

The Dragoon



The National Voice of the Old Comrades

Summer 2013

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From the Editor's Desk



Welcome to *The Dragoon* for 2012. This edition will look and feel much the same as previous versions but there has been a change in the way it is produced. John Moyer has come on board as an Assistant Editor and Geoff Hall helped with the proofreading. Sherrill Wark of Crowe Creations in Ottawa did the layout and Toni Di Iorio of Bradda Printing took care of the printing and mailing. And, last but not least, the Guild of the RCD has provided the funding. With all of this expertise involved, I think that you will find it an improved read.

The real thanks, however, still goes to the many contributors who provide the excellent content. The Chapter Chairs do most of the bull work in providing us all with an overview of their Chapter's yearly activities but the Mailbag has some interesting contributions and the reports on RV2012 and the laying up of the 3rd Guidon are events which were of much interest to the Regiment and the Association. Dave Sproule, once again, has offered his unique and excellent perspective, a feature of *The Dragoon* which is always looked for.

So, let me know what you think, and keep those cards and letters rolling in. Enjoy!

Bann



The Afghan Leopard.

From the Colonel of the Regiment

Georges Rousseau CD Colonel (Ret'd)

Dear friends, it is with a pinch of pride and a smattering of humility that I have accepted the kind offer of our Association President to address this august membership. Since being appointed as COR in April, I have had several opportunities to meet with many of our retired Dragoons, none the least was during our immensely successful RV 2012 in Kingston. Since then, I have had the pleasure of attending Regimental and Chapter activities in Gagetown, Ottawa, and its Upper Valley. My wish (goal) is that I may visit all Chapters and meet a maximum of its members during my tenure. You are all important and your contribution to the Regimental family, although often unheralded, is indispensable to our fraternal mosaic.

In the forward to the "Regimental Catechism" (a document provided to the new Dragoons) I stated that the Regiment is at the core of its Army, as family is the nucleus of our society. I went on to underline that the



common thread which holds our Regimental Family together is that immediate and perpetual sense of "membership". This unique characteristic has not occurred spontaneously, it is the legacy of all who have and will serve this fine Regiment. I for one have always been impressed by the unquestionable loyalty shown by those who have served. Irrespective of the other unit(s) where one may have dwelled, the recognition for time as a Dragoon is irrevocable. This certainly stands to be true in my case!

Together throughout Canada we have celebrated with brio our 129th Regimental birthday and

commemorated the 112th anniversary of the Actions at Leliefontein. For my part, I had the distinct pleasure of presiding over these activities in Ottawa and Petawawa. While at our Home Station, a "homecoming" regrouping in one instance the largest gathering of the Regimental Family, I could not help remark that many Dragoons for a variety of reasons were unable to attend. Let me assure you that you were all present in our thoughts. It is hoped that in our future homecoming events we will have set a process by which each Chapter may be represented. In the meantime, I send you the best greetings on behalf of your Regiment.



From the Commanding Officer

A.J. Atherton Lieutenant-Colonel

Having recently celebrated the 68th Anniversary of the Liberation of Leeuwarden and as my first year as Commanding Officer of the Royal Canadian Dragoons comes to a close, the time to reflect drew to mind the accomplishments of The Regiment since my appointment and of the importance of the Regimental Family. It is with sincere thanks and appreciation that I regard the efforts of both the serving and former Dragoons and their families. Dragoons have served Canada with pride and professionalism, and have upheld the values and ideals of the Canadian Forces since 1883, and this past year has been no different. Despite the decrease in the International Operational tempo and recent financial restructuring, The Regiment has maintained a remarkable training tempo and witnessed exceptional conduct of our members.

It was with great enthusiasm that I returned to Regimental Service and it was an honour to conduct my



first year with Chief Warrant Officer Bill Richards as Regimental Sergeant Major. Fond farewells were bid to Lieutenant Colonel D.J. Cross during the Change of Command Ceremonies on 6 July 2012, who not only left The Regiment in excellent shape, but whose efforts were well recognized by the Family as a whole. The year also marked the new appointment of Colonel of The Regiment, where Colonel Rousseau was welcomed to the prestigious position. Colonel Rousseau has taken an active role in fostering the importance of the Regimental Family.

Instilling a great sense of pride, the year saw the return

of C Squadron under Regimental command. Although not without its challenges, being the only bilingual, geo-isolated Tank sub-unit within The Regiment, the rewards are boundless. The added dynamism and depth in both personnel and resources is tremendous. The outfitting of the Squadron with the new Leopard 2 Main Battle Tank continues, having a completion date of the end of the year.

The Regiment completed a very charged fall training period, including two major field exercises, a computer-assisted training exercise and a Regimental gun camp. The squadrons were given the opportunity to build individual recce and tank skills, gradually leading up to collective training opportunities at both the Squadron and Regimental levels. For the first time, The Regiment supported the nationally recognized Armour Reconnaissance Squadron Commander Course. Officers Commanding used their ►

► vast experience and knowledge to provide mentorship to the candidates during their newfound appreciation for the considerable preparation, rehearsal, and logistical support that is warranted for regimental endeavours.

The annual Leliefontein celebrations in November were a great success, reminding Dragoons of the historical significance of our great Regiment and the importance of Family. Earning the prestigious Right of Line, B Squadron's impressive performance during the week's festivities displayed the cohesiveness for which The Regiment strives. Earning the Annual Leliefontein Awards, the following soldiers were recognized:

- Top Trooper: Tpr Elliott
- Top Corporal: MCpl Furness
- Top non-crewman Corporal: Cpl Huisman
- Top MCpl: Sergeant Dill
- Top non-crewman Master Corporal: Sgt Bertrand
- Top Sgt: Warrant Officer Rheume
- Top WO: Warrant Officer Robertson
- Top Subbie: Lieutenant Murphy

Our highly competitive members maintain a steady focus on professional development and achieving both personal goals and those of The Regiment. Our perseverance and determination were recognized in the highly competitive Ironman Competition, and carried through to the Olympian Bear winter sporting event. The continued drive for top physical performance creates the foundation for professional readiness and adaptability. Conducting a Regimental Road Move in -40°C reiterated the requirement for mental and physical robustness, and challenged our Headquarters Squadron with the specific support issues that are unique in our Canadian climate.

As The Regiment prepares for the simultaneous deployments in support of the Combat Team Commanders Course in Gagetown, on Ex MAPLE RESOLVE in Wainwright, and to the Land Force Central Area Training Centre in Meaford, our agility and facility with which we maintain our challenging pace is exemplified. We will return from these opportunities to become the Brigade's Immediate

Response Unit in July 2013.

Unfortunately, The Regiment lost three family members during the course of the year. It was with sadness that we said goodbye to Charlene Atkinson, the wife of Brigadier General Atkinson, and Warrant Officer Kevin Malott, and Trooper Tyler McRae.

Our proud Regiment has its enviable reputation because of the individuals who have served, and still serve, within it. I trust that all continue to view The Regiment as their home, and know that they will be welcomed at all times. I look forward to my second year as Commanding Officer and welcome all challenges that it may bring.



From the President

Bann Price

When the Guild is brought up in conversation among members of the Association, usually at a Summer BBQ or some such significant event, most have heard about it, some have donated to it, but most do not know what it is really about. Prepare to be informed.

While the diagram shows the four main participants represented in the Guild and how it is managed — by the Board of Directors — the Guild is really about money and how it is raised, managed and spent. From rather humble beginnings and through some very lean years, the Guild has focused mainly on the serving Regiment and has continually sought to improve the quality of life of the serving soldiers and their families. At present, however, and thanks in good part to the generous donations of members of the Association, the Guild is in a sound financial position and is reaching out to the other member elements.

And the Guild has a plan. The vision is of “one strongly united Regimental family of former and serving Dragoons, encompassing the Unit, the

Association Chapters, the Cadets, all past and present members, families and friends, dedicated to family Quality of Life and upholding a proud tradition of outstanding service to the country by honouring our heritage as Canada’s senior armoured regiment”. From this vision come three main thrusts, or goals — those of **Unity**, through leadership, communications, identity, community links and mutual cooperation; of **Heritage**, through memorials and remembrance, ceremonial activities and heritage vehicles; and of **Quality of Life** through quality of life

support, disbursements and education. Monies have been and will continue to be allocated to these goals and a good example of monies allocated to the Unity goal is that the Guild is now paying for the production of this newsletter.

So the Guild is playing a part in the Regimental life, not just of the unit itself but of all of us in the Association and the Regimental Family and will continue to do so in the future. The Guild is evolving as it moves forward and the future will bring more visible examples of its benefits to discuss over the BBQ.



Director RCAC

Col. S.M. Cadden

Fellow members of the Royal Canadian Armour Corps,

As I approach the six month point of my tenure as Director RCAC, I am well aware that an update is overdue. There has been a great deal of activity within the Corps over since I took the reins from Col Nixon in November, and it is important that we maintain an all informed net.

First and foremost, those among you with a keen eye will have noticed that I have used our historical, and newly restored, title. On 19 April, the Minister of National Defence announced nomenclature changes which restored the “Royal” designation to the Royal Canadian Armour Corps, the Corps of Royal Canadian Engineers, Royal Canadian Corps of Signals, Royal Canadian Infantry Corps, and The Corps of Royal Canadian Electrical and Mechanical Engineers. The position of Director Armour will, as a consequence, become Director Royal Canadian Armour Corps (D RCAC). The Canadian Army will provide direction in the

near future to ensure that the new nomenclature is properly formalized and employed

There has been significant movement among our senior Generals in recent months. For those who are not tracking, MGen Steve Bowes remains the Senior Army Black Hat General, and remains as Commander LFDTS. MGen John Collin will retire from the CF this June after a distinguished military career which has culminated in his current appointment as Commander 1st Canadian Division. MGen Jim Ferron will return from Afghanistan and take command of the Division this summer. BGen Dean Milner has been promoted to MGen, and will replace MGen Ferron in Afghanistan. BGen Jean Marc Lanthier will assume command of SQFT, while BGen Carl Turenne replaces Gen Lanthier as Deputy Commanding General of I Corps at Fort Lewis, Washington. BGen Louis Meloche remains as Commander CF Recruiting Group, while BGen Lowell Thomas remains as COS CJOC. Summarized, our

Corps maintains 6 General Officers who serve the Army and the CAF very well indeed.

Our Col Comdt, BGen Dean, remains active in travelling the country, visiting units, consulting with the Commander of the Canadian Army, coordinating with Dir RCAC and the RCAC Association. On behalf of all ranks, I can only thank Gen Darrell for his continued efforts on behalf of our Corps, and the timely and always sage advice he provides in protecting our heritage, our image and our core values.

Last year the CF began to enforce what has become known as the 35/55 policy. Applied to General officers and CWO, anyone who has attained both 35 years of service in the CF and 55 years of age will be thanked for their long and loyal service, but will be required to release from the CF unless there are extenuating circumstances requiring their continued service. While difficult to implement initially, it is important that all members of our Corps understand and acknowledge this policy, and take steps to ensure that ►

► they are in a mental, physical and financial condition to retire when they hit the 35/55 gateway. In the upcoming year, this policy will also be applied to Col and LCol. Any serving Reg Force members who are unclear on whether or not they will be affected should speak with their career manager or their direct chain of command.

On 13 May, I gave the annual Directors' brief to the Commander of the Canadian Army (CCA) on the State of the Corps. Main themes of the briefing included personnel strengths, both Reg F and Res F, promotion issues, a vehicle state on our various fighting platforms, training issues, an update on C Sqn RCD, Gunnery competitions, and various other issues. The feedback provided by LGen Devlin indicated that he was tracking all of our major issues, and overall is very pleased with how the Armour Corps remains poised to continue to serve.

Changes to funding authorities relating to events have required a significant re-valuation of meetings, conferences and gatherings among all Corps in the Army and the CAF. One immediate result has been the re-scope of the annual RCAC Conference.

