

# The Dragon

# FORWARD!



Forward to Victory  
**ENLIST NOW**

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## From the Editor's Desk



Greetings and welcome to *The Dragoon* for 2014. This edition is a bit of a mash up, bringing in the highlights from 2013 and a report on the excellent “Rendezvous” held in St Catharines in June of this year. It is also a look back at the Regiment in 1914 — the year the Dragoons went to war for the third time in their 31-year (at the time) history. There is also a look back at 1984, through the eyes of the then Ops Officer, Hugh Egenar, a talented cartoonist.

Once again, many people have contributed to *The Dragoon*. I owe an apology to David Sproule, a regular contributor, for leaving the pictures out of his article of last year and have published both that and his latest reminiscences in this edition. The Chapter Chairs have once again provided most of the “news” but Al “Duke” Dukewitch dug deep into the memory banks and has written an article about a little known Regimental exercise. I have complemented that article with one that was published in the 1971 edition of the *Springbok*. A good read, both of them.

So, enjoy *The Dragoon* for 2014 and send me your memories so that we can all keep the experiences alive.

Bann





# From the Colonel of the Regiment

Georges Rousseau CD Colonel (Ret'd)

Dear Dragoons

**T**he old Latin adage “Tempus Fugit” describes wonderfully my tenure as Colonel of the Regiment. In these last two years I have had tremendous opportunities to connect with Dragoons while visiting some of the elements of our Regimental family. Given the unfortunate “time and space” impediment, the focus of my effort has been in Eastern Canada, hence I apologize to our Western brethren. I can only assume that my predecessors residing in Western Canada had a similar inhibitor restricting their visits to our Eastern Chapters. For not this publication, the *Springbok*, the Regimental web site and the Chapters Newsletters, my participation to the Regimental discourse would be gravely restricted. I therefore wish to congratulate our Association President and all Chapter Presidents for their continuous and often unheralded efforts in fostering the Regimental spirit.

In this our 130th year of existence, the major accomplishments of our fine



Regiment are as important as ever. As I contemplate this past year, I rejoice at all our achievements. Once again, the Regiment has carried out its mandate with “brio” both in garrison and in the field. The return to a general purpose training posture since leaving Afghanistan has not been without challenges but as always our Dragoons have remained steadfast. Gun camps, deployments to Canadian Manoeuvre Training Centre and multi-faceted exercises around the Ottawa Valley were prosecuted in fine Dragoon fashion. A special mention to the members of C Squadron

for achieving first place at the Corps Gunnery Competition held in Gagetown this summer.

Again this year, our Leliefontein Commemorative was celebrated with the customary respect and decorum. As always and without invitation many retired and ERE Dragoons made their way to the Regimental Home Station to attend the various formal and social activities. Notwithstanding the habitual cold and snow, the week-long Leliefontein activities/ ceremonies were as always “brilliant”.

► Midyear, I had the distinct privilege of welcoming our new Regimental Sergeant Major (RSM) Shawn Mercer back to Regimental duty. With impeccable antecedents, born in a proud and strong military family lineage he is extremely well suited to safeguard that critical link between the troop and the officer cadre. Of note Shawn and his father Sterling will have both served as our RSM, an achievement unrivalled in the annals of active military service to Canada.

I cannot overstate the professionalism of our Cadet Service officers who inculcate principles of good citizenship to the next generation of young Canadians and aspiring Dragoons. Indeed, our affiliated Cadet Corps are doing extremely well and I look forward to visiting them all by year's end. Beyond the military realm, our "Friends of The Regiment" continue to grow under the tutelage of David Batten our Regimental Patron and Jeff Mierins. Both have ensured a healthy sustainment to this precious volunteer cadre whose pecuniary generosity and unwavering interests in our Regiment are second to none. I look forward to joining them

in future Guild fund raising activities. Of mention, a special thanks to all members of the Guild (many of whom are Association members) who manage the interest of our Regimental Family.

Finally, on your behalf I wish to thank Major-General Jim Ferron, our Senior Serving Dragoon for his devoted service. He will be leaving command of 1st Canadian Division on the 10th of June and retiring after 35 years of loyal service to the Royal Canadian Dragoons. Having spent his entire career as a Dragoon, Jim will be remembered among other achievements as the one who coined the saying "it's a fine day to be a Dragoon". Congratulations, well done and happy retirement!

In closing, a special thought for all those fine Dragoons who have been called to that big "leaguer in heaven". We pray for them and their families. Lest we forget!

Colonel (ret) Georges  
Rousseau  
Colonel of Regiment





# From the Senior Serving Dragoon

Major-General Jim Ferron, OMM, MSC, CD

Well this will be my last opportunity to address the Dragoon family as the Senior Serving Dragoon as I will retire from the Canadian Armed Forces this summer after 39 years in uniform. It has been a huge privilege to serve and I am absolutely thrilled that I will handover command of the 1<sup>st</sup> Canadian Division HQ and the

appointment of Senior Serving Dragoon to my good friend Dean Milner. From the outset I would like to commend Dean, his wife Katrin and their children Stephanie and Derek for their selfless dedication to the Dragoon family.

While getting older and eventually retiring from the Army is mandatory, growing-up still remains optional and my wife Mary continues to ponder the question...what will I do when I actually hang up the spurs? Good question, the answer to which is over the next bound. However, I do know where I have been and what I have grown to become – a Dragoon within the profession of arms, honoured to have been given the opportunity to work with men and women of this great Regiment of ours who remain willing to make the ultimate sacrifice in the service their nation – this home we call Canada.



Dragoons are known for many things...the most notable being their drive for excellence and the pursuit of mission success. Having said this, each leader within our Regiment recognizes that without well prepared and equipped soldiers, trained for the mission at hand, we will fail. Directly related to our success is the well-being of

our families, those spouses and children whom make up the very fabric of what it means to be a Dragoon. Consequently, my challenge to all our Regimental leaders – before you make a decision consider the impact it will have on both your troops and their families ... and then have the moral courage to balance the demands of the mission with the welfare of your people.

At Regimental gatherings I have been know to talk of how proud I am to be a Dragoon. At times I have been somewhat loud in my praise for our soldiers and our Regimental family. This missive is no exception – so Dragoons, let us be PROUD and let us be LOUD....

I ask you ...“WHAT DAY IS IT TODAY?”

**“IT’S JUST ANOTHER FINE DAY TO BE A DRAGOON!”**

Commander 1<sup>st</sup> Canadian Division HQ



# From the Commanding Officer

A.J. Atherton Lieutenant-Colonel

The year 2013, much like 2012, saw a renewed focus on individual soldier skills and field craft for the Officers and Non-Commissioned members of The Regiment. This return to the fundamentals of soldiering allowed us to once again train at the conventional level and really test both the mounted and dismounted abilities of our troops

After a busy training schedule in the spring, the month of May saw more than two hundred Dragoons deploy to Wainwright, Alberta for Exercise MAPLE RESOLVE 1301 (Ex MR 1301) as the Opposing Force (OPFOR) Battle Group to 1 Brigade. This five-week exercise provided our soldiers with an excellent conventional warfare training opportunity, garnering accolades from across the Canadian Army for their performance. Both Ex MR 1301 and Exercise DYNAMIC SPRINGBOK, which occurred concurrently for squadrons not deploying to Wainwright, clearly



demonstrated the culmination of training and abilities of each squadron in The Regiment.

In garrison, The Regiment continued its strong showing at the 30th anniversary of the annual Petawawa Ironman Competition, with 71 Dragoons taking part this year, including a small contingent from C Squadron in Gagetown. Extra special to this year's event was the fact that Major James Browning, Captain Joshua Sider and Staff Sergeant Tom Dennehy of our sister unit, the 1-71st Cavalry from Fort Drum, New York came up to participate in the race. Their participation was just one of several events, including

Mess Dinners, which saw members of both The Regiment and the 1-71st cross the border to attend.

The fall training period was extremely successful in providing valuable training opportunities for each of the squadrons. Beginning with the Cavalry Cup Competition in August, soldiers had ample time to perfect their dismounted patrolling skills, as well as their mounted reconnaissance skills, which culminated in Regimental training on Exercise WALKING DRAGOON. In addition, The Regiment fielded two teams — one in the Leopard 1 C2 category and one in the 25 mm platform category — for the Worthington Cup gunnery competition in Gagetown. Our C Squadron team took 1st place in the Leopard 1 C2 category, with B Squadron coming 2nd in the 25 mm category. This was a fitting farewell to the Leopard 1 C2, as this year also marked the completion of our transition to the Leopard 2 platform, which will serve The Regiment well along its Road



► to High Readiness training.

I am confident that as we continue to move forward in the next training year and with our emphasis on a conventional means of training, The Regiment will continue to build on its strong foundation of knowledge and experience, ready to answer our nation's call. As always, the Association will be relied upon to continue to keep current and former Dragoons connected, and to support The Regiment and its goals in any way possible.

Bold and Swift.



# From the President

Bann Price

It gives me great pleasure to welcome, on your behalf, General Rick Hillier as the Patron of the RCD Association. General Rick kindly consented to become our first ever Patron and we are all happy and proud to have Rick and Joyce on board. We look forward to seeing them both at our events in the future.

RV2014 in St Catharines in June was a great event and Terry Shaw and John Richmond deserve a big round of applause. We welcomed Dragoons who served our Regiment in action over 70 years ago and some who are still serving and have lived the Afghanistan experience. It is wonderful to see the Dragoon generations come together and tell their stories.

Apart from the social side, which was the main reason we were all there, your Board of Directors met in St Catharines and had a lot on their plates in getting ready for the Annual General Meeting. The big item to be decided was our new bylaw and while it looks a lot like the old one, in terms of how we do business, it was reformatted to comply with



Industry Canada's new rules for not-for-profit corporations such as the RCD Association. The revamped bylaw is now in the hands of Industry Canada for their stamp of approval.

