



# Lord Strathcona's Horse (Royal Canadians) Regimental Society Newsletter

FALL/WINTER 2012

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

## Colonel of the Regiment

*By Major-General (ret'd) Cam Ross*

The Strathcona Society is a marvellous organization. But few understand its purpose and what it does on a daily basis. This article will highlight what the Society does, how we earn money, and introduce the "**Society Maintenance**" initiative.

Previous Regimental Leadership showed brilliant foresight in establishing, developing, and managing a vibrant and healthy Regimental Society and Mounted Troop Foundation. This was accomplished with valuable professional advice from various friends of the Regiment. The Strathcona Regimental Society and Strathcona Mounted Troop Foundation are not-for-profit corporations under the Societies Act of Alberta operating as a charitable organization to support the Regiment, Strathcona Association, and serving and retired Strathcona Family.

These entities, which were formed in the 1970s and 1980s under the Societies Act of Alberta, enabled the Strathcona Family to preserve and to develop the Regimental Museum, the Strathcona Mounted Troop, the Historical Vehicle Troop, and the Pipes and Drums when public funds were withdrawn or unavailable for use. Both the Society and Mounted Troop Foundation are annually audited to ensure their compliance with the applicable provincial laws.

One of the Society objectives is "To further the traditions and heritage of Lord Strathcona's Horse (Royal Canadians)". The Society achieves this objective by being the 'umbrella' organization under which valuable artifacts of our heritage are held and maintained. The artifacts in the Museum, the Mounted Troop kit including the horses, and the paintings and gifts displayed in Regimental lines are but a few examples of how the Society 'protects' our heritage. These items remain Society property and require yearly budgets to operate and to maintain; this is not done with public money.

Our Regiment also has an enviable tradition of taking care of our troops and families. Some of the very visible activities that the Society sponsors are the Children's Christmas Party, Summer Family Day, All Ranks Dinner & Dance, the Tastes of Home packages (care packages to deployed members) and the Family Support Troop (events and activities for the families of deployed members).

There are also some very worthwhile expenditures and events of which you may not be aware. Under the supervision of the CO, 2IC, and RSM, funds are spent on an exceptional basis to help soldiers in need when the Crown is unable to do so. Recent examples include the Society's payment to fly a family member to Edmonton to assist a Strathcona with PTSD. The Society also provided a loan for a Strathcona spouse to fly overseas to visit

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## Commanding Officer

*By Lieutenant-Colonel P.J. Peyton*

As this is my first contribution to the Newsletter, I would like to take the opportunity to thank all of you for your incredible support to your Regiment. On numerous occasions, I have witnessed how the Strathcona family serves our soldiers and supports operational success. Whether it is responding to the needs of a soldier in distress, providing incredible experience-based advice to solve seemingly not-so-new problems, or gathering to share in the joys of having served together, I am convinced that no other unit in the Canadian Forces does it better than our Regiment. I know I speak on behalf of all serving Strathconas when I say how incredibly grateful we are.

I will also take this opportunity to thank both **Colonel Trevor Cadieu** and **RSM Bill Crabb** for their outstanding leadership over the past two years and for the exceptional handover week that was conducted. For those of you who had the opportunity to be present, you will understand why other Brigade units cursed the Strathcona's for being first in the order of march for Change of Command parades. The outstanding display was a true reflection of the Regiment's professionalism and that of the previous command team. I



*CWO Bill Crabb, and LCol Paul Peyton with Gen Walt Natynczyk on his last day in the field.*

am fortunate that **RSM Crabb** has remained at the Regiment with me...despite the occasional "I liked the other guy better" comments!

I have been asked to be brief so I will summarize our major accomplishments simply by saying that we remain busy, successful, and operationally focussed. Our major fall exercise, **STEELE SABRE**, saw the entire Regiment deploy to Wainwright to complete our driver and gunnery courses, troop level live fire for all squadrons and squadron level live fire for B Squadron. During this period, we graced the Wainwright training area with the first ever Leopard 2 120 mm round - absolutely outstanding! Exercise **STEELESABRE** was an opportunity to enhance our international reputation, which we aptly achieved by hosting members of 4/3 Cavalry (US) and our Chilean partners. After countless field excursions and numerous stories, largely facilitated by the reintroduction of "wet" messes, reciprocal visits are being planned. I would be remiss if I did not also mention the visit to our partnered Polish formation, 10 Brigady Kawalerii Panczernej, which also occurred in the fall and certainly contributed to our international exposure.

Despite inevitable forthcoming budget reductions, the tempo of the Regiment remains high and it will continue to be so. B Squadron is our current high readiness tank squadron and just completed a five-week exercise under the command of 5 Brigade. In January, A Squadron and Recce Squadron will commence training as our contribution to the next high-readiness Task Force, which is being generated out of 1 Brigade. We anticipate a requirement to provide a limited

number of Strathconas as part of Operation **ATTENTION**, which delivers training and professional development support to the security forces of Afghanistan. Amidst operational requirements, the Regiment will continue to support the introduction of our new Leopard 2 tank fleet, and, most importantly, provide the family support programs and soldier opportunities that have distinguished our Regiment from all others.

Due in no short measure to the support received from many of you, our Regiment continues to enjoy countless successes. I look forward to your continued advice and support, and I hope to see many of you at various upcoming Regimental events.

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*Colonel of the Regiment cont'd  
Continued From Page 1*

a dying relative. Recall 34 year old **Corporal Jamie Steeves** who had worn the Strathcona cap badge since graduating from Recruit School but had never served at his Regiment. He was at CFB Gagetown with about 20 others waiting his turn to be posted to Regimental duty when he was diagnosed with terminal cancer. The Society assisted **Master Corporal Ryan Ogston** and others in facilitating a visit by **Jamie** and his wife **Jocelyn** to his Regiment in Edmonton. They stayed at the Fairmont, fired tank rounds in Wainwright, and they visited Banff before returning to Gagetown where he died shortly thereafter.

All of this business costs money. To date, we have relied upon two main sources of revenue to support our Society and Foundation: large private donations (the **Southern family/ATCO/Spruce Meadows**, the **Fred Balm family**, **Canadian Pacific Railroad**, **Bison Transport**, **Cenovus**, plus many others in years

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gone by); and the **Y006 account**. The latter is the pay allotment account that serving Strathconas contribute monthly pay allotments on a voluntary basis.