As funding expenditure restrictions limit all public costs to a maximum of \$25K, it was clear that the conference could not continue in its existing form. I am extremely pleased to say that the RCAC Association have stepped up to ensure that this valuable forum will be able to continue. The 2013 Conference will be "The Royal Canadian Armour Corps Association Conference", to which the serving force will provide limited attendance and support. While Select Reg F and PRes Units will be asked to provide senior attendance, funding will be primarily provided by individuals, Regimental Associations and the RCAC (A). Our Association has developed a funding formula to help units provide representation, and information on this will be promulgated shortly. An agenda and more details will be provided in the near future, however it is worth noting and commending the President and Executive of the RCAC Association for their dedication and willingness to allow such a critical annual gathering to occur. Several other Corps have cancelled their annual conferences outright, so the commitment and flexibility of our

Association should not go unnoticed! The 2013 RCAC (A) Conference will occur in London, Ontario, 17–19 October, and I ask that all mark this date on their calendar and, if at all possible, plan to attend.

These same regulation changes made an impact on IRONSIDES in 2013. If IRONSIDES is to continue in the future, it will have to become an event funded by individuals and unit NPF funds, not public funding. There has been a great indication of support for this concept among Kingston-area black hatters, and it is my hope that our Corps will decide that IRONSIDES is worth keeping. For this to happen, an OPI will have to identify themselves to the new Director and start planning for 2014.

One of the advantages of being stationed in Kingston is that as Director I was able to check in, albeit infrequently, on General Rad. He remains at Providence Manor, is in good spirits, and is always enthusiastic about receiving visitors to discuss the military, both current and past. I strongly encourage anyone in the Kingston area to drop by and visit this scion of Armour Corps history.

Information has already ►

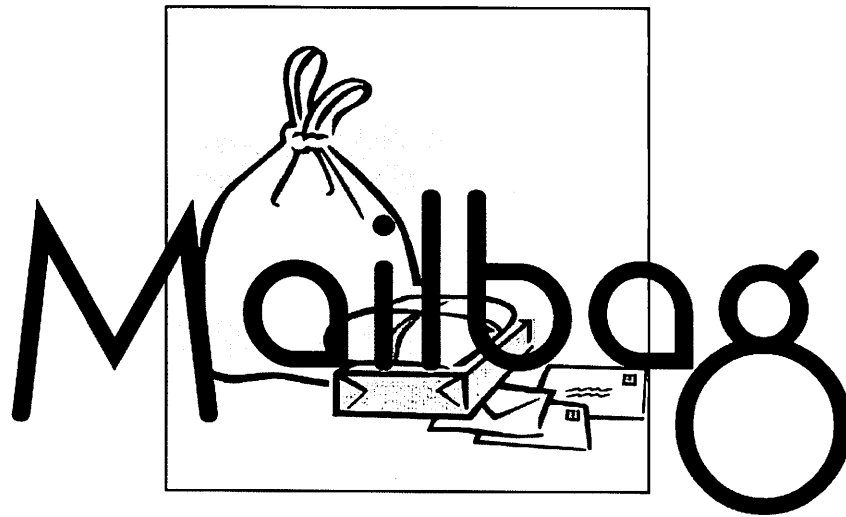
► been promulgated for this year's Henry Sampson Memorial Golf Tournament in Smiths Falls, followed as always by the Armour Corps BBQ at the Milner Residence in Gananoque. The consistently strong turnout for these events is a great indicator of the health of our Corps, and all are, as always, welcome to attend both events.

As of 26 May, the position of Director RCAC has formally passed to LCol (soon to be promoted) Steve Kelsey.

LCol Kelsey will be posted this summer to CJOC HQ, where he will be employed as J7. I have passed on, on behalf of our Corps, congratulations and confidence that he will lead our Corps through the challenging and exciting years ahead with the panache and flair which Steve, and his Regiment, are known for. The continued fielding challenges associated with our Leopard 2 tanks, divestment of Leopard 1 platforms, the requirement to accept risk and promote to

PML, the protection of the core fighting capabilities of our PRes Regiments, the upcoming 75th Anniversary of the RCAC in 2015, and many other issues will keep our leadership, and our Director, challenged and motivated over the coming years. I remain confident and proud of our ability to overcome these challenges and surpass the minimum requirements to protect Canada's Armour Warfighting and Reconnaissance capabilities.





Association Web Site — A Challenge

Since 2008 the Regiment has maintained a Regimental website. It is known in the CF as one of the best if not the best Regimental website. That site has a link to our Association but we have just not been able to make good use of it and as a result, our young soldiers really do not know what is available to them in the Association.

Cpl Kevin Langille is our webmaster and he has put a lot of effort, good work and talent into making it appealing, user friendly and always updated. Occasionally it is

refreshed, updated with pictures and good articles reflecting the daily life of our Regiment. The site is also on Facebook and many of our activities are published on YouTube. Kevin is always open minded to suggestions that can help him improve the site content. I have worked with Kevin several times and he is more than happy to help the Chapters with a modern and interesting site.

Money has been invested in keeping space for all Chapters to publish their different activities. After all these years I am very disappointed to see that nothing is done by the Chapters and that the only thing I see is that the site is still under construction after so many

years. This window offered to us is the best way to keep in touch with membership and is also the best way to entice new membership.

Part of our mission as an association is that we look after each other. Because of our regional organization, retired, former or still-serving members of the Regiment can always get together with old friends without travelling long distances, and help is usually just a phone call away.

Quite a statement! How can we get in touch with people we can't reach? There are no names, addresses, activities that are held, where and when? Many of you might have pictures of the past that you would like to share.

The Atlantic Chapter has been publishing their annual newsletter for the past two years and they do a great job. It shows the many possibilities for our site.

How about publishing your monthly or yearly activities with pictures covering that event? This is the purpose of the Association site: to promote what we do and enhance others to join us. All that is needed is a page where your committee is listed with phone numbers and e-mail addresses; a link called ►

► “Memories of the Past”; a link called Pictures of Current Activities; your brunch, breakfast, annual BBQ, etc. Publish your newsletter, if you have one, directly on your site. You put your stuff together, call Kevin, and he will help you build your site.

To put up your site the first time may take two to three hours before you get it the way you want. Then maintaining that site may take 30 minutes a month if you have anything to publish. Simple and cool.

As a guide, go to the Quebec chapter site. (Use it as a guide.) From there, tell Kevin what you want. All chapters have their personal needs and requirements. So it is up to you to make it as sharp as you can.

Gentlemen, let us not forget that the most

important factor separating successful organizations from others is LEADERSHIP. The growth and strength in any organization comes from within. It comes not only from within the structure of the organization but from the people in the organization as well. Leadership is made of many initiatives which result in growth, strength and success and these initiatives must come from everyone if we are to be truly successful.

So the challenge is out, it is up to you to show that you are number one, like when we competed to be the best squadron. Let's make this project our #1 goal for 2013!

What a fine day to be a Dragoon.

Michel “Mike” Vezina



*From Tim Bennett and Denis Levesque: The School has looked at ownership the way we use to. The School made up names for their Coyotes in line with B SQN RCD. That being said they look at a number of names for vehs. Badger, Brown, Billings, etc. — see the complete list. However, there was one that I think most would agree and look at from real memory's sake in the NCM world: Busher, RSM RCD, great guy and known to all. **Billings**, Director Of Armour 1983–85; **Bell**, Col Commandant RCAC 1990–93; **Badger**, Nickname of past RSM of the RCD (RSM Denis Levesque); **Barnes**, Armour Sch Commandant 1984–86; **Bateman**, Armour Sch Commandant 1958; **Berwick**, Armour Sch Commandant 1951 and 1954.*

MORE



Honourary Life Membership



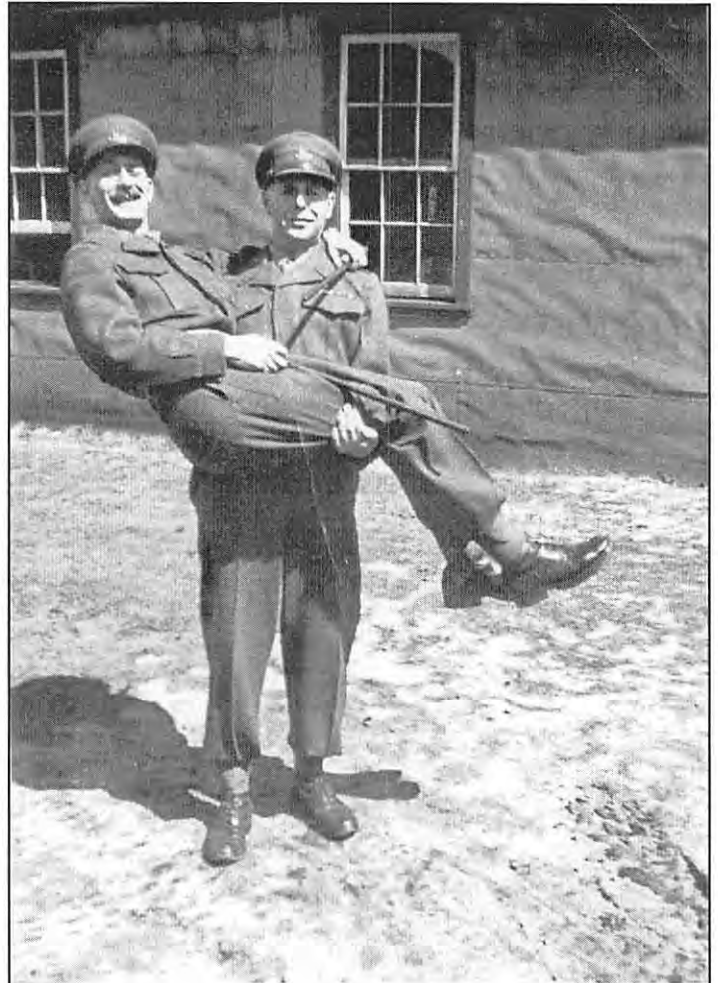
Kingdom of the Netherlands

I wish to thank you in awarding me an Honourary Life Membership in the Association of the Royal Canadian Dragoons. I am very proud to accept this high honour and continue my wonderful ties to your organization.

I have enjoyed my visits to the regiment's anniversary of the Liberation of Leeuwarden both in Ottawa and last year in Petawawa. It was always a high point in my year and a real pleasure to meet and talk to veterans and presently serving members of the Dragoons. It is a treasured reminder of the shared history and the bonds of friendship between The Netherlands and Canada.

I am moving back to the Netherlands this summer as my tour as Ambassador to Canada will be over in July. I will forward my new contact information once I am in my new position. I look forward to keeping in touch and up to date with the news of the regiment's activities.

Yours sincerely,
Wim Geerts, Ambassador
Kingdom of the Netherlands



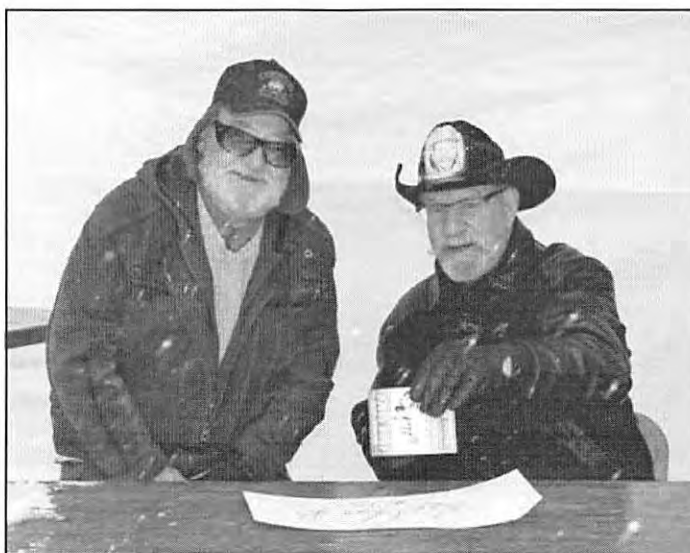
From Denis Levesque: Gard and Mort Weisman, 1945. Picture is of Gardner Robertson and MLA Weisman when they were Regimental Officers in The RCD. Gard was the Technical Adjutant and Mort was a tank troop leader in C Squadron.

MORE
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Mailbag cont'd.



From Denis Levesque. Binns Boys. George Brown, Murray Rettie, Bill Fice, Harvey Williams, John Binns, Eric Binns, Rick Watt, Norm Wood, Sandy MacCharles, Elmer Haney, Bill Ferris, Les Struzik, and Ed Gray.



From Denis Levesque: This is a little something for The Dragoon — This picture is of Eddie Shack and the famous Biff Watson who could be mistaken for brothers with the 'stash and beards. Eddie looks happy as he got Biff's autograph.