Our Board of Director's meeting was also notable as it was the last one which will see Tom Urbanowsky sitting at the table. Tom has determined that

the Board is finally ready to make decisions without him and he has decided to retire. We will miss Tom's guidance and his great sense of humour but will continue to see him at Association events. Cheers, Tom.

Good Shooting,  
Bann Price





# Last Trumpet Call

2012

\*Steven Sloan

\*Jack Sager

2013

\*Jessica Aitken

\*Joan Archibald

Ed Beals

John Best

Cpl Nicholas Braam

\*Raymond Camley

\*Ronald Clark

\*William Crawford

Marty Denny

\*George (Scotty) Dwyer

\*James Gibbons

Don Hyland

Ed Johnson

John Knight

Velma Lloyd

\*Leroy MacAdams

Doreen MacDonald

Roxy MacIsaac

\*Ken Meeker

\*Brad Monroe

\*Derald Prosser

Mike Pushkarenko

\*David Robertson

\*Bruce Rutherford

Winston Rutledge

\*Robert Shearer

\*Harry Sutton

Linda Taylor

Ron Taylor

Richard Thody

\*Ivan Warner

\*George Wooley

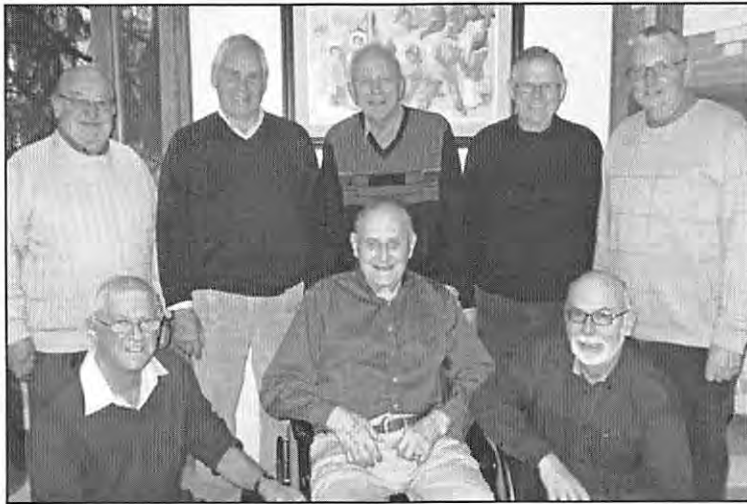
*"They shall grow not old, as we who are left grow old.  
Age shall not weary them, not the years condemn.  
At the going down of the sun, and in the morning,  
We will remember them."*

\*Member of the RCD Association.





## Rad's Birthday



*January became bitter cold. I think it was one of Kingston's wildest winters of all time but during the coldest time of all there is always spirit. A few friends gather each year to commemorate General Radley Walters's birthday. This year, Rad celebrated his 94th birthday. Congrats goes out to Rad for his lifetime of achievements and his enjoyment of life to the fullest. Happy Birthday, Rad, from all of us.*

(Received from Denis.)



# Mailbag concluded

Received from Tom Urbanowski.



Boy there you are pressing the time frame (referring to my request for an article, Ed), and speaking of article p. 17 (*Dragoon* 2012) photo of the tank crew, as you have Titled “Tank Train from Lahr” yet the photo is from Canada/not sure if its Pet/Pembroke or NB Gagetown area, but the at the top standing/leaning against the turret is none other than my driver Tpr Gallia. And Photo p. 25 (*Dragoon* 2012). I know them all by sight, but names do escape me, however:



*L to R, 1st row; Tpr Al ? \_\_\_, Sgt \_\_\_? Offr \_\_\_, Sgt Bing Geldart, Tpr ?  
2nd row; \_\_\_, \_\_\_, Tpr Ray Putt, \_\_\_, \_\_\_, \_\_\_. 3rd row; \_\_\_, \_\_\_, \_\_\_, \_\_\_, Tpr Ackenlak, Tpr Schmid.  
4th row; Tpr Don Murrin, Tpr Banjo Johnson, \_\_\_.  
P 26; 1st row; \_\_\_, \_\_\_, Sgt Randy Holman, \_\_\_, Sgt Ed Brown, Sgt Creelman, \_\_\_, \_\_\_. 2nd row; Tpr Finnigan, Tpr Ron Lee, \_\_\_, \_\_\_, \_\_\_, Tpr Conrad, \_\_\_, \_\_\_.  
\_\_\_, \_\_\_.*



# Exercise Frozen Moose

Alan "Duke" Dutkewich

In late 1966 and early 1967 "B" Squadron started to prepare for an exercise near Moosonee, Ontario. As we were going to an area that was snow covered, we had to learn how to walk in snowshoes. Snowshoes were provided to us and we made our first attempt at walking in them with many a tail being stepped on and soldiers falling over but eventually we got the hang of it and were on our way.

Captain Gervais planned the exercise and a few of the other members were Lt John Boileau, Andrew McGinley, Richard Benoit, "Harv" Harvey, Sgt Jake Baldwin, Bill Sanderson and myself Alan Dutkewich "Duke". These are only a few of the 35 that went on the exercise made up of members of "B" Squadron.

We were divided into seven 5-man tent groups led by five lieutenants and Capt Gervais. We were loaded into three-quarter-ton trucks with the troopers in the rear and the

officers in the front where they had to endure the heat of the cab. We set out on February 20 from Gagetown crossing New Brunswick and into Quebec. In Quebec we lost one truck as it went over an embankment but luckily no one was seriously hurt. We then made it to Montreal where we boarded a train and the conductor was not too pleased to have these armed soldiers getting on. Eventually we made it to our destination where we boarded the Polar Bear Express at Fraserdale. Now to name this train an express you would get the wrong idea as it would stop along the route and pick people up. Eventually we made it to our final destination, Moosonee.

On our arrival we were met by some nurses who were working out of Moose Factory and they wanted us to visit. The troopers thought this was a great idea but we were not permitted to do so. A base camp was established and we used a fallen log as the toilet which was ►





► uncomfortable and at -40 we did not stay long.

As the weather was cold and dry, an igloo was built and we had to crawl into this and apply baby oil to keep our skin from cracking. We divided into two tent groups with each group making a sub camp from base. We pulled toboggans which carried two tents, stoves, lamps, cookers, wash basins, shovels, axes, snow knives, radios, and rations. Each man carried a rucksack, snowshoes, and a weapon. One of the natives didn't think much of our snowshoes saying they looked more like tennis rackets. It was very cold as the temperature would drop to minus 40 or 50 degrees below zero. Care had to be taken as frostbite was a threat to all of us and we had to check each other. We slept in Arctic tents with sleeping bags and had Coleman lamps and heaters to keep us warm. Piquet duty was a lonely affair and very cold but we had to make sure that the lamp and stove were working. During the day we trudged around pulling our toboggans and the natives would drive past us on their skidoos. We all thought there was something wrong with the picture. We started our day a 6 AM and at the end of the day we



tied our gear down. It took us some time to untie the ropes in the morning as they were frozen solid.

During our time there we did participate in a raid on the Air Force station though my memory of this is not too clear. I called Andrew McGinley and he remembered red sticks with dynamite on them and we took over a part of the station. [See article, "The Sasakipao Sneak, p. 13.] I do remember us going to the Air Force base and eating steak. After the rations we had been eating, this was a welcome treat.

The exercise ended on March 17 and we headed back to Gagetown, where we were given some time off before we had to prepare for our next assignment which was Germany and the NATO schemes.



# The Sasakipao Sneak

Miss Dianne Callahan

It was one of the coldest spells in “Ontario’s Northland” in February 1967 when the RCD arrived in Moosonee by Polar Bear Express and it was the beginning of an eventful, hilarious few days for three school teachers, teaching at 15 Radar Squadron Sasakipao.

It all started at Beer Call. Five RCD Officers, led by Capt Jim Gervais, paid an unexpected visit to the Officers’ Mess. It seems as if they needed a well earned break from living in the bush. Of course, we made them welcome. We soon learned a little of the life of a Dragoon on winter manoeuvres and, as a result, volunteered the use of our bathtub, hot water, towels and *Desert Flower soap*. (That’s all we had on hand, much to their horror!) After their general clean-up, two dozen eggs, three pounds of bacon, and at least two loaves of bread, we escorted them to a house party just to show them true isolation hospitality.

The next day the troops left on foot for points farther north to continue their exercise and left behind Capt Gervais and two Sgts. The remaining three invited us to their camp for dinner and a friendly game of bridge. So, armed with a pineapple cheese cake and bundled up in our kulutuks and mukluks, we headed for our dinner date located in a tent a few miles behind the Moosonee Indian Village. We were served Irish Stew, instead of Vienna Sausage, with all the trimmings (packaged instant potatoes and good coffee). We were then escorted on a grand tour: a trip through the bush (wearing snow shoes (*ugh*)), a tour of their local bathing area (a hole in the side of the hill which one had to enter,

crawling on one’s stomach through a tunnel into an area where they said they would strip down and bathe in baby oil). We took their word for it as we really weren’t too enthusiastic about trying it out.

All in all, we had a delightful, entertaining, educational evening. That night, as they escorted us back to the base, Capt Gervais casually announced that the RCD troop would try to infiltrate the base and “destroy” the Station Operations. (Please remember, we were single civilians living on a semi-isolated air base and who were usually highly amused by war games that our Air Force buddies played so seriously.) The Capt went on to say that if the troops were unsuccessful in their attempt to enter the base, they just might call upon our able assistance. We chuckled, assured them we’d be delighted to assist, and promised if the RCD won we’d have a party.

