



Lord Strathcona's Horse (Royal Canadians)

REGIMENTAL SOCIETY NEWSLETTER

FALL 2017

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

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LdSH(RC) Regimental Society

PO Box 10500 Station Forces
Edmonton, AB T5J 4J5



Online Edition

Colonel of the Regiment

Colonel Greg Hug

As the fall weather starts to creep in and we close out 2017, it's my honour to address you and recap some of the goings on within the Regimental family.

The Regiment has had a busy eight months with various deployments on operations abroad and at home. The CO and the 2IC will describe the training mission in the Ukraine, and the forest firefighting in British Columbia respectively.

On the 1st of July I had the pleasure of meeting with our Colonel in Chief, **HRH Prince Charles** at Rideau Hall. I also had the opportunity to meet the Governor General. **Prince Charles** asked me to pass on his best wishes to the Regiment and his regrets for not being able to visit the Regiment in Edmonton during his visit to Canada. Unfortunately, my interaction with the Prince was limited in time due to the number of guests at Rideau Hall for the event.

We have continued to progress planning for various events across the country and in France to commemorate the 100th anniversary of the Battle of Moreuil Wood. I am aware of events planned for Edmonton with the Regiment, Calgary, Kingston, Ottawa, and Gagetown. I have just learned that a kind donation from Spruce Meadows will allow the Mounted Troop to participate in France. Fundraising is ongoing to allow more soldiers to attend the commemoration in France. We are also pursuing a small unit exchange with our Allied Regiment to add another contingent in France. I expect there will be other events planned soon. I recommend that for details on the events being planned you visit the website www.strathconas.ca.

There have been some changes within your Regimental Family over the summer and fall. **Brigadier General Trevor Cadieu** has assumed the Senior Serving Strathcona position from **Brigadier General Derek Macaulay**. **Colonel Paul Peyton** has re-assumed the position of Regimental Colonel and **Colonel (Retired) Jim Ellis** is now a member of the Society Board of Directors in a former CO position. **Mr. Kurby Court** has had to resign due to potential conflict of interest concerns; we are looking to replace him with another Civilian Director. We are making significant progress with the development of a strategic plan, a better governance framework, and a more robust budget for the Society and Foundation.

We still have a requirement for volunteers to come forward and work within the Society. There's a genuine need for a team of individuals to work on the Heritage Committee and the Museum Sub-committee. I would ask interested people to contact the Regiment or myself at your earliest convenience.

I wish to extend my best wishes to you and yours as we approach the holiday season. Take the time to relax, recharge and spend quality time with family and friends. I hope that you will have an opportunity to participate in one of the many commemoration activities across Canada in 2018 as we remember those Strathconas who have gone before us while we recognize the centennial of the Battle of Moreuil Wood.



HRH Prince Charles and Col (Ret'd) Hug at Rideau Hall.

Commanding Officer

Lieutenant-Colonel Mark Lubiniecki

It is a pleasure to once again be able to communicate with each and every one of you through the Regimental Society Newsletter. Having had the opportunity to work closely with a number of our NATO Partnered nations overseas, it became extremely evident that we, as a Regimental Family, conduct ourselves very differently from our Eastern and even Western Allies. The 'Family' aspect of the Regiment is something that does not exist within most other military structures, as most of you will know first-hand. That is why providing continued support to our Society, Association, and the Regimental Family as a whole is so important and must not be allowed to decline. Volunteers are instrumental, as is membership. I would ask you to please consider how you may be best able to support and reach out to your local representatives to volunteer in any capacity you feel you may be able to contribute.

Despite being in the 'Reconstitution / Support' year of the Managed Readiness Plan, the Regiment's tempo has not declined. Exercise Steel Sabre was conducted in Sept-Oct timeframe seeing Squadrons achieve level 3 live training (Troop level Live Fire). This was followed up with the 1 CMBG Brigade Exercise, Exercise Iron Ram, during the Oct-Nov timeframe. Running in conjunction with Ex Iron Ram were the Combat Team Commander's Course, Infantry Dismounted Company Commander's Course, DP 4 Armoured Sergeant Major Course, and the DP4 Infantry Sergeant-Major Course. In an effort to fit even more training into the exercises, we had the Wainwright Range Control adjust the weather machine to drop temperatures to the negative double digits and add a significant amount of snow. The end result was our ability to complete Winter Warfare Training for a significant number of the Regiment concurrently.

At the time of writing, Black Hat week was close upon us and we were extremely fortunate to have the pleasure to Dine-Out Colonels (ret'd) **Jamie Cade**, **Spike Hazleton**, and **Dave "Dog" Rundle**. The remainder of the week was comprised of Career Manager briefings, Professional Development sessions with a focus on Hybrid Warfare and Russia, and the Second Annual Trooper Funk Games – a day of challenges put on by the Track Pad Mess to welcome new Troopers to the Regiment and crown a Top Trooper at the end of the day. The highlight for me from last year was a replicated musket-line where Sqn's faced off against one another with paintball guns and would fire a volley at each other before advancing over their fallen comrade's one pace at a time.

In closing, I would like to take a few lines to highlight some of the continued efforts to support Moreuil Wood 2018 activities both in Edmonton and in France. The activities in Edmonton will be focussed on a 48 hour period to include the parade, PD sessions, Open House at the Regt, access to view Flowerdew's Victoria Cross and the Munnings paintings, social beer calls / meet and greets, as well as Mess Dinners. By focussing the activities over 48 hrs, we believe that we will increase the number of participants who would otherwise not be able to take off more time from work, be willing to commit additional finances to additional accommodations, etc.

The activities in France will be focussed on sending 75 soldiers (from the Regiment as well as a number who are posted outside of the Regiment) to Moreuil Wood to participate in a number of activities in the town of Moreuil, at the Woods themselves, and conclude with a tour of Vimy. All of this information (in greater detail) is on the Regimental Society Website. I also highlight the Battlefield tours being headed by **Brian Talty**. None of this would not have been possible without the support of a number of key Friends of the Regiment, all of whom will be proudly announced and recognized in the new year. I would also like to highlight the efforts of the Regimental 2IC, **Major Al Wong**, in all of the sponsorship, fundraising, and exchange programs that he has coordinated personally to increase the number of soldiers to 75. I would ask that you all take a moment to review the fundraising program that he has established to sell commemorative Lances. If you or anyone you know would be interested, please have them review the details on the Regimental Society Website. All proceeds go directly to supporting Moreuil Wood 2018 activities.