In addition to our serving personnel many retired Strathconas have continued to contribute in various ways. However, we as a Society and Regimental Family have not been successful in engaging all of you. I see this as a short coming, and with your help I believe we can rectify this.

Justifiably many of you will say that you have already given “blood, sweat, and tears” to the Regiment and now it is someone else’s turn. And you may be right, however, if I were to ask you this one straight-forward question, would you perhaps reconsider?

**“Did the Regiment influence your life positively?”**

If the answer is yes then consider how we can perpetuate the same stable situation for the follow-on generations of Strathconas. This is inclusive of all who serve with the Regiment and wear the black beret; including our support trades of maintainers, signallers, cooks, clerks, and logisticians.

Nobody likes to ask for money but we as a Society have to.

I am offering a proposal for your consideration. Consider that if you bought a medium Tim Horton’s coffee for a Strathcona soldier at about \$1.47 each week, at year-end, you would have spent approximately \$75. Donating that same amount would allow you to receive a tax receipt as with any other charitable donation.

How do you do it? On the Strathcona website ([www.strathconas.ca](http://www.strathconas.ca)), there is a link at the top right titled ‘**How can you help**’. That link provides a step-by-step outline. In essence, there are three ways to donate:

1. **Pay allotment** (serving members; account Y006);
2. **Cheque or Money Order** payable to *LdSH(RC) Regimental Society* (retirees/friends of Regiment);
3. **United Way** (both serving and retirees/friends). Note that United Way takes 10% off as an ‘administrative’ charge.

The three Society ‘accounts’ into which donations are reported annually at the Society Annual General Meeting at Moreuil Wood in March.

Please give this proposal some serious thought. Let’s continue to make the Strathcona Family the envy of the Canadian Army and the Canadian Forces for the manner in which we take care of our soldiers, their families and perpetuate our customs, traditions, and history that you have had a major part in shaping.

**“Once a Strathcona, always a Strathcona.”**

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## **Where Are They?**

Members of the Regiment and the Newsletter staff are frequently asked for the whereabouts of serving and former serving Strathconas. Often, the individuals can be found and, using acceptable practices that protect the privacy of those being sought, parties can be married up; however, some of the searches can not only be time consuming but are often unsuccessful. Consequently, it has been suggested a registry that can be used to facilitate such searches be established.

With the advent of numerous social media websites, some are questioning the need for a registry since connecting to individuals via such means is fairly easy using a variety of internet search mechanisms. Facebook is such an example. These same individuals and others are equally concerned about the protection of one’s privacy should such a registry be established. The first concern can be addressed by indicating whether you feel there is a need to follow through on this project. We also need an indication if there is an objection to personal data such as one’s name, years of service, and contact details being posted on a page on the Regiment’s website which is accessible to the public or if there is a preference for a more anonymous system such as going through a trusted third party to relay the inquiry about any specific contact. To provide feedback, write to the Newsletter or contact us at [strathsearch@gmail.com](mailto:strathsearch@gmail.com) (this address is accessed by only one individual and discretion on your feedback is assured).

With sufficient data, we should be able to determine the need for a registry and, if one is warranted, the mechanisms to be used to establish it.

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## Alberta Association President

By *Howie Owen*

Once again it is time to keep the Regimental Family informed on what the Regimental Association, also known as “*The Old Guard*”, was busy doing, or not, since the last edition of the Society Newsletter.

The last General Meeting prior to the four-month break was held in May. At that meeting, besides the normal agenda, much of the time was spent in an open discussion regarding the formation of new branches of the Association and, more importantly, the transfer of responsibilities from Calgary (Alberta Branch) to the Edmonton Branch which, in 2013, will become the seat of the Regimental Association as the Calgary Branch was for 48 years.

On 13 June 2012, one day prior to the change of command from **LCol Cadieu** to **LCol Peyton**, a very important meeting was held at the Steele Barracks to start the process

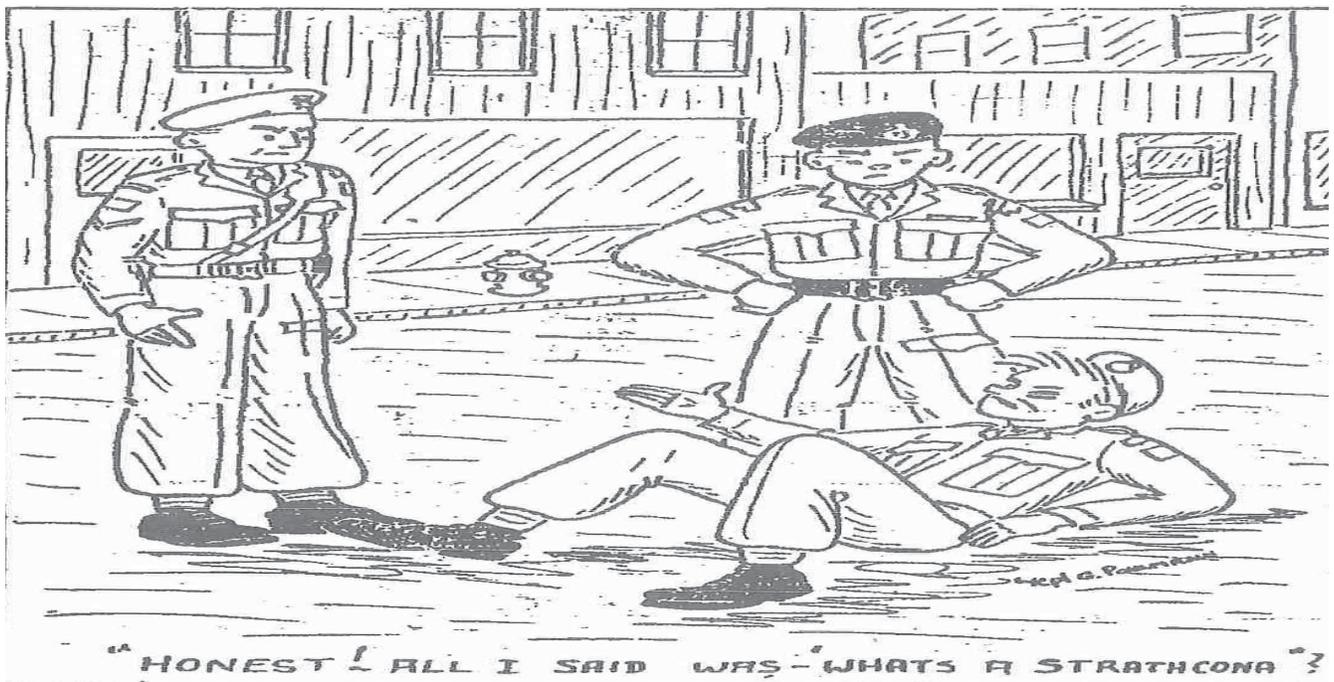
of the handover of the duties and responsibilities that go with the yearly operation of the Regimental Association. The meeting was very cordial and each executive member from Calgary briefed his Edmonton counterpart on his method of carrying out his duties. After two hours, the meeting adjourned and it was felt that much had been accomplished through a “question and answer” round table discussion. Both sides agreed to work hard toward one common goal, the smooth transfer of responsibilities to the Edmonton Branch. Finally, it was agreed that the final meeting will take place in April/May 2013, if necessary, and the official turnover will be in Edmonton in June 2013.