Never suspecting that the Army could possibly beat our boys, we taught school that fateful Monday while, from 5 AM in the morning, our Air Force Troops guarded the Station in 35-below weather. That evening at dinner, the RCD had still not succeeded in infiltrating the Base.

Although there were few in the mess hall that night, except those guarding the mess, the RCAF boasted cheerfully that the Army couldn’t beat them. For once in our lives, the three of us kept our mouths closed. That night as we hurried home in the sub-arctic temperatures, we waved gaily to our boys as they huddled at their posts in waist-deep snow. They returned the greeting, never suspecting

► the part their “friends” were about to play.

About 7 PM, Margie, the Scottish member of our group, left for our local radio station to present her weekly radio program. As we listened, we nearly fainted when she said, “And now we will have music to *infiltrate* by.”

At 8 PM, the back door of our PMQ flew open and in stumbled seven men wearing snow shoes, dressed in white camouflage suits, and carrying machine guns and a homemade ladder. All of a sudden the game everyone was playing didn’t seem quite so hilarious any more. Judy and I were just plain *scared*! I tried to talk my way out of the part I was to play but the Infiltrators informed me that they would “shoot” my sidekick if I didn’t co-operate. What could I do? She was my best friend!

The Infiltrators had been carefully observing our Airmen as they checked various station areas. Their directions were as follows: I was to walk out, flag the AFP truck down, and stall them any way I could. The Dragoons would do the rest. I threw on my parka, pulled up the hood to hide my hair rollers and sauntered down the snow-packed walkway. By this time, the Infiltrators were hidden in the snow bank, waiting patiently for the vehicle to slow down. As the truck drove along the road, I stepped out, waved, and the truck slowly came to a stop.

“Hi Kenny” I said, “May I have a ride?” (Sgt Ken Hodgins was chief of the AFPs and driving the truck).

“Gee, I’m sorry, Dianne,” he said. “Not toni—”

It was too late. The troops had jumped the truck and the three men inside were no longer in control of their vehicle.

My job was over and I must confess I suffered a few misgivings and a guilt complex as I turned around and walked back into the

house. The rest of the exercise went well (that is, if you were a Dragoon). The unsuspecting Commissionaire opened the gate of the tower and waved the AFP vehicle through and in a few minutes the tower had been “destroyed”.

We kept our promise and held a great celebration for the victors. I phoned our Commanding Officer, Maj Al Keddy, and invited him to our party “Sorry, I can’t come,” he muttered. “I’m ‘dead’.”

The next day as we trudged up to the mess hall for breakfast, we soon noted that we were getting the cold shoulder treatment, and the first one that did speak to us, growled, “Traitors.”

At breakfast that morning, the CO said, “You girls get away with murder around here and last night it was *my* murder.”

ED’S NOTE: Miss Callahan was teaching school at CFS Moosonee in 1967 and kindly consented to put to paper a rather hilarious event (in our view) which the editorial staff hopes you will find amusing. At the time of the writing of the article, she was teaching for the Department of National Defence in the Gutenberg School in Lahr, Germany, where she once again met several members of the expedition which she has so vividly described in this article. In addition to her literary ability, Dianne is a most talented pianist and a well-respected and wonderful teacher. This is another occasion when Dragoons “struck it rich” and acquired another true friend.



# RCD in 1914

Bann Price

Isn't it amazing how, when you put on your old black beret with the Springbok still mounted, the past just comes flooding back? Almost as if it was in the beret itself. You probably spend some time in front of the mirror trying to recapture that young, brash Dragoon — the hero of so many of the war stories which are told around the summer BBQ — and while the face in the mirror has changed somewhat over the years, that bright, shiny

Springbok over the left eye is still in great shape. So if you were to put on your magic beret and drift back into the past, and if you were to let yourself go back a hundred years this year, you would find the same hat badge on some of those same brash young Dragoons but they would be preparing for war. The Great War.

It is 1914, the Regiment has been in



*Aboard SS Laurentic, October 1914.*



► existence for a mere 31 years but those years have seen actions in the west of Canada during the North West Rebellion and in South Africa during the Boer War. South Africa was where the Springbok badge came from and even though the adoption of that badge miffed the King, it has adorned the Regimental headgear ever since. While there were some glorious battles in South Africa, a lot of Dragoon blood was spilled onto the veldt and that battle honour on the Guidon was well earned. And, fourteen years later, the Dragoons were getting ready to do it again. A unit of the Permanent Force, with the Regimental headquarters and B Squadron in Stanley Barracks, Toronto and A Squadron in

St Jean, Quebec, they were getting ready to do their duty in a time of war.

However, when war was finally declared on the 4th of August 1914, it appeared initially that the Dragoons may not be going to war. Ignoring the existing mobilization plan, Sam Hughes, the Minister of Militia and Defence, enacted his own plan, calling up Militia units directly and using Valcartier, Quebec, as the training and staging base. The Dragoons, as a Permanent Force unit, deployed to Valcartier in August and were to be used for training and administrative duties at the camp with Col VAS Williams as the Camp Commandant. Hughes did relent, eventually and the



*Five Mounted Dragoons.*

► Dragoons were included in the overseas contingent. C Squadron was hastily organized and following a number of farewell parades in late September, the Regiment was set to sail on the 3rd of October.

The Dragoons sailed on two ships, the SS Laconia, an ex-cattle boat which transported the Regiment's 620 horses and the 26 men charged with their care and the SS Laurentic, which had been diverted to carry troops and which had excellent accommodation for the 34 officers and 487 other ranks. The passage to England took 18 uneventful days and the Regiment disembarked at Plymouth with an immediate move to Pond Farm Camp on Salisbury Plain. The camp was aptly named as it rained 89 out of the next 123 days and the

Regiment endured a miserable winter under canvas, training in the worst of conditions. The horses suffered the most and had to be brought along slowly but there was hope for the future as 1915 was to bring a focus to the training with the formation of the Canadian Cavalry Brigade. ►



*Ablutions, Pond Farm.*



*RCD putting up tents.*

ED'S NOTE: This quick summary was pulled from *The Dragoon*, *The Spur and Sprocket*, *Fighting the Hun* and the *Pictorial History* — all available at the Kit Shop, if you want to read the details.



Capt Hugh Egenar, the Ops O in 1984, is a talented cartoonist and enlivened the 1984 *Springbok* with many of his cartoons. These are some of the highlights.



*Dangerfield, The White Tornado commanded 4 CMBG.*



*Dave Graham commanded the Regiment and married off a daughter.*



*Lowell Thomas played a lot of hockey for the Regiment.*



*Gerry MacLean was the 2IC and sold Mercedes on the side.*



*Bob Meating was a Brigade Staff Officer.*



*Ron Merriot was the RSM until he got commissioned.*



# Secondary Duties

Dave Sproule

In their own minds, junior officers see themselves as constant field companions, out with their troops “swanning” around in the field. Equally so and for the most part they remain contemptuous of administrative responsibilities which in reality will inevitably occupy most of their time as subbies and in fact most of their careers. Initially such duties usually include conducting summary investigations into lost ID cards or personal kit, being a member of a Board of Inquiry, acting as a member of the mess committee or an audit team. We also served as attending officers for soldiers that had to appear before a judge and of course there was the inevitable orderly officer rotation that apparently ensured the security and good order of the Regiment during the quiet hours. I can honestly say that I fulfilled every one of those tasks and some of them several times over. All character building experiences but all vital functions towards ensuring the health and efficient administration of the Regiment.



Apart from all these responsibilities, junior officers, like all unit members, quickly become immersed in the history and culture of the Regiment so essential to their career development and success. One of the important historical activities was absorbing the unit's participation in the various battles of WW1 and WW2 and understanding the gallantry and honours that came to the Regiment from the blood of its men (and nowadays its women too.) In the Regiment we celebrated the Leliefontein action from South Africa which occurred on November 7, 1900 honouring the Dragoons who won three Victoria Crosses rescuing the artillery's "D" Battery 12 pounder guns. A significant day remembered by all Dragoons both serving and association members across the country every year since. It was in November 1961 that I was called into the adjutant's office and as I remember he said.

“Sproule, as you know Leliefontein is coming and the Colonel-of-the-Regiment will be here for the festivities. I have another secondary duty for you as you will be his ADC.”

I had never been an aide-de-camp before and had no idea what it involved but knew that others had been and could help me out.

“Talk to the assistant adjutant as he did it two years ago.” Interestingly enough the assistant adjutant of the day was my old friend and colleague and fellow “Duke” (aka BC Regiment) Ernie Wesson.

“Well”, says Ernie, “you need to ensure the comfort of the C-of-the-R by ensuring that all

► of his needs are met. When he is in the mess that he has the drinks he needs, brandy and soda as I remember, and that the mess sergeant has allocated a batman to look after his kit. Oh! And remember to install his pennant on the staff car or ensure that the driver does. And one more thing, you won't be able to hang out with the subbies as they will distract you from your task. You need to be attentive but not in-your-face."

"Thanks Ernie, I think," I said.

The Colonel-of-the-Regiment in 1961 was Major-General Churchill Mann, CBE, DSO, CD who had served in that position from 1958. I quickly learned that he had joined the

Regiment in the 1920s and served with distinction in the Regiment and on staff during WW2. He was retired and living on his farm in King City, Ontario. I remember there was a portrait of him in his mess kit hanging in the vestibule of the Gagetown mess. I remember that on the appointed day prior to November 7, I picked up the aiguillette from the adjutant, slipped it through my left epaulette and RV'd with LCol "Bomber" Bateman our CO.

It was a short drive to Fredericton airport and the TCA Vickers "Viscount" soon landed and the MGen emerged. The CO introduced me, I picked up the General's bag and away we

►



*MGen Churchill Mann inspecting Cpl McMaster and Sgt Jack Flannery, Leliefontein, Nov 7, 1961.*

► went. The photo from that day kind of says it all. Oh and by the way, that's not my brief case.

