

Lord Strathcona's Horse (Royal Canadians)

realities of budget cuts and terrible

Unlike their RCN and RCAF

brethren (except Tac Hel), our

Maintenance Troop cadre has to

endure the joys of recovering and

repairing kit in the field, in all

weather conditions, often with

spare parts shortages?

REGIMENTAL SOCIETY NEWSLETT

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

Strathconas have always had a special place in their heart for the Regimental Maintenance Troop. Without their skill and dedication, armoured troops could not do their job. And on the battlefield, a gun that doesn't fire accurately, a radio that goes down, or a tank that stops all due to poor maintenance can cost lives. We call them 'wrench benders', 'grease monkeys' or 'parts changers', but we do so with great respect because they are very valued members of the team. So valued,

we encourage them to wear our

black

bullets flying. While crewmen rest, the maintainers slug away until the tank, recce vehicle, or vital echelon truck is fixed. Compounding the challenge is having mixed fleets that include several variants of the tank, Leopard beaten up

'Arte et marte' is

coveted

beret.

the RCEME motto

'By skill and by fighting'. It could well have been 'Perseverance' for the challenges our maintainers face on a daily basis. And challenges they do have. Short staffed (65% of establishment), they have a myriad weapon systems to keep on the road. The white stallion on their cap badge is chained to the world symbolising power the impact of RCEME soldiers on the world. Or is it more appropriately a symbol of being chained to the worldly

trucks and that are well past their 'best before' dates. You can add to the mix the introduction of new kit such as the TAPV and the LAV III 6.0. Each fleet has its own set of tooling, parts, training, manuals, etc. Furthermore and not surprisingly, the Strathcona tanks take considerably longer to maintain. Whereas a Coyote or LAV takes one week for an inspection, a Leopard 2 takes at least three weeks.

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Covotes,

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Despite the challenges, the LdSH Maint Tp is one of the most productive in the Brigade.

So the next time you see a 'wrench bender', buy him/her a coffee or a beer before giving him heck for not fixing your vehicle fast enough. They have broad shoulders but a little appreciation occasionally helps. As their cap badge depicts, they do after all have the weight of the world on their shoulders. When the RCEME song ('Auprès de ma blonde') is played at a Mess Dinner or parade, give it a wee extra round of applause; the Corps certainly deserves it.

Congratulations go to **Sergeant Yannick Cimon**, the B Squadron Maintenance Sergeant for being the first winner of the Strathcona Maintenance Award. Well done the Strathcona Maintenance Troop!







Commanding Officer

By Lieutenant-Colonel P.J. Peyton

I was always under the impression that the only two guarantees in life were death and taxes. **Kathy** recently reminded me that tardy submission of the Newsletter article by the Commanding Officer is every bit as certain. As has been the case over the last two years, she is again right.

As my last contribution as the Commanding Officer to the Newsletter, I will take this opportunity to thank all of you. The feats of your Regiment are realized not only because of the outstanding soldiers at the Regiment, but also because of the example that has been set by many of you. I know that your tenures at the Regiment were

every bit as busy and most certainly as successful, but indulge me as I praise this year's accomplishments of your soldiers.

Since last September, your Regiment spent about 17 weeks in the field, deployed in its entirely in support of the Alberta floods (evacuating over 400 civilians, reassuring the vulnerable preventing critical infrastructure from loss), granted over 300 individual trade qualifications to members of our Regiment, trained two high readiness squadrons, and conducted two international training events. We phased out the Leopard C2 (less six that we retain for the implements) and we conducted the first ever battle group exercise with two Leopard 2 squadrons. We had the opportunity to demonstrate our cavalry roots at Spruce Meadows and over a dozen other venues. became more active with HVT in the community, and provided a very grateful Korean war veteran the chance to ride in his blessed We listened as our Sherman Pipes and Drums band performed exceptionally at funerals, parades, and, of course, the odd pub. We have looked after our families through summer welcome events and Christmas parties, provided packages to our soldiers that were deployed on the last rotation into Afghanistan, and demonstrated our appreciation to our soldiers and their spouses at our ARDD. We have honoured our fallen as the lead unit contributing to the No Stone Left Alone initiative, and most recently, celebrated the accomplishments of our Regiment through Moreuil Wood commemoration activities.

I am under no illusion that the next 12 months will be any less hectic than has been the past. What will be different of course is that LCol Josh Major will have the great privilege of being the Commanding Officer. The Colonel of the Regiment and Regimental Colonel presided as Josh received his hat badge and accoutrements, joining the very proud Strathcona family. indoctrination, not surprisingly, was a pub dinner hosted by RSM Batty and the SSMs, and a brilliant dinner in the exclusive CP rail car with the officers and some of our incredible friends. Josh will soon learn how fortunate he is to join a Regiment with such exceptional soldiers, families, and friends.

I will finish with what I wrote in my first contribution to the Newsletter two short years ago. 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 experiencebased 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 your Regiment. Perseverance.







"Tales From The Big Chair"

By Chief Warrant Officer Tony Batty

Has it really been that long since the last article? I am sure some of you reading this will be only too aware of how time flies when at regimental duty.

This year, due to outside commitments and in looking at the murky crystal ball, it was decided to hold the Moreuil Wood parade and celebration on 17 April. You would think that the 17th of

April road conditions and general weather would be vastly improved. After all, it was not March. Surely, spring would arrive and all would be good to go. We could not have been more wrong. A soldier, who may or may not, resemble the RSM was overheard stating "It would not matter if we had the parade in July, it would still snow". All weather complaints aside, the parade and ensuing celebrations went off without a hitch. Privileged platform: the hitches were there but I think that the people who attended the parade, in particular the Old Guard, were just too polite to mention them.

The sports day demonstrated to all the Regiment is well served athletically at all rank levels. It was a great day of competition with an abundant display of espirit de corps within the Regimental family. On a side note, perhaps kilts should not be dress of the day for participating in broomball.

As is the tradition, a mess dinner was held to celebrate and commemorate the Battle of Moreuil Wood. I can say without a doubt that the food, camaraderie, and bar sales were second-to-none. On a personal note, I finally got to sit in the centre at the "big kid" table and had my mentors present and accounted for. It is perhaps an excellent reason for having the dinner after the parade as it will alleviate the panic of having to attempt repairs on the DEU the next day when one's vision may not be totally up to snuff. For those who suffered in silence the next day, I am fairly certain you knew where the closest Medi-centre was located, to enable a speedy recovery from the self-induced flu like symptoms.