The Annual Strathcona Family Golf Tournament was held in Calgary on 11 August 2012. All I will say is the winner of that event was the **OWEN TEAM!** Mr. Vice, **Peter Wonderham**, is submitting a few lines about this event separately. I want to say a special thank you to **Susan Wonderham** and **Peter** for

all the hard work and time spent to make this event an overwhelming success as usual – and not to forget others who helped like **Mary** (The Boss) and Mr. 50/50, **Slider Welch**.

A reunion was held, as most of you know, in Kelowna, B.C. on September 2012. **George Barr** and his wife **Carole** did a great job according to feedback I received. I was unable to attend due to previous travel plans (cruising the Baltic).

Before I leave the reunion portion, I want to inform you all that you are all invited to Calgary in August/September 2013 for a reunion. It will be our first since 1995. The plans are already being formulated and we will be working on it diligently after January 2013 – stay tuned. Just to avoid any confusion – the National Reunion is still being planned for Edmonton in 2015.



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## Reunion 2015 – “Together in History”

*Colonel (Retired) Ian Barnes*

The following committee was formed at the 27th September 2012 meeting of the Strathcona's Association - Edmonton Chapter: **Ian Barnes**, chair and **Randy Page**, **Keven Phinney** and **Bob Peterson** as members. If you would like to be part of the planning and organizing committee please let us know. We'd love to have you work with us.

In consultation with the Regiment, we have selected the dates 11 – 14 June 2015. We are currently in the seeking a suitable hotel and will get quotes from the MacDonald, Mayfield Inn and Suites (location of 2000 and 2005 reunion), and the River Cree Hotel and Casino (location of the 2010 reunion). The Mayfield Inn and Suites will be undergoing a name change (Hilton) and a major renovation in 2013 costing over \$50 million.

At this Reunion, we have selected the overall theme, “*Together in History*”, featuring specific battle honours/operations that mark the Regiment's history. We are also planning to hold the memorial service earlier in the program, the usual meet and greets, a day with the Regiment, a golf tournament, and the main Reunion Dinner.

The “*Together in History*” theme is to acknowledge the regimental family as one, that is; the soldiers serving with the Regiment today, those serving outside of the Regiment, support trades who have served with us, and the veterans. We all have one thing in common - together we have served as Strathcona's. We especially hope to have the soldiers currently serving with the Regiment join in with us to celebrate our glorious history.

We would like to have your input on what you think of our ideas and/or what you would like to see at the Reunion. Let us know as soon as possible. Also if you have any comments and/or your own lessons learned from past Reunions please let us know.

Yes, we will ensure that all meals are included in the one price this time. We don't want to see our veterans fighting over the one remaining muffin or croissant at the early morning eye-opener coffee.

Our planning process will go through three stages: rough outline by December 2012, first draft June 15, 2013, and final draft June 15th 2014. Don't delay as once planning is too far advanced it will be too late to include your ideas. Send your ideas/suggestions to the planning committee at e-mail [bevian@telus.net](mailto:bevian@telus.net) or mail to: Strathconas Association, Suite 444, PO Box 10500 Stn Forces, Edmonton, AB, T5J 4J5.

We hope to have many veterans and serving soldiers in attendance to make it the largest gathering to date, so put this on your 2015 calendar and open up a special savings account.

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## Queen's Diamond Jubilee

On October 9th, 2012, The University of Calgary Red and White Club was the scene of a very auspicious occasion when three Strathconas were recipients of the Queen Elizabeth Diamond Jubilee Medal. They were, **Roy Jardine**, **Jamie Jamieson**, and **Father Bob Greene**. As **Father Bob** was cruising somewhere in foreign waters celebrating his and **Marion's** 60th wedding anniversary, his son, **Michael Greene**, accepted the medal on his behalf. There were about 180 recipients of the medal as well as approximately 600 invited guests at the Club that day. **His Honour the Honourable Don Ethell**, Lieutenant Governor of Alberta, and **Prime Minister Stephen Harper** as well as Members of Parliament from the Calgary Area were on hand to present the medals. It was a very exciting time for everyone.

On September 18, 2012, another Strathcona, **Doug Cooper**, received the Diamond Jubilee Medal at a presentation in Innisfail, Alberta and on November 12th, **Ron Howard** will be receiving a Diamond Jubilee Medal which is being presented by MP **Mr. Kevin Sorensen** in Stettler Alberta.

Congratulations to all, very well deserved. (See "Your Photos" on page 14)

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## Spruce Meadows - The Most International Place

by Cpl Sean Clarke

When I first came to Mounted Troop, I had never ridden a horse before, let alone heard of a place called “Spruce Meadows”; however, I quickly found out from the senior riders that we spend a lot of time down there and that, perhaps, I should take the time to find out more about it. So I looked into it, and discovered that Spruce Meadows was founded in 1976 by “The Builders” **Ron and Margaret Southern** and has since turned into a world class equestrian facility located in Calgary. Dubbed “The Most International Place”, it hosts riders from all over the world competing to find out who really is the best show-jumper. There are 5 major tournaments throughout the year: the National, Continental, Canada One, North American, and the Masters; and the Strathcona Mounted Troop has been participating in them all for years. While we are there, we do everything from standing vedettes, to escorting VIP’s such as the Lieutenant Governor of Alberta, the Minister of National Defence, The Chief of Defence Staff, and even the Prime Minister.



