



THE DRAGOON

2020-22





The Royal Canadian Dragoons

The fifth Guidon of the Royal Canadian Dragoons will be presented in the fall of 2022. Details to follow from the Regiment and your Association Chapter Chair as they become available.

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The Dragoon is published annually on behalf of the Royal Canadian Dragoons Association.

The RCD Association Membership Application Form can be found on the last page of this issue of *The Dragoon* or at <https://dragoons.ca/wp-content/uploads/2021/09/The-Royal-Canadian-Dragoons-Association-Membership-App-2020v3.pdf>.

Submissions to *The Dragoon* are always welcome and may be sent in electronic format (MS Word) to the Editor at rcdassoc.editor@gmail.com. The deadline for submissions is May of each year. *The Dragoon* welcomes photos of all Regimental and Association activities, past and present. Where possible, photos should be the original or at least as high resolution as possible (300 dpi or higher, JPEG format). Do not embed photos in the article but send as separate attachments. Please include a detailed caption with each photo and the photographer's name. We regret that we cannot guarantee that all submitted articles or photos will be used.

Official website of The Royal Canadian Dragoons: <https://dragoons.ca/>

Official website of The RCD Association: <https://dragoons.ca/about-the-dragoons/dragoons-association/>

Back issues of *The Dragoon* can be found at: https://dragoons.ca/regimental-periodicals/the_dragon/

Regimental Kitshop: <https://dragoons.ca/regimental-kitshop/>

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Cover Photo Credit

This picture of call/sign 31A was taken by Cpl Richard Stacey during FALLEX 1985 at the Hohenfels Training Area, Germany. Richard was the Loader for 31A and an avid photographer. (In fact, if you look carefully, you can see his camera equipment bag on top of the turret under the C6.)

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PATRON OF THE ASSOCIATION

MESSAGE

Gen (ret'd) Rick Hillier,
OC, CMM, ONL, MSC, CD



Gen (ret'd) Rick Hillier

The RCD Association is an organization that permits all who call ourselves Dragoons, whether serving or retired, to continue to be a part of our magnificent Regiment. It allows us to affect how we prepare for the future, mentor those just putting up the Springbok, assist those who are having difficulties, say farewell to our fallen and simply, at times, enjoy the comradery of our battle brothers and sisters, be it at the biennial national reunions, regional events or smaller get-togethers on the Regimental Birthday, Leliefontein Day or anytime we can find an excuse. We'll forget names, remember faces, tell lies, drink a few 'pops' and relive the honourable profession and Regiment in which we served.

All of us enjoy these opportunities to reconnect. This year will be even more special because after a four-year absence, we'll have a national reunion, something that many of us feared might never happen again. The numbers may be smaller this time, however it's a recommencement of an important part of being a Dragoon. We'll see the Regiment, in its splendid, gleaming, new lines. Their patrol vehicles are ready, still with the 'new car' smell, the leadership is strong, and Dragoons are ready to serve Canada when and where we ask. After our national reunion, all of us will be re-inspired by our Regimental family, proud of our own contribution and stand just a little taller each and every day.

These things are important, and the RCD Association makes them happen for us. It doesn't occur automatically, however, and I'd like to thank Denis Levesque, who is leaving as the President of the RCD Association, for all his work, commitment, and tireless badgering (almost sounds like a nickname, doesn't it) of all of us to connect and participate. For six years he has been the driving force providing us with the opportunity to continue to be a part of our Regiment. Thank you, Denis.

The RCD Association permits us to continue to be part of our Regiment, but only if we join and participate. Please do so and be proud of the Springbok you wore, the work you did, those who replaced you, and the families who stood beside us during the good times and bad.

Bold and Swift! 🇨🇦



PRESIDENT OF THE ASSOCIATION

MESSAGE

CWO (ret'd) Denis Levesque,
MMM, CD

Hello from beautiful Kingston, Ontario, on the northeastern shores of Lake Ontario. I'm sure you must all be as frustrated as I am. COVID-19 has been demanding a lot of attention, we are getting through this, and the intent is to come out even stronger. It takes patience and it has been a long process, but please stay focused on family and friends. Please reach out to a Dragoon or friend and give them a call from time to time.

My time as President of the RCD Association is coming to an end. I would like to acknowledge the Executive, Directors, and Chapter Chairs for their work and dedication during my time as the President. I have gone through three Colonels of the Regiment, and I can tell you, we are, and were, in good hands. A lot has been accomplished over the last six years, but there is always room for improvement.