As I write this article with 45 minutes to go before I depart to

the sunnier climes of Wainwright, I am reminded about the floods of last year just after being appointed as RSM. It should be noted that the rain falling on my window is almost a biblical torrent. Hip waders would have been a good purchase and well utilized during the next 10 days, I think. Two squadrons plus RHQ are deploying to assist in the training of other 1 CMBG sub-units for upcoming tasks in the new fiscal year.

All that being said, there is no doubt that when I arrive in Wainwright and am greeted by the sideways, horizontal, stinging rain, it is likely no human being has developed an impermeable textile to cope with it. Because I will be met by the smiling faces of the soldiers of the Regiment who are only too happy to complete any and all tasks to the highest standards, my morale will improve immeasurably.

I would like to take this time to wish all a Happy Easter and hope that you found lots of eggs in the hunt, or, if not, you were lucky like me and had the Easter Bunny hand deliver you a box of chocolates.







Association-Dead or Alive

By Colonel (Ret'd) Ian Barnes

When I think about the current state of the Regimental Association, I recall the old western TV show called "Dead or Alive", because it's not clear if the Association is alive and well or if it died and we forgot to hold the funeral. It may seem a funny way to start a report on the Association but I have to find some way to get the message across that the interest in the Association is waning. I ask you to please read

my article and if you care about the Association pay your membership dues and come to the 2015 reunion. If you don't it may just disappear due to lack of interest.

Following the Moreuil Wood Parade on 17 April, I attended, as an observer, the Annual General Meeting of the Regimental Society. I am pleased to report that the Society is being managed well and provides the members of the Regiment and their families many hard earned amenities and benefits. It also provides funding for the Strathcona's Mounted Troop, the Regimental Pipes and Drums, the Historical Troop, the Museum, the Strathconian and the Newsletter.

I was provided the opportunity to say a few words about the Association. I told the meeting participants that the Association was alive and well especially in various Branches across Canada such as Kelowna/Penticton. Edmonton, Vancouver, Victoria, Calgary, Kingston, Ottawa, and the Oromocto area. I was honest and told them that our paid membership had been declining over the past few years and that we would be looking at how we could revitalize our membership and increase our numbers. I encouraged the leaders to inform those leaving the Regiment to continue their contact with the Regiment by joining the Association. The Commanding Officer noted following my presentation that the Regimantal leadership encourages all soldiers leaving the Regiment to join the Association as part of their signing out process.

The growth of the Branches across Canada is a positive factor in the life of the Association; however the declining numbers of members who

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want to be part of the national Association is definitely a concern especially when we are working hard to organize yet another national reunion.

For the past forty-nine years, the national office of the Association has operated out of Calgary providing overall direction, conducting the annual membership drive, providing one voice for our affairs to the Regiment and Society, keeping track of members, preparing the Newsletter (until recently), assisting the cadet corps that bear the Regimental name, and providing direction and funding for the reunions. A year ago, the office was transferred to Edmonton. In that one year the membership has continued its declining trend such that we now have only 177 paid members. Perhaps it's time to reorganize and transfer the leadership to a committee of the Branch leaders, who could give overall direction to a central office headed by a small nationally formed board. The Association is not hide bound by official regulations. We do have a set of bylaws that were written in the 1970's which we could amend to meet changing times. We are not officially incorporated nor do we have a charitable status thus we can reorganize any way we want to meet our members' needs. To try and find a solution to our dilemma, I hope to meet with the Colonel of the Regiment, the leadership of the Regiment, and key members of the Association in June to consider the future leading up to the 2015 reunion where we hope to hold the first ever national meeting. We need your help - we would love to hear from you so please visit the Association's page on the Regimental web site and download the membership form and send it with a \$20.00 cheque to the Association headquarters and sign up for the 2015 reunion.

Association Mailing Address

Lord Strathcona's Horse (Royal Canadians) Regimental Association Suite 444 PO Box 10500 Stn Forces Edmonton, AB, T5J 4J5

Web site: www.strathconas.ca

Email address: association@strathconas.ca







A Strathcona in a Brave New World

By Major Sheldon Holmes

Computers. We use them everyday, whether at work or at home. They have become a key part of our life and many tasks we do day-to-day would become impossible without the assistance of a microchip processor; however, this technology is a double-edged sword. It can become a weakness and used against us if criminal or adversarial organizations exploit it.

I have been posted to an organization that is developing CAF capabilities in the cyber domain. The Directorate of Cyber Force Development (D Cyber FD), as part of Chief Force Development, is mandated to conceive, design, and build the cyber environment within the DND/CF in alignment with transformation efforts and Government of Canada direction. It is currently researching and advising on the way ahead to "operationalize" and institutionalize force development, force generation, and force employment for full spectrum cyber capabilities for the CAF.

New words and terms abound as do new definitions for the old; worms, honey pots, botnets, DoS attacks, phishing, computer network defence the list goes on. D Cyber FD is a very interesting place to work and it takes some time to get your head around the new ideas and terminology. You look at your small computer network that your family uses at home in an entirely new light. It's a big, wily world out on the internet and its rapidly becoming a new battlefield. I am certainly glad to be helping in a small way to ensure that Canada and the CAF are prepared for this brave new world.

2015 Reunion Update

Theme: "Together in History"

Date – June 11 to 14 2015

Location: Edmonton, Alberta

Hotel – Ramada Conference Centre 11834 Kingsway Ave. N.W. Edmonton, AB T5G3J5

Room Bookings: Phone 780 454 5454

Hotel cost: Guaranteed rate until April 1st 2015 - \$119.00 (plus tax per night) regular double room. - Tell them you are part of the Strathcona's reunion - 5th wheel parking available.

Reunion Cost: \$150 per person, \$175.00 (non members) all meals included

Program:

- 11 Jun 12:00 a.m. Early Bird Golf Tournament Best ball shotgun start 6:00 p.m. Meet and Greet
- 12 Jun History presentations throughout day on Korea, Sinai and Afghanistan with veterans.

 Memorial service and Association meeting (Ladies are welcome)

 Ladies program exercise- presentations, tea, shopping trips.
- 13 Jun Day at the Regiment Colonel of the Regiment's change of Command, lunch in regimental lines,
 SMT display, visit to Museum, HVT display.
 -6:00 p.m. Reunion Dinner.
- 14 Jun Departure.