My Jones, Chalk and Dawson serge was just out of the box and I felt like a million dollars in it. I had only been with the Regiment just over a year and most of my kit including serge, forage cap, Sam Browne and sword was all brand new and I had blown the \$450.00 clothing allowance that all new officers were provided to equip themselves.

As I remember the events of the weekend, there was a parade, a roll past, a mess dinner and maybe a church parade and I think everything went along just fine. Here's another photo of the C-of-the-R inspecting a Recce Squadron escort.

Most generals that I have met during my service were very courteous towards their juniors and appreciative of their position and attentiveness. I still have the letter that MGen Mann wrote to me thanking me for my efforts on his behalf. Even by this thoughtful act he was providing an example that small courtesies are important and will be remembered and hopefully emulated in the due course of time.

One never knows where a secondary duty will lead but often the lessons learned will be important and long lasting. And so being a subaltern in an Armoured regiment has many challenges but provides memories and rewards that will last a lifetime.

David Sproule  
April, 2014



# Historical Display Room

Bann Price

If you are in Petawawa and can spare an hour or so, that time can be well spent by visiting the Historical Display Room in the Regimental Training Building in the RCD Lines. Set up by the Regiment over the last few years it is the Regiment's history, in artefact, in one room. It is a delight to see.

The display room fits in under the Archives in the grand scheme of things. Sgt Tom White leads the team which does so much in preserving the Regiment's history and Tom has a lot of good people working for him. MCpl Kevin Langille is the Regiment's media guru, looking after the website, Facebook and the *Springbok* while photographing almost

everything that goes on at the unit. Cpl Bob Leonard, who will have retired by the time you read this, has been looking after the Regiment's history in pictures and has been playing with some interesting face recognition software. Cpl Tom Griffis looks after the Regimental property and has been the most directly concerned in the Display Room. Cpl Griffis is ably assisted by Cpl Alan Beer and Cpl James Steel.

The Historical Display Room is a great exhibition of the Regiment's history but it is also a demonstration of how seriously the Regiment is taking the history and heritage of



*The Holland Family viewing the displays.*



► the Royal Canadian Dragoons. A massive amount of work has gone into the display and, as I mentioned, it is well worth the visit and a chance to meet the team which is working hard to keep the Regiment's past visible to all.



*The CO and former RSM Bill Richardson view the Regimental Silver.*



*The Holland Family viewing the displays.*



# 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 from 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 that 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. ►



*Relaxing after Exercise Cease-fire July 1961 – Bob Moulton squadron LO, Howie Langan 2i/c and troop leaders Dave Sproule wearing his Strathcona tank sweater and John Olafson a Korean War vintage British army sweater.*

► In garrison we wore our battle dress and although similar to what soldiers wore in WW2 and Korea, 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.



*First Troop Recce Sqn, 1961. Note the many bomber jackets and that the recce troops wore bush field caps.*



*Back row: Left to right, Charron, Bonin, Sewell, Blodgett, Forsythe, Drummond, Reader, Brooks, Lafontaine; front row: Sproule, Melanson, Noiles, Holmes, Cotterill.*







*Frank and Terry at the Registration Table.*



*George Martin and Benny Pacquin discuss a matter of tactical importance.*



*Kev Trouthton's official welcome.*



*Karl Kramell tucks into the buffet.*

## Meet & Greet



*Tom Skelding's amazing RCD Tribute bike.*





*The "Ashton" Table.*



*Senior Serving Dragoons.*



*The RSMs Table.*



*The "Weibe" Table.*

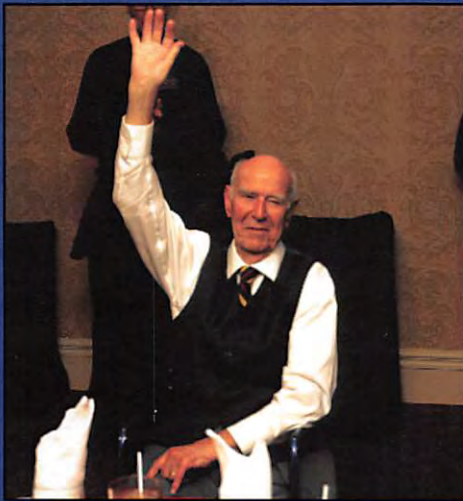




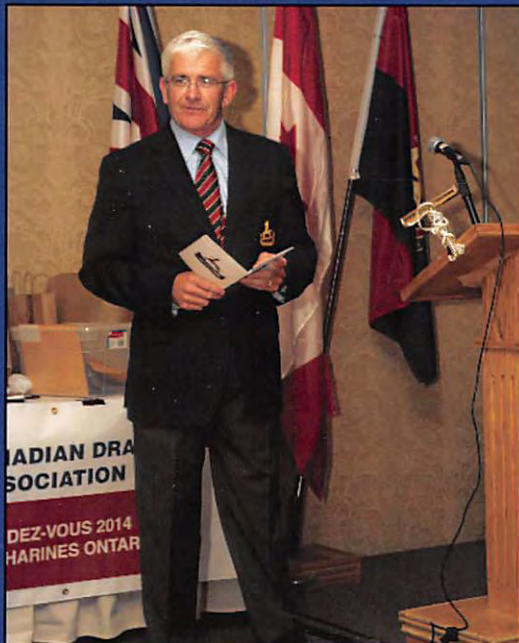
*The "Prendergast" Table.*



*Don White and daughter Heather McVety.*



*Percy Rescorl, the Senior Dragoon.*



*MC and organizer, Terry Shaw.*



*The "Addy" Table.*

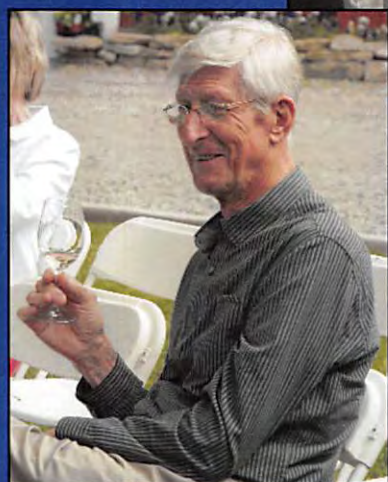




*Linda and Kevin  
Lee.*

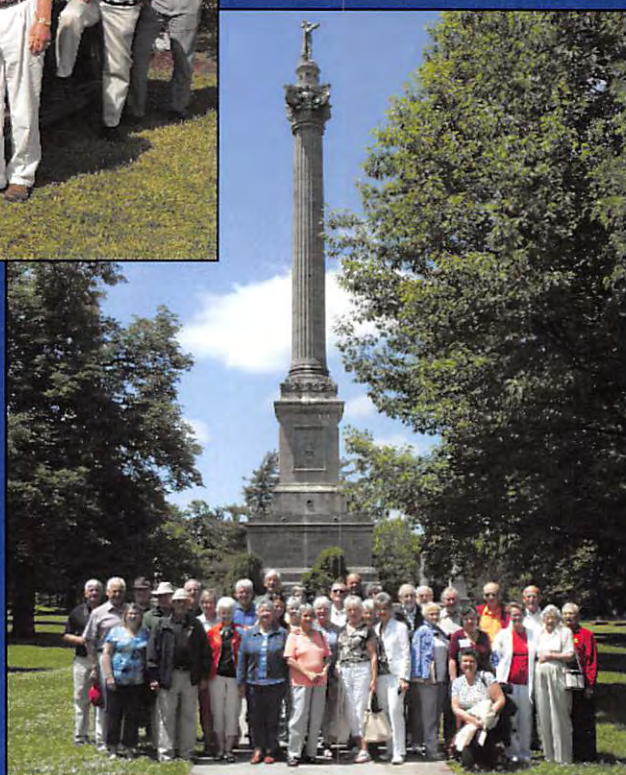


*Dragoons and the winery's  
echelon vehicle.*



*Tom Urbanowsky enjoying a  
glass.*

## RV Tour



*The Tour at the Brock Monument.*



*"Just read the label, Sir."*



*Strawberries for the White Wine.*



# RV2014

Bann Price

The RCD Association “RV2014” was a howling success in all aspects. From the Meet and Greet on Friday evening, through the excellent bus tour, to the dinner on Saturday night, the gathered Dragoons from across the Regimental Family quickly settled in to a weekend of renewing old acquaintances, making new ones and generally enjoying themselves and each other’s company. We even got all of our business done as the Association’s Board of Directors met and the Annual General Meeting approved some important business issues.

Terry Shaw and John Richmond did a great job of organizing the event. The Holiday Inn and Suites in St Catharines was an excellent choice as the facility itself was comfortable and the food and the service very good indeed. Terry looked after the overall organization and it was seamless — so well done that all we had to do during weekend was to enjoy ourselves. John Richmond’s bus tour was to the Brock Monument, Niagara-on-the-Lake for some shopping and 13th Street Winery for a very much appreciated wine tasting and tour. A lot of happy people got off the bus at the end of the day.

The dinner on Saturday night was a special event. While the Colonel of the Regiment, Col Georges Rousseau was not able to attend, he was ably represented by both the outgoing (Major General Jim Ferron) and incoming (Major General Dean Milner) Senior Serving Dragoon. The Commanding Officer, Lieutenant Colonel Andrew Atherton and the Regimental Sergeant Major, Chief Warrant

Officer Sean Mercer attended all of the events with us and this connection with the serving Regiment was an important aspect of the weekend. Two other members of the Regiment, Lieutenant Nathan MacIntosh and Master Corporal Chad Monaghan were also in attendance and they represented the serving Dragoons admirably.