I would also like to thank Mike Rostek for his time and efforts as the Chief Editor for *The Dragoon* and welcome Perry Wells as our new Chief Editor. Perry and I have worked together before and he is, as he was, a pleasure to work with. I would also like to acknowledge Kevin Langille for his tireless work laying out *The Dragoon* and his unique ability to rummage through the Regimental archives looking for old photos and articles of interest. He has a skillset that is unmatched. Kevin will retire soon but, without his efforts over many years, *The Dragoon* would never have reached the level it did.

I am sure by now that you are aware the Guild, along with the Association, has implemented a plan for six Funeral Kits to be made available for all Dragoon funerals, regardless of time served. These kits will play an important role toward ensuring all Dragoons are buried with the dignity and respect they deserve. Included will be a Memorial Package, consisting of a Dragoon Flag, a Memorial Coin, and a letter from the Colonel of the Regiment.

Also, I would like to announce the Wall of Recognition (WoR) in the new RCD Regimental lines Y-137. The WoR is to recognize those who have donated \$300 dollars or more to the Guild. There will be more on this in the future, but plaques



CWO (ret'd) Denis
(Badger) Levesque



CWO Denis Levesque
in Afghanistan.

can be purchased with a donation through the Dragoon website.

For the last 24+ months, the Association, just as the Regiment, has been affected by the ever-changing COVID-19 mandates and restrictions making it extremely difficult, if not impossible, to get together. Some Chapters have had opportunities to meet and socialize between the federal and provincial COVID-19 lighting systems going from Green to Orange then Red and back to Green. It has been a trying time for most to gather in groups of any size to enjoy family, friends, and the wider Regimental family. I hope you have weathered the storm and remained safe and taken the precautions necessary. Social distancing and the wearing of masks have become the norm and most of us are well versed in these anti-virus practices. Hopefully there will be a time in the not-too-distant future when we will be able to gather again.

You are aware RV-2020 was cancelled and RV-2021 had to be delayed to 17-19 June 2022. The next Association gathering of Dragoons or Rendez-Vous (RV) will be held in Petawawa, at the Clarion Hotel Pembroke. The Ottawa Valley Chapter, as the host of RV 22, had to carefully weigh all the public health factors before deciding if it was safe to proceed. Thankfully, it was a go.

Oh yes! I would also like to announce that the RCD Association's 50th anniversary will be in June 2024. The details will be discussed during the RV in June. Planning will start soon under the guidance of the new President to select a suitable location to make this a most memorable event for the gathering of Dragoons.

Please enjoy this copy of the combined *Springbok* and *The Dragoon*. A lot of effort by a number of folks went into putting it together for your reading enjoyment. Thanks to all for your continued support and work within the Association.

I'm signing off as your President with a shaky upper lip, but it is essential to move forward, with new ideas and an aggressive, keen approach.

I leave you with this thought. If you are not part of the Association, I ask you to join. The Association is proud of our shared History and Heritage. We represent many seats as Directors on the Guild, and I as the President sit on the Guild as the 1st Vice President. It bears mentioning that the Guild drives the path for support to the Regiment in many ways. YOU are part of that support, through the Association. Please join, regardless of your service, if you are currently serving or retired.

Welcome Home! We can wait you out, but we would rather have you in the ranks now.

We may not have a bar, but we do serve friendship!

Bold and Swift! 🚀



Corporal Kevin Langille,
circa 2013.



EDITOR OF THE DRAGON MESSAGE

LCol (ret'd) Perry Wells, CD

Hello from the Editor's desk and welcome to the 2020/2022 edition of *The Dragoon*. It was a great honour for me to be asked to replace Mike Rostek as the new editor of this prestigious publication. In the fall of 2021, Mike accepted a defence scientist job with Defence Research and Development Canada (DRDC) and, after looking at his workload and other commitments, realized he did not have the capacity to continue as the editor. On behalf of the RCD Association, I would like to thank Mike for his hard work and dedication over the last few years. I vow to carry on the tradition of editorial excellence and innovation started many years ago by Norm Ashton, followed by Bann Price, then Mike Rostek, and now entrusted to me.

A bit about myself. After 35 years of service, I retired from the CAF in August 2015. A few weeks later, I took a senior Project Manager (PM) and researcher position with the National Research Council (NRC) in Ottawa until I fully retired at the end of April 2021. My wife (Rachel) and I live in Ottawa.

