



# Lord Strathcona's Horse (Royal Canadians)

## REGIMENTAL SOCIETY NEWSLETTER

FALL 2015

Lord Strathcona's Horse (Royal Canadians) Regimental Society, PO Box 10500 Station Forces Edmonton, AB T5J 4J5

### Colonel of the Regiment

*Col (ret'd) Greg Hug*

On June 20th, I had the distinct pleasure of assuming the role of Colonel of the Regiment from **MGen (Ret'd) Cam Ross**. It has become a good habit taking over from **Cam** firstly as Assistant Adjutant in 1976, Commanding Officer in 1991, and as Chair of the Society Plans and Priorities Committee in 2004. This history between us (there is more but some is not suitable for publication...) illustrates the continuity of the Regimental system and, much more importantly, his significant contribution over 42 years as a Strathcona. As Colonel of the Regiment for the past five years, **Cam** has provided the leadership and drive to implement well thought-out change across the Society. With recent changes in DND policy concerning charitable organizations, one has to wonder about his uncanny ability to predict the future (see article on our new Board of Directors). He established a pace of activity through visits to the Regiment, the dispersed Regimental family, and our dedicated friends that will be a challenge to match. Notably, he dedicated extensive personal time collaborating with our key stakeholders. We owe him our sincerest thanks for his dedication and caring; hopefully he will now take the time to "smell the roses" with **Patti**, the boys and the grandchildren. BZ.

Returning to the Regiment after 22 years was exciting yet mixed with some trepidation. A quick glance at the nominal role and I realized that I only knew a handful of MWOs. Nevertheless, the opportunity to meet with so many members of the family over a few days in Edmonton and the warm welcome on our return made **Maria** and I feel like we had never left. The change of appointment events were professional and fun - a tradition of our Regiment that continues.

It has been a busy few months in the job. Two Corps events in July, the annual golf tournament and the Corps BBQ were well attended by Strathconas (see separate articles). I was on hand to see our team win first place in Gagetown in the Worthington Challenge in late September - well done. **Maria** and I attended the Kingston Branch Meet and Greet in September (missed the Ottawa one as I was in Gagetown) and I have met with our national executive of the Association as well as family members in both Calgary and Edmonton.

In October, I was back in Wainwright to see the Regiment conducting high readiness training. There are challenges with parts for the tanks as well as vehicles for the echelons but the level of training and the standards achieved on the Road to High Readiness were excellent. Unfortunately, my arrival coincided with a notable change in weather from unusually dry,

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warm days to snow flurries, wind chills and heavy frost - not sure if I will be invited back to the field??!!

In November, I spent some time with the Regiment in garrison and chaired the first meeting of the new Board of Directors for the Society. Throughout, I have been impressed with the strong ties that bind us together. Seeing the soldiers of today performing at their best is reinvigorating.

It has been busy. In addition to these "normal" Society activities, I have four priorities to address during my tenure to build upon the work of my predecessors.

**Strategic Plan.** The environment that we lived within for several years is changing. That, coupled with the now dated strategic plan completed in 2006, drives the requirement for a refresh or rewrite of our strategy for the next decade. A team has met in Kingston to kick start this process; the results will be shared with you once refined and approved.

**Our History.** In this Newsletter, you will find information on the survey asking for your ideas and feedback about how to best capture our Regiment's proud history. Distributed earlier through E-News, the Historical Committee has already received over 200 electronic responses, an overwhelming response rate - Thank You!!!! For those of you who may not have access to E-News, your opportunity to contribute to this discussion is described later in this Newsletter. Regardless of the results of the survey, that is whether we pursue the creation of a new Regimental history or not, the Regiment has been busy over the 40 years since *Always a Strathcona* was published. Many of you have lived significant parts of this history; our challenge is to ensure that we have information to portray all of our relevant events. I am not sure how we will do this but your direct involvement will be essential.

**Volunteerism.** In my experience and in discussion with leaders across numerous organizations, there are challenges in getting people to step up as volunteers. A quick survey of our current volunteers reflects an aging population. Their dedication and continuing support is impressive but we do need to get "younger" people more involved. The Regimental family, under the umbrella of the Strathcona Society, needs interested, motivated individuals to make a part-time contribution.

**Communication.** You may wonder why I have highlighted communication as a priority as we have the Newsletter, Strathconian, E-News, our website and Facebook. In my recent travels, I am taken aback frequently by the gaps in communication that occur. I don't have the solution for this challenge yet but hope to strengthen our communications going forward. Please don't panic, I don't plan to create even more ways to communicate but do want to enhance the mechanisms that we have today.

Looking ahead, the 100th anniversary of the Battle of Moreuil Wood in 2018 is rapidly approaching. This is a significant event to commemorate and planning commenced some time ago. Hopefully, the whole family will be able to participate wherever they are as we expect to have events in various locations. More details will be announced in the months ahead but please plan to get engaged.

Our Association continues to be the focal point of Strathconas getting together from coast-to-coast-to- coast. It provides a great opportunity to get together with old friends and make new ones. When you hear of an event in your area (hopefully through E-News), please join in the fun!!

I don't see the Newsletter before it is published but do read on: I know there are many things going on within our family.

Finally, when you get a chance over a coffee, tea, beer or glass of wine, please consider how you might contribute to our family. If you aren't involved today, how might you get involved? Can you get out to the next Association gathering in your area? Do you have some time to volunteer? Have you taken a few minutes to complete the Regimental History survey? One of our strengths over the years has been our "can do" attitude coupled with our teamwork. Let's continue that tradition. Please share your ideas, thoughts and feedback with me. I look forward to seeing as many of you as possible in the coming year.

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# Commanding Officer

*LCol Josh Major*

As I have come to understand, there are two constants when it comes to Newsletter articles. The first is that they are apparently always written in the CP during an exercise in Wainwright, and the other is that they are invariably late to **Kathy**. However, I am happy to announce that for the first time since **Kathy** has been collecting articles, and quite possibly the first time ever, the CO's article is on time (relatively speaking).

The Regiment has been extremely busy (for a change) during the past few months. My last Newsletter was drafted during the Regiment's task as the Opposing Force (OPFOR) Battle Group (BG) for Exercise MAPLE RESOLVE 1501 (Ex MR 1501). This was a tremendous opportunity for the Regiment to demonstrate its skills while imparting valuable lessons on the Blue Force (BLUEFOR) from 5 Brigade. This Newsletter comes as the Regiment begins its Road to High Readiness Training with a view to being ready to deploy, all or in part, starting in the summer of 2016. I will attempt to avoid a simple summary of our activities in this article and focus on a few key themes.

**Excellence.** The Regiment continues to build upon its already stellar reputation through its professional conduct in the achievement of all its tasks. We demand that all soldiers put their best foot forward and strive to surpass their own limits. Through the spectrum of training, from individual to collective, all members of the Regiment have truly shown tremendous perseverance. Although we do not normally puff out our chests at our successes, I believe this is the appropriate venue to highlight the exceptional performance of our soldiers. Several senior officers who were observing the training commented on the performance of the OPFOR BG during Ex MR 1501. B Sqn, as part of the BLUEFOR, performed extremely well and were always a threat. The Regiment planned and ran a very successful and useful exercise to assist the Brigade HQ with their training prior to deploying to California to participate in Large Scale Exercise, run by the United States Marine Corps. From a competitive perspective, the Regiment has done tremendously well. We sent a number of soldiers to Canadian Armed Forces Small Arms Competition, placed third overall in the Mountain Man competition, and dominated the competition to win the Worthington Cup (Canadian Army Mounted Warfare Skills Competition). The desire to succeed has permeated the Regiment with a strong desire to win shown by all during the various Prince of Wales competitions. This will serve us well on our Road to High Readiness Training.

**Readiness.** This encompasses a tremendously wide range of activities to ensure that the Regiment is ready to potentially deploy soldiers starting in the summer of 2016. We have actively and aggressively adopted the 1 CMBG soldier standards that includes virtual continuous wearing of personal protective equipment and camouflage. These standards, combined with an emphasis on basic soldier skills, will ensure that our soldiers are ready to win the first fight they get into against a near-peer hybrid enemy. After nearly a decade of dedicated counter-insurgency training for Afghanistan, most of you would recognize a re-emphasis on the use of cam nets, slit trenches, austere field living, and combined arms maneuver. The latest STEELE SABRE clearly demonstrated that we are on the right path with numerous combined arms live fire ranges, by day and night, and several dry combat team operations providing an exciting and relevant training experience. This exercise has certainly put us upon the right path for continued learning and development.

**Flexibility.** This past year started with the Regiment force generating A Squadron for the the 2PPCLI BG and Recce Squadron for the Brigade. This is in addition to having B Squadron in the window as part of the high-readiness BG. Following Ex MR 1501, the Army Commander ordered that a third maneuver unit was to be added to the next high-readiness Brigade. We have had the great fortune of being designated that BG. This has given us the opportunity to demonstrate flexibility at all levels since the Regiment has lost most of the personnel and equipment required to field a traditional Armoured BG due to our mandated requirement of only force generating squadrons for Infantry BG. Two success stories so far have been Regimental Headquarters and Headquarters Squadron. Despite the lack of personnel and resources, both organizations have demonstrated remarkable flexibility in achieving their training objectives while also conducting their normal duties of coordinating and supplying Regimental activities. History has shown that we will never have everything we require, so the flexibility, positive attitude, and tenacity demonstrated by all members of the Regiment clearly put us in a good place for continued

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success during our training and will serve us well if we are called upon to deploy.

None of this would be possible if not for the support of the Regimental Family. What makes us truly special is the care and support we give to our families and the support they, in turn, provide to all of us. We have suffered through tragedy this year with the loss of serving and retired members. The support provided through the closeness of the Regimental Family has eased the burden of grief and shown that we will stand together in difficult times. Our collective strength is not only apparent in difficult times. We have shown the strength of the Strathcona Family as we came together to celebrate the changing of the Colonel of the Regiment (CotR). This celebration (capped by what was surely the most dazzling change of CotR parade in history) gave us an opportunity to come together and renew friendships and bonds. As we prepare for potential deployments in the next year, this support will be more important than ever.

I hope that this article has conveyed my pride and respect for what the Regiment has accomplished. Our achievements are a tangible manifestation of the hard work, dedication, professionalism, and Perseverance demonstrated daily by our soldiers. The success of the Regiment is wholly their success. Although we have been successful, you will never find them boasting of their achievements, and most likely they will be critiquing their performance with a goal of getting better. This is the mark of true professionals and it is the mark of your Regiment. I look forward to connecting with you during some of our upcoming events.



Why did it take so long for the snow to disappear?? I am consistently amazed that apparently there is no need to “stow” the winter clothing as the weather is bleak to say the least.

I suppose my reasoning is flawed as I am currently in the all-expenses paid resort of “Zero” (The Command Post) in darkest Wainwright, spending most of my day hoping that it will not rain, snow or that there will not be another catastrophic weather related event.

Another busy period for the Regiment, to say the least. An exported DP1 (Developmental Phase 1) course was run by A Sqn, I shudder to think that I ever looked so young. I was quite certain that the Duty Centre was going to have to field a bunch of phone calls from angry mothers missing their youngest. On a positive note the Regiment gained 32 young well trained and equally motivated troopers.

I found myself once again in Wainwright for Ex Maple Resolve 1501, this time the Regiment was used as the Opposing Force. A great time for junior leaders to step up and knock one out of the park ( I have been learning about Baseball recently....). I am happy to say that the CO and I were not let down by the soldiers deployed. Humbly speaking and the fact that censorship prevents what I really would like to say, the Regiment will now provide a Battle Group in the next road to high readiness. This will be the first “Armoured Battle Group” since 1997.

Post Maple Resolve , the Regiment paraded in Edmonton to bid a fond farewell to the Colonel of the Regiment, **MGen (ret’d} Ross**. A great parade with true cavalry dash and the odd surprise thrown in. I would be remiss if I personally did not thank **MGen Ross** for all his time and effort throughout his tenure.