I look forward to seeing as many of you as possible in the months to come, be it during the Moreuil Wood celebrations, or your taking the time to stop by the Regiment for a coffee and a tour to see what has changed, and probably more likely, what has stayed the same.

Regimental Sergeant-Major

Chief Warrant Officer Rob Clarke

Just over a year has passed since I last put pen to paper for the Regimental Society Newsletter, and I know it's cliché to ask - but where did the time go?

Feeling as if it were only a week ago, last November was a flurry of activity within the Regiment as we were just named the lead mounting unit for Joint Task Force-Ukraine (JTF-U) and I worked to fill the various positions within the proposed ORBAT while re-balancing the Regiment as it pertained to manning. Since then, the Regiment completed the full 7 month rotation which produced exceptional results, added another troop-sized element to the NATO forward presence mission in Latvia, deployed upwards of 20 additional Strathconas/ Support Trade personnel to places such as Iraq, Jordan, and Afghanistan, and simultaneously completed the various tasks that proudly showcase our Regiment at home - such as our continued participation at Spruce Meadows, the Calgary Stampede, and several other noteworthy ventures.

All this is incredibly hard to believe given the reach and global influence our soldiers have had abroad over the last 12 months. On top of it, our soldiers also deployed domestically in rapid-response to the wildfires that raged in British Columbia this fall. An incredible tempo this year to say the least, but through it all I was reminded of just how professional, diverse, and skilled our soldiers are and continue to be when faced with an uphill climb. Impressive....especially since all they want is 'more of it.' Yes, it's OK to wish you were back in.

That said, 2018 will be just as fast-paced and ground-breaking as we introduce/implement the new Tactical Patrol Vehicle (TAPV), re-shape the entire Regiment in order to commence the road to high readiness (R2HR) in September, and of historic significance, celebrate the battle of Moreuil Wood in both Edmonton and France. All enormous endeavours to be sure, especially when you consider that well over 1000 serving/retired Strathconas will undoubtedly descend upon Edmonton between 21-23 March 18, but I can assure you that the Regiment is poised to deliver on all fronts. Stay connected as updates will be flowing in the coming months.

I would also like to take this opportunity to highlight the efforts of our Association and National Executive at large – led by none other than **Peter Wonderham**. Forever known as 'RSM' to me, **Mr Wonderham** has 'crew-commanded' the Association through what some would call a period of transition as he both strengthened and expanded our ranks with help from many of you. Understanding that our veteran numbers are sadly in decline, Peter has called-upon (some would say 'challenged') the younger generation to pick-up the torch and move it forward; something I can assure you, the Regiment supports. Whether it's a local wing night, beer call, or even a phone call from an old pal, we need to get in touch with one another and we need to spread the word. There are Strathconas out there that want nothing more than to chat with someone that understands, and more importantly, there are several others who need to. Be that ear - that shoulder - that voice.

Lastly, I just wanted to reflect on the passing of **Padre Greene**. A great man who served his country, regiment, community, and church with vigour, several of your Regiment's soldiers were honoured to attend his funeral just a few short weeks ago. I know **Padre Greene** ouched us all in a different way through the years, but I can honestly say it was great to see the newest generation of Strathconas present and learning what it meant to be revered as a beloved father, a caring friend, and a brave soldier. Something I'm sure they will all carry with them going forward.

Take care of yourselves and each other.

Spring 2018 Edition Deadline

The deadline for submissions for the Spring 2018 Strathcona Regimental Society Newsletter is

15 April 2018

Submissions are to be forwarded to
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

Regimental Association Family Update

Chief Warrant Officer (Ret'd) Peter Wonderham

I will try to keep this brief yet cover all the bases. Your Regimental Association is in good shape. Our numbers remain just below 300, however I will address that in a bit.

I am extremely pleased with the contributions the individual branches and their committees are making to the welfare and objectives of our Association. This year, as in past, your branches have hosted Memorial events, golf tournaments, BBQs and luncheons as well as informal gathering. There is no need to list them but what is important to do is recognize those who have stood out in their efforts. Some of those who contribute a great deal are like stealth bombers who fly under the radar. We do see you.

I have mentioned **Bill Wood** in the past as having worked very hard in hosting a BC interior mini-reunion/gathering. Thank you Bill.

The Victoria Branch Chairman **Richard Kitcher** and his crew of Association and Island Blackhatters continue to use their fantastic weather and facilities to host memorial and social events on the Island. I know **Cam Ross** also continues to play a key role in this group.

The Edmonton Branch under **Tom Falls** is doing yeoman work with his committee and ever-growing branch membership. **Mike Hogan**, the Branch treasurer, has had some health concerns yet is front and center with his support to the Branch and Association. **Alex Graf** hosts and sponsors 'Wings at the Bears Den'. He has not only promoted these popular events but encourages the younger generation to get involved. Alex's years of support to the Association in Edmonton are valued and appreciated.

The Kingston and Ottawa Branch under **Kevin Mulhern** is perhaps the busiest and most energetic branch nationally. Thanks from all of us goes out to familiar names such as **Dave McLeod**, **Tom Martineau**, **Jamie Cade** and, of course, **John Stuckart**. Those in the immediate area are fortunate indeed to have you share your time and continued loyalty to the Regimental family. Thank you all.

In Ottawa those who gather are thankful to **Major John Kim** for his planning of their events. Our eastern most Branch in Oromocto currently headed by **Dan Hone** (the Strathcona family knows you Dan, you cannot hide in the Maritimes) has hosted such events as the Melfa River Classic Golf tournament and a Moreuil Wood gathering with guests from as far away as PEI and NS. On behalf of the Association, I would thank **John Goobie**, **CWO Tom Holland**, and **WO Neil Miller** for all their efforts and sage organizational skills. **Rob Gould's** name was mentioned but I cannot imagine what he has done now. Just sayin' Rob!