MORE
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From Dave Henderson: General Radly Walters being presented with the Queen's Diamond Jubilee Medal. Present during the occasion were John Beveridge, John Roderick, Blake Skippen, Doug Bland, Dave Henderson, Doug Green, John MacDonald and Clive Milner.



From Denis Levesque: This is a picture of MGen Ferron and the Garr climbing team in Kabul Afghanistan. This climb was done in less than an hour but I know how steep it is. I'm sure the boys enjoyed the fact after but not during. Jim is now the Commander of 1 Canadian Division.



Last Trumpet Call

2011

*BGen Ned Amy
*Jim Ayers
*Busher Bennett
*Darlene Brown
*Ray Cook
*David Crook
Jean Duffney
*LGen René Gutnecht
*Major Brian Hook

*Alfred Jamieson
MGen JPR (Bob) Larose
*Arnold Lukala
*Daniel Mann
*Patrick Mcardle
*Frank Mears
*Marven Springer
*BGen George Wattsford

2012

Charlene Atkinson
Ruth Baldwin
Isabel Best
*Col Bob Billings
*Jack Binns
*Eddie Blais
Bert Casselman
*Jerry Cluett
Bill Claggett
*Bobby Dow
Ed Exley
*Harry Graham
*Bill Hood
*Bill Laird
WO Kevin Malott
*Chuck Mann

*Ron Marriott
*Ken Maybee
Col Ian McNabb
Tpr Tyler McRae
Dusty Miller
*MGen Pat Mitchell
Donna Muelaner
*Gardner T. Robertson
Jack Rothenburg
Inge Steele
*Gord Stephenson
*Al Wade
*James Watson
Rose Waugh
Ernie Wesson

*"They shall grow not old, as we who are left grow old.
Age shall not weary them, not the years condemn.
At the going down of the sun, and in the morning,
We will remember them."*



*Member of the RCD Association.

RV2012 Report

Denis Levesque, Chapter Chair

Hello Fellow Dragoons

The Kingston and Region Chapter is alive and well. We have been very busy this year with a multitude of activities both up front and behind the scenes. The biggest highlight was RV 2012, where Dragoons from across the country came together as one in Kingston for drinks, laughs, good stories, and a great meal provided by the Ambassador Hotel here in Kingston. The theme for this year's Reunion was the Germany years from the time C Sqn RCD arrived in Germany in the 50s to our departure in 1987. It's with great pleasure that we (the Kingston and Region Chapter of the RCD Association) can call RV 2012 a great success.

I do have to admit there were some days during the planning stages our staffs of Doug Harvey, Paul Ward, Dave Henderson, Chris Sproule, Blake Skippen, Gary Ferguson and I were just a bit worried about the attendance for the reunion. Planning would continue even though there seemed to be very few registered even just a few months prior to the event. However, as always, the Dragoons came through and the event was well attended.

Bann Price, our President, conducted his annual meeting on the Friday afternoon while registration was in process. The Chapters were all well represented at Bann's meeting. The team of Chapter Chairs from coast to coast included many old faces but there were a few new representatives, including Lance Wiebe, Terry Shaw and Denis Levesque. The new additions to the table made Bann Price go into the details and full disclosure of our association — but of course nothing gets

started before a coffee and sweets — with a few stories and jokes to start off the meeting.

Friday night, the Meet-and-Greet was exceptional. Everyone gathered in the main hall with the lights on the chandeliers turned down low for a comfortable feeling and good conversation. As we walked around listening to some of the conversations and laughter, it was apparent that The Royal Canadian Dragoons Regimental Archives donation of a continuous photograph presentation was a hit. This presentation encapsulated the Regimental family and friends having fun during those great years in Germany. I think the laughs were initiated by seeing our young-looking faces and toned bodies many years ago and the differences as we aged, but that thought shall go untouched. It seemed that those years were dedicated to working hard and playing hard. A vision of tank trains leaving the station for many exercises, to firing three versions of tanks at gun camps in Bergen Hohne tank range, to enjoying the fruits of the German wines and beers. Such fun!

What Meet-and-Greet would pass the test without food? Well, with the feast of German food was a continuous flow of Bratwurst, potato salad, fresh broetchen, sauerkraut, and many other offerings catered by the hotel staff. This was indicative of the foods you could find in any German Gasthaus or on the Marketstrasse in Germany. Wow!

Saturday was the official RCD Association Meeting; many members making decisions on our future as an association attended this event. There were many discussions on the way ahead for the Association and the need for

some crucial thinking-out-of-the-box as we go forward. As always, there were some chairs left empty and the request was for those chairs to be filled for the next reunion.

Saturday night was the main social event; everyone showed up dressed to the nines. It was a colourful event with all the white tablecloths, chairs coverings, trimmings and Regimental accoutrements. With Regimental music in the background, the picture presentation was again in full swing, capturing everyone's eye from time to time finding a picture of him- or herself or of an old friend. The MC welcomed the group and called upon various speakers. Bann Price, President of the RCD Assn, welcomed us, thanked everyone for coming, and spoke of the variation of attendees from far and wide to young and old. He also thanked the Kingston and Region Chapter for their work on RV 2012. Then the Colonel of the Regiment, Georges Rousseau, was next; his ability to liven up the crowd was amazing. He pointed out many times we had both fun and hard times with the Regiment and families in the Germany years, in a way that only George could do. Well done, George! We asked the then-CDS, General Natynczyk, to say a few words. Uncle Walt was amazing: his first words were, "I saw the faces on the screen and I see your faces now! You know what was going on during all of those activities because you were there!" Everyone laughed and cheered. There were some pretty bizarre pictures that showed people at their best and worst, which most in the room could answer the question: "What the [...] was that?" Uncle Walt went on to motivate the crowd, as he is so good at doing. Thanks, Walt.

All who attended were able to have their picture taken professionally; for those who took the opportunity, the pictures are in the

centrefold of this edition of *The Dragoon*. One picture was significant: a re-enactment of the Canadian Army Trophy handed from MGen Ramsay Whithers (Commander Canadian Forces Europe) to LCol Clive Milner (Commanding Officer of the Royal Canadian Dragoons) when the Canadian team won the CAT competition in 1977, thirty-five years ago. Both Ramsay and Clive reminisced about the event and viewed the photos positioned above the trophy.

There were many wonderful imaginative gifts donated by each Chapter to be handed out to the attendees. Once that was complete, the dancing and storytelling resumed. What a wonderful night it was.

The next morning it was time to leave. There were people embracing each other knowing full well they would not be seeing each other for yet another two years. It was a sad time — but every good thing comes to an end.

This, my friends, is what the Army does to you after many years of service to your country. It makes great friends and valued citizens. But when you join the ranks of the Royal Canadian Dragoons, there is no place you can't call home because you have friends and family everywhere. I hope to see you, my friends, at the next RV in 2014.

Bold and Swift



Tank Train from Lahr

Bann Price

It was January of 1971 and B Squadron was to have the honour of the first Canadian tank train to leave the new 4 Brigade base of in the south of Germany. The Regiment had been in its new digs since the summer of 1970 and the five months of (relative) inactivity made the preparations for gun camp all the more urgent. But it was not to the familiar tank gunnery ranges of Bergen Hohne to which the Regiment would “train it” but to the new and completely unknown US Army tank range of Graffenwoehr in northern Bavaria. Gone were the familiar confines of Camp Beausejour in the North Rhine/Westphalian town of Iserlohn and the not-so-gentle but well-known ministrations of the British Army of the Rhine. The move of the Brigade to the pretty little town of Lahr/Schwarzwald also meant new allies in the form of 7th US Corps and/or 2nd German Corps. We were to train with both armies and to use their training facilities and, on occasion, those of the French Army in Germany.

The arrival in Lahr of the Regiment and the rest of the Brigade was an upheaval and an adjustment that required most of the intervening five months. It was a much smaller Brigade that made the trip south but the change was truly a fundamental one. The relocation of families, the settling into new homes and schools, and the leaning of the ways of the people of Lahr and surrounding area was upsetting but was accomplished reasonably quickly as only Military families, inured to moves and upheaval, can do. However, the adjustment of the Brigade and its soldiers to a new Canadian Forces system and to an Air

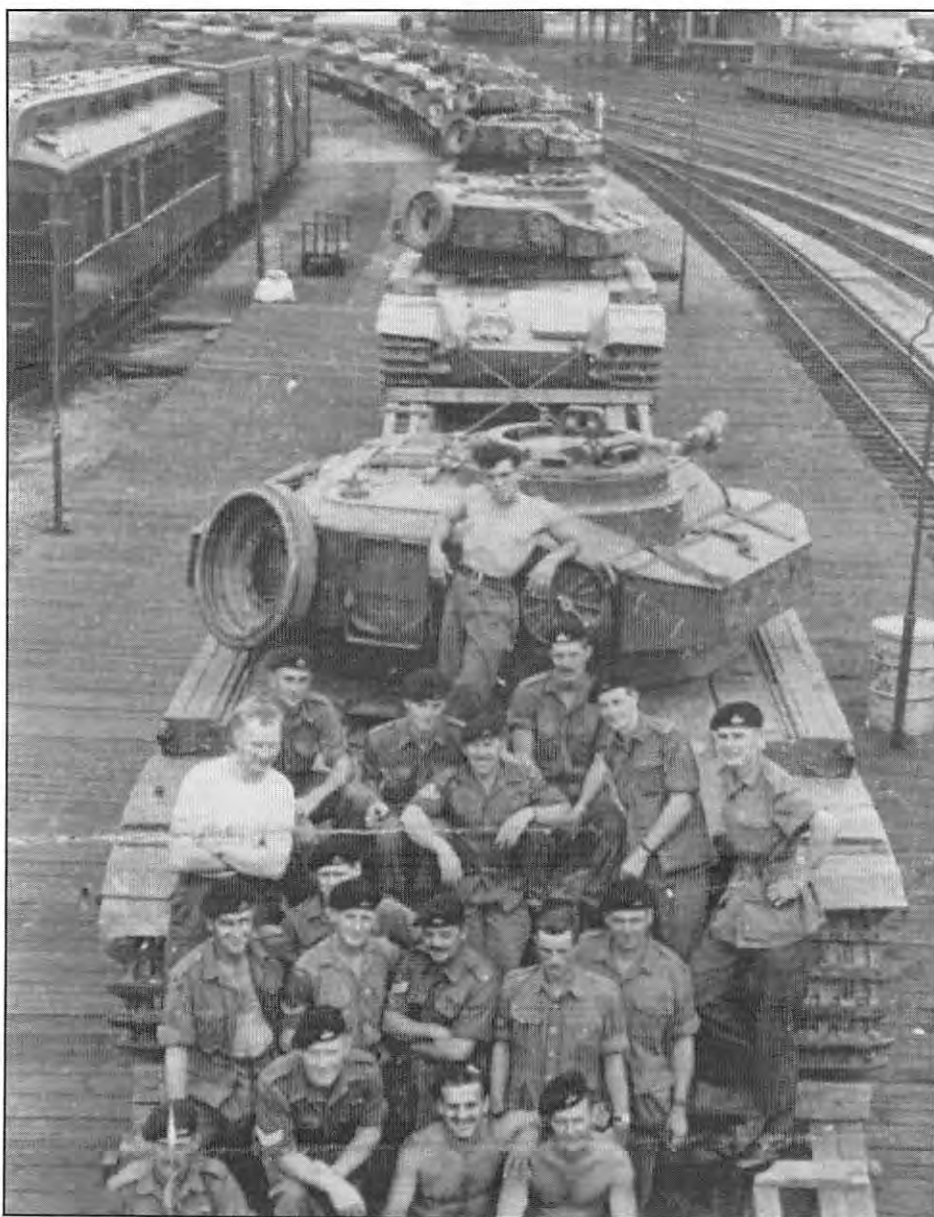
Force base designed and built for jet fighters — and to something as fundamental and traumatic as new uniforms — were the real issues. Gone were Regimental Messes (to be replaced by “Rest Areas”) and tank hangars (to be replaced by blast buttons designed to protect jet aircraft from missile attack), Life in the North and Centre Margurites, was initially a challenge. The Margs, with their system of buttons and taxiways certainly made life interesting.

