauthier
Cpl Germann
Cpl Hodgins
Cpl King-McAuslan
Cpl Langlands
Cpl Lees
Cpl Maddison
Cpl Marshall
Cpl Morin

Cpl Paquette
Cpl Prosser
Cpl Senff
Cpl Thibodeau
Tpr Gendron
Tpr Reiter

Regimental Accounts

Capt Peterson
Sgt Pasuta
MCpl Korenowski
Cpl Eidt
Cpl Manaigre
Cpl Poitas
Cpl Fraser

Family Support Troop

Lt(N) Jackson
MCpl Blacklock

Quartermaster Troop

Capt Carey
MWO Leclerc
MWO Chenier
Sgt Barsotta
Sgt Daniel
Sgt Francis
Sgt Woods
MS Chalmers
MCpl Danczak
MS Golbourn
MCpl Gordon
MCpl Wojcichowsky
Cpl Allard
Cpl Armstrong
Cpl Clendennin
Cpl Crackle-Skulason
Cpl DeMille
Cpl Dubois
Cpl Freeman
Cpl Ford
Cpl Gilroy
Cpl Manion
Cpl Mann
Cpl O’Leary
Cpl Olaes
Cpl Otis Monat
Cpl Sayyeau
Cpl Savaris
Cpl Sullivan
Cpl Tellier-Normand
Tpr Durrant
Tpr Moore
Tpr Pelletier
Pte Perry
Pte Phills
Tpr Smallwood

Regimental Maintenance Troop

Capt Mellow
MWO Pawson
WO Bigras
WO Cowen
WO Eddy
WO Urquhart
Sgt Broadfoot
Sgt Covey
Sgt Denvir
Sgt Ikert
Sgt Lewis
Sgt McKie
Sgt Sarraino
MCpl Balsdon
MCpl Blanchard
MCpl Bremner
MCpl Deschambault
MCpl Gaudet
MCpl Goodwin
MCpl Graham
MCpl Hamilton
MCpl Harzing
MCpl MacDonald
MCpl Martel
MCpl Miller
MCpl Paquette
MCpl Purdon
MCpl Ramphal
MCpl Reddick
MCpl Rioux
MCpl Valad
MCpl Veltmeyer
MCpl Waddell
Cpl Boutillier
Cpl Bailey
Cpl Barnard
Cpl Blanchard
Cpl Boileau
Cpl Breton
Cpl Burke
Cpl Davies
Cpl Desjardins
Cpl Dicaire
Cpl Docherty
Cpl Dulong
Cpl Edmund
Cpl Gilbert
Cpl Hurtubise
Cpl Kozack
Cpl Lachappelle
Cpl MacDougall
Cpl Machin
Cpl Mastalerz
Cpl Murray
Cpl Paquet-Clapin
Cpl Scholotiuk

Cpl Skafar
Cpl Smith
Cpl Talmage
Cpl Walker BR
Cpl Walker A
Cpl Wiggan
Cpl Wilkinson
Cpl Wills
Tpr Hammond

SQMS

WO Christopoulos
MCpl Dunford
MCpl Weeden
Cpl Stender

UMS

Lt(N) Traverse
Sgt Brushett
MCpl Nichol
Cpl Belisle
Cpl Breckenridge
Cpl Donnelly
Cpl Hamilton
Cpl MacTavish

Museum

Capt Webster
Sgt Giberson





The Year in Review

January

Ex STRONG CONTENDER: 22 – 26 Jan 18

Ex UNIFIED RESOLVE (Valcartier): 26 Jan – 9 Feb 18

February

Ex VIRTUAL RAM 18-01: 5 – 16 Feb 18

Ex STEELE SCHOLAR (Fernie): 5 – 8 Feb 18

Ex STEELE CASCADES (Iquique, Chile): 12 – 23 Feb 18

Ex STEELE STALINGRAD: 20 Feb – 2 Mar 18

March

Ex STEELE KING (Calgary): 14 – 15 Mar 18

Spring Break Block Leave: 27 Mar – 8 Apr 18

Moreuil Wood 100th Edmonton Commemoration: 19 – 23 Mar 18

Moreuil Wood 100th France Commemoration: 28 Mar – 1 Apr 18

Ex STEELE LANCERS (United Kingdom and France): 23 Mar – 2 Apr 18

April

Ex REFLEXE RAPIDE (Wainwright): 20 Apr – 4 May 18

Joint Warfighting Assessment (Germany): 20 Apr – 11 May 18

May

Ex MAPLE RESOLVE 18: 13 - 27 May 18

Op LENTUS 18-03 (Kelowna): 16 – 23 May 18

Ex PRAIRIE STORM (Suffield): 22 May – 4 Jun 18

June

Regimental Change of Command: 27 Jun 18





July

Calgary Stampede / Spruce Meadows: **5 – 16 Jul 18**
 Nijmegen Marches (The Netherlands): **12 – 24 Jul 18**
 Regimental Fishing Tournament: **12 – 13 Jul 18**
 Regimental IBTS Concentration: **9 – 26 Jul 18**
 MCpl Golf Tournament: **27 Jul 18**
 Summer Block Leave: **28 Jul – 19 Aug 18**

August

Ex GRIZZLY DEFENDER (Calgary): **17 – 19 Aug 18**
 Fall PCF Cycle: **21 Aug – 21 Sep 18**
 Family Day: **25 Aug 18**
 Op LENTUS 18-05 (Vernon): **26 Aug – 12 Sep 18**

September

Ex TOUGH CONTENDER 18: **5 Sep 18**
 Ex MOUNTAIN MAN 18: **6 Sep 18**
 Ex UNIFIED RESOLVE Part 1: **19 – 28 Sep 18**
 Army Run (Ottawa): **21 – 25 Sep 18**
 Regimental PCF Gun camp (Wainwright): **26 Sep – 5 Oct 18**

October

Ex STEELE SABRE 18 (Wainwright): **9 – 21 Oct 18**

November

No Stone Left Alone: **5 – 9 Nov 18**
 Ex VIRTUAL RAM 18-02: **7 – 22 Nov 18**
 Ex LYNX DUKE (Yakima, USA): **19 – 26 Nov 18**
 Grey Cup Support: **20 – 25 Nov 18**
 BLACK HAT Professional Development Week: **26 – 30 Nov 18**

December

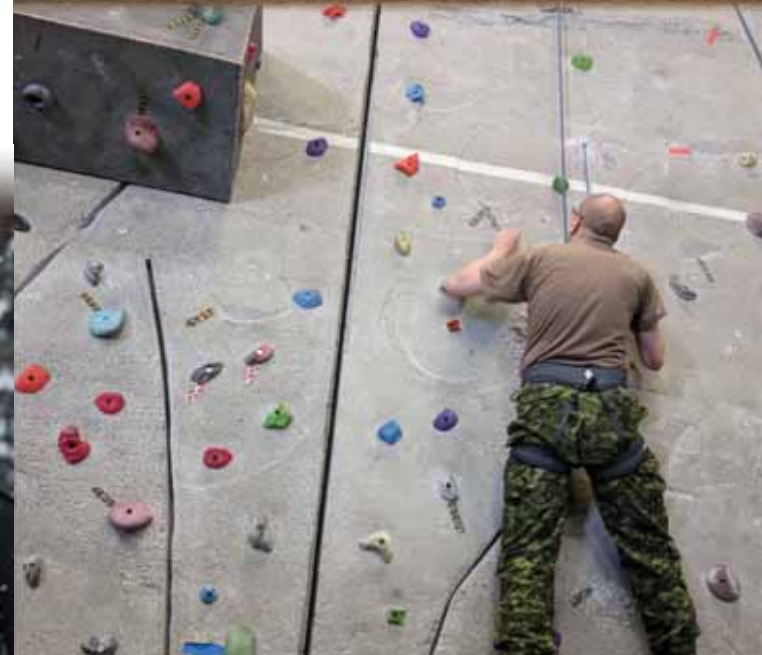
Ex RESILIENT STEELE 18: **3 – 14 Dec 18**
 Kids' Christmas Party: **8 Dec 18**
 Christmas Block Leave: **15 Dec 18 – 6 Jan 19**



Squadron



Articles





Regimental Headquarters

Water, Fire, and Steele

Sergeant Rob Kearns

The year 2018 has been non-stop in RHQ - we wouldn't want it any other way. Spring saw many members of RHQ sent to France to commemorate the 100th anniversary of the Battle of Moreuil Wood (one of the Regiment's most celebrated victories). The lucky members sent to Europe enjoyed battlefield tours and even a re-enactment of the "last Canadian cavalry charge" as demonstrated by our very own SMT.

After a particularly snowy winter, the Sun's exuberant return caused the snow to melt, leading to a lot of water without a place to go. Where better to go when visiting the West than "wine country?" The Okanagan Valley quickly filled with the water; the many picturesque rivers and spillways expanding to disastrous levels. With civilian property and infrastructure in danger, the Army was called out to do anything possible to prevent loss or damage. RHQ was the first body of Strathconas to hit the highway, with 1x LAV 6.0, 3x TAPVs, a Bison, and some pickup trucks. We pushed through the night, across the mountains and into Vernon BC; our temporary home. After about 9 days of building grandiose sandbag structures that protected homes and infrastructure, our weary team once again took to the highway, but this time we were headed for home.

After such a wet spring, the troops were looking forward to a hot and dry summer leave, complete with patio beers and beach trips. As the long days of summer wound down, the air became thick and hazy with a familiar smell of smoke on the breeze. It appeared that the Regiment had done too thorough of a job defeating the water - BC had begun doing what it does best: burning! Once again the Strathconas pushed west through the Rockies, this time in a fleet of pickup trucks. Once in BC, the Regiment built its headquarters in the Vernon Cadet Camp, with one satellite camp being established in Merritt, BC. With an AO that took several hours to traverse and with the fires raging worse than ever before, the days proved to be long and exhausting with every able-bodied soldier working and rotating to the fire line.

With hard work, determination, and a little help from the weather, fire danger levels started slowly dropping. The reservists were finally able to stand up a Coy to relieve LdSH(RC), and allow our troops to return home tired, dirty, and once again victorious.

With a long summer behind us it was time to return our focus to soldiering. The autumn months always mean two things to Strathconas: PCF Gun Camps and Ex STEELE SABRE.

The PCF Gun Camp was run this year by RHQ (through the RGWO) and it was a busy week at Range 16. We had Leopards, LAVs, and TAPVs all firing at once. Even the CO and Brigade Commander came out to do their shoots for the LAV 6.0.

With the PCF Gun Camp done, it was finally RHQ's time to shine! Ex STEELE SABRE is a chance every year for the Sqns to conduct live and dry tactical training at the troop level. For Ex STEELE SABRE 18 RHQ was lean and hungry. A combination of tenacious young troops, ambitious officers, and battle hardened Snr NCOs made for the "perfect storm" of effectiveness. Stealth was the name of the game and RHQ were the obvious winners. C/S 0 lived deep in the woods behind layers of wire and security. Tents were no longer an option as the troops happily adopted sleeping holes and "hooches." Sentries protected the hide 24 hours a day and the only sound emanating from the wood line was the faint echo of constantly dropping net IDs on the radio. Through sheer perseverance, 6 Cpls managed to do the work of a whole Sqn of NCMs and never was a complaint heard. Everything meant more this year; with the coveted "tour positions" on the line, every soldier was driven to perform to their maximum potential. The weeks spent in the field this year somehow seemed shorter and longer simultaneously, but like all field exercises it eventually culminated in a mighty "smoker" in the tank barn once occupied by the CWES personnel. Hard living leads to hard celebrating: RHQ's own **Cpl Zach Kibzey** made sure all Sqns were properly briefed on the fastest way to remove beer from a can (for emergencies only) and I made sure all the troops made it to bed ok. I even decided to sleep on the floor near the washroom so I could help wayward troops in the middle of the night. This marked the end of RHQ's busy year, but with several computer exercises looming in the near future, and with BC still being prone to natural disasters, we know it's only a matter of time before the few have to once again do the work of many.



A Squadron



WAR DADDY
12A
You're Fine

A Squadron

Master Corporals Alastair Gordon and Andrew Goodwin

Another year has passed, and once again, A Squadron has set the standard. The year started off on the right foot with A Squadron rightfully being crowned Prince of Wales Squadron. The accolades continued to pile up as they successfully completed the long and arduous road to high readiness, becoming Canada's premier tank squadron.

Despite the Regiment being sorely undermanned due to a multitude of deployments, the pace in garrison never slowed. In fact, it seemed to speed up. For A Squadron this meant that we were tapped over and over again to fill roles in the never ending revolving door of tasks that the Regiment found themselves with. Never shying away from a challenge, A Squadron accepted every responsibility that came their way and completed them to the standard to be expected from the Prince of Wales Squadron.

Being that the Strathcona's are Canada's tank regiment, our members came to the realization long ago that an ever present implied task is to be prepared to support a variety of events, both for the military and in the public eye. A Squadron willingly engaged with a plethora of dog-and-pony and community relations tasks the way they would attack targets on a live fire range: enthusiastically, efficiently, and with a professionalism that sets them apart.

Whether it was visiting dignitaries, the Calgary Stampede, Spruce Meadows parades, or national holidays, all were subjected to the royal treatment. All were left with the same impression: the soldiers of A Squadron are the best at what they do, and they are proud of that fact. No matter the size of the job, A Squadron always brings the A-game.



These last twelve months were important for more than showcasing A Squadron's exemplary service. The year 2018 marked the 100 year anniversary of the end of World War 1. As such, both Remembrance Day and No Stone Left Alone were occasions of particular significance. A Squadron donned their poppies, and best dress, and joined the rest of the country in paying their respect to the fallen as well as to the brave men and women who served in the past.

The year 2018 also marked the 100 year anniversary of the Battle of Moreuil Wood, the Regiment's greatest battle honour. Such a momentous occasion was marked by a contingent of Strathconas returning to France in order to pay homage on the battlefield where **Lt Gordon Flowerdew** led that fateful charge. Because of

their hard work, it was A Squadron's honour to send some of their finest soldiers to take part. As always, the members of A Squadron were a shining example of pride and professionalism.

Having a reputation on the world stage as one of the greatest armoured regiments of all time comes with its fair share of perks. For instance, an ongoing exchange program with our Chilean brothers and sisters. This year it was 2nd Troop's turn to lead the charge as ambassadors of the A Squadron brand.

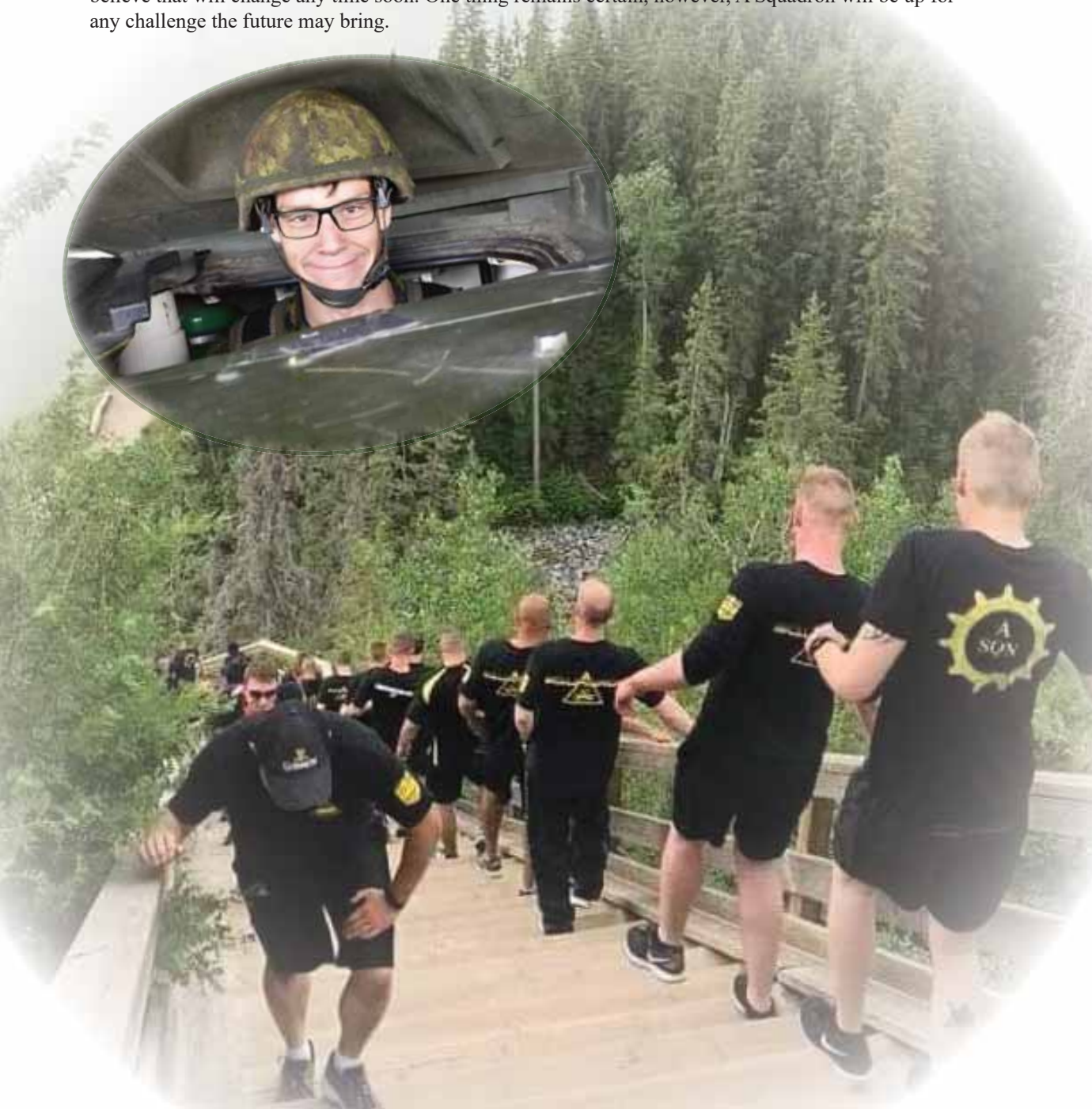
Despite what it may seem, 2018 was not all fun and games for A Squadron. Much like anywhere else, they were expected to set the standard in the hallowed fields of Wainwright for Ex MAPLE RESOLVE 2018. To no one's surprise, they did this with aplomb. The enemy were met with speed and aggression while the best that Mother Nature could muster was met with laughter. Austere living conditions? That's



just a regular Tuesday for A Squadron. No challenge is too great for the mighty men and women of Prince of Wales Squadron. After successfully completing the road to high readiness with 5 GBMC, our very own Battle Captain, **Capt Varun "Too cool for school" Vahal**, was selected to deploy on Op UNIFIER, hopefully he will share some of his exploits on his return home in 2019.

Come fall, it was once again time for A Squadron to venture out to Wainwright. From the town center it may have sounded suspiciously like a terrible thunderstorm had rolled in, devastating everything in its path. In reality, it was just A Squadron conducting Level 3 day and night shoots, destroying everything in their path. Another live fire range completed, signified the end of a successful PCF cycle.

It was as busy a year as any other for A Squadron. With what the future holds, there is no reason to believe that will change any time soon. One thing remains certain, however, A Squadron will be up for any challenge the future may bring.



B Squadron





B Squadron

Captain Blake “I’m the BC now” Tapp

It wouldn’t be new or original to start off a Strathconian article by stating that “the Regiment was very busy this year.” It also wouldn’t be original to say that B Squadron played a key role in what the Regiment was doing, led the charge, was the best, etc. Unfortunately for anyone who wants something original, I can’t give it to you, because as always, the unit has been very busy, and true to form, B Squadron has answered the call to perform many a task over this past year.

To start things off in the New Year, the Squadron refused to remain complacent and deployed on Ex STEELE STALINGRAD. Holding true to the epic turning point battle of World War II, B Squadron along with Headquarters Squadron squared off in a winter urban warfare exercise in the deep freeze of the Edmonton training area during the month of February. It’s a scientific fact that the winter temperatures of Edmonton line up with those of Moscow during the winter,

thereby matching those of Velograd, formerly known as Stalingrad. It’s therefore fair to say that the Squadron had a taste of what the World War II battle temperatures were like.

In the spring, despite the fact that they were not on high readiness, B Squadron refused to be left out of the picture and deployed a small number of Squadron members to Ex MAPLE RESOLVE as Tank Safety Staff under the leadership of the Sqn 2IC, **Capt Matt “I’m Tank Safety now” Shumka**. Just at the tail end of that time in Wainwright, British Colombia was faced with another round of flooding. **Capt Ryan “I’m the OC now” Lee** and SSM **MWO Steve “BC is always in a snar buckle” Churchill** took the lead for the Squadron vanguard deployment on Op LENTUS 18-03. Keeping in the Op LENTUS tradition, the Squadron was recognized for its ability and professionalism. To ensure the floods were truly beaten back, the Squadron left a small number of members under the leadership of **Sgt Andrew “Coyotes are b&\$*s\$t” Burris** in Vernon, BC, acting undercover during a cadet tasking.

Following summer leave, it was discovered that the Squadron had done too well of a job during the spring and now the areas around Vernon, BC were on fire. The new OC, **Maj James “Fight, never run” Anderson** formed the IRU vanguard company from B Squadron and augmented with members of 1 PPCLI. They vanguard company then deployed and established Camp Hindenburg outside of Merritt, BC. Not only did the vanguard battle fires on a daily basis, but they defeated some local troublemakers under the excellent junior leadership of Recce Squadron’s **Tpr Cole “Only got time for gains” Foster**.



Cpl Ryan “Debt/chit/spider collector” Gallagher ran an amateur black widow fighting ring, which has since been shut down by the Joint Task Force Pacific medical staff. After just a few weeks in the Merritt area, forest fires were a thing of the past and the Squadron returned to Edmonton. Smoke detectors now serve no useful purpose in BC thanks to B Squadron.

With IRU over for the moment, the Squadron went back to what it truly does best: going to Wainwright, making tanks run, and destroying targets during Ex STEELE SABRE 18. Despite the fact that this year’s exercise only lasted a week, B Squadron faced a number of challenges and rose above each one. Under the excellent leadership and scene management of **Sgt Wallace “Keep that guard up or I’ll punch you in the face” Churchill**, **WO Kyle “Chewy” Chuback** and **Lt Ali “Only gunnery” Mansour**, a critical first aid situation was handled as if it were straight from a textbook.

Lt Josh “Troops don’t get breaks” Horlings and **WO Dave “Too cold for cam paint” Brister** led a battle run on Range 25 that was widely recognized as being the best in the Regiment, having so much speed and aggression that the range staff struggled to keep pace with their advance. **Lt James “Drama” Lee** and **WO Matt “I got something to say” Williams** expertly handled gathering pictures and witness statements when one of their tanks backed into another, 15 seconds before getting on the bus back to Edmonton. The austerity of the exercise was ruthlessly enforced by SSM **MWO Steve “I decide when to BBQ” Churchill**, who unleashed a simulated chemical weapon attack and ambush on the Squadron harbour. After partying hard during the closing exercise smoker, B Squadron returned to Edmonton.

Following that return and a few days off, the Squadron answered the call to attend a number of events, including Remembrance Day tasks and the Grey Cup. While those running the events have commented on B Squadron’s soldiers, we suspect they only wanted us for our tanks.

As the year draws to a close, B Squadron soldiers continue to work on tasks and train for whatever the future holds. As always, if the Regiment is needed, B Squadron will be ready to answer the call, and it will be no surprise when its soldiers get the job done.





Recce Squadron

Recce Squadron

By Any Means (or vehicles) Necessary Available...?

Captain Tom Hume

What's a Tactical Armoured Patrol Vehicle (TAPV)? The Brigade Reconnaissance Squadron asked itself that very question at the start of the year. How do we...? Where do we? Who would ever want to conduct reconnaissance in... THAT? Were just some of the questions that rang through the Squadron hangar, the echoes bouncing off the sides of the new, very large, truck-like vehicles that now filled it. Like most institutions Recce treated this new-comer with disdain, considering it an unwelcome outsider that was never invited through the door. "I'd rather take the Coyote," was a phrase uttered so often that I'm sure the haters of past years could hear it in their retirement homes. Despite the initial shock and after conducting a ton of courses to get everyone an initial qualification on the new platform, the soldiers of Reconnaissance Squadron began training with the TAPV.

Like most years, British Columbia continued its now traditional internal conflict of whether it wanted to flood or burn, leading to the Squadron deploying soldiers on Op LENTUS for both reasons. In May, with the Vernon area under-water, sandbags were filled, and friendships forged - such as that of **Tpr Jayd "the Ripper" McClure** and his new best friend Raven Dawn (not a nickname) - who can allegedly ride elk and run down mountains at alarming speeds. In August a few more troops deployed with B Squadron to the (now on fire) Vernon area to play Smokey the Bear.

The year was also filled with accomplishments. Recce warriors like **Cpl Marty "The Original" Kelly** and **MCpl Jarrett "I'm good at everything that can hurt people" McDougall**, trained up a fresh batch of shooters to compete and subsequently demolish the competition at Ex HERAKLES RAM. Led by an outsider, **Sgt Rob "If you didn't already figure out that I'm Irish, I'm Irish" Kearns** and forever insider, **MCpl Chris "I'd rather coach than participate" Lawrence**, the team spent weeks marching, studying,

and shooting to prepare for the 1 CMBG Canadian Armed Forces Small Arms Competition selection. The team performed so well that a certain infantry battalion had to resort to rule bending and last minute penalties to ensure that they were not completely decimated and embarrassed by the LdSH(RC), leaving the team with a second place finish though they topped the shooting and range estimation stands. Regardless of team placement, six Strathconas made it onto the Brigade team and **Tprs James "Hitman" Payette** and **Jason "5 min mile" Barrett** carried that path of destruction all the way to Ottawa for the competition.