Another highlight was again waiting patiently at the finish line of Ex Mountain Man to see the CO cross the finish line in 5 hours 32 minutes , an amazing feat of “Perseverance” considering prior to commencing he may or may not have been injured. I will never disclose my sources....

Well done to the CO, truly leading the way for the Regiment.

While on the subject of success, the Regiment provided a team for the AFV skills competition, the Worthington Cup. The team won the top 120mm fire team trophy and also won the Worthington Cup for the 3rd Canadian Division. It was probably the only time in my career I have felt warm on firing point 4 in Gagetown.

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In closing may you have a warm tent, hay boxes that arrive on time and cam nets that never get caught on the myriad small things that cause grief in the dark. On another note I have discovered that cam cream is a decent moisturizer, although it does make you look a little grubby.

Rest assured that the Regiment is continuing to set the standard out West, or East for that matter, and will continue in the same vein for the foreseeable future.



First off let me say that your Association is doing well and our goals are being met. More on that later...

At our last meeting in September we were graced with the presence of 10 young (they are all young) soldiers from the Mounted Troop. The Troop was performing at Spruce Meadows and their Troop Warrant Officer, **Sgt Kruhlak** thought it would be a good idea if they came out and mingled with the Old Guard during and after our meeting. Following introductions to our members I did comment to them that it is something any one of us in the room would have done in our day, given an evening off in a big city. Sure!

Following the meeting many of us had a long chat with the soldiers. We all enjoyed telling tales and enjoyed the obvious interaction within the troop. This brought back fond memories.

There was a time when 90% of our readers had one thing in common. Morning Troop parades. This was a time when we could mingle prior to parade time, or in some cases skid to a halt in the blank file if one was untimely. We learned of upcoming events, duties, exercise dates, and most importantly who was in trouble after a weekend. For many of us these small groups were our whole family. These formal gatherings were held in every nook and cranny in Hangars or Barrack Blocks - wherever troops were deployed or worked. **Shad** and **Howie** would remember the D&M wing in Borden mid 20th century. Some remember fondly in the late 60s in Fort Beausejour, Iserlohn, **Sgt Ray Putt** strutting out front of our gaggle and noticing that some cheeky Cpl had put a wooden ammo box out front for him to stand on. Never shy he jumped up on the box and delivered his messages and thanked the surprised smart ass for being so thoughtful. (Incidentally the OC at the time was **IDM Egner**, the SSM was **Colby Yeomans** and the BC was **DRB Rogers**) The "K" lines in Gagetown and the hangars below the hill in Calgary were always bustling at what we thought was a very early hour. Germany, in the 60s and 70s when we changed hat badges several time, saw such greats as **Gus Sulis**, **Barnie Pridge**, **Stu Ballard** and **SL Paterson** keeping things in check. **Sergeant Major Patterson** had a practice of holding his Parades on a Friday afternoon before a long weekend. Soldiers like **Eric Albright**, **Gary Lee** and **Ernie Carol** hoping for that wee extra length of sideburn before heading on a weekend pass to Holland saw their efforts go down the drain before each parade.

Judging by the phone calls I get at our new “retired” parade hour of 0900 I do not think I stand alone in missing the camaraderie of the Troop. I was comforted to hear from the assembled mounted troop soldiers that this tradition remains.

## ASSOCIATION UPDATE

Our membership awareness drive last fall was very successful with over 300 members on the books. We have 275 ordinary paid, 14 honorary and 6 lifetime members, not including those Associate members and one year gratis memberships for newly retired or released soldiers.

We had a great turnout during the Change of Appointment Parade for **Major General (ret'd) Cameron Ross** and **Colonel (ret'd) Greg Hug**. The event took place in Edmonton on the weekend of 20 June. Once again the RSM

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called the weather perfectly. The parade was outside and it was splendid, as was the soldiers' turnout. The RSM permitted time for the "fall- in" of the old Guard. No extras were given out and our parade posture was "steadyish".

This fall the various Chapters have been busy with Meet and Greet or luncheons in Edmonton, Kingston and Calgary. At these events they welcomed the incoming Colonel of the Regiment and in the Kingston event said farewell to **General Cam Ross**.

Over the summer many of our Association Chapters saw new leadership with Kingston bringing on board **Kevin Mulhern** as its Chairman, Edmonton having **Tom Falls** take the reins from **David Biener**, and "**Dickie**" **Kitcher** taking over the "helm" of the Victoria Chapter with a capable vice in **Cam Ross**. To date I have had no report on the Surf and Turf golf tournament normally run by the Maritime Branch with **Danny Hone** as its new chairman. I want to thank each and every one of these fine gentlemen and their committees for their contribution to the Association.

The postponement of the 2015 Reunion was both unforeseen and unfortunate. After the January 2016 AGM with perhaps a new Association Executive we will seek out a new Reunion committee and look at dates. More will follow on this important subject. We must keep in mind that when we were in uniform getting volunteers for committees seemed to be much easier as we were usually voluntold!

**GOALS.** Support to our members is ongoing. We need change in our memberships' age. Younger members attract younger members and this will rejuvenate our ranks. **George** and **Robert Biener** are just two of many. I am so pleased with folks such as **Brad Norman**, **Alex Graf** and **Ken Huff** and others for coming forward and giving new life to our Association. The recently elected Branch Committee executives in Kingston, Edmonton and the Maritimes are also what we needed. This younger generation of the Old Guard have been using tools such as social networking (Facebook) and gatherings as informal as "wing nights" in Edmonton and Calgary. This will grow the Association and keep us doing what past Strathconas started over 4 decades ago.

On behalf of **Howie Owen**, **Clair Lane**, **Brad Norman** and **Slider Welch** I thank you for supporting your Association.



## Ottawa Chapter of the Ontario Branch

Greetings from Ottawa. There have been some Regimental and Corps happenings in eastern Ontario. Two Corps events this past summer were well attended by Strathconas from near and far. We also had a meet and greet in early October.

The annual Henry Samson Memorial Golf Tournament was held at the Smiths Falls Golf Club on 24 July. With great weather coupled with a fine golf course and excellent camaraderie, it was a success as usual. We (the Regimental Society) donated a new trophy this year for the most honest golfers (usually denoting the worst team). We had a larger than normal turnout of Strathconas representing the Regimental family. Some have been participating for several years, including **Jim** and **Lucile Ellard** in from B.C., **Dave Iley**, **Terry Mayne**, **Jim** and **Aline White**, **Tom** and **Carole Martineau**, **Sue Lewis**, **John Stuckart**, **Ian MacLelland**, **Dwayne Parsons**, **Colin Dunn**, **Greg Hug**, **Dave MacLeod**, **Derrick Holwell**, **Al Stevenson**, and **Ron Vienotte**. **Mark** and **Julia Egner** joined us for dinner.

On Saturday, the 25th, the Corps gathered for the annual BBQ. Hosted generously by **MGen Milner** and his wife **Shirley** for many years, this year saw the transition to the Perth area with the lead coordination completed by a small team. The new location at the Perth Legion proved to be a success. Many of the golfers from the previous day attended the BBQ as well as Strathconas from Ottawa, Kingston, Toronto and other parts of Ontario.

The meet and greet in early October was planned by **Lanny Hill**. **Lanny** has grabbed the bull by the horns and is the lead coordinator in all of the Ottawa events! As with earlier events, we gathered at a pub in Ottawa in early October. We had a good turnout.

There is always a standing invitation to join us if you happen to be in Ottawa when there is an event; we would love to see you!!!

## Why I Write

*Editor's comment: Three years ago, Captain (ret'd) Wayne Federation was diagnosed with PTSD. Below is one of the many poems he wrote during his ongoing recovery.*

My daughter asked "why do you write" Truthfully I thought I don't know why, in all my grades could never get it right my creative mind was always dry

I was a stutterer and words were hard few took the time to listen to me

I felt invisible my psyche was marred

I was trapped inside but longed to be free

No thought in their mind of words I might say I became a listener to most and a talker to few Friends would pontificate day by day

No words could I get in no concepts new Then came PTSD

It is harder to talk when you mind is not there It could be drugs, depression, anxiety or fear There are things I would say but it just not fair

But words do not come easy to those you hold near

Writing is a friend I can take as long as I please It waits for me faithfully it never is mean Electronic words I express with ease

Moving them around to say what I mean

When I gift a poem to someone I care

It's a gift of thoughts, understanding and such they listen to my words when I'm not there They give me their attention I need so much

My poems are not all about me, I write to share my understanding and give my soul my sight so you can see

What veterans feel, believe and live.



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## Soldier On

WO M. Eric Venema  
Soldier On - Western Area Coordinator

Downhill skiing, Fly fishing, Golfing, Trekking, Cycling, Invictus Games ...got your attention yet? What do all these activities have in common? They are all supported by the “Soldier On” program.

“Soldier On” is a Canadian Armed Forces programme that supports serving members and veterans to overcome their physical or mental health illness or injury through physical activity and sport. It’s a very important, highly visible and integral component of the Department of National Defence’s commitment and priority towards providing a comprehensive approach to care for ill and injured members.



From the beginnings in 2007, “Soldier On” has supported more than 1,400 ill and injured members to:

- acquire sporting or recreational equipment that supports their active lifestyle such as bicycles, golf equipment, alpine ski packages, fishing gear, kayaks, etc.; and
- participate in group structured activities delivered by world class instructors that range from alpine skiing to fishing to multi-activity camps.

Although “Soldier On” activities are primarily focused on sport or other physically challenging activities, promoting an active lifestyle is only part of the mission.

“Soldier On” not only supplies members with equipment and coaches to meet their needs, it also provides members with a safe environment to challenge themselves to get inspired in ways that they may not have thought possible. This is a re-introduction to confidence in their abilities and enables them to meet peers with similar challenges. Many ill and injured

members credit “Soldier On” with helping them to adapt to their new normal, realize their full potential, and “Soldier On” in life.

So who is eligible? All serving members and veterans of the Canadian Armed Forces who acquired a permanent physical or mental health illness or injury while enrolled in the CAF, whether or not it is attributable to service, are eligible.

Visit the website at [www.soldieron.ca](http://www.soldieron.ca) to register and check out future events. Or call 780-973-4011x3004. Come on! Move up to the line of departure (LOD) and get ready to “Soldier On”.