So when it was time for gun camp, January or no, we were ready to go to the field and do some soldiering. B Sqn was commanded by Maj Al Methvan and the SSM was MWO Patterson. Scotty Alexander was the BC with Jim Gowans, recently arrived from Gunnery Squadron at the School, as the LO. Troop Leaders were Marv Becket, Dave Wilkinson, Bob Jackson and myself with Earl Landry, Ken Maybee and John Puskarenko as the other crew commanders with me in Three Troop. As we got ready to go, the OC, SSM and LO went on ahead to Graf and I got to be the Train Conducting Officer. Scotty said he was just along for the ride.

Apart from the change in locations, the preparations for the train were much the same and we left the North Marg and drove around the ring road to the loading ramp on the base side of the airfield. Loading the tanks was actually easier as the ramp was short and in a straight line — unlike the gently curving nightmare back in Iserlohn. The Bundesbahn inspectors were ever present with their rulers to make sure that the overhang of the trackpads was no more or no less than precisely right. ►

► It appeared to me that they were being a little more vigilant than usual but this was the first train of its kind in a number of years so they were being extra careful. The loading, chalking and chaining went on without a hitch and the tanks were then shunted over to the main railway junction at the Lahr Bahnhof to marry up with the passenger cars. The squadron personnel were dismissed for a couple of hours of “family time” before reassembling later in the evening, to board the passenger cars and be on our way.

WO Landry and I were the first to arrive at the Bahnhof. It was now dark and while we found the tanks easily enough we had to go and look for the passenger cars, which were still not attached to the tank cars. As we were walking by the tanks, WO Landry noticed that one of the chains on one of the tanks was lying loose on the car so he hopped up to have a closer look. The chain, he quickly discovered, was slack because it was broken and the tank was now not fully tied down. Fearing a larger problem, we put crews back onto the tanks as



MORE
►

► they arrived at the station and sure enough we had a problem. At least five sets of chain tiedowns had been snapped, probably as a result of the shunt between the Base and the Bahnhof, and our reserve of two chains was quickly eaten up. Landry got on the phone to the Base QM to get some more chains and we got all of the crews on the tank cars to make sure all was well. I reported the situation to the Bundesbahn officials, who for some reason did not seem to be terribly concerned. After a bit of delay, the replacement chains arrived and the crews of the affected tanks got to work.

It was about this time that the tank cars started to move. It was close to the departure time but as the tank and passenger cars had still not been connected, my initial thought was that the cars were being shunted into position to make that connection. Scotty and I were walking beside the tanks at this time but as the train started to pick up speed it became obvious that this was more than a shunt. Both Scotty and I started yelling for people to get off the cars and guys started to jump off both sides of the train, executing some excellent jump rolls as the tanks disappeared down the line. No one hurt, we got a sitrep on the progress on the tiedown work only to find that at least three of the tanks were still not properly tied down and, as an added wrinkle, two SMGs had been left on the fenders of the tank as the crews abandoned ship. Still thinking that the tanks and the passenger cars would be connected, we repaired once again to the Bundesbahn officials at the Bahnhof but the tanks were gone. There was nothing left for us to do but load up the squadron personnel on the passenger cars and hope for a connection with the tanks where we could complete the work of securing the beasts to their rail cars. But, it never happened. We checked at every stop

along the way but no tanks. We would not see them again until we arrived at Graf.

I can only picture the looks on the faces of the OC and the SSM when they arrived, on a brutally cold morning, at the railhead in Graf to find the squadron's tanks but no personnel. We pulled into the siding a couple of hours later and were very relieved to see all of the tanks on the cars. The OC and the SSM had already spotted the missing chains and the SMGs had also been found so there was a little explaining to do. No harm done so we carried on as if things were normal. Things, however, were still not normal as, in the very cold weather, we could not get most of the tanks started to drive them off the train so Sgt Ken Maybee and crew, one of the few to get started, executed a neutral left turn whilst still on the railcar and drove directly off the car onto the siding. He then proceeded to use his tank to jump-start the rest so that we could unload the remainder in the usual manner.

And all of that before we even entered the confines of Graffenwoehr. It would be nice to say that the remainder of the guncamp was uneventful but that would not be true, either. The highlight for the Squadron was probably the visit of "Gen Polk Hissel" Commander of Central Army Group and lowlighted had to be the almost ludicrous restrictions imposed on the Regiment by the US Army Range Control, but those are other stories for other times. The Squadron accomplished the aims of the gun camp and at the end we loaded up the tanks at the siding, made sure that they were securely tied down, all personal weapons accounted for, and tank cars and passenger cars were connected before we headed back to Lahr.



Laying up My Guidon

Bann Price

The laying up of a Guidon is a long established tradition. When a Guidon is retired from service it is placed, hanging from its staff, in the Regimental church and is left there until the weight of the gold braid and embroidery on the silk cloth pulls the Guidon apart. Last spring, the Regiment “laid up” the third Guidon in the Chapel of Beachwood Cemetery in Ottawa. From those who attended, it was done with the due ceremony and dignity that befits a Regimental symbol. I was unable to attend and was very disappointed to miss the event, as they were laying up “my” Guidon.

Well, certainly not mine exclusively, but there had been a short time when such was the case. When I first joined the Regiment, yea those many years ago, the third Guidon was just a couple of years in service and I got a chance to see it flying at my very first Leliefontein as it was trooped on parade. In those days, the Guidon was on display in the Officers Mess so I also saw it almost every day while I was living-in. When I was appointed, for my sins, Mess Secretary, I was part of the Guidon ceremony whenever it was removed from its glass case in the Mess. I had to take the Guidon from its case and bring it to the Guidon Party which would wait on the front steps of the Mess. The Party then cased the Guidon, mounted their jeeps and drove off to the parade. That ceremony was repeated at the end of the parade, except that once the Guidon was safely back in the Mess, I offered the Guidon Party a small libation for their excellent work.

But the Guidon really became “mine” for a short period in the summer of 1970 when the



great regimental rebadging took place in Gagetown and Germany. On that momentous day, in ceremonies which did not involve the Guidon, the Strathconas in Germany became The RCD and The RCD in Gagetown became either part of the Armour School or of C Squadron, 8CH. I was the odd man out in all of this as I was the only member of the Regiment to move from Gagetown to the new regimental home in Lahr, West Germany.

I was sitting on a packing box in RHQ, one of the small group closing out the Regimental affairs, when the closeout CO, Maj Bob Billings, came in. “Got a job for you, Bann,” he said. “When you fly over to Lahr next week, you will be carrying the Guidon.” This casually delivered but momentous announcement was accompanied by a lecture on the honour being conferred upon me, but also included a short description of the consequences of failure. I took both pieces of advice to heart.

Being a budding staff officer, I made all sorts of arrangements. I asked for and

► received authority to carry extra baggage in the cabin of the Yukon aircraft but more importantly I asked for and was granted permission to carry my sword during the time the Guidon was in my possession. I went out and bought a brand new briefcase, carefully folded the Guidon and put it in the case, dressed carefully in TWs and Sam Brown and was ready for the trip. The Air Force in Trenton were not very happy about the sword, but as I had a message and there were only seven other people on the flight, they did not put up much of a fight. The trip over was, of course, uneventful. Maj Jim Murphy, the new DCO, met me at the plane and I formally handed the Guidon over to him when we got out to the North Marg.

The Guidon was trooped in front of the

Regiment at Leliefontein in 1970 and of course, many times thereafter. I attended its last parade in service in Petawawa when the fourth Guidon was presented and the third retired. I remember, as “my” Guidon was being marched off the parade square, that I had served almost all of my military career under that Guidon and as I was nearing retirement, I was very close to the day when I would march off parade myself.

I am long retired now but every year on 11 November, I attend the Remembrance Day ceremonies at Beachwood Cemetery and put my poppy on the grave of my father. I also now stop in at the Chapel and have a moment with the Guidon — it was, after all, my Guidon.



Nondescript

Dave Sproule

This past year I have been reviewing old photos and slides that I took during my days at the Regiment and when I was with the Recce Sqn in the Sinai. It has brought back many memories and I have burned a CD with most of the images and sent it off to the Regimental Museum. One of the things I have noticed in those pre-combat clothing days is the variety of dress that we wore in the field for we were issued all kinds of kit, from navy flying suits to satin bomber jackets, as well as the odd 1951 pattern parka.

Uniformity of dress did not seem to be important when we went to the field or turned out for Wednesday afternoon sports. Let's face it, all we were issued for sports was our PT strip (white "T" shirts, blue shorts and white canvas runners) and teams were determined by "shirts" and "skins". Winter sports were another matter, as few of us skied and issue skis were very heavy and not made for either downhill or cross-country. As for hockey — well, we all played whether we came from the west coast or Cape Breton, and most of us learned to skate on our neighbourhood marsh or

pond with just skates and a stick. The image below is of the C Squadron team in January 1961 taken at the Camp Gagetown Arena. Not a lot of protection with the kit we had.

I remember envying those soldiers who managed to possess a jump jacket and in the popular vernacular, they were very cool. The best I could come up with was an RCAF flight jacket I bought at a Fredericton war surplus store and it served me well all through Egypt. In garrison, we wore our battle dress and, although similar to what soldiers wore in WWII and Korea, it was rarely, if ever, worn in the field as it seemed to have assumed the stature of scarlet tunics.

It appears to me that present day soldiers finally have excellent kit, from the CAD-pattern combat clothing to their boots, load carrying gear, and even berets that fit Proper sports equipment, including team sweaters that distinguish one team from another. No matter though, I enjoyed every minute of my brief time with the Regiment, especially our days in the field.





Chapter News

Atlantic Chapter

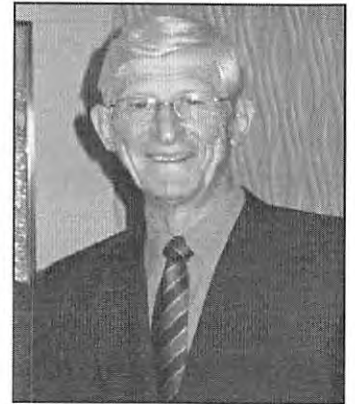
by Tom Urbanowsky



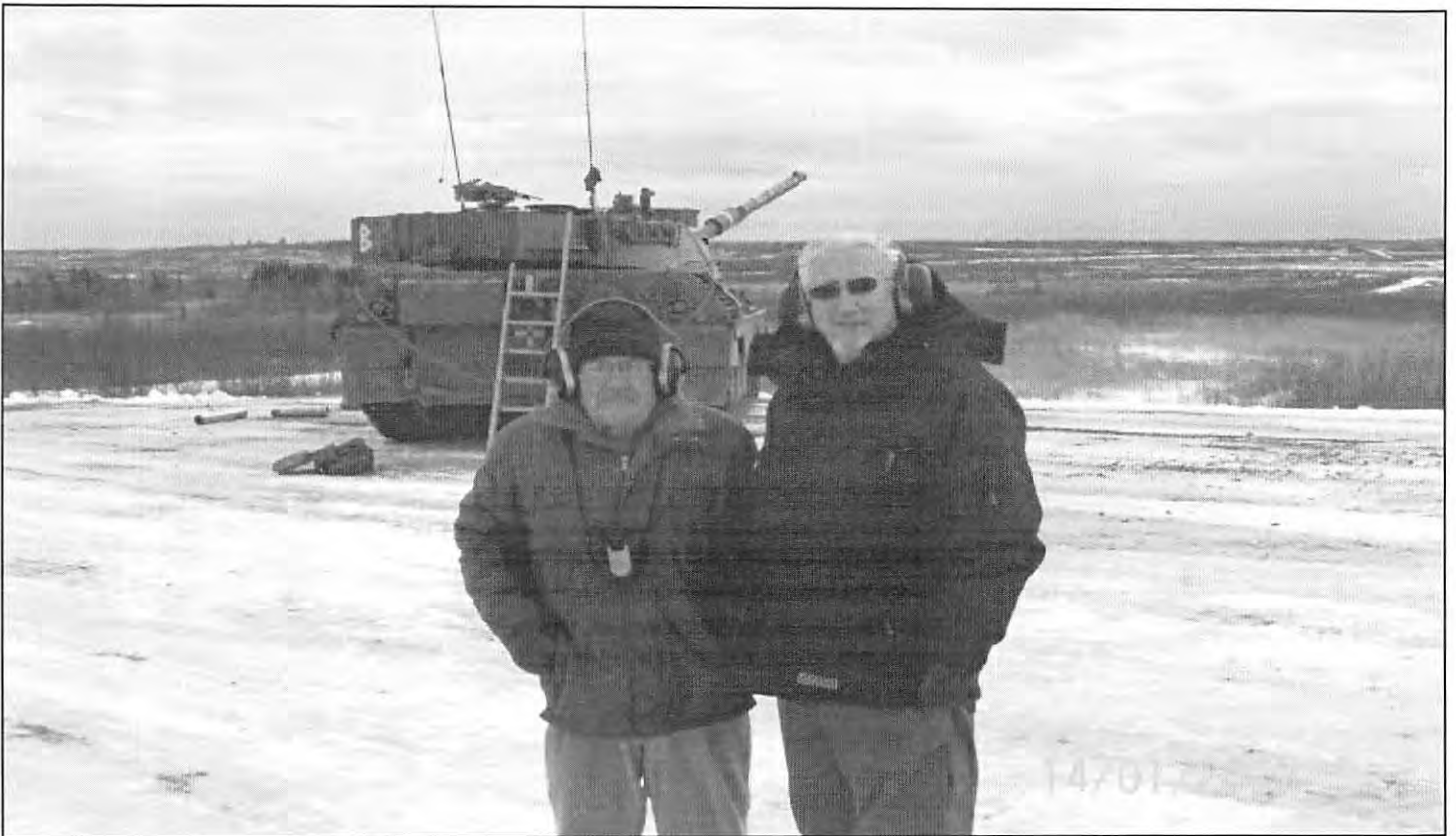
Greetings to All Members and Friends
The Atlantic Chapter's report and local occurrences during the year of 2012 all began with a distinctive BANG. C Sqn of the Royal Canadian Dragoons was Stood-Up and its first batch of "Gunnery" were on the range at Firing Points 4 and 5 in CFB Gagetown NB to qualify by conducting live firing from the Leopard tanks.