July saw Recce Sqn between OCs and with an open calendar. Left somewhat unattended, **2Lt Tom "Pocket Tom" Clackson** and **Sgt Tom "Little Tom" Underwood** schemed with another larger, un-surnamed Tom to fill the white space. The result was a month of getting back to the boots, with classes on basic soldier skills and patrolling in Area D. **MCpl Dave "Big Daddy" McNair** led most of the training and lectured soldiers both new and old, on the importance of good drills, quick reaction, and stealth. Donning their warrior make up, each troop ended the training with point recces on multiple objectives and a new-found appreciation for Gold Bond.

In the fall, Ex STEELE SABRE was a perfect opportunity to test out the capabilities of our new TAPVs, which turned out to be a great way to test the responsiveness of the Regimental recovery assets. During the Squadron Level 3 (Troop) ranges, members of 2 Troop, under **Lt Andrew "Convict" Kelly**, perfected the "Shake and Bake" - an advanced gunnery technique that involves firing the Grenade Machine Gun, then immediately switching to the General Purpose Machine Gun, on the Dual Remote Weapon System, and firing again so that both 7.62 and 40mm strike the target at the same time.

Tasked by the Brigade, through OC **Maj Mike "Recce is my Zen" Selberg** to create a 1 CMBG Armoured Fighting Vehicle Recognition package, **Capt Tom "Grand-dad" Hume** gathered a handful of troopers and corporals, gave an intent, pointed them in the right direction and in classic fashion, walked away. **Cpl Ryan "The other Tom Clackson" Stone**, **Cpl Jonathan "Rainman" Roy**, and **Tpr David "Worker monkey" McCauley** were put to task by the most junior member, **Tpr Ivy "Santiago" Keyes** through the self-manufactured authority of her spreadsheet. Later joined by **MCpl Reg "I have something to say" Ferguson** and **Cpl Laurie "Everything in Russia can swim" Mackenzie**, the "Debonair Task Force" produced an intuitive product that was praised by the Brigade Commander and immediately sent across the Division to aid in the training of all soldiers. **Capt Tom "The Overseer" Hume** took all the credit, of course.

As the Brigade Reconnaissance Squadron grows and adapts to its new equipment, the list of its capabilities continues to expand. The dedication to accomplishing the mission and gaining eyes on the enemies of our future, through any means necessary will always be our number one priority.





Headquarters Squadron Behind the Frontline is Where the Magic Happens

Sergeant Christian Daniel

Nestled in between the Regiment's fighting squadrons lies a unique squadron employing over 15 trades in 6 very distinct troops. A veritable jack of all trades, they complete a variety of functions to keep the Regiment moving. To name but a few they fix vehicles, repair mod tent, inspect weapon systems, order parts, buy goods, complete driver courses and taskings, order serialized kit, conduct public appearances showcasing the Regiment's history, manage Regimental budgets, ensure claims get processed and provide food services for unit functions....all of this with a smile of course. Am I missing anything? Welcome to HQ Sqn!

The year began coordinating the 100 year anniversary of the Battle of Moreuil Wood, led in large part by the A/OC, **Capt Mike "Good idea tree" Dullege**, and SSM, **MWO Mélanie Parent**. From creating unit coins, helping to organize a mess dinner, planning the parade, and forming a montage video including a special address from the Colonel of the Regiment, **Col Greg Hug**, HQ Sqn displayed a vast amount of Regimental pride while taking part in these celebrations.

On the domestic operations front, HQ Sqn took up residence in sunny Vernon, BC for spring and summer 2018. Having watched the Sqn deploy prior to his arrival, the incoming OC, **Maj Jeff Brown**, and SSM, **MWO Robert Baglole**, got their chance to visit Vernon in August. As LdSH(RC) was the lead unit, HQ Sqn grabbed the reins for support to both Op LENTUS 18-03 and Op LENTUS 18-05. Deploying on short notice and under perplexing logistical conditions, HQ Sqn was not only one of the first to have personnel hit the ground, but also did everything in their power to support the soldiers fighting floods in May and forest fires in August. This was happening in various places around BC, making it challenging to allocate all required resources as efficiently as possible.

During all of this commotion, the Sqn also tasked some of its members to support Ex MAPLE RESOLVE 2018. In fact, the outgoing OC, **Maj Matt Johns**, took a pass on the wilds of BC to watch one last sunset in Wainwright. But like anything HQ Sqn touches, in the end we pulled it off, even having some deserving soldiers recognized by the Joint Task Force-Pacific (JTF-P) command team. More importantly, we were able to help in giving peace of mind the local population. Good thing summer block leave was in between both deployments to give HQ Sqn a well-deserved break!

Between the domestic deployments was the Regimental Change of Command parade in June. Outgoing CO **LCol Mark Lubiniecki** handed over to incoming CO **LCol Eric Angell**. With every Change of Command parade comes a unit Board of Inquiry and this year was no different. Undermanned, the RQMS ensured the entire Regiment's holdings were accurate and accounted for; a task that is never easy or entertaining for anyone involved....simply ask RQMS, **MWO Andrew Leclerc**!

Not to be forgotten, the Sqn had to pull its socks up once more and prepare the Regiment for success supporting the PCF Gun Camp and Ex STEELE SABRE 2018. With their back against the wall and led by Maintenance Officer, **Capt Jared Mellow**, and ETQMS, **MWO Timothy Pawson**, Maint Tp worked extra hours at the Regiment before departing with juuuuust enough tanks ready to fire and have the Regiment successfully complete level 3 in CFB Wainwright. To attain this, unconventional methods of operations had to be utilized by the Squadron, including having most of Maint and QM Tps working out of the main base while trying to fix tanks and order/send goods forward. Luckily, Transport (Tpt) Tp led by **Capt Leland Kirkham** and **WO James Clarke**, navigated and drove around the training area like the pros that they are, ensuring all goods and services were delivered to their comrades up front.

Speaking of which, upon return, Tpt section, led by **Sgt Tim Murray**, continued their devoted support to the Regiment by running internal driver-wheel courses such as MSVS, air brakes, fork-lift, and zoom-

Headquarters Squadron





boom, while still taking care of all daily requests for buses, POL, and tractor trailers.

The dust had barely settled from the low-beds back from Wainwright, when Ex VIRTUAL RAM 2018-02 and Ex RESILIENT STEELE 2018 kicked off. Unsurprisingly, these were filled with simulations, broken heaters, sports, mess dinners, and good times a plenty...exercises that soldiers are actually looking forward to....for a change!

In the midst of all this, it is clear to all members of HQ Sqn that we are not always getting the front page headlines (or the "gucci go's" like some of us call it!). It's also became clear after this year's work that without our unwavering support, the Regiment could not function and receive the recognition it gets on a yearly basis from the CAF and Canadian citizens abroad. It is with that thought and persistent effort behind closed doors (including a dash of humbleness) that HQ Sqn will continue to make the Strathconas proud.





Canadian Training Assistance Team Jordan: Female Engagement Team and CBRN TAV

Sergeant Gerri-Anne Davidson and Master Corporal Mark Weir

The Female Engagement Team (FET) was designed to assist the Jordan Armed Forces (JAF) establish the first 'all female' platoon within the Quick Reaction Force (QRF).

The idea appears simple however culture, perspective, and family plays a huge role in their ability to soldier beside the men. The cultural obstacles are not only with the male soldiers but with the female soldiers as well.

While building the overall macro training plan and preparing the lessons to be translated for the JAF, training started with the basics: fitness. It wasn't long before everyone was introduced to the dreaded Burpee. Another aspect was gaining the corporate knowledge of the FET and the QRF intent which usually meant a smoke filled room with plenty of Turkish coffee.

Over a month later, the women were familiar with the TABATA and ready to start training. Leadership, basic navigation, and tactical skills as well as a confirmation exercise are just some of the skills that are developed in the first portion of training. Each step within the next year will help all of these women gain confidence and get them closer to matching or exceeding the abilities of their male peers.

The 1/40 instructor/student ratio certainly does not make it easy but flexibility, patience, and tactfulness plays a key role when instructing the JAF. Some days the trainees are doing burpees for being late and the next day we organize and instruct a Yoga or Zumba class. The ability to be genuine, laugh, and celebrate the smallest success has allowed us to make continuous steps forward.

The Chemical, Biological, Radiological, and Nuclear Defence (CBRND) technical assistance visit (TAV) on the other hand was formed with the purpose of establishing yearly training standards for the JAF.

This TAV had very defined goals though the differences between the JAF and CAF training structure have provided plenty of challenges to the Team. The TAV, in consultation with the JAF, ended up developing a training package with basic and instructor portions. The package was based on material delivered during both CAF basic training and the Unit CBRN Defensive NCO course, focusing on both theory as well as practical skills. This tailor made approach allowed any member of the JAF to attend the training, even if they had never had any CBRND experience before. Over the next several months the TAV delivered two training packages to members from across the JAF resulting in a high standard of training and two successful courses.

In CTAT-J family dinners, friendly ball hockey games, and team challenges are some aspects we all look forward to. PD trips to Petra, Wadi Rum, various Roman Ruins as well as the Dead Sea has contributed to making this experience one to remember.



Op LENTUS 18-03: Where's the flood?

Lieutenant Emma Perry

On 16 May 2018, the members of LdSH(RC) arrived at work for what they expected to be another average day at the regiment, but after several key members of the Regiment were seen carrying ruck sacks with barrack boxes in tow, the rumours were flying about the flooding in BC. By noon, the word came down for a possible Immediate Reaction Unit (IRU) deployment leaving later that week. After several "flooding in BC" google searches and tense discussions about forgetting kit at home, the order came down that the buses were in fact leaving that evening.

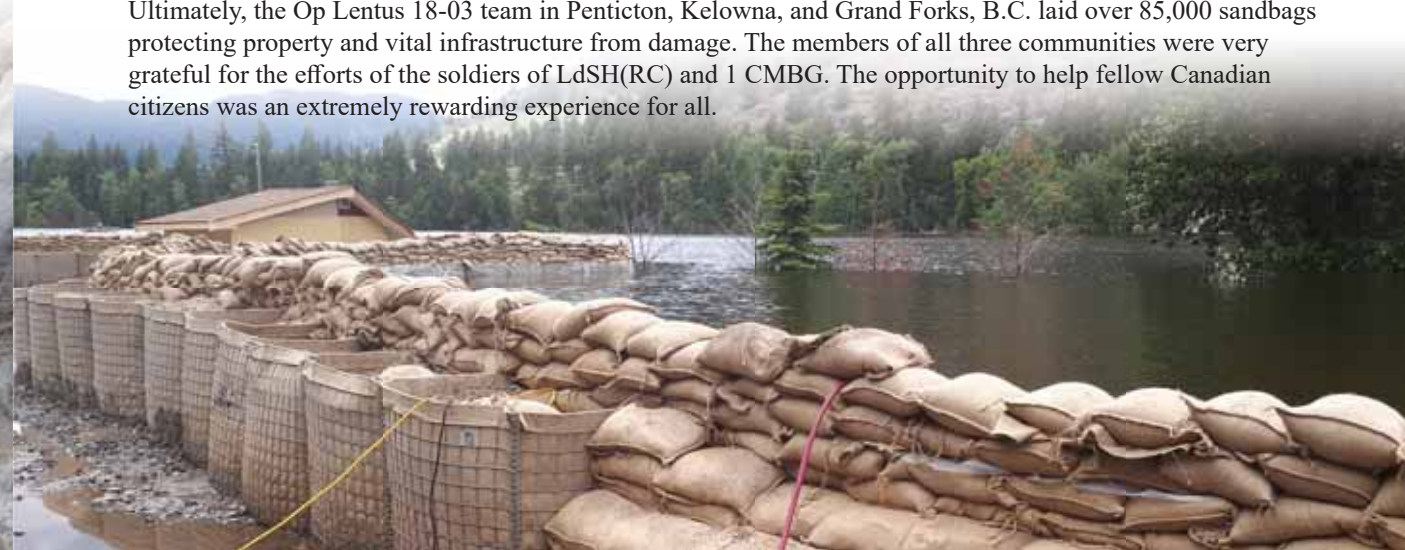
Organized panic ensued. The only senior officer not in Wainwright for Ex MAPLE RESOLVE, **Maj Alex** "This is the order to launch" **Nitu** and his Operations Sergeant, **Sgt Derek** "I never noticed how much paperwork officers do" **Murdoch** hurried to fill out the inevitable last minute gaps in the nominal roll, ensuring every position was filled. Concurrently, the Regimental Orderly Room (ROR) completed the necessary admin with help from **Capt Matt** "Good luck out there, I'm going on leave" **Shumka**, the SQs in the building ensured the proper kit was signed for, and soldiers ran home to give their cat to a friend after grabbing their much needed phone chargers. Two hours later and 190 personnel from LdSH(RC) were on the way to support the flooding in BC.

After a short overnight stay in Cochrane, AB the we arrived at Vernon Cadet Camp around 1600 hrs on 17 May and were greeted by the Vanguard Company OC, **Capt Ryan** "We need one of those rentals" **Lee** and SSM **MWO Stephen** "One of these trucks is now mine" **Churchill**, ready to establish camp and get started. The following day the company, augmented by a troop of engineers from 1 CER, travelled down to Penticton "Twin Lakes" and Kelowna "Green Bay" to link up with the local firefighters under whose guidance we could start the sandbag wall construction.

From that day forward the daily routine from sun up to sun down, and sometimes much later, the troops were hard at work filling, transporting, and emplacing sandbags to protect important infrastructure and residences from impending water damage. After four days of hard work, Twin Lakes had a 4 foot tall barrier, holding back millions of liters of water from flooding the area. Green Bay had over 1000m of sandbag retaining wall encircling the Green Bay peninsula ready to hold back the rapidly rising waters of the Okanagan Lake. C Company, 1 PPCLI had deployed directly to Grand Forks, BC to battle the flood waters further south of our positions.

When not fighting the floods, everyone lived rather comfortably at the Vernon Cadet Camp. Troops could be seen playing ultimate Frisbee, organizing a friendly softball game or enjoying a movie in downtown Vernon. The kitchen staff, led by the camp KO, **WO Chiu Tsang**, deserve special recognition as they continually served excellent food and provided seemingly endless desserts to keep morale high.

Ultimately, the Op Lentus 18-03 team in Penticton, Kelowna, and Grand Forks, B.C. laid over 85,000 sandbags protecting property and vital infrastructure from damage. The members of all three communities were very grateful for the efforts of the soldiers of LdSH(RC) and 1 CMBG. The opportunity to help fellow Canadian citizens was an extremely rewarding experience for all.





Chasing Smoke: Op LENTUS 18-05

Lieutenant Joshua Horlings

On 26 August 2018, the LdSH(RC) Immediate Response Unit (IRU) Vanguard Company (Coy) along with supporting HQ elements departed for Vernon to engage a familiar enemy, the wildfires raging across British Columbia. Moving in as a Relief in Place (RiP) for elements from 3VP, the HQ element quickly established itself in Vernon while the Vanguard pushed to Merritt. From Merritt, the soldiers of I-21 (B Coy, 1VP), T-22 (B Sqn, LdSH(RC)), and I-23 (B Coy, 1VP) launched to fight fires at two different sites. T-22 focused its initial efforts on a 489 hectare fire at Gottfriedsen Mountain while I-21 and I-23 focused on a 2,432 hectare fire at Juliett Creek.

The principal task for both sites involved soldiers “blacklining” along the edge of the fire’s burnt out flanks. Essentially, soldiers combed the edge of the fire for “hot-spots” of smoldering roots and stumps that they would subsequently neutralize with teamwork, sweat, and copious amounts of water. Although a new skillset for most of the soldiers, blacklining involved a number of fundamental soldier skills and was quickly mastered. With the guidance of British Columbia Wildfire Service’s (BCWS) “redshirts” and platoon members with experience from last year’s Op LENTUS 17-04 in Riske Creek, British Columbia, all three platoons quickly became efficient at their firefighting tasks.

With the completion of Gottfriedson Mountain after a few days of work, the Coy completely turned their attention to Juliett Creek and its much more challenging terrain. As a more active fire than Gottfriedson Mountain, soldiers were challenged with larger hotspots and at times the opportunity to fight some flames themselves. Working on the side of steep mountains also taught soldiers important lessons on fire behaviour and the importance of proper pump management.

After 11 days on the fire-line, the Coy had a change of pace as they were assigned to establish a camp in the town of Princeton, BC for an incoming Coy of reservists. Following the successful establishment of the camp, the LdSH(RC) Coy returned to Vernon in anticipation of any additional tasks.

With cooling temperatures and rain settling in across B.C., the LdSH(RC) Coy and its platoons from 1VP returned back to Edmonton on 9 September 2018. Each soldier returned feeling a sense of accomplishment for assisting B.C. during one of its worst fire seasons, a little more appreciative of rain, and a lot better at melon rolling hoses than they were when they left.





Training



Ex STEELE CASCADES

No Rest for the Wicked: An A Sqn 2nd Troop Story

Master Corporal Justin Monge

Exercise STEELE CASCADES 2018 saw the deployment of 2nd Troop to Iquique, Chile. The intent was to continue our ongoing relationship with the Chilean Army Armour Cavalry School. Right off the hop, the Troop went headfirst into the simulators and commenced training. Over the course of the week, we fine-tuned our gunnery techniques while exchanging various methods of training in order to better understand each other's capabilities prior to the field deployment.

Once the troop deployed to the Atacama Desert, we quickly discovered that the sand was not sand but fine chalk dust that tasted just as bad. Roughly an hour before sun down, the Troop was led by **MCpl Justin Monge** through the desert in the dark, without night vision, to "The Oasis." Once there, camouflage nets went up and we began the Chilean Way of War. The Atacama Desert is massive, 105 000 km² to be exact. Most of the desert is composed of stony terrain, salt lakes, and a lot of Chuca (desert dust). It is considered the driest desert in the world. Due to the sand, our vision was very limited when moving in our usual formation and forced us to adapt and utilize our echelon formations depending on the wind direction.

After the advance to contact was complete, we immediately started prepping our vehicles for the day's iteration of shooting. Applying our gunnery techniques, we made quick work of the targets down range. We did, however, learn that due to the heat, we had to aim to the top edge of the target in order to hit center of mass. Upon completing the first desert live range, we were rewarded with a 4-hour Guard task. This task was given to us either because we had finished our tasks too quickly, or the enemy was angry that their enemy force only inflicted one mobility kill during the advance to contact, and they wanted revenge.

Following the night shoots, we made haste back to 2nd Brigade for their post-ex drills. Much to our surprise, we were informed that once the tanks have made their way back to the base, post-ex drills are to be conducted immediately. It made for a very long night. Washing the tanks and complete kit checks were completed before we were allowed to depart. Over the next few days, the After Action Review was collected in the Army Armoured Combat Training Center (CECOMBAC), and we traded new information regarding our SOPs, which was well received. To complete our visit, our hosts put on a Chilean BBQ where war stories were told, Pisco (Chilean brandy) was consumed, and patches were exchanged. We learned a great deal from our Chilean brothers and we looked forward to applying the lessons learned to future operations in a desert environment.





Ex STEELE STALINGRAD “Cold Shots”

Lieutenant Ali Mansour

Every winter, the Squadrons (Sqns) of the Lord Strathcona's Horse (Royal Canadians) participate in winter warfare training. The training usually consists of certain prescribed activities required to meet the Basic Winter Warfare qualification. This year, instead of the usual snow shoeing and winter camping, elements of both HQ and B Sqn deployed to the new Urban Operations Training Center at CFB Edmonton. The two Sqns occupied mock villages less than 200 meters away from one other. Equipped with WES gear, blank rounds, and an average of -25 degree Celsius weather, the two Sqns went toe to toe for 72 hours firing harassing shots across the barren packed snow of “no man's land.”

B Sqn, occupying a cement village to the East of HQ Sqn, attacked first. In the darkness of the early hours on the first day, covered by a smoke screen (luckily not dangerous smoke: tip of the hat to **Maj Alex** “*I think those 35 year old smoke pots are poisonous*” **Nitu**) and suppressing fire, two Platoons of B Sqn commanded by the acting OC **Capt Matt** “*I'm the OC now*” **Shumka** crossed “no man's land.” The soldiers of B Sqn managed to cross the barren space between the villages on snow shoes with no casualties. Once at the sea can village the soldiers went to work utilizing the urban operations training they received in prior weeks leading up to the exercise. In a matter of a few hours the entire sea can village was successfully overrun, save one building designated ‘Objective Dullege’ for the acting OC of HQ Sqn **Capt Michael** “*Never in the same place twice*” **Dullege**.

The two story sea can building was barricaded shut. A C9 light machine gun, nested inside, caused considerable B Sqn casualties thanks to the Regimental QM, **Capt Chris** “*Ninja Socks*” **Williams**. The only way in was from the top. The three remaining soldiers of 2 Platoon, **MCpl Nieuwhof**, **Tpr Taylor**, and **Tpr Kentfield**, under the direction of the Platoon Commander, **Lt Mansour** scaled the adjacent building, leaped over a 4 foot gap onto Objective Dullege and surprised the nested machine gun by breaching through the second floor window.

During the last night of the exercise, HQ Sqn retaliated. Although B Sqn was able to learn from the lessons of their attack and suppress HQ Sqn for several hours, eventually they were overrun. The attack marked the end of an exciting and eventful exercise. Soldiers of the Regiment learned how difficult it was to operate in an urban environment, especially during the winter. The importance of anticipating and overcoming the “frictions of war” became blatantly apparent to all involved in the exercise.

Ex REFLEXE RAPIDE and Ex MAPLE RESOLVE

“Where the orders were made up and the obstacle plans didn't matter.”

Captain Leland “Using ‘and’ six times in a sentence is my bag” Kirkham

In April, A Squadron (Sqn) deployed with the best tanks the Regiment could muster for 5 weeks of field training as the high readiness tank sqn for 5° GBMC. This deployment would begin with several iterations of level 5 (Combat Team) live fire followed thereafter by the Canadian Army's annual Ex MAPLE RESOLVE (Ex MR). Prepared to adhere rigorously to the 1 CMBG Way of War, you may imagine our surprise when we rolled into the Brigade bivouac and were greeted by flashing neon “open” signs displayed in the windows of the Field Pouteries, signs giving directions to canteens, advertisements for 60” satellite televisions, and the best “hot dog and poutine” combos. It was at this time that one thing became very clear: we weren't in Edmonton with 1 CMBG anymore.

Despite this fanfare, A Sqn launched immediately into a forward hide and began battle procedure, obstacle breach rehearsals, and ROC drills in preparation for the level 5 range practices. The level 5 range spanned almost fifteen kms, contained multiple objectives, and presented a variety of complex obstacles. Every single element was able to execute and learn their “way of war,” especially since many of the 5° GBMC soldiers had never had the opportunity to work with the Leopard 2 MBT, or even a real tank sqn. Each day saw tank crews engaging a variety of targets with 35 rounds of training Sabot and multiple boxes of 7.62mm coax. Despite having a new infantry company for each live fire attack, A Sqn led the combat teams accurately through the badlands, vectored them towards the breaches, and into the heart of each objective. After participating in 5 iterations, by day and night, A Sqn was prepared to celebrate a hard won rest and a quick break before beginning Ex MR ... and what better way to celebrate than with mountains of poutine.

After enjoying a quick respite back in Edmonton, A Sqn entered the preparation cycle of Ex MR. This included Exercise Control briefings, scenario orders, equipping Weapons Effects Simulators (WES) kit, and a comprehensive plan that would secure and enable the Bde to launch forward into hides and leaguers to begin Stability Operations and the first phase. A Sqn quickly deployed forward into the vicinity of Elk Butte, where we identified a gap in our capabilities to maintain observation on our area of operation without committing the tanks forward. The final solution was to augment our tank troops with several TAPVs in a clever tactic to essentially form self-styled Combat Recce Patrols. Through the use of vehicle mounted OPs, reinforced by tanks, we were able to achieve our Higher Commander's intent and control the area while maintaining quick reaction forces if the Brigade called. Throughout this entire phase, A Sqn worked separately away from the other manoeuvre elements to allow our infantry brothers time to clear and gain control of the villages throughout the training area. For most, this was a time to talk about the larger scenario and explain to junior soldiers why the tanks weren't pushing forward in our usual advance to contact.

There were many soldiers who did not have the opportunity to experience a level 6/7 (Battle Group and Brigade) dry exercise like Ex MR. For these people, the next several days of defensive and offensive action were filled with opportunities to learn and further hone their crewman skills. This change of pace was greeted with a burst of morale and excitement as the tanks were finally back in the fight and we quickly moved forward into a dispersed Sqn harbour to get ready for defensive preparations and war. The maintenance team did an incredible job with the Sqn as they kept us operating with as many tanks as possible throughout all phases. It wasn't until the enemy advanced forward with a brigade minus force to disrupt our defensive work when we finally suffered the first casualties of war. Thankfully we received new reinforcements from Edmonton that somehow fully understood the situation and were ready to fight within minutes. After a grueling two day wait, which saw 5° GBMC trading punches and repelling the enemy recce force via a delay, A Sqn received their orders to prepare for the main defensive battle as the Battle Group countermove force. Within minutes of being told to move, we passed through friendly lines and were vectored onto the enemy. Within hours we had cleared the entire enemy force from the area and had enabled 5° GBMC to shift into offensive operations.