*The Troop Escorting the Lieutenant Governor of Alberta into the International Ring on Military Appreciation Day at Spruce Meadows. (Picture courtesy of Spruce Meadow Media)*

I remember the first time that I arrived at Spruce Meadows and realized how big the grounds really were. This year in particular, they had pictures of the **Queen Elizabeth II** and British flags practically everywhere the eye could see in honour of the Queen’s Diamond Jubilee. After we settled the horses in, we took a tour of the grounds and of the different arenas. I was impressed at how well the arenas were maintained and definitely pitied the men who must have been tasked to mow and water it on a never-ending basis. I was particularly impressed with “Meadows on the Green” and at how well the grass looked considering that dozens of horses run and jump on it every day.

For the soldiers in Mounted Troop, it’s always long days at Spruce Meadows. Our day starts early, usually around 7am and doesn’t usually end until 8 PM or later. We begin each day by feeding and watering the horses, performing medical checks on the entire herd, and top it off with the enviable task of mucking out the stalls. After the horses are taken care of, we prepare our kit for the day’s activities, ensuring that all the horses’ show tack and our own uniforms are maintained to perfection.

The Troop’s main role at Spruce Meadows is to escort the winning horse and rider around the jump arena. This is known as a “Radetzky”. I am not afraid to admit that the first time I was tasked to do one, I was anything but at ease. Basically, I found myself in the front of the procession beside **Captain McLean**, and it was our job to lead the riders around the arena for their victory lap. The problem is that many of the jumps were still on the course and many more were being moved behind us as we waited our time to begin. Thus, at a canter, we were forced to pick a path that veered through the jumps and water hazards while not being able to count on it looking remotely like it did when we entered the arena. Although I would normally follow his orders without hesitation, and with all due respect to **Capt McLean** (who I am sure is the one editing this article), his limited riding experience left me more than a little concerned that the path he chose would unwittingly result in testing our skills as the newest show jumpers at Spruce Meadows.

During vedette tasks in Spruce Meadows, I can’t help but feel proud when I’m dressed in my scarlets and sitting on my horse watching crowds of people walk by who are awe-struck by our presence; however, despite the pride experienced during a vedette and the fear/rush of a





*Captain McLean with his please dont fall face along with Cpl Daos, Cpl Balfour, and Cpl Clarke doing a radetzky in the International ring at Spruce Meadows  
(Picture courtesy of Spruce Meadow Media)*

Radetzky, nothing beats performing our Musical Ride; , the Troop's bread and butter. As we only get to do the Musical Ride once every tournament, we make sure that it and the following tent pegging demonstration are a sight that the spectators won't soon forget.

So far our busiest tournament was the "North American". During this tournament, Recce Squadron represented the Regiment at Spruce Meadows as this year's Prince of Wales squadron. They performed a feu-de-joie during Military Appreciation Day that delighted the crowd. A feu-de-joie is a celebratory rifle salute where soldiers fire into the air in rapid succession. It is usually done for high ranking military members or for a celebrated military victory. This year saw a large number of VIP's in attendance during the parade including the Lieutenant Governor Of Alberta **the Honourable Donald S. Ethell**; the CDS, **General Walter Natynczyk**, the Minister of National Defence, **the Honourable Peter MacKay**; and our new

CO, **Lieutenant-Colonel Paul Peyton**. Although I am glad we were not there when the rifles began to fire, some of the troop still had issues with positioning their horses so close to the band before the Parade of Nations that followed the feu-de-joie. My horse, **Starbuck**, was very nervous of the band turning in circles in an attempt to escape them; however, with patience and the proper aid we eventually got them under control and the following parade was a definite success.

Leaving Spruce Meadows this year was bittersweet. Although, the members of the Troop will be glad to get home to see the loved ones they have been away from while on the road, we will definitely miss the unique experience that is Spruce Meadows. I know for sure that a certain corporal (to be discreet let's refer to him as "**C. Broome**".... no wait that might give it away, instead we'll call him "**Craig B.**") has developed somewhat of a crush on not only many of the riders but also some of the Spruce Meadows staff. Assuredly this corporal, like many others in the Troop, can't wait to return next year in order to once again take part in events at "The Most International Place", Spruce Meadows.

## Veterans Return to Korea

At 11 a.m. on November 11, 2012, in the Republic of Korea, a tribute to the United Nations Fallen was held in Pusan at the United Nations Cemetery. Among the 700 dignitaries and war veterans participating were two Strathconas, **Philip Daniel**, who served in Korea as a sergeant and tank commander, and **Gary "Dusty" Miller**. Both were selected as part of a contingent of 26 delegates of the Commonwealth nations that participated in the Korean War. We look forward to hearing of their experiences in this most recent visit to the "Land of the Morning Calm".

### Spring 2013 Edition Deadline

The deadline for submissions for the Spring 2013 Strathcona Newsletter is

**12 April 2012.**

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

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## Annual Strathcona Association Family Golf Tournament 2012

*by Peter Wonderham*

This year the annual golf tournament was held in Calgary on 11 August and we had a great tournament with nice weather, a gathering of long time good friends. To finish off, there was food and prizes for all.

To get the day rolling, we had 11 foursomes signed up. We could have used more but with holidays and some health issues we were very pleased to have this fine turnout. Later on in the day, our numbers grew to nearly 60 when family members joined the athletes' at 285 Legion Branch for food and prize awards. It was nice to see the **Rick Williams** family join us en masse. **Earl Smith** and **Shirley** are steadfast supporters of this event and appeared to have a hoot. We were glad to see **Henry Wyatt** join us for post game festivities. We hope to see him on the course next year. Once again **Slider** performed better with our 50/50 draws than he did on the course. Thanks, again, **Slider** and **Mary** for your continued excellent work.