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I saved our Association Executive and Committees for last because I really cannot say enough. **Howie Owen**, the Vice, has been the cornerstone of the Association for a very long time and his dedication comes not only from his time but from his heart. **Clair Lane** is our treasurer and the Calgary Branch Chairman. I have pictures of Clair in an Association gathering when the Regiment was in Calgary in 1993 and he is still on our executive and always there to balance our figures and secure the membership dues that arrive daily. Our Secretary, **Brad Norman** is a full time District Sergeant with the Calgary Police force yet not only finds time for his Association Officer position, but he and his family host our Branch annual Golf tournament. **Slider "Keith" Welch**, and of course his entire membership committee "**Mary**", must be thanked by all of us for what they do on a daily basis to ensure our nominal roles are accurate, mail sent out and received, swag ordered and a list of other Association chores they carry out. (He wanted me to remind all members that if there is a contact change, either your mail or email, to let him and his committee know.) These fine Strathconas also attend and support our 5 meetings a year. I could easily write a page on each of them. Thank you.

Thank you as well, **Kathy**. A short sentence, but your continued support to the Association goes a lot deeper than most know.

Without these folks, no matter the membership numbers, we would not have the successful Association that we currently enjoy.

This summer I put out a request for feedback as it pertained to the date and location of the next National reunion. The feedback came from members of the Association, Society and of course key stakeholders of the Regiment. It has been decided that our next Reunion will be held and hosted in Edmonton in June 2020. This should also coincide with Changes in Command and Appointments. I wish I could tell you more now, however the organizing committee and new executive will give you as much heads up as they can as the date draws closer.

To another point. Since I have been an Executive of the Association I have never asked collectively or outright for retired Strathconas to become members. Of course, I have jokingly reminded some senior officers that membership in the Association does not come with their commissioning scroll. Our membership dues of \$20.00 have not increased since I can remember but our expenses have. It would be a great show of support and **THANK YOU** for those volunteers who give of their time, if retired Strathconas of all generation would download, from our website, a membership form or contact Slider and join the Association as a paid-up card holding member. We have researched electronic payments, but our current staff is not able to do that.

I really do not like to be so straightforward, but I guess old habits are hard to break, even in retirement. I have honestly tried to keep this article brief but I thought it important to say what was said. I never even took the time to mention that we celebrated **Shad's** birthday this summer. I cannot remember the date, but it was 80 years from his birth. There I go again letting my filter slip.



Celebrating 98 Years with Maj (ret'd) Marian

Colonel Pascal Demers

The Canadian Embassy in Warsaw had the privilege of hosting **Pan (Mr.) Marian's** 98th birthday on 8 May 2017. **Pan Marian** is the perfect example to illustrate the strong bonds that have existed between Canada and Poland for over 70 years.

Pan Marian loves to tell people that he meets that "Canada has saved me twice." This statement is almost always followed by a description of both instances. The first time he was saved by Canadians was during World War II in 1944 during the Falaise Pocket. **Pan Marian**, at the time Major Marian, was a member of the 1st Polish Armoured Division attached to the 1st Canadian Army during the invasion of Occupied France, and fought alongside Canadians during Operations TOTALIZE and TRACTABLE.

The speed of the Allied advance into France had caught the German Wermacht off guard and by 19 August 1944 the Allies had managed to have 3 German Armies nearly encircled. The 1st Polish Armoured Division with the 4th Canadian Armoured Division was tasked to perform the final manoeuvres and complete the encirclement. The Polish units occupied their positions, on and near the famous Hill 262, and fought against relentless German counterattacks. The Polish armour successfully repulsed the attacks but incurred heavy losses and depleted nearly all their ammunition. Finally, on the afternoon of 21 August, after brutal fighting at very close quarters during the morning, the first Canadian armoured units began to link-up with the battered 1st Polish Armoured Division elements. By the evening of the 21st the link-up was complete and the area was secured.

The second time **Pan Marian** was saved by Canadians was slightly less dramatic but considerably more long term. Following the ceasefire, and eventual end of the War in Europe, **Pan Marian** returned to Poland. Poland had changed considerably during his absence and was now under the control of an interim government that was essentially controlled by the Soviet Union. Many of the returning soldiers who had fought alongside Allied units in the West were persecuted by the Communist Regime and finding a steady job was almost impossible. **Pan Marian**, unable to find a job anywhere else, came to the Canadian Embassy in Warsaw to seek employment. He was subsequently hired and worked in the embassy until his retirement in 1984.

Pan Marian is a fixture at the Canadian Embassy in Warsaw; a place he refers to as "his second home." He organized the "Two Rocks Monument" which resides in front of the Embassy and was unveiled in 1999. Erected to commemorate the soldiers who fought together in World War II, the monument consists of a rock from both Canada and Poland symbolising the brotherhood of arms between Polish and Canadian soldiers.

Spending time at **Pan Marian's** birthday was a great opportunity; meeting with WWII veterans is becoming more and more difficult. **Pan Marian** is a strong reminder of the bonds between Poland and Canada, bonds many of us may not even be aware of. These relationships have continued to stay strong in the 21st century. Canada was the first nation to provide soldiers in a stand of solidarity with Poland against the actions of Russia further to the East, 4 years ago during the Crimean Crisis. Although this is our final year in Poland, Canadian soldiers will continue to serve beside our Polish allies in Latvia as part of NATO's Enhanced Forward Presence. Canada's participation in Eastern Europe with NATO is a very important undertaking and will ensure that the relationship between Canada and Poland, among others, remains strong for many years to come.

Dzienkuje bardzo, Pan Pulkownik. (Thank you, Colonel). Ed.



Your Dispatches

I thought you would find a recent story that was published online called North West Mounted Police and The Strathcona's Horse of interest.