Lost Trails

Fall/Winter 2013 Newsletters which have been returned

BACINE JM - St. Albert, AB

CARPENTER CR - Ottawa, ON

CHARTIER SM - Borden, ON

JENKINS NP - Grand Falls, NL

JESSOME DF - Fort McMurray, AB

MACLEOD JD - Kingston, ON

MCGOWAN TF - Evansburg, AB

SCOTT JH - Abbotsford, BC

SPRAGUE PJ - Belleville, ON

THORDARSON AM - Winnipeg, MB

Calgary Branch Black Hat Luncheon

By Clare Lane

Howie Owen had made arrangements for the Black Hat Luncheon at No.285 Legion on Horton Road for 21 January and handed it over to me, my first function as the new president of the Calgary Branch of the Regimental Association. At the same time, I learned our guests were to be the Regiment's CO, **LCol Peyton**, and the RSM, **CWO Batty**.

All was arranged for 15 members and guests to attend at the luncheon but on Tuesday morning the 2IC called **Howie** to say that 15 members of the Regiment were coming down. **Howie** called me and I arranged for 30 guests with the Chief Cook at the Legion.

I arrived early to ensure all was ready and greet the early arrivals. A few of our Association members started to trickle in around 1100 hours as did a number of personnel arriving in "combat green". These were members of the command structure of the Strathcona's--OC's, SSM's, Adjutant, and so forth as well as the CO and RSM. We must have had just about 20 guests in addition to the Colonel of the Regiment, **Cam Ross**. There were a like number of our Branch members as well.

Typically for gatherings of so many new faces, we gathered in our groups at first but, eventually, our members mixed with these Regimental leaders and got to exchange information of who we all were, what was going on at the Regiment, personal views, and, ultimately, war stories. We were so immersed, **Howie** had to remind me that maybe we should get on with it because the food and coffee were getting cold. Being the newly-made President of our Branch, I was a little nervous about making my first speech. I called things to order and spoke for a couple of minutes thanking everyone for coming out with a special thanks to the CO and the Strathcona personnel especially because, though we were no longer the Headquarters for the Regimental Association, we wanted to continue having close ties with the Regiment. **Cam Ross** followed and he reiterated that we were a special family, the old soldiers, the vets, and the new soldiers of the Regiment. **LCol Peyton** brought us all up to date on the many tasks and operations that the members of the Regiment had participated in and explained what the personnel accomplished in Chile and in Texas He also invited all of our Branch members to the Military Museum for the re-badging ceremony for **LCol Major** at 1430 hours the following day. The formal part of the luncheon ended with **RSM Batty**, as usual, tying up the loose ends and keeping everyone on track.

Following the luncheon, numerous attendees continued with person-to-person discussions, reminiscing, and getting to know each other better. Around 1430 hours, we closed down this very unusual gathering. It was extremely informative and provided very personal contact among the senior members of the Strathcona command structure, the Colonel of the Regiment, and our Association members who had attended. I felt that it was a very satisfying day, a good experience for me and, I hope, for everyone who attended.

National Association Membership Renewal

Did you receive your Association Membership Renewal form? If not, do not despare, you can still renew your membership. Visit our website http://strathconas.ca/association-membership-information to download the form and mail it to the address listed.

If you don't have access to the Internet, please call Kathy Batty at 780-973-1660 to obtain a hard copy. The Association currently has members from across the country and around the world, register or renew today!

To learn more about what membership means, please contact Ian Barnes at bevian 1@shaw.ca

Cavalry on the (East) Coast

By Rob Stoney and Chris Kitching



Rob Stoney and John Swanton

Despite the well-known fact that the Regiment is decidedly "western" in its origin and focus, there remains a large contingent of serving and retired Strathconas on the east coast. The Armour School is home to numerous Regimental members and we cannot deny the fact that many of us also choose to either "come home" or settle "down east" when we retire.

Even with the surprisingly large Regimental presence on the east coast, the Regiment has had no Regimental Association presence out this way. That changed in January 2013 when the Atlantic Branch of the Regimental Association was formed.

Currently, the Atlantic Branch is centred in the CFB Gagetown area but has plans to gradually spread its influence and contacts throughout the Atlantic Provinces...and beyond. In our first year of operation, the Atlantic Branch held a number of well-attended Thursday afternoon beer calls at the

Oromocto Legion and a very soggy, but enjoyable Golf Tournament in September.

The Branch Executive for 2013-2014 is: President – **Rob Stoney**, Vice-President – **Dwayne Parsons**, Treasurer – **Dave Blanchard**, Secretary – **Jamie Hunter**, and Social Director – **Chris Kitching**.

A new event for 2014 will be our inaugural annual Melfa River Golf Tournament on 07 Jun 14 at the Gage Golf and Curling Club in Oromocto. We welcome any and all members of the Regimental family to come out and enjoy a Saturday golfing with comrades old and new. A BBQ will follow the golfing. Details are still being firmed up so confirmation of activities will follow shortly. For more information contact **Captain Chris Kitching** at (506) 422-2000 local 2150 or chris.kitching@forces.gc.ca.



Rob Stoney, Maj Hunter and Capt Stachow

Lotus Land Lancers Gather to Commemorate the 96th Battle of Moreuil Wood

Vancouver Island Branch

By Major Don Senft, MSM, CD

On Thursday, 20 March 2014, under a bright and sunny blue sky on the shores of the beautiful Pacific Ocean, 36 members of the Regiment, our Corps, and its supporters gathered at the Sidney and North Saanich Yacht Club to commemorate the 96th Battle of Moreuil Wood. We were very fortunate to have an excellent turnout from the local area and the lower mainland of BC, with a contingent of 11 participants making the trip on the ferry to join the Island crowd for the annual luncheon this year.

As always, we were fortunate to have in attendance our Colonel of the Regiment, **MGen (Ret'd) Cam Ross**, who took the time to update the gathering on the happenings at the Regiment. We were also grateful to have in attendance again this year the Colonel Commandant of the RCAC and former serving Strathcona, **BGen (Ret'd) Darrell Dean**, who provided the group an excellent update on the overall health of the Corps and a frank discussion on the options being considered for the future as the Canadian Armed Forces grapples with the latest round of budget cuts.