We would like to thank the Regiment for entering, yet again, an outstanding group of soldiers/golfers. I wrote the RSM and 2IC on behalf of the Association to personally thank them. These young soldiers represented the Regiment with fine sportsmanship and mature professionalism. **MCpl Ryan Sebo**, **Cpl Travis Livingston**, **Cpl Max Gironne**, and **Cpl Phil Sephton**--thank you gents.

Special recognition and prizes were presented in various categories. Closest to the pin was most deservedly won by **Jim Deighton**. Longest Putt honours went to **Grady Owen**. Longest drive ladies saw **Kerri Somes** (daughter of **Bob Evans**) swing to victory and, longest drive men smoothly garnered by **Mr John Reinsborough**. We had too many sponsors to name in this article but they were duly thanked during the presentations and for a few noteworthy sponsors, on your behalf, we presented them with Regimental Coins. The silent auction that followed has taken on a life of its own and is enjoyed by all.

Now for the story within the story. All who participated were no doubt fine golfers. Of note were the Regimental entry who, as part of the Regimental golf team, are understandably accomplished ball strikers. In addition, **Todd Wonderham's** ringer entry consisted of two near scratch golfers. (a scratch golfer is defined as one who plays

real good). With that said, the tournament winners were the Owen foursome made up of **Howie**, **Grady**, **Landon** and **Jayne Owen**. Among the best excuses for this unforeseen victory was the Regiment's financial constraints, which meant the team, had an early morning commute from Edmonton with no overnight in a hotel in Calgary.

Well done **Howie** and team. For the next tournament, we will all play harder to win and, perhaps, ask Recce Squadron to set up OP's along the course--only kidding.

The 2013 tournament dates will be announced in the spring but to all who read this account know that you are invited and welcome to attend. We would also like to see the Colonel of the Regiment one day master the old Scottish tradition of golf and find time in his busy schedule to join us.

Thanks to all who participated in helping to make this day yet another good one to be a Strathcona.



*Presentation of longest putt by Peter Wonderham to Grady Owen member of winning team Owen*

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## Cypress

*In the previous edition of the Newsletter, Colonel Spike Hazleton recounted his thoughts about a shooting incident in the Green Zone near Ledra Palace. Ken Vivian was also consulted about the events of that day. Following are his recollections-Ed.*

I don't recall anything of the morning on that day, so I have to agree with **Spike** that it was normal Sunday routine. I was the Duty WO for City Sqn, and had intended to begin the line tour through City Squadron's AOR at 1500 hours. I was walking across the Ledra parking lot to sign out a pistol and the allotted ammo from City Squadron's Ops Centre.

At that time, approximately 7 to 10 shots rang out in rapid succession from the area of the Greek Military Platoon House, southwest of Ledra Palace. My initial thought was, "I hope we haven't lost two soldiers with only two weeks remaining until Xmas." This was a real possibility, as City Sqn had soldiers that patrolled the Pledious River, and the Bourhantan Road was included in their designated patrol route. (Bourhantan Rd was part of the UN Buffer Zone, and the Greek Platoon House was situated adjacent to that road).

I immediately ran the 200 to 300 metres towards the direction of the gunfire. As I turned the corner, onto Bourhantan Rd, I sensed that something was amiss due to the eerie silence that surrounded me at that moment. I continued NW along Bourhantan Rd, attempting to define the cause of the gunfire. After approximately another 100 metres, I noticed a Turkish soldier in uniform laying motionless in a fetal position on the roadway in the UN BZ.

At this time, the immediate thoughts that raced through my mind were, "This guy's in the hurt locker, thank goodness it was not a Canadian soldier, and some assistance from someone else would be greatly appreciated." I didn't have a First Aid kit with me, and it was clearly obvious he had been shot and was going into shock. The only resource I had available was my combat shirt to keep him warm, and I pulled him about 2-3 feet, so I could at least elevate his lower extremities, on a small mound of dirt.

After, what seemed like an eternity (probably 2 or 3 minutes), **Capt Hazleton** rounded the corner, and I shouted out to him, "Sir, I need an ambulance, and I need it now!" He stopped, turned and shouted the request to some in the area of the Regimental Joint Ops Centre. **Mike Duffy's** CTV video tape later indicated that individual was **Capt Forestell**.

**Spike's** account of the events following that moment onward, with regard to the soldier's injuries and the actions we took until the ambulance arrived are very accurate. I recall, that we were in a hectic and tense situation, attempting as best we could to apply first aid, meanwhile, yelling at the Greek and Turkish Forces that we had the situation under control, and the wounded soldier would be taken to the Turkish hospital for medical treatment by a Canadian ambulance. During this time, another Turkish soldier continued on several occasions to place the wounded soldier's rifle beside him, and **Capt Hazleton** repeatedly and sternly told him not to do so. The Greek and Turkish Forces, both had their weapons trained on us throughout the entire time from their defensive sandbagged defensive positions along Bourhantan Road.

The Canadian ambulance arrived approximately 40 minutes later from BBC camp, and the wounded Turkish soldier was transported to the Turkish hospital in the North Turkish Sector, with **Capt Hazleton**. At this point, I was no longer involved in this operation.

Before he was transported away, I searched the wounded Turkish soldier's person, hoping to find some personal identification, however, the only items on his person were a 100.00 Turkish Lira (approximately 5 cents) and an inexpensive broken digital watch.

Once the ambulance and **Capt Hazleton** departed the scene, I drew several sketches of the immediate surroundings complete with approximate applicable distances in my field message book, because I knew the Australian Police would be questioning me later, which they truly did, very thoroughly.

It was 4 to 5 hours of my life that I shall not forget unless I acquire some form of dementia.

*Ed.note: Sgt Vivian received The Chief of Defence Commendation and the UNFICYP Force Commander's Commendation for his response in this incident. Coincidentally and for additional service recognition, eighteen years later, on 02 June 2006, then Colonel Hazleton and CWO Vivian would be invested into the Order of Military Merit on the same day at Rideau Hall.*

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## Strathcona Humour

“Great coats on! Great coats off!” This and “waiting for whatever” seem to be lasting patterns in the army. Even within regiments, where one would think there would be greater standardization, change is inevitable. Just the arrival of a recently appointed squadron officer is often the cause for adjustment.