*To add ... such a small world. My father, then **Major R.J. Graham**, moved from a Scottish regiment in North Africa to the Strathcona's in Italy during WW2, where they fought northward, eventually landing at Marseille where they joined the D-Day invasion forces pushing east. Some Canadian regiments continued into the lowlands to clean out the fortified enemy. The Strathconas were in the thick of it. Father was badly wounded with a sucking chest wound in a tank battle in Holland towards the end of the war but after a long stint in an English hospital, he returned, stayed in the Army and went on to be the Strathcona's Commanding Officer in the mid '50s, eventually retiring as Canada's Military Advisor to the High Commissioner in India.*

*I've included a photo from a Calgary newspaper showing Field Marshall Montgomery, 1st Viscount Montgomery of Alamein inspecting the regiment, circa 1954-ish and taking the salute from my father. Cleanest jeep of all time I was told. I was six years old then, and later found out from my RCMP Inspector (then Constable) **Gus Buziak**, who was employed on security, that he had to keep kicking me off the parade square. Couldn't have been me ... I'd have remembered!*

I donated father's medals and his black and white photo book of the war (many names written on the back of pics) to the Strathcona museum after his death in 1988. I wore that same Sam Browne

and sword (the one in the picture) at many RCMP, Vancouver and Victoria Police Department parades and formal events between 1988 and 2013. The whistle mounted to the shoulder strap was unique but I was allowed to wear it with the kind permission of the Commissioner of the day.

One question, does the museum still have a large Bengal Tiger skin that I donated to the museum about 15 years ago? Someone mentioned to me that he recalls seeing it hanging on the wall of a CO. I was just curious to know if it ended back in the Museum's collection and not in the hands of a retired soldier.

<http://www.rcmpveteransvancouver.com/north-west-mounted-police-and-the-strathconas-horse/>

Jamie Graham

*Great story, Jamie. Since we know that Mounties never lie, we are inclined to believe that you were the one on the parade square! As for the Bengal Tiger skin, you will be pleased to know that it is proudly hanging behind the CO's desk and remains a topic of interest to those who visit, even the ones under the RSM's escort. **Ed.***

Now with a year's retirement from the United Church ministry I had in Unity, SK, where we settled after retirement from the CF in 1987, I remember our service with the Regiment and the tour in Cyprus in 79/80.

I am now in retirement a certified gunsmith, a sort of land weapons technician - It's fun!

Roselis is now in long term care (very ill). My health is poor too.

George Ward

George. It is great to hear from you and especially to learn of your transfer to Weapons Tech. We should have put you to work in the LAD! We are very sorry to learn that you and Roselis are not in the

*best of health and we send our best wishes. Remember, PERSEVERENCE is a great cure-all. **Ed.***

I read an interesting clip from the National Post on BATUS. At the bottom of the article there are the usual comments, however one in particular caught my interest.

"I was one of those many British tankers that trained at BATUS. I was there in 1985. We had the biggest beer blast with our allied Regiment, the Lord Strathconas ever. Some of our guys and some of the Strathconas swapped uniforms and a bunch of Brits ended up in Calgary and an equal number of Canadians woke up in our barracks the next day. Epic piss up! Doug Sword"

<http://news.nationalpost.com/news/canada/albertas-british-invasion-massive-military-base-allows-troops-from-u-k-to-replicate-war>

Cam Ross

*Clearly some things never change. Thanks for sharing Cam. **Ed.***

I had served in Calgary at Currie Barracks from December 1953 to December 1956. Please, if possible, can I obtain a list of the names of my co-Members in 'B' Squadron, I had a list but misplaced it. I would very much like to try to get in touch with any who are still alive, since we are all now in our high 80-90s. Also if there any Pictures that would also be great.

*Albert A. Sprenger,
Regimental Number is 10290
trebla1@shaw.ca*

*Thank you for your email. We have sent your request our Museum Curator in the hopes that our gallery might have a list of B Sqn members from that time that could be shared with you. We are also including your e-mail address in the off chance that one of our readers will contact you. **Ed.***

Moreuil Wood 2018 Activities

Where will you be in March 2018?

The countdown to the 100th Anniversary of the Battle of Moreuil Wood has begun. The Regimental Society in conjunction with the Regiment has commenced planning this celebration with the intent of having key events take place in two primary locations; Edmonton and France.

strathconas.ca/mw-2018

National Capital Region (Ottawa)

22 March 18

1600-1620: Private tour/lecture of Moreuil Wood given by a historian in the Canadian War Museum

1620-1630: Q&A

1630-1645: Free time to walk around the gallery

1645-1700: Transit from museum to Mill St. Brewery

1700-1730: Meet & Greet in the Mill St. Room (private lounge in 2nd floor)

1730-1930: Semi-Formal meal

1930: Reception

Calgary Branch

Our Branch will host a Moreuil Wood Memorial Dinner at the Horton Road Legion, in Calgary, on **31 March 2018** from 1700 to 2200 hrs. We are also planning a gathering and museum tours on Friday afternoon 30 March 2018. More details will follow on this event.

Kingston Ontario Branch

Plans are well underway to celebrate the Battle of Moreuil Wood the weekend **23 – 25 Mar** with a Meet and Greet at the RMC Staff Mess on Friday night, a mixed dinner in the Fort Frontenac Officers Mess and a Sunday Morning Brunch in the same location for those in need of solid food. All events are open to all ranks – serving and retired, of course. If you are interested in attending and are not on the Ontario Branch mailing list, please drop a line to: Kevin Mulhern, (Maxx091558@gmail.com.)



Spotlight on Strathcona's

We often hear about members of the Strathcona Family being recognized in National or local media. Why not share with the entire Regimental Family? Forward your submissions to newsletter@strathconas.ca



Under the heading New World Disorder, the new section at the National War Museum now explores key Canadian operations during the Gulf War, and those in Somalia, Rwanda, the former Yugoslavia and Afghanistan. The Olympic torch that was presented to **Major John Russell** is one of the items that will be on long-term display at the War Museum in the section, which is part of our “permanent” galleries.

<http://ottawacitizen.com/news/local-news/in-living-memory-war-museum-unveils-updated-gallery-from-gulf-war-to-afghanistan>



Keep an eye out for the March/April 2018 Legion Magazine which will feature a major article written by **Col (Ret'd) John Boileau** about the Battle of Moreuil Wood.



The Brooks Bulletin published an article about their local Air Cadets which included a photo of **Ron Howard** awarding the Lord Strathcona Medal. See photo on page 18.