The event included an excellent opportunity for the exchange of war stories and recounting of many a misadventure, all shared at the bar or over the excellent buffet lunch provided to the event by the Yacht Club staff. We were also joined this year by **Bob Mackay**, a retired Naval Officer and author of *Soldier of the Horse*, whose father had ridden with **Flowerdew** in the charge at Moreuil Wood. He was able to share with the gathered crowd the details of his research and recounted some history from his father's experience at Moreuil Wood that served to bring the gathering back to that heroic time in our Regiment's proud history. (Bob's book was very favourably reviewed in the previous edition of the Newsletter.)

As always, it was great to have such an excellent turnout from the old guard at the event, the likes of Fred Berge, Rollie Keith, David Sproule, Paul Philcox, Bernie McNicholl amongst others joining us from the mainland, along with Peter Furnell who joined us from the Comox Valley, and local stalwarts such as Pat Chartres, Paul Crober, Bill Donaldson, Paul Ellard, Jack Gallop, Stu Harber, Richard Kitcher, Herb Pitts, Dave Letson, Duff MacDonnell, Pat Lancaster, Gary Miller, Pat Patterson, Yvon Savoie, Gary Del Villano, Tom Thomas, Ted Swansburg, Bill Wood, and Keith Sine amongst many others that all added their usual flair to this annual event

All in all, it was an excellent afternoon of camaraderie and a great chance to reflect on the long legacy of service and proud heritage of our Corps and our Regiment. The next Vancouver Island Branch event will be a happy hour beer call in early June, with the date and location to be promulgated shortly.

Fall 2014 Edition Deadline

The deadline for submissions for the Fall 2014 Strathcona Regimental Society Newsletter is

1 November 2014.

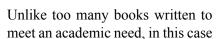
Submissions should be forwarded to newsletter@strathconas.ca

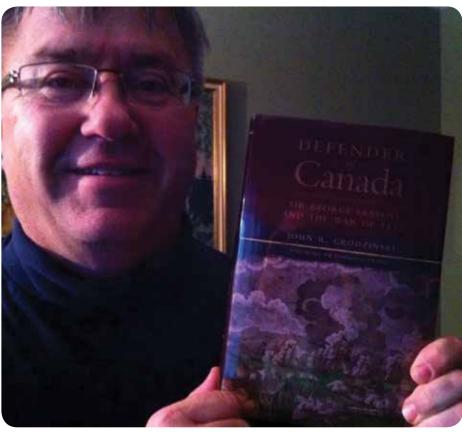
Or mailed to:
Lord Strathcona's Horse (Royal Canadians)
Regimental Society Newsletter
PO Box 10500 Station Forces
Edmonton, AB T5J 4J5

Attention: Kathy Batty

DEFENDER OF CANADA

One of our own, Major John Grodzinski, CD, PhD, has written an interesting and intriguing book on early Canadian history. It is based on Sir George Prevost's governing of Canada prior to and during the War of 1812 and subsequent maltreatment by his superiors and colleagues following his removal from office. John's premise is Prevost was instrumental in the successful defence of Canada by British forces, the Canadian militia, and native allies but historians have not been kind in acknowledging this. They tend to focus on his failure at the Battle of Platsburg rather than the exceptional accomplishments under the most daunting of circumstances in readying an illprepared colony for and conducting the war.





John's doctrinal dissertation, the book is easy to read and an enjoyable journey to a time and climate few of us can appreciate or understand. In this day and age of instant linkage mainly through brilliant electronics and other advanced technologies, it is hard to conceive the trying circumstances under which **Prevost** led a fledgling colony through war preparations and conflict. The geographic distances were almost insurmountable, communications were painfully slow, and resources, especially people, funds, and materials, were largely inadequate. What may be easier for today's reader to appreciate are the competing interests at play, especially personalities, during, perhaps, the most crucial period of Canada's development.

John does an excellent job of setting the stage for judging **Prevost** by examining his upbringing and early career, describing the key social influences of the times, and skillfully highlighting issues and conflicts at home and abroad. His assessment of the conflict is especially interesting to follow.

This book is written by a Strathcona, one who is a passionate historian as witnessed by his contributions to safeguarding and pursuing the Regiment's history over the years. Clearly, he put the same dedication and effort into writing Defender of Canada.

John is currently serving as an Assistant Professor in the Department of History at The Royal Military College.







Regimental Belt Buckle

The Regiment has a limited number of Regimental Belt Buckles for sale. The cost is \$130 plus shipping

Serialized Numbering of Buckles remaining:

65-68

71-81

84

91

94-98

If you are interested in purchasing a Regimental Belt Buckle, send your cheque made payable to LdSH(RC) Regimental Society for \$130 to:

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



Please ensure to indicate your buckle number preference, mailing address and contact phone number. For more information email the Regiment at ldsh@strathconas.ca or call 780-973-1660.

RUHR MEMORIES 1953 - 1971

The Regiment deployed an armoured squadron to Fort Anne in Werl, The Federal Republic of Germany, as part of 1 CIBG from 1953 to 1955 and later a Ferret Scout Car squadron to 4 CIBG, 1 CIBG's replacement from 1957 to 1959. The entire Regiment deployed to 4 CIBG for the period 1965 to 1970. During this period, the Regiment was stationed at "Fort Beausejour" in Iserlohn, Germany.

For those who served there any time during this period, a website entitled Ruhr Memories will be of great interest and delight. Covering the period 1953 to 1971, the website, through pictures and narratives, highlights the history of the units and personnel that served in the Ruhr Valley. The website is dedicated to the Canadian Forces members, dependents, and teachers who lived, worked, and played in the Ruhr Valley and continues to be updated as mementos and memories surface.

With the Regiment's upcoming 2015 Reunion, a walk through www.ruhrmemories.ca will bring back numerous memories especially activities and, more importantly, faces. Doing so might provide details and tidbits that might have been forgotten, or worse, misremembered prior to tall tales being told in Edmonton in June 2015.