It would not have been a MAPLE RESOLVE exercise without some form of complex obstacle crossing. For 5° GBMC, it was crossing the annex's highway. A Sqn made quick work of the remaining enemy forces within the area of operation and immediately earned its reputation for speed and violence as we had demolished all the enemy between us and the main objective. The enemy had attempted to draw us into Javelin and countermoves ambushes, the Sqn OC gladly took the bait and broke their lines taking us into the last day and the major offensive push. A Sqn's witching hour happened early in the morning at 0415hrs when we began to deploy into the annex to breach the obstacle crossing. Without a single problem, A Sqn penetrated deep into the enemy's rear area to begin searching for staging areas as well as firebases to fix and strike the main enemy objective. Unfortunately, Wainwright had a very successful spring and the enemy was well hidden. While our sister combat team took heavy fire during their attack, we were called upon to rebuild and carry on the momentum. The remainder of the last day was somewhat anti-climactic, as we broke through the enemy breach and linked up with the remaining friendly combat team forces. After consolidating, clearing trenches, enemy CP nodes, and wood lines, we made short work of the objective before hearing the fateful "End Ex, End Ex, End Ex" come over the radio. The final words we received summarized the contribution that A Sqn had added to 5° GBMC, as the CO 1R22R closed out with "thanks, you saved our battle group again."

A Sqn had a successful exercise where we showed up and performed to an extremely high level of skill, building a reputation that the rest of the Regiment will struggle to maintain in next year's Road to High Readiness.





Ex PRAIRIE STORM “No Pride on the Prairie”

Second Lieutenant Tom Clackson

In June 2018, Recce Squadron (Sqn) had the opportunity to deploy to CFB Suffield in conjunction with our Allied Regiment, the Royal Lancers. The Sqn sent a Troop of Tactical Armoured Patrol Vehicles (TAPVs) with the Raven miniature unmanned aerial system (MUAS) surveillance drone to augment Ex PRAIRIE STORM, consisting of thousands of British soldiers on our own Albertan soil.

In typical Canadian fashion, our exercise began with a four hour road trip in the TAPV's through the arid valleys of Southern Alberta. Upon our arrival we were met by the very friendly Lancers, who were aghast that we had just travelled four hours in an armoured vehicle. We were puzzled why this was an issue until **Sgt Thomas “I’d Rather Be A Lancer” Underwood** explained that driving the same distance in Britain essentially lands you in the Atlantic Ocean.

Once properly socialized to the Suffield way of war – “No Pride on the Prairie” – **2Lt Tom “Three Jobs” Clackson** set out to coordinate surveillance assets and ensured that the command team had a rapidly deployable force at their disposal. The Raven MUAS experts **MCpls Kerrie “Old Man” Jesse, Nick “Nap Time” Norman, and Jeremy “Done For The Day?” Dunford** kept the Raven flying almost constantly. Meanwhile, **MCpl Richard “You Guys Want Some Pop?” Ford** was busy integrating with our British DH-3 drone counterparts, all of whom became fast friends. Though each team was skilled in finding legitimate targets for destruction, all of the above mentioned personnel failed to find a single tree in the Suffield training area.

It wasn't all work and no play, and it soon became obvious to us that the Lancers shared many similarities to ourselves as soldiers. Like us, they had predictable vices and before long Strathconas and Lancers alike were huddled around the Squadron canteen for packets of ‘crisps’ and packs of ‘darts.’ Seizing the opportunity, **Tprs Colton “Patches” Springer and Cole “Constable” Foster** immediately wiggled their way into the hearts of C Squadron's soldiers, trading random Canadian paraphernalia for British supplies. Many British soldiers swore that our Canadian rations were delicious, but we knew better and stocked up on theirs in return. Word got around that a challenge existed to finish the entire 24 hour meal pack (3 square meals, with snacks) in one sitting. Indeed, **Capt Tim “That Was Easy” McHugh** proved himself worthy, but later found himself incapacitated in a crew tent while **Tpr Ryan “I Told You So” Stone** posted sentry and laughed hysterically while he recovered.

After many days of searing heat, biscuits, cam paint, and arid scenery, we departed Suffield back home to the Regiment and waved goodbye to our new friends. Although our time with the Lancers in Suffield was admittedly short, it provided a rare opportunity to work closely with our British allies and keep our skills current in an international context. Perhaps on our next meeting, we can visit a training area with a bit more overhead cover.



Fall PCF Training Who wants New Vehicles?!

Lieutenant Andrew Kelly

The Lord Strathcona's Horse (Royal Canadians) Recce Squadron has recently been equipped with two new vehicle platforms that have greatly increased our capabilities in armoured reconnaissance. Both the Tactical Armoured Patrol Vehicle (TAPV) and the Light Armoured Vehicle 6 (LAV 6) bring their own degrees of effectiveness to our craft... one of these more than the other.

The assimilation of these fantastic new pieces of kit required everyone's favourite pastime – Primary Combat Function (PCF) courses. While there was much excitement for those candidates taking the LAV 6 conversion course, the same might not have been said about the TAPV candidates. “A mobile office!” some were overheard saying. Despite this lack of enthusiasm...the common feeling was “at least it has a windshield and roof”.

Following an extremely strenuous garrison theory portion of the TAPV PCF (thanks to the RSM's mandated PT before classes started) the TAPV course candidates deployed to Camp Wainwright to test their gunnery training and put the Dual Remote Weapon System that the TAPV is equipped with through its paces. **MCpl Trevor “Lightning” McQueen** determined it is hard to accomplish burst on target when it takes the HK C16 Grenade Machine Gun 40mm rounds so long to actually reach the target...especially if that target is moving. However, a fantastic gunnery technique was also developed during this gun camp.

Allow me to take this time to enlighten everyone to the wonderful world of the ‘Shake and Bake.’ Imagine, for moment if you will, you fire off a ranging burst at a transport at 1000m. Depending on wind and elevation, it may take the 40mm rounds upwards of 12 seconds to hit target. What do you do during this time?

COA #1: Light a smoke?

COA #2: Make your Crew Commander a coffee?

COA #3: Switch to the C6 Coax and attempt to get 7.62mm rounds on target before the 40mm rounds hit?

For those of you that answered COA #3... welcome to the world of the ‘Shake and Bake’. Now everyone must be made aware that all future use of this technique will require royalties to be paid to **MCpl Trevor “Lightning” McQueen** for the next 15 years.

At the same time the TAPV course was running, Recce Squadron also ran a PCF course for those requiring conversion to the LAV 6 platform. While most would agree that its capabilities far outweigh those of the TAPV – Does it have a windshield...or a roof?

Recce Squadron was lucky to have some VIPs taking this course under its tutelage. The most notable of whom was **Col R.T. “I love tanks” Ritchie**, Comd 1 CMBG. As impressive as the LAV 6 is, it was not immune to the current vehicle serviceability issues at LdSH(RC). As such, Comd 1 CMBG became “qualified” on a Leopard 2A4 when he got to fire his first tank round in lieu of the 25mm rounds he was scheduled to fire. Luckily no complaints were heard from his turret.

In the end, Recce Sqn was able to test the capabilities of these new vehicle platforms, learn and integrate some fantastic new gunnery techniques, and make Comd 1 CMBG regret his decision to join the Army as an infantry officer. All in all, a successful fall PCF cycle for the Sqn.





PCF Gun Camp

Lieutenant James Lee

Wonderful Wainwright was generous enough to host this year's Regimental Gun Camp. The "camp" ran from 29 Sep to 5 Oct and reminded everyone how winter comes early in Wainwright. While the weather was back and forth the Gun camp consisted of a myriad of courses which made for an interesting and visually appealing mix. The following courses took part: Leopard 2 Basic Gunnery (BG) and Crew Commander Gunnery (CCG), Light Armoured Vehicle (LAV) 6/ Coyote BG/CCG, and Tactical Armoured Patrol Vehicle (TAPV) BG/CCG.

While everyone had a great time on the range, the difference in platforms was very apparent. The TAPV and LAV courses seemed to have fun shooting COAX and "slightly bigger COAX" while the tank students fired training rounds from the "only 1 round required" 120mm. When students were not shooting they were given excellent meals provided by the cooks in the Mobile Kitchen Trailer (MKT) under the guidance of **MCpl Richard** *"Have you ever had Donair in the field?"* **Wojcichowsky**. While the course officers and course warrant officers (WO) were typically "doing admin" in the meal tent, the shooting on the pad was supervised by the real workers at the range.

Led by **Capt Callum** *"Can everyone see the arc markers?"* **Smith** as the Range Safety Officer (RSO) and **MWO Richard** *"I've been doing this since 1975"* **Delaney** as Firing Point Officer (FPO) everything went smoothly. The Leopard Gunnery Courses had the privilege of being led by **WO David** *"I'm a specialist"* **Brister** and **WO Kyle** *"Finally not an FPO"* **Chuback** who did a great job at ensuring tank turrets pointed the proper way at all times. While the Gun camp was ongoing some Friends of the Regiment (FOTR) visited and got to experience a bit of the Regimental field life. This visit seemed to be a great experience for all involved and was shown through jaw dropping smiles. While all seemed to thoroughly enjoy the range environment, feeling the concussive wave when a tank fires and seeing the blast was notably the best part of the overall experience.

While shooting was the main component of the Camp, the support provided by both the B Sqn Echelon and Headquarters (HQ) Squadron under the direction of Camp Sergeant Major, **MWO Stephen** *"Probably Propylene"* **Churchill**, enabled the whole event. As the Regiment geared up for Ex STEELE SABRE 18 the newly qualified Gunners and Crew Commanders were excited to show off their new skills as they would move from a walk to a jog during the Troop level live fire ranges.





Ex STEELE SABRE - Recce

Captain Stephen Couture

MUAS – An Elegy

We may forget those fleeting things,
That made your charm and our delight,
But loyal love has undying wings,
To guide you on your never-ending flight.

The TAPV

There were times we had to pray,
Due to limited SA,
But Recce Squadron will embrace its tools,
And area weapons are kinda cool,
The optics are also pretty great,
But it sure could use a damn skid plate,
Going “Crew Action” may take all day,
Doesn’t matter - the TAPV is here to stay.

The Lonesome Coyote – A Haiku

All ‘Yotes are broken
But this one is least broken
Someone call **Norman!**

The Crew Tent

Capt Hume woke up and could not believe his eyes!
Cpls Martin and **Breau** and **Tpr Keyes** were wriggling around!
They were trying to pack up their sleeping bags with their legs still inside!
“Whose idea was this?” He said with a frown.

Battle Captain’s Lament

A welcome, fresh, and friendly smell,
That overpowers the body odor hell,
A warmth that will finally shake the cold,
From the dew point the night before,
I’ve only had two hours of rest,
And that included getting dressed.
I’m fueled by caffeine but also hate,
And **MCpl Emery** promised the coffee’s great,
This will be an excellent start to my day,
...It is basically greywater. Damn it **Emery**.

The Road Move

Ice cold bison road move,
Lonegren’s fingers were frozen, his face did sting,
His day was insufferable, but his morale remained true,
For in Viking, he demolished some Burger King.

Integration – Free Verse

We’re all proud of the work we did on Ex STEELE SABRE to work with 1 Svc Bn and the Army Reserves. By working with other organizations, we were able to more efficiently accomplish a lot of our own training objectives while also assisting with others’.*

*This last one wasn’t a poem, but thank you for reading it anyways.



Ex STEELE SABRE - A Squadron

Corporals Sean Marcotte and Calvin Tsui

Based off of our experiences on last year's Ex STEELE SABRE and Combat Team Commander's Course, A Squadron is no stranger to living austere. Arriving on the 9th of October, A Sqn quickly settled into an undisclosed wood line behind Range 25. With no blue beacons of relief in sight, some troops creatively fashioned shelters for doing the business – including a camouflaged lean-to. With no time to lose, the following day A Sqn dove right into dry training to refresh on the valued skills of manoeuvring the tanks in a troop context. As the training continued and the level 2 (fire team) ranges went on, the weather started to change for the worse. Once again A Squadron is no stranger to adverse weather conditions and continued to carry on their D+ 90 confirmation shoots despite challenges with visibility.

As the environment around the Squadron began to freeze with a nice mixture of strong winds, rain, and snow, the tanks began to go down one by one... As the tanks went down the troops persevered and were able to bring their vehicles back up to the line through hard work and determination to meet the mission expectations. Once the Squadron was able to field an effective troop of tanks, the level 3 (troop) ranges commenced.

Throughout the ranges, the team faced long wet days and even longer cold nights. With minimal sleep, the Squadron once again demonstrated the meaning of perseverance. Troops hot swapped into tanks between shoots and were quickly able to adapt to changing circumstances. Along the course of these ranges there were many challenges and unforeseen delays which could have hindered the success of the mission: tanks going down due to long hours of operation, snow storms pushing the visibility limits of thermal optics, and sustaining a casualty. A Sqn, supported by the B Sqn echelon, acted as a team to accomplish the training objective of qualifying and confirming crews to their respective positions.

This year's STEELE SABRE was uncharacteristically short with many obstacles to be overcome in such a short amount of time. As we look back on this year's STEELE SABRE we can confirm that, through hard work, dedication, and a combined effort from the two tank squadrons, we are ready to take on any challenges thrown at us.





Ex STEELE SABRE - B Sqn Perspective “Lighting Up and Living Hard”

Lieutenant Ali Mansour

Every autumn, the Squadrons of the Lord Strathcona's Horse (Royal Canadians) deploy to Wainwright, Alberta, on Exercise STEELE SABRE (Ex SS) in order to conduct mounted live fire training. For B Squadron, Ex SS marked the beginning of the Road to High Readiness. During the week of 17 October 2018, while many Canadians were lighting up in celebration of the legalization of cannabis, soldiers of B Squadron lit up targets by day and by night in order to validate their effectiveness at the Troop level.

For many Troops, the exercise marked the very first time that they have ever worked together in the field. This year, on top of the frictions of learning to work together, the exercise was mandated to be, in all sense of the word, austere. For the duration of the exercise soldiers had to, as the RSM so eloquently put it: “sleep in a bag, eat out of a bag, and s**t in a bag.” All this was done while maintaining force protection measures and preparing for level 3 (troop) live fire ranges.

Throughout the exercise, all sub-units operated apart from one another, occupying hides dispersed all over the training area; a hallmark of the new generation of warfare. “The modern battlefield requires that we operate apart,” reinforced the CO to the Regiment during the final day of the exercise, “we operate apart in order to minimize the value of any one of our sub-units as a target, then we concentrate our combat power and attack.”

Although this type of dispersed operations is the foundation of our doctrine, for many, this was a vastly different way of doing business compared with counter insurgency operations. As common with any change there were certainly some growing pains, suffice it to say there was not a single soldier who walked away from the exercise without hoisting aboard some valuable lessons and experience.

Despite the austere living conditions, business got done. Soldiers who have never participated in Ex SS witnessed first-hand why tank Squadrons are the shock factor during an offensive operation. B Squadron soldiers, now more than ever, are looking forward to showing off their capability during the next step in the Road to High Readiness, level 4 (sqn) on Ex STEELE BEASTS in Texas.





100th Anniversary of Moreuil Wood

Captain Colin Peterson

This year Lord Strathcona's Horse (Royal Canadians) celebrated the 100th anniversary of the Battle of Moreuil Wood. This pivotal battle, which occurred on the 30th of March, 1918 included the last great cavalry charge of the First World War, and of modern combat. The C Squadron charge, led by **Lt Gordon Flowerdew** marked a return to the Unit's roots, after spending the previous three years dismounted in the trenches. As a result of his gallant action, **Lt Flowerdew** was posthumously awarded the Commonwealth's highest honour, the Victoria Cross. With this in mind, the Strathconas set out to commemorate the Battle of Moreuil Wood through multiple ceremonies both at home and abroad.

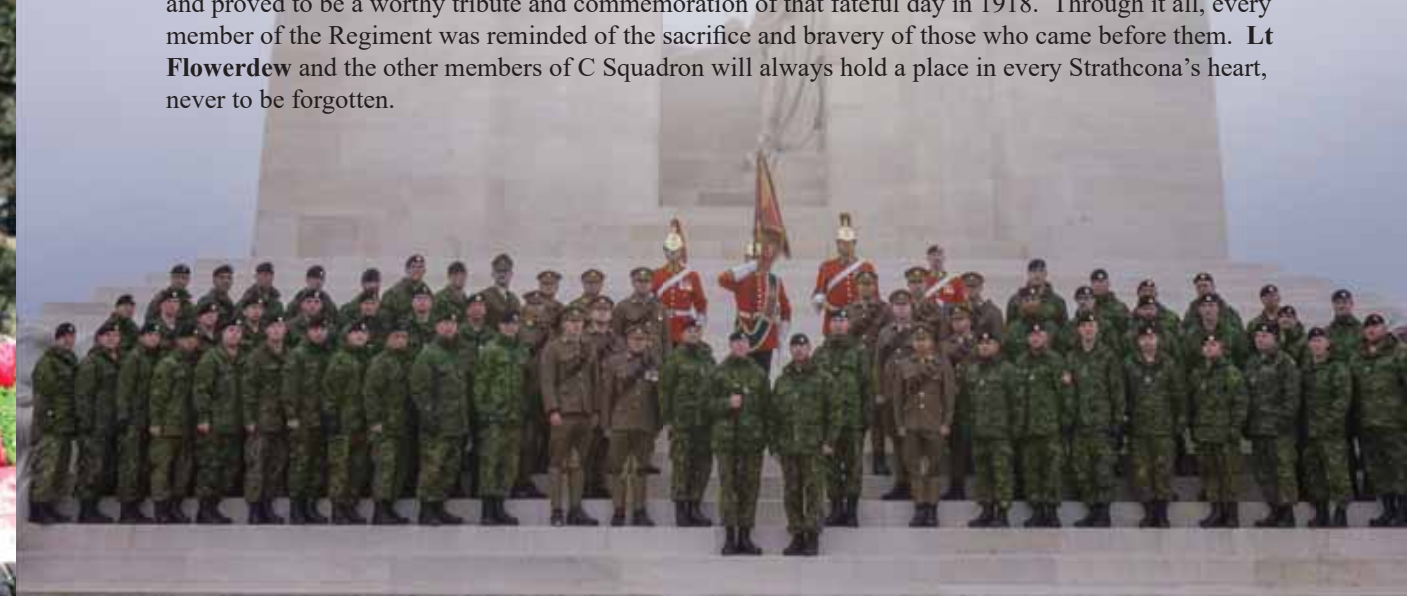
In Edmonton, the Regiment held its annual parade, which included a video presentation depicting Strathconas throughout the years, with a special introduction from the Colonel of the Regiment, **Col Hug**. Soldiers of the Strathcona Ceremonial Mounted Troop (SMT), dressed in the uniforms of our WWI brethren and lead by **Capt Sean Coughlan**, took the place of the soldiers who lost their lives during the battle. They were called in one by one and took up the honoured right-of-line position on the parade square. The post-parade reception included period authentic horse pens and tentage, which added to the overall historic atmosphere of the event. The Edmonton festivities also included the creation of a keepsake ceremonial coin which was given to every serving Strathcona soldier. **Capt Mike "Heavy Metal" Dullege** demonstrated his creativity by designing both the one of a kind commemorative coin and special video presentation. During the post-parade reception, soldiers and their family members walked through special displays created by the Regimental museum team of **Capt Phil Webster** and **Sgt Todd Giberson**. For the First time in living memory, **Lt Flowerdew** and **Lt Harvey's** Victoria Crosses were on display side by side. To be able to see this piece of history in person helped to reinforce the significance and importance of the day.

Abroad, Strathconas celebrated the 100th Anniversary of the Battle of Moreuil Wood by sending a contingent of deserving soldiers to the town of Moreuil, France. These soldiers, including the Strathcona Mounted Troop led by **Capt Sean Coughlan** and **Sgt Paul "Horse Master" Kruhlak**, were able to attend thanks to generous donations from the extended Regimental Family. On the same ground over which **Lt Flowerdew** led the charge 100 years ago, SMT re-enacted the historic moment with sabres flashing and hooves flying. The event was well attended by the residents of the town of Moreuil and members of our Regimental Family. By all accounts the centennial anniversary events were a resounding success.

Although many hours were dedicated to parade practice and thousands of kilometers were travelled in order to commemorate the Battle of Moreuil Wood, the whole effort was nothing short of outstanding and proved to be a worthy tribute and commemoration of that fateful day in 1918. Through it all, every member of the Regiment was reminded of the sacrifice and bravery of those who came before them. **Lt Flowerdew** and the other members of C Squadron will always hold a place in every Strathcona's heart, never to be forgotten.



Annual Events





Moreuil Wood: A Different Story

Master Warrant Officer Marcel Chenier

Being a Strathcona for thirty years, I can easily recite the account of the battle of Moreuil Wood by rote. From **Lt G.M. Flowerdew**’s famous line, “It’s a charge boys! It’s a charge!” to the number of bully beef cans loaded into **Sgt Tom MacKay**’s saddle wallet, to the excited reason for Sgt Wooster swinging his sabre with reckless abandon, vice thrusting it as he was trained to do. Every year in March, like clockwork, the Regt recounts the footsteps of this battle for its significance to our history, focussing on C Sqn’s charge and culminating on the events that led to Flowerdew being awarded the VC. This year I offer you a *different* story.

During the 100th anniversary of the battle of Moreuil Wood, I had the privilege to meet **David** and **Jeff Price**, brothers from the U.K. whose grandfather was **Sgt John Stanley Price**, the Squadron Sergeant-Major (SSM) of C Sqn during WWI. The name jogged something in my memory, I had seen it somewhere before, and I quickly discovered where. In the Regiments main hallway, on the portraits of past RSM’s, you will find a name without a photo on the first frame that reads: “RSM J.S. Price, DCM, MM, 10 Apr 1918 – 16 May 1918”. **John Price** was the shortest appointed RSM in our history, at only 37 days! I remember wondering why his time was so short, was he KIA during the war, horribly wounded? So I dug into our history and this is what I found.

Sgt Price saw action all through France with C Sqn LdSH(RC), he fought at Guyencourt and was awarded the Military Medal (MM), the same battle that **Lt F.M.W. Harvey** won his Victoria Cross (VC). The Military Medal was awarded to personnel of the British Army and of other Commonwealth countries, below commissioned rank, for bravery in battle on land, “for acts of gallantry and devotion to duty under fire”.

At Moreuil Wood, **Sgt Price** as C Sqn SSM, would have been found alongside **Lt Flowerdew** and the remaining troops of C Sqn during the charge. It was in the aftermath of the charge where **SSM Price**

earned his Distinguished Conduct Medal (DCM) for admirable coolness, judgement and initiative. Here he collected the remnants of C Sqn, reformed them and then led them in the completion of their task, that being the clearing of Moreuil Wood. The DCM, was established in 1854 by Queen Victoria as a decoration for gallantry in the field by other ranks of the British Army and non-commissioned military personnel of other Commonwealth Dominions and Colonies. It is the oldest British award for gallantry, ranking below the Victoria Cross.



What’s more, after the dust had settled and the casualties were tallied, the Regiment was in dire need of officers after Moreuil Wood. As was common practice then, many senior NCO’s would take their commission, be sent to England for training and return to the Regiment to lead as officers. **Sgt Price** was appointed as the RSM for being the senior most NCO left on the ground, after **RSM McQorquodall** and other more senior NCO’s took their commission. Yes...but why was he RSM for only 37 days?? Simple... **John Price** was RSM until *his* commission was approved in May 1918. The rest of the story is this, **Lt John Price** returned to the Regiment and served until the end of the war. He returned to Canada and began working for Canadian Pacific Railway, he died in 1926 from infection due to peritonitis and was buried in Winnipeg.

Why is this story just as important as **Lt Flowerdew**’s? Because after thirty years of one telling, it is almost like discovering the battle *anew*, it is another glimpse into the actions of a brave man that transpired at Moreuil Wood. Actions that deserve to be recounted each year alongside those of **Seely, Flowerdew, Harvey, MacKay, Wooster, and Willoughby**.



| R 148. | | Medal | |
|--|-----------------------------|-------------|------------------------|
| Number | Rank | Name | Unit |
| 117486 | Sgt. | PRICE, J.S. | Lord Strathcona Horse. |
| No. | Honour or Award | Date | Authority |
| 1 | Military Medal | 11-5-17 | L.G.30054. |
| 2 | Distinguished Conduct Medal | 26-6-18 | L.G.30766. |
| Details | | | |
| 2. For conspicuous gallantry and devotion to duty. In the charge made by his squadron, when all the officers had become casualties, he, with admirable coolness and decision grasped the situation and drew the remainder of the squadron off to the edge of the wood. There he collected and reformed them, and finally cleared the wood completely of the enemy. His judgement and initiative were the means of avoiding many casualties. L.G.30766.26-6-18. | | | |





Change of Command

Master Corporal Kyle Nieuwhof

Change of command proceedings began on Wednesday, June 27, 2018 at 1000 hrs with all Strathcona soldiers formed up on the parade square with boots and collar dogs sporting a mirror finish, just like we always do. Don't be mistaken, for the troops on parade, this is not where our story starts.

At a minimum of two weeks prior, our CoC will always be worried about the state of their soldier's DEUs. This is where our parade starts. The soldiers spend countless nights on their uniforms worried that they may be criticized from the MCpls or the Tp WOs for not having a perfect turn out. Every soldier knows that your boots can always be better.

After inspections, it's the Squadron Sergeant Major's turn. This is when each of the Sqns as a whole will practice drill for hours on end to make sure they look sharp before we are in front of the RSM. If your drill is not on point in front of the RSM he's like a hawk and seeks you out wherever you are in the formation.