Memories of Moreuil Wood Days Past

Roger Acreman

Sometime ago, 20 January to be precise, I received an e-mail with the subject heading, “Where will you be in March 2018?” The subject of course referred to the centennial anniversary of the famous mounted cavalry charge at Moreuil Wood. This e-mail stimulated a couple of memories and I promised myself that I would write something for Regimental Society Newsletter. With that in mind I kept the e-mail in my “in basket” as a reminder and there it sat until today. No more procrastination!

My first thought was that the editors of the Newsletter couldn’t count. It was not possible that the centennial was on the near horizon, as I had attended the 50th Anniversary. Whoa... time has indeed passed by, and quickly. So here is a short blurb on my experience on the 50th.

In 1968 the Regiment was stationed in Iserlohn, Germany. **Rene Gutknecht** was the CO and **Bob Gross** was the 2 IC. I was in RHQ. Not sure if I was the LO or the Recce Tp Ldr. One day the CO called me in and said that I would lead the Guidon Party, a party of the three including the legendary **Colby Yeomans**, to Winnipeg for the 50th Anniversary. Fantastic!

This should have been a straightforward task, but then there was the issue of how to get the Guidon and its staff pole onto the Boeing 707 taking us to Canada. The Guidon and staff had to be carry-on items – the length of the pole was problematic. The solution? Have the carpenter make a sectional pole. Done! All is well – NOT!

On arrival in Winnipeg the intrepid threesome checked into the Fort Garry Hotel. I changed into patrol dress for dinner and decided to check in on **Colby**. We had a drink in his room and then I inquired as to whether we were good to go with the Guidon. Colby pulled it out of its case, along with the two sections of the staff. He then attempted to screw the two sections together, but the wood failed, as the thread had disintegrated. Show time was a mere 30 minutes away! We panicked. What should we do?

In desperation I sauntered – ran actually – down to the cocktail lounge where I managed to find a roll of electrician’s tape and some swizzle sticks. With these tools in hand we managed to fashion a splint to keep the two sections of the staff together.

The Guidon was duly marched in and placed to the right of the head table which was situated on a wobbly dais. Each time a server stepped onto the dais the Guidon shuddered and bent slightly at the improvised splint. We watched the scene with morbid fascination. Would it fall? If it fell, what would we do? The consequences of such a traumatic event would linger for years and tarnish our reputations forever. Fortunately, our splint and our good luck held. The Guidon made it safely through the evening and we and it returned, intact, to Germany.

The following year the CO decided to celebrate Moreuil Wood a few days early to give the Regiment a long weekend off. I was in the Mess enjoying a beer at TGIF when one of the new subalterns came up to me and said that there was an old German at the front door of the Mess and in broken English he was trying to say something about Moreuil Wood.

I sauntered over to the front door and had a chat with the visitor. It seems that he had read about our commemoration in the local paper and he wanted us to know that we had the wrong date. He said that the date 30 March was fixed firmly in his mind because he had been in the German Pioneer Corps on that day and had witnessed the charge. Imagine! An eyewitness to one of our most famous actions. I invited him in and we enjoyed numerous drinks with those present.

Where will we be in March 2018? Not sure. It would be nice to commemorate the Centennial with the Regiment in Edmonton. If this is not possible, our thoughts will be on the Charge at Moreuil Wood regardless of where we are.

In the interval I will continue to enjoy monthly lunches with the Atlantic Chapter of The Royal Canadian Dragoons. These events are open to all Black Hats and include many who served with the Strathconas including the likes of

“Red” Hayes, Tom Urbanowsky, Bill Sandeson, Monty MacMillan, Winston Childs, Darrel Deleavey and Don Murrin.

I commend those involved with the writing and distribution of the Newsletter; you do a tremendous job of keeping us up to date and entertained. I am forwarding a small donation to support your great work separately.

Medal Memories

David Sproule

When I was a boy I became aware of medals from WW1 when snooping in a drawer in my Dad’s study. They were still in the little white boxes mailed to my Grandfather and were the medals of my departed uncles who I later learned died in the mud of Flanders. One had the 1914-15 “Mons” Star as well. After the Second War, my Dad’s CVSM and Victory medal joined these little boxes. He was a proud veteran of both Wars but never felt the need to have his medals mounted, however I do remember him being at the local cenotaph in Port Credit, Ontario. When I was in my 30’s Dad entrusted me with all of the Family medals and after my parents were gone, I parceled the uncles’ medals off to my brothers who bore their names. I still have my Dad’s although now mounted by me.



As a young officer in the Dragoons the left breast of my tunic remained naked until I was presented with the UNEF medal by **Lieutenant-General PS Gyani**, the UNEF Commander in Camp Rafah, May 21, 1962. It was a proud moment for me and for **Norm Ashton** standing next to me. For all of the junior officers and most of the soldiers it was our first medal. I would have to wait another 10 years when in the Fall of 1972, **LCol Jim Fox**, the CO of the Strathcona’s pinned the CD on me at a parade at Sarcee Barracks. That was all I would earn in my military career. From 1978 - 80, I was Executive director of the NWT Council of St. John and our mission was to provide first aid and home care course throughout the NWT - no mean task in pre-internet days along with spotty and expensive air travel and so I earned a Serving Brother award from the Priory based in Ottawa. My final “gong” was the Canadian Peacekeeping Medal which the government awarded back in the 1990s. I have received a couple of unofficial medals that are also important to me , the BC Regiment medal awarded to honour the 100th anniversary of the Regiment’s Drill Hall in Vancouver and the Nobel Medal produced to recognize military Peacekeepers in the world as a result of Peacekeepers being awarded the Nobel Peace Prize in 1988. Canada did not recognize this medal but chose to produce its own medal. I knew that as far as medals go that is about it for me and so I kept them wrapped in a silk handkerchief within an antique wooden box along with all of the other family medals, in order to protect them.