Rebadging Ceremony of the Commanding Officer Designate

By Clair Lane



Many members of our Association Branch and a few wives gathered in the Museum of the Regiments entrance area with the Regimental personnel from Edmonton including the CO, LCol Peyton and RSM, CWO Batty, and several other dignitaries. Gratefully, I used the occasion to meet many of them for the first time since assuming the Branch presidency. At 1430 hours, the RSM directed the various groups in to the Strathcona Regimental Museum with members of the Association going first, followed by members of PPCLI and Regimental staff along the wall and dignitaries gathered to the front. With LCol Major facing the dignitaries, the Colonel of the Regiment, Cam Ross, began the ceremony by explaining some of the Regiment's history and the feeling of family that all Strathconas

have. The Adjutant read out each element of the Strathcona hat badge and the symbolism of each. **LCol Peyton** and **RSM Batty** came forward and, with each standing on either side of **LCol Major**, they removed the insignias and badges of the 12e RBC and then placed the badges and insignias of Lord Strathcona's Horse (RC) on his uniform. **LCol Major** then received his beret with a Strathcona hat badge in place.

During the ceremony and afterwards many photos were taken of **LCol Major** with various personnel and dignitaries. We were all led into a small auditorium where wine and trays of food were laid out for us. We all mingled and again many members sought out serving members and old friends to talk to and introduce themselves to **LCol Major**. This was a more formal occasion with some senior officers of the Brigade in attendance along with Dignitaries and a few wives. It slowly broke up just before 1600 hrs.

This was another unusual event held here in Calgary. My thoughts were that it was held here in Calgary instead

of in the Regimental lines in Base Edmonton because they wanted it held amongst the historical foundation depicted in the Strathcona Regimental Museum here.

LCol Peyton has been and continues to be a great supporter of the Strathcona's Regimental Association and has kept close ties with us in Calgary. I am sure that LCol Major will also keep these ties in the future when he becomes the Strathcona CO, scheduled for June 12th, because he met with several members of the Calgary Branch and we made a good impression and pitch to continue that association.

Thanks again for all who attended this momentous Regimental occasion.



Forward to Fundamentals: Tank Training for the "Near-Peer" Fight

by Major E. Angell, OC A Sqn, LdSH(RC)



Since the summer of 2006, The Canadian Army's tank regiment has been fighting a vastly inferior enemy. This enemy was not uniformed, operated with loose doctrine, had no tanks or aircraft, and fought us with mostly antiquated anti-armour weapons. Consequently, tank training has been focussed on fighting an inferior enemy, albeit in an extremely complex environment. To be clear, I in no way mean to understate the complexity of the environment we operated in, but simply to highlight that we overmatched our enemies in every area. It was only in the fall of 2011 on Exercise MAPLE RESOLVE 1101 that tank specific training began to refocus on the "near-peer" fight after concentrating on counter-insurgency for many years.

Near-peer is best described and replicated, by an enemy force that has a similar size, level of training, and equipment as us. They are also a uniformed force, organized in a military fashion and employ standardized tactical doctrine. Due to various political sensitivities, the Canadian Army has adopted a fictitious enemy to train against, the near-peer component known as the Port-Au-Prince Guards Battalion. It uses a similar doctrine to old Soviet forces.

While modern main battle tanks are good at a great many things, they were primarily designed for one thing; to kill other tanks. One must not forget this basic truth when considering near-peer training. Force-on-force training is the best and only effective

way to train against a near-peer enemy. The best tool and method the Canadian Army has to simulate the near-peer fight is the weapon effects simulation (WES) system. While far from perfect, WES is an invaluable tool in measuring true effectiveness in tank-versus-tank combat during training. Many have the impression that WES is only used during Exercise MAPLE RESOLVE serials; however, LdSH (RC) has also used it to great effect

during Level 6 training, more specifically pitting one tank squadron against another. This proved to be an invaluable learning opportunity for all involved.

I argue that, while training for the near-peer fight is easier to plan and execute, the resource requirements are much higher. A handful of replicated insurgents firing rocket-propelled grenades (RPGs) and emplacing improvised explosive devices (IEDs) does little to exercise tank skills. In order to truly exercise a tank squadron, you need a tank squadron as the enemy. Collective training is moving toward this ultimate goal, and Exercise MAPLE RESOLVE 1301 had the largest number of vehicles using vehicle-borne WES kits ever. There were a total of 392 vehicles with WES, 285 primary training audiences (PTA) and 107 opposition forces (OPFOR). The PTA (A Squadron LdSH (RC)) had 14 tanks with WES and the OPFOR had four. The OPFOR tank troop





was meant to replicate a full squadron.

Our recent training proved that one of the biggest mental changes from counter-insurgency to a near-peer fight is the re-emphasis of crew commander skills. Also key is the employment of the squadron as a whole. In Afghanistan, the most tactically advantageous position was often in the open on the high ground with security achieved from standoff and long, clear lanes of fire. While this works well against RPGs and IEDs, it is a good way to get you killed if the enemy has tanks, longrange anti-armour weapons, artillery, aircraft, etc. In order to survive against a comparable enemy, speed is the key. This includes speed of movement, speed of engagement, and speed of planning and action. Crew commanders must take quick short bounds of no more than 800

-1000m where the ground permits, which are tied to cover by fire and range bands. In Afghanistan, from various high ground positions we could realistically engage men and hard targets out to ranges approaching 4000m with high explosive anti-tank (HEAT) ammunition. Recognizing that sabot is the most effective tank-killing round, we have re-emphasized the 2000 metre range limitation of sabot against hard targets. Another key aspect of training crew commanders is re-invigorating the use of implements and drills for beaching complex and deliberate obstacles, acknowledging that a near-peer enemy will likely have robust engineer assets.

In the fight against a near-peer enemy at the combat team level, the hasty attack is king. Our ability to win against a near-peer force is predicated on speed and mastery of the fundamentals. It is absolutely essential that tank training

include all arms co-operation. To be clear, training with the other combat arms is key and we cannot hope to win a near-peer fight without it. The best training vehicles for this are the Combat Team Commander Course (CTCC) and Exercise MAPLE RESOLVE. The CTCC is invaluable in providing sub-unit commanders with the skills they need to fight and win against a commensurate force. It is most definitely "key-terrain" that must not be lost or underemphasized. The combat team and utilisation of a well-executed hasty attack will allow us to dislocate the enemy and destroy him before he can react. Another excellent training event this year was Exercise PROMETHEAN RAM, a 1 Canadian Mechanized Brigade Group live-fire exercise. This exercise saw the bulk of the brigade "bomb-up" on day one and not clear weapons until the end of day ten. This exercise re-emphasized many all-arms lessons on live-fire ranges and most definitely "trained



Continued on page 14

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to excite".