You will have noticed several significant changes with this edition of *The Dragoon*. Given the pandemic, amongst other things, it was decided to combine both the 2020/21 and 2021/22 editions of *The Dragoon/Springbok* to encompass the entire period of Lieutenant-Colonel Enno Kerckhoff's time in command as the left and right of arc. (This means there is some overlap with the 2019/20 edition, especially with the Chapter updates.) All future editions will switch back to being published annually with an anticipated release date of mid-summer each year.

Also new for this year, the Regiment used the unique and considerable expertise of *Esprit de Corps* magazine to layout and publish this and all future copies of *The Dragoon/Springbok*. The staff at *Esprit de Corps* has been outstanding and a pleasure to work with as we made the transition from self-publishing *The Dragoon/Springbok* to a more polished and professional publication.



LCol (ret'd) Perry Wells

Due to its popularity, *The Dragoon* and *Springbok* will continue to be combined into a single journal. Going forward, the Regiment has decided the reporting period for the *Springbok* will encompass the period from May to May each year to better reflect the training cycle. Experience has also shown that it can be extremely difficult, if not impossible, for the *Springbok* staff to track down articles and other input from folks after they are posted out during the summer. As such, *The Dragoon* will need to adopt the same reporting period. More to follow in the coming months as we get ready to put the 2023 edition together.

With all these changes in mind, I hope you like the new look and feel of *The Dragoon* and I welcome any thoughts or comments you may have.

Thanks to the numerous COVID-19 restrictions that impacted everyone’s ability to gather as a group, most Chapters were unable to meet in person over the last two years, and this is reflected in the limited detail in their updates. Nevertheless, where and when possible, there were a few events to mark Regimental milestones. More are planned over the coming months as things continue to open up and we get reacquainted. You will notice a bit of a theme to this edition starting with a photograph of a tank on the cover, followed by two feature articles about tanks — a reprint of a 1982 *Dragoon* article about the Regiment’s participation in the 1981 Canadian Army Trophy (CAT) competition, and a second article looking at the Tank Replacement Project and the introduction of the Leopard 2 into service. In preparation for the 80th Anniversary of the Liberation of the Netherlands in April 2025, there is a reprint of an interesting 1995 *Springbok* article marking the 50th Anniversary. Plus, Peter Atkinson wrote a great article about his recent trip to Leeuwarden in April 2022. Closing out this edition is a review of the business end of the Association.

I would be remiss if I did not acknowledge the tremendous assistance of Corporal Kevin Langille over the years for his ability to dig through the Regimental archives to find just the right photograph or article to enhance *The Dragoon*. Kevin’s keen eye and artistic flair was instrumental when it came to laying out both *The Dragoon* and *Springbok*. Without him neither of these publications would have been possible. Kevin is retiring this summer and we wish him the best of luck in the future.

I also want to give a quick shout out to the recently retired Muggsie for her 35 years of dedication to count-



Muggsie, circa 2012.

less generations of Dragoons. I remember when I was the Regimental Intelligence Officer (which was really a euphemism for the less glamorous job of Regimental Accounts Officer) in 1987/88 and Muggsie started as the new CO’s Secretary. You knew right away that she was a unique and special person who would leave a lasting impression on everyone she encountered. Best of luck in retirement.

As Denis is stepping down as the President of the RCD Association, I would like to thank him for his tireless effort and tremendous support over the last six years. His sense of humour and dedication will be missed, but I don’t think we have seen the last of him. Thank you, Badger and Viola, for everything you have done for the Regiment and the Association.

And lastly, our appreciation to the CO, LCol Enno Kerckhoff, and RSM, CWO Stéphane Larouche, for their continued support to the Association. We wish LCol Kerckhoff godspeed in his future endeavours and welcome LCol Nick Forsyth back to the Regiment as the 59th Commanding Officer.

I hope you enjoy this issue of *The Dragoon*. It came together quickly, and I am grateful to everybody who contributed. A special thank you to Dave Sproule for providing two feature articles and Major Marsha Reid, OC B Sqn and *Springbok* Editor-in-Chief, for her guidance and assistance. As always, people are encouraged to submit articles, anecdotes, or book reviews for inclusion in future editions of *The Dragoon*.