It was a true “Regimental Family” affair and, as we like to say, it makes you proud to be a Dragoon. From the oldest Dragoon in attendance, Percy Rescorl who lost a leg fighting in the Second World War down through Don White, who was present at the liberation of Leeuwarden, and then through all of the operations and actions in which the Regiment has been involved since those “senior” Dragoons served, all were represented by former or current members of the Regiment. It was a good weekend to be a Dragoon.





# Chapter News

## Atlantic Chapter

### by Tom Urbanowsky



Commencing the year 2013 with an excellent turnout for our monthly Black Hat Luncheon with 47 members and friends attending, complemented by the school Commandant LCol James Malejczuk, and C Sqn RCD SSM Mario Droion plus two Troops of Sqn soldiers made for a lively afternoon. The remainder of the year we tend to “hold our own” with many distinguished visitors dropping in and out: Tom Skelding/NL, Reg McMillan and E.J. MacDonald of Charlottetown PEI, and on the 26 of Sep we hosted The Colonel Commandant Gen (Ret) Darrell Dean who was attending the Armour School Gunnery Challenge Competition. A quick update on the chapter’s membership, in June we were at 147, in Sep we are at 142. Our members are getting “on in years” to the point of limited appearance at major functions and “radio silence” from the outer regions, as the old saying goes. If you think nobody cares whether you are alive or dead, try missing a couple of mortgage payments, therefore with all of the modern gadgets at hand we sure like to hear from all of you.

Our 32nd Summer BBQ held on 22 June was another success and well attended, and “the plan” for 2014 will be set for Sat June 7, WO/Sgts Mess A-4. Come on out and enjoy. In July our members attended the Change of Command, Armour School, between LCol J.J. Malejczuk and LCol J.L. Andrews. The RSM CWO Walter Laughlin will remain for another year. C Sqn RCD also had a change in Command positions, the new OC Maj LeSage,

and SSM MWO Mario Droion. For the remaining part of the year, the chapter members were invited to the Armour School Worthington Challenge Gunnery Competition, 23-26 of Sep, with Scored Shoots held on the 25th. This will again prove our “gunnery skills” for the international concentration. On Oct 18 the WO/Sgts Mess hosted a Veterans happy hour with a number of our members in attendance, as was the Armour Schools RSM’s Mess Dinner held on 4 May with 19 members attending. As with all good news, there is always the sad side of life. Many of our members and their loved ones have been incapacitated with, and battling varieties of, illnesses: Tom Johnson, John Kuus, Bill and Liz Green. To all we wish you well and comfort, and in that sense, Jean and Red Hayes are both cancer survivors and strong supporters of the Terry Fox Run Team in which they participated on Sep 15. We also bade farewell to Jack Sager, Doreen MacDonald — Jan; Ron Taylor — Feb; Winston Rutledge and Ron Clark — Jun; Leroy MacAdams — Aug; Harry Sutton — Sep; John Best — Oct; Ken Meeker and Brad Munroe — Nov, 2013. May They Rest in Peace.

To wind up the fall and the year of 2013, we celebrate The 113th Action of Leliefontein on 8 Nov with RCD members of Armour School, C Sqn RCD and Atlantic Chapter at the Oromocto Legion. The last month of the year is always busy, as our members were invited

## Atlantic Chapter, concluded

► and participated with C Sqn RCD soldiers for their Men's Christmas Dinner held on 4 Dec with the Armour School Men's Christmas Dinner on the 12th, followed by At Home to the Officers. And the 130th Birthday of the

Regiment was celebrated on 21 Dec at Minglers in Oromocto NB.

I wish all of you well in health and wealth in the coming year 2014.

Tom Urbanowsky



*Chapter members at the Armour School Men's Christmas Dinner.*



*Rick Lathem and Tpr Hill of C Sqn cut the cake.*



*Atlantic Chapter celebrating the 130th Birthday of the Regiment.*



# Chapter News

## Quebec Chapter

by Karl Krammel

**B**onjour à vous tous et salutations de la belle province. Greetings from all eleven of us. We kept a low profile for 2013 but we are still going strong and proud to be Dragoons. For some reason or other it seems we all got one year older again since our last report. As in previous years, late submission again for my report. As always last minute scrambling to get this written. Still unpacking from our winter residence down south. Came back too early as the month of April was not very friendly and I heard neither was the winter. The year seems to pass too quickly especially when one spends five months away from home. I hope the start of 2014 was prosperous for everyone and all are in good health and survived our brutal winter.

We are looking forward to our reunion in St. Catharines in June. Should be an excellent event, close to Niagara Falls and in a wine-

making area. It's quite a task to organize such an event, many hours of work and running around. We thank **Terry Shaw** and his committee for taking on the task. We are trying to muster as many as possible to attend this fine function but it becomes more difficult as our members are aging and unable to travel long distances. We are starting to get a taste of what all is involved in organizing such an event.

**Michel Vezina** and I, with the help of **Steven Barrette** from the Royal Canadian Hussars, are already making plans and running around for our "Gathering of Dragoons 2016" here in Montreal. Michel has a little note below to give a general outline of our plan and provided a picture of the Royal Canadian Hussars Armoury where the first association meeting took place in 1976. ►



*"Ah, the good old days!"*



## Quebec Chapter, cont'd.



*A smiling Karl beside Snowflake.*

► Our Chapter has enjoyed a quiet and so successful year. We had no activities as a large group because of travelling distance and our few members are not getting younger anymore. Some of us did manage to assemble during the year. We still have our monthly breakfast at the PJ Pub on the last Thursday of each month in conjunction with the Royal Canadian Hussars Association. We also still have our annual corn roast at the Legion in

Hemmingford. This year (2014) it will be on Saturday, August 23. If you are around the area at that time then come and join us, you will be most welcome.

There is some sad news for our chapter. **Nelson Couvrette** lost his wife, **Barbara**, last January and **Norman Lloyd** also lost his wife, **Velma**, last July. Both ladies passed away suddenly and they will be missed by all of us. Our deepest sympathy goes out to Norman ►



## Quebec Chapter, cont'd.

► and Nelson and their families. Our thoughts are with you both during this difficult time.

I talked with **Mrs. Gauthier** the other day. As always, she is in good health and fine spirit. A very positive outlook on life. Mrs. Gauthier has recently moved into to a retirement residence in Sherbrooke and is quite happy to be there and is involved in many activities. We wish you, Mrs. Gauthier, a very pleasant stay in your new home. **Neville Melville** is also doing well except for an injured knee that keeps him saddled at home quite often but he still manages to get around by the city transportation system. We wish you a speedy recovery, Neville. We lost contact with **Stuart and Beverly Strople**. If anyone knows anything of their whereabouts we would appreciate your contacting us. **Victor Rugenius** is still going strong on his farm and proudly flies the regimental flag at home. If you pass the Parc Safari in Hemmingford you can't miss it. **Justin Kisielius** is not a very happy camper at the moment. While driving to church someone forced him off the road and consequently totalled his car. Justin got away with not too much damage but no car for a while. I was sad to hear that Justin's wife, Ruth, has to be placed in a home. It's always a pleasure talking with Justin as he reminisces from the '50s when he was with the regiment, especially when he was in charge of the photo section. He still talks very fondly about his time with the regiment.

That's about it. In closing, we wish everyone good health, a warm summer — if it ever gets here and I hope to meet many at the reunion.

Du la belle province, nous vous souhaitons



*Karl and Mike planning for 2016.*

nos meilleur souhait pour cette nouvelle année 2014. Au revoir et à la prochain.

AUDAX ET CELER

### Gathering of Dragoons 2016

by Michel Vezina

As you all know, the Quebec Chapter has volunteered to organize the next "Gathering of Dragoons 2016" in Montreal. Over the years many of you have requested that this event be held in Montreal. The Quebec Chapter is very small, basically Karl and myself. Most other members are getting on in age or reside many miles away to be able to attend our activities.

Of course this leaves much work for Karl and myself. For hotels for instance, Montreal seems to be on a high-season rate all year around. Work is in the process toward finding a hotel with affordable rates and well situated. More information to follow on this. ►

## Quebec Chapter, concluded

► We are also trying to find a way to get visiting delegates from downtown to the Hussars Armoury. Remembering that this is where our Association was founded in 1976 by General Amy, it could be a great place to hold our Meet and Greet. Also in the planning is a bus tour of the city or a boat cruise on the St. Lawrence. For sure we are making all possible effort to make sure your short stay is as interesting as possible.

Hope to see many of you in St. Catharines and believe me when I say that Karl and I are really working hard for 2016, we certainly are. The problem is that there are too many pubs between hotels we have problems finding the next hotel.



# Chapter News

## Kingston & Region Chapter

### by Denis Levesque

#### Ladies and Gents

**I**t's with great pleasure that we write this news article from the beautiful banks of Lake Ontario and the St. Lawrence River in Kingston. Our Chapter of the Royal Canadian Dragoons Association is extremely happy and motivated to end this year with the full intention of embracing 2014 with all its winter fun and new challenges. We have already started the countdown to the June gathering of the clan in St Catharines ON and look forward to meeting everyone there. The Kingston and Region Chapter has been busy this past year. Although we have many members out of town during the winter months (snowbirds), there are quite a few that continue to enjoy winter activities. Spring 2013 broke and Leeuwarden was in the centre of our graticule pattern (sights). Our association chapter took the back burner for the 2013 Leeuwarden event and Maj Hook with our serving Dragoons took the lead with assistance from Chris Catry and a few

others. We had a wonderful time at the Kingston Garrison Officers Mess with approximately 25 persons who attended the event. Col Roger Cotton as the Senior Dragoon on the ground in Kingston said a few words and offered the toast. It's with great pride we marked this prestigious event, the Liberation of the City of Leeuwarden in Holland as part of our history. Each year the city of Leeuwarden hoists our Regimental Flag on the city flag pole and we reciprocate by hoisting their flag on our Regimental flag pole. We didn't actually mark that event with flags in Kingston but we did hoist a glass or two with the hopes they did the same in Leeuwarden. This made for a great meet and greet as we moved into spring.