We have also had to re-establish how we avoid being killed by aircraft, a tanker's greatest enemy. In an age of thermal cameras on aircraft and unmanned aerial vehicles, I argue that our best protection is hiding and dispersing, massing combat power to strike, before quickly dispersing again. This applies specifically toward weaning ourselves from a reliance on static administration and replenishment areas, such as forward operating bases (FOB's), semi-permanent maintenance areas, and close leaguers. The days of circling the wagons to protect the squadron sergeant major are gone. We have re-invigorated the use of hides and hide routine, living "lean and mean" off the tank for weeks at a time, deploying camouflage nets, maintaining track discipline (to include covering and erasing tracks), running replenishment, etc.



In summary, everything old is new again. That being said, the Strathcona's have not taken the approach of stepping back to basics but moving forward to fundamentals. It may seem a minor distinction but it is an important one nonetheless. We must reemphasize the fundamental crew commander skills: adopting positions, using quick, short bounds, and covering by fire. Mastery of the fundamentals will win the tactical battle against any near-peer enemy.



Your Dispatches

My name is Kimberly Burns and I am attempting to find out what happened to my Great Uncle, Neil Raymond Elliott for his sisters. I know this is a total shot in the dark, but I have a copy of his Queen's Commendation for Brave Conduct dated 27-6-60. It also lists his regiment as Lord Strathcona's Horse (Royal Canadians). My Great Aunts are curious as to what became of their brother as it has been a very long time since they have heard from him as they moved up north and he went down south in Ontario.

I am trying to do my best as his oldest sister is 91 years old and has tried to locate him previously, but as she has little to go on, other than his marriage and his children's names, it has been proving difficult.

As I said, I know this is a shot in the dark, but if you could help us find Neil, it would be greatly appreciated.

Kimberly Anne Burns kimberly.burns@shaw.ca

Kim, thank you for your note. Unfortunately we have lost track of Neil so we have put out a number of feelers to see if anyone has had contact with him or any news of his whereabouts. We have also listed Neil on our Lost Trails on our Regimental Website. Perhaps some of our readers might have more information? Ed.

It is with a heavy heart that I inform you of the passing of Alonzo Gratto Bourgeois (known to all as Lonnie) on 19 November 2013 at the age of 81. We laid my father in law to rest in the Veterans section of the cemetery in Brandon Manitoba on 23 November 2013. My friend and father in law was a Gun Mech/Weapons Technician, RCEME, LORE, EME and proudly served with the LdSH (RC) in Calgary from Oct 1955 to May 1960.

I fondly remember how excited he was when I asked him if he would like to help the Regiment and me as the ETQMS celebrate the 100th anniversary of the Regiment in 2000. I'm sure he broke every speed limit imaginable coming to the celebration.

Lonnie proudly wore the black beret while serving with the Regiment, as I did, and went on to serve for 28 years, plus another 14 years as a civil servant at CFB Shilo. May he rest in peace and Lest We Forget.

Doug Harbak Former Strathcona ET

Doug, sorry for your loss, thanks for letting us know. We are always pleased to hear from our RCEME brothers – Once A Strathcona Always A Strathcona regardless of the hat badge. We hope you will enjoy the Colonel of the Regiment's comments in this issue of the Newsletter. Ed.

 $Sir, \ Great\ newsletter,\ nice\ picture\ of\ Bob\ Haddow\ and\ me\ at\ the\ last\ reunion.$

Question, could you please tell me how the Regiment adapted the colours of Red and Green on the Regimental Crest?

Your Friend,

George Lancia

George. Thank you for your letter and the question on the significance of the red and myrtle green on the crest. Now we are going to make you do a little work for the answer. Please go to the Regimental web page www.strathconas.ca and click on the "Regimental Manual". The answer to your question is in Article 6300 in Section 3 – Regimental Facings and Colours. You have given us a great opportunity to draw everyone's attention to the Regimental Manual which contains hundreds of tidbits of information on our history and traditions. By the way, the Manual is currently being reviewed so if anyone spots an error, please let us know ASAP. Ed.

re: letter to Newsletter from Joan (Steele) Ray, subject family history and Sam Steele - how fortunate to have such a great ancestor! She notes that Sam Steele's birthdate was 1851. That was in fact one of several different birth dates attributed to Sam; the correct date is1848 from the original church register which we discovered in 2000. I think you will find a write-up of that discovery in an earlier newsletter

Regards, Murray Cayley

Murray, thanks for the clarification. That "eagle eye" of yours is as sharp as ever! Ed.

I've been serving LDSH(RC) from June to December 1991 (...) as a 12 RBC exchange officer under LCol Ross and Hug at the time... I also served with young Lt Paul Peyton during the same era (say hi please!).

It was a great time and I still have many great memories from my time with your fine unit.

When I joined your Regiment in 1991, I met and established a great friendship will a fellow officer from 17th/21st Lancers, who was an exchange officer from UK, in the person of **Capt Wade Bostock**. Unfortunately, I lost track of him many years ago and I wonder if you had, by any chance, kept a record of his whereabouts?

If so, please send me his address or (if you can't) provide him with my email.

Many thanks!

Jean-François Dufour jf.dufour@hotmail.com

Jean-Francois, thanks for the note. We have passed your hello to now LCol Peyton. Do any of our readers know the whereabouts of Capt Bostock? Ed.

Dear Sirs.

A few years back my son and I visited South Africa hoping to make a documentary film on Strathcona's Horse and its service during the Anglo-Boer War. After our visit I wrote a book, "Searching for the Queen's Cowboys," which details our experiences making the film.

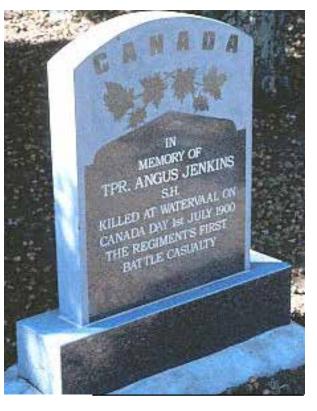
Through the many contacts I made in South Africa, I recently received information that claims the regiments first battle casualty in South Africa, (Angus Jenkins of Red Deer) is not buried in the military cemetery in Standerton where I photographed his grave and, instead, lies buried in a remote farm graveyard not far from where he was killed.

I would appreciate your advice. Do you have a regimental historian who might be interested in this?

Sincerely.