On this occasion, the Sqn invited the members of the Atlantic Chapter to attend this event. We accepted, and the members who did attend were given the opportunity to fire the Leopard tank, 5 rounds each: 2 AP, 2 Hesh and

1 Smoke. Not a target was missed. (You can ever hardly miss with this system.) At day's end, the Sqn Gunnery were qualified and the old guard gunners were "frozen stiff" with happiness as the January temperatures dipped to -20°C and the departure for Base Camp was most welcome. To C Sqn and all of its members, a grateful thank you. ►



Tom Urbanowsky



Denis Arsenault and Monty MacMillan.

Atlantic Chapter, concluded

► February to May were quiet months as the snowbirds were in their nesting grounds and our Chairman Doran Vienneau was in Somalia being feted by the warlords and the Al-Shabaab gangs to keep his days from getting dull. To that end, upon his return in May, he tendered his resignation as Chairman of the Chapter and returned to the Somalia–Kenyan border area with the UNHCR to carry on with his duties. And that act set in motion the present changes in the Chapter's structure. For better or worse, we shall endeavour to keep things running to the satisfaction of our members and that of the National hierarchy.

With the emergence of summer and

renewed interest from returning snowbirds and the local hibernating Polar species, the Annual BBQ and Dance in June was a great success and enjoyed by many, and those who ventured from other Provinces. Perhaps in some near future a better scheduling effort can be made to avoid "a week apart" with the National RV as was the case this year. The Atlantic Chapter's representation at the National level has increased to three Directors: Mr. Robert Riendeau, Mr. Lance Wiebe and Mr. Tom Urbanowsky. Our National President Mr. Bann Price will elaborate more in his report on the RV12 and the Association meeting's outcome and future.



"C" Sqn Personnel, Families and the Old Guard.

Chapter News

Quebec Chapter

by Karl Krammel

As normal, late again, the rush is on for submission to the editor, Bann, by yesterday or last month. Greetings, bonjour à vous tous et salutations de la belle province.

After having spent the last five months down south, it certainly was a culture shock being back home again. As I'm writing this article, the weatherman promised that it will warm up this week. I hope he keeps his promise as it has been miserable the last few weeks. I just talked with Barbara Couvrette and she informs me that they still have about two feet of snow at their house and they are only about 100 km north of my home town. Barbara and Nelson are doing well although Barbara is coming down with a slight cold. She sounded quite hoarse on the phone. We wish you a speedy recovery.

Our Quebec Chapter membership is getting smaller by the year. We now have twelve members left with no new potential members on the horizon. If anyone knows of any former RCDs residing in

Quebec, please pass on the information to me or have them contact me personally. I'm sure there must be a few.

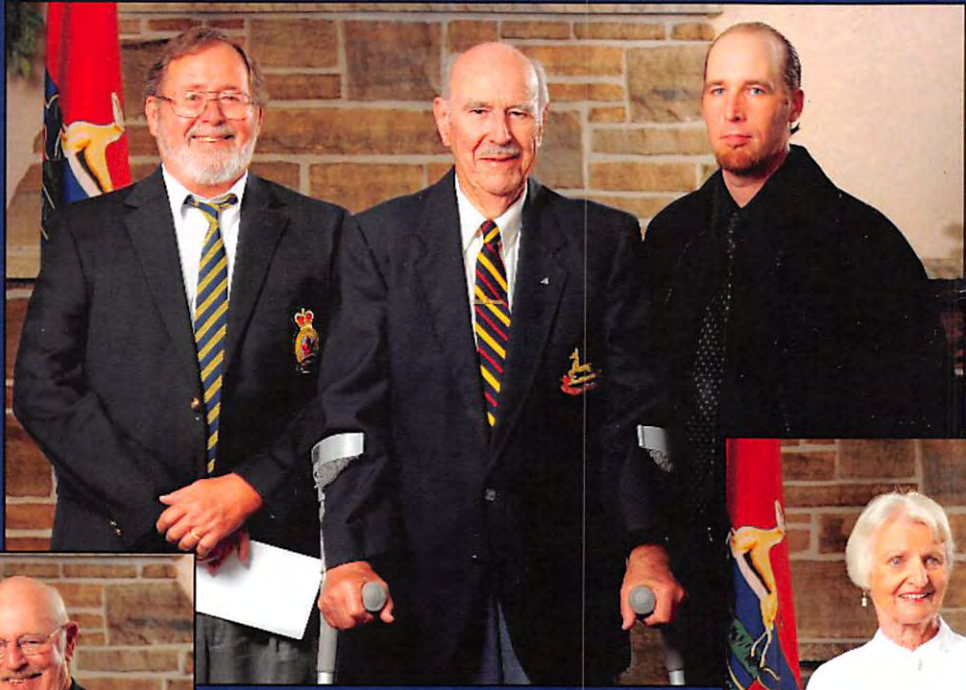
Our sad news is that one of our senior members passed away in March, Maj (Ret) George Wooley. Our sympathy goes out to his family. George will be missed by many of us as we will miss many of his war stories and life experiences, they certainly were always colourful and stretched as the years wore on. George first joined the RCASC in 1940 and later transferred to the RCAC and was posted to the RCD in 1944. He took his temporary discharge in 1946. In 1967 George was involved again as a retired cavalry officer and former executive member of the Montreal Hunt Club. He trained a troop of the Royal Canadian Hussars (Montreal) riding troop and led all Municipal parades for EXPO 67 in Montreal. He also worked at CFB Montreal being in charge of military movement and accommodation of Canadian and Foreign troops visiting Montreal. In 1968, he was posted to Valcartier as Camp Commandant responsible for the construction and operation of Camp Dubé, the new summer training camp. In civilian life, he performed many functions as a detective, investigator, safety consultant and finally owner of A.A.A. Communication. May you rest in peace, George.

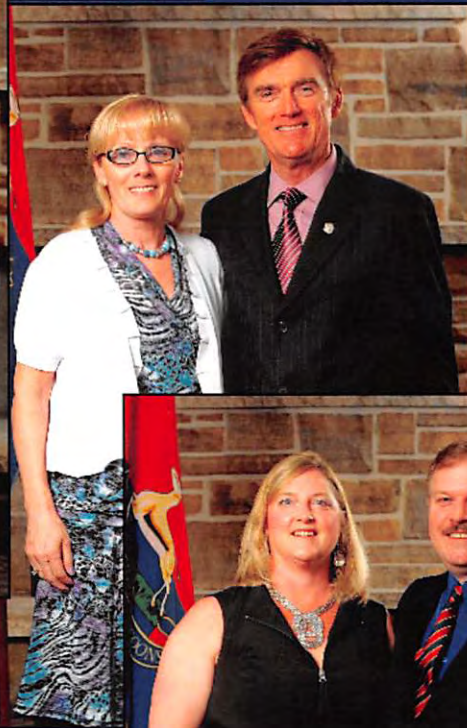
Mrs. Gauthier is doing well in Sherbrooke. She sounded quite happy on the phone and informs me that her health is good. The regiment is in her thoughts quite often and she is sorry that she is unable to participate in regimental activities more often. The distance is just too far to travel. Mrs. Gauthier mentioned that she was an ardent golf player at a younger age but is now only able to watch them play golf from her home as she lives beside a golf course. We wish you well and keep up the good spirits.

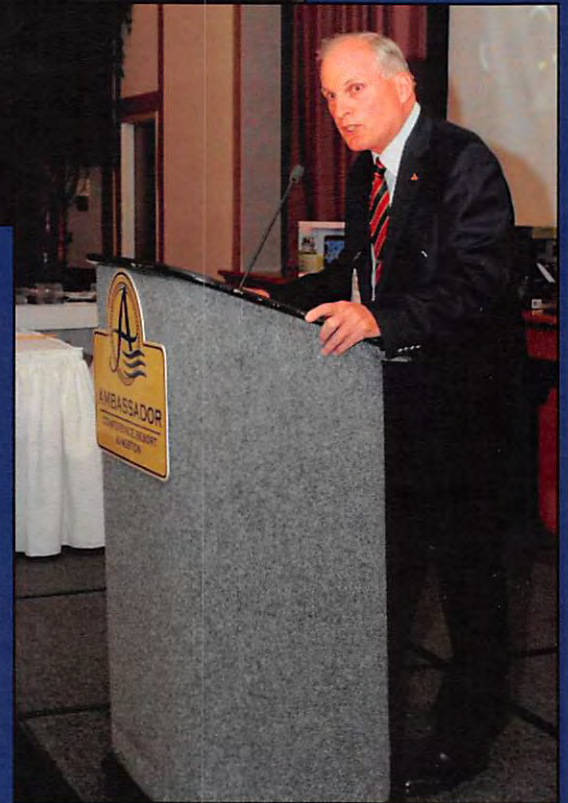
Justin Kisielius and Ruth are doing well, both are in good health. As I called this morning, Justin was in a big panic to get his tax papers completed. He promised me that he would send something for *The Dragoon* in the next few days but that might be too late for this











Quebec Chapter, cont'd.

issue. Justin is very proud of his grandson Alex who graduated from RMC and is now a Lieutenant with the RCAF. Well done, Grandpa Justin. Neville Melville is in good health and happy that all the snow is gone in his area and looking forward to the summer. Victor Regenius is still doing a little farming and raising vegetables to sell at his road stand and entertaining his

grandchildren. Victor still flies the regimental flag at his home. You can't miss it when you pass by Parc Safari on route 202 in Hemmingford. I lost contact with Beverly and Stuart Strople as their phone is no longer in service.

Michel Vezina and Ginette are doing quite well. They both attend all regimental activities in ►



Quebec Chapter, concluded

► Petawawa and plus all activities with the Royal Canadian Hussars (Montreal). Besides being occupied as our association 1st Vice, Michel is also involved with the Hussars association and as a substitute teacher at his local school. The problem is that he gets called just about every day to teach but still has time for his happy hour. Keep up the good work, Michel, and I know that Ginette is keeping you in line.

I attached some pictures, one is a group photo taken by Justin some time ago. If you recognize anyone by name and the year it was taken then please forward the information to me. It would be appreciated. A photo of a proud recipient of the Diamond Jubilee Medal awarded to me last January at a ceremony in Valleyfield.

We still have our monthly breakfast at Pub PJ in Montreal every last Thursday of the month. If you happen to travel through the area that day you are most welcome to attend. It starts at 0930 hrs. Our monthly lunches are cancelled for now as the support is not there at this time.