In one instance I recall, a newly arrived Battle Captain did not think the tank park was tidy enough at the end of the day as few of the Centurion barrels were angled the same. Indeed, many often pointed towards the ground while others were less than parallel with it. His solution was to have them all secured in the internal gunlock at last parade so they were all identical. When he directed the practice to be instituted, I pointed out that the policy was for the guns to be heavily oiled because of the ever-present dampness of German winters, hence plugging the barrels and pointing them downwards. Putting the guns in the internal lock would cause any excess oil to drain out the breech. After a thoughtful pause, he said the new procedure would stand.

Within a week, all tank crews including the Battle Captain’s were griping about having to clean up patches of gun oil out of the gun basket or off the turret floor—not much but enough to cause a response to the pooling. I went to the BC to explain the problem and he relented. He also said if I had the courage of my convictions, next time I should speak up, even pound on his desk or kick his wastebasket to get my point across.

Within a couple of weeks, a second daily practice change was directed. What it was escapes me but I went to see the BC once more. He told me to get on with it and quit moaning every time he suggested an improvement. In response, I raised my voice, pounded on his desk, and kicked (ever so gently) his wastebasket. In the calm steady voice of a more experienced and wiser officer, he simply said, “Lieutenant, get out of my office”. My learning curve, unfortunately, was not very steep, it seems.

## Once Upon A Time...c. 1950-‘55

By John Ashley (Introduction by Major-General P.A. Neatby (Ret’d))

*Ed. Note: John passed away on 27 July 2012.*

*The Editor asked me to write a forward to John’s article. In it (and his 11 articles in the Newsletter from 2000 to 2004), John states his view that service with the Strathcona’s during the 1950’s was a professional high-point in post-War service.*

*John commanded FHQ Tp D Sqn in Germany in the summer of 1955 as his 3rd Phase ROTP/COTC, as OC 1 Tp, C Sqn (Maj Vic Jewkes) in Calgary on commissioning in 1956/57, and as OC 2 Tp, Recce Sqn in Germany late 1957 to 1959. He took his release at the end of his ROTP commitment in 1959 and pursued a very successful career as a high school history teacher.*

*Why did this short period so long ago impress John so much?*

*In his articles and in our many conversations over the last 10 years, John showed his deep respect for his superiors (Maj Norm Buckingham, Capt Stu Corsan of D Sqn; Maj’s I. MacD. Grant and Dan McLeod, Capts Bill Ward and Mac Lindsay of Recce Sqn) and his deep affection and trust for his troop sergeants (Carl Ranostay of FHQ Tp, D Sqn, and Sgt’s Pat Searle and Pat Patterson of 2 Tp, Recce Squadron).*

*John’s service was during a period ably described by Nick Nicholson in the Spring 2000 Newsletter, in part, “These same young officers might have required frequent guidance and steering, and occasional restraint, but, bless them, they never required prodding. They could always be relied upon to put forth extra effort that so often means the difference between success and failure in both peace and war. No task was too difficult and no hardship could deter them. Their senior NCOs looked after them like fathers. Their men loved and respected them without question”.*

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*John's article describes the excitement and challenge D Sqn faced. In a previous article, he describes his reception by **Maj Norm Buckingham**. Buck told him to take down his COTC insignia, put up Strathcona insignia, as all leaders in the Squadron were Strathconas!*

*Those of us of that era agree that after Armor School training in which you were viewed with suspicion and of questionable value, the acceptance in the Strathcona family, the direction and guidance by cool, experienced (and tolerant) superiors, and so heart-warming, the sense that, little by little, you were earning the respect of your troop sergeant (you were never to doubt that he loyally supported you) made Regimental service a unique and so worthy an experience.*

*It was family rather than hierarchy. To be a part of such a family is why people like **John Ashley** look back on it with such wonder.*

. . . . .

History is a narrative synthesis, both selective and reflective, with all the biases and prejudices implicit in the human record. The following tidbits from the 1950's ought to resurrect further memories by those who served in that decade. As a Strathcona, the focus will be of my service during those golden years when the government was "committed to meeting its international defense commitments" (p.365, *The RCAC, An Illustrated History*, J. Martinson & M.R. McNorgan, 2000).

Birthered as "1/2 Armoured Squadron" and re-named as 'C' Sqn LdSH(RC) on 19 April 1951, two of my troop sergeants from 1956 to 1959 were Korean veterans from C Sqn and pragmatic problem-solvers. **Colby Yeomans** solved the challenge of a "damper" for his Korean bivouac stove with rounds from his Sten gun fired through the stove door. **'Pat' Patterson** used his 9mm Sten gun to challenge the rat population in his bivouac (I did not ask about safety measures being employed). Their hilltop boredom was fragmented by firing on pre-registered targets in support of the infantry bordering the valley below. Apparently there was also a 'daily run' (aka beer ration), courtesy J. Labatt. This was to be collected by descending to the valley, crossing same with Chinese mortaring at odd moments, and securing the case for those with parched throats. Trips were assigned, not volunteered. One day it fell to a French Canadian operator. He failed to return so a rescue group was dispatched. They heard a melodious rendition of "Allouette" and discovered the 'relaxed' operator singing and drinking in a ruined valley bunker (I never did hear how he re-paid others for the liberated beer).

While others were in Korea, my career began in 1953 on Pylon Hill, Camp Borden, then on the AFV Range, Meaford. Hindsight is a wonderful gift – the number of ways we might have, could have, should have permanently crippled ourselves with these thirty-odd ton M4A2E8 tank's was legion. I do not know if our instructors prayed much. A highlight of Pylon Hill was to see if you, the driver, could shift gears after cresting; rocketing down in Mexican over-drive (neutral) was exhilarating to say the least (best to relieve oneself prior to ascent). Being dropped into a Meaford basement ruin or a slough by an irritated Permanent Force driver was numbing to say the least.

One highlight at Meaford was the live fire demonstration we produced for Staff College. **Danny McLeod** apparently had faith in our prowess. My tank's gun recoil was extreme due to the return and recoil leaking fluid. A spent casing slammed into the face of the #19 radio set leaving a fist-like indentation. Despite challenges including hang-fires and misfires, we survived the day.