Tony

Tony Maxwell PO Box 146 Red Deer AB Canada T4N 5E7 tonymaxwell@shaw.ca



Tony, we are going to pass your letter to Murray Cayley. (See his letter above.) During the period from Summer 2008 to Spring 2011. Murray provided six articles to the Newsletter giving synopses from a book on the Strathconas in South Africa written by the late Nobby Walsh, a former Regimental Sergeant Major. Perhaps Murray can help you with your query. If you are interested in Murray's articles, back issues of the Newsletter can be found on our web page www.strathconas.ca **Ed**



In the last Newsletter, we sadly reported the death of Mike Pushkarenko, a Strathcona known to many of us as a true professional and a gentleman. What many may not remember is that Mike was once selected for a very singular honour, a selection no doubt made in recognition of his high degree of professionalism. When the Regiment was presented with its new Guidon by Field Marshal Sir Richard Hull, KCB, **DSO** in Fort Beausejour, Germany on 26 July, 1968, Mike, as Guidon bearer, escorted by then Sergeants Juli **Levesque** and **Earl Smith**, received the Guidon from the Field Marshall. This photo was originally published in the 1968 Strathconian and we thank Phil Neatby for drawing it to our attention.

In the past twelve months, this fund has assisted veterans, cadet groups, student bursary applicants, and has given a substantial donation to those Legion Branches effected by the floods in Southern Alberta It also contributed to the purchase of life-saving equipment through the Sturgeon Hospital Foundation. Other uses in the past have included, and may again include supporting: medical training & research, Canadian Military Family Resource Centres, housing/care facilities for the elderly and/or disabled, drop-in centres for seniors & meals-on-wheels services.

Lest We Forget





St. Albert Legion BR. #271 780-458-3330

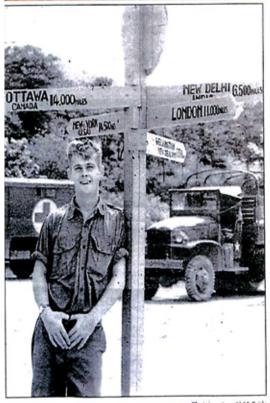


Photo courtesy Al McBride
Al McBride stands near a milepost on the front lines of the Korean War.

Credit where credit is due

GLENN COOK

St. Albert Leader

As the Canadian government marks the 60th anniversary of the end of the Korean War this year, one local veteran of that war says it's about time.

Al McBride spent 14 months on the front lines in Korea from October 1951 to January 1953 with the Lord Strathcorna's Horse (Royal Canadians) regiment. He said that the designation of 2013 as the Year of the Korean War Veteran is long overdue.

"How long does it take them to do this? A lot of guys are bitter," he said. "And I was too, because we got nothing. We didn't even get a medal."

McBride grew up in British Columbia, and enlisted in the Canadian Forces around his 18th birthday because there was little work to be had on the west coast.

He had two full years of training before he was sent to Korea, but not even that could prepare him for some of the things he saw on the front lines.

"If you think the First World War

guys had it bad, you have no idea what we had ... it was horrible," he said.

McBride tells of taking cover under tanks to avoid flying shrapnel, but not staying too long, because the tanks were what the North Korean troops and their allies were after.

"I lost two of my best friends there ... I went to school with one, and one I trained with," he recalled.

McBride was originally supposed to only be in Korea for six months, but as volunteers dwindled, his stay was extended.

"When the six months was up, I went into the orderly room and said to the sergeant-major, 'I want to go home.' He said, 'We all want to go home."

After returning to Canada, McBride held a number of firefighting positions across Canada, eventually settling into a deputy fire chief position in St. Albert, where he had four grandchildren.

But setting foot back on Canadian soil was not the same for him as it was for soldiers in other wars.

"I came home on a train that dropped me off in Vancouver, and my dad happened to be there, and one old guy who gave me a pack of cigarettes," he said, noting that it took three years of wrangling to finally get his pension.

Indeed, the Korea nWar has often been referred to as the "forgotten

"They didn't help us a bit. They didn't give us nothing. The Second World War guys didn't figure we did enough. They wouldn't even let me in the Legion," he said. "It was just too close to the Second World War, I think... We weren't well, a lot of us, when we got back."

But McBride feels like Korean
War veterans are finally getting the
recognition they are due. He helps
organize the Remembrance Day
ceremonies every year in
St. Albert, and he said it's always nice
to see how many people come out
to pay their respects, especially the
youngsters.

"My granddaughter yells,
"There's Grandpa!" That's nice," said
McBeide, who also talks at local
schools around Remembrance Day.
"They understand it more today
than they did when we got back...
There's more publicity, more TV, and
that's what drives everything."

Newspaper Credit to The St. Albert Leader



Les Struzik. Daughter of RSM Charlie Smith. Norm Wood

War Leader: Hat Native Danny McLeod recalls horrors of battle



Banny McLeod with his school hockey team: top row Neismith, Toole, Coach Ross McKay, Burnett, and San Wise-Front row Stein, McLeod, Smythe, Thompson, and Bradshaw, Taken by Gainsboro Studio around 1934ish

GILLIAN SLADE

gslade@medicinehatnews.com GillianNews Twitter:

The battlefield had been quiet, ominously quiet, for about 30 minutes when there was an almighty explosion right next to the second tank.

The soldiers were being fired at with small arms and machine-gun fire from the Germans.

The crew bailed out of that second tank but there was no sign of Frankie Moan.

The troops had to withdraw and it would only be the following day before they could safely return and try to find Moan. For many the thought of what they might find in the tank was too awful to contemplate and they stood back.

His friend, Danny McLeod, was determined to rescue the body that was found slumped over the crew commander's seat.

"I was in the lead and it should have been me that was killed but they hit the second tank, which was Frankie's. The Panzer Faust that hit them went through the turret and hit Frankie full blast in the back," said McLeod. "Being short like me, he was standing on the crew commander's seat in order to observe."

Assisted by Padre Silcox, McLeod removed the body, placed it on a stretcher, covered it with a blanket and then a Union Jack.

That was only one of the battles for McLeod and just one of many friends who died on the battlefields of Europe during the Second World War. McLeod says he does not like to think of one battle being worse than another.

"They were all bad, many lost their lives in service to their country," said McLeod, who was born and raised in Medicine Hat.

Boney Bathwell was McLeod's buddy growing up together in Medicine Hat. His face was hit by a bullet or shrapnel. He survived another 10 years but constantly fought infections and extreme pain.