Bold and Swift! 🚀



THE GUILD OF THE RCD FAMILY PRIDE

MGen (ret’d) Dean Milner,
CMM, MSC, CD

We are so very proud of the accomplishments of the Regiment and the Regimental family over the recent past, whether it’s on overseas operations or training, helping one another as a community, or expanding our visibility across this great nation. The Guild continues to work hard to bring the best support to the right people at the time it’s needed and feel very happy to present this short summary of our activities to our readers!!

We are trying hard to ensure that our Regimental family is as all-inclusive as possible — it’s not just for one generation of Dragoons. If you are wondering, the Regimental family includes all serving and retired Dragoons and their families, all Canadian Armed Forces members serving with or who have served with the Regiment, all government employees and contractors who have worked with and for the Regiment, and the Cadet Corps affiliated with the Regiment. WE encourage everyone to participate in our family.

Over the past period, your Guild has seen a lot of refinement and focusing to optimize our effectiveness. Here is a short summary of our activities and accomplishments, but so much has happened under the guidance of our recent Presidents, Peter Atkinson and Dean Milner:

QUALITY OF LIFE

Life as part of the military is like no other: a complete commitment for the whole family and not just the soldier. We all know that it comes with unique challen-



MGen (ret’d) Dean Milner



PREVIOUS PAGE: The Scarlet Guard marching onto parade, a key element of preserving our heritage.

LEFT: Presentation of the Guild's 2021 Leliefontein Bursary to Daniel Poirier.

BELOW: The 2021 winner of the Guild's Community Service Award, MCpl Pedro Guzman.

ges and hardships not found elsewhere. The Guild's Quality of Life program is our number one priority to ensure we support the Regimental family to the best of our ability. This program has promoted the well-being, morale and quality of life of the Regimental family by funding, supporting and undertaking projects such as:

- Assisting the families of injured soldiers to support their path to recovery and activities to support the families of deployed soldiers. This included the support to the RCD Rear Party activities and resources during the recent tour to Latvia by keeping families and their soldiers connected/informed, helping the kids during deployment separation as well as ensuring the families had a place to turn in case of an emergency to potentially include emergency funding support.
- Supporting the families of our fallen soldiers and the families of those Dragoons who have passed. A key accomplishment has been the development (and deployment across the country) of a Regimental Funeral Kit to support any military presence the family might choose. We have been honoured to have deployed funeral kits at the family's request to a number of Dragoons who have passed. We have also been proud to ensure a Regimental family presence at the funeral to present a RCD gift of condolences/remembrance to the family.
- Making materials and resources available that support soldiers of the Regiment and their families. The Regiment has just moved into their new building on Garrison Petawawa where the Guild has helped make it our new home with activities such as fully equipping the new Regimental Gym, creating historical displays, and developing a Wall of Recognition to build a lasting legacy for

Regimental family members. Additionally, within the Regiment living in single shacks is still a fact and the Guild has been excited to be able to help improve their comfort and making it feel more like "home" by providing BBQs, a rest area and other amenities.

- Sponsoring regimental events and activities has also been a highlight of our efforts. We have been able to support several great initiatives proposed and run by members of the Regimental family such as the Bennett Memorial Golf Tournament, Spartan Race team that included soldiers and their families, the Iron Warrior and Combat fitness teams as well as providing uniforms for our Regimental sports teams as required. We have also supported key activities such as family days, reunions, receptions and other events.
- We also continue supporting and sponsoring three Cadet Corps organizations to promote citizenship and leadership for the future by providing support as a Regimental family and creating a RCD environment for cadets to thrive in. While the Regiment has provided outstanding training, guidance and mentorship, the Guild has promoted the RCD identity by providing scarlet uniforms and regimental accouterments, making the cadets a proud part of the Dragoon family.



Supporting family days is a key way to enhance the sense of Regimental family.

- Finally, the Guild has established a number of education bursaries and other awards to recognize excellence:

- » The Guild established **The Leliefontein Memorial Bursary** to recognize educational achievement and support the pursuit of post-secondary studies for deserving members of the Regimental family. Every year, one or more deserving applicants are selected from across the Regimental family to receive this award.
- » As well, 2022 will be the first time the Guild will award **The Cadet Bursary** to a deserving member of each of our three Cadet Corps to support post-secondary education. We are very excited to support our next generation of leaders and are taking applications and nominations through our website and the Cadet Corps.
- » The **Volunteer and Community Service Award** was also awarded during the period to recognize excellence in community activities. We were extremely proud of our winners and that COVID-19 did not impact our ability to continue these great traditions.