That's all the news for now. I hope Bann receives this in time before printing starts. Have a great summer and a healthy 2013. Till we meet again. Du la belle province, nous vous souhaitons nos meilleurs souhait cette nouvelle année 2013. Au revoir et à la prochain.

Audax et Celer



Chapter News

Kingston Chapter: The Filson Memorial Ceremony by Denis Levesque

The Kingston and Region Chapter holds an event every year that marks the Battle of Leliefontein in the Transvaal, South Africa, and the death of the fallen Dragoon, 23-year-old Cpl Edward Allen Filson, on the same day. Ed Filson was killed during the action at Leliefontein. Who knows what act of heroism he performed prior to his fatal act that took his life on that eventful day? Ed was a resident of Amherst Island, a short distance from Kingston.

Ed was one of two members killed 7 November 1900 together with Sgt Nelson Builder, who died of wounds the next day — a man whom MGen Smith-Dorien would have recommended for the Victoria Cross had he lived. And even though our casualties were light, the Boers were relentless in their pursuit despite a number of casualties of their own, including a general and a commandant killed. I'm sure Ed Filson made the Regiment proud.

The Kingston Chapter, as usual, gathered a small group of Dragoons in St. Paul's Presbyterian Church and listened to the sermon delivered by Padre Dunn, then a few words from our chapter historian, Terry Cottrell, on the action at Leliefontein. Once the church service is complete, the chapter, along with the congregation moves outside for a ceremony at the memorial erected in memory of Cpl Filson by the Filson family.

This year, in attendance we had Beth Forrester and Bruce McGaughey, great niece and nephew of Ed Filson, and Michael Holland, great grandson of Sgt Eddy Holland,

recipient of one of the three Victoria Crosses awarded on that same day at Leliefontein. Ed Filson's family brought many military items found under a building due for demolition and placed them on display in the front of the church during the sermon for all to see. Outside, the Canadian anthem was played; this was followed by a prayer for peace by Padre Dunn, the calling of the nominal roll, last post, lament on the bagpipes, and reveille.

Two wreaths are placed at the foot of the memorial, a statue of Concordia, goddess of peace and harmony, annually. This year, MGen (Retired) Clive Milner laid a wreath on behalf of the Kingston and Region Chapter of the RCD Assn, and the two relatives of Ed Filson laid a wreath on behalf of St. Paul's congregation. This remarkable event is celebrated on the Sunday before Remembrance Day at St. Paul's on Amherst Island across from Milhaven at 1100 hrs. On completion, we all retire to the church hall — for some members, the real reason to attend: coffee, sandwiches and cake laid on by the ladies of St. Paul's. This is truly a heart-touching event.



Chapter News

Ottawa Valley Chapter

by Bruce Prendergast, President



Greetings from the Ottawa Valley Chapter and best wishes to all, may 2013 bring you happiness, good health and prosperity.

Our Chapter over the past year has been fairly quiet. We have conducted several meetings (which are always entertaining thanks to Chuck and Jim), mailed out the *Springbok* and our now-annual Oktoberfest have all been accomplished with great success. In fact, the *Springbok* was mailed out in record time, primarily due to the preparations of John Moyer and Muggsie. This could not have been accomplished without the assistance of Sterling and Sandra Mercer, Mick and Brenda McMullen, and Steve and Marilyn Clarke. Well done to all.

Our Oktoberfest on the 28 Oct 12, was a huge success. The Entertainment Chairmen, Roger Munger, did an outstanding job of

coordinating everything. With the help of the ROS, Scott and Joanne Tyrie, the room was arranged and tables set, fit for a king or queen.

We hosted thirty-eight people including the CO, RSM and their lovely wives. All were in a party mood and once again Birgith Munger, with the assistance of Susane Meighan and Mary Gowers, put on a fantastic German meal which consisted of kassler, sauerkraut and mashed potatoes. Gordie Meighan provided some great German music for the evening, getting everyone into the mood. Well done to all. Before I leave this subject, I would like to thank the CO and RSM for once again taking the time to attend in light of their hectic schedule and allowing us to use the Regimental facilities. Without their support, activities like this might not be possible. The evening brought back a lot of good ►

Ottawa Valley Chapter, concluded

► memories from our time in Germany. Fortunately, we took pictures this year during the dinner so we can share them with you.

The Soldiers' Christmas Dinner is always a highlight for the Association members. We are extremely proud of our serving Dragoons and appreciate every opportunity to interact with them. They are very impressive, professional and extremely respectful of "The Old Guard". Thanks to all of those who shared their experiences of Afghanistan and current Regimental activities with us.

I enjoyed providing sitreps from the Ottawa Valley Chapter and especially enjoyed

reading about the other chapters and their members. *The Dragoon* and *Springbok* are two excellent publications and all those involved, especially the editors, should be commended for their outstanding work.

In closing, the support of the Regiment over the past year has been outstanding. Both LCol Daryl Cross and LCol Andrew Atherton along with CWO Bill Richards have opened the doors to all Regimental activities and welcomed all of us with open arms. Tanks.

Audax et celer, Bold and Swift



Chapter News

National Capital Region Chapter

by Bill Smith

The 2012 events for the Chapter were again primarily concerned with the 67th celebration of the Liberation of Leeuwarden in April, the Armour Barbeque at Oakhaven in July, the 112th anniversary of the Action at Leliefontein and the 129th anniversary of the founding of our Regiment on 21 December.

On 20 April, members of the NCR Chapter serving Dragoons and guests, celebrated the 67th anniversary of the Liberation of Leeuwarden on 15 April 1945. It was held in the Infantry Room of the Army Mess. This was the fourth time that many of the members of the Chapter could remember celebrating this most significant event in Ottawa, although each year this event is celebrated by the Regiment, but not necessarily by the Association's Chapters. Several notable Dragoons and guests attended, namely: His Excellency Ambassador Wim Geerts from the Netherlands Embassy and Ms Wendy Sewell also from the Embassy, BGen Peter Atkinson, Col Mike Appleton, Ross Carruthers, Walter Conrad, Chuck Gruchy, Bill Smith, Alf Rasmussen, Brian Senecal, Jack Earnshaw, Bob Hart, Mike McNorgan, Alan Bolster, Michael McNorgan, Bob Moulton, Mike Pacey, Col Georges Rousseau, Capt Popowich and Tom Burnie. We were particularly pleased that Frank Milledge could join us. Frank is one of our few members who served in World War II. Our apologies to those who attended, but whose names are not noted here. A notable event at this gathering was a presentation by Mike Pacey of a commemorative coin to Alf

Rasmussen to mark Alf's service as an exchange officer at the Royal Armoured Corps Equipment Trials Wing. It was particularly notable in that Alf served there almost fifty years ago!

Again, a few of our members attended the Armour Barbeque at Oakhaven in July and stated that they had a super time and enjoyed seeing many of their Armour colleagues from years ago. The food, libations, and friends made it a wonderful outing and they are looking forward to next July for another Armour get-together at Oakhaven.

Once again, the main event of the fall was our get-together for the 112th anniversary of the Action at Leliefontein. Many retired and serving Dragoons, and a few friends, gathered in the Army Mess on 9 November 2012. It turned out to be a great occasion with lots of good but old stories. Many thanks to our Committee for their wonderful raffle prizes and effort and, of course, to the Mess for the provision of a nice lunch. There were about twenty members and serving Dragoons in attendance, some of whom were: Gen Walter Natynczyk, BGen Peter Atkinson, Col Mike Nixon, Col Mike Appleton, Ross Carruthers, Angus Brown, Bill Smith, Tom Burnie, Chris Renahan, Bob Moulton, Alf Rasmussen, Scott McClelland, Ian Bayne, Terry Seeley, and Perry Wells. Again, our apology to those who were in attendance but whose names have not been promulgated here.

The next Leliefontein gathering for the NCR Chapter will be held in late October or ►

National Capital Region Chapter, concluded

► early November 2013 in the Infantry Room of the Army Mess. We will continue to hold the raffle, with the benefit of being closer to the food tables. The Regiment no doubt will be holding its Leliefontein events during early November 2013 in Petawawa.

And for the eleventh consecutive time, the Chapter celebrated the anniversary of the founding of the Regiment. The 129th anniversary was held on 21 December 2012 in the Army Mess. The Committee was once again able to provide retired and serving Dragoons and friends with a tasty luncheon put on by the Mess. A toast was proposed to the health and prosperity of the Regiment. Unfortunately, due to bad weather and poor driving conditions, our turnout was severely curtailed. There were only nine stalwarts who braved the Ottawa weather to attend this function. Some of those brave souls were: Bob Hart, Bill Smith, Walt Conrad, Chris Renahan, Maurice D'Amour, Jim Soame, Mike McNorgan, Bann Price, and Bruce Cameron. Again, this report may have missed someone who attended; our apologies to those missed stalwarts.

The Chapter will celebrate the 130th anniversary of the Regiment in December 2013 in the Army Mess.

The Chapter lost two spouses in 2012 with the passing of Mariette Smith, the wife of William Smith, in March; and in August, Charlene Atkinson, the wife of Peter Atkinson. They will be sorely missed.

It is with welcome news that the RCD Association at their last AGM strongly supported the NCR Chapter's proposal that the Netherlands Ambassador, Wim Geerts,

become an Honorary Life member of the RCD Association. Ambassador Geerts has never missed any of our Chapter's annual celebrations of the Liberation of Leeuwarden and the Ambassador also was present in Petawawa for the Regiment's Liberation of Leeuwarden parade.



Chapter News

Prairies Chapter

by Reg Munden

From the desk of the National President, John (Bann) Price comes a request to prepare an article for *The Dragoon*, so here goes!

Our Chapter is still vibrant, however, on February 2, 2012 we lost a cherished friend and Chapter member, Jerry Cluett, who succumbed to cancer. Jerry served as a member of the entertainment committee and was always available to help in organizing and

doing extra work to ensure that our Chapter events were successful, which they always were. Jerry was also the editor of our Chapter magazine, a magazine that all who received it responded to with words such as "It's the greatest" and if I may boast, I agree. Thanks Jerry, you started something that we have been encouraged to continue. So with this challenge we will soon be formatting a newsletter representing our Chapter. ►



In the foreground: John Clancy. Background, left to right: Maxwell Pipers Meagan Clancy,

Prairies Chapter, cont'd.

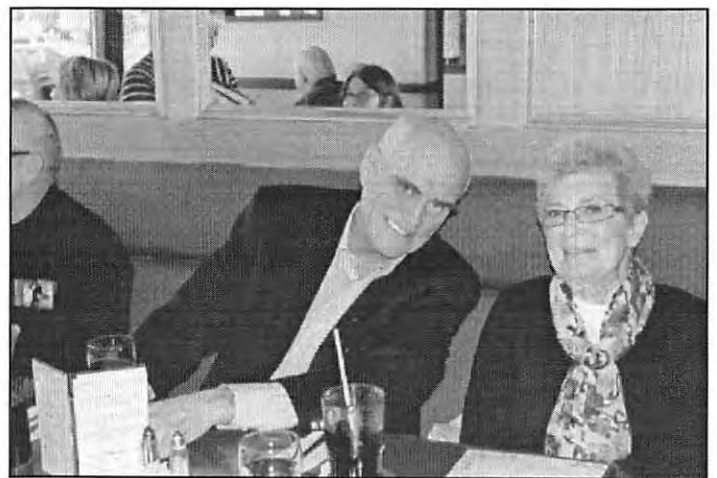


Bax Lockyer, Jerry Hannigan, Jim Barron and son, Gloria Dingwell, Earl Smith (nice hair).

► Leliefontein and Regimental birthday dinner was held at Hanni's restaurant in October with a good number in attendance. Margot Meating was a special guest as she has been ill for a long time, as many of you know, thus it was a wonderful surprise to have her with us at this celebration. She is really looking great as you can tell by the photo. Oh yes, Bob was there as well, giving his support to all.

Remembrance Church Service and Luncheon was again held at McDougall United Church. We had a great turnout of veterans from McDougall, Alberta Dragoons Chapter members and members from the RCAF aircrew, also POW members

representing their Alberta Chapter. A fine lunch, provided by the ladies of McDougall, was truly enjoyed by the veterans and ►



Bob and Margot Meating.

Prairies Chapter, concluded

► members of the congregation. The church service was attended by over five hundred church members, guests and, of course, the veterans. Special thanks to Rev. Dr. David Holmes and Rev. Karen Holmes for their continued support and involvement in this special church service.