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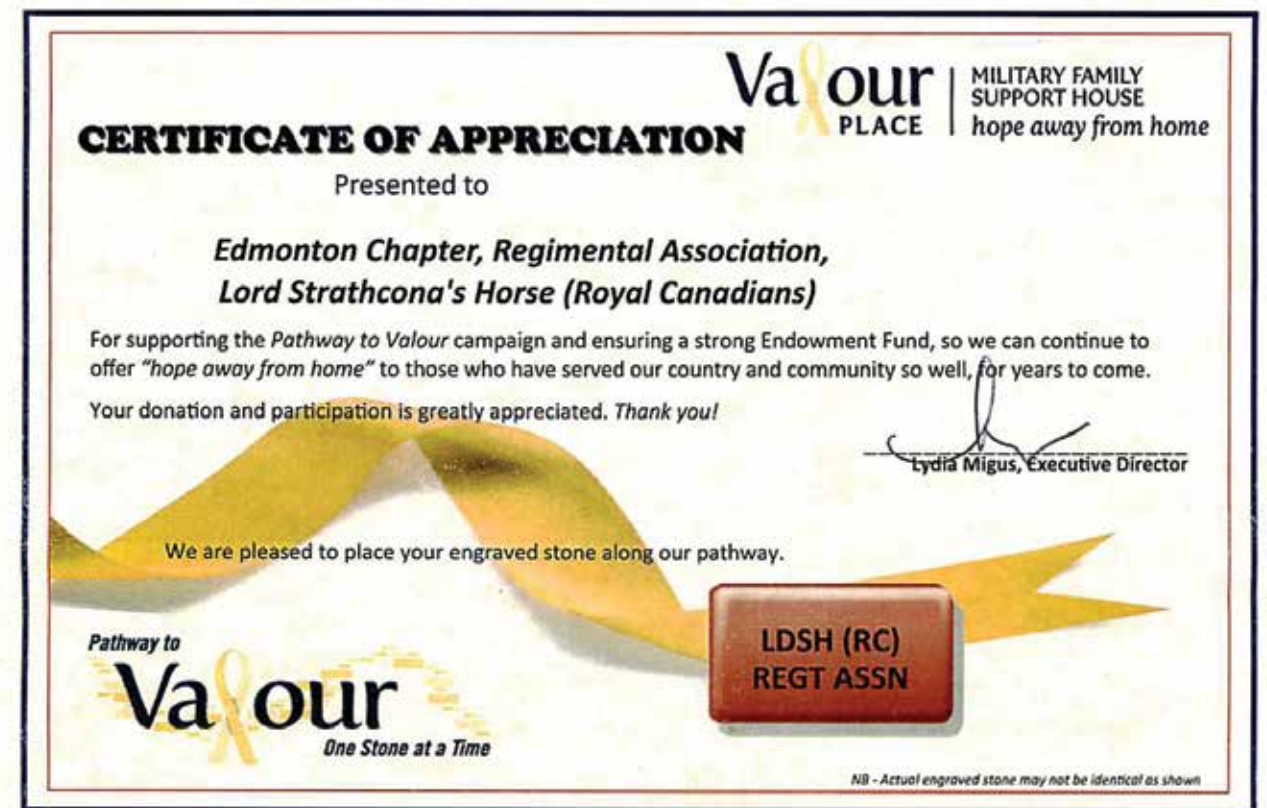
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## Holland Revisited

Father Bob Greene

I have just returned from the most glorious eleven days in Holland celebrating its 70th Anniversary of the 1945 liberation. DVA was more than generous in sending sixty Holland Veterans plus care givers with all expenses paid, transportation from Calgary to Ottawa, RCAF air bus from Ottawa to Eindhoven in Holland, four buses to Appeldoorn, eight days accommodation in a luxury hotel, police escorted tours to major cemeteries and other historic sites in the country, plus ample spending money for the only two nights that dinners were not provided. The 60 veterans and care givers were taken care of by four doctors, four nurses, and numerous DVA staff from Charlottetown.

In showing concern for most of us who were in their nineties the air bus flew at only 20,000 feet using more fuel at a lower speed but in consideration some of us had difficulty with the higher altitudes. The DVA staff were absolutely fabulous in supplying rain coats, ponchos, and umbrellas as soon as it started to rain. In speaking at Grosbeak Cemetery where 2300 Canadians are buried the audience included the wife of the Prime Minister, The Minister of Veterans Affairs The Honourable **Paddy O'Toole**, plus several Generals, and other dignitaries. I described the fierce fighting in the towns of Nijkerk, Oothuizen, and Barneveld where the BCD and the 8th NB Hussars lost many tanks. The turret of a Sherman weighs five tons but there is so much ammo and petrol in a turret then when hit by an 88 is blown up in the air and coming down upside down is an eerie sight when perceived through the periscope. The Shermans still on fire and thinking that you may be next, it was very hard on the underwear. I then described our entry into the fourth town, Ermelo, when the Germans after fiercely defending the three previous towns suddenly fled. We were the first tank to enter the town and I was the Squadron Leader **Bill Milroy's** bow gunner and co driver. A previously deserted town suddenly became filled with 2000 roaring Dutchmen, a most stirring anthem which for five years they had not been able to sing. With 2000 freshly liberated they sang with all their hearts. There was not a dry eye in the place. I then climbed down from my place and the tank was immediately covered by beautiful (Mooi Meisjes) Dutch girls. One of my prize pictures is with me in my steel helmet surrounded by these lovely ladies.





# The Other Family Members

Co-authored (in alphabetical order) by MGen (Ret'd) Clive Milner, Col (Ret'd) Keith Eddy, MGen (Ret'd) Bob Meating, Col (Ret'd) Dave Rundle, and Maj (Ret'd) John Russell

The *Regimental Manual* does not address the issue of Associate Members of Messes, an oversight the original author regrets. Nonetheless, they have always been welcome members of the Strathcona family. In the days of service in Northwest Europe, they were Canadian civilians connected with the large military community stationed in the area of Iserlohn and Hemer, Federal Republic of Germany. All were welcome; however, they were Associate Members because it was a necessary social need based on their support obligations to the soldiers and families of 4 CMBG. In later years in Calgary, Associate Members were much more involved with the social and community activities of the Regiment. They were highly visible, welcome by invitation only, and much more involved in integrating the Regiment with Calgary- and other Alberta-based communities.

Recently, many of us have been following the illness of one of the most stalwart Associate Members, **Mr. Peter Kennedy** as well as that of his effervescent wife and sidekick, **Dorothy**, who passed away a few weeks ago. **Peter**, perhaps more so than any other Calgarian, introduced numerous Strathconas to Calgary and infused all ranks with the spirit of the city.

As the wide-ranging list of contributors to this article attest, **Peter** did not limit his involvement just to the Strathconas although the Regiment benefited by his association more so than any other unit. **Peter** attended functions throughout the city and the military community, many because he was a willing volunteer in events such as the Calgary Stampede, the '88 Olympics, and Calgary's annual Grey Cup ambassadorial team that took the Stampede spirit and cowboy lifestyle to every championship game regardless of its location. Among **Peter's** accomplishments was being the recipient of "l'ordre du bonhomme du Carnaval". He was the only Calgarian, perhaps Albertan, and the only unilingual Anglophone, to receive the award such was his impact on les Québécois. If one accompanied **Peter** outside of Regimental lines, it was clear he knew everyone in the city, the movers and shakers as well as people of his own more modest background. Sometimes, when outside of Regimental lines, it was embarrassing having to stand around and stare at the ceiling or sky while waiting for folks who all but lined up to say hi to him and **Dorothy** before you could move on. **Peter's** enjoyment of his friends and acquaintances was real and deep.

The **Kennedy** stories about his association with Strathconas and other military personnel in Calgary are endless. **Peter** and **Dorothy** routinely hosted members of all ranks of the Regiment at Calgary Flames games and other major Calgary events and, more telling, welcomed them in their home. Their enthusiasm was infectious and often spontaneous and unannounced. At **Clive Milner's** outgoing 1 CMBG change of command parade at Currie barrack's parade square, for example, **Peter** showed up with his chuckwagon and team, pre-empted the staff car that was to take

the **Milners** off the parade ground, and whisked them away. **John Russell** can vouch for Peter's ability to reach long and deep to get things done, even finding **John** in the far recesses of Wainwright and in a hide-away with **Bernadine** on his last night in Canada before deploying to Sierra Leone. To this day, **John** does not know how **Peter** was able to track him down. Then again, neither does **Bob Meating**, whom **Peter** hunted down while in Egypt. **Bob** can only imagine the switchboards and routing as well the stories **Peter** had to spin just to make contact and ensure **Bob** was safe in Africa.

## Spring 2016 Edition Deadline

The deadline for submissions for the Spring 2016 Strathcona Regimental Society Newsletter is

1 April 2016.

Submissions should be forwarded to [newsletter@strathconas.ca](mailto:newsletter@strathconas.ca)

Or mailed to:

Lord Strathcona's Horse (Royal Canadians)  
Regimental Society Newsletter  
PO Box 10500 Station Forces  
Edmonton, AB T5J 4J5

Attention: Kathy Batty

**Peter** was not just a friend to Strathconas and Strathcona wannabee's, he was often a confidant and sounding board, someone who you knew you could ask a question about an event or individual he knew and trust the discussion would not go beyond both of you. **Peter** loved his association with his military friends but, never having served in uniform, he had no axe to grind so his advice was always forthright and impartial. Even then, he was careful not to offer negative or hurtful comment.

Perhaps one of the best memories of **Peter** for all members of the Regiment was his involvement with the Calgary Care Bears that visited us in Cyprus. He and two equally spirited champions of the city, **Ron Gillis** and **John Rowe**, arrived in Cyprus with a chuckwagon and 100's of steaks cut from Alberta beef. All three Calgarians were getting along in age but outlasted their hosts on a daily basis. **RSM Shad Shadbolt** had to set up tag-teams of hosts and pass the Care Bears along from one team to another in order to keep pace with them. Their key contribution touring the Green Line, along with the band Twenty-Twenty, was hosting Stampede breakfasts not unlike those they set up all across Canada each year for the Grey Cup and numerous other Canadian destinations. Not only was this generous, unselfish event at no cost to Her Majesty or the Regiment and enjoyed by all lonely, deployed Canadians longing for home, it spilled over the Green Line boundaries into the local Greek and Turkish communities. In retrospect, the Regiment should have mentioned **Peter** in dispatches or sought a UN commendation for him at the time. His own version, perhaps, but peacekeeping, clearly, was one of **Peter's** many strengths. As **Dave Rundle** said of him, "always others before himself". It is not surprising, then, that, after one of **Peter's** forays to Cyprus, **Clive Milner**, when Comd UNFICYP, cited the mayor of Nicosia, Lelos Dimitriades, as wanting to keep **Peter** on the Island.

The Regiment has been blessed with a long list of friends such as **Peter** over the years. Not only were the likes of **Alan Graham**, **Roy Farran**, **MGen Bill Howard**, **Duncan Crockford**, **Helen Kozicki**, **Fred Balm**, **Ron** and **Maragret Southern**, good friends to Regimental members, they were instrumental in keeping the Mounted Troop "alive" by fostering support within the community and by providing financial support and guidance when needed. Indeed, the Mounted Troop survived its establishment and growth in its formative years when it was resurrected because of the interest and support the Associates Members provided it. Other Associate Members such as **Peter**, **André Lorent**, **Ron Gillis**, **John Rowe**, **Murray Caley** and **Bonnie Rourke**, and an endless list of others have been the link between the Regiment and the Calgary community. Our very exposure to them enriched our social lives and sensitized us to events and realities beyond our professional doorstep. The likes of **Ralph Klein**, among numerous other dignitaries as well as Calgary's captains of industry, were in contact with the Strathcona's because of the interest and networking of our Associates.

All of the contributors to this article have served in other regiments, some wearing as many as three hat badges. It is safe to say, no other unit in the Canadian Forces has enjoyed such a rich and rewarding welcome as well long enduring benefits and memories as the Strathconas have in Calgary--thanks to the Associate Members of the family.

## Lost Trails

Spring 2015 Newsletters which have been returned.

If you have updated contact information on these individuals, please let us know.

FINNEGAN HB - North Vancouver, BC

GALLIE A - Salmo BC

LANK J - Barrie, ON

ROXBOROUGH B - Calgary, AB

SHAVER CF - Calgary, AB

WARD B - Manitou, MB



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# Strathcona’s at work in 3 Canadian Division Training Centre

Major Fred Hayward

Most non-infantry types, including members of the Regiment, if they are posted to the Battle School in Wainwright, will likely find themselves posted in A Company, 3rd Canadian Division Training Centre (3 CDTC) and responsible for the delivery of two key course, the Bold Eagle Program and Primary Leadership Qualification - Army. For the 2015/2016 APS this sees the following Regimental members training the future leaders of 3 Canadian Division: **Major Hayward, Sergeant Torney, Master Corporal Paskuski and Master Corporal Graham.**

Bold Eagle (BE) is a joint venture between the Department of National Defence (DND)/Canadian Armed Forces (CAF) and Aboriginal organizations from across the 3rd Canadian Division (3rd Cdn Div) area. It is an Aboriginal youth development initiative designed to promote good character, self-confidence, discipline, respect, teamwork and physical fitness; while providing Aboriginal youth with the opportunity to experience the CAF.