The next venue on our agenda was the Henry Sampson Memorial Golf Tournament on the last Friday in July. Although this is not a Chapter event, it is a very well attended event in Smith Falls, Ontario and worthy of



## Kingston & Region Chapter, cont'd.

► mention for those who have not attended. There were approximately 140 persons, and it is growing annually. There were so many familiar faces from the past, it was an event worth attending just to hear the stories. It started with a few words from the Smith Falls Country and Golf Club and even fewer words but more excitement with anticipation from the main event organizer, Don Craig, about the rules and regulations of the tournament and then off to do the shotgun start. When finished, there were lots of drinks, food and prizes. This was an event that was well attended and couldn't be matched. It was also a complete day event with time flying by and stories told by the dozen. All and all even the vehicle ride back home was entertaining with conversations of the good old days long gone but still being discussed, in a positive manner of course.

The following day was the Corps BBQ hosted by Clive and Shirley Milner at their home Oak Haven on Highway 2 east of Kingston. The impeccable grounds were perfect for the occasion and well named (Oak Haven) for the thickly oak treed lot. This event was organized annually by Dave Henderson and Blake Skipen with some help from Bill Soros, Doug Harvey, Paul Ward and Denis Levesque. Attendees come from all corners of Canada annually to be part of this gathering of the corps. This BBQ was a BYOB and your own stories, with an abundance of all. Clive said a few words, catching everyone with his unique ways, wisdom, and a few joking antics from Clive, as always and known to most for his ability to make a speech with colour and was enjoyed by all. Clive's last word was the

key to light the BBQs and the sound of fire hitting propane excited everyone. But just before everyone ran for their food, there had to be time to warm the BBQs or pre-heat the coals, so on to the prize draw for all the prizes donated on behalf of the attendees. This was an all-time favourite because the prizes are either hand crafted by very talented people or store bought by some rather creative people. There is usually something there for most if not all. Always a great day at Oak Haven! Thanks to Shirley and Brenda for the sweets and friendship and Clive for himself, with wisdom and personality.

Of course fall has to come and prepare us for the eventual winter months, motivating those snowbirds heading for the south, that the day is soon approaching, which brings us to the Leliefontein Social, the closest Saturday to 7 November as possible. For the Kingston Chapter this event is usually our main event for the year. We were pleasantly surprised by an extended group of serving members in attendance not only Kingston but from Trenton lead by Brian Power. It was great to see our serving friends come out for our Leliefontein social. We even had Doug Elliot from the Canadian Manoeuvre Training Centre (CMTC), Wainwright Alberta. The toasts, stories of Regimental pride, and history were shared at the social and then conversation, food and drink were the focus. We ask that if you are in the area around that time of year please drop in, we would enjoy your attendance and input.

Of course we can't forget to mention the ED Filson memorial ceremony. This year's event was eventually and unfortunately



## Kingston & Region Chapter, cont'd.

► cancelled due to the change in administration of St Paul's Church on Amherst Island. During the past 13 years St Paul's and the Dragoons had been celebrating the action at Leliefontein. However due to the circumstances and changes in relation to Padre Dunn's anticipated retirement, the Kingston and Region Chapter of the RCD Assn had to bow out. We would like to thank Padre Dunn for his dedication, providing the Kingston Chapter of the RCD with 13 years of leadership to his community on issues concerning his community about the connection between the Dragoons and the people of Amherst Island through Ed Filson. Padre Dunn showed spirit in his community with a huge command presence in his church. He provided guidance and took on more than just the normal community activities. Thank you Padre Dunn and best wishes for your retirement. Ed Filson has been deceased for 114 years and still we found time in our busy schedules to commemorate his time on the battlefield so many years ago. Although this activity had dwindled in attendance over the years. I was proud to say there was a small but



motivated group of approximately 16 to 20 destined to keep this alive. On the 7th day of November after cancelling the event, Fred and Mary Watson and myself went to Amherst Island with no fanfare, no major intent, dressed in the dress of the day, erected our flag, said a personal prayer, saluted Ed's memorial site and departed for coffee. This will be practised annually with no major event anticipated. You are invited, with no expectations. Terry Cottrel was another main attraction during the Ed Filson Memorial, where he tied the Boer War, Leliefontein and Ed Filson to the community of Amherst Island and the City of Kingston. Terry's ability to describe an historical event with passion was evident and appreciated by all. Thank you Terry, you truly brought the significance of Ed Filson's combat operations into the foreground of the Leliefontein Battle. Who knows what act of heroism Ed had done that day without recognition. Terry Cottrel himself had been fighting his own battle and missed this year after so many speeches of thanks for Ed. Terry was healing after suffering a significant medical event while travelling to our annual Chapter Meeting. However Terry fought with the vengeance and determination of a true Dragoon. Terry pushed through hard, during this trying time in his life. Terry is a huge supporter of the RCD ►



## Kingston & Region Chapter, concluded

► Association and his determination and dedication are noteworthy. Terry was also instrumental and hard at work with many issues such as editor of a prestigious magazine, and his work on the board for the Wall of Remembrance. We wish Terry all the best as he moves forward.

This year the Regimental Birthday was celebrated in the Army Navy Air Force Club on Gore Rd in Kingston. The RCR and RCD Associations celebrate this occasion together because we shared the same birthday date 21 Dec 1883. Each year the question is asked who was first. There was no answer and who knew who had a watch on that day to make the question relevant, so we have to go by the order of Battle which means the RCD are first. That may not be the response the RCR would like to have but we will stand with that answer. The RCR were in charge of this year's activities. It was a great turnout for both units, with many serving and retired persons in attendance. The two guest speakers were amazing: BGen Simms for the RCR and MGen (Retired) Clive Milner for the RCD. BGen Simms spelled out the Regt's progress throughout the year and pointed out some of the many accomplishments the unit had and will be achieving into the future. MGen (Retired) Clive Milner was his usual self. He started out with a story of a unit with a long history tied together at the hip for support and friendship over the years and thanked the RCR for their great relationship. He also spoke of how the Springbok came to be our cap badge and how we fought in South Africa so many years ago. Clive then spoke of Nelson Mandela, the passing of a great leader and the

connection with Clive and Nelson discussing the future of South Africa. Unknown to Clive until later he was speaking to a man soon to be a legend and winner of the Nobel Peace Prize.

The Kingston and Region Chapter has lost yet another Assn family member. Hennie Buist, wife of Jan (John) Buist passed away 30 Jan 2014. Hennie had a long battle with a medical event and passed quietly with family and friends. Our condolences go out to Jan (John) and our prayers with Hennie. John and



Hennie were married for 62 years when she lost her battle in her 82nd year. I'm sure most of us remember the love and laughter of our significant other and although our

bodies may age, our minds return to our years of many family rewards and enjoyment with our lifetime partners. Hennie was a friend, wife, mother and more to many people. We as an association wish John the very best and comfort that Hennie is in a better place. Rest in Peace Hennie, we shall all follow and meet with you, in our own time.

The Kingston and Region Chapter are a small but proud group. Individually or collectively we help each other in time of need. We don't always gather, we don't always make the trip to visit our comrades external to the Kingston area, but you are always on our minds. Best wishes to all Dragoons everywhere. We hope to see you at our next major gathering regardless of where it may be held.

Denis Levesque, Doug Harvey,  
Paul Ward, Kingston Executive



# Chapter News

## Ottawa Valley Chapter

### by Bruce Prendergast, President

**G**reetings from the Ottawa Valley Chapter and best wishes to all. May 2014 bring you happiness, good health and prosperity.

Over the past year we have conducted several meetings, sorted and prepared the *Springbok* for mailing and conducted our annual Oktoberfest, having accomplished all with great success. Thanks to John Moyer and Muggsie for the preparations and the assistance of Sterling and Sandra Mercer, Mick and Brenda McMullen, and Steve and Marilyn Clarke for their continued support. Well done to all.

The RCD Ottawa Valley Chapter is in a unique location. We are situated on the doorstep of the Regiment, thus are provided with the opportunity to participate in all their yearly activities.

We have lost several valuable members of the Association over the past year due to postings, etc. However, due to the initiative of the CO and RSM to recruit some serving members of the regiment, we have maintained our numbers. Joining us were Sgt Brian Claytor his wife Erin and Sgt Andrew Fenton and his wife Katie and hopefully this will promote the Chapter and encourage more serving members to get involved in whatever region of Canada they are in. As readers can see, there are associations in every area across Canada. If anyone wishes to contact the membership in any region, our committee members would be more than willing to assist you.

Therefore, please allow me to take this

opportunity to introduce you to the RCD Ottawa Valley Association Executive: Chairman — Bruce Prendergast; Vice — Sterling Mercer; Secretary/Treasurer — Fred Heisler; and Entertainment Chairman — Roger Munger.

The Leliefontein parade in November was once again a memorable one. The snow started just as the troops were getting on parade and continued throughout. Everyone was covered in the white stuff by the end, but the parade carried on. Gen Walt led the “Old Guard” on the march-past and we got a rousing cheer as we gave the eyes right to the Colonel of the Regiment.

Our Oktoberfest on 29 Sept 13 was a huge success. The Entertainment Chairman, Roger Munger did an outstanding job once again.

We hosted 40 people including the CO, RSM and their lovely wives. Joining us from Arnprior were Dan Lynch, his wife Monique, his mother, Doris from Edmonton AB, and Marjorie Rose from Victoria BC.