It was an October morning in Holland that McLeod himself came under fire. He was returning to his troop after a meeting with the commanding officer.

"I ducked into a small alley between a high brick building and a house. The artillery shell exploded, I knew I was hir," reads a passage in his biography Always A Leader, by Tim Nurse.

A woman in a nearby house beckoned for him but when he sat down and unbuckled his belt, blood ran out.

"I thought, 'Oh my God I have a stomach wound,' " said McLood, who instead re-buckled his belt and made his way to His wounds were cauterized and he was placed face down on a stretcher. He'd received a penetrating shrapnel wound on the left side of his neck, another on his right temple and both his eardrums had been perforated. There was also shrapnel between two vertebrae in his neck. He was evacuated by air to England.

McLeod was awarded the Military Cross and after the war it was Field Marshal Viscount Sir Bernard Law Montgomery who presented the medal in Calgary.

McLeod enlisted in June 1940 but it would be four years before he arrived in Europe to fight.

"It took a lot of time to learn. We were very young, most of us had no previous military training," said McLeod. "We had to move up through the ranks, be promoted until we were actually ready to lead and do battle."

It took time to learn how to be a soldier but McLeod's leadership skills and problem-solving capabilities were recognized almost immediately.

He says they are partly genetic, partly about following in his father's footsteps, an uncle he admired. Walter Hutchison, and teachers from Elm Street School and Alexandra School.

"I admired an immigrant, Dr. Dederer, who paid me to help him in the flour mill," said McLeod. "I learned a good deal about work ethics from him. He taught me many things about how to succeed."

From Canada, McLeod went for officer's training at Sandhurst. Historic buildings with upper middle class Britons did not intimidate McLeod at all.

"I was better trained than the 'upper middle class' who had just left school," said McLeed. "I had an advantage there which gave me confidence even though I was just a farm boy from the Prairies and a high school dropout."

While many officers enjoyed McLeod's natural abilities, some saw him as difficult. The feelings were sometimes mutual.

"The less-gifted leaders who wanted you to do something just because they said so were hard to tolerate," said McLeod, "I found I was adaptable and I wanted to be challenged."

On Remembrance Day McLeod says his thoughts turn to those who did not return home and remain buried in Europe.

In McLeod's regiment, the South Albertas, there are fewer than 15 still living.

McLeod celebrated his 92nd birthday last Monday, Nov. 4, and currently lives in Kingston.







TOP: Danny McLeod in 2011 left: Danny McLeod as an NHL official Right: Danny McLeod in the 1970's



Did you know??

Did you know that you can continue (or start) your monthly contributions to the Strathcona Regimental Society online via PayPal? You can choose to make a one time donation, or you can choose to set up a re-occurring donation (ie once per month)?

The Lord Strathcona's Horse (Royal Canadians) Regimental Society is a registered charitable organization (organization number 500080585)

By donating to the Strathcona Regimental Society you will assist in realizing the Society's objectives which are:

To further the traditions and heritage of Lord Strathcona's Horse (Royal Canadians);

To hold, preserve and maintain the artifacts, memorabilia and belongings of the Society;

To establish, maintain, and operate the museums of the Society and LdSH (RC);

To establish, maintain, and operate horse riding facilities; and,

To collect and disseminate information of interest and relevance to members of the Society.

Some examples of activities that the Society supports are:

Strathcona families and deployed members. Donations to this go towards:

- ~ Children's Christmas Party
- ~ Summer Family Day
- ~ All Ranks Dinner & Dance
- ~ Tastes of Home packages (care packages to deployed members)
- ~ Family Support Troop (events and activities for the families of deployed members)

Strathcona Museum

Strathcona Mounted Troop

Strathcona Pipes & Drums

Strathcona Historical Vehicle Troop

Strathcona Society Newsletter (published twice per year).

To learn more about donating to the Strathcona Regimental Society or the Ceremonial Mounted Troop Foundation, please visit our website http://strathconas.ca/how-can-you-help

Thank you for your consideration.

"Once a Strathcona, always a Strathcona"

WARNING ORDER

CALGARY BRANCH ANNUAL GOLF TOURNAMENT

The Annual Strathcona Association Family Golf Tournament (Calgary Branch) is scheduled for 23 August 2014. The format is same as in past years with nine holes of golf at a local course in Calgary followed by a fun-filled couple of hours at a local legion. In past years, we have had over 40 players including a Regimental foursome. Lunch and prizes for all are included in your \$40.00/player entry fee.

Contact Peter Wonderham at pswonderham@hotmail.com or 403-251-2706 for more information if you are interested in entering.

LAST TRUMPET CALL

BARKER, Albert (Alfie) Age 66, 8 March 2014, Calgary, AB

BOURGEOIS, Alonzo (Lonnie) Age 81, November 2013, Brandon, MB

DUNN, Joseph (Joe) Age 88, 8 February 2014, Kamloops, BC

DOWNEY, Jack Age 78, 17 January 2014, Calgary, AB

ESSELMONT, Bruce Calgary, AB

LARKIN, Joe Age 92, November 2013, Calgary, AB

LEEDER, Bernhardt (Bernie) Age 82, 6 July 2013, Mitchell, ON

LETT, Robert (Bob) Age 67, 14 February 2014, Calgary, AB

MCCULLOUGH, Virgil Age 83, 24 March 2014, Pentiction, BC

MCLEOD, Danny Age 92, 14 January 2014, Kingston, ON

MILLER, Harry Age 90, 21 January 2013, Landis, SK

PAUL Joseph (Joe) Age 90, 5 April 2014 Oakville, ON

RICHARDS, Bryant Age 94, 16 November 2013, Edmonton, AB

RIMER, Val Age 90, 27 January 2014, Calgary, AB
RING, Donny Age 74, 19 March 2014, Calgary, AB
RUTHERFORD, Bruce Age 87, 31 December 2013, Owen Sound, ON

RYAN David Age 86, 9 April 2014, Regina, SK

SHEARER, Robert (Bob) Age 84, 4 January 2013 Newcastle, ON

THOMPSON, Gordon Age 77, 3 May 2012, Calgary AB

WILKIN, John (Jack), Age 94, 9 December 2013,

WOODROW, Garth, Age 82, 25 December 2013 Victoria, BC

In Loving Memory of Wives

AITKEN, Jessica (George), Barrie, ON

CARR, Kathleen (Ron), 19 February 2013 London, ON

Our apologizes for lack of details in some cases