The day of the Change of Command for the soldiers is a day to be proud. We are a part of a day of reflection, not only for our departing CO but reflecting on the past couple years of what we have done. For most, our former CO had given us deployments, career courses, and many amazing memories at the Regiment and on exercises. We can all look forward to the path **LCol Mark Lubiniecki** left behind for our new CO, **LCol Eric Angell** to bring us forward as a Regiment.

LCol Lubiniecki took the dais and addressed the parade about his time at the Regiment and how he's grateful to have served as CO to the best Regiment in the Canadian Armed Forces. It was said that **LCol Lubiniecki's** speech was so touching that **BGen Cadieu** was seen shedding a single tear that fell from his cheek, hit the parade square, and instantly grew a flower through the cement. (All speculation of course). From the perspective of the Troops, we will remember our former CO for being a man of his word. He was a man who made promises of deployments and delivered. He always promoted a work hard, play harder work ethic. Yet most of all, he was always approachable and easy to talk to regardless of rank, he will be truly missed. Our new CO, **LCol Angell**, addressed the parade with a compelling speech and compliments to our former CO, his family, as well to his troops at the Regiment. From the little time we've known him as our CO, we can all agree that we have a promising future and **LCol Lubiniecki** has left the Regiment in great hands.

From the perspective of the Strathcona soldiers, we are professionals. We will always be at our best no matter what parade we're on, what place we're in or what destination our new CO brings us. We will be ready. Parade or not.





The Magic of the All Ranks Dinner and Dance

Corporal Colton Shute

What is there to say about the magic of the All Ranks Dinner and Dance (ARDD) that the Strathcona family and friends hasn't experience firsthand? This event is consistently memorable and those lucky enough to experience its magic annually would agree that this year's ARDD had an extraordinary feeling to it.

As usual, Shanks hosted the ARDD flawlessly. The Shanks facility and staff are experienced in hosting the Strathconas and understand that we work hard and play harder. Recognition goes to the staff and Strathcona members who organized this year's ARDD; the food was delicious and games like Mini Golf or Bowling provided entertainment for those not involved in long, in-depth, booze fuelled, and awesome conversations.

With the discussions rolling, drinks flowing, and Esprit de Corps growing, it was all too easy to get lost in the magic of the ARDD. With everyone looking their absolute best it was hard to decide who deserved the title of "best dressed." The members of LdSH(RC) were sporting 3 piece suites and gowns that would put prom dresses to shame; with a plethora of people dressed their best, how could there be one definitive winner? This question was all too easy to answer once **Capt Varun Vahal** and his wife entered the building wearing their traditional Indian garb. Not only were they dressed to the nines like so many others, but they had the unique aspect that was needed to secure the win. The "best dressed" competition was not the only way to leave the ARDD with a prize as there were plenty of other competitions and raffle draws throughout the evening.

The exceptional part of this year's ARDD was not the food, drinks, competitions, or the friendship. It was, in fact, the time of year the ARDD was held. In recent history, the ARDD is held just before posting season, allowing all ranks to get together for a farewell bash. This year, however, the ARDD was held in March to help celebrate the 100th Anniversary of The Battle of Moreuil Wood. One hundred years ago, those incredible Strathconas charged into enemy fire to capture Moreuil Wood, fighting together against all odds. This is the spirit that we honour, remember, and should aspire to live up to whether it's together overseas fighting an enemy or on a helping Canadians at home on domestic operations. This is the spirit that was fostered during the ARDD 2018.

Following the ARDD, most of A Squadron headed down to Whyte Avenue to continue the party and bond together. When a newly promoted Corporal is partying the night away with ranks spanning from Trooper all the way to Lieutenant Colonel, good times were had by all. Now that is the magic of the ARDD!

Canadian Pacific & Strathcona Student Scholarship Program

Captain Colin Peterson

Canadian Pacific and the Lord Strathcona's Horse (Royal Canadians) once again had the exceptionally difficult task of choosing this year's recipients for the Canadian Pacific & Strathcona Student Scholarship.

It is a great honour to congratulate the three recipients of this year's scholarship. **Mrs. Emer Burke** was presented her award by the Regimental Second in Command, **Maj Alfred Wong** and the Regimental Sergeant-Major, **CWO Rob Clarke**, at the Harvey Building in the presence of numerous Regimental Officers and Non-Commissioned Officers. **Ms. Amelia Dangerfield** accepted her cheque from **Capt Andrew Tardiff** in a presentation ceremony in Vancouver, B.C. **Ms. Kathleen Donald** received her scholarship cheque from the Commander of the 5th Canadian Division, **BGen Derek Macaulay**, in a ceremony in Halifax, N.S.





Family Day

Warrant Officer Stewart McLoughlin

Having been posted away from the Regiment a few times, my family and I missed the exceptional standard in which the Regiment conducts Family Day events. Even on the eve of a domestic operation deployment to British Columbia to assist with the wildland firefighting efforts near Kelowna, we came together as a team and put on an excellent day for our families. Thankfully the weather cooperated with us this year so the various games and vehicle rides were able to be enjoyed by all. Having the petting zoo was a bonus (not that HQ Sqn didn't want their hanger to smell like a barnyard). If only the wasps had received the memo that they were not invited.

Highlights of the day included the dunk tank where the Regiment's command teams suited up and stared down the ever waiting child with a ball in hand. It seemed strange that depending on who was in the chair, more soldiers seemed to hover around the throwing line. But where else can one dunk their boss and not receive extras for it? Even though the temperature of the water was around 2 degrees Celsius, the victims of the plunge kept a smile on their face and encouraged all to continue.

With prizes to be won from carnival style games and an obstacle course, all of the sugar ingested by our young ones (and Troopers) was certainly burned off by the countless trips to the bouncy castles and large array of games. This year we also had a few other guests that raised the voice levels of most of the kids (mine included): Disney princesses, Spiderman, Tinkerbell, and Imperial Officers from Star Wars were all a definite hit and allowed for thousands of selfies to be taken.

At the end of what was a long day, the Regiment had facilitated a successful Family Day and all left the Harvey Building with a sense of accomplishment. The Strathconas always put in a great effort during these events. We know that it is the family strength at home that keeps us in the right mindset to perform our duties. It is events like Family Day that allow us to truly thank them for all the work they do for us behind the scenes.

No Stone Left Alone

Lieutenant James Lee

Veterans Week started this year on 5 Nov 2018 with 24 members of A and B Squadron at Edmonton's No Stone Left Alone Ceremony (NSLA). In true Strathcona fashion the guard was well turned out and was often the centerpiece of the live TV ceremony. This year's event was especially significant as it also was remembering the 100th anniversary of the First World War.

The guard was under the command of **Lt James Lee** and **WO Matt Williams** from 3rd Tp, B Squadron. In true Edmonton fashion the weather was snowy and cold, but the Guard maintained discipline and was quite happy when they went indoors for the post-event reception. The NSLA program originated from Edmonton in 2011 and has since spread around Canada with ceremonies occurring as far away as Poland in 2018. The program specifically involves young students laying poppies at grave stones of soldiers and doing a little research about that individual; ensuring that the sacrifice of these brave men and women is not forgotten.

For Remembrance Day this year soldiers of the Regiment were spread out over the Edmonton area with troops at various ceremonies. B Squadron specifically sent contingents to both Calmar and Mayerthorpe for other ceremonies at their local legions where they were gratefully received. Following the day's ceremonies soldiers split off to either spend the rest of the day with their families or go out on the town with friends from work. Overall the Regiment was well turned out and the day allowed everyone to participate in the act of somber remembrance to ensure "they shall not be forgotten."





Ex STEELE BLACK HAT

Major Al Wong

The annual gathering of Black Hats is not only a time for all to catch up with friends they have not seen in a while, but also to better our profession. For the second year in a row, none of the Senior and General Officers were able to attend as it coincided with Army Council. This year we had Director of Land Requirements (DLR) 3, **LCol Brian Corbett**, come and brief the Western Black Hatters on the multitude of projects that his team is working on and what other cells of DLR are planning on delivering. Also, he was able to answer questions from the MCpls regarding Leo 2 and TAPV. The CO briefed the Regiment on the changes to the Corps, what some of the strategic level teams are working on and other details from the Corp Conference. The Primary Reserves were able to join us for the PD portion when we dissected Jim Fredericks' "Black Hearts: One Platoon's Descent into madness in Iraq's Triangle of Death." Great discussions were generated by all ranks as groups broke out to debate the ethical, moral and leadership challenges.

No Black Hat would be complete without a mess dinner. The Sr NCO had theirs and invited a few of the MCpls as a training mess dinner. The officers did not hear about any hijinks or the Sr NCO are really good about being tight lipped. As for the officers, we had a chance to dine out several officers who had retired or transitioned out of the Army and to have one last meal together. **LCol Bruce McKinnon** was the first to be dined out and with over 35 years of service, one would figure there was a lot of dirt, but sadly there was not a lot. Maybe it was because he was the last to hold on? By contrast when we solicited stories for **Maj Kelly Callens** there was an out pour of emails, so we natural assumed they were just bills from people that wanted to collect from when he was R2IC. Lastly, we dined out **Maj Craig Volstad** who had an interesting career, but no one heard it because the CO was ranting about the one time he loaned his tank to Craig in Afghanistan and he drove over an IED.

All in all, Ex STEELE BLACK HAT was a great week where we bonded with all Black Hatters in the Western Area and honed our skills as leaders.

Kids Christmas Party

Lieutenant James Lee

This year's Kids' Christmas Party or "Free Black Friday" as it's been called due to the line ups, was a wonderful success. As always, Santa's Subbies were out in full force delivering presents in style. As a pleasant surprise to all, kids flowed in at a steady pace and ensured that no line ups existed to see Old Saint Nick. B Sqn had the honour of performing the setup before hosting this year's event and all went smoothly thanks to their efforts.

There were numerous stations set up around the Regiment which adults and kids both enjoyed. The Disney Princesses, Elsa and Cinderella, made a surprise visit which delighted many children. Another, always popular highlight, was the Airsoft range that was setup and managed by **MCpl Stephen** "I broke a rifle" **Taborowski** and allowed guests to unleash plastic rounds at paper targets to their heart's content.

This year's Santa was **Tpr Nicholas** "I've never held a baby" **Bjarnason** who did a wonderful job although he did scare **Maj Jack Nguyen's** daughter who ended up receiving a present from the Christmas tree rather than Santa. **Lt Josh** "Elves can be tall too" **Horlings** was tasked with passing presents from behind Santa's workshop to Santa and helped redefine the traditional expectations of an "elf" for many children this Christmas.

As always shopping for this year's event was quite fun with cashiers giving **Capt Blake** "I can see the top of every shelf" **Tapp** and his fiancé funny looks as they wheeled around 10 full shopping carts of Christmas joy. Following the mass shopping all available subbies augmented by **Mrs. Brittany Mansour**, 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, with great photos being taken with Santa by volunteers from the Military Family Resource Centre (MFRC).



'Twas the Silly Week before Christmas

Captain Philip "Buck Wild" Buckingham

'Twas Silly week before Christmas, when all through the
Track Pad

Not a creature was stirring, not even the Adjt;
The mailboxes were filled by the Chief Clerk with care,
In hopes that all leave passes soon would be there;

The Commander had directed Resiliency Training,
While the Padre was busily writing poetry and praying;

Capt McHugh in his Parka, and I in my cap,
Had just settled down for a long LOAC nap,

When out in the Hangar there arose such a clatter,
The Officers sprang from the Mariner room to see what
was the matter.

Away to RHQ, we flew like the flash,
To the Trooper Funk games and see who had got
smash'd.

With the new troopers drinking the SSM's beer so quick,
Lt(N) Traverse knew in a moment, that they would be
sick.

More rapid than horses, the Corporals, they came,
And whistled, and shouted, and called Troopers by name;

"Now, **HAMMOND!** now, **GENDRON!** now,
GRAYSON and **DUNN!**

On, **BROWN!** on **PAYETTE!** on, **ROSS** and **VAN**
DIJK!

To the start of the race! We all drink tonight!
Now Officers Dash away! Dash away! Dash away all!"

As dry leaves that before the wild hurricane fly,
The Officers set up the At-Home, and food to the sky,
So up to the EGOM, the SNCO's they flew,
With stomachs full of SAD dinner, and a few of beer too.

And then, with a cringe, I heard the CO say
The SNCO can drink but the Officers will Pay.

As I drew in my wallet, and was turning around,
Down went the first pints, ready to take the next bound.

Capt Carey was dressed in Combats, from his head to
his foot,

And his clothes were all tarnished with beer and Cig
soot;

The Ops O, was grinning from downing a Deer;
Unaware that all night I had been stealing his already
purchased beer.

His eyes -- how they twinkled! his dimples how merry!
His cheeks were all bearded, his nose like a cherry!

His droll little mouth was drawn up in a smile,
And the beard of his chin was terribly vile;

The Sports day was brutal, an out-right slaughter,
And the Officers playing Hockey, oh what was that
laughter?

A Lacrosse ball to the leg and a twist of the arm,
Soon there would be CF 98's, to document all the harm;
The Subbies spoke not a word, but went straight to their
work,

And filled all the OC's houses; with a picture of a track-
suited jerk,

And laying the CO's pen on top of his table,
And giving a nod, we knew we were able;

To spring to our cars, to the Regiment gave a whistle,
And away they all flew like the down of a thistle.

But I heard him exclaim, as he drove out of sight,
HAPPY CHRISTMAS TO ALL STRATHCONA'S, AND
TO ALL A GOOD-NIGHT!





Warrior Athletes – Synopsis of the Year in Sports

Lieutenant Andrew Kelly

While nobody can question the warfighting prowess of Lord Strathcona's Horse (Royal Canadians), there are other areas in which we also excel. Not the least of these is our remarkable athletic abilities. Each year, the other units within 1 CMBG stand in awe of the way in which we skate circles around them during ice hockey, paddle upstream just to jeer at them during Ex MOUNTAIN MAN, and manage to score perfect games during Inter-section curling matches – more often than not while blindfolded.

There were many events throughout the last year that are noteworthy. In June 2018 members of LdSH(RC) competed in the SPIN FOR VETS event in Calgary. During this event participants were required to pedal stationary bikes non-stop for 24 hours. Following the 24 hours of madness, **Maj Jeff "Why Isn't This Bike Moving?" Brown** decided that he had not been challenged enough so on his way home made a quick stopover in the mountains to do some biking that was not stationary. Luckily he did not encounter any grizzly bears as it is most certain his tired legs would not have allowed him to escape.

In July 2018 competitors from LdSH(RC) travelled to Mons, France and through Belgium ending in the Netherlands to compete in Ex NIJMEGEN. This event consisted of 4 days of marches at roughly 40km per day. The full team successfully completed the event, were treated to copious libations, and a parade after crossing the finish line.

In early September 2018 our most proficient warrior athletes made the annual migration into the Edmonton river valley for the gathering known colloquially as Ex MOUNTAIN MAN. Haven't you always wanted to ruck 30+ km with a 35lb rucksack? Wait...that doesn't seem challenging enough. Let us then add in a 3km portage followed by a 10+ km canoe ride (with a few upstream circuits as mentioned above). Still not challenging enough...ok then. We can finish this madness off with a 5km ruck march. Our warrior athletes performed very admirably during this event, with **Cpl Andrew Lonegren** finishing first for LdSH(RC) and twenty-sixth overall in 1 CMBG. Luckily for other 1 CMBG units – we let their teams cross the finish line before us. Sometimes it's nice to let others taste the sweetness of victory.

Following Ex MOUNTAIN MAN, we fielded teams in many events for Ex TOUGH CONTENDER, such as softball, soccer, grappling, and tactical athlete. For those of you who may have been watching the softball events, you may have seen a pitcher from LdSH(RC) that more closely resembled a hockey goalie than a tobacco chewing, beer-gut sporting, ball-cap wearing softball pitcher. **Capt Tim "My face is chiselled like a Greek sculpture" McHugh** decided he could not risk his post-service modelling career by potentially taking a line drive to the face. As such he acquired a hockey goalie mask. While he did not have to test its structural integrity by being hit – most on the field determined it did nothing other than prevent him from pitching any strikes.

Throughout the last year of sporting events many good times were had, glory was achieved by a very select few and many dreams of post service professional athlete careers were dashed. Well...there's always the next event – Ex STRONG CONTENDER taking place in January 2019. Our teams are undertaking preparations and practices as this is written and we expect glory and success for the Regiment throughout the Ex!



Sports

and



Fitness





Sgt Gerri-Ann Davidson places finish in female open division

Ex MOUNTAIN MAN

Master Corporal Chris Talmage

On a chilly September morning, the 315 competitors of Ex MOUNTAIN MAN 18 prepared themselves and their kit at this year's starting line in Rundle Park. The starting gun sounded at 0530 hrs and the men and women competing for top finisher set off running into the dark. All that could be seen, until the sun came up, was a sea of green glow sticks bouncing away down the trail. Right off the bat, the lead competitors took a wrong turn, due to an absent trail sentry, which added 1.8km to their total route.

As the sun came up, the race started to space out and the temperature began to rise allowing the competitors to finally shake off the morning chill. A gruelling 5 hours into the race and the bulk of the competitors had completed the 29 km ruck march and were preparing themselves for the 3.2 km canoe portage. This event is infamous for being the shortest distance, yet the most physically and mentally challenging of them all. The competitors hoisted the 70lb aluminum canoes atop their ruck sacks and proceeded to the 1.6 km turn around point. After the fatigue of the initial 29 km set in, many competitors took full advantage of any and all trees available to rest their canoes before catching their breath and carrying on.

After completing the portage, the hardest part of the race for most was over. Next was the 11.2 km canoe paddle from Dawson Park, down the North Saskatchewan River, to Hermitage Park where the competitors battled a strong head wind and struggled to keep their canoes facing down river. After the competitors exited the water, the final 4.8 km ruck march back to Rundle Park began. With the end of the race approaching, the motivated members of the LdSH(RC) Mountain Man team shook off the leg cramps and with sore feet ran for the finish line.

The LdSH(RC) team of 29 competitors and the 27 finishers all put forth an excellent effort and achieved a few noteworthy accomplishments. The unit's fastest male competitor, **Cpl Andrew Lonegren**, finished in 5h57 and placed 26th in the men's open division. The unit's fastest female competitor, **Sgt Gerri-Ann Davidson**, finished in 7h05 and placed 4th in the female open division. The last of the LdSH(RC) team crossed the finish line in 9 hours and 41 minutes. Congratulations to all and now we wait and see how many Ex MOUNTAIN MAN 18 competitors will be back next year to test their limits, challenge their mental strength and punish their bodies once again!



3 Cdn Div Army Run Team

Captain Leland Kirkham

Every year Ottawa, Ontario becomes the home of thousands of serving and retired soldiers as they meet and prepare to take part in the Canadian Army Run. This year 3rd Canadian Division (3 Cdn Div) sent a team of twenty members to take part in the event. While the weather gave the team a run for their money, they still managed to compete in the race and had every single member successfully complete the course.

The team was represented by all trades, elements, and units, with support from 1 CMBG, 38 CBG, 39 CBG, and 41 CBG. It was a hassle to coordinate the movement of so many personnel from all over western Canada to Ottawa. As the organizer, I thought that the hard part was over when I landed in the Ottawa airport, but I was wrong. The weather that week was particularly foul as not one but two tornadoes touched down in the city and caused localized havoc.

All of the soldiers present from 3 Cdn Div made a few jokes about being prepared to support another round of Op LENTUS, but the city of Ottawa made short work of repairs and recovered well. Recovered well, except for *our* hotel, which did not have electricity or hot water for almost the entire duration of our stay. We all banded together and went down to the race coordination center to pick up our shirts and race packages in preparation for the big day.

On race day, spirits were high as we watched the starting events begin and prepared for the half-marathon. The Chief of Defence Staff, **General Jonathan Vance**, partook in the opening runs and was in place to cheer everyone on for the half marathon. While there were several photo opportunities to have been taken, all of our electronics were dead from our lack of power, even though the Minister of National Defence, **Harjit Sajjan**, was giving out selfies.

The Division had an excellent turn out, with **Pte Baun** from 2 PPCLI taking the team's fastest time at just under an hour and a half. Prior to our return we went around Ottawa to see some historical sights, unfortunately, due to the extreme weather the Canadian War Museum was closed. We did however, attended the War Cemetery and went around to various institutions and areas to make do. We all returned home happy with our accomplishment, and eager to get back to work with our home units.



Key Events



Ex STEELE LANCERS

Corporals Giani Mancini and Emma Crackle-Skulason

Every good army story starts with a bus trip. On this particular trip, the bus was taking 25 Strathconas to the Calgary International Airport for a quick flight to England. Our mission was to participate in the centennial celebrations of the Battle of Moreuil Wood in France. Prior to arriving in France, our contingent made an important stop in the UK to visit London's famous High Gate Cemetery, where we received an excellent and informative historical tour of the grounds. This tour commenced with a toast of Drambuie to Lord Strathcona and Mount Royal, **Sir Donald Alexander Smith** himself, before his final resting place.

One of the highlights on our journey to France was a visit to our Allied Regiment, the Royal Lancers (Queen Elizabeth's Own), in Catterick Garrison. We met our hosts at their Senior NCO Mess where we became better acquainted with our British counterparts. Over the next couple of days, we toured their Regimental lines, learned about their organization and tactics, and eagerly inspected the vehicles and equipment they use as formation reconnaissance. They invited us to join them on a pedogeological tour of the famous town of York, where we visited both the York Minster Cathedral and the oldest pub in the UK for tea (lunch), among other locations. We concluded the visit with an amazing tour of the Regiment's impressive history at the Queen's Royal Lancers Museum. Eventually though, we had to say goodbye to the Lancers and continue our journey to France.

We left the UK by Euro Train, spending 45 minutes below the English Channel. Once on French soil we stopped at several important battle sites, including Courcellette and Pozieres, just to name a few. Once we arrived in Amiens, we were given time to explore the town and the next day we drove to the town of Moreuil to the site of the battle. We took part in a ceremony which included the laying of wreaths, and a chilling re-enactment of the 'Last Great Cavalry Charge' performed by our very own Strathcona Mounted Troop. Afterwards, we visited the grave of **Lt Flowerdew**, a recipient of the Victoria Cross from the Battle of Moreuil Wood. We then conducted a Freedom of the City Parade, which saw the Regiment being presented the honour of the keys to the city.

The final stop on our journey was Vimy Ridge to pay our respects and to tour the war-torn battlefield littered with craters and unexploded ordnance. The entire experience was extremely humbling and even after 11 long but incredible days, no one was ready to leave.

Death or Glory





Calgary Stampede and Spruce Meadows

Lieutenant Joshua Horlings

On 5 July 2018, over 100 members of LdSH(RC) departed for parades at the Calgary Stampede (CS) and Spruce Meadows (SM). The Guard of Honour, made up primarily of B Squadron but also members from across the Regiment, arrived on the evening of the 5th eager to experience the legendary Stampede for themselves. Returning the next morning, noticeably less bright-eyed than the night before, the Guard moved to downtown Calgary and prepared for the CS parade. As the 82nd in line for the parade, the contingent was able to observe much of the parade, rehydrate, and prepare for the long walk through the scorching hot city. Despite earlier fatigue from the night before, walking through the city quickly re-energized the contingent who were honoured by standing ovations and loud cheers from the crowd. Following the parade and a skill-testing bus crew-commanding ordeal, the Guard moved to Spruce Meadows for their final practice before going live in front of the cameras and crowds of Spruce Meadows. The next day, 7 July, the Guard made its way again to Spruce Meadows to complete both an Honour Guard for the arrival of the VIP Party led by Commander 3rd Canadian Division, **BGen Trevor "Black Heart" Cadieu** and to conduct the Feu de Joi for the Lieutenant Governor of Alberta, **The Honourable Lois Mitchell**.

During the parade Saturday afternoon a number of LdSH(RC) members had the opportunity to experience Spruce Meadows from a different perspective. **Cpl Richard Wagner**, his wife Cheryl Lynn and their daughters Rebecca (2 yrs) and Riley (8 months), were honoured to experience the outstanding hospitality of the Southern family from Canada House. In his own words, "We had excellent patio seats and the staff made us feel like the most important people in the world. They brought in birds of prey to have photos taken as well as face painting and other activities for children. As we toured the grounds both my daughters received a stuffed toy horse which to this day they have not let go. We went on pony rides, carousel rides, bouncing castles and a tour of the stables. For one day my family and I felt like royalty; together we had an absolutely amazing day."

In the International Ring, the Guard of Honour conducted precision drill, only to be outdone by the precision of their now remarkable beret tans. Following a successful parade, the soldiers headed out for one last night on the town before the final parade early Sunday afternoon. The Guard of Honour performed flawlessly once again in slightly cooler temperatures in front of a slightly larger crowd. Despite long nights and temperatures over 30 degrees, the soldiers performed to a high standard and represented the Regiment extremely well. The soldiers returned to Edmonton on the evening of 8 July armed with a few more stampede stories than before, a few outstanding tan lines, and bus crew-commanding skills that they never imagined they would have needed.



Community Relations

Corporal Shane Eidt

There is no Regiment in the Canadian Army that does community relations (COMREL) like the LdSH(RC) and in 2018 that tradition of reaching out to our communities was upheld in typical cavalry fashion. Key events for this year included the 100th anniversary of the Battle of Moreuil Wood, the Calgary Stampede, Spruce Meadows, and the ride season of the Strathcona Mounted Troop (CMT). Additionally, there were the valiant efforts of the unit to assist with the flooding and fires in BC which gave the soldiers deployed from the Regiment a unique opportunity to connect with Canadians. The Regiment conducted numerous smaller events that were also important to the local community to include the Friends of the Regiment visit and various family-oriented events such as Family day and the Kids Christmas party.