HISTORY AND HERITAGE

A key component of the Guild's work is committed to promote, protect, preserve and further the traditions and heritage of The Royal Canadian Dragoons. To this end, the Guild is always searching to enhance our history and display our artifacts for future generations. The Guild has been actively organizing, updating and preserving our collection to include:

- Looking to enhance our history by obtaining and preserving artifacts relevant to the history of the Regiment. This includes documents, medals, uniforms, monuments, cemeteries and so on.
- Funding the operations of the Regiment's archives to protect our history and heritage. With the move to the new building, much work has been done by our team of volunteers to manage our collection and this is still ongoing. The Guild has also initiated a project to develop an online archive so that we might make our history available to a wider audience, thus raising awareness of the Regiment. This online archive will be an integral part of our Regimental family website at www.dragoons.ca.
- We have also been busy developing displays and other products for members of the RCD and the public. A major achievement was the completion of a display for Second World War veteran Tpr Don White that was unveiled on Liberation of Leeuwarden Day 2022, and now proudly sits in the new HQ. As well, we are working closely with the Petawawa Museum to enhance and update our display so look for updates on our website. These efforts will also extend to support our post-COVID-19 efforts to foster liaisons with civilian authorities at all levels in order to establish, maintain and operate museums, exhibitions or demonstrations of items of Regimental historical significance, memorabilia, artifacts or property.
- The Guild and Regiment have also been busy keeping our historical vehicles up to speed, including new period-appropriate paint jobs for our vehicle monuments and keeping our operational fleet on the road. Moving forward, "Dragoon

Park” will remain the cornerstone of our vehicle display.

- We have also initiated a project to identify and locate every RCD monument and the resting place for every Dragoon. This project will ultimately be part of our website to allow people to visit when travelling or simply find lost family.
- Of course, we have been very busy maintaining our 100-person scarlet guard plus some for the cadets as a key history and heritage effort. It is a source of great pride for the entire Regimental family and we hope to get more active in the public post-COVID-19 to reconnect with Canadians and promote our great heritage.

PROMOTING AWARENESS

The effectiveness of our program hinges on our ability to effectively reach people so they understand who we are and what we do. Our audience not only includes the Regimental family, but also extends to the general public — all with a view to advancing our charitable program. The Guild employs various methods to “stay in touch” and raise awareness. Here are a few achievements and developing initiatives the Guild is pursuing to raise awareness:

- **Correspondence.** We have been very busy making sure that we maintain mail and email contact lists to ensure we use multiple methods for keeping in touch and raising awareness. We encourage people to join our information sharing lists by contacting any element of the Regimental family or by visiting the website.
- **The Regimental Family Website.** The Guild manages this site on behalf of all parts of the Regimental family (Regiment, Association, Guild, affiliated Cadets). Revamped and updated in 2022, it has met with positive feedback as informative and well structured, but we are still looking for feedback to keep improving. Our recent efforts are also focusing on consolidating the numerous orphan sites across the web at www.dragoons.ca to offer a great way for people to know the Regiment, the Regimental family and its history. It is the main mechanism for creating an all-informed communications network. Having said this, we are continu-

RIGHT: Supporting our Regimental family is our number one priority, sustaining a strong sense of community is our goal. Help us excel with your support.

ing to expand and enhance the website, including a detailed history and archives section for research.

- **Social Media.** We are also active on social media through our accounts on Facebook, Twitter, YouTube and Instagram. It’s a great way to share current activities and notices and is today’s way to keep in touch.
- **Participating in events and functions.** The Regimental family also raises internal and external awareness through various engagements and marketing activities. One such series has been our Friends of The Regiment Days, where we have hosted captains of industry to raise awareness.
- **Regimental Periodicals.** The Guild has also coordinated and supported the publication of documents during the period such as the annual *Springbok/The Dragoon* magazine; publishing and distributing newsletters; and distributing the updates from both the RCD Commanding Officer and the Guild’s President.

In conclusion, your Guild has remained busy to support the Regimental family and will continue to do so with your input. As the current President, I am extremely happy with my entire Guild Team, noting Tom Skelding as our chair for History and Heritage/ First Vice President, Marty Frank as Business Planner, Bill Fulton in Governance, Paul Riganelli as our CFO, Jim Follwell as my Guild Coordinator. We also wish to thank all those who have supported the Guild in the past and encourage those who wish to support the Regimental family to make a donation and help us sustain the well-being of our great Regiment.