Birgith Munger, along with the assistance of Susane Meighan, Mary Gowers and others, put on a fantastic German meal. Next year we will be celebrating our 10th annual Oktoberfest (how time flies) and I along with the members of the association can't wait to see what kind of fantastic German meal Birgith will “cook up” to mark this special occasion. Gordie Meighan, once again provided us with great German music for the evening, getting everyone into the spirit. Well done to all.

Before I leave this subject, I would like to



## Ottawa Valley Chapter, concluded

thank the CO and RSM for once again taking the time to attend in light of their hectic schedule and allowing us to utilize the Regimental facilities. Without their continued support, activities like this may not be possible. During the evening, many “war stories” were told bringing back many good memories from our time in Germany. Thanks to Dan Lynch for the pictures.

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. This year’s dinner was conducted on the 12 Dec 13. During the traditional dinner there were a number of well-deserved promotions: 5 to MCpl, 2 to Sgt and 3 to WO. On behalf of all members of the association, congratulations to each and every one of you on your promotion.

It was really great to witness the generosity of Jeff Mierins, a member of the Guild, who donated a number of Senators hockey tickets and a travel voucher. Thank you Jeff for your donation and continued support.

Let me assure you, the morale within the Regiment is very high. Thanks to everyone who shared their stories of current Regimental activities with us.

I enjoyed providing sitreps from the Ottawa Valley Chapter and especially enjoy reading and seeing photos 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

Andrew Atherton, CWO (RSM) Bill Richards and now CWO (RSM) Shawn Mercer have gratefully open the doors to all Regimental activities and welcomed all members of the association with open arms. Tanks.

Audax et celer, Bold and Swift

Bruce Prendergast, President



# Chapter News

## National Capital Region Chapter

by Bill Smith

The National Capital Chapter of the Association continued our traditional series of events in 2013, starting with the Liberation of Leeuwarden event on April 11. This event also gave us the opportunity to wish a warm farewell to His Excellency Ambassador Wim Geertz of The Kingdom of The Netherlands. Ambassador Geertz was not really a guest, as at the 2012 Annual General Meeting we had the privilege of nominating him as an honorary life member of the Association. This was unanimously approved, and to mark the occasion, Bill Smith presented to the Ambassador a framed print of a Dragoon as suitable memento. We hope to be able to welcome Ambassador Geertz on future occasions, as his daughters are remaining in Ottawa to continue their education, and so he has reason to return for a visit from time to time. We were also pleased to welcome once again Ms Wendy Sewell from the Embassy.

The second major event of our year was the annual gathering to mark the 113<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the action at Leliefontein. About twenty-five members were in attendance, including Alf Rasmussen, Ross Carruthers, Bill Smith, Chris Renahan, Bob Hart, Tom Burnie, Maurice D'Amour, and many others.

Finally, we planned to meet on 20 December to acknowledge the 130<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the founding of the Regiment. However, Mother Nature, in a taste of things to come, intervened. The snow and blowing snow would have made travel hazardous, so we

thought it best to cancel the function.

However, some half dozen stalwarts defied the weather, and so held a mini-gathering to mark the event.

We are always on the lookout for new members, so if you know of Dragoons, serving or retired, in the NCR area, point them in our direction. They'll be more than welcome.

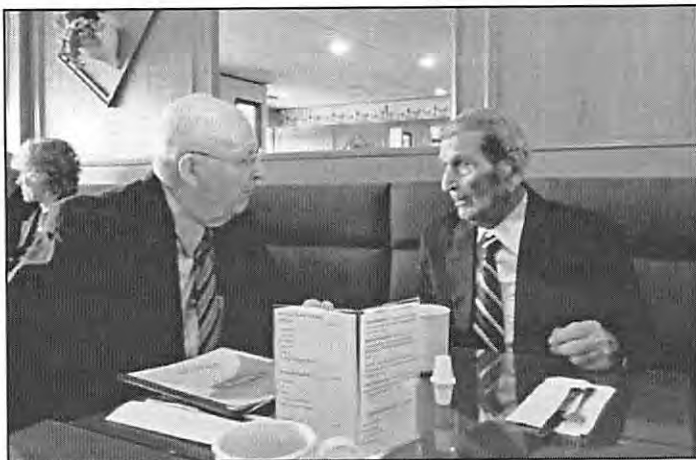


# Chapter News

## Prairies Chapter by Reg Munden

This report will be short and sweet due to the fact that the winter has not been kind to my family and me. Since the beginning of January I have spent a total of four and a half weeks in the Krankenhaus with congestive heart failure and other related complications. My condition is improving but must still be followed up with weekly blood tests and several visitations with my professional and caring doctors. There has been no lack of support from family and friends throughout this change in my health and lifestyle. The bulk of hospital visits and doctor appointments following my discharge from hospital have been done by Marg, our children, Debbie, Peter, Gale, Bill and their extended families. What a blessing to have family and friends at this time.

We have also had strong Chapter members who have left us to travel to the Tank Park, Doug (Moe) Morrison and Doug Oaks. They were both strong supporters of our Chapter. Fare thee well! Health it seemed has tested us



*Reg Munden and Doug Oaks.*

all, Rod McDougall is still recovering from a stroke. Dave Trevors has had a stroke as well and is now waiting to be posted to a long-term-care facility. A reminder to our Dragoon friends to send them your thoughts and prayers as they would appreciate it at this time in their lives.

On Sunday, October 5, 2014 our Chapter will be going to Hanni's restaurant to celebrate Leliefontein and our Regimental Birthday dinner. Any Dragoons who might be in the ►



*Earl and Lois Cady, Jim Barron and friend.*



*The Cadys and Mundens.*



## Prairies Chapter, concluded

► Calgary area at that time are more than welcome to join us. Just call me at 403-254-0048 or Ron Bandcroft at 403-590-4674.

Sunday, November 9, 2014 will be our annual Remembrance Day church service and luncheon. Once again Dragoons you are invited to join us at McDougall United Church for this special day.

Marg and I send our regrets to RV2014 that

we will not be able to attend this year's reunion due to my health concerns. Enjoy yourselves and remember to go easy on the wine tasting!

God Bless to you all.

Bold and Swift!

Reg



*Dragoons, Aircrew and POW RCAF members.*



# Chapter News

## BC Chapter

### by Fred Berge, Chairman

**G**reetings, from the BC Chapter to all Dragoons. Out here in the wet coast we thought we were given some really cold temperatures in December. But it pales in comparison to the “Arctic Vortex” which has embraced the East with most frigid temperatures. I now know why I wanted to come back west.

This has been a normal year for the chapter. Al Smith passed away on 17 June 2012, but I didn't find out until 15 October 2013 when his daughter provided me with the information. We also lost Richard Thody. Although not a member of the Association, he did serve as a Dragoon and was present at many of our luncheons. We have lost contact with Jean Bateman and Teresa Wearing has decided that she no longer wants to be on the nominal roll. On the sick list and getting repaired status are Gary Del Villano and Lloyd and Mia Vickers. Gary had a very critical heart operation in July and if that wasn't enough after the operation he did some serious injury to his knee. He claims that it was an accident but I think his bookie caught up with him. Lloyd and Mia are slowly getting better and I hope we will be able to see them at the next luncheon.

The chapter has 24 members and this year we added two new members: Peter Jarvis and Dave Stewart.

The only gathering we have each year is the Leliefontein luncheon held each year on 7 November. Actually, the date is selected based on the ferry operations. For those of us 65 and

over we can travel free as a passenger on BC ferries, Monday to Thursday. Although I now understand that the government will be raising the fee to half price. Still, it's a very inexpensive proposition for us. This year the luncheon was held at the Boathouse restaurant at Horseshoe Bay. Unfortunately, Ernie Babcock (due to medical reasons), Steve Griffin, Alan Donovan and Dave Stewart were not able to get away from their jobs, and Ian Hamm, as well as Dr. Mustard, could not make it.

A total of 20 members gathered at the restaurant for lunch, including fellow Black Hatters, Dave Letson, Dave Scandrett, and Pat Chartres, a gunner. The mainland members arrived first with the first order of business to get libations, followed by the standard tales and lies in friendly greetings. When the gang from the island arrived, the process repeated itself and we all sat down for lunch. Following the toast to the regiments, RCD and LdSH, and to fallen comrades the senior Dragoon present, LGen (Retd) Jack Dangerfield gave us an update on what was happening in the Regiment. All is going well in the Regiment and getting back into the training cycle seems to be the number-one priority. This was followed by Colonel Commandant of the Royal Canadian Armoured Corps, Darrell Dean who gave us an overview of what was happening in the Corps. He told us that things were going relatively well in the Corps but that cost-cutting was going to have an effect. He ►

## BC Chapter, concluded

► also made the point that after so many years in Afghanistan, it would mean going back to basic Armoured Corps training.

Frank Milledge gave us a presentation “The Road to Falaise and Beyond.” He told us that he was a replacement officer when he came ashore at Normandy. And he selected the 27th Armoured Regiment (The Sherbrooke Fusiliers) as his unit, based on comrades he knew before he went to France. He in fact joined the Regiment in the midst of a protracted battle that had just come through the heaviest 10 weeks of fighting they were to see throughout the war. As a greenhorn he participated with 2cd Armoured Brigade in Operations “Totalize” and “Tractable” leading to Falaise. He also told us that one of the most horrific times he encountered was the Allied bombing of the forward locations. He emphasized what I have heard so many veterans say, that taking care of their comrades was the most important thing they could do. Unfortunately, the last portion of his presentation was disrupted by the Vancouver island group leaving to catch the return ferry. Many thanks to Frank for sharing his memories.