We spent days in tanks and evenings in quarters shining wash basins and rubber boots and using tooth brushes to clean hot water registers. Then, came time for homework. Those who succeeded became very proud of their survival. **Major McLeod** and his 'henchmen' (**Bruce Rutherford**, **John Bell**, and **'Strath' MacDonald**) were experience personified.

Surviving Meaford allowed one to become a conceited snob upon returning to the RCAC School and graduation. This elitism re-surfaced many times later when your troop, squadron, regiment, or brigade succeeded whether in garrison, Sarcee, Wainwright, then British Army of The Rhine (BAOR) exercises after brigade warm-ups, or on

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NATO/BAOR manoeuvres with other NATO units.

On my arrival at Fort Anne, Westphalia, upon posting to D Sqn, LdSH (RC), May to August 1955, I was treated to a couple of Dortmunder-Union beers. Then, when I stumbled while attempting to stand, the laughter of the other subalterns was both lengthy and loud. They said “You’ll get used to it”. The training and skill levels of this blend of WWII and Korean veterans and newer arrivals was so exceptional that the Red Patch with Gold Maple Leaf was widely recognized in North West Germany in those days.

We celebrated Dominion Day, 1 July 1955, in Rote Erde Stadium, Dortmund. The venue was an imposing sunken stadium lined with trees. The stage had massive red curtains that flanked the Canadian coat of arms which oversaw the Brigade track and field competitions. The finale was breath-taking; the massed bands of 2RCHA, 2PPCLI, and 2R22eR marched and counter-marched to their regimental marches and the West German anthem was then followed by “O Canada”. Many Germans who came as spectators had tears streaming down their cheeks. So did many Canadians who emotionally watched them. The march-off may have been “The Maple Leaf Forever”.

Training was with live ammunition, both at Sennelager and Hohne-Saltau. There were moments when one reflected about the liberal allowances for training casualties. With the Russians on the east side of the Weser River, it made sense. Bullets make such a soft sound. The Hohne battle runs for tank troops designed by Germans then British staff was enough to rattle the nerves of any troop attempting to survive. We did so only as a team – more pride. The U-All’s (Americans) pegged their positions with the belief that “practice made perfect”. We Canadians were on our own when we crossed that start line. Crews were so quietly proficient. These same misfits also took the Brigade Small Arms Trophy. The “Feet Corps” were not impressed--more elitism. In sum, I spent that summer with a very unique squadron of Canadians who would probably not ‘fit in’ with the society and nation they represented. Kipling wrote poetry to this effect years earlier. An incident in Dortmund provided one example.

One trooper was over six feet and thin. His buddy was under 5’8” and quite tubby. They visited the “Strasse Mit Der Frauleins”, with its black and white international “Out of Bounds” signs at either end of the street. Apparently, they became involved in an economic altercation with the girls and their minders in one house. The Polizei were summoned. When the language suggested British, the Regimental Police (RP’s) were also called. The two ‘heroes’ fought a delaying action up some three flights of stairs with barricades and serious destruction throughout the withdrawal. The RP’s finally contacted the Canadian ‘Meatheads’ to resolve this standoff. When the Canadian Provost arrived, the insurgents surrendered meekly to their fellows. They probably waved farewell (the ‘finger salute’) to the Polizei and Red-Caps.

The “Day in Court” before their O.C. (**Major N. Buckingham**) was like a **Peter Sellers** movie; they were marched in without hat and belt by the SSM. I was ‘privileged’ to be their “Attending Officer” as they were from FHQ Troop. The charges were simply hilarious. The numerous pages of damage were itemized with costs. The major was up to the task. He brushed his mustache, as was his wont. Then, fixing them with his glare, he inquired whether they could actually create all this mayhem. They mumbled that they guessed so, and “didn’t remember”. Judgment would have done Solomon proud. Until further analysis as to the itemized veracity, these two heroes were on extended extra-duties while confined to camp (to my knowledge the analysis was never done by either the Germans or the British). The ‘prisoners’ were heroes in their time within the confines of Fort Anne.

Roaming at large across West Germany when on BAOR or NATO exercises resulted in much civilian property damage which meant the ‘Good Old Canadian Taxpayer’ footed the repair bill. Everything was valued: ages, sizes, and types of trees; chickens: where hens out-valued roosters (estimated value of egg-production was included); composition of barns & other structures; roads – types and surfaces, etc. Exercises were realistic which meant more damage, with certain limits (e.g., when crops were being harvested.) Tanks were prime targets for ‘native’ complaints, often not the culprits...no love was lost when we roamed from the Iron Curtain to the Rhine River. Even the slower-witted knew we weren’t going to be alive to defend the western side of that river. Gave one a sense of being a player, not a spectator....

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In honest reflection, the status of D Sqn depended on: drivers, who were as adept and gentle as nurse-maids; loader-operators whose turret skills and wireless finesse was always calm amidst chaos; gunners who could hit the corners of a doorway or window at 1000 yards and lock-on the gyroscope for cross-country targets; and, crew commanders who fought their tank within the troop and squadron directives. The support by A1, A2, and B echelons, the RCEME, and RC Sigs was always first-rate. If the Russians had moved west, they'd have had 'a time of it' for 72 hours! I was privileged indeed to belong.

Conjure up a BOAC Stratocruiser in August 1955, full of COTC/ROTP semi-mature males en route to their respective universities and colleges. The liquor supply was gone during the first leg of the trip, Dusseldorf to Shannon, Ireland. The captain (pilot) was peeved as his customary glass of scotch once air-borne was not-to-be. Gone to quench the throats of those junior subalterns. After refueling (and re-stocking), the trip over the Atlantic was but dimly remembered. We flew at 7000 feet, which would have put us in the ocean in some 10 seconds or so the navigator informed us. The pilot was one of the Dam Buster Boys. We were impressed because most of us had walked across the Mohne Dam to marvel at what had been breached. Much later, we landed at Gander to refuel then flew up the St. Lawrence to Dorval. Next were trains home.

So forty-odd of Canada's Finest survived their summer with 1 CIBG. Several of us would be returning to BAOR or NATO later in the decade. We were finally of age to serve our country.

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A Postscript to those mid-fifties:

The situation: World Hockey Championship. Games played in Krefeld, W. Germany.

The actors: Russia and Canada as finalists.