Bold and Swift! 🚢



CHAPTER UPDATE NEWFOUNDLAND & LABRADOR

By Tom Skelding

Greetings from the Springboks on the Rock. First and foremost, I hope this edition of *The Dragoon* finds you in good health and spirits as we start to come out the other side of this pandemic. We were hoping with the end in sight that we were collectively heading towards some normalcy, albeit the world seems to have other plans.

That said, the pandemic alert levels did come down a few levels, allowing us to gather with our RCR brethren for a combined regimental birthday celebration on 21 December 2021 at the Royal Canadian Legion Branch # 1, St. John’s. With the customary bantering, reminiscing and occasional pint down range, a good time was had by all.

Although a number of our members were away or not available during the Easter long weekend in April, a few of us did manage to get together on 14 April 2022 to recognize Leeuwarden Day.

As this pandemic slowly moves out of arc, we hope the future will allow us to continue to build the Newfoundland & Labrador Chapter, reconnect

with Dragoons of all stripes, re-establish relationships, and resume more activities.

It’s important to stay positive. I sincerely hope this issue is a welcome distraction.

“Long may your big jib draw.” 🚢

BELOW: Getting together to commemorate the Regimental birthday on 21 December 2021 in St. John’s, NL. From left to right: Larry Mercer, Larry Skinner, Dave Lane, Joe White, Dave Pynn, Chris Pyn, Tom Skelding.





CHAPTER UPDATE

ATLANTIC REGION

By Lance Wiebe & John Bouwmeister

Here is hoping this newsletter finds you in good health and spirits.

There is not much to report since our last newsletter. We have continued to have our monthly luncheons at Mingler's Pub in Oromocto on every last Thursday of the month as best we could despite the "on-again/off-again" COVID-19 restrictions.

Our long-standing Chapter Chairman, Matt Robichaud, stepped down in May 2021 as he and Marlies moved to Pembroke, ON to be closer to their grandchildren. To date, we have yet to find a volunteer to replace Matt. Many of our members are getting on in years, as you can probably tell by the white hair (or lack thereof) on our heads in the pictures. The search to find somebody to fill Matt's shoes continues.

This summer (2022) will also mark the return of the Bennett Memorial Golf Tournament, organized this year by Kevin Trainer.

LAST POST

- Denis Votour; 18 June 2020 — Brenda Votour; 5 March 2021
- Don MacRae; 13 August 2020
- John (JJ) Gallant; 31 October 2020
- Ron Brownridge; 4 November 2020
- Frank (Dutchie) Massoerurs; 3 May 2021
- Terry Webber; 23 May 2021
- Byron Conrad; 19 June 2021

- Robert Santer; 13 September 2021
- Rick Smith; 22 January 2022

Bold and Swift! 🚀



27 May 2021 Luncheon



29 July 21 Luncheon



21 December 21 Birthday Luncheon



CHAPTER UPDATE

QUEBEC

By Karl Kramell

Bonjour à vous et salutations de la belle province. Greetings from all seven of us that I was able to contact. Sadly, we lost a few since my last report. Positive news is we gained a new member. We welcome Daniel Sicotte, who is residing in Pincourt, QC. I have not met Daniel yet, but hope to soon in the not-too-distant future. Our Chapter has not been very active as we are too few and spread over a large area. Two of our members passed away that I'm aware of — Justin Kisielius and Victor Rugenius. A big loss to the Chapter. The obituary for each is at the end of this report. Our sympathies go out to the families. We will miss their war stories and life experience. They certainly were always colourful characters, and their stories only grew better with time.

Nelson Couvrette decided to leave the Association, aging, and losing his wife Barbara contributed to this. Stuart Strole also decided to retire from the Association. We'll miss you both and wish you well. I lost contact with Mrs. Suzanne Gautier, Neville Melville, DG Robertson, David Bowring, and Stuart Strole. Mail is either returned or phone numbers incorrect or disconnected. If anyone has any information, I would appreciate getting an update.

That leaves seven of us left. I know there are more former retired Dragoons out there, but they are probably taking a break from the military environment for now. Problem is, where are they? If you are aware of anyone looking to join the Quebec Chapter, please let me know and I will reach out to them.