I also gave an update on Black Hatter gatherings. For some years now attempts have been made to establish a black Hatter gathering. Recently Don Senft, SSO Ops and Planning, JTF Pacific, Esquimalt has been organizing a chapter of the Strathcona’s Association. He has held several meet and greet functions at the gun room in Esquimalt and I indicated to him that this was causing some difficulties for the senior group. For the

seniors to attend these functions, because they are held at the mess during the evening, this would probably necessitate taking the car and booking a hotel room. I advised him that between Dave Letson and me, we had tried for many years to hold Black Hatter functions and have found the best format is to hold our functions based on the ferry sites between Vancouver Island and the Mainland at the closest restaurant available and rotate through these sites each year. Don agrees with this point of view and will pursue his format with a view of getting younger participants at Esquimalt. I encourage this approach but I still see a requirement to follow our present system. Hopefully, he will get the younger crowd to join our respective associations.

Another subject that was not on the agenda, but discussed, was the treatment of veterans, particularly those ones with PTSD. It seems that the broad conclusion was that the greatest pitfall was the so-called veteran’s charter, which was supposed to satisfy all by lump sum payments. It seemed to me that the best solution is that if a person is wounded in operations, it should be a lifetime commitment.

That’s all from the BC chapter. Best wishes to all Dragoons.





# Chapter News

## South Central Ontario Chapter

by Terry Shaw, Chairman RCD Association

**W**e have had a calm year over the last 12 months with very few planned Chapter activities to speak of.

In July 2013 the many members and friends of SCO Chapter met at the home of Don and Chris White in Oshawa for our annual BBQ. Those in attendance enjoyed themselves with food, refreshments, friendship and swimming in Don's pool. Following the Happy Hour, we shared an excellent meal provided by the family of Don and Chris. A special thank you goes out to the many members of the White family and extended family for their support. The numbers in attendance were down slightly from the previous year, however, all promised to gather again this year on Saturday 19 July 2014. (Same time. Same place.)

Once again the SCO Chapter participated as

a marching unit in the 92nd Warriors' Day Parade at the opening of the Canadian National Exhibition (CNE). The parade has been an annual event for this chapter for a good number of years with many in attendance. Over the past several years our marching numbers have diminished, but not the enthusiasm. This year there were a large contingent of Chapter members commanding or operating as crews in the various period vehicles, and I must assure all of their comrades, that each one resented the fact they were riding and would have preferred to march. Tom Skelding took time out of his busy schedule to attend and march in the parade. Tom was visiting family in Ontario during August and packed his uniform for the parade. Cpl Steve Mercer, a recent new Chapter member, attended the parade for the ►



*Warriors' Day Parade 2013. Front Row, L to R: Frank Wood, Tom Skelding, Norm Wood, and Vic Sibley; Back Row, L to R: Tpr Alton, Don White, Cpl Mena, Terry Shaw, Steve Mercer, and George Downey.*

## South Central Ontario Chapter, concluded



*Warrior's Day Parade 2013.*

► first time and he was selected to carry the Regimental Flag for the contingent. Corporal Mena and Trooper Alton from the Regiment in Petawawa attended dressed in Regimental scarlets to act as Markers for the parade. For both of them it was their second appearance in the parade. I thank the CO and RSM for their support in providing the soldiers. It should also be noted that several members of the Governor General Horse Guards Association marched with the SCOC contingent as they have done for the past several years. Following the parade, we had a light lunch and libations on the front lawn of Fort York Armouries (home station of the Queen's York Rangers). If you are thinking of being in the Toronto area on 16 August and are interested in attending, contact Terry Shaw.

The Chapter Annual General Meeting (AGM) was held at Katz Deli, Toronto on 28

Aug 2013. There were no major issues that needed to be attended to, however, there was discussion concerning the filling of vacant Chapter Executive positions. The Chapter has positions available for Chairman, Treasurer and Secretary. Are you interested? A briefing was presented concerning the ongoing plans for the RCD Association Rendez-Vous in St. Catharines Ontario, 13–14 June 2014. The minutes of the AGM can be located on the Association South Central Ontario Chapter page of the RCD website.

As we look ahead this coming year, I urge everyone to stay updated on both Association and Chapter activities throughout 2014. There are many newsletters, e-mails and web locations to find the latest news. Rendez-Vous 2014 is fast approaching, I hope to see many of you there!



# Secretary/Treasurer's Sitrep — 2013

John Moyer

As always, I offer 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, passings, etc.) that is needed would not be as current as it is. Through them, and their many assistants, 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.

As is our custom, this issue of *The Dragoon* 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 vice charitable organization and cannot issue receipts. A special thank you is extended to those of you who have donated that little extra.

Just a reminder that the Association is not a recognized charitable organization and cannot issue receipts for donations it receives. On the other hand, the Guild of the RCD can issue receipts for income tax purposes. Bursary donations (cheques must be made payable to The Guild of The RCD to qualify for a charitable donation receipt) that I receive will of course be forwarded to the Guild.

Again, my heartfelt thanks go to all those who have supported me in 2013.

I hope to see many of you at RV 2014.

John Moyer, Secretary/Treasurer



# Guild Donors 2013

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 of those who donated \$100 or more. Many others have generously given and we certainly thank all donors

## \$100–\$499 Friends of the Regiment

Adams, DJ	Donald, R	Leage, M	Renahan, C
Allen, J	Duhamel, G	Leblanc, D	Richards, WA
Andrews, JL	Duncan, C	Lillington, C	Richardson, S
Atherton, AJ	Ermel, R	Lofgren, WA	Ring, J
Auld, F	Evers, M	Long, J	Rugenius, V
Bailey, M	Farnell, M	Lynk, DA	Saunders, E
Barr, G	Flemming, B	Mackenzie, KA	Scheffelmaier, WT
Barr, JM	Follwell, J	Malejczuk, JJ	Schroeder, WM
Barrett, SO	Frank, MA	Malloff, MJ	Shaw, R
Beament, J	Gagnon, M	Marion, KC	Shewan, BG
Beckett, BS	Gaudette, J	Marois, RV	Shurdha, B
Beharrysingh, D	Girard, JM	Mathers, K	Smith, J
Bennett, BAC	Graham, A	McCarty, MGC	Sutton, C
Benoit, R	Graham, SG	McCluskey, MP	Szydlo, D
Bigney, R	Guest, G	Meeker, J	Tan, P-A
Blais, S	Haindl, P	Mercer, SA	Thibault, JL
Bramhill, RJ	Hamilton, A	Milner, DJ	Thomas, LE
Bride, RAW	Hawley, W	Monaghan, C	Tingley, CW
Brimner, AM	Head, DW	Muise, AC	Tremblay, DD
Brown, C	Hillier, CR	Muralt, D	Turner, PA
Cadden, SM	Holton, R	Murphy, JW	Vienneau, JD
Cameron, J	Hutt, C	Nette, G	Watt, FR
Catry, C	Isenor, M	Newton, TS	Wells, PJ
Chadwick, HC	Johnston, D	Noort, BL	White, CRJ
Christianson, DR	Kerckhoff, EA	Olsen, G	White, D
Clark, I	Kewley, A	Ostler, JR	Wionzek, MJR
Cotton, RT	Knowles, S	Pineau, S	Wong, KW
Cross, D	Kuelhne, M	Piper, G	Zeisig, J
Curley, S	Lacasse, RD	Pires, SA	Zinck, D
Cushing, K	Laing, W	Popov, M	
Damour, M	Lake, HBE	Poppe, A	AGF Investments Inc
D'Andrea, C	Larocque, J	Power, BR	Deebloyce Holdings Inc
Dewinter, RA	Layden, R	Ready, RJL	Guthrie Woods Products Ltd
			Team Telus Cares

## **Guild Donors, concluded**

### **\$500–\$1,499 Regimental Family**

Bell, J  
Bonefant-Deguisse, JP  
Brennan-Rousseau, M  
Cartmell, M  
Collier, C  
Davenport, C  
Hook, J  
Mann, V  
Miksa, R  
Snape, A

CI Investments  
The Carew Joint Partner Trust  
United Way - Ottawa

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

Averbrook, T  
Batten, D  
Corman, D  
Ferretti, P  
McKaigue, S  
Natynczyk, WJ  
Riganelli, P  
Roman, S

Cummins Hydraulics  
IA Clarington Investment Inc  
JMM Realty  
Renfrew County United Way

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

Estate of John W. Butterworth  
Estate of George Gary Walter

Maple Leaf Sports & Entertainment Ltd



# Financial Summary as at 31 Dec 2013

<b>Opening Bank Balance — 01 Jan 13</b>	<b>\$18,608.80</b>
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## **REVENUE**

Dues Received (2013+)	\$ 5,470.00
Donations Received	\$ 280.00
Guild Contribution	\$ 5,000.00
GIC Interest Earned	<u>\$ 574.50</u>
<b>Total Revenue</b>	<b>\$11,324.50</b>

## **EXPENSES**

Corporate License Fee	\$ 30.00
Printing/Mailing of The Dragoon	\$ 5,338.15
Postal Charges - Springbok 1	\$ 378.73
Postal Charges – Springbok 2	\$ 386.56
Bank Charges (Deposit book)	\$ 20.72
Secretary/Treasurer (mailing/Reunion/computer expenses)	<u>\$ 216.37</u>
<b>Total Expenses</b>	<b>\$ 6,370.53</b>

<b>Operating Surplus (Deficit)</b>	<b>\$ 4,953.97</b>
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# Membership Summary

(as at 31 Dec 2013)

Last Post 2013                    -        17+2 = 19

New Members 2013               -        13

## **Active Membership**

Life	- 305
Associate Life	- 66
Annual	- 201
Associate Annual	- 22
Honorary	- 15
	<hr/>
	609

## **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)

December 2013               594 (371/223)



# The RCD Association Board of Directors

## Executive Officers

### President

Mr JB Price  
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