The audience: a large contingent of 1 CIBG fans from Westphalia.

The record of the Russia-Canada Final is not readily available. We won. Memory has it that the crowd became a mob, intent on destruction of any and all Russians...not successful....

Legend has it that one leader-instigator of this exercise was my FHQ Tp Sgt: **Carl P. Ranostay**, one of the finest NCO's in the Strathcona's. His ethnic origins provided him with ample reason to challenge Russians. Canadian fans were right there with him.

When I arrived, there were smiles from the troops and studied stares from the 'high-priced help'. Little was reported in Canadian papers for domestic consumption. It is time to set the record straight with respect to those fans.

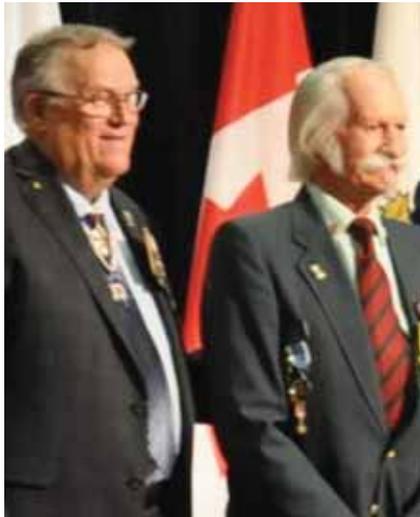
**Lost Trails**  
*Spring 2012 Newsletters which have been returned*

Cree JG - Edmonton, AB	Quinn JW - Ottawa, ON
Kirkham DE - Calgary, AB	Simpson M - Victoria, BC
Kitchen J - Bath ON	White JD - Portage La Prairie MB
Macfarlane RB - Brighton, ON	Young N - Granisle, BC
Ott CG - Owen Sound, ON	

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## Your Photos



*Jamie Jamieson with His Honour the Honourable Don Ethell, Lieutenant Governor of Alberta.*



*Roy Jardine with Prime Minister Stephen Harper.*



*Ron Howard receiving the Queen's Diamond Jubilee Medal.*



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## Your Dispatches

*I have been doing a search for surviving Korean War Vets that served with B Squadron of the Lord Strathcona's Horse in Korea in 1952 to 1953. My Dad was in the aforementioned squadron but I do not know what troop he was in.*

*My Dad's name was Reginald Lawson, he enlisted in June 1951 at 6 Pers Depot in Toronto and he was dispatched to Wainwright AB for training and he was assigned to B Squadron of the LdSH Regiment. He continued with further training in Calgary up to the time he left for Korea (May 1952) first by train from Wainwright AB to Seattle Wash and then by ship (R.L. Howze) to Yokahama, Japan and on to Inchon, Korea . He then took the train and truck to B Echelon.*

*I have included a photo of my dad around the time that he was in the Korean War. Any assistance would be greatly appreciated.*

*Diana Haslehurst  
diana\_haslehurst@rogers.com*

*Ok Strathcona Family, if you are able to supply Diana any information on her dad, please email her directly, or if you prefer, write a note and mail to Kathy Batty, CO's Secretary and she will forward the information on your behalf. Ed*



*I don't know if these are of interest, but they are of (Nobby), **Capt RBE Clark, MMM, CD.***

***Picture 1** (top of page 14) shortly after completion of new soldiers training at Currie barracks and*

***Picture 2** (bottom of page 14) just as we got off of the truck at Currie barracks after summer concentration, 1960 (I think).*

*That's me **Tpr Mouse deMeulles** with **Nobby**. Notice the kit bags are still on the ground behind us.*

*I might be able to identify some of the others in the recruit class photo.*

*Thanks*

*Leo deMeulles  
leodem1@mac.com*

*Leo, we are always interested in photos from the Strathcona Family. Ed*

*Hello,*

*For Remembrance day I am doing research project on a deceased (WWII) relative.*

*I am told he was part of a Sherman Tank crew in Italy and was killed by a direct hit by a German tank.*

*Name: **HOLTSLANDER, ALLAN H.***

*Date of Birth: 10 Nov 1909 / Date of Death: 30 May 1944*

*Rank: Trooper*

*Unit: Lord Strathcona's Horse (Royal Canadians), R.C.A.C.*

*I'm looking for any further information than what I have above. My research leads me to believe he was in 2nd Armoured Regiment which was part of 5th Canadian Armoured Brigade under command of **Major-General B.M. Hoffmeister.***

*Can you assist with any further info?*

*Jason Holtslander  
j.holtslander@gmail.com*

*If you are able to supply Jason any information on his relative, please email him directly, or if you prefer, write a note and mail to Kathy Batty, CO's Secretary and she will forward the information on your behalf. Ed*

# Last Trumpet Call

**ASHLEY, John** Age 78, 27 July 2012, Amherstview, ON

**BOND, Versal** 22 November 2006, Arnprior ON

**COLE, Carl** Age 83, 15 July 2012, Chilliwack, BC

**GRAHAM, Harry** Age 87, 3 October 2012, Barrie, ON

**HOOD, Bill** 2 July 2012, Calgary, AB

**KIRKWOOD, Ray** Abbotsford, BC

**LIPINSKI, George** Age 81, 5 August 2012, Elliot Lake, ON

**MORRIS, Murray** Age 85, 28 August 2012, Saint John, NB

**PEART, Ron** 9 June 2012, Summerland, BC

**ROTTEMBERG, Jack** 20 May 2012, Barrie, ON

**SNARR, William (Bill)** Age 83, 27 April 2012, Ontario

**SPENCE, Arnold** Age 81, 26 April 2012, Calgary, AB

**STEEVES, Jamie** Age 34, 31 May 2012, Oromocto, NB

**STEVENSON, Roy** Age 82, 24 August 2012, Calgary, AB

**THEOBALD, Harvey** Age 91, June 2012, Ottawa, ON

**WALLACE, Bob** Age 84, 30 October 2012, Calgary, AB

**WESSON, Ernie** 11 August 2012, Vancouver, BC

## In Loving Memory of Wives

**REID, Virginia (Walter)**, 7 August 2012, Calgary, AB

**SIDEBOTTOM, Millie (Roy)**, 4 September 2012, Springbank, AB

*Our apologizes for lack of details in some cases*