BE originated in 1990 as an informal arrangement between the North Saskatchewan Regiment and the Prince Albert Grand Council. The following year it was recognized, staffed and promoted throughout Saskatchewan by what was then Saskatchewan Militia District. Over the next few years, Prairie Militia Area was absorbed into Land Forces Western Area Headquarters LFWA HQ, and Saskatchewan and Manitoba/Lakehead Militia Districts were amalgamated into 38 Canadian Brigade Group (CBG). This expanded BE beyond its Saskatchewan origins and by 1998 all First Nations youth in western Canada were eligible to participate. In 2001, LFWA Training Centre (TC) took over responsibility of the program from 38 CBG. Today, LFWA TC is known as 3 CDTC.

Now in its 26th year, and with over 1,400 graduates, the program has expanded as an opportunity for Aboriginal youth (First Nations, Métis and Inuit people) from north-western Ontario to British Columbia. Applicants to the program must self-declare as being Aboriginal and meet the CAF recruiting standards to enroll in the Primary Reserve (PRes).

Recruits are enrolled at 3 CDTC, and immediately progress to the culture camp. Culture camp is run by the Aboriginal partners with the 3 CDTC infrastructure support. The intent of the camp is to introduce the recruits to Aboriginal culture whereby they learn traditional customs and teaching from the Elders. The camp serves many purposes: it helps the recruits understand the need for hard work, self-discipline, teamwork, gets them used to a structured environment, and it instills pride and a sense of continuing the Aboriginal tradition of military service.

The aim of Primary Leadership Qualification is to develop leadership skills and tactical knowledge required prior to the candidate’s appointment to Section Commanders within his or her trade.

All Army personnel must be able to perform effectively under the most rigorous environmental conditions experienced by military forces. The extreme demands of close combat include prolonged periods of physical discomfort, isolation and high casualty rates, which require the highest standard of mental and physical fitness to overcome. Emphasis therefore is placed on training candidates in the knowledge and skills required for success in combat through the practical application and testing of performance in a field environment, supplemented by field firing, simulation and garrison training.

Although 3 CDTC primarily employs infantry as instructors and staff, members of the Regiment have and continue to make an import contribution to the soldiers in 3 Canadian Division.

*Fred, thank you for bringing these courses to our attention. Bold Eagle especially is a great initiative. Eds.*



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# Annual Family Golf Tournament

Brad Norman

At 0800 hrs on August 15 I arrived at the Shaganappi Golf course to ensure the course had the flights times and I was able to attach the rules of play to all score cards for easy access for our golfers.

My team started off the T-box and by the time we hit the green the down pour was so bad that some greens had rivers flowing off them. **Pete Wonderham’s** team followed us and I did not realize until we completed the 9th hole that the course would not allow any more golfers on the course.

I advised all players that we would be going to the Legion to enjoy some time together and talk about old times. Our President **Peter Wonderham** welcomed everyone and since we did not have a champion we continued on with drawing names for prizes. We all enjoyed a lunch provided by the Legion and we shared stories of previous tournaments and of course **Slider** sold the 50/50 tickets with the winner receiving \$189.00.

Once again the Regiment sent a team down and even though we did not play they were welcomed with big smiles and they shared a lot of stories and provided some good laughs. Thanks again to **Andrew Foster, Cameron Davidson, Joe Gushue, and Paul Keller** for attending. I also have to thank **Bill Fitzpatrick, Mike Janssen, James Strayer** and the **Bieners’** for traveling from Edmonton to join us as well as **Grady Owen** and his sons joining us from Red Deer.

Well, I went right back to work on rescheduling this tournament and was able to secure September 5th. I once again worked on finding “new” prizes for the special holes and was able to secure 4 prizes. Well September 5th was upon us and I arrived early to prepare everything and help the course get ready. Once again we had light drizzle with it raining at times. I was able to secure 32 golfers out of the 52 golfers from August 15th however only two teams participated.

Congratulations to **Jake Norman’s** team that consisted of **Pete Wonderham, John Boisclar** and **Steve Walsh**. Even with two teams I couldn’t win however the first place team came in with a -2 and we had a par for the course.

I decided to have all participants attend the Point and Feather to have a drink and some snacks as they sponsored two holes. We were able to present the trophy and hand out the hole prizes. Congratulations to **Steve Walsh** for the men’s longest drive and closes to the pin, **Dale Gorrill** for the longest putt, and **Jake Norman** for the draw that replaced the women’s longest drive.

I am already planning for next year and here is hoping Mother Nature will be on my side to help out with some nice weather.





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## The Regimental Society Board of Directors

### An Evolution in Progress

The Regimental Society proposed a change to the Society by-laws that alters how its Board of Directors (BoD) members are selected. This proposal was accepted by vote at the Society Annual General Meeting held in June 2015. This article will help explain to all members of the Regimental Family why and how the Society BoD composition has changed.

Our Regiment has always been proud to consider itself part of a larger family. The Regiment is also unique in that it preserves our collective history in a wide variety of living representations such as the Historical Vehicle Troop, Regimental Museum, etc. who are under the financial and governance oversight of the Regimental Society. The Society is a registered charity under the Societies Act of Alberta. Therefore, we must ensure governance of this critical institution is as effective as possible and remains adherent to existing federal and provincial not-for-profit regulations. For these reasons, the Society voted with an overwhelming majority at the AGM to adjust the composition of the BoD and how representatives are selected.

In the past, the Board members automatically included former and current Regimental Commanding Officers and Regimental Sergeant Majors along with the incumbents of other key positions such as the Regimental 2IC, Association President and the Society Secretary. While this group of accomplished people produced excellent work and governed the Society wisely, two areas of concern arose as regulations were updated: it was a much larger body than is the norm for other boards of a similar nature and mandate, and it generally lacked some of the professional experience critical for effective fund-raising and oversight of large investment portfolios.

The Colonel of the Regiment of the day, therefore proposed a change to the Society BoD composition to better reflect best practices from other not-for-profit organisations and bring in professional expertise to advise on the management of Society investments and fund-raising activities, while balancing the BoD composition with Strathconas who know and understand our Regiment and the Society. This was discussed and debated over a period of months prior to a vote being taken by the current BoD on how to proceed. As well, care was taken to ensure the new BoD complied with Queens Orders and Regulations, which stipulate unit not-for-profit society BoDs must consist of a majority of civilians, including retired military, if serving military members are on the BoD.

So what are the changes the Annual General Meeting approved? The first significant adjustment was the expansion of those Strathconas eligible to serve on the BoD from just former Regimental COs and RSMs to all former Strathcona LCol, Cols and CWOs not having been RSMs of our Regiment but those of another Regular Force unit or command. Some examples are CO/RSM of the Armour School, CO/RSM of a Regular Force Training unit or Commander/RSM of a Base. This was in recognition of the reality the Regimental “talent pool” of experience and ability spans more than just Regimental duty.

The size of the BoD has been reduced, with a mix between elected and appointed members. The appointed positions are tied to key Regimental and Society appointments and are as follows:

1. Colonel of the Regiment: Col (Ret’d) Greg Hug
2. Senior Serving Strathcona: BGen Derek Macaulay
3. Regimental Colonel: Col Paul Peyton
4. CO: LCol Josh Major
5. 2IC: Maj Clayton Gardner
6. RSM: CWO Tony Batty
7. National Association President: CWO (Ret’d) Peter Wonderham
8. Leader of Society Fundraising: Mr Josh Bilyk
9. Society Secretary: LCol (Ret’d) John Stuckart
10. Society Treasurer: Capt Corey McLean



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The elected positions are for a three-year term and consist of the following:

11. One former Colonel of the Regiment: Col (Ret’d) John Roderick

Two former Regular Force unit COs, one of whom was CO of the Regiment:

12. Col Trevor Cadieu
13. BGen (Ret’d) Craig Hilton

Three former Regular Force unit RSMs, two of whom were RSM of the Regiment:

14. Capt (Ret’d) Clifford Ells
15. Capt (Ret’d) Doug Ross
16. CWO Walt Laughlin

The final and, perhaps, most significant change is the addition of civilian expertise with, ideally, a professional accountant, a lawyer and an experienced business person.

17. Capt (Ret’d) Ross Prokopy
18. Mr Sol Rolingher
19. Mr Kurby Court

How are the elected BoD members nominated? To ensure a fair and disciplined process free of undue influence, the Society created the BoD Nominating Committee. This committee of five is responsible for issuing a call for nominations, on behalf of the sitting BoD, to all Strathconas eligible to serve on the BoD. Members of this group are asked to indicate if they would like to be considered for the available BoD positions or if they wish to nominate eligible individuals for the open positions. At the same time, nominations for the open civilian positions are also requested. The BoD Nominating Committee is responsible to verify all nominees are eligible, tally the total nominations for each nominee and draft a recommended slate, ensuring the majority of the BoD members are not serving in the military. Subsequently this recommended slate is presented to the existing BoD for review and comment, but not approval. For approval, the BoD Nominating Committee’s recommended slate is presented to the Society AGM for vote. The BoD Nominating Committee official process will soon be published however the internal deliberations of the committee are completely confidential in order to ensure there are no outside influences placed on the process.

As with all significant change, this evolution of the Society BoD has been, at times, emotional. The former appointed Directors were and are an exceptional group of leaders who are highly valued by the Regimental Family. The change and reduction to the Society BoD composition was not enacted because the former Directors weren’t effective or hardworking; the BoD required an addition of outside professional expertise that is not easily accessible from career soldiers, and mandated majority participation of civilians. This evolution will likely continue as the Society carefully reviews how the changes are implemented to ensure Society governance remains as effective as possible.

So, in closing, there are some things to remember about the change to the Society BoD:

- The restructure brings Society governance more in line with other comparable BoDs, meets mandatory provincial, federal and DND regulations and provides corporate expertise previously lacking; and
- Those who were automatically members of the old BoD are still eligible to run for the elected BoD positions and/or nominate others who are eligible. Participation is a personal decision; however the Society continues to greatly value the expertise, wisdom and passion of our former COs and RSMs.

The Regimental Society is the life-blood of all we hold dear in the Regiment. Thanks to the foresight of our past leadership, the Society enables the Regiment to preserve its uniqueness in a wide variety of forms, which could not be supported through Public Funds. The Regimental Society needs everyone’s continued understanding, support and assistance.



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## A Strathcona and his PTSD Service Dog

*Major (retired) Brian Cameron and TROOPER*

**Editor's comment. Major (rettd) Brian Cameron** was diagnosed with PTSD several years ago and as a result has not been able to attend the annual gatherings or the local Branch meetings as much as he would have liked. He has always enjoyed reading and hearing about old friends and the various happenings. He has shared with us how he heals with PTSD by training a PTSD Service Dog.

I was a Strathcona for 21 years of my career. One of my more unique deployments was a year (93-94) in the former Yugoslavia at what some described as the height of the war. I spent the first six months in Sarajevo at BH Command, doing route recces and negotiating clearances for military escorts for humanitarian food convoys. Once a week I drove the infamous “Sniper Alley” trying to get to negotiation meetings with all three warring factions, while snipers played a game of putting rounds through the side window of my jeep. The last six months of my tour was spent working as a Liaison Officer between BH Command and UNHCR, doing weekly visits to Serbia, Zagreb, Split and Sarajevo, The good news was that I got to travel extensively (mostly by myself) through Serbia, Croatia, Bosnia-Herzegovina and Montenegro. The bad news was that I spent more time than I can remember on my knees with some guy pointing his AK-47 at my head or being physically dragged off to some check point headquarters. The worst part was the first hand experience of seeing the atrocities done by each of the warring factions

I felt I was trained for a war situation, but perhaps not so much for the inhumanity I witnessed and physical abuse I was subject to on a daily basis. A year after I got home I got out of the military because I felt like I didn’t belong and there didn’t seem to be any help or anyone who really understood. I spent six long, very disruptive years dealing with anxiety/panic attacks, flashbacks, nightmares, anger, hyper vigilance concentration and memory problems and all the classic PTSD symptoms that you read about. Around 2000, I was lucky enough to have an old “Strathcona” friend **Bob Black** point me in the direction of the Operational Trauma & Stress Support Centre (OTSSC) in CFB Esquimalt..