COMREL activities came to the fore a little early this year, starting off with the Moreuil Wood 100th anniversary celebrations. The Battle of Moreuil Wood parade was a brilliant affair marked with pageantry only the Strathconas can muster. We not only celebrated this occasion here in Edmonton, but also sent out a contingent of well deserving members of the Regiment to France, where once again Strathconas showed perseverance and pride in representing one of Canada's finest units. Here in Edmonton, we hosted a soiree where bars were disguised as hitching posts and a horse stable with CMT riders and horses on display. The reviewing officer for the Parade in Edmonton was none other than our Senior Serving Strathcona, **BGen Cadieu**.

The Calgary Stampede and Spruce Meadows are arguably the jewel in the crown for Strathcona COMREL activities each year. This year, Stampede week carried on as usual along with the Regiment's participation in it. The opening ceremonies took place on 5 July, with B Squadron representing the Regiment with a 100 Soldier Honour Guard. The Guard's presence in the parade along with Strathcona tanks proved to be a very popular attraction once again. Following the opening ceremonies and Stampede parade the focus turned to Spruce Meadows where the Honour Guard provided a Feu-de-joie for the Queen Elizabeth Cup, with the Lieutenant-Governor of Alberta, **the Honourable Lois Mitchell**, as the Reviewing Officer.

While not traditionally considered a COMREL event, the Regiment sent representatives to various Remembrance Day services around the Edmonton area. This year we again participated in the No Stone Left Alone initiative with the goal being to recognize the sacrifice of Canadian soldiers who lost their lives in service to their country by having visitation to the soldiers' graves by school children. The Regiment has fully embraced this initiative and sent representatives to the graves of our own fallen comrades, **Cpl Nathan Hornburg** and **Tpr Michael Hayakaze**, both of whom fell during service in Afghanistan.

Rounding out the year of events was the Grey Cup hosted at Commonwealth Stadium. The Brigade was heavily involved with the Grey Cup's pageantry this year and the Regiment provided both vehicles and soldiers to take part in the festivities before, during, and after the big game.

COMREL this year was unique in a lot of respects, with the 100th Moreuil Wood celebrations both here and abroad, the BC floods, the Calgary Stampede and Spruce Meadows all happening in a tight time frame, but in the end, it was an absolute success. All of these events, like in years previous, were vital for the Regiment to maintain its ties with the wider community and the country as a whole.



“They’re Strathcona’s”

The Regiment at the Four Days Marches Nijmegen

Lieutenant Carsten “My best sentences are over 95 words” MacLean



For the first time in recent memory, the Regiment trained and deployed a team to take part in the fabled Vierdaagse, or International Four Day Marches Nijmegen. The Marches, which began in 1909 as a military and civilian physical education demonstration, have grown into the largest walking event in the world. Held annually, participants routinely number over 40 000, including about 6000

military members, predominantly from northwest Europe and North America. The Canadian Armed Forces sends a contingent of roughly 170 marchers and 40 support staff, including fifteen marching teams (each numbering approximately a dozen marchers) representing the Navy, the Air Force, and each of the Army Divisions, as well as other organizations such as branch specific teams or Canadian Rangers.

As part of the commemoration of the hundredth anniversary of the Battle of Moreuil Wood, the Regiment was selected to participate in the 102nd Marches representing 3rd Canadian Division. The team was stood up in December 2017, with the selection of its leadership, **WO Steve “3 VP Tarps Off” Eddy** and **Lt Carsten “Hold the Line” MacLean**. Nominations from the various Squadrons were made and vetted; by early February a preliminary roster was approved, with approximately 20 team members identified. Later that month, the team began collective training with marches beginning at 15 kms and, despite the best efforts of Op LENTUS 18-03 to derail the training, worked their way up to an operational readiness validation of back-to-back 40 km marches in mid-June. By the time the team had been validated operationally ready, the numbers had been whittled down to fourteen personnel, including crewmen and supporters such as medics, maintainers, and signallers.

Although the Regimental team was only comprised of eleven marchers, the Regiment was lucky to be given the opportunity to provide medics who would march as part of 33 Service Battalion and JTF-Nijmegen HQ. The deployment of these additional marchers, along with the Regimental team, brought the total number of Strathcona’s deploying to thirteen.

On 12 July the team made the long flight to Europe, eventually landing in Lille, France, after making stops in Greenwood “Donair Pizza”, NS, Bagotville “On Time”, QC, Trenton “Need a Keycard” ON, and Cold Lake “No Buses Available”, AB. Immediately following their arrival, the team began the commemoration portion of the Four Days Marches. This included a parade and visit to the city of Mons, Belgium, which soldiers of the 3rd Canadian Division liberated in the final days of the First World War, culminating in the final shots of the War being fired during a Canadian attack on a German position. As part of the commemoration, the team visited the grave of Private George Price, a Canadian taking part in the attack, who became the last combat casualty of the War, dying at 10:58 on 11 November, 1918. The parade by the Canadian Nijmegen contingent marked the start for the city of Mons’ commemoration of the centennial anniversary of the end of the Great War.

The next day saw the team make their way to the impressive Canadian National Vimy Memorial in France. In addition to team photographs and a commemoration parade, the team participated in both guided and self-guided tours of the grounds. We visited the tunnels that Canadian and British soldiers dug

in the lead up to the famous attack as well as the respective trench lines of both Canadian and German soldiers; in some places the trenches were not more than a stone’s throw apart. This experience proved to be a highlight for all involved. Later, the team travelled to Camp Heumensoord, located just outside the city of Nijmegen in the Netherlands. Over the next few days, the team settled in, conducted in-clearance and march preparation, and tried (mostly successfully) to avoid any last-minute injuries. As soon as the team arrived in Heumensoord, our returning marcher, **Sgt Mike “Chuck Norris” Brushett** began pointing out features and locations of note; in particular, the Canadian and Swiss mess tents.

The final part of the commemoration portion included a parade and visit to the Groesbeek Canadian War Cemetery. Groesbeek is the final resting place of over 2300 Canadian war dead (in addition to another 300 Allied dead) and is maintained and honoured by the local civilians. The parade included contingents from half a dozen military allies, as well as presentations of wreaths by a score of military and civilian delegations. Following the official parade, members of the team were free to honour their fallen comrades as they saw fit. For many this meant conducting private ceremonies at the graves of members of their unit or branch, including small ceremonies conducted by members of the Regiment at many of the graves of the thirteen Strathconas buried at Groesbeek. For **WO Steve Eddy**, this meant visiting the grave of his great-uncle, Private James Eddy, of the South Saskatchewan Regiment. The contingent also visited the final piece of Dutch soil to be liberated during the Second World War, which was then used as an observation post by Canadian soldiers to survey and report on enemy movements in Germany itself. Our tour guide, himself a boy who grew up during the Nazi occupation, pointed out locations of German troops that were monitored by the Canadians stationed at the post.

With the commemoration portion over, the team focused on the upcoming Marches, which would take place over four days, total approximately 168 kms, and be completed in temperatures of about 30 degrees with high humidity. While some members, such as **MCpl Terry “Old” MacDonald**, taped their feet and rested, others, like **Cpls Quinton “Salty” Stender** and **Chris “Weebs” Webster** enjoyed the atmosphere and a few pre-march libations. Regardless of their personal preparation tactics, all members of the team were eager to begin early on the morning of the 17th, awakened by what could be generously described as a bugle call.

The team began with gusto, cutting through the peaceful morning silence with renditions of “I Wanna Be in the Cavalry” and “The Hockey Song” that would certainly have made the original artists cringe. The first morning saw the team adjusting to the temperatures and marching through crowds, but by the afternoon they had found a groove and were able to take a few stops to enjoy refreshments while chatting with locals. Morale was high by the time the team passed the boots that mark the end of the 44 km first day and everyone was looking forward to what promised to be a shorter second day.

On the second day, the team witnessed what was one of the most powerful experiences of the Marches, when an elderly Dutch gentleman observing the parade turned to the boy beside him, pointed at us, and said, “They’re Strathconas.” The fact our Regiment is not only recognized, but continues to have such an effect on foreign citizens was incredibly moving and not something any of us will soon forget.

Having completed back-to-back 40 km days as part of their validation training, the second day proved relatively painless for the team. **MCpl Lawrence “My Son” Emery** pointed out that the team would have to pump up their “swag-distribution” numbers in the coming days in order to avoid bringing back any of the seemingly infinite notebooks they had brought for distribution courtesy of **WO Steve Eddy’s** definitely above-board family connections.

Lt Carsten MacLean took this challenge to heart on the third day, distributing notebooks and other swag to children at every opportunity. Around the 35th kilometre, **Cpl Andrew “The Book of Aliens” Lonegren** pointed out the child Lt MacLean was attempting to hand a notebook to was, in fact, an infant only a few months old and likely wouldn’t have the fine motor skills to take it from him any time soon. **Lt MacLean**, unwilling to give up a potential recruit, left a Regimental info card in the child’s stroller, “for when they’re older.” Meanwhile, **WO Steve Eddy** wasn’t having much luck on his end, as children

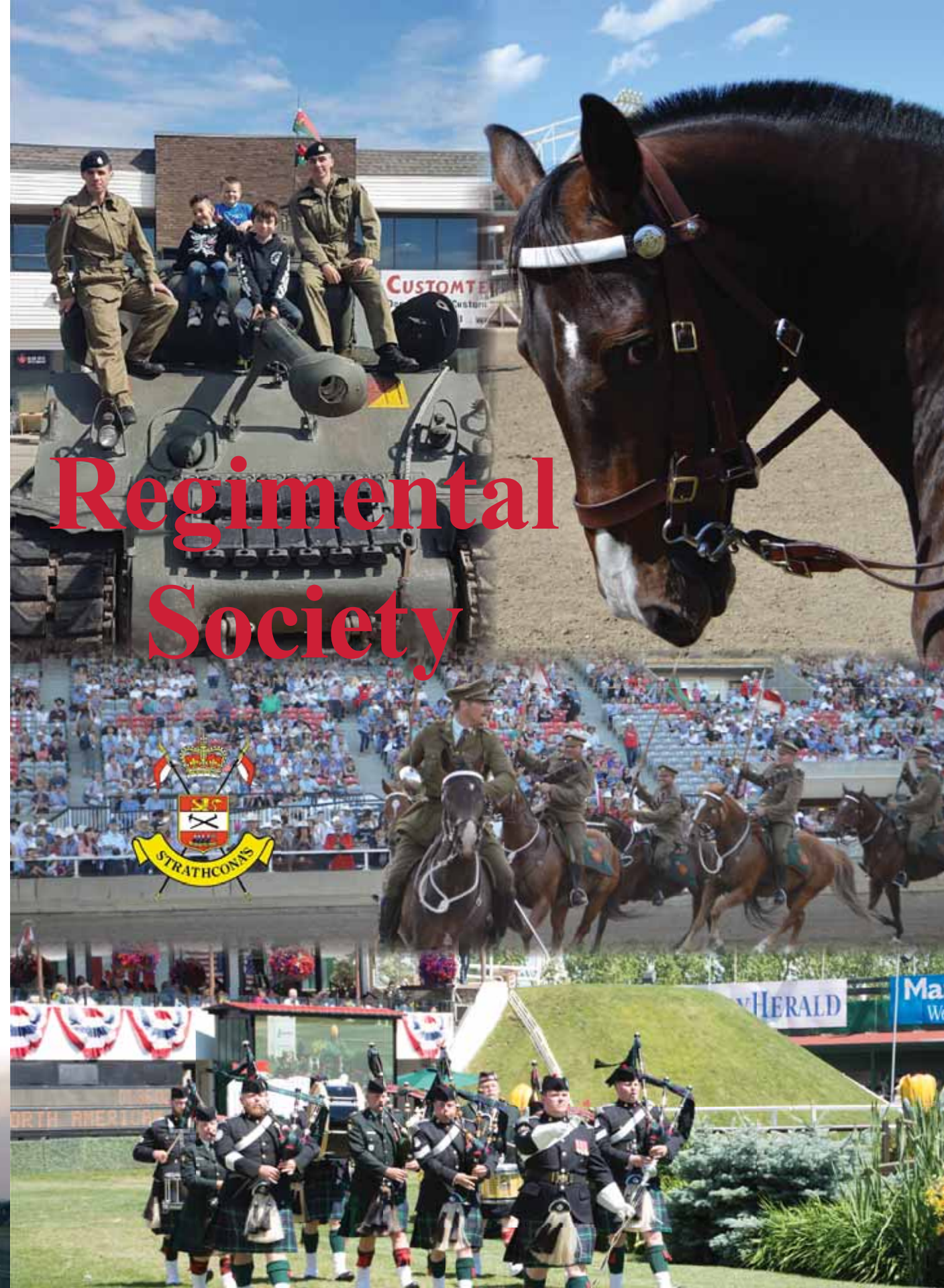


consistently mistook the pencils he was handing out for candy. Notebook-distribution missteps aside, day three was another good day for the Regimental team, as they completed a smaller, team-level ceremony at the Groesbeek Cemetery approximately 25 kms in to the day's march, before singing their way through crowds and hardly cutting their pace when faced with the toughest part of the Four Days Marches, the Seven Sisters hills. Unfortunately, day three saw several members of other teams forced to retire. **Cpl Ben "Poutine" Grossmith**, a medic who had trained as part of the Regimental team and was deployed as the JTF-Nijmegen HQ medic but had been marching with the LdSH(RC) team up to that point, was reassigned to another, lesser team.

With day three behind them, the team focused on the crucible: day four, and the acclaimed "Via Gladiola" victory parade that would cover the last six kilometres of the march. Including the victory parade, day four promised to be the longest day, spanning nearly 47 kms in total, and this year it came with the hottest temperatures. Nevertheless, the team looked forward to the challenge and drew motivation from the fact that, should anyone fall out, it would throw off the symmetry of **Sgt Alan "Instagram Famous" Rodgers'** many, many mandatory team photoshoots. By this point in the Marches, the team had developed a reputation amongst the other countries' military contingents as a salty, but extremely (almost worryingly) enthusiastic and friendly group. On day four, we sang many a song, including **Sgt Mike Brushett's** specialty, "Canadians," as well as a (failed) attempt at a song to greet our Norwegian compatriots, and finally an American marching song led by two adopted "Southern Canadians" we picked up early in our journey and harboured in our ranks for much of the 168 kms. A few hundred metres from the finish, several members of the team recorded videos for friends' weddings they were missing, including that of **Lt Josh "Stroopwafel" Horlings**. At the finish point the team reunited with **Cpl Dar "My Feet Are Fine. Trust Me, I'm a Medic" Breckenridge**. Team members were then allowed to drop their small packs and dump the sand they had been carrying before they were presented their Cross for the Four Days Marches medal, including a Crown for a second successful completion to **Sgt Mike Brushett**.

After the short medal ceremony, the team quickly departed as part of a formed military body, parading the last 6 kms down the Via Gladiola. Here, the Canadian contingent received loud cheers and most members received gladiolas from adoring locals, including several bundles for **Sgt Alan Rodgers**. Near the end of the victory parade, **OCdt (then Cpl) Tom "This is the Last Real Work I'll Do in My Career" Lauterbacher** found his European relatives along the parade route and was able to connect with them before completing the victory parade with the rest of the team.

With the Four Days Marches over, attention quickly turned to medical recovery and beginning preparations for our return to Canada. After spending one more night in Huemendoord the contingent departed the next day for Camp Harskamp, a Dutch training base that was seemingly the exact opposite of Wainwright. There, some members of the contingent recovered under the watchful eye of Canadian medical staff, while most spent three days in nearby Amsterdam, immersing themselves in the sights and culture. **Cpls Quinton Stender, Tom Lauterbacher, and Jake "The Trough" Thompson** were able to spend time in the Lauterbacher's family village in rural Germany. Following this well-deserved recovery, the team redeployed to Canada, proud of their accomplishments and confident they had represented the Division, Brigade, and Regiment well. Though the Four Days Marches are not competitive for time, teams did take pride in finishing together, as a team, and the Lord Strathcona's Horse (Royal Canadians) team was one of very few Canadian teams that finished with all eleven marchers. These soldiers demonstrated the highest levels of professionalism, dedication, and above all, perseverance.





Strathcona Mounted Troop

Captain Erik Giajnorio

The past year was significant for the soldiers of Strathcona Mounted Troop. Under the leadership of **Sgt Paul “Is That a Cell Phone?” Kruhlak** and **Capt Sean “Winter Tires Are Also for Summer” Coughlan**, SMT traveled to France to re-enact the famed charge at Moreuil Wood in honour of the 100th anniversary of the battle. The Troop was privileged to take part in many of the events leading up to the re-enactment and rode the same ground as our Strathcona forefathers did 100 years ago. To mark the Armistice 100 commemoration, SMT sent four soldiers back to France to participate in the Pursuit to Mons. For **Cpl Scott “Conan O’Brian” Fraser** and **Cpl BJ “Tokyo Drift” Cocker**, the trip was extra special as they were unable to participate in the travel to France for the Moreuil Wood celebrations earlier. The Pursuit to Mons saw the riders ride 20 km per day for five days and re-trace the last 100 days of the Great War.

Back on this side of the pond, SMT had another busy ride season. For the first time in over a decade, the Troop performed at the Calgary Stampede Grand Stand in front a packed house. In Edmonton, the Troop once again participated in all ten days of K-Days. **Cpl Edward “Do You Like Ninja Turtles?” Thibodeau’s** MC skills blew the crowd away and he was invited to be the announcer for a group of Trick Riders out of Stoney Plain. On top of the usual Spruce Meadows events, the Troop rode in Lac La Biche as well as Ralston rodeos and welcomed Soldier On to our own backyard. In order to maintain our soldier skills, the Troop conducted a series of mounted recce exercises in coordination with neighbouring farmers traveling as far as St. Albert on horseback.

As the traditional ride season wound down, the Troop once again welcomed new riders to the Basic Equestrian Rider Course, including **Cpl Alex “Faceplant” Morrin**. As ride instructors, **Cpl Tim “I Had Pants When I Entered the Bar” Senff** and **Cpl Coleman “Little Spoon” Germann** ensured all the new soldiers were put through their paces and thrown on their faces. The Troop wrapped up the year by participating in the 2018 Grey Cup activities, and had the honour of assisting in checking Tuffy the horse into the Chateau Lacombe. Following the Grey Cup parade, the Troop’s events came to a close for 2018, leaving all members looking forward to an exciting 2019 ride season.





Family Support Troop

Master Corporal Ryan Blacklock

This year saw a re-vitalization of the Lord Strathcona's Horse (Royal Canadians) Regimental Family Support Troop (FST): **Lt (N) Jackson** was posted in as the unit Padre, **Sgt Barsotta** as the Stables NCO, and **MCpl Blacklock** as the FST IC. **Captain Peterson** was deployed early in the New Year while sadly **Sgt Pasuta** was posted out of the unit; his tireless dedication and efforts to support FST will be missed. With the return of the Regiment from a recent deployment to Ukraine, FST took the opportunity to further develop and strengthen their ability to support and care for the families of deployed soldiers.

Jenny Greyling of the Military Family Resource Centre (MFRC) worked diligently with members of FST to facilitate updated procedures, policies, and forms related to military families. These family members have devoted themselves to their spouses' development and success; each and every one of them deserve to be a priority in the lives of both the soldiers and the Canadian Armed Forces (CAF) in general. These new updates have laid the groundwork to ensure that military families will be prepared to maintain the home front and support their military family members when the time comes for the mission to demand more of them.

Regimental members have seen a wide variety of deployments this year to include Op UNIFIER, Op IMPACT, Op LENTUS, and Op PRESENCE. The next 12 months will see even more members of the Regiment deploy on various operations all over the world and likely a few here at home. As always, the Family Support Troop is ready and excited to provide the families of deployed Strathconas with the highest level of care and support; we remain steadfastly optimistic for what the future holds.

In closing, should you or any of your family members require assistance, our line is always open: 780-973-4011 ext 3040.

Historical Vehicle Troop

Sergeant Ryan Pasuta

It has been another great year in the Historical Vehicle Troop (HVT), an extremely busy year, but a great year as our team of volunteer soldiers worked diligently behind the scenes purging older artifacts, re-focusing our strategy, and surging efforts onto several high profile projects. While growing our numbers to 17 all ranks, we've really moved the proverbial 'yardsticks' this year - and we're excited for another busy year ahead. To re-cap 2018, we participated at The Calgary Gun Show, the Annual Bar-U-Ranch Soldier Appreciation Weekend, The Veteran's Motorcycle Show & Shine, and most notably, we restored and donated a Centurion Tank to Spruce Meadows. Quite the travelling road-show we were, and where all these events featured our Sherman 'Catherine,' several keen soldiers and other vintage artifacts and weapons, we plan on concentrating our efforts around the Edmonton area in 2019.

Looking ahead to 2019, we've re-invigorated the 1942 Harley Davidson project and hope to have it completed by summer, we've commenced the 'rebuild' of our aging Ferret fleet (all three of them), and plan on adding a 4th to the stable which we plan on painting white - depicting the Regiment's service on UN Peacekeeping missions abroad. We also expect delivery of one of two fully restored Bren Gun Carriers within the next year to help 'dress up' future ceremonies.

Lastly, several new external partnerships have also been forged this year and contact has been made with the Ontario RCAC Museum who have provided a much appreciated contact in BC that may be able to supply NOS (new old stock) Sherman Track and other rare parts. These valuable contacts will undoubtedly strengthen our Troop in the coming years, and with no shortage of support from the community, our Society, and our soldiers, HVT will be in good stead for years to come.



Regimental Pipes and Drums

Warrant Officer Kyle Chuback

It was another busy year for the Strathcona Pipes and Drums, which saw not only some long time members be posted out, but also some familiar faces return. We said farewell to our Pipe Major, **MCpl Izaak Koolman** who was posted to Medicine Hat, Alberta. We thought the distance would keep him away but he seems to keep finding his way back to play at various events. The new Pipe Major, **Cpl Adam Davies** took over quickly and led the band through the Regimental Change of Command parade in June. Summer saw the return of **MCpl Cameron Davidson**, from his posting to 408 Tactical Helicopter Squadron. From there it was off to Calgary, Alberta to play at the Spruce Meadows North American international horse jumping competition. This was the first event for our new bass drum, it sounds like all other drums but weighs significantly less, so we don't have to listen to **MCpl Dave "Easiest job in the band" Young** complain about it anymore. By now the summer was half over and it was time for some well-deserved summer block leave.

In October the band played for the Safari Club International - Drayton Valley Chapter's 10th annual dinner. This was a great event and the band is hopeful to continue building upon this relationship in the future. After some time away in Wainwright, it was time to get back together in November to play a few events. First was the No Stone Left Alone gala, which saw the return of **MWO (ret'd) Cordell Boland** sporting quite the epic beard. As usual the Band brought the house down and was treated to an outstanding and delicious dinner. Just two days later the Band was back at it on Remembrance Day. The Band returned to the Kingsway Legion where they greeted the crowds returning from the cenotaph with several sets and played a few more throughout the day. The Band was also treated to Sky Lounge tickets to that night's Oilers game, and we were happy to accept and all attended except **Cpl Sean "Don't tell my wife I turned these down" Coughlan**.

The band ended the season by performing at the annual Black Hatter and Christmas events. Going forward, word about the Pipes and Drums is starting to spread out and we anticipate a busier schedule in the year in 2019. We are looking forward to the challenge and opportunity to grow the Band not only in numbers but in breadth of experience.





The Regimental Museum

Captain Phil “Not a real Doctor” Webster

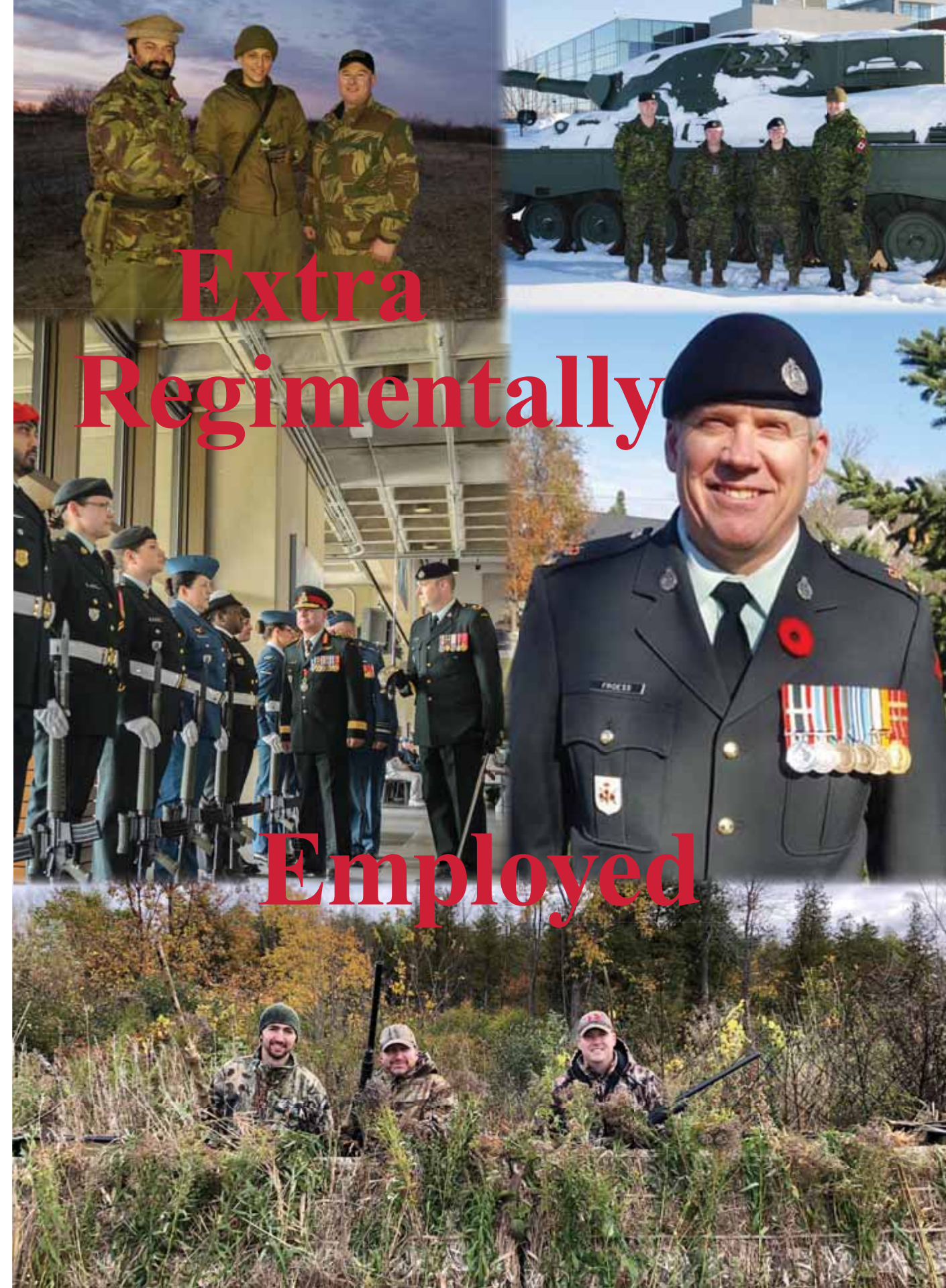
Another year and another attempt to make the extremely serious and not at all joyful work of maintaining the history of the Regiment seem fun is upon me again. (In case it wasn't obvious, most of the previous sentence was a lie, this job is great.) The year opened with the impending departure of long-term Museum artefact Curator, **WO Ted “You have no excuse to mention me this year” MacLeod** who has taken his collection of Hawaiian shirts to warmer lands and greener pastures. Additionally, and of great importance, was the final preparation for the 100th Anniversary of The Battle of Moreuil Wood.