Norman Lloyd is doing well, living by himself in Shefford. Has a positive outlook on life and keeps busy around the house. Luc Rousseau is now residing in Saint-Cyrille-De-Wendover. Also retired from military activities. Jean Imbeault in Sherbrooke was very much involved in line dancing before this pandemic hit everyone. To occupy his time now he walks a lot, shovels snow, and practises his dancing steps solo. That's the spirit Jean, keep it up! Michel Vezina moved in with a new partner and seems quite happy. He tells me life must go on, so very true. Yves Dampouse, although not a member of our Chapter, is enjoying his three grandchildren and puttering around in his garage with his big toys in Sainte-Catherine-de-la-Jacques-Cartier.

Due to our reduced numbers, we partner with the Royal Canadian Hussars Association for all our activities. Over the last two year, thanks to COVID-19, we have not been active. However, in January 2022, we restarted our monthly breakfast the last Thursday of the month at Brasserie Le Manoir, 6810 rue Saint-Jacques, Montreal at 9:00 am. Everyone is welcome to join us. As other activities are planned, I will send out the details separately.

That's all the news for now. Have a warm spring and a safe and healthy summer. Till we meet again. De la belle province, nous vous souhaitons nos meilleurs souhaits cette nouvelle année 2022. Au revoir et à la prochaine.

Audax et Celer! 🚀

JUSTIN KISIELIUS

Passionate teacher & historian

By Manfred Kisielius

Justin Kisielius in his younger days in Gagetown.



It is with heavy hearts that the family of Capt. Justin Anthony Kisielius, affectionately known as “The Major” to some, announce that he passed peacefully in his sleep on November 17, 2020, at the age of 93 years old. He is predeceased by his wife of 68 years Ruth.

Justin was born in Marijampole, Lithuania and emigrated to Montreal, St. Lawrence Street area, in 1930. There he attended D’Arcy McGee High School and went on to McGill & Loyola University, studying the sciences and RMC training. As an officer with the Royal Canadian Dragoons, he served in Korea and the UN in Cypress. Justin was very proud of his military career as evidenced by his “museum” like basement full of military artifacts. He was renowned to be a “walking historian, able to ramble off dates and names from the Regiment during the 50’s and 60’s.”

Following his service in 1969, he taught the sciences at Macdonald Cartier and Chambly County High School. He was a well-respected teacher and often boasted that his students had some of the highest scores in Quebec. Several former students from the 70’s and 80’s expressed their appreciation for his teachings as reflected in his *Montreal Gazette* obit: “He

“He served his country with ‘Brio’ both as a soldier and an educator. We will remember him! Once a Dragoon always a Dragoon.”

~ Georges Rousseau, Colonel Commandant of the RCAC

was an excellent teacher who commanded respect by his presence alone.” “Mr. Kisielius was one of my favourite teachers. He was gruff but honest.” “You were a great teacher of chemistry and a great teacher of life.”

He retired from teaching in the early 90’s, giving him more time to spend with family and friends at his favourite place, the Lac Gagnon Cottage. It is there that he used his teaching skills and military experience to educate his boys on life’s lessons. Justin’s sons learned more about physics, chemistry, and biology at this cottage than in any classroom setting — like how to move a boulder the size of a VW beetle without the use of any bulldozers or TNT. The simple task of cleaning a freshly caught fish with his 1940’s era surgical kit became a biology lesson. Countless other experiences at Lac Gagnon will never be forgotten.

Justin always remained extremely proud of his Lithuanian heritage and Canadian Forces career. He will be greatly missed for his eternal optimism, sense of humour and interesting tales. 🇨🇦

BELOW: Justin Kisielius in his basement museum, full of RCD artifacts.



VICTOR RUGENIUS

Veteran helping veterans

By Victor Rugenius II

Vic Rugenius was born in 1928 in Montreal, Quebec and grew up in Ville-Émard. He lived a long and good life with many experiences to tell and learning a good deal about himself.

As a young boy, he worked in vegetables; growing and selling at the Atwater Market and where he sat on Dr. Bethune’s knee for free care. Being the Depression, he left school early, taking a job as a telegraph messenger. He doubled his earnings by running paper for Harry Ship.

In his teenage years, he took a new direction, leaving Montreal and travelling the United States as a groom in horse racing. He visited every major track on the East and South Coasts and returned home after spending a winter in New Orleans and then taking a job with the Natural Gas Company in Montreal.