I was diagnosed with Chronic Post Traumatic Stress disorder and Major Depressive Disorder. Veterans Affair gave me the label of being “Totally and Permanently Incapacitated”. Over the last 15 years I have gone through counselling, had many ups and downs and have worked with the British Columbia Operational Stress Injury Clinic and Veterans Affair Canada. I have also developed many physical ailments (heart condition, diabetes and hand tremors) consequential to my PTSD and the associated stress. Even with a supportive family and friends, PTSD with all of the classic symptoms has impacted every aspect of my life. I am all too aware of how it can rise up at any time, as a result of any variety of triggers.

In the fall of 2014 I was introduced to the Vancouver Island Compassion Dog Society (VICD). An organization that takes rescued dogs, fosters them, and evaluates them as to their capability of becoming PTSD service dogs. As a Veteran with PTSD I applied for the program and went through a very selective interview process. Once the veteran and dog are matched they work together as a team in order to achieve a “PTSD Service Dog” certification.

In March 2015 I was fortunate to be matched with a one year old chocolate Lab (which I named **Trooper**). She was a rescue dog from the BCSPCA, tied up to the fence when the staff arrived at work one day. She has a scar around her neck from where a collar was embedded in her neck and several scars on her front legs. We embarked on a 52 week comprehensive training course that allows us to work and learn at our own pace. The program is very responsive to me as an individual and my canine companion. In order to receive the certification of “Service Dog” we have to complete 3 formal dog training courses conducted by a dog behaviorist trainer and the training and preparation for two outside agency tests from the Canadian Kennel Association and the British Columbia Guide Dog Association. In the near future a third outside agency testing will be added with the “International Assistance Dogs”.

At this point **Trooper** and I train weekly on the formal training phases and every Wednesday with the other veterans in the program for individual training, group training and a variety of workshops. **Trooper** and I also train for about 2-3 hours daily. This program would normally cost between \$12,000.00 and \$ 15,000.00 per veteran, but all expenses are covered by VICD and their fund raising efforts. This allows me to concentrate on training and bonding with my new team mate. Upon successful graduation the dog ownership is transferred to me for the nominal fee of one dollar.

I used to “hermitize” by staying in the house for weeks at a time, never wanting to go out of my little safety bubble.

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Since March I have been forced to go out. The obvious is to let **Trooper** relieve herself, but it also includes a training walk in the morning, afternoon and evening and several short training sessions throughout the day. I now go to the beach in the morning with my daughter and her dog, I go for coffee at a local Café with some military friends and I get to socialize along the dog paths with other dog owners, who are curious about my training.

I am little over half way through my training and already **Trooper** and I have bonded to the point where there are two specific areas that she helps me out. First she realizes when I’m “down”, getting frustrated or at the start of a anxiety attack – she comes up to me very close and starts licking me, helping to distract me and allow me to ground myself. When I’m tired, both mentally and physically, **Trooper** lies beside me, very close with her body or paws touching me. This allows me to relax, knowing someone is there, but not demanding that I talk or explain my feelings or actions, just there - non- judgemental companionship, providing a calming and comforting effect.

The second area is about specific skill sets that we work on. On the command “Front” or Behind” **Trooper** will place herself so as to block someone who is too close for my comfort. She will alert me to someone walking behind me, she will “Sweep” a room or area to give me added comfort and assurance that a strange place is safe for me. **Trooper** allows me to use her as an excuse to leave an uncomfortable situation by my saying “nature calls”. Trooper gives me the confidence to go for walks in the open street, in the woods and enter crowded areas without becoming hyper vigilant and worrying about imaginary snipers. One of my biggest triggers was travelling by myself. Basically I couldn’t go anywhere without my wife **Sheila**. This has caused a great deal of stress on her as she cared for and looked after my needs. Now **Trooper** goes with me everywhere, to the bank, the store, coffee, visiting etc. **Trooper** hasn’t replaced **Sheila** but she has certainly eased the load and stress that I have placed on **Sheila** over the years.

Lots of people don’t understand PTSD and sometimes you want to shrink away from the world, wishing you were the person you were, but being with a dog with a Service Dog Vest on forces you to confront your fears and move positively forward. I have benefited greatly from going through this training together with **Trooper**, probably more so than if I was presented with a trained service dog. It would appear that we have both been rescued.

Every Veteran’s story is different, but the same. PTSD is not something that is easy to talk about and I often go through the debate in my head as to whether I am a wounded warrior with an invisible wound or just a broken warrior. Ironically, it is Wounded Warrior Canada that has specifically sponsored me through this program with the Vancouver Island Compassion Dog Society.

PS Vancouver Island Compassion Dog Society is a non-profit, Registered Canadian Charity that headed by Barb Ashmead (250-954-5552) along with a Training Team and Board of Directors. [www.vicompassiondogs.ca](http://www.vicompassiondogs.ca)

**Brian**, thanks for making us aware of this great programme and we wish you and **Trooper** every success. Seems to us that **Trooper** should be promoted to Corporal soon as a reward for her great work!! **Eds**.





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## Change of Colonel of the Regiment Event

*Peter Wonderham*

**Susan** and I just returned from two great days in Edmonton. For many reasons, not all of you could attend this event so I thought I would give you a short SITREP. I know several of you had "light duty sick chits" or were looking after your partner at home. We hope recoveries are speedy. The other reason I wanted to write something down was, if I didn't do so, I would forget what I saw. I am sure you can relate.

### MEET AND GREET AND GOLF TOURNAMENT

Friday, the Master Corporals held their annual golf tournament followed by a Meet and Greet at a local golf course. The weather held out for most of the day and they had a good crowd at the Hunters Green Golf course. Only the locals knew where it was and thanks to many of us having been Recce-trained we eventually found the spot. The GPS also helped. **Murray Cayley** drove all the way from Ontario and missed the secondary road turnoff. I think his head was still spinning, having spent time visiting the **Shadbolt's** in Calgary before heading north. I will not report on the outcome of the golf game. I am sure someone will write that up for the history books but all had a good time. The MCpl's did an amazing job of organizing this event and everyone seemed to have had a fun day. During the meet and greet I had an opportunity to catch up with the likes of **Rob Ovens** who forgot I had to drive back to the hotel and hated to see my glass empty. Thanks **Rob. Terry Ovens** was also in his usual good spirits. They sure represented not only themselves but the memory of their father, **Bill Ovens**, well. I was very pleased to see **George Lancia** from Toronto enjoying the company of an old friend in **Bobby Haddow**. They are a great party team. **Bill Anderson**, who I think lives in Sooke and **Bob Murray**, currently living in Winnipeg, sure seemed to be having a good time. I thank **Slider** and **Mary Welch** for their continued support as they sold 50/50 tickets for most of the day. **Constable Rob Biener** was all smiles as he was spending some special time with his old buddies. **Rob**, some of you may remember, was part of the vigil party at our last Reunion in 2010. He is now with the Calgary Police force. **Jim** and **Sandy Chamberlain** were good company at our table although **Jim** has some back issues. **Rick** and **Sandy Brown** were all smiles as they have a busy life in Calgary and seemed to enjoy this respite. **Jim Ellard**, I must say, looks as fit as when he was my CO in 1975. Somehow, he seemed more pleasant during the meet and greet than when I was a sergeant. The incoming and outgoing Colonels of the Regiment and their lovely wives **Patti** and **Maria** were very busy trying to catch up and greet all in attendance. They may have missed time to eat but folks enjoyed talking to them. The Commanding Officer, **Lieutenant-Colonel Josh Major**, was also on a diet as he mingled and made everyone very welcome. I must say **RSM Batty** almost kept his composure with everyone trying their hands at weather-forecasting for his parade. **Kathy**, as usual, mixed pleasure with business as I am sure she and the 2IC, **Major Mike Onieu**, were kept busy answering questions concerning the coordination of any number of the Regimental weekend events. Did you ever eat? At about 1900 hours, the skies opened up and everyone made it back home or to their respective tent lines.



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### PARADE SATURDAY MORNING

The RSM called the weather perfectly or perhaps he had some influence, but the parade was held outdoors and the soldiers, as usual, had a fantastic turnout. Shortly after falling in, the dignitaries arrived. The Colonel Commandant, **BGen (ret'd) Darryl Dean**, a former Strathcona, always seems to enjoy his time with the Regiment. The inspecting officers arrived in some of our historical vehicles and were escorted by the Mounted Troop.

Prior to the inspection of troops, the RSM asked the Old Guard to fall in and we had a great turnout with over 40 on parade. **MGen (Ret'd) Tim Grant** was pointed out as being absent of Regimental headdress but he did not seem too fazed and no extras were given out to any on the inspection. Well done, Old Guard.

The parade was not a mounted one due to the recent operational training in Wainwright. The tanks, other armour vehicles, and their support echelons could not be made available. I had a nice chat with **Mr Dean Noble** and **Margaret**. They seemed to really enjoy all the moving parts that make a parade special. **Mike Hogan**, my back row companion, still works for Veterans Affairs and is always out for special events. Nice talking to you **Mike**.

The pipes and drums played a significant role in the parade and once the drums were "stacked" the appointment handover between **MGen (ret'd) Cameron Ross** and **Col (ret'd) Greg Hug** took place. Speeches were kept short(ish) but were very well presented. The outgoing Colonel-of-the-Regiment gave a heartfelt talk, focussing on the significance of the Regimental Family. During this farewell message, the RSM drew our attention to a free fall parachutist descending with the presentation Strathcona pennant—a pretty special snapshot in our history.

The post parade reception/BBQ was held in the hangar. I hang my head but I must admit it is my favourite event. The names of those belonging to great handshake moments are too many to recall. I did enjoy a chat with **Brian Talty**, **MWO Tony Mayfield**, and **Steve Moffat**. The latter is still in need of a hair trim but better turned out than when he was in uniform. **BGen (ret'd) Tom Putt** also said he would enjoy becoming a member of the Association and seeing more of us. **Stu Ballard** cleaned up real well and is a familiar face at all Regimental Parades. I had a great chat with a well-turned out **Cpl Partridge**. I must admit to taking time away from his plate of hamburgers but his turn will come. I spoke to him about my knowing his father, a great Sergeant Major from my time in Germany in the 60's. Alas, once again I aged as **MWO Partridge** was not his father but his grandfather. By the way **Cpl Partridge's** father was in the Regiment as well.

One of the only things that could draw some of us away from the BBQ'd food line was the performance of the Mounted Troop. Once again, they put on a world-class performance on the sports field adjacent to the Regimental lines. This was also very well attended. We do not know how lucky we are to have such a fine and much admired troop within our Regimental family.

At 1330, off I head to the Conference room for the Annual General Meeting (AGM) of the Regimental Society. This we were told was the best attended AGM in recent history. The 2IC orchestrated a busy agenda. The boardroom was full, with Representatives from each squadron, each mess as well as each family within the Society. The Mounted Troop, Historical Vehicle Troop, the Pipes and Drums and the Regimental Association each gave the AGM a presentation of finances and the wellbeing of their organizations within the Society. With some of the Society meetings lasting over 4 hours, I must admit being pleased at a move to adjourn in just over an hour.

The Association presentation was brief; however, we did reflect on the membership which now stands at well over 300 members coming from every province except Newfoundland (**Garry Blackmore** and **Shelly** we know where you are). Our financial statement was read as well as the breakdowns of our Branches in major centers. We closed the Association presentation with the point that many of you are expressing an interest in holding mini-reunions (localized reunions) in the future. This may be brought about by the cost of transportation and out-of-town accommodations and, obviously, an aging membership. More to follow.

In closing, I must say I truly enjoyed my weekend with the Regiment.