For that most important event we supported both the Regimental celebrations in Edmonton as well as the showcasing of our own collection of art, artefacts, and stories here in Calgary. We partnered with the **Founders Gallery of The University of Calgary** to tell the story of our Regiment's finest hour and borrowed some of their premium space and fantastic lighting in doing so. This allowed our display to be front and centre for visitors to The Military Museums and ensured that the importance of the Battle was not lost on them. Overall, the event was extremely well attended and reviewed which was in no small part due to the years of preparation which **WO MacLeod** undertook prior to my prophesied arrival as the new Curator. A great deal of the credit for our success was and continues to be owed to him.

But of course, the tempo and pace of the Museum hardly slowed moving into the summer, with **Sgt Todd “You call that a sword... THIS is a sword...” Giberson** and I supporting the various historical events and activities to include Spruce Meadows, the Calgary Stampede, and a seemingly unending march of school groups and classes. Thankfully we had **Cpl “No Sarge, that's a spoon” Warren** assisting us throughout the summer in our tasks, trials, and tribulations.

We also had a turnover of volunteers this year, with **Nicole “#Unicorn” Gillis** leaving us for a real job following her graduation, and **Grant “Mr. Peabody” Dyck** arriving in the nick of time (there's a joke there) to help us out in archiving and collections. The now legendary **Indra** and **Al Ross** brought their years of research experience to our various Moreuil Wood 2018 related study tasks and settled in with **Sgt Giberson** to make the archives a welcoming and happy place. Last but not least though, even with the departure of **WO MacLeod**, the Strathcona influence in Calgary remains strong with **Capt Laurel “Lauren Frazzle” Frizzell** in command of our neighbours at **IPSC/ Transition Centre Calgary**. She is and will forever be drawn into our adventures and nonsense, whether she wants to be or not. Once again, another good year of history, teaching and pushing the boundaries of “humour” for all of us in Calgary.

Addendum: Rounding out this year's awards for The Museum, **WO MacLeod** and **Sgt Giberson** took mutual top Candidate on the “Emotional Wellness Course” with **Capt Phil “Of course I'm on TD” Webster** coming in 15th (out of 10 Candidates.) **Sgt Giberson** declined to hold his “Horse Golf” championship, citing that it “wasn't fair for anyone else to have to face him.” **Capt Webster** won the annual Sir Sam Steele lookalike contest, the only participant for the fifth year running.



Extra Regimentally

Employed



Strathconas in Gagetown

Captain Joe Agius

Although staffing at the RCACS is thin this year, the Strathconas employed in sunny Gagetown had a hand in nearly every course, exercise, and event that took place.

The spring saw a dozen Strathconas make the journey to New Brunswick for the Armour Crew Commander (ACC) – Common course. **MCpl Dave “Say again over??” McNair** had ample opportunities to show off his Coyote knowledge as he participated in countless hasty attacks at 12km/h. Meanwhile, **MCpl Ikbāl “Diamonds in my teeth” Sandhu**, and **MCpl Spencer “Unreal” Richardson** were ripping up the training area in Leopard 2s.

This summer, the Lawfield corridor saw a number of courses. Most notable was the Armour Troop Warrant (ATW) – Tank, which caused some controversy. The two Troop Leaders were **Capt Cam “Come here real quick” Ross** and **Capt Joe “Do you understand?” Agius**. The controversy occurred late in the course when it was noted that the only students left were Strathconas, to include **WO Joe “Best Radio Procedure” Gushue**, **WO Jeff “The Viking” Gibson** and **WO Kyle “Sent from the future to Troop lead” Chuback**.

In the fall, HQ Sqn’s **Maj Allan “Alright, calm down” Dwyer**, ran the DP4 SSM course which saw some prominent senior NCOs visit Gagetown for a brief time. **MWO Kenny “You owe me 76 dollars” Shiells** and **MWO Marcel “Touch my elbow” Chenier**, proved to be the candidates who benefitted the most from their experience.

WO Mike “I’m gonna have a talk with that guy” Gratto managed to somehow keep up with the Ops tempo at HQ Sqn and still bring his puppy to work on several occasions.

Capt Ali “Hey, how’s it going?” Raju took over as Ops O of the school for an extended period of time. He was very busy with his new responsibilities as a day after assuming the position he was unreachable through any means for weeks.

Capt Mark “You had better sit down for this” McGinnis managed to remind **LCol Vincent “The Beauty” Kirstein** that he didn’t have AOC yet approximately 954,000 times. The Cmdt’s patience with Mark is nothing short of legendary. We should all be looking forward to this chapter of his memoirs.

Overall, there was no change to status quo at the RCACS with Strathconas performing well above the standard in all tasks and courses. Out on the east coast, the LdSH(RC)’s golden reputation continues to shine bright.



Strathconas in the National Capital Region

Major Dave Cronk

In preparation for drafting this year’s National Capital Region (NCR) submission, I did a quick peruse of previous year’s articles and it is amazing how little it changes. The new guy in Ottawa usually gets tapped to write the article and there is a quick blurb on the daunting realities of working in the “Town.” In fact, this is a true statement, as nothing really prepares you for the new world you will find yourself plunked into, with its myriad of corporate meetings and the diverse and unimaginable number of new acronyms you will find yourself exposed to. In many ways, I felt like a subbie all over again as I tried to navigate Ottawa and my new work environment. Though, a saving grace and lifeline upon my arrival was the network of Strathconas scattered throughout Ottawa.

Already well established in Canadian Joint Operations Command (CJOC), **Maj Warren Deatcher** works as the CBRN guru, which sees him gallivanting off to hardship locations such as Miami for CBRN conferences. As for myself, I work in the CJOC Command Suite as the Executive Assistant to the Deputy Commander.

Over in Army Headquarters, **BGen Stephen Kelsey** continues to steer the future of the Army as Chief of Staff Strategy with **LCol Chris Quinlan**, **Maj Sandy Cooper**, and **LCol Brian Corbett** providing supporting fires in their respective roles within the Directorate of Land Force Development and Directorate of Land Requirements. **LCol Mike Mallette**, when not off on TD, works the Director Army Staff Europe Desk.

Capt Mike Labrecque, **MWO Lanny Hill**, and **MCpl Lance Banman** do something in CANSOF HQ, but at time of publishing all information has been redacted.

Working in the Strategic realm, **Maj Mike Lakotas** and **Maj Sheldon Holmes** are working at the cutting edge in the developing cyber domain. **Maj Darryn Gray** continues to slug it out at DGCSI and **MCpl Andrew Usher** represents at the Strategic Joint Staff.

In case the NCOs are not tracking, they probably should be, **MWO Rob Englehart** is the Crewman Sr NCO Career Manager. Occupying probably the most rewarding and interesting job in the whole NCR, **Sgt Curtis Romkey** finds himself working in the Transition Group Headquarters where he is involved in the many great initiatives.

Even though we find ourselves scattered throughout the area when the opportunity presents itself, efforts are made to gather. As Ottawa tends to draw in people from across the country for what seems like an endless series of conferences, courses, and meetings, when an out of town Strathcona swings by we always try to assemble for an impromptu beer call. Moral of the story, if you find yourself in this neck of the woods don’t hesitate to drop any of us a line. Any excuse to get away from our cubicles and catch-up with a fellow Strathcona is always a welcome relief.



Strathconas in Kingston

Captain Mike Dullege

Kingston – the Limestone City – is widely regarded to be the Hawaii of Canadian Forces postings. There are, I imagine, numerous similarities between the two distinct locales. The complete absence of urgency and a draw away from work and onto more engaging leisure activities notwithstanding, Kingston has a solid core of Black Hatters in key positions doing Freedom’s work throughout. There seems to be here a collective of serving members – past and present – facilitating a real connection to the Corps despite its members being so far from our Regimental home.

The Canadian Army Doctrine and Training Centre (CADTC) Chief of Staff **Col Dwayne Parsons** is the senior foot on the ground, and his team is rounded out with **CWO Dave Hall**, and **LCol Shane Gifford**. The work produced by CADTC directly informs the work of the Canadian Army Command and Staff College (CACSC), in which **Majs Clayton Fifield** and **Cam Meikle**, and **Capt John Rickard** mind-meld with students to develop them for future employment. Noticeably absent this year is **Maj Dave Williams**, who welcomed his second beautiful child with his wife **Laurel**. Dave is currently on parental leave enjoying Beardforger and Hairforger, although I did tell him that Hairforger is not a real thing.

The 1st Canadian Division saw the arrival of a power-team – **Maj Islam Elkorazati** and **Sgt Matt Burke** – who are now owning operations globally. Both have been told to “ratchet down the army” as they now work in a joint headquarters, and both obliged much too easily from my perspective! All of us are jealous of their Land Duty Allowance, none more so than **Sgt Adrian Droogers** who is the leader-bean for the training section of the Peace Support and Training Center.

I didn’t know this before arriving, but apparently there’s a university close to CFB Kingston. Queen’s University is beautiful in the summer, and if you’re in town you should check it out. Speaking of school, **Maj Tanya Grodzinski** continues to circle the objective of her PhD and is a lecturer at the Royal Military College of Canada. Somewhere in the same structures, **Capt Dave Jung** continues his sleepy pursuit of a technical career as a student on Tech Staff.

Overseeing the Base’s 42 lodger units is Base Headquarters. The Deputy Base Commander, **LCol Paul Pickell** continues to abuse develop **Cpts Moses Pano** and **Mike Dullege**, both of whom are actually eternally grateful for a lifeline back to the mothership.

No one here, including myself, has ever heard of **Capt TJ Casey**. He – or she – is definitely not not working here and doing a great job of not representing the Regiment neither at home nor abroad.

Regardless of the jabs or quips, the Regiment – and Kingston – are losing some good leaders this year. **LCol Ed Padvaiskas** retired after more than 30 years in the CAF. He had been employed as the Deputy Base Commander for the better part of a decade and was nigh immovable. Also departing with honour, **Maj Mike Froess** retired after 35 years in the Regular Force. Mike is determined to never leave and continues serving part-time with the Army Land Warfare and Doctrine Centres.

The Regiment continues to find these key positions, load Strathconas into them, and the soldiers and leaders thrive in unique and challenging environments. Strathconas continually define professionalism and style.



Strathconas in 1 CMBG HQ

Captain Owen Lewis

*There are only two insufferable organizations in the army,
whoever your higher headquarters happens to be, and whoever it is that reports to you.*

A few hundred feet from our beloved Harvey building, but seemingly many worlds away from the Regiment lays 1 Canadian Mechanized Brigade Group Headquarters (1 CMBG HQ). People seem to always have two questions for us, “what is it that you people actually do there anyways,” and “why isn’t it done yet?” Arriving this summer, I was hit with the blunt reality of how much work actually does go on behind the scenes at Brigade Headquarters and the consistently late hours that everyone here puts in to make things run smoothly.

The G1 branch itself is under the overall leadership of **Maj Nathan “No, You Can’t Just Make up a Nickname for Me” Hevenor**, freshly returned from Op PROTEUS in the summer of 2018. By all reports, Op PROTEUS is one of the most difficult tasks in the entire military, where **Maj Hevenor** had to endure endless nights in hotels and diplomatic functions in the name of stabilizing the Middle East. We remain convinced that while there, **Maj Hevenor** invested in a red ink company as it’s the only thing that can possibly account for his habit arriving most days before dawn to start covering our work in red pen.

Despite the appearance of our still highly questionable facial hair, **Maj Hevenor** did not actually hire hobos to work for him, but instead he has myself and **Capt Mike “I will personally stab the next person who actions a grievance wrong” Forestell**. **Capt Forestell** also spent much of last year travelling as the Personal Assistant to the Brigade Commander to places like Eastern Europe, Jordan, Hawaii, and some exotic land known as “Shy-Loe”.

In recognition of **Capt Darren Carter-Wright** winning Movember before it even began, he and his glorious Ron Swanson-esque moustache were sent on an all-expense paid trip to Jordan. The G3 branch justified sending him under the guise of CTAT-J, but we know the real reasons...

As the Regiment continues on the Road to High Readiness in 2018-2019, the tempo at Brigade Headquarters will continue to get ever busier alongside it. We very much look forward to seeing where the coming year takes us and hopefully it sees us deploying alongside many fellow Strathconas.





Strathconas at CMTC

Captain Gord Elliott

It was another outstanding year for Strathconas at the Canadian Manoeuvre Training Centre (CMTC). Despite the high turnover during posting season, Strathconas continue to work across CMTC, both within the Headquarters and Operations Group, including Observer Controller Trainer (OCT) Group & the Contemporary Operating Environment Force (COEFOR), to deliver realistic and challenging training to the Canadian Army. The year was marked by a higher than normal training tempo that included Ex MAPLE RESOLVE 18, the Canadian Patrol Concentration 2018, multiple Integrated Capstone Exercises (ICE) in support of Op REASSURANCE and numerous COEFOR & OCT training initiatives.

This year saw the departure of **Majs James Anderson, Mike Selberg, and Marshall Douglas** as well as **Capt Stu King** and **Cpl Ian Harding**. Strathconas in Wainwright also said goodbye to **Cpl McKinnon** on his release from the CAF. Following the Regimental Change of Command, **LCol Mark Lubiniecki** arrived as the Chief of Operations Group, bringing with him **Maj Paul Leonard** as the Ex MAPLE RESOLVE 19 Lead Planner, **Maj Dan Gray** as the Armd OCT, **Maj Tim Day** as OC COEFOR & **Capt Gord Elliott** as the Operations Officer of Ops Gp. Within the Headquarters, **Capt Jon Miller** continued his excellent work to support the transition to an upgraded WES system, improving training realism at CMTC. As well, **MWO Kevin King** transitioned from the Armd Cell into the busy role of SM of OCT Gp.

Demonstrating some of the best beards in the Canadian Army, Strathconas in COEFOR had another big year. As the Canadian Army's only professional insurgent capability, COEFOR was once again the thorn in the side of 5 GBMC on Ex MAPLE RESOLVE 18. After the summer, COEFOR restructured into a traditional insurgent network with Strathconas taking the lead in developing insurgent tactics on specific roles. **MCpl Andrei Icala** and **Cpl Kyle Leis** worked on developing an Anti-Armour Cell and **Cpl Shane Fettes**, already a qualified Miniature Unmanned Aerial System (MUAS) Operator, stood up a commercial UAS Cell; the first of its kind in CADTC. Making sure COEFOR was always prepared, **MCpl John Nancarrow** made sure the CQMS Shop provided vital equipment to those who needed it. Under this new structure, COEFOR put it into practice on Exercise SPARTAN READY in October 2018. **Cpl Kyle Leis** had a big month by finishing a LAV 6 Gunnery course, re-badging to the Strathcona's, and getting promoted in the field! November was unfortunately not as eventful for him, or the rest of COEFOR, as they endured -20C temperatures in support of the Canadian Patrol Concentration; a two-week international event hosted by CMTC.

With another ICE serial about to take place, and Ex MR 19 just around the corner, 2019 looks to be just as demanding a time for CMTC and another great year for all Strathconas involved.



Strathconas of Wainwright

3 CDTC, 3 CDSB Edm Det, and Transition Centre

Major Thomas LaCroix

The 3rd Canadian Division Training Centre continues to be a hub of activity in Wainwright by delivering a variety of Regular Force and Army Reserve courses. The output of the Training Centre has doubled since 2014, with 2,400 Regular and Reserve graduates in 2018. Strathconas in the unit consistently show their versatility supporting these efforts.

Maj Thomas LaCroix, DCO, had the pleasure of presenting coins on behalf of the Regiment and can attest to the fact that everyone was excited to receive the mementos. **Capt Nate Bugg** continues to be one of the most popular people on base, more because of his involvement with the gun and archery clubs than his considerable Ops O skills. **WO Laurent Charette** was honoured to be chosen to travel to France for the Moreuil Wood 100th – it also provided him the opportunity to teach younger members the finer points of driving a stick-shift and how to create a smoke screen while driving a van! **Sgt Gord Carnevale** took time out of his sports routine to help the unit with a number of activities and also received a Division Command Team commendation for his actions to assist another CAF member during a time of need. He and **Sgt Wallace Churchill** returned to the Regiment during the summer. **Sgt Colin Davidson** taught a variety of courses and recently tapped into his prior service as an instructor on DP1 Infantry. **Sgt Hugh Hayes** joined the unit and was immediately put in charge of over one hundred personnel awaiting training (PATs) – to increase the challenge, the Army made sure they all had matching haircuts and no nametags. **MCpl Dave Brown** is recovering from back surgery and learning that, because of 45 years of inflation, six million dollars won't make him Steve Austin.

MCpl Francis Graham kept the Ammo section as tight as a drum prior to being posted to the RCAC School. **MCpl David LaHay** kept the Small Arms Trainer up-to-date and relevant, adding a LUVW SMP (G-Wagon) turret ring and stand for "mounted" simulation. **MCpl Jason Loykowski** was recognized as the unit's Top Instructor. **MCpls Logan Myers** and **Justin Wry** arrived from the Regiment during the summer. **MCpl Travis Paskuski** has been a go-to member of the unit, putting his skills to work in the CQMS of A Company. He is starting to transition out of the Forces and his contribution will be missed. Finally, **MCpl Travis Silcox** has been employed with the CQMS of B Company and still finds time to be an imposing presence to the students of Close Quarters Combat courses.

At the helm of the renamed Transition Centre, **Capt Kristian 'Bob' Reiten** continues to look after personnel while growing his "Grizzly Adams" beard.

3rd Canadian Division Support Base Edmonton Detachment Wainwright also benefited from a complement of Strathconas. **Sgt Mike McGarity** did outstanding work as the Garrison Ops Sgt before moving to Range Control where he joined **Cpls James Booth, Thomas Hayes, and Mattison Smith** managing one of the busiest training areas in the CAF. **Cpl Aden Bellegarde** was also a member of the Range Control team until he retired after 13 years of service. Always a Strathcona.



3rd Canadian Division/Joint Task Force West Headquarters “And we be taking care of business”

Major Fred Hayward

2018 in Review

- **Op LENTUS 18-03** was a Divisional effort from 16 to 26 May 2018 to support the people of British Columbia. The Division had a steady state of 350 personnel on this domestic operation. Key highlights include:
 - Over 80,000 sandbags filled.
 - 750 meters of aqua dams installed.
 - 50 meters of protected Hesco barriers constructed.
- **Op LENTUS 18-05** was a Division wide effort to support the people of British Columbia with the worst fire season on record. The Division had a steady state of 550 personnel from July to middle of September. Key highlights include:
 - Over 13,000 sq km burnt.
 - 22,000 hours of support to firefighting operations.
 - Over 1000 soldiers rotated in and out.
 - Over 22 units represented from 3 Cdn Div.
 - Staff officer support for JTFFP.
 - Liaison Officers to BC Government Departments.
- **Supported the Army** with thousands of tasks to include: CTC, 3 CDTC, NEO Bn, DECON

Coy during the G8, RTHR, personnel deployed overseas (REASSURANCE, SOPRANO, JORDAN, IMPACT, and CROCODILE), and full time summer employment.

- **Took over** ARes recruiting within the Division.
- **Laid** the ground work for ARes mission tasks.
- **Introduced** the resilience, readiness, and growth strategy.
- **Rocked** support to the Grey Cup, No Stone Left Alone, Klondike Days, Red River Exhibition, and the Calgary Stampede.
- **One tip on how to succeed at 3rd Canadian Division Headquarters.** Never walk down the hall without a document in your hands. People with documents in their hands look like hardworking employees heading for important meetings. People with nothing in their hands look like they're heading for the cafeteria.

People with the newspaper in their hands look like they're heading for the bathroom. Above all, make sure you carry loads of stuff home with you at night, thus generating the false impression that you work longer hours than you do.

“Taking care of business and working overtime”



Strathconas in the 3rd Canadian Division Support Group Employed Within the Platypus

Captain Stephanie Clubine

They say 3 CDSG is like a platypus – it's got pieces of a bunch of different things, it is difficult to explain to others, and it often leaves people who have never seen it (or been posted there) confused. Strathconas employed in the 3 CDSG Operations Services Branch work hard to ensure that this platypus can enable the soldiers of the 3rd Canadian Division to accomplish the necessary training to complete their missions.

Operations: the brain and central nervous system of the platypus. **Maj Peter Beitz** and **Capt Rich Lund** together make up this essential piece, overseeing 3 CDSB Ops Svcs' planning and operations functions respectively. **MWO Scott Brown** handles base coordination and together the three of them ensure that 3 CDSB Edmonton is able to function and support training and other events.

Range and Training Area Management: the arms of the platypus. **Capt Tom Pett** is the Range and Training Area Management Officer, overseeing all the ranges and training areas from Thunder Bay to Vancouver Island and north to Yellowknife. The arms of the platypus wrap around and reach everything within the 3rd Canadian Division's Area of Operations. It's not all work and no reward though, we hear there's a pretty good poutine place by Chilcotin, and somehow that particular training area always needs a couple of additional visits... Something about our detachment near there...

Range Control: the paws of the platypus, deftly manoeuvring all things within the ranges and training areas of the 3rd Canadian Division. **Sgt Tyler Baldwin** leads Range Control in Edmonton, ensuring that everyone is able to get their training done and get cleared in and out of our training area. Assisting him we have **Cpl Francine Riopelle** as our SME with the Automated Targeting System Ranges, **Cpl Derek Steeves**, and **Cpl Blaine Hatter** both on the Edmonton Range Control team.

Admin: the venomous spurs of the platypus. **Capt Stephanie Clubine** is the Adjutant for 3 CDSB Ops Svcs, and focuses on the day-to-day administration and coordination with the other branches of 3 CDSB. Now if only people could get their #@&%! PDRs in on time...

Public Affairs: the bill and ears of the platypus. Nobody is really sure what **Capt Graham Kallos** does as the 3 CDSG PAO, but we're pretty sure it involves writing speeches for 3 CDSG Command Teams, answering Greek children's Christmas cards, and talking to confused people on the telephone (apparently international terrorist organisations have the ability to control people remotely. Who knew?).





5th Canadian Division Headquarters “West Meets East”

Major Chris Nolan

“We few, we happy few, we band of brothers.”

-William Shakespeare

It is an odd feeling to be surrounded by an ocean of water instead of a sea of grass. Nevertheless, the Strathconas of the 5th Canadian Division Headquarters have not only adapted to their unique environment, they have added a certain Western *élan* and panache to how the Division conducts its business. Those historians amongst us will draw ties between the Regiment and the Mighty Maroon Machine. It was a mere 75 years ago that the Strathconas fought their way up the Italian peninsula and across waterlogged Northwestern Europe wearing the maroon patch of 5th Canadian Armoured Division.

Considering that lineage, it seems only fitting that **BGen Derek Macaulay** entered his second year in command of the Mighty Maroon Machine. Tireless in his pursuit of force generating the unique enablers the Army required to sustain its high operational tempo, **DM the BGen** maintained his elite status at all the best hotels and achieved double lifetime admittance to the Maple Leaf Lounge.

Embracing the opportunity see part of the world he never thought possible, Western based soldier **Maj Chris Nolan**, arrived in July to oversee Mighty Maroon Machine operations as the Division G3. Fishing for mackle and swimming in the Atlantic (including a polar bear dip on 1 January) occupied the limited ‘free-time’ that his job afforded him.

There once was a happy-go-lucky Captain who passed his days lounging in the Mariner Room, cooking the books for the R2IC, and rubbing elbows with some of the finest people who generously support the Regiment. After this past year as the Division G3 Tasks, **Capt Corey Mclean** became a changed man. Employed as the Divisional bulldog, Corey conducted a terror campaign that ensured all personnel of Atlantic Canada knew the importance of filling the insatiable demands for incremental tasks.