RV 2012, which was held in Kingston, Ontario, was attended by Marg and myself. We motored from Calgary to enjoy the gathering of our Dragoon family members. The attendance could have probably been larger but due to the aging of our “family”, present illnesses, and the passing of several members,

this was not to be. Those who were fortunate to be in attendance really enjoyed the time they had to spend with their many friends. So to you, Denis Levesque and your Kingston Chapter, a job well done. If any members have not organized an event such as a reunion they may not fully realize the challenges and hard work that go into the preparation in order for it to be successful.

To all members who are able to support RV 2014, it is going to be held in the Niagara area.

Bold and Swift



Veterans entering church, RCD Clancy, Munden, Barwise.

Chapter News

BC Chapter

by Fred Berge, Chairman

Hello from BC! In my last report, I made much emphasis about the Olympic Winter games, which turned out to be extremely successful. In this report, the only thing we have going is that we must hold the record for hockey violence in the streets of Vancouver following the Canucks Stanley Cup defeat. And the courts, along with the police, are still processing those people who brought a very black eye on our great Province. For the BC Chapter, things have been much, much calmer.

Generally, the Chapter activity is limited to individual contacts and informal communication, with the main activity being the Leliefontein luncheon held on 7 Nov at one of the four ferry crossing sites between the BC mainland and Vancouver Island. Our main concern is still trying to keep the Chapter alive. We have eleven members on the mainland, of

which two are from the interior, and fourteen members from Vancouver Island. In the past year and a half, we have lost seven members simply because we have lost contact with them.. Fortunately, we have added three new members to the Chapter this year: Peter Jarvis, a retired major; Jonas Jonsson, from Vancouver; and Dave Stewart, a retired Sgt, from Kamloops.

There has been a serious attempt to create a Black Hat Gathering. Both I and Dave Letson , for the past several years, have always encouraged any member of the Armored Corps to attend our respective luncheons. Unfortunately, it has not produced the results we wanted because at the Leliefontein luncheon, only a couple of Strathconas attend and at the Moreuil Wood luncheon, there are only several Dragoons.

MGen(Retd) Cam Ross, Col of the Regt ►



BC Chapter, concluded

► LdSH(RC), has encouraged the creation of an official Strathcona Chapter on Vancouver Island to cover all of BC. His hope is to draw the membership from a wider gathering of all Black Hatters, including members of the BCR and BCD, and any other retired Black Hats from any Regiment. The inaugural meeting was held last December at Esquimalt Barracks and details of what is going to happen will not be available for a couple of months. It is not my intent to fold the BC Chapter of the RCD Association only to encourage participation in what may develop from the Black Hat Gathering.

The Leliefontein luncheon was held at the Tsawwassen Legion in 2011. I was not able to attend because I was down with a very bad cold. David Sproule stood in and did a very good job in handling the luncheon. It was a good turnout and everyone seemed to enjoy themselves. I have attached a photo, I'm sure you'll enjoy seeing the old-timers.

The 2012 Leliefontein luncheon was held at the Saanich Boat Club, just south of the Schwartz Bay ferry landing. The turnout was not as large as normal but as usual, we all had a good meal and enjoyed the company and the retelling of stories. MGen Cam Ross gave us a most interesting update and disposition of the Leopard 2s.

This was followed by a presentation by John Innes of his experiences of seeing Europe on five dollars a day pay, from a trooper's point of view. He described the deployment of the Regiment from just north of Rome to Ressaio, Rimini, Ravenna, and Bagnacavallo where the Regiment was dismounted, thanks to "Gen. Mud". He then described the movement

Northeast from Leghorn to Marseilles, Italy, and then North for operations in Holland and Germany.

John is 90 years old and is having an extremely good life. We appreciated his comments on his experiences in Italy, Holland and Germany.

That's all that we have for the report. All the best to all Dragoons, wherever they are.



Chapter News

Cpl W.A. Knisely / South Central Ontario Chapter by Terry Shaw, Chairman RCD Association

Greetings from the South-Central Ontario Chapter (SCOC). We wish the very best and good health to all in the upcoming year.

There has been a tremendous amount of activity during the past year and I hope to cover many of the details. However, if I miss a few, I



*Figure 1 - Don and Chris White
with Vi Mann.*

am sure to be reminded and I will include these activities in my next report.

I will commence with congratulations to the organizing

committee of the Reunion in June of 2012. Rendez-Vous (RV) 2012 was conducted in Kingston by the Kingston Chapter and was a great success. Much praise should be heaped

upon Denis Levesque (Chairman) and his organization for the success of the event. To all of the committee members who assisted in every aspect, I wish to pass on kudos from the Chapter.

From all across southern Ontario, there were many of us from the SCOC in attendance. I mention a few who attended and who thoroughly enjoyed themselves: Percy Rescol with his grandson and son-in-law from Niagara-on-the-Lake, Norm and Mildred Wood from Toronto, Don and Chris White and Vi Mann from Oshawa, and Frank and Kathleen Gabriel from Windsor. The overall consensus was that the event was well attended, well conducted and great renewal of old acquaintances.

Leeuwarden 2012

As always, Don and Chris White, and what appeared to be the entire family, attended ►



*RCD SCOC Marching Contingent with 15 members of
the Regiment.*



Leeuwarden at Petawawa.

South Central Ontario Chapter, cont'd.

► Leeuwarden activities at the Regiment in Petawawa April 2012. Also in attendance in Petawawa were Norm and Mildred Wood.

Warriors Day Parade

The Chapter participated in the Annual Warriors Day Parade at the opening of the Canadian National Exhibition, 18 Aug 2012. We were greatly pleased to have fifteen members of the Regiment from Petawawa parade with the Association members. In total, there were thirty-six Dragoons on parade or manning the various historic vehicles. To note, the Chapter was awarded 3rd prize, The Goodyear Remembrance Trophy, for a Marching Formation larger than twenty-one.

Christmas 2012

During the Christmas 2012 period, there were several gatherings to celebrate Christmas and to just get together. First, a group gathered at the RCD/RCR Boar War Memorial in Windsor Ontario. A short service of Remembrance was conducted, followed by a



Terry Shaw, John Bilinskis (RCR), Murray Decker, Frank Gabriel, Bob McGonigal, Kathy Nayduk, Mike Leclair (RCR), and Gordon Rossignal.

gathering at the Legion. As always, Frank Gabriel hosted us to a wide variety of wild meats and drinks. Thank you to those who showed up, now that they are aware of the special fare.

A second small gathering was held in the Toronto/Long Branch Legion. A very small number attended although we had food aplenty for many. A special thank you goes to Ed Gray for his work in setting up this afternoon.

Last Post to SCOC Chapter Members

During the past year there have been too many members of the Chapter who have passed. I send to all of their families and friends our sincere condolences.

John Binns
Bill Crawford
Harry Graham
Bill Lock



A light lunch after parade at Fort York Armouries.

South Central Ontario Region, concluded

► Frank Mears
David Robertson
Gardner Robertson
Steven Sloan
James Watson

Next Rendez-Vous

The Cpl W.A. Knisely, South-Central Ontario Chapter (SCOC), will be hosting the next Rendez-Vous, June 13–14, 2014 in St. Catharines ON. Details of the activities and specific happenings have been provided in *The Dragoon*. Please see the Registration form on the inside back cover for more information. There will be regular updates provided at the RCD Web page.

In summary, we have had a great year and are looking forward to 2013–14. I wish all Dragoons the very best in the next year.



*Norm Wood, Vic Sibley, Ed Gray, Terry Shaw,
and Les Struck.*

Secretary/Treasurer's Sitrep — 2010

John Moyer

I first want to extend an extraordinary THANK YOU to all those in the Chapters who act as my liaison officers with the Membership. Without their efforts, the information (addresses, membership dues, deaths, etc.) that is needed would not be as current as it is. Through them, and their many OPs, we attempt to maintain contact with all our comrades. Maintaining addresses is probably the most difficult aspect of my work and any assistance is truly appreciated.

A particular "Well Done" is offered to the members of the Kingston Chapter which hosted a very successful RV2012 last June. As usual, an excellent time was had by all who attended. Mark your calendars now for some time in June 2014 when the next gathering is planned to occur, hosted by the South Central Ontario Chapter, somewhere in Ontario's banana belt.

As well, thanks to Ralph Rarwise, Tom Urbanowsky, Sterling Mercer, Geoff Hall, Lance Wiebe, Karl Kramell, Terry Shaw and Bob Riendeau for agreeing to serve the Association as Directors. Their energy will ensure that proper oversight is visible and available to the Executive. Not a huge demand on their time, but vital to our continued well-being.

As is our custom, this issue includes several summaries of general interest. You will note from the Membership Report that we have remained relatively stable over the years. And, while our finances are relatively secure, there is always a good use for any donations to support several programs: the Leliefontein

Bursary, the Life Members' Investment Fund (GICs), *The Dragoon* or *The Springbok*. Life Members in particular are urged to consider periodic extraordinary gifts as the costs of printing and mailing our publications have certainly increased since you joined the Association. Unfortunately, we are a not-for-profit charitable organization and cannot issue receipts.

A special thank you is extended to those of you who have donated that little extra. Any donation you might make to the LMIF will be re-invested to reinforce our GICs, thus ensuring some stable long-term income (assuming positive interest rates). Donations made to general expenses will be judiciously used to support annual operating costs. You have a President and Secretary/Treasurer who have been accused of being very Scottish in their approach to spending your dollars.

Bursary donations (cheques must be made payable to The Guild of The RCD to qualify for a charitable donation receipt) will of course be forwarded to the Guild.

Again, my heartfelt thanks go to all those who have supported me in 2011–12 and I sincerely hope our excellent working relationships will continue.

In closing, please do not hesitate to contact me at jbmoyer@sympatico.ca if you ever have any membership questions or concerns.

Financial Summary as at 31 Dec 2012

Opening Balance — 01 Jan 12	\$21,562.53
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REVENUE

Dues/Donations Received	\$ 5,320.00
Guild Contribution	\$ 5,000.00
GICs Cashed (4 GICs matured)	\$47,500.00
GIC Interest Earned	<u>\$ 1,431.17</u>
Total Revenue	\$59,251.17

EXPENSES

Corporate License Fee	\$ 30.00
Estate of Brian Hook to RCD Bursary	\$ 1,000.00
Guild Support to RV2012	\$ 2,500.00
Association/Guild Support to the Chapters	\$ 2,725.00
Printing/Mailing of The Dragoon	\$ 5,107.39
Postal Charges - The Springbok	\$ 832.22
GICs Purchased (4 GICs reinvested)	\$49,500.00
President (UOV project)	\$ 250.00
Secretary/Treasurer (mailing/Reunion/computer expenses)	<u>\$ 260.29</u>

Total Expenses	\$62,204.90
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Operating Surplus (Deficit)	\$ 2,953.73
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Closing Bank Balance — 31 Dec 12	<u>\$18,608.80</u>
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Membership Summary

Membership Summary

(as at 31 Dec 2012)

Last Post 2011/2012 - 15/16=31

New Members 2011/12 - 11/12=23

Active Membership

Life	- 316
Associate Life	- 65
Annual(2008+)	- 242
Associate Annual (2008+)	- 18
Honorary	- 15
	<u>656</u>

MEMBERSHIP HISTORICAL NUMBERS

June 1999	710 (423 Life/282 Annual)
December 2002	715 (401/309)
May 2005	637 (387/244)
October 2006	748 (385/357)
February 2007	703 (387/310)
May 2008	636 (384/246)
December 2009	657 (372/277)
December 2010	654 (384/263)
December 2012	656 (381/260)

The RCD Association Board of Directors

Executive Officers

President

Mr JB Price
2673 Pierce Road
North Gower ON K0A 2T0

1st Vice President

Mr Michel Vezina
107 rene Emard
Ille Perot QC J7V 1P7

Secretary/Treasurer

Mr John Moyer
826 Bridle Path Cres
Kingston ON K7P 1P7

Officers

Mr RC Barwise

140 Martindale Close NE
Calgary AB T3J 2P2

Mr TE Urbanowski

1 Shepard Drive
Oromocto NB E2V 2M2

Mr Sterling P Mercer

19 Roy Street,
Petawawa ON K8H 3A5

Mr Robert Riendeau

70 Ochterloney St, Suite 204
Dartmouth, NS, B2Y 1C2

Lance Wiebe

46 Estabrooks Ave
Lincoln, NB, E3B 9K3

Chapter Chairmen

Atlantic Chapter

Mr Doran Vienneau
75 Shaw Lane
Springwater Place NB
E3C 1H7

Ottawa Valley Chapter

Mr Bruce Prendergast
286 Mink Lake Road
Eganville ON K0J 1T0

Alberta Chapter

Mr R Munden
6 Sunlake Way
Calgary AB T2X 3E3

Quebec Chapter

Mr Karl Kramell
483 Rue Champlain
Hemmingford QC J0L 1H0

Kingston Chapter

Mr Denis Levesque
202 Ellesmeer Ave
Kingston ON K7P 3E4

BC Chapter

Mr RF Berge
8575 Primrose Place
Sardis BC V2R 4A3

National Capitol Region

Mr Ross Carruthers
171 Paddy's Lane
Westport ON K0G 1X0

South Central Ontario Chapter

Capt Terry Shaw
76 Livingston St W
Barrie ON L4N 7J1

Guild Donors 2012

Guild activities depend upon donors from all parts of the regimental family and friends of Dragoons both individuals and corporations. Unfortunately space in this magazine does not permit us to thank all who gave, so we have published the names starting at \$100. Many others have generously given and we certainly we thank all donors.