## Your Dispatches

My father **Kenneth McMahon** served with The Lord Strathcona Regiment in the early 50's. I am sorry to say I do not know which squadron he was in but will know once we go through his things. He passed away at 86 on May 18 2015 in Woodstock, Ontario. Would you please include him in the Last Trumpet Call?

Dad enjoyed getting the newsletter and was a very proud member. He loved to talk about his time in Calgary when he was young. When he would come out to visit us in Calgary he loved to visit Spruce Meadows to chat with the present members of the Regiment and watch the tent pegging and other skills displayed by the Regiment. Staying in touch gave him great pleasure so thank you for creating the newsletter. We have listed The Lord Strathcona Regiment as his choice for memorial donations.

Cheers, Lynn Berry

**Lynn,**

We share your loss as your father was a member of our Regimental Family. We certainly will note his passing in the Last Trumpet Call and thank you for remembering our Lord Strathcona's Horse Regimental Society for donations in your father's memory. **Eds.**

I am writing to ask for any information that you may have concerning my Great Uncle **Bill Ford**.

Uncle Bill passed away this past May 28th, in his 92 year. He was a WWII veteran (B-138763) who served with the Lord Strathconas Horse (Royal Canadians). He was honourably discharged (Compassionate Grounds) on September 20th, 1945.

Any information that you feel would be worth adding to our family

history, I would be grateful for.

If you know of any books that would reflect his time with the Lord Strathconas Horse (Royal Canadians), I would be interested in buying a copy.

Thank you for your time.

Sincerely,

Rob Ford

Barrie, ON

**Rob,**

We also share in your loss. We will pass your letter to our Regimental Museum curator and ask him to check our archives to see if he can find any additional information on your uncle. You may wish to purchase a copy of our Regimental history "Always a Strathcona" as it covers the Regiment's actions in WW II.

Thanks edition team, this is a great Newsletter. Stick to it great news report.

Best Regards

Denis Chercuitte

Like the new format.....keep up the good work.

Ted Cross

Gentlemen,

I enjoyed the last Newsletter. Please keep up the good work.

All the best,

Frank Karwandy

Great Newsletter

I use an iPad and had no issues viewing the newsletter.

Thanks

Chuck Fournier

Thanks, folks.

Your encouragement is appreciated. **Eds**

Fellow Strathconas,

It has been 40 years since our last history, 'Always A Strathcona', was published and a decade since 'A Pictorial History' was completed, and other volumes of our Regimental history have been published during this time. Since 1975, the Regiment has moved to Edmonton and has undertaken significant overseas and domestic commitments while the advent of e-publishing and e-books is a major change to the publishing landscape.

The Regimental Society has formed a Historical Committee whose first task is to determine if the Regimental family wants a new or updated history for the 21st century. To do that, we need your frank and honest feedback. If there is a consensus, the Committee will be able to develop a concept, options, and then an implementation plan for the selected option.

To get your feedback, we would like each of you to complete a simple survey. It will only take you a few minutes to complete. There is only one compulsory question: 'Do you support the idea of developing possible options for a new regimental history? Yes or No?' The remaining questions are voluntary but will be extremely important in developing options. So if your answer to the basic question is yes please take a minute or two to answer them. We have also asked you to provide some demographic information but again only if you wish to do so.

The survey was originally distributed electronically through ENews. For those who do not receive ENews, we would also welcome your input. Simply contact the CO's Secretary (**Kathy Batty**) by phone at

780-973-1660 or by email at [ldsh@strathconas.ca](mailto:ldsh@strathconas.ca) and a copy of the survey will be sent to you. We would ask you, however, to complete the survey by 15 December 2015.

We do want to hear what you have to say. If we missed anything, we have provided you with an opportunity to tell us so through the survey or by contacting us directly. We can only make an informed decision if we have your input. We do look forward to hearing from you.

Perseverance,

Phil Neatby

Major-General (Retired)

Chair, Historical Committee

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## My thoughts on The Soldier, Earl Cady

*Jim Chamberlain*

He was a husband, a father, a mentor, a friend, and one of a kind.

He was a 24/7 soldier, who loved the uniform and military life.

He lived, slept and dreamt military, especially his Regiment.

He did all he could to improve the lives of his soldiers.

He was a disciplinarian, and 'by the book', but would always listen if you had a good suggestion.

If he tasked you with job, you had better put your best foot forward and not let him or the Regiment down.

He was a great teacher and instructor, everything from drill to gunnery. He ensured that everyone got 100% of what he was trying to instil, and would take all the time needed to help.

In later years when he served on the Regimental Board of Directors, his opinion and ideas were always sought, and valued.

He was what people would call a soldier, and mean it.

In the 50 odd years that I knew **Earl Cady**, he was my true friend, one of my mentors, and always someone I could lean on. We served together in Gagetown, Cypress, Germany, Borden, and Calgary. From fishing in Deer Lake NB, when we were young, to tramping the Kananskis in search of the elusive speckled trout, we shared a love of the outdoors. Over the years of knowing **Earl**, I never met a kinder, finer man, and I will remember him always.

Perserverance

Well said, **Jim**. As you well know, **Earl** was my pillar of support, confidant, no-holds barred advisor, and, most importantly, friend when I commanded the Regt. Fortunately I had the chance to remind him of this in a telephone call just a few weeks before he passed away. Although neither of us said so, we both knew that would probably be our last conversation, and it was. Unfortunately **May** and I were in the Caribbean area when **Earl** died and missed the chance to say good bye at his funeral. **John Roderick** (AKA Co-editor of the Newsletter.)

## A Call for Afghanistan Stories and Anecdotes

With the completion of our country's long-standing mission in Afghanistan, the Regiment is looking forward to new encounters that may challenge us in the years to come. As we turn the page in this chapter of our Regimental History, it is critical that we harvest and preserve the trials, tribulations, and success of the numerous Strathconas who served in Afghanistan in various capacities.

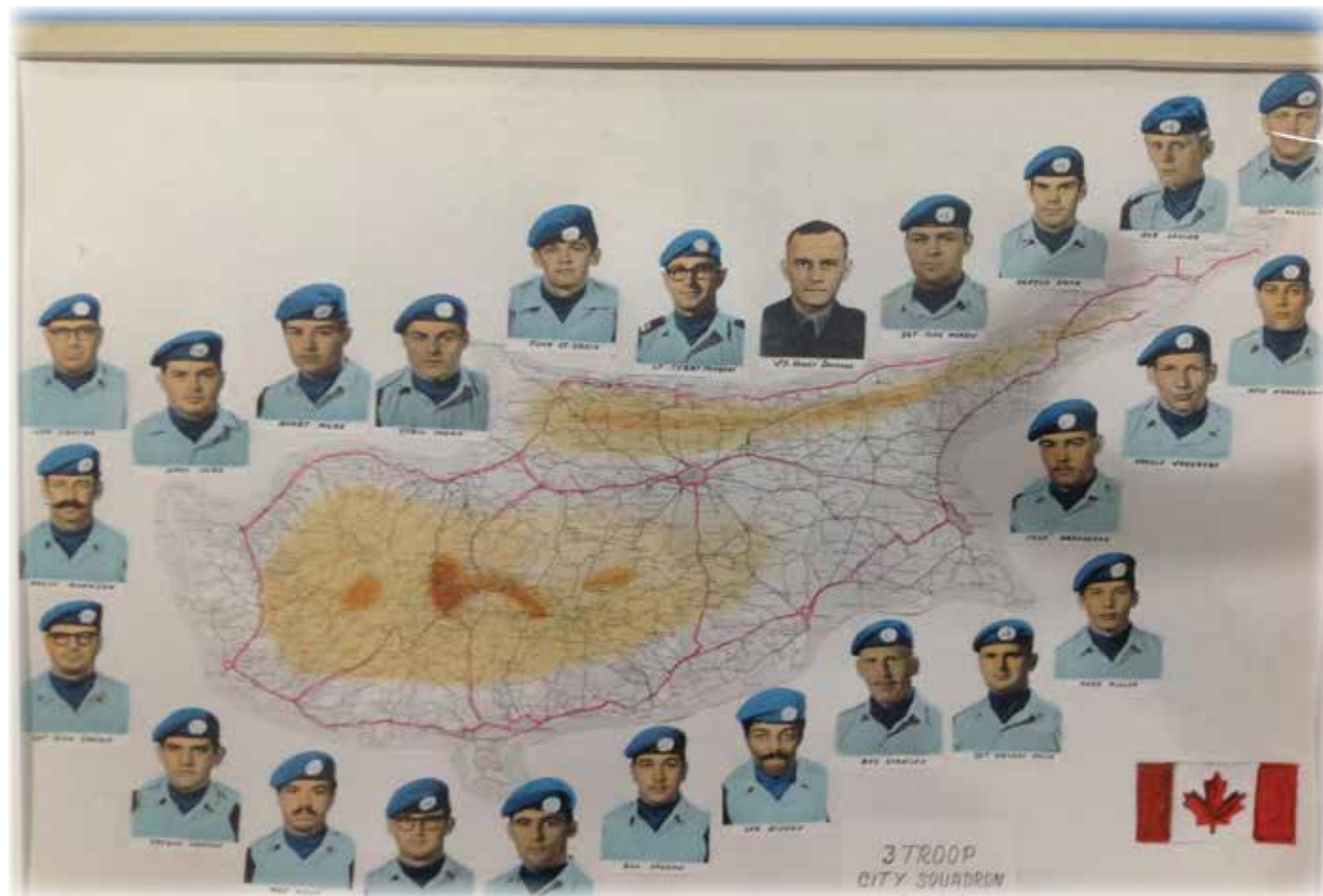
Depending on responses received, the Regiment will consider commissioning a book that will encapsulate the stories and anecdotes of Strathconas, serving or retired, who served in Afghanistan over the past decade. This e-news is a call out to all Strathconas who wish to etch their name and story in the annals of Regimental History. Anecdotes of your most memorable experiences, good and bad, will provide the reader a rare glimpse of our Afghanistan operations as you experienced it. In your own words and writing style, your story, however short or long, will be openly accepted into the collection that will comprise this book.

If interested in being part of our recorded history, we ask that you submit your stories and photos as soon as possible to

[afghanstories@strathconas.ca](mailto:afghanstories@strathconas.ca)

Any physical CDs or photos can be mailed to:  
LdSH(RC) Adjutant  
PO Box 10500 Station Forces  
Edmonton, AB T5J 4J5 Canada





3 Troop Cyprus 1972

Top centre clockwise: Lt Terry Tanguay, WO Harry Jahraus, Sgt Mike Morris, Arnold Smith, Bob Lapier, Don Parsley, Peter Wonderham, Harold Wardrobe, Jose Bousseau, Mark Miller, Sgt Knobby Walsh, Reg Stanley, Len Bishop, Bill Lauzon, Ray Ferguson, Paul Dunphy, Mike Hoyt, Jacque Lalonde, Sgt Rick Chasse, Bruce Robinson, Len Crayne, Dave Hebb, Barry Milne, Cyril Young, and John St Croix.



Bronze trophy commissioned by Mr. Fred Balm in honour of Brigadier & Winnie Harvey's Side Saddle Race at the Millarville Races.



Left side front to back Bill Haberer, Phil Friday  
Right side front to back Alex Graf, Bob Peterson, Mark Bell



ID MacKay and 'Shad' Shadbolt  
July 2015



1997 SFOR - B Coy (Recce Squadron) LdSH(RC) Officers Wil Herdman, John Cochrane, Dale Cheeseman, Kevin J McLoughlin, John Schneiderbanger, Chris Bradley, Vince Fagnan and Boris Nazoroff

## Your Photos



Members of Korea Veterans Association Unit 72 were at a reception in honour of the South Korean Ambassador to Canada, His Excellency Daeshik Jo, on Monday, July 27th, 2015 celebrating "Korean War Veterans Day."  
Left to right: Colonel (Retired) Duk Soo Kim, who was with the Republic of Korea Army and is now Vice President of Korea Veterans Association Unit 72, Henry Wyatt, Ambassador Daeshik Jo, Roy Jardine, and Jamie Jamieson.