It may be a small crew of Strathconas here in Halifax, however, we are making quite an impact throughout the Army Centred in the Atlantic. With the Regiment out West, and a firm position now established in the East, the Strathconas are well poised to conduct a double-envelopment on the Centre!



5th Canadian Division Training Center Strathconas Training the Division

Captain Matthew Hoffart

Another day passes at the 5th Canadian Division Training Center (5 CDTC) as junior soldiers continue to conduct their infantry-centric training as they are led by....armoured officers and crewmen? Welcome to 5 CDTC where the training is infantry but the leadership is armoured. The most prominent and important positions at the TC are reserved for the deft and capable hands of Strathconas. **LCol Errol MacEachern** (Commanding Officer) and **CWO Tom Holland** (Regimental Sergeant Major) were recently joined by **Capt Matthew Hoffart** (Operations Officer) to continue to train the junior soldiers and leaders of 5 Division, and most importantly, mentor and develop the officers and soldiers of the Royal Canadian Dragoons who fill many of the positions here. A strong assist is provided by **MCpl Earl Howell**, **Cpl Ronald Mountford**, and **Mr. Brad Jackson**.

It has been another busy year at the TC as the staff trained a record number of Primary Reserve members for 5 Div during the 2018 summer period alone. With a jump of over 200 qualifications granted from the previous summer, it was remarkable accomplishment on behalf of all members of the 5 Div who worked in and supported 5 CDTC. The summer period culminated with graduation parades in both Aldershot, NS and Gagetown, NB attended by another Strathcona (at heart) the Commander of 5th Canadian Division, **BGen Derek Macaulay**.

After the summer Individual Training program and a short Collective Training exercise concluded, 5 CDTC transitioned to training junior Regular Force soldiers and leaders. With members of the Armoured Corps (read: Strathconas) present to conduct the planning, the infantry-focused training was well executed as the organization ran like a well-trained crew. Credit is also well deserved by the staff of the permanent training companies.

Moving into 2019 more challenges exist, a result of how 5 CDTC remained successful in the face of staff, equipment, and vehicle shortages. We will be dealing with an even bigger summer training program than last year due to our catastrophic success (not the author's words) as well as implementing pilot serials of a new infantry training program. The influence of the Strathconas is being felt as we help shape the future of 5 Div and the Infantry Corps.





The Strathconas of CFB Suffield

Major Chris Whalley

Most of what goes on at CFB Suffield was not on the Armoured Officer or Crewman recruiting posters when we joined up. While few outside of the region may know what goes on at CFB Suffield, the folks that live and work here are well versed in the actions of our military personnel. For those unfamiliar, CFB Suffield is primarily focused on developing the combat capacity of Canada and her Allies as well as building mutually supporting relationships and capabilities that will ensure our continued success on the battlefield well into the future. With live-fire training eight months of the year, ranchers moving thousands of cattle, environmental management programs pushing forward with their activities, oil and gas exploitation all over the Base and defence research conducting various trials to enhance the combat capabilities of the CAF, no two days in CFB Suffield are ever the same.

Defence Research Development Canada – Suffield Research Centre (DRDC) continued to fulfill their mandate through two large exercises and multiple trials, providing Canada and its NATO partners with advanced scientific and technical research as well as world-class training opportunities. British Army Training Unit Suffield (BATUS) completed two large scale training exercises and successfully completed their high-readiness and combined-arms training for the year. The Primary Reserve managed to squeeze in six smaller training exercises and the Elk Herd Management Program entered its seventh season, rounding out the year's operational calendar.

There was a fair bit of movement in the Strathconas of CFB Suffield this year. **MCpl Rory Adby** returned to the Regiment, leaving Base HQ in the hands of **LCol Mike Onieu** and **Maj Chris Whalley**. In Range Control, **MCpl Chris Oliver** retired and **Cpl Trevor McQueen** returned to the Regiment. **Cpl Jorge Valenzuela** and **Cpl Jeremy Gray** joined **Cpl Michael Allman**, **Cpl Jesse Maw**, and **Cpl Michael Maxwell** in completing the new firefighter training program for Range Control personnel and took their place in a Range Control like no other, managing a variety of operational tasks, including (but not limited to) fighting multiple prairie fires, conducting security/presence patrols, supporting defence research activities and providing critical support to a variety of emergency situations.

As the recent year's operations have demonstrated, Strathcona's continue to represent the steadfast dedication, professionalism and style of the Regiment, while continuing to take advantage of unique and challenging opportunities that can be found nowhere else in the CAF.



Strathconas in the United Kingdom

Major Clayton Gardner



Hi again from Bulford Village and the Salisbury Plain Training Area. I continue to work as an exchange officer and lead planner within the G5 Branch of 3 (UK) Division Headquarters (HQ), the British Army's high readiness deployable two-star warfighting HQ, which has the responsibility of training itself as well as force generating and training its Brigades. It is like working in 1st Canadian Division and 3rd Canadian Division HQs combined with all three Canadian Mechanized Brigade Groups and a couple Reserve Brigades under its command.

The Division HQ spends a good portion of its time on training or planning training and over the past year I've participated in multiple exercises in the UK and the U.S. The opportunities have been varied such as the demanding Warfighter Exercises, which see the Division HQ working under a U.S. Corps, to the unique UK Staff Rides. This year, I planned and directed the Division HQ Staff Ride to Sicily, where we studied Operation Husky, specifically XIII (British) Corps which included 1st (Canadian) Infantry Division and 1st (Canadian) Armoured Brigade. We conducted an exercise at a breath-taking vantage point in Agira, the site where the Canadian Division fought its most furious battle, and visited the Canadian War Cemetery next to the town.

Another event of Canadian, and particularly Strathcona interest, was the launch party for the new Sir Alfred Munnings Exhibition at the National Army Museum in London. I was lucky enough to get away from the HQ and attend this event along with **WO Chris Anderson**, who is currently Admin Officer at Canadian Forces Support Unit (Europe) Detachment UK. He exemplifies the motto "once a Strathcona, always a Strathcona." Most of the 41 works of art are on loan from the Canadian War Museum and it is the first time that this collection has been assembled in this manner and displayed in 100 years. The original paintings are astounding, especially the well-known, *Charge of Flowerdew's Squadron*, painted in 1918.

I will sum up with a few words on our OUTCAN experience. It has not been without challenges but the benefits have far outweighed them. We have spent three years far from family and friends and have lived and worked outside our comfort zone but our approach to fully immerse ourselves in our community and engage with other cultures has made it an extremely rewarding experience filled with new friends and insights.



Op REASSURANCE: Liaising With Latvia

Captain Charles Prince

International agreements rarely reach down and impact your individual life. Such was my perspective until I found myself sitting in an office in CFB Wainwright, as I waited for a posting message that I could book flights to Latvia. I was to be part of the inaugural Latvian Allied Augmentation Team (LAAT), a method of embedding foreign military officers within the headquarters of the Latvian (LVA) Land Forces Mechanized Brigade. Being outside of the official NATO Battle Group and the Canadian Task Force Latvia Headquarters (TF-L) necessitated a separate Terms of Agreement to authorize my position, and consequently me. Apparently, international legal agreements can be complicated and take some time.

After a cancelled posting message, or two, and many emails from organizations in Ottawa that told me to “Wait Out” or to “Be Prepared To” in various order or contradiction, I finally received my “Go” direction in the second week of September 2017. I had two weeks to organize my life and start my experience as part of NATO’s, and consequently Canada’s, Op REASSURANCE in the Baltics. Thanks to TF-L, upon my arrival, I had a place to sleep in a community called Baltezers, approximately 20 km East of Riga. The hotel was located in the woods on one of two connected lakes. Upon being told that I was living out in the forest, my wife messaged me a black and white photo of the clown from the movie “IT” stalking among some trees in support. Yet again, the grasping claws of spousal endearment scratched halfway around the world.

Initial integration as the Brigade G3 Operations with the Latvians had some expected and some unexpected challenges. For those uninitiated, the first time driving in Latvia can be a little shocking. The speed limit only exists, in this reality, if there is a photo radar immediately present, otherwise it is an abstract concept only useful for philosophical debate. Furthermore, the concept of tailgating allows for too much space between cars, it is inefficient and unproductive. Latvians prefer to maximize vehicles per square meter and reduce fuel expenditure by drafting.

Security is also of primary importance when looking to gain access to a military base or edifice. It is best practice to have documents proving your security clearance and standing with NATO on your person. Dental records may have also proven useful. There will be multiple check points. My first time going through one building had me feeling like I was acting out a scene from “Get Smart.” Conversely, everyone and their dog can access the Range Training Area, or “Polygons”, to go mushroom picking.

Culture shock and work culture shock were also present. All who have been to the Baltics can share stories of the “Latvian Smile”. They are a stoic and introverted people who will initially maintain their distance and the subsequent facial expressions, or lack thereof, would be an asset at any poker table. Despite English being prevalent in the country and required within the Latvian military, work terms and vernacular seemed to differ among all nine nations present in the camp. There are apparently NATO standard terminologies, but it was far more apparent that NATO members don’t always follow NATO standard, with one of the worst offenders being Canada (we’re sorry).

Understanding had to come quickly as the operational tempo was rather busy. From October 2017 through September 2018 the Bde was involved in Ex SILVER ARROW, multiple planning exercises led by Denmark called the KNIGHT Cycle (not a Young Adult fantasy book series), the eFP BG LVA Certification Exercises, Ex JOINT WARRIOR in the United Kingdom, Ex SUMMER SHIELD, Ex SABRE STRIKE, Ex SWIFT RESPONSE, and Ex NAMEJs. In addition, the LVA Mech Bde had elements from their subordinate units participating in training events across Europe to include the flanking Baltics, Germany, Norway and even across the Atlantic in the United States.

In parallel to all the above, there were the consequences of NATO involvement. I came to appreciate the level of multinational political interest which had come to roost in Latvia. With multiple nations (now eight) comprising the NATO Battle Group, and the resulting repeated levels of political and military



leadership, the garrison saw an international level parade, visit or event multiple times a week, if not per day. There were also the coordination and planning conferences to facilitate events or exercises and I was lucky enough to see myself visiting England and Denmark repeatedly.

Being embedded within the Latvian Army was sometimes chaotic, but I can attest that they are one of the hardest working and ambitious smaller armies in the world. They guaranteed that all of NATO knew their flag as they had troops in Afghanistan, Iraq, and Mali on operations while also participating in multiple European military exercises and training calendars. They had ongoing initiatives to acquire and implement self-propelled howitzers and Brigade-level indirect fires, National C4I, an integrated air control movements process involving regional NATO command, and the Brigade had just completed mechanization on the CVR-T platform. Their drive and professionalism is reflected in their consistent excellence at section-level international competitions in Lithuania, the United Kingdom, and, for the first time in 2018, Canada.

Despite our differing cultural backgrounds, I came to be fully integrated within the headquarters of the Latvian Land Forces Mechanized brigade. My humour became even more dry and dark, I came to shake hands with co-workers at every start and end of the workday, and I learned how to celebrate name days in addition to birthdays, as well as Latvian Independence (Proclamation on 18 November and Restoration on 4 May), and “Jani” (Midsummer). I came to appreciate and be proud of the opportunity to wear the Latvian flag and Brigade patches on my uniform. I was able to appreciate the natural beauty of the country and the old world European charm of its capital. In fact, Riga’s historical centre is a UNESCO World Heritage Site. For all that, and more, I wish to convey a strong and heartfelt “Paldies” (thank you) to people of Latvia.

Oh, and their beer is really good.





Extra Regimentally Employed

| | | | | | | | |
|-----------------------|---|-------------------------|--|------------------------|--|-------------------------------|--------------------|
| BGen T.J. Cadieu | 3 Cdn Div | Maj J.M.J. Kim | CFLRS | Capt C.J. Ross | RCACS | Sgt M.R. Burke | 1 Cdn Div |
| BGen S.R. Kelsey | Army HQ | Maj T.A. LaCroix | 3 Cdn Div TC | Capt J. Salter | 3 CDSB | Sgt S.F. Burtch | CMTC |
| BGen D.A. Macaulay | 5 Cdn Div | Maj M.A. Lakatos | Cyber FD | Capt B.R. Simpson | 1 RCHA | Sgt D.N. Chatzikirou | CANSOFCOM |
| BGen P.J. Peyton | US Cyber Command | Maj P.E. Leonard | CMTC | Capt R. Stacey | 5th Canadian Division Support Base Detachment Aldershot | Sgt S.P. Collins | RCACS |
| Col P.P.J. Demers | Canadian Defence Attaché Jordan | Maj J.R.F. McEwen | NATO LANDCOM | Capt P.F. Stachow | CFRC Det Kingston | Sgt K.A. Crowe | KOCR |
| Col J.J. Major | TFL HQ | Maj R.D. McKenzie | 5 CDSG Detachment St. John's | Capt A.D. Tardiff | BCR | Sgt G. Davidson | TFME HQ |
| Col D.R. Parsons | CFC Toronto | Maj M.A. McMurachy | MAGTFTC | Capt E.J. Wiome | RCACS | Sgt C.A. Davidson | 3 Cdn Div TC |
| LCol C.R. Adams | CDLS(W) | Maj C.W. Meikle | CADTC | Capt D.M. Wright | Sask D | Sgt T.C. Dickey | IPSC Edm |
| LCol R.P. Chiasson | JTFN Yellowknife | Maj A. Nitu | CFC Toronto | Capt A.J. Young | SALH | Sgt J.F. Doucette | 3 Cdn Div |
| LCol J.L. Cochrane | CFC | Maj C.O. Nolan | 5 Cdn Div | Capt E.L. Young | 4 Cdn Div | Sgt P.B. Ives | CTC |
| LCol M.A. Connolly | Fort Leavenworth | Maj C.S. Penney | JPSU NB PEI | Lt L.W. van Heerden | 3CDSG Btl (Vancouver) | Sgt L.W. Leaman | JPSU |
| LCol B.D. Corbett | NDHQ | Maj M.D. Rogers | 3 Cdn Div | OCdt T.U. Lauterbacher | 3 CDSB | Sgt B.R. Loft | RCACS |
| LCol S.W. Gifford | CMTC Det Kingston Chief Formation Training | Maj M.D. Timms | 3 Cdn Div | CWO A.S. Batty | AJAG Edm | Sgt M.D. McGarity | 3 CDSB Edm-Det/Gar |
| LCol V.G. Kirstein | RCACS | Maj C.D. Whalley | CFB Suffield | CWO W.J. Crabb | PEIR | Sgt A.D. McKenzie | IPSC Edm |
| LCol M. Lubiniecki | CMTC | Maj D.P. Williams | CADTC | CWO D.W. Hall | CADTC | Sgt D.S. Murdoch | BCR |
| LCol E.G. MacEachern | 5 Cdn Div TC | Maj S.R. Wright | 1 CRPG | CWO T.C. Holland | 5 CDTC | Sgt S.M. Parsons | 5 CDTC |
| LCol A.D. MacIntyre | CFB Shilo | Maj C.J. Young | CALWC | CWO A.S. Mayfield | 4 Can Div TC | Sgt N.A. Patterson | 38 CBG |
| LCol M.J.D. Mallette | CA HQ | Capt J.F. Agius | RCACS | | Meaford | Sgt E.J. Pickell | CANSOFCOM |
| LCol M.G. Onieu | CFB Suffield | Capt N.B. Bugg | 3 CDTC | CWO L.M. Taylor | RCACS | Sgt J.J. Ribert | CFLRS |
| LCol P.G. Pickell | CFB Kingston | Capt D.W. Carter-Wright | 1 CMBG | MWO S.J. Brown | 3 Cdn Div | Sgt C.D.E. Romkey | JPSU/Soldier On |
| LCol C.J. Quinlan | Army HQ | Capt S.T. Casey | CANSOFCOM | MWO R.A. Englehart | DGMC | Sgt R.J. Rushton | RCACS |
| LCol R.T. Steward | HQJOC | Capt S.K. Clubine | 3 CDSB | MWO L.R. Hill | CSOR | Sgt S.G. Thomas | RCACS |
| Maj M.A. Barnett | NDHQ | Capt S.P. Coughlan | 39 CBG | MWO T.W. Hopkin | 1 CMBG | Sgt R.M. Torney | 3 CDSB Edm |
| Maj P.D. Beitz | 3 CDSB Ops Svc | Capt J.A. Daley | BCD | MWO K.E. King | CMTC | MCpl L.T. Banman | CSOR |
| Maj M.D.R.L. Bentley | RCACS | Capt D.W.R. Dixon | CJIRU | MWO S.R. Screen | CFB Borden | MCpl J.T. Bolzan | BCD |
| Maj J.S. Boates | CDLS(W) | Capt M.C. Dullege | CFB Kingston | WO C.J. Bulmer | RCACS | MCpl R.L.M. Chase | BCR |
| Maj T.L. Collings | RCACS | Capt G.R. Elliott | CMTC | WO D.J.J. Charette | RCACS | MCpl C.F. Collier | CFLRS |
| Maj R.A. Cooper | C Army DLFD | Capt M.J. Forestell | 1 CMBG | WO J.J.Y.L. Charette | 3 CDTC | MCpl C.J. Collier | CFLRS) |
| Maj D.R. Cronk | CJOC | Capt L.A. Frizzell | IPSC Calgary | WO G.A. Deveaux | QYRang | MCpl M.R. Croxall | RCACS |
| Maj T.W.F. Day | 3 Cdn Div | Capt M. Hoffart | 5 CDTC | WO C. Eady | Tactics School | MCpl J.E. Desjardins | 5 Cdn Div TC |
| Maj W.S. Deatcher | CJOC | Capt H. Jung | AMS | WO S.D. Flanagan | PEIR | MCpl A.E.R. Droogers | PSTC Kingston |
| Maj M.R.N Douglas | 41 CBG HQ | Capt M.A. Kaye | KOCR | WO J.D. Gibson | RCACS | MCpl K. Dunphy | CFB Borden |
| Maj L.A. Dunn | NORAD HQ | Capt A.M. Kenny | 39 CBG | WO M.A.L. Gratto | RCACS | MCpl M.J.J.K. Gironne | CFLRS |
| Maj A.C. Dwyer | RCACS | Capt S.A. King | FGH | WO J.A.J. Gushue | RCACS | MCpl F.J. Graham | 3 Cdn Div |
| Maj I. M. Elkorazati | 1 Cdn Div | Capt M. Labrecque | CANSOFCOM | WO J.M. Helliwell | RCACS | MCpl J.D. Hayes | CFLRS |
| Maj C.S. Fifield | CACSC | Capt W.A. Laughlin | 5 CDSG | WO B.E. Holmes | SALH | MCpl A.L. Icala | CMTC |
| Maj E.J.S. Frost-Kell | TF Latvia | Capt O.T. Lewis | 1 CMBG | WO N.C. Johnston | JPSU Edm | MCpl K. Jesse | 3 CDSB Edm-Det/Gar |
| Maj C.S. Gardner | 3rd (United Kingdom) Division Headquarters | Capt R.I. Lund | 3 CDSB | WO P.A. Jones | BCD | MCpl I.A. Koolman | SALH |
| Maj D.M. Gray | Chief of Force Development | Capt M.J. MacInnis | RCACS | WO R.M. Levis | RCACS | MCpl M.J. Lachance-Webster | CFLRS |
| Maj D.A. Gray | CMTC | Capt S.J. McGuinness | 1 H Svcs Gp | WO N.C. Miller | RCACS | MCpl D.W. Lahay | 3 CDSB Edm-Det/Gar |
| Maj T.J. Grodzinski | RMC | Capt C.D. McLean | 5 Cdn Div | WO G.C. Moon | RCACS | MCpl R.J.P.J. Larcher Pelland | Sask D |
| Maj V.F. Hayward | 3 Cdn Div | Capt J.L.E.E. Miller | CMTC | WO E.R.G. Morley | RMC | MCpl A.Q. Lister | JPSU |
| Maj N.R.B. Hevenor | 1 CMBG | Capt M.G. Pano | Canadian Combat Support Brigade/Influence Activities Task Force | WO B.N. Murphy | RCACS | MCpl N.J.C. MacFarlane | CFB Trenton |
| Maj S.W. Holmes | NDHQ | Capt T.D. Pett | 3 CDSG | WO A.A. Pociuk | Sask D | MCpl S.D. MacKinnon | RCACS |
| Maj J.R. Hunter | JPSU NB/PEI | Capt C.E.J. Prince | 3 Cdn Div | WO B.A. Ross | RCACS | MCpl T.S. Marchand | RCACS |
| Maj M.D.C. Johns | CFC Toronto | Capt A.A. Raju | RCACS | WO S.D. Thompson | JPSU Edm | MCpl L.B. Myers | 3 CDTC Wx |
| Maj B.S. Johnson | JTFN | Capt K.A. Reiten | IPSC Wx | WO L.J. Troop | FGH | MCpl J.M. Nancarrow | CMTC |
| | | Capt J.N. Rickard | CACSC | WO C.P. Zubkowski | SLT (Edm) | MCpl T.M. Paskuski | 3 Cdn Div |
| | | | | Sgt T. Baldwin | 3 CDSG Edm | MCpl S. Poitras | CMTC |
| | | | | Sgt M.S. Bell | 408 Sqn | MCpl D.D. Royes | 3 CDSB Edm-Det/Gar |
| | | | | Sgt F.L. Brown | CFRC Edm | MCpl T.G.C. Silcox | WATC |
| | | | | | | MCpl R.W. Smith | CMTC |



| | | | |
|----------------------|--------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|
| MCpl J.A.J. St Aubin | CFB Kingston | Cpl M.A. Norring | RCACS |
| MCpl C.M. Stewart | CFB Trenton | Cpl J.D. Oaten | CMTC |
| MCpl A.J. Usher | CFS Leitrum | Cpl A.N. Parsons | RCACS |
| MCpl J.C. Wry | WATC | Cpl J.P. Plante | RCACS |
| MCpl B.S. Young | RCACS | Cpl B. Price | RCACS |
| Cpl M.G. Allman | CFB Suffield | Cpl L.L. Ringuette | RCACS |
| Cpl S.T. Anderson | RCACS | Cpl F.L. Riopelle | 3 CDSG |
| Cpl Y. Bertin | 5 CDSG | Cpl E.M. Salazar | CMTC |
| Cpl K.H. Bishop | RCACS | Cpl J.W. Seppenwoolde | CFB Trenton |
| Cpl J.J.J. Booth | 3 CDSB Edm-Det/Gar | Cpl S.H.D. Shwetz | RCACS |
| Cpl S. Brough | CFB Suffield | Cpl M.M.R. Sirois | The Windsor Regiment |
| Cpl D.L.M. Brown | CMTC | Cpl D.R. Smith | RCACS |
| Cpl M. Brunskill | RCACS | Cpl P.J. Smith | RCACS |
| Cpl A. Chaperon | JPSU | Cpl M.R. Smith | 3 CDSB Edm-Det/Gar Wx |
| Cpl S.P. Charles | RCACS | Cpl D. Steeves | 3 CDSB |
| Cpl A.E.M. Cook | RCACS | Cpl B. St-Onge | RCACS |
| Cpl M.A. Currie | CFB Trenton | Cpl Sturgess | RCACS |
| Cpl T.W. Ellis | RCACS | Cpl E. Tremblay | JPSU |
| Cpl S.P.W. Ellis | 3 CDSB | Cpl M. Tremblett | JPSU Edm |
| Cpl N.F. Fabischek | RCACS | Cpl A.M. Vachon | CFLRS |
| Cpl T.R. Farquharson | CMTC | Cpl B.L. Vaillancourt | RCACS |
| Cpl K. Ferguson | 3 Cdn Div TC | Cpl J.E.A. Valenzuela | CFB Suffield |
| Cpl S.D. Fettes | CMTC | Cpl K.J. York | RCACS |
| Cpl S. Fong | RCACS | Tpr J.J. Leblanc | JPSU |
| Cpl R.M. Fountain | RCACS | Tpr M.J. Marion | RCACS |
| Cpl E.W. Grant | Sask D | Tpr J. McCabe | CFLRS |
| Cpl J.A. Graves | RCACS | | |
| Cpl J.P. Gray | CFB Suffield | | |
| Cpl S.C. Gross | RCACS | | |
| Cpl M.J. Guay | RCACS | | |
| Cpl I.G. Harding | CMTC | | |
| Cpl T.P. Hayes | CMTC | | |
| Cpl W.J.K. Hopper | RCACS | | |
| Cpl C.B. Hornby | RCACS | | |
| Cpl R.P.A. Houle | RCACS | | |
| Cpl A.J. Hurley | 3 CDSG | | |
| Cpl M.R. Jesse | CMTC | | |
| Cpl C.Y. Jobin | RCACS | | |
| Cpl W.D. Jones | RCACS | | |
| Cpl I. Kimmell | RCACS | | |
| Cpl R.S. MacIsaac | RCACS | | |
| Cpl J.R. Mackinnon | RCACS | | |
| Cpl D.J. McKinnon | CMTC | | |
| Cpl S.Y. Mekhail | CFC | | |
| Cpl S.M. Milljour | RCACS | | |
| Cpl S. Mireault | RCACS | | |
| Cpl T.R. Mosher | RCACS | | |
| Cpl R.T. Mountford | 5 CDSB | | |
| Cpl J. Munro | RCACS | | |
| Cpl R.W. Murray | RCACS | | |



Messing and Social



The Mariner Room

Major Jack Nguyen

As a result of the redeployment from Op UNIFIER in 2017 and a change-of-command in 2018, officer manning at the Regiment was turbulent through early part of 2018. Notwithstanding, the Mariner Room remained as a beacon of Regimental customs and traditions that transcends its current membership. This year was no different and saw many events that fostered esprit-de-corps, officership, camaraderie, and the warrior spirit.