\$100–\$499 Friends of the Regiment

Adams DJ	Girard JM	Piper G
Allen J	Graham SG	Pires SA
Andrews JL	Haindl PT	Popov M
Atkins JA	Head DW	Poppe A
Atkinson PJ	Herrington W	Power BR
Auld FG	Holton RJ	Renahan C
Bailey M	Hutt C	Ring JW
Barr JM	Johnston D	Saunders E
Barsauskas LK	Kuehne M	Scheffelmaier WT
Beckett BS	Lacasse RD	Schroeder WM
Beharrysingh D	Larocque J	Shaw R
Bennett	Leblanc D	Shewan B
Bigney R	Lesage MR	Shurdha
Bonenfant-Deguisse J-P	Lillington CD	Smith J
Bramhill RJ	Lofgren WA	Steele D
Bride RAW	Lynk DA	Tan P-A
Brimner AM	Mackenzie KA	Thibault J
Brown C	Malejczuk JJ	Thomas LE
Cadden SM	Malloff MJ	Tremblay DD
Catry C	Marion KC	Turner PA
Chadwick HC	Marois RV	Watt F
Childs D	Mathers KJ	Wells PJ
Cotton RT	McCluskey M	White CRJ
Cross DJ	Mercer SA	Wionzek MJR
Curley S	Mercier RJGR	Wong KW
Cushing K	Milner DJ	Zinck DW
D'Andrea C	Moody J	
Davenport C	Muise AC	Atlantis Systems International
Dewinter RA	Muralt D	NCR Chapter RCD Assoc
Donald RA	Murphy JW	United Way
Duhamel G	Nette G	
Ermel RW	Newton TS	
Evers M	Ostler JR	
Farnell M	Perreault Guy	
Follwell J	Phillips R	
Frank MA	Pineau S	

Guild Donors, concluded

\$500–\$1,499 Regimental Family

Assaly SC
Averbook T
Bell J
Cartmell M
Natynczyk WJ
Snape A
Tannis E

Actson Consulting Inc.
Airborne Systems Canada Ltd
Safari Club International – Algonquin
Safari Club International OV SCI
The Prince of Wales Charitable Foundation
United Way Ottawa

\$1,500–\$9,999 Patrons of the Old Guard

DeBlois S
Halpin M
Lucas M and Wishart D
Mann V

Andrex Holdings Ltd
BBS Construction (Ontario) Ltd.
Dow Motors (Ottawa) Limited
Fidelity Investments Canada
J M M Realty Company
Kanata Honda & Powerhouse
Lockheed Martin Corporation
Panasonic Canada Inc.
Star Motors of Ottawa
TD Canada Trust

\$10,000–\$49,000 Commanding Officer's Circle

Baxter R

Maple Leaf Sports & Entertainment Ltd



Royal Canadian Dragoon Association Rendez Vous (RV) 2014

will be held in

St Catharines Ontario on 13 & 14 June 2014

Friday June 13, 2014

Registration will take place during the period 1300–2000 hrs

Board of Directors Meeting — Ostin A & B Rooms

5:00 pm to 6:00 pm

Meet & Greet Reception — Concord & Chardonnay Rooms

6:00 pm Arrival Time

Light Reception Style Menu: Fresh Cut Vegetable & Relish Display, Two Freshly Prepared Salads,
Carved Roast Beef au Jus on a Bun.

Saturday June 14, 2014

Breakfast:

All guests are on their own for Breakfast and are responsible for own charges.

Restaurant J.J Kapps Backyard BBQ Steak & Grill opens at 7:00 am daily.

Association General Meeting

9:30 am to 11:00 pm (TBC)

Niagara-On-The-Lake Wine Tour (Details to be posted at Meet and Greet)

11:00 am to 3:30 pm (TBC)

Dinner and Dance

6:30 for 7:00 pm Arrival time

Photographer will be avail for individual and group portraits. Cash Bar.

Plated Dinner Service

Salad Entrée: Tossed Garden Greens with Sliced Cucumbers and Tomatoes, Two Dressings on the tables.

Assorted Rolls & Butter.

Main Entrée: Fresh Oven-Roasted Chicken Breast (Wing Bone In) napped with a Dijon Velouté Sauce,
Roasted Potatoes & Fresh Market Vegetable Medley.

Dessert & Beverage: Vanilla Bean Ice Cream napped with Niagara Ice Wine Syrup and
a Chocolate Dipped Strawberry.

Served with Freshly Brewed Coffee, Decaf & Tea.



Overnight Accommodations

Friday June 13 & Saturday June 14, 2014

The Holiday Inn & Suites Parkway Conference Centre offers everything that the Royal Canadian Dragoons Association needs for a successful, stimulating and memorable event. You can enjoy the Mediterranean atmosphere of J.J. Kapps Restaurant, or network while grabbing your favourite coffee flavour at our cozy, comfortable, Timothy's World Coffee kiosk. We also have Niagara's famous Cosmic Rock 'N' Bowl billiards and sports lounge.



From the moment you arrive in our elegant lobby, our experienced staff of trained professionals will assist you as you arrive in the hotel. The Holiday Inn & Suites is able to accommodate the members and guests attending the conference.

In-Room Fridges, Microwaves, Coffee Makers, Iron, Ironing Board & Hairdryer
Self Service Laundry Room available for all guests
Complimentary Upgraded Highspeed Wireless & Wired Internet

Overnight Accommodation Rates

Friday June 13 & Saturday June 14, 2014
Rate below is honoured until May 13, 2014
Single / Double Occupancy \$125.00 per room per night
Triple Occupancy (3 people) \$135.00 per room per night
Quad Occupancy (4 people) \$145. per room per night
Rates above quoted, based on Standard Rooms
(Rate after 13 May will increase approx. \$24.00)

Individual Reservations

- Guests are to call the hotel to make their own reservation must quote Royal Canadian Dragoons Association and give their credit card number (Toll free number 1-877-688-2324 ext 2)
- **You are advised that the cut-off date for making hotel room reservations is one month prior to perspective arrival date.**

Please Note

The above rates are quoted in Canadian funds per room, per night,
subject to 13% HST and 5% Destination Marketing Fee.

- Rooms not reserved One Month Prior to the event date will be released for general sale.
- All Reservations must be reserved with a credit card.
- Cash-paying guests will have to pay a security deposit of \$150.00 that will be refunded if no damages to the room.



Check-In/Check-Out Times

- Check-in time is after **4:00 pm** (Early Check-in is not guaranteed but may be requested.)
- Checkout time is **12:00 pm**.
- Checking out following this time but before 6:00 pm will be subject to a late checkout charge of \$69.00 plus taxes; checking out after 6:00 pm will be subject to a full night's rate.

Terms and Conditions

1. Any reservation within your group block can be modified or cancelled 24 hours prior to arrival (by 4:00 pm hotel local time).
2. You may cancel additional nights at least 24 hours prior to your departure (by 4:00 pm hotel local time).
3. Cancellation after this time will be subject to an early departure fee of 50% of the room rate or \$50.00, whichever is greater.

It is not the responsibility of the Hotel to ensure each member is aware of the terms of this contract and the group policies.

Directions & Transportation

We are located on Ontario Street, Exit # 47, on the South side of the QEW.

Niagara Region at a Glance

The picturesque Niagara Region is wedged between Lake Ontario and Lake Erie in southern Ontario. This area comprises twelve distinct municipalities and is brimming with natural wonders, captivating landscape and eclectic zeal. The roar of the mighty and famed Horseshoe Falls, located within Niagara Falls, beckons millions of visitors each year. The city is also filled with a myriad of entertaining amusement centres, from chilling houses of horror and sideshow museums to the sophisticated Casino Niagara. The self-proclaimed "Garden City" of St. Catharines has some esteemed wineries and a bounty of activities. Welland, home of the engineering marvel Welland Canal, welcomes tens of thousands to its annual summer food festival. Niagara-on-the-Lake was one of Ontario's first settlements, but now attracts thousands to the Shaw Festival Theatre, as well as to its many boutiques and antique shops. Cyclists and hikers can find serenity on the trails of the diverse Niagara Escarpment.

Directions & Transportation: We are located on Ontario Street, Exit # 47 on the South side of the QEW. If you are entering Canada by car, three International bridges serve our area, we suggest crossing at the first or second listed:

Queenston / Lewiston Bridge (405 / I-190) 9 km/6 miles to hotel
Peace Bridge — Fort Erie / Buffalo (QEW / I-190) 47 km/29 miles to hotel
Rainbow Bridge — Niagara Falls (420 / Robert Moses) 18 km/12 miles to hotel

The nearest airports to St. Catharines are:

Pearson International — (Toronto) 112 km/70 miles
Buffalo International — 72 km/45 miles
Hamilton International — 72 km/45 miles
Niagara District (Regional) — 13 km/8 miles

Niagara Airbus provides airport transportation to the Niagara Region and serves all of the above airports. (905) 374-8111

Taxi Service in St. Catharines is provided by the two following companies:

Central Taxi — (905) 685-7343
5-0 Taxi — (905) 685-5464

Both companies also provide airport transportation and limousine service.
Cash, American Express, Visa, & MasterCard are accepted payment methods.

Royal Canadian Dragoon Association Rendez Vous (RV) 2014 REGISTRATION FORM

Name: _____

(First) (Nick Name) (Last)

Spouse/Guest: _____
 (First) (Nick Name) (Last)

Address: _____
 _____ (Street) _____ (City)
 _____ | _____ | () _____ | _____
 (Province) (Postal Code) (Contact #) Email

Number Attending: _____ All Activities: _____ Meet & Greet: _____ Dinner only _____
Number interested in Niagara-On-the-Lake Wine Tour and Brunch: _____

Costs:

Meet & Greet Only — \$15.00 each. Dinner — \$ 60.00 each.
Niagara-On-the-Lake Wine Tour and Brunch. Saturday — TBD
(Price dependant on participation. Price to be published at a later date.)

Notes:

1. Room reservations must be made directly with the Holiday Inn and Suites.
2. To take advantage of the reduced room rate, reservations must be made no later than 13 May 2014. (It is requested that participants utilize the Holiday Inn and Suites. Activity costs are contingent on overall participation at the hotel).
3. Announcements and updates will be published in the Dragoon, Chapter newsletters and on www.dragoons.ca.
4. Special dietary requirements can be made with prior notice.

My cheque for \$ _____ is enclosed.

Make cheque payable to: South Central Ontario Chapter, RCD Association
Mail to: Mr. Terry Shaw, 76 Livingstone St West, Barrie ON L4N 7J1

Each person attending must sign below, to authorize the posting of your name(s) on the RV web site indicating your attendance. If you do not wish your name published, there is no signature required.

Name: _____ Spouse/Guest _____
(Signature) (Signature)

Return this registration page with your payment to
Mr. Terry Shaw, 76 Livingstone St West, Barrie ON L4N 7J1
Home phone: 705-794-4954, Email: twshaw@sympatico.ca