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## Diaries of a UN Soldier

***WO Marvin MacNeill, CD** served with the Regiment during deployments to Bosnia-Herzegovina with UNPROFOR in 1994 and in 1999 with Recce Squadron while in Kosovo with KFOR. He maintained a diary while so deployed which he has shared with others on Facebook. With his permission, excerpts from his diary are being shared with our readers. Installment One was printed in the Fall 2014 edition of the Newsletter and Installment Two was printed in the Spring 2015 edition. (Ed.)*

### Installment Three

\*\*\***TUESDAY 31 MAY 1994**\*\*\* I was up this morning at 0600 and we had to be mounted on the vehicles by 0700. We got the vehicles ready to roll and were on our way out the gate by 0715. We were heading on our way back up to OP, the same location where we had spent last evening. We were back in our position again by 0800. There was quite a bit of shooting today in the surrounding hills. I spotted some shooting with both small arms and what appeared to be a larger .50 Cal weapon with my thermal sight. I just watched the shooting and reported what I saw. We left this position at 1100 and rolled back to camp in time for lunch. After lunch we were back on the vehicles again and were briefed that we were going to be heading to a new OP. We were told as well that the CO had made a deal with the local BiH Commander that the TUA would be allowed to stay out overnight. We all grabbed our sleeping kit and at 1500 we were rolling out to our new OP location. This OP was called OP Charlie 1. It was currently manned by a Cougar patrol from B Sqn and we were also briefed that this position would now be manned by TOW Tp. The OP was located through the town of Visoko on a ridge line that was right on the BiH trench line. We still had the same task of doing overwatch of OP Mike and OP Papa and the bridge but this time we were on the opposite side of the Bosna River looking north. The trip to get up to this position only took us about 20 minutes and we had to drive right through downtown Visoko. After we arrived we set up and began our routine. We always had one person manning the TOW system (split between the gunners and loaders) while the Commanders and drivers provided one person for a roving sentry to make sure the BiH soldiers did not mess with us or steal anything. My evening shift was from 2000 to 2300 and I am not on again until 0800 as we were only manning one vehicle.

\*\*\***WEDNESDAY 1 JUN 1994**\*\*\* By the time I got up and was on shift this morning at 0800 the fog had rolled in and only the odd small arms shot could be heard. At around 0900 the fog had lifted and we heard the sound of the BSA artillery guns start firing at the BiH lines in the hills about 8 km away from our position. These are definitely the biggest guns I have heard firing in this country by either side. During the next hour or so we counted over 200 rounds fired by the BSA in the distance. The small arms fire from the trench in front of us has also picked up a bit since the fog had lifted. I went down to the trench line to see if I could get any info about the large amount of artillery that was being fired. BiH soldiers were pretty friendly and receptive to us and one of the soldiers had even worked in Germany before the war. I even got to handle my first AK-47, the BiH soldier let me look at. He asked if I wanted to shoot it and I told him "next time" and we had a bit of a laugh. We left OP 1 at noon and were replaced by 71. We packed up the carriers and headed back into camp. We arrived at 1230 so we dismounted, closed up the vehicles and went for lunch. After we ate we went back to the vehicles to do some maintenance this afternoon. We cleaned up the vehicles and weapons and were done around 1500 and then we were told we had the rest of the evening to ourselves. At 2200 the troop was rounded up for a bit of an O Group. Today the peace talks had broken down between all the warring factions in Bosnia and the BSA have started their offensive. I guess I know what all the shelling was about earlier! We were all put on 10 min notice to move so tonight we all just slept in our clothes on the top of our bunks in case we got bugged out.

\*\*\***THURSDAY 2 JUN 1994**\*\*\* We never got bugged out last night so we had a quiet sleep. I did get up at 0300 this morning because I had my second phone call home. After my 15 minute call I just went right back to bed. I was up again at 0700 and we were on the vehicles again right after breakfast to do some light maintenance. We were prepping them to head to OP Romeo 1 after we were finished lunch. We headed up to Romeo 1 at 1230 and conducted the handover at the OP with 71. Today we positioned the vehicles a little differently and spread them out so there was about 100 meters between them. We also put up a 4 man tent today so that when you were not on shift you could actually lay down and get a little better sleep instead of trying to get some rest in the carriers. Today was once again really hot and there was absolutely no wind. Later in the evening the Tp WO dropped off **Sgt Hoppe** (who had just returned off his R&R in Italy) and **Sgt Semenko** went back to camp to his own Patrol (74). We seem

to almost have the same shift schedule as the BiH soldiers in the trench line in front of us. They come up and give us Turkish coffee every time we see them. They also tell us quite a bit about themselves and the war. You still don't want to trust them very much because you don't want to take sides. After my last shift which was from 2000-2300, I laid out my sleeping kit and went to ground. There was only a little shooting this evening around 2230 (right after their evening prayers) but this only lasted about 15 minutes then all was quiet when I laid down.

\*\*\***FRIDAY 3 JUN 1994**\*\*\* This morning around 0100 two shots were fired at our OP location taking aim at the tent we were sleeping in. Luckily the tent was on a bit of a reverse slope of the hill so the rounds did not hit where we were sleeping. The BiH trench in front did open fire and are blaming the shooting on the Serbian (Chetnik) snipers. From the reports we have received this is a common practice from both sides so they can blame the other and forcing the UN peacekeepers to open fire on the other side. From talking the with the BiH (Muslim) soldiers they don't want peace because the UN will leave and the Serbs will kill them all! After everything quieted down again I went back to sleep and was up again at 0700. I was on shift in the TUA until 1000. All remained quiet and 71 came to replace us at noon. We packed up our gear and vehicles and headed back to the main camp. After lunch we were told to pack up our gear again as we were heading back up the mountain to the RRB location at OP Kilo Foxtrot. At 1400 we put our gear and ourselves into the back of the MLVW and the Troop WO took us up to the OP. We arrived shortly after 1600 to replace 72 and started with the OP routine. It is nice coming up here to get away from the bullshit around camp and just enjoy the secluded scenery. I am not on shift until 2330 so I had a shower, laid out my kit and ate some dinner (German rations again!) and got some rest until my shift.

\*\*\***SATURDAY 4 JUN 1994**\*\*\* I spent my shift from 2330 until 0230 with **Cpl Strayer** and it was very quiet tonight, which was a nice change from Romeo 1. It is very cool up here as the OP is open on all sides with only wire fence for protection. It is set up like this so you can't throw a grenade in the OP but it still allows you to shoot out. The wind up here at night does not stop either. After the shift ended I went back to bed. **Sgt Hoppe** let us sleep in today as we have been on the go for the past week doing daily rotations in and out of Romeo 1. Everything is so relaxed up here it is like a mini R&R so I went and laid in the sun for a few hours and read my book. My next shift was not until 1430. Today we had some visitors from Mortar Troop come and check out the OP. They were doing a tour of all the Canadian OP's in case they had to deploy here and set up their Mortar's. Tonight was steak night in the OP. We have made a BBQ pit up here and every second day we have a meal supplement of fresh food so we are not on rations the whole time. After dinner we all got together and played cards (this time I was up 40 DM!). We just took it easy for the rest of the evening and gathered some fire wood for the Yukon stove in the tent to help keep the chill off.

\*\*\***SUNDAY 5 JUN 1994**\*\*\* During the early morning hour the rain started to come down really hard and the tent we were sleeping in began to leak along the seams. Everyone woke up and moved their cots and personal gear around to avoid getting wet and after some shuffling around everyone went back to bed. I was up again at 0530 for my OP shift and the rain was still coming down hard. I was beginning to think I was back living in BC again! It was another quiet shift as I think no one wants to fight in the rain and even Sarajevo was quiet. Just before my shift ended I heard a big crack and when I looked at the RRB antenna on the Armoured Personnel Carrier I saw that it had been struck by lightning. I left the OP and went to the APC to make sure everything was still in good working order. I did a radio check with the main camp and everything seemed to be ok. When my shift was over at 0800 I went back to the tent and fell back asleep until noon. I got up had some lunch and just bagged out the rest of the day since you could not even go outside as it just kept pouring. Everyone just kept busy by playing cards or board games all day and into the evening. I was not on shift again until 2330 tonight.

\*\*\***MONDAY 6 JUN 1994**\*\*\* My shift from 2330 to 0230 was cold and wet and the clouds had rolled in to make it even harder to see in the middle of the night. Every 15 minutes or so **Cpl Aplin** or I would walk the perimeter of the OP to make sure that everything was safe and no one was entering the OP. During the shift the RRB went down again and it was a real mess. It took us most of the shift to sort out the radio's as well. The shift ended at 0230 and we briefed the oncoming pers of the radio problem and I went to bed. I woke up at 0800 this morning and carried on with the camp routine by filling the emersion heaters and collecting the garbage for the garbage point and topping up the APC with fuel. Not much else happened the rest of the day except I was on shift again

*Continued on page 28*



from 1530 to 1800. It was another boring shift. The only good thing is the rain had finally stopped just as my shift ended and I went back to the tent for dinner. After dinner I laid down in my sleeping bag to keep warm and just listened to my diskman. Today is my stepfather **John’s** birthday and the 50th Anniversary of D-Day.

\*\*\***TUESDAY 7 JUN 1994**\*\*\* I was on shift this morning from 0530 to 0800. Even though it had stopped raining it was still cold and windy. The shelling of Sarajevo picked up this morning so that was my excitement for the shift. After my shift, I went back to the tent, got cleaned up, and made everyone French toast for breakfast. Today we were getting re-supplied from the Tp WO. We went around after breakfast and did the camp routine and collected the garbage and empty water and fuel cans to get them exchanged. The Tp WO showed up around 1100 with our supply of fresh rations and water and took all of our garbage. We then got everything sorted out and the Tp WO headed back to camp. Around 1500 the sun came out and we had some visitors show up at the OP. The British Sector Commander showed up with **SSM Torrie** (Engineers) and an entourage of officer floppers. They were having a look around the AOR and wanted to come see our OP. They even had a film crew with them that took video of us plus a photographer that took our pictures for our hometown local newspapers. They only spent about an hour at the OP then everyone was gone. Tonight we BBQ’d some steak for dinner and afterwards played some cards. Tonight my shift was at 2330.

\*\*\***WEDNESDAY 8 JUN 1994**\*\*\* Once again, the shift from 2330 to 0230 was quiet and thankfully the rain had stopped as it was a very clear night. I was on tonight with **Gord Stringer**. We are all really getting to know each other really well sitting on these OP shifts day after day! When the shift finish at 0230 we woke up the next crew and we were off to bed. I was up again at 0900, had some breakfast and did the morning camp routine. Today turned out hot and sunny so when we were done around the OP we dragged some cots outside and laid around in the sun. Today's excitement was watching Sarajevo get shelled again. Today was a worse beating than normal. We could see flames from some of the tallest buildings and some houses. The smoke just hung over top of the city. This lasted for about 2 hours off and on. I was on shift again from 1530 until 1800 and everything was all quiet again so the shift dragged on. After the shift I went for dinner and we all played cards tonight. Around 2100 the guys in the OP reported seeing the Serbs start burning down houses on the edge of Sarajevo so everyone went up to the OP to watch.

\*\*\***THURSDAY 9 JUN 1994**\*\*\* It was a beautiful day this morning when I got up for my shift at 0530. The shift did drag on but at least it was warm and no shots were fired. At 0800 I went and woke up the rest of the patrol as we had a lot to do this morning to get ready for the DP. We collected all the garbage and filled up the APC’s with diesel and filled all the water points. The Tp WO arrived around 1100 with more rations, fuel and water. I received some mail today as well from my Dad and Grandma. After lunch we heard the Serbs start shelling Sarajevo again. Today’s shelling was pretty intense. It went on for an hour strait and it was by far the most I have heard in such a small time. They must have received their DP today as well! Today the Prime Minister (**Jean Chrétien**) was in Visoko and talked to all the OP’s over the radio. It started to cloud over later in the evening but at least it stayed warm. I was again on shift tonight at 2330 with **Gord Stringer**. There was a little more activity tonight and there was shooting closer to the OP in the local villages. The snipers were pretty active in the area tonight. About half way through our shift the fog rolled in again and everything was quiet and at 0230 the shift ended.