I recently attended a BC Regiment change-of-command parade, travelling from Victoria to Vancouver for the event. I parked in the lot across from then Drill Hall and for a very few seconds I left my car unlocked as I went to the machine to pay for my parking as I had to return to my car for my blazer and shoulder bag. I had placed my medals inside my beret in the shoulder bag. In those few seconds a thief was into my car and grabbed my shoulder bag and was gone. Although my medals can all be replaced I did feel a sense of loss of these personal items each with its own story. I had taken a photo of my medal group and was able to provide it to the police but so far nothing. They probably have exchanged hands and been broken up and maybe helped someone by their next “fix”. Ultimately everything has a price and can be sold. Of course I’m embarrassed by my momentary lapse in memory but I know I’m also not the first person to have their medals stolen. I have taken steps to replace my medals but of course now they will always be replacements. And so, what have I learned - well, ensure that you have a good quality photo to pass along to the police (mine still may show up), thieves are watching you at places like city parking lots and if you have medals, consider purchasing a replacement set to begin with and use them and not the originals for your official commitments. Just a suggestion. Remembrance Day is in a few days and I will just have to wear my miniatures - just not the same though.

Fall 2017 Tracked Light Armoured Vehicle Course

Trooper M.W. Thompson

Lord Strathcona's Horse (Royal Canadians) has recently completed another Tracked Light Armoured Vehicle (TLAV) course for fall 2017. Nine soldiers from various squadrons within the Regiment including Armoured Crewman and Signallers completed the week of in-class learning. Candidates also varied in time and experience at the Regiment, with some even being new to the Regiment and/or armoured vehicles.



The course kicked off with a briefing from the Course Officer, **Lieutenant Dixon** and Course Warrant, **Warrant Officer Thompson**, and then candidates were broken into two sections led by **Master Corporal Gordon** and **Master Corporal Campbell**. Right away candidates knew they were in good hands. The course staff had a vast amount of experience. They were very knowledgeable, helpful, and provided candidates with everything they needed to succeed in the course. At times, candidates also joined the Leopard 2 Loader/ Gunner Course for morning PT sessions. Candidates were lucky to have the opportunity to learn on different variations of the TLAV including the M113A3, MTVL, and "Queen Mary" Command Post variant.

Throughout the week, candidates faced morning written tests aimed at familiarizing them with aspects of the TLAV including cooling, air cleaning, fuel, electrical, and lubrication systems. Servicing the TLAV components and learning how to conduct daily and monthly inspections were a key portion of the course that candidates spent a lot of time on. Candidates were also provided the opportunity to work with the maintenance crew to get hands on experience removing and installing road wheels and track on the TLAV. At the end of the week it was time for instructors to conduct the final practical assessment of the candidates on everything they had learned throughout the course and all candidates were successful.

Overall, the course was generally relaxed, and candidates arrived every day, excited to learn about the TLAV. Candidates experienced a positive atmosphere in class that fostered a great learning environment.

From Tank Gunner to Kilt Maker – Afghan Vet Lands On His Feet, With A Twirl!

By Cam Ross

Jackson Wagner is the co-owner of a Victoria BC kilt shop called 'North of Hadrian's Kilts and Celtic clothing'. Having retired from the military in 2010, he learned his kilt-making trade for three years with a local kilt shop until establishing his own Celtic clothing retail store in 2014. It is a far cry from being a Leopard 1 and Leopard 2 gunner in Afghanistan as part of task force 1-08 Roto 5 in **Chris Adam's** and **Tony Batty's** 'B' Squadron. With crew commander **Leigh Taylor**, loader **James Doucette**, and driver **Fred Villarette**, they survived an IED strike that disabled their tank only nine days before rotating home. **Jackson** started off in the reserves with the Argyll and Sutherland Highlanders which is where he got his love of kilts. Digging one too many trenches, and recalling his grandfather's time in The Ontario Regiment and then the 8CH during WW2, he decided to re-muster to the Strathconas. A successful businessman, he owns 28 kilts (**John Roderick** take note) including the one in the photo which is made from the 'wounded warrior' tartan (North of Hadrian's is the exclusive kilt-makers to 'Wounded Warrior Canada').



1292 Army Cadet Corps takes away three top awards

C/WO A. Sitolay

1292 Royal Canadian Army Cadet Corp sent 45 cadets to camps this past summer. Three of them brought home awards from Vernon Cadet Training Centre.

Top In Course, Basic Expedition Course: **C/MCpl Griffin Heckford**

Top In Platoon, Basic Expedition Course: **C/MCpl Eric Poupart**

Top In Platoon, Basic Marksmanship Course: **C/MCpl Rowan Lopez**

Winning these awards was no easy task as the Basic Expedition Course at Vernon had over 50 cadets participating in it. This course is the first step in the expedition program, cadets learn the basics of expedition, and participate in hiking, biking, and canoeing. Both **C/MCpl Poupart** and **C/MCpl Heckford** showed lots of enthusiasm and energy. Their 'hard skills' were strong, and improved greatly over the course of the summer. Both were always willing to lend a hand to their peers and help where necessary. Their displays of everyday leadership stood out amongst their peers.

C/MCpl Rowan Lopez attended the Basic Marksmanship Course at Vernon CTC and placed Top in his Platoon. He was enthusiastic, showed strong skills and was always willing to help his peers. The Basic Marksmanship course provides cadets with an opportunity to build on their marksmanship skills and is the first step to these cadets being selected to go to some of the top Marksmanship competitions in the country.

Attending a cadet training centre is a wonderful opportunity for all cadets as it helps them grow as individuals and team members. Cadets from across western Canada come to participate in the various courses offered at Vernon Cadet Training Centre. It is both a challenging and rewarding experience with lots of competition.

All three cadets are members of 1292 Lord Strathconas Horse (Royal Canadian) Army Cadet Corps located in Calgary, Alberta. These passionate cadets have shown constant dedication and unwavering motivation as they take advantage of all the cadet program has to offer. They set a high standard for all others to follow, and as they progress through the cadet program there is no doubt they will continue to excel and lead 1292 Army Cadet Corps into the future.