The social calendar year started off with the Regimental officers attending the Ex STRONG CONTENDER 2018 mess dinner, planned and executed by the Mariner Room President of the Mess Committee (PMC), **Maj Matthew Johns**. *"If anyone else disrespects a head of state I'll put this gavel through your face!"* Needless to say decorum was well maintained and the Regiment succeeded in providing the most well received toast to the Brigade.

Gears quickly shifted to the flurry of activities surrounding the 100th anniversary of the Battle of Moreuil Wood, notably for the Mariner Room being the combined mixed mess dinner held at Ford Edmonton Park. To the relief of the outgoing PMC, the event was a spectacular affair that was fitting to mark a significant milestone in the Regiment's history.

In June the Strathcona officers held a change of command BBQ for the outgoing CO, **LCol Mark Lubiniecki**, and hosted a lively as well as entertaining Stampede Night at the Edmonton Garrison Officer's Mess (EGOM). Stampede included a live band for entertainment, beer "samples", and a raucous bunch of subaltern officers hosting various games. As is tradition, the preceding business luncheon (BL) provided the first course of wine that carried through to the early hours of the event. Speaking of BLs, the Regiment maintained its tradition of strong representation throughout the year. When 1 Field Ambulance decided to oddly incorporate the mess dinner traditions of striking a gavel at their BL, **Lt Ali Mansour** thought it fitting to relieve the CO, 1 Field Ambulance, of said gavel at the earliest opportunity. Hostage negotiations ended with acceptable terms for the Regiment.

With the arrival of returning officers in the fall, the Mariner Room hosted a meet and greet at Central Social Hall in downtown Edmonton. While it did not result in a more traditional "spouses gone wild" event (although some were approaching that category), it was a spectacle to see **Capt Tim McHugh** doling out drink after drink in a vain attempt to outpace the CO.

Following a typically busy fall training period, the Regiment refocused efforts towards professional development (PD) and held its annual Black Hat PD week. To cap off the week, the Black Hat and retirement mess dinner was held at the EGOM in honour of **LCol Bruce McKinnon**, **Maj Kelly Callens**, and **Maj Craig Volstad**. The subalterns provided excellent entertainment in traditional form, with a successful retrieval of the CO's spurs by **Lt Andrew Kelly** and an entirely adequate delivery of toasts by the Vice PMC, **Lt Emma Perry**. *"My 2IC says I'm not worthy of a nickname"* **Kelly** and an entirely adequate delivery of toasts by the Vice PMC, **Lt Emma Perry**. *"Happy 29th birthday Paul Leonard!"*

The Mariner Room continued another tradition of winning the horse's ass in the annual Christmas sports day, losing handily at ice hockey and tying at lacross during the Christmas sports day. The Officers did manage to beat out the WO's and Sgts during the Officer's theater and mission specific training themed at-home event, but in the end it wasn't enough.

The year finished off with a memorable subalterns carolling, complete with a licensed party bus and pugil stick fighting. One officer (an unnamed **LCol**) breathed life into the party by viciously attacking the close quarters combat mannequin, devouring an unknown quantity of children's advent calendars, and spearheading the charge to the bar at each stop. The warrior spirit and officer camaraderie continues to thrive at your Regiment.



The Sarcee Room

Warrant Officer Charles McDougall

Another eventful year has passed and the Snr NCOs have not only grown in strength but have lived to see another day. Starting off the year the Sarcee Room held a candlelight dinner at the St. Albert Inn. To everyone's surprise, the venue turned out to be a prime centralized location where we enjoyed good food, good company, and even had enough room to dig into "the magical Starbuck's bag" to draw out door prizes. As the night went on the RSM, **CWO Rob Clarke**, with his "minute to win it" games demonstrated awesome agility with regards to shaking out ping pong balls from a Kleenex box using his hips.

Moving on, Moreuil Wood (MW) events over in France were successful having the Ceremonial Mounted Troop, led by **Sgt Paul Kruhlak**, charged across the same ground as our Regimental forefathers. Vimy Ridge was also the back drop for the promotion of **MWO Stephen Churchill**. Back in Canada, the MW dinner was coordinated by **Maj Matt Johns** and held at Fort Edmonton Park which saw some of us taking out a small loan out to flip the bill. Each serving Strathcona received an outstanding Regimental coin and spouses received a token of Regimental appreciation.

Fast forward to the summer, the RSM needed a way to say goodbye to the posted out members. So being summer, why not have a BBQ. So we did which is now an annual thing within the Sarcee Room. We said goodbye to **WOs Banks, Cooke, McQuhae, Urquhart, and Tsang**, **Sgts Covey, Netik, and Tarnowski**. **MWOs Brown and Englehart**, **WO Levis**, **Sgt Bell**, **Burke**, **Collins**, **Hayes** and **Thomas** and held a DWD for **MWO Cordell Boland**. He retired from the Regimental family and moved on to coordinate the movement of trains. As they whistle down the track safely, and with his attention to detail, will not collide with one another.

So after summer leave, we knocked off the rust and headed into Black Hat week which had input this year from MCpl's conducting PD. Mid-week we held our BHMD which turned out to be more festive than ones in the past. MCpl's who attended were put to the test by remembering toasts and we had the pleasure of **WO Stewart McLoughlin** and **Sgt Ryan Pasuta** serenaded us to the tune of "Sweet Caroline". The PMC's gavel was stolen, however returned moments later and had a good turn out from our ERE NCO's and our Reserve brethren. Times we're had by all.

Moving into the silly season but more importantly, the hockey game, saw the Sarcee room wipe the ice with Mariner Room blood, the Horse's Ass trophy will now reside in the Mariner Room.

In closing, it has been one hell of a year and we're looking forward to what's around the next corner for all those belonging to the Sarcee Room.



Green Point Lounge

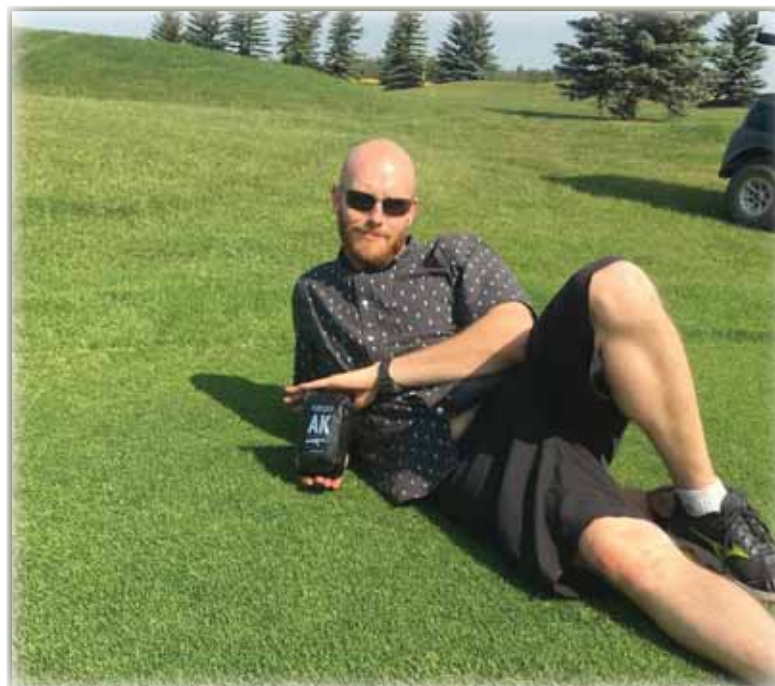
Master Corporal Jeremy Dunford

It was another busy year for the Green Point lounge and all the MCpls at the Regiment. Troops arrived home from Op REASSURANCE in Latvia, with others being deployed on other small missions throughout the year. Those back at the unit began the reconstitution and continued training of troops including Leo 2 gunnery, TAPV RWS gunnery, TAPV driver, and MUAS operator. Many other MCpls were also sent to complete their Armoured Crew Commander course in CFB Gagetown as the next big step in our careers.

The MCpls this year continued with tradition and hosted the Annual MCpls' Golf Tournament at Hunter's Green Golf Course, led by the outgoing PMC **MCpl Brydon Townsend**. Funds were raised for the Children's Stollery Hospital Foundation. This year's event was very successful with \$3000 raised to help support local sick and injured children. To all that participated and donated we thank you for your generosity.

This year as part of the Black Hat professional development (PD) week ten MCpls were invited to attend the Black Hat PD mess dinner hosted at the WOs' and Sgts' mess. This was a great opportunity for the MCpls involved to experience the fun traditions that go into attending these events.

With Popeye's chicken in hand this year's new GPL committee was voted in. VPMC **MCpl Andrew Goodwin**, Treasurer **MCpl Garrett George**, Secretary **MCpl Grant Veniot**, Entertainment Rep **MCpl Trevor McQueen** and I are looking forward to this year in our new positions. We wish everyone in the Strathcona family a successful year.



Track Pad A Pack of Troops Together is a... Mess

Corporal Andrew Lonegren

For the Track Pad Mess 2018 proved to be quite a high paced and meaningful year. The inauguration of the new board members kicked off with big aspirations as we set our sights high with many new ambitious ideas to develop and complement our culture. For us (board members), it was as much a pleasure to serve our Mess as it was to enjoy the events!

The year started with big push to maximize membership and create as much involvement as we could to pave the way for our ambitions. Starting out at around 50% membership this year, **Cpl Colton 'Sign up or its extras' Shute** quickly promoted members' involvement all the way up to over 90%. Building on that foundation we assumed our duties on the board and tried to come up with the absolute best ways we could give back to our members, foster camaraderie, and promote fellowship. Whether it be lunchtime snacks available for all, or breakfast and coffee days, we entertained any and (almost) all ideas.

The spring/summer season proved to be fruitful for the Regiment's Junior NCMs as the Mess pushed out as much merchandise as we could within our budget thanks to **Cpl Curtis 'It's not in the budget' Rose**. Everything from an updated mug design for our paying members, to Oilers Hockey Tickets, to Tim Hortons and McDonald's Gift Cards, we did what we could with what we had, making it work quite well.

Moving along with a high tempo summer and Op LENTUS (x2) to 'surprise' us, we managed to pull off the 1st Annual Troopers' Welcome BBQ. Thanks to the General Membership voting through a \$2500 budget and eager Housing and Entertainment Representatives, **Tpr Joseph 'I'll get the prizes' Frizzell** and **Tpr Adam 'Not a problem PMC!' Tate**, we succeeded in a good turnout complete with hot dogs, chips and pop; and of course many more prizes!

Our next major item of business was of course the 3rd Annual Trooper Funk Games. The Track Pad's intent this year was to break the new competitors up by Squadron and focus more on individualized results combined with a healthy mix up of some of the old events. Complete with a healthy \$3500 budget, padding the event with meaningful prizes was a must. The winning of the event by **Tpr Keegan Worden** from B Sqn was well deserved! As **Cpl Jan 'Im just going to borrow a few cartons of Egg Nog' Neufeld**, made absolutely sure that the top place finishers had it out for them to claim the fame and glory of Top Trooper.

This year proved to be very worthwhile for our Mess as a whole. There was quite a significant upgrade in our internal affairs thanks to our new Secretary, **Pte Anastasia 'It'll be done right away' Phills**, and a revamp of our constitution, we have had a prolific and extremely rewarding year as a Mess.





Subbies' Corner

Captain Alex "Not Actually Russian" Neshcov

Subaltern /'sʌb(ə)lt(ə)n/ - A skittish herd animal that polishes silver trophies and produces large amounts of mediocre coffee.

In last year's Strathconian, the recently departed **Capt Dan "REDACTED" Dixon** wondered who would be tagged with running 2018's first PLQ course. That honour fell to **Lt Emma "Full Send" Perry**, who spent less than a week at the Regiment before being shipped off to Wainwright, only to reappear in Fernie without anybody knowing who she was.

In other news, NASA contacted **Lt Josh "Forehead" Horlings** to enquire about hiring him to contact intelligent life in the next galaxy by reflecting radio transmissions off of his glorious, balding dome. Indeed, the new arrivals to the Regiment continued to establish their reputation with questionable decisions, most notably when **Lt James "Dave Franco/Jimmy Drama" Lee** decided to invite every officer (and God alone knows who else) to his housewarming party. While the Middle Six, Big Three, and senior officers muttered "Who the F### is James Lee?" within the confines of the Mariner Room, the event was carried out by the Subbies with resounding success.

Also arriving this year was **Lt Dale "Leather Jacket" Patt**, who recently abandoned his Army-issued family to spend time with his actual family, including his newborn daughter. Clearly, he is still learning to sort out his priorities. At least **Lt Ali "Habibi" Mansour** has his sorted out, inviting those amongst us who decided (for some idiotic reason) to run in this year's Mountain Man to his home for a pre-game meal of pasta and a rendition of children's songs. **Lt Andrew "Let's use Emma as a pizza rest!" Kelly**, aside from being sweeter than **Capt Erik "The Stable Boy" Giajnorio**, earned the distinction of being the first Subbie in years to successfully steal the CO's spurs.



Meanwhile, the old guard amongst us soldiered on. **Capt Erik "Everyone's conversations are boring, so I start talking about myself instead" Giajnorio**, in between reminding everyone that he is the "sweetest unit in NATO," made his impact felt at the Centennial of Moreuil Wood by bear marching up before the Regiment to claim the Hessian Sword. **Capt Leland "We need to do a sprocket flop" Kirkham**, aside from re-assuming his role as "coach," was made this year's Transport O, virtually guaranteeing him the Hessian Sword at next year's parade. **Lt Carsten "The Knife-Handler" MacLean** continues to call people by nicknames only he uses, doing his part to promote the general atmosphere of confusion and despair at the round tables. **Capt Tom "Big Tom" Hume** does nothing to help this at the mess, deciding seemingly at random that it his sworn duty to test our reflexes by punching people in the face.

This all seems highly negative, but fear not readers; for there is hope on the horizon! **2Lt Tom "Little Tom" Clackson** and **Lt Leon Van Heerden** have successfully graduated their DP 1.2 (Armour Officer phase training) and are on their way back to the Mothership to contribute to our shenanigans. Further, the tradition of poaching from the ranks continues with the welcome addition of **OCdt Tom "New Tom" Lauterbacher**. Now for the serious question: who will be course officer for the first PLQ of 2019? Find out in next year's Strathconian!

Honorary Mentions: **Capt Alex "Hot Mess" Young** and **Capt Sean "Horse Lord" Coughlan**.





Celebrating 100 Years

Mr. David Kierstead

On Saturday, 12 Jan 2019, **Doug Keirstead** celebrated his 100th birthday in St. George, New Brunswick. Doug joined the Canadian Army on 3 June 1940, initially serving in the Royal Canadian Corps of Signals (RCCS). Shortly after completing his training, he was sent to England, arriving on 3 Sep 1940. Later he was sent to Algeria, arriving there on 25 Dec 1942 and trained for six weeks before eventually being shipped to Italy in 1943, where he served for 15 months.

In Italy, he transferred to the Lord Strathcona's Horse (Royal Canadians), 5th Canadian Armoured Division and fought as a "Black hat" tanker. In 1944 the LdSH(RC) left Italy and fought up through Western Europe through Arnhem and Ardwick in Holland. He was present when the photo below was taken of the LdSH(RC) on parade at Eede, Holland on 25 May 1945. With the end of the war, he came home to Fredericton and was discharged.

His decorations include the 1939-1945 Star, the Italy Star, the Defence Medal, the Canadian Volunteer Service Medal and Bar, the War Medal 1939-1945, and the Canadian Efficiency Medal. He has also been awarded a decoration from the Government of the Netherlands thanking him for his service.



Strathcona's at Norwich University

Majors Mike Selberg, John Kim, and Captain Bryce Simpson

Professional military education (PME) is at the forefront of officer professional development and plays a significant role within the profession of arms. Many universities in the United States, overseas, and in Canada are available for Canadian Armed Forces (CAF) members to attend given their academic excellence. Each year Strathcona officers choose post-graduate education opportunities; the 2018 graduating class at Norwich University in Vermont saw three such officers receive their Master of Arts and/or Sciences degrees in different fields: **Maj Mike Selberg** – Master of Arts International Relations; **Maj John Kim** – Master of Science in Leadership; and **Capt Bryce Simpson** – Master of Arts in Military History.



CAF officers have been a part of Norwich University's rich traditions for many years; prior to commencement 2018, **Rear Admiral (Ret'd) and President of Norwich University Richard W. Schneider** along with **General Richard "Butch" Neal retired Commandant of the Marine Corps** marked the event by inviting serving CAF officers to join them in his study, discussing academia, politics, and commemorating the occasion with a series of photos.

Maj Mike Selberg enrolled in the Master of Arts in International Relations (MIR) program with a concentration in international security in 2016 while employed as the Armoured Team Observer Controller Trainer Lead at the Canadian Manoeuvre Training Center (CMTC). **Maj Selberg** subsequently finished his Master's research paper in 2017 on ISIS's Cyber Caliphate and Global Recruitment while employed as the Deputy Chief of Operations Group (CMTC). The MIR was a challenging and rewarding program that pushed all involved students; students from numerous branches of government, non-governmental organizations, and security institutions from several different nations. It was an enlightening and rewarding experience that was further enriched by graduating with fellow Strathcona officers. Perseverance!

Maj John Kim enrolled in the Master of Science in Leadership program while employed as the Canadian Army G1 Operations Officer in September 2016. He selected both the program and the university based on their connection to the profession of arms and close proximity to Ottawa. Even though pursuing a post-graduate degree was challenging at the best of times, he is a firm believer that investing in education and professional development is worth every effort. Perseverance was foremost on **Maj Kim's** mind during the 18 month course and he was very grateful to have been able to graduate with two stellar Strathconas!

Capt Bryce Simpson enrolled in the Master of Arts in Military History program through Norwich University while employed at 1st Regiment, Royal Canadian Horse Artillery as a Joint Terminal Attack Controller in spring of 2016. Since then, he has enjoyed the challenge of balancing graduate studies with the busy training and operational schedule of a field unit. Although this high tempo meant that some papers were written in the back of LAVs or on airplanes, **Capt Simpson** has greatly benefitted from the experience and education offered by Norwich University and has completed his Capstone study on U.S. Marine counterinsurgency efforts in Vietnam. Graduating at Norwich's historic campus in Vermont with his fellow Strathcona officers was a real privilege.



Photo Captions

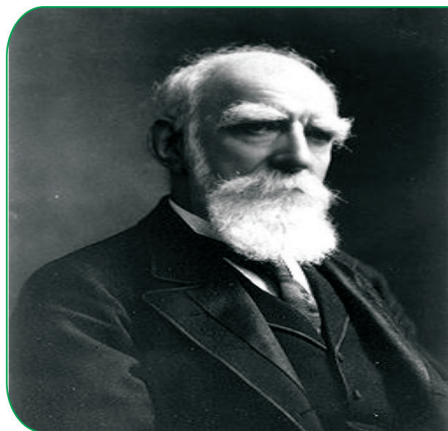
- 6 WO Mitchell receiving his Black Beret
6 Lt Gov Janet Austin and LCol Angell
9 LCol Lubiniecki presenting a Farrier Axe to the Sarcee Room
9 MWO Churchill, MWO Chenier and Maj Wong at Framingham College
12 Sgt Carnevale receiving 3 Cdn Div Comd Commendation from BGen Cadieu
17 Maj Anderson and Cpl Evers looking the part
18 MCpls Townsend and Young
18 Lts Patt and Lee at the MCpl's Golf Tournament
18 Cpls Cocker & Brennan enjoy the fruits of their labour.
18 Maj Selberg during CBRN training
19 LCol Lubiniecki and MWO Chenier connecting with their heritage
20 MCpl Chen, No Stone Left Alone
21 Pte Woodhouse receiving her Black Beret
21 WO Mills and his new best friend
24 Cpl Logan, MCpl Monge
24 WO McLoughlin, Cpl Ned, Cpl Kibzey, Cpl Snowden
25 Cpl Dillon, Cpl Doan, Tpr Ryder, Cpl Crackle-Skulason
26 Trp Genge
27 Maj Anderson and MWO Churchill conducting an aerial recce of the fires
27 Cpl Gallagher's Fight Club Contestants
28 MWO Churchill kitted up for some firefighting
32 Capts Buckingham and Hume with the Bde Plans Team on JWA in Germany
34 Towing Southern to the loading ramp
35 Lt. Horlings being put to work
35 MCpl Bolzan sandbagging
36 Sgt Davidson, Capt Carter-Wright, MCpl Weir
39 MCpl Ayrton Balfour directs Tpr Francis and Tpr Sanders on how best to tackle a difficult hot-spot
39 LCol Angell, RSM Clarke, and Sgt Kearns
40 Tpr Foster flying the MUAS on a sunny day
40 Sgt Murdoch demonstrating his hands free device.
40 Tpr Springer gets a hands-on look at the DH-3 UAV
40 Tpr Springer eats a well-balanced UK ration breakfast
41 Lt Kirkham and WO McLoughlin presenting the Sqn gift to Col Jimenez CO of CECOMBAC
43 Cpl Alison Sawyer with the MG3
43 Lt Kirkham's long lost brother
43 WO McLoughlin and MCpl Monge in the turret simulator
51 MCpl Richard Wojcichowsky and Cpl Jean-François Dubois pose for a photo before serving supper
58 Lt Emma Perry and Santa
58 Capt Couture running the 'IED stand' during the At Home
58 LCol Padvaiskas at Remembrance Day



Photo Captions...continued

| | |
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| 63 | Mr. Roger Flowerdew, Sgt Krulak and Capt Coughlan |
| 67 | Scholarship Recipient Kathleen Donald & BGen Macaulay |
| 67 | Scholarship Recipient Amelia Dangerfield and Capt Andrew Tardiff |
| 67 | Scholarship Recipient Emer Burke with Maj Wong & CWO Clarke |
| 69 | The Honourable Lois Mitchell arriving at the NSLA Ceremony |
| 69 | Santa's Subbies |
| 69 | LCol Angell addressing the crowd |
| 69 | Capt Vahal at ARDD |
| 71 | Lt Perry & Lt Horlings determining who will mask up first |
| 72 | Cpl Kelly shows off his battle scars |
| 74 | Sgt Davidson - 4th place finish in the female open division |
| 75 | BGen Cadieu and Maj Cooper |
| 78 | MWO Churchill and B Sqn |
| 88 | Sgt Giberson (left) & Capt Webster (right) - Not to scale |
| 89 | Maj Gray with General Vance at the VCDS Change of Command Ceremony |
| 89 | Maj Tim Day, OC COEFOR, promotes Cpl Kyle Leis with MWO Jay Forth |
| 89 | Maj Williams, LCol Mallette & Maj Gray |
| 89 | Cpts Lund, Pett, Clubine & Kallos |
| 89 | Maj Michael Froess |
| 91 | CWO Stacey's commissioning & promotion to Capt by his wife and MGen Lavoie |
| 92 | Capt Pano, LCol Pickell, Capt Dullege |
| 93 | Maj Hevenor, Capt Forestell, Capt Carter-Wright & Capt Lewis |
| 96 | Maj Rogers, Maj Timms, BGen Cadieu, Capt Prince, Maj Hayward |
| 100 | Maj Whalley after being promoted by LCol Onieu |
| 104 | LCol Onieu assisting the Calgary Zoo in transplanting endangered burrowing owls into the training area |
| 104 | Maj Clayton Gardner and Maj Martin Morrissey of The Royal Lancers at Warfighter Exercise |
| 105 | Cpl Maxwell upon receipt of his CD1 from LCol Onieu |
| 105 | Cpl Doan receiving the plaque for Top Candidate on PLQ |
| 105 | MCpl Graham receiving a CO's Coin from LCol Tesselar |
| 109 | Subbies Bus Party |
| 109 | WO McDougall laying the ground rules |
| 109 | Tpr Worden winning Tpr Funk Games |
| 109 | Capt Shumka and his best friend having a drink |
| 111 | Maintenance sure do clean up good |
| 116 | Former Strathcona Lavoie, WO Bulmer, WO Ross, WO Miller, CWO Taylor |
| 117 | RAdm (Ret'd) Schnieder, Maj Selberg, Maj Kim, Capt Simpson, Gen (Ret'd) Neal |
| 118 | Honorary Trooper Ronan Smyth with Maj Anderson, MWO Stephen Churchill, Lt Mansour, MCpl Stephen Taborowski, and Cpl Richard Wagner |
| 118 | Spin 4 Vets Team after a hard day of riding |
| 118 | Ronan, the R2IC, and the RSM |

18  96
GLENCOE
 ——— HOUSE ———



Lord Strathcona



Glencoe House

Lord Strathcona's Horse and Glencoe House in Scotland are inextricably linked, as Lord Strathcona was the founding father of both institutions. Glencoe House was built in 1896 and Lord Strathcona fulfilled one of his many ambitions to build a home in Scotland, the land of his birth, for his family and future generations. Lord Strathcona made his mark on the building and the regiment's motto of '*perseverance*' is carved into the red sandstone above the main entrance.



*Owners of Glencoe House and Major Nitu
and partner at Glencoe House*



*Owners of Glencoe House
at Edmonton Barracks*

Glencoe House is now a hotel and offers exclusive discounts to Strathconians (active, retired and family members) for those wishing to see and experience Lord Strathcona's legacy and the spectacular sites of Scotland. To learn more please click on www.glencoe-house.com and for enquiries please email reservations@glencoe-house.com

or call directly on +44 1855 811179.

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