\*\*\***FRIDAY 10 JUN 1994**\*\*\* This morning I slept in until 1100 because there was nothing to do around the OP. We are really just taking this time to get as much down time as we can before we head back to the main camp in a few days. The fog was still around the OP and it is raining off and on throughout the day. The visibility is so bad outside the OP you can’t even see the fence line from the main tent area. Yesterday, the Tp WO brought up the first delivery of Canadian rations. You really don’t know how much you miss them until you eat the German ones for a period of time! After lunch we just sat around playing cards (because the weather was so bad) and letting **Cpl Gould** take our money! I was on shift again this afternoon at 1530. Normally you hear reports from the other OP’s about something going on but everything was really quiet in the area today. After my shift ended at 1800 I just went back to the tent and ate another ration for dinner and we all played a game of Risk tonight to pass the time. I went to bed around 2200.

\*\*\***SATURDAY 11 JUN 1994**\*\*\* I was up early this morning to do my shift in the OP at 0530. The weather was still cold and damp and the fog was all around the mountain top. I only heard some small arms fire about 8 km away and was unable to see the shooting due to the poor visibility. My shift was over at 0800 and I just crawled back in my sleeping bag to get warmed up. I woke back up at 1100 and had some breakfast. We just sat around the rest of the day talking and playing cards. Tonight I made fresh supper (beef stroganoff) for everyone in the OP and it was a big hit. We look forward to the meals that are not rations! After dinner we cleaned up around the OP and the tent area. Tonight will be our last night on the OP as we are supposed to be rotated out tomorrow by another patrol. I stayed up the rest of the evening until my shift at 2330 and finally got my money back (and then some) playing cards from **Cpl Gould**!

## Whatever Happened To...?

*Alex Graf*

Inevitably, whenever two or more friends that have served together meet, that question will come up.

Throughout our careers, we have made a lot of good friends. While many still keep in touch, there are those that just seem to have dropped off the radar. Retirement, remuster, rebadging or relocation... there are numerous reasons we have lost contact with one another. Sure, some of us see each other at parades, reunions, Association meetings or other Regimental functions, but what about those who can’t make it out to these events? With the various social media groups that are out there today, there is no reason for us not to reconnect with old friends on a regular basis.

We have taken a first step in Edmonton, by establishing our own Facebook page, “Wing Night at the Den”. Currently we have just over 200 members from across the country and continue to grow. As well as our internet contact, members of the group meet together on a weekly basis in Fort Saskatchewan. Some weeks may see only two or three people, while other weeks will see a dozen or more former or current Strathconas, including those who are not from the local area and just happen to be in town that week.

If the idea of getting together with old friends appeals to you, but you don’t have a group near you, why not organize your own? If I can do it... so can you...with today’s technology there is no reason why we cannot stay connected.

If anyone is interested in joining us, either at The Den or on the Facebook page, we would love to see you. The response to these gatherings has been very positive. You can send me a message on Facebook and I will add you to the group.

As for the non-computer people or the Facebook holdouts out there... if you know one or more of these holdouts, contact them and let’s get the word out and get together!



*Left side front to back Bob Peterson, Alex Graf, Tom Falls, Don Head  
Right side front to back Bill Haberer, Bill Fitzpatrick, Rick MacMillan, Phil Friday*



# Kingston Strathconas meet with author of 'Push-On'

By John Stuckart

The Spring 2015 edition of the Newsletter contained an extract from the book *Push On*, a photographic history of the Regiment from 1936-46. The author, **Patrick Johnson**, has produced a first-class pictorial history of the Regiment during this period which is an excellent companion to the **McAvity** history, *A Record of Achievement*, which focussed on the Regiment's service during the Second World War. His interest in the Regiment stems from his uncle's wartime service with the Strathconas during the Second World War. His name was **Sgt. Gordon Fraser Johnson** and he won both an MID and the U.S. Bronze Star for Gallantry. He was killed in Holland in combat with the Regiment on 16 April 1945.

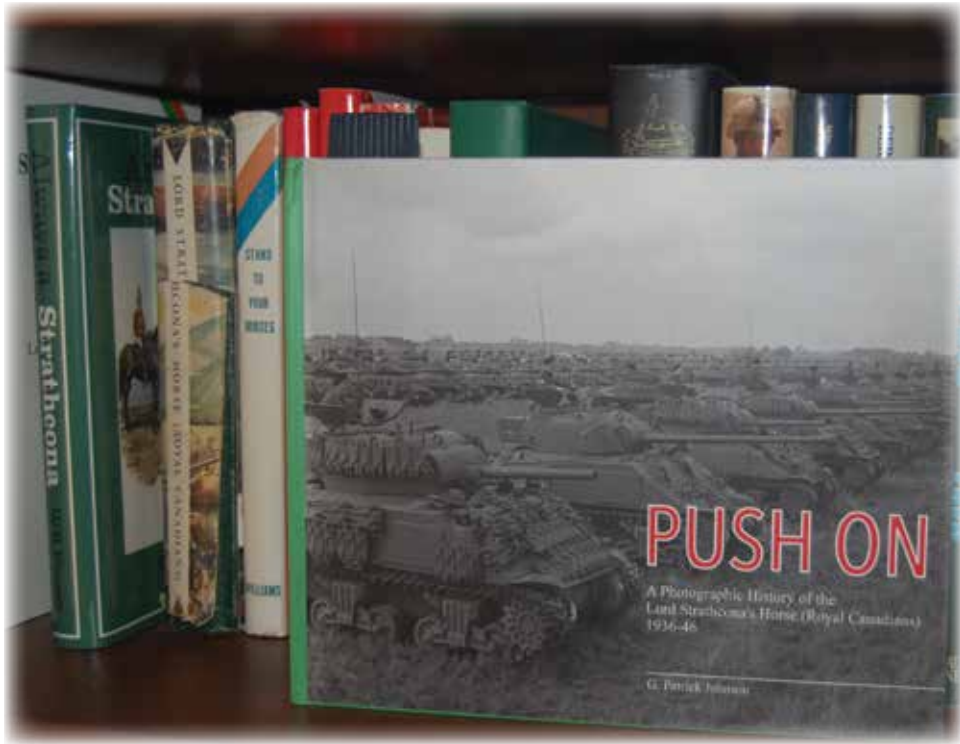
At the invitation of the Kingston chapter of the Regimental Association, **Patrick** was invited to speak on how he became involved with the research which ultimately led to the publication of the book "*Push On*". His presentation, to a group of serving and retired Strathconas on the 14th of November, 2015 at the Fort Frontenac library in Kingston was very enlightening. His two hour informal presentation described his initial interest, his involvement with veterans from this period and his quest to learn more about his Uncle and those he served with. He indicated that in his research which began in the early 80's he often came across veterans who had lost contact with the Regimental Family and of whom three quarters were not active members of the Association. From an initial collection of 30 photos and early interviews, his research blossomed to over 100 veterans across Canada from the regiment and over 2500 photos many which had not been seen or recorded in archives at the Regiment or in Ottawa. Of note to present day members of the Regimental Family, many of the stories and pictures came to light with the active support of wives and children of these veterans. **Patrick** indicated that this support was crucial when cross checking dates, names, locations as his research grew. For those who attended (and purchased) copies of the book, this was an eye opening experience into the service and experiences of those who served as Strathconas.


The book is 440 pages long, in colour and black and white. It has 1386 photos, five maps, a Ram tank graphic, and over 55 uniform shots included in its pages. Along with the photos, there are excerpts from over 100 interviews with pre-war and wartime Strathconas, along with diary entries and biographies of all the four key commanding officers. Lastly it features the most accurate award listings compiled to date and includes the award citations for all the key medal winners of the Regiment. Over 75% of the photos in *Push On* are not held by the Regimental Archives or have not been seen outside of individual veteran's photo albums.

You may view select pages from the book by going online to the following URL:

<http://www.blurb.ca/b/6245819-push-on>.

When you click on "Preview" then you can select a large icon in the lower right hand corner that will make the page images full size, to permit reading of the pages. For anyone interested in purchasing a signed copy and at the best price possible that they can contact **Patrick** directly at [PushOn@bell.net](mailto:PushOn@bell.net).






Push On

<http://www.blurb.ca/b/6245819-push-on>

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Push On

A Photographic History of Lord Strathcona's Horse (Royal Canadians) 1936-46

by G. Patrick Johnson

share Like 0

Comments

Hardcover, ImageWrap

CAD \$155.00

Quantity 1

Add To Cart

ABOUT THE BOOK

LIMITED TIME OFFER: Signed copies may be ordered directly from the author at [PushOn@bell.net](mailto:PushOn@bell.net) for the price of \$136.00 + tax + shipping. For those familiar with the Regiment's history during the Second World War this book's title will have instant recognition. At the Mefta River action on 24-25 May 1944, Lieutenant-Colonel P.G. Griffin's orders to "push on" were heard repeatedly over the regiment's wireless network throughout the course of the battle. Embodying the spirit of the Regiment's motto "Perseverance," these memorable words by the Regiment's Commanding Officer were spoken to evoke a fighting spirit in the men and to press the attack despite





# LAST TRUMPET CALL

**BARNHART, Harold** Age 86, 21 June, 2014, ON

**BODFIELD, Howie** Cambridge, ON

**BUCHAN, George** Age 67, 6 May, 2015, Calgary, AB

**BURROW, Arthur** Age 83, 15 August, 2015, New Westminster, BC

**CADY, Earl** Age 79, 30 October, 2015, Edmonton, AB

**COLEMAN, Read** Age 42, 10 October, 2015, Edmonton, AB

**DESROSIERS, Guy** Age 53, 25 September, 2015

**DUIN, Jerry** Age 75, 24 August 2014, Calgary, AB

**DUTCHAK, Robert** Age 82, Two Hills, AB

**FINNIGAN, Harold** 9 March, 2015

**FORBER, Thomas** Age 89, 19 September, 2015, West Kelowna, BC

**FORD, William** Age 92, 28 May, 2015, Barrie, ON

**HAYWARD, Cecil** Age 97, 30 September, 2015, Unity, SK

**LEGG, Fred** Age 88, 24 April, 2015, Sidney, BC

**MACDOUGAL, Tom** Age 76, 1 September, 2015, Medicine Hat, AB

**MCMAHON, Ken** Age 86, 18 May, 2015, Woodstock, ON

**MUNDEN, Reg** Age 84, October, 2015 Calgary, AB

**OLSON, Merl** Age 91, 2 June, 2015, Edmonton, AB

**PLUMRIDGE, Robert** Age 91, 20 July, 2014, Thunder Bay, ON

**SERVICE, George** 30 August, 2015

**UNRAU, John** Age 42, 1 July, 2015, Edmonton, AB

**VON REITMYER, Jon** Age 33, 21 October, 2015, Edmonton, AB

**WATSON, Dick** Age 86, 17 November, 2015, St. Thomas, ON

**YOUNG, Richard** Age 69, 8 September, 2015, Sarnia, ON

## In Loving Memory of Wives

**BIERHURST, Muriel** (Fred) Smith Cove, NS

**KENNEDY, Dorothy** (Pete) 13 October, 2015, Calgary, AB

**MACKAY, Gladys** (George), September, 2014, Ottawa, ON

**MILLER, Olga** (Gary), 26 May, 2015, Victoria, BC

**PANKHURST, Margaret** (Ron) 11 October, 2015, Calgary, AB

**SCALETТА, Betty** (Frank), 5 September, 2015, Winnipeg, MB

*Our apologies for lack of details in some cases*