Many thanks for this great article and we hope it will inspire our other Cadet Corps to write in too. Well done to all members of 1292! Ed



Following in the Strathcona's Great War Footsteps

Steve Critchley



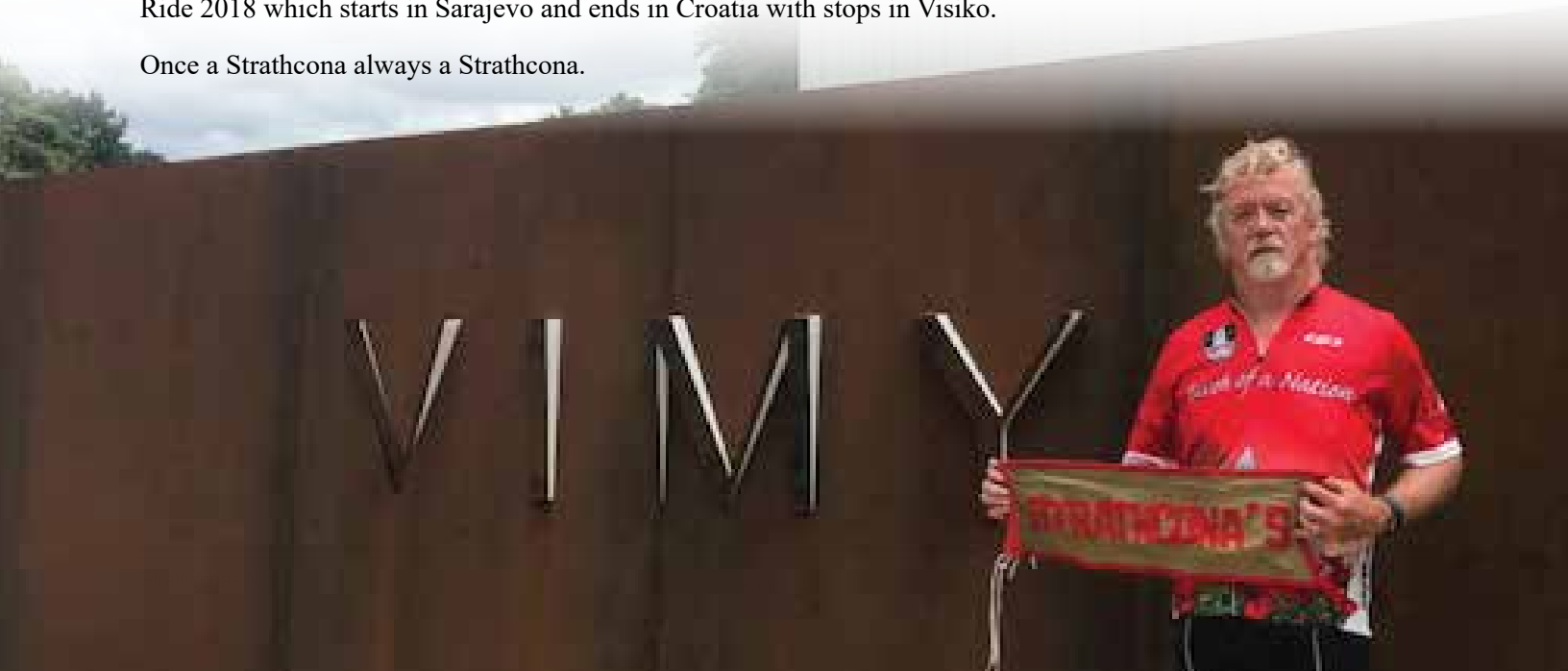
It has been another incredible year where I was able to follow in the footsteps of Strathconas as they fought their way through the Great War. My family took part in the Wounded Warriors Battlefield Bike Ride 2017. The ride of over 600kms started at the cliffs of Dover across to Calais through to Ypres, Passchendaele and onto Vimy. The ride included a stop in Poperinge Belgium, a leave centre for the troops coming out of the trenches during WW I. Poperinge is also where Canadian soldiers who were accused of desertion, some with an official shell shock diagnosis, were held in cells before their execution not far from the town square. We visited these cells where graffiti created by the condemned can still be seen on the walls as well as the execution site. Because of my association with Can Praxis my family was asked to lay a wreath at the Commonwealth

Cemetery just outside of Poperinge on behalf of the soldiers suffering mental health injuries such as PTSD. A very sobering and heartfelt day.

During a stop in Ypres I was greeted by a Belgian Facebook friend who presented me with a handful of World War I horseshoe nails dug up from the local battlefields. I was also given a small lead poppy made from the shrapnel found on those same battlefields. These items certainly brought me closer to those Strathconas who had trod on that ground 100 years ago. As I stared up at the short list of Strathcona names on the wall of Menin Gate, names that belong to the Fallen who have no known grave to mark their existence. I came to gain a greater understanding of just how horrific the conditions were that they fought through.

Before our departure to Europe, **Scott Maxwell**, executive director for Wounded Warriors Canada, had a chance to visit our Unit Lines and was handed a Strathcona's pennant for me to carry across England, Belgium and France. I carried this pennant over the same ground that those earlier Strathcona's fought through. It was an honour indeed. In the past I've been fortunate to have laid a wreath in honour of our Fallen in South Africa just outside of Pretoria and in the center of the actual Moreuil Wood. As a young Trooper I drove retired **Brigadier Harvey** around to visit the Regiment several times before he passed away. A couple of years ago I visited the gravesite of **Lt Flowerdew**, so I've be lucky to learn in depth the history of our fine Regt and, as Canadian horse breeders, we name our foals after Fallen Strathconas. Currently my wife and I are thinking about joining the Wounded Warriors Battlefield Bike Ride 2018 which starts in Sarajevo and ends in Croatia with stops in Visiko.

Once a Strathcona always a Strathcona.



Lost Trails

Spring 2017 Newsletters which have been returned by Canada Post as undeliverable and Strathcona Enews recipients whose emails have bounced since May 2017. If you have updated contact information on these individuals, please let us know.

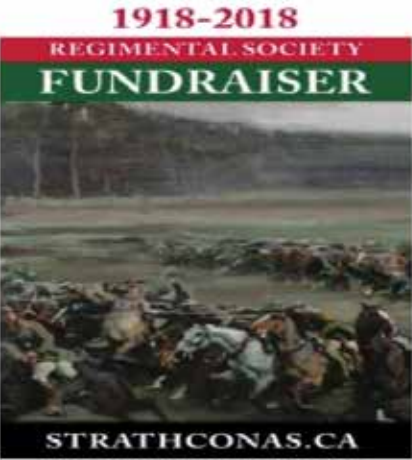
| | |
|---|---|
| BANKS T - Enews (Oct 2017) | HAMPSON WC - Enews (Jun 2017) |
| BRADY DW - Ajax, ON (Spring 2017 Newsletter) | HODGSON JR - Enews (Jun 2017) |
| BURTCH S - Enews (Oct 2017) | KING D - Enews (Oct 2017) |
| BYER H - Enews (Oct 2017) | PTANINSKI MM - Arnprior, ON (Spring 2017 Newsletter) |
| CUTHBERTSON W - Enews (Sept 2017) | ROBERTSON R - Enews (Aug 2017) |
| FORFAR H - Enews (Aug 2017) | |

Note from the Editors

Father Bob Greene's recent passing is a great loss to the Regiment. As the tributes are still coming in, it is our intention to pay a full and proper tribute to him in the Spring 2018 Newsletter.

Own a Piece of Strathcona History

For more information visit strathconas.ca/mw-2018



You can support Lord Strathcona's Horse (Royal Canadians) Regimental Society's effort to send soldiers to France to commemorate the 100th anniversary of the Battle of Moreuil Wood. The Regimental Society has produced an extremely limited run of commemorative lances that will soon be available to the general public. In recognition of this milestone anniversary, only 100 serialized lances will made. Since Lt Flowerdew was only 33 years of age when he led his Squadron during this Battle, the serialized lances will be available in either 33 commemorative singles or 33 commemorative sets (each set containing two lances). The final serialized lance will be kept on permanent display in the Harvey Building at Steele Barracks. Non-serialized, compact size lances will also be available beginning in November 2017.



How Can You Help?



If you are interested in supporting the Regimental Society's Moreuil Wood 2018 initiatives, we would first like to thank you for your consideration. For your convenience the Society has a number of donation options available, and we encourage you to visit our [How You Can Help](#) page for more information. It is recommended that if you use the PayPal one time donation option that you please ensure that you make note that your contribution is to be used for Moreuil Wood 2018 by either making a note in the "Please use funds towards" box (see picture to the left) or by sending an email to ldsh@strathconas.ca after you have completed your donation request.

Your Photos



I was a Strat from 1996-2001, serving in C Sqn and Recce Sqn. In 2008 I transferred to the British Army (Reserve) where after a few years I ended up in my current Intelligence Corps cap badge. My most recent posting is to the Defence Academy of the UK, where I am DS on the Intermediate Command and Staff Course (ICSC). On wondering around on my first day, a few people said "Oh, hey, there's a Canadian DS here...do you know him?" Indeed I do.

LCol Paul Pickell and Maj Kristian Gustafson, meeting for the first time probably in 17 or 18 years.



As a fairly recent and proud Strathcona (enrolled into the CA in 2011), Maj Ed Frost-Kell's former British Army service counts towards the award of the CD. It was a proud moment.



On August 26 to 27 the Strathconas were represented by Andre Lorent at the Ted Powel Memorial Auto races in Calabogie, Ontario. He managed an 8th place in the first race and a 5th place in the second.



The Regiment often receives emails from our friends in Italy and Holland as they remain very appreciative of the efforts of the Regiment during WWII. As such they will often send little items they find in their archives. This is a German leaflet of WW2, that was launched on the Canadian lines.

Canadian Soldiers!

Canada has built up a big war industry and is delivering war material to England without getting anything in return for it. How Britain appreciates your services is shown by the fact that British statesmen have often discussed with the U. S. A.

your vital problems

without so much as notifying you, not to speak of letting you participate in the discussions.

A striking example was the signing of the Atlantic Charter without consulting Canada.

Does any Canadian really think that the U. S. A. will tolerate a British Canada after the inevitable collapse of the British Empire has taken place?

Who does not see the Writing on the Wall?

It began with the ceding of strategic bases by Great Britain to the U. S. A. and it will end with the ANNEXATION OF CANADA by the Yanks.

Meanwhile you are supposed to do the dirty work for England

Your Photos...continued



Ron Howard pins the Lord Strathcona Medal on Sgt. Santiago Ariza during the Brooks Cadets annual review ceremony on Saturday. Howard has been involved with the military for over 50 years. In 1972 he was part of a UN peacekeeping mission in the Middle East. | SANDRA M STANWAY PHOTO

Field Marshall Montgomery, 1st Viscount Montgomery of Alamein inspecting the Regiment, circa 1954-ish and taking the salute from Major Graham.



Calgary #285 Legion on November 11, 2017

No Stone Left Alone September, 2017

*Ceremony in Kraków, Poland.
Supplied by Tom Lukaszuk*



LAST TRUMPET CALL

ADAMS, Gerald, 3 September, 2017, Age 101, Calgary, AB

ADAMS, Larry, 15 September, 2017, Age 85, Regina, SK

ANDERSON, Colin, 27 July, 2017, Age 90, Cranbrook, BC

ANDREWS, Mike, May, 2017, New Brunswick

BANDCROFT, Ron, 27 May, 2017, Age 84, Calgary, AB

BENNETT, Paul, May, 2016, Age 69, Brampton, ON

BENOIT, Benny, 20 November, 2017, Age 71

COUTTS, John, 30 October, 2017, Age 84, Winnipeg, MB

FARGET, James, 10 January, 2017, Carman, MB

GARNEAU, Pierre, 12 July, 2017, Age 94, Ottawa, ON

GREENE, Robert, 16 October, 2017, Age 94, Calgary, AB

HEINRICHS, John, 17 November, 2017

JAMIESON, Geoffrey, 8 August, 2017, Age 85, Calgary, AB

MACDONALD, Willard, 2 May, 2017, Age 67, Charlottetown PEI

MORIARTY, Gerald, 22 April, 2017, Age 75, Calgary, AB

SWANSBURG, Ted, 8 August, 2017, Age 87, Victoria, BC

In Loving Memory of Wives

SIMPSON, Margaret (BoB) - 29 January, 2016, Victoria, BC

WEAR, Evelyn (Walter) - Calgary, AB

OUR APOLOGIZES FOR LACK OF DETAILS IN SOME CASES