With a sense of purpose, he joined the RCD at the outbreak of the Korean War in 1950. He was posted to Petawawa for his recruit training. This was followed by postings to Saint Jean, Montreal, Bergen-Hohne Camp in Germany, and a short stint in Norway, as well as time at Fallingbostal. A few years later he returned to Canada and was stationed at Long Point, Ontario, where he was assigned provost duties escorting soldiers that were AWOL.

Victor Rugenius proudly flew the Regimental flag at his home.



Victor Rugenius (centre) with his mates.

Upon leaving the Dragoons, he returned to his old job with the Natural Gas Company, started a family and left Montreal to live in Hemmingford, Quebec.

In the 1960s Vic took a new calling, going into landscaping. At Expo 67, he was contracted to plant trees at 15 pavilions, including the Canadian Exhibit with trees from Hemmingford. He gave scores of people their first job and countless others their last chance. He gave many jobs to veterans of WWII and Korea. He worked at Parc Safari in the 1970’s as a landscaper and advocated for handicapped access for veterans to bathrooms, parking, etc. long before it was required. Access was made available by the owners with Vic’s strong support. Vic credited his success in the lessons instilled from his service in the RCD; the importance of discipline, focus and loyalty.

He retired in 1988 from landscaping and returned to growing and selling vegetables at a roadside stand. He passed on much of his knowledge and experience to his beloved grandsons, giving them many wonderful memories.

He lived with his son and family for many years and spent only two days in the hospital. Vic died quietly and quickly at the age 90 in 2018, surrounded by his loving family. 🇨🇦



CHAPTER UPDATE

NATIONAL CAPITAL REGION

By Richard Moreau

Hoping this newsletter finds you in good health and spirits despite the difficult two years we just lived through.

As most of you are likely aware, Rob Kearney was posted to the UK and asked me to fill in as the NCR Chapter Chair while he is away. It goes without saying that COVID-19 impacted our ability to gather as a Chapter, but with spring upon us and most public health measures being lifted across Ontario, we look forward to resuming a more regular activity schedule over the coming months.

One of our objectives for 2022/2023 is to reconnect and broaden the NCR Chapter by reaching out to the extended Dagoon family, in particular all the support trades who served with the Regiment in Canada and abroad.

If you have suggestions for an event or a venue, please do not hesitate to contact myself or Jim Atkins. We hope to see you all soon in person.

Bold and Swift! 🐉

PRESERVING WAR VETERANS' MEMORIES

Canadian War Museum project to record experiences of all eras

In April 2022 the Canadian War Museum announced its new initiative called **In Their Own Voices: Stories From Canadian Veterans and Their Families**. The dynamic project will gather first-hand experiences, including audio recordings, photographs and artifact images and will preserve the memories and post-war experiences of Canadian veterans and their families.

The historians are interested in capturing voices from all conflicts, but this project is particularly urgent given that there are now only 22,000 surviving members of the 1.1 million people in Canada who contributed to the Second World War.

Veterans and their families interested in being interviewed for this historic collection may visit www.warmuseum.ca/voices. 🐉



CHAPTER UPDATE

OTTAWA VALLEY

By Bruce Prendergast

Greetings from the Ottawa Valley Chapter. On behalf of all members, we wish you and your family happiness, good health, and prosperity over the upcoming year. Please STAY SAFE.

This has certainly been an extraordinary couple of years. Thanks to the COVID-19 pandemic, the Ottawa Valley Chapter has had to cancel two years' worth of planned activities and delay the RCD Association Reunion twice.

In April/May 2019, we set-up a Reunion planning committee. However, with the frequent changes and delays imposed by COVID-19, several of the volunteers moved on to greener pastures. Despite this, those that remained, plus a few new eager volunteers, worked hard to get everything coordinated only to have the June 2020 Reunion cancelled. This decision was not taken lightly, but for the safety of our members and families it was a necessary one.

Many discussions followed and it was finally decided we would try again to organize the Reunion for June 2021. All eyes and ears were on the news. Unfortunately, when it was announced that the general public would not be vaccinated until at least the end of September 2021, we again were forced to postpone the Reunion until the following summer.

At the time of writing, the numbers look good and, while still a concern, the COVID-19 restric-

tions have lessened enough to allow the RCD Association Reunion to go forward 17-19 June 2022 in Pembroke. Looks like the third time is the charm. It is always great to gather with comrades, the Regimental family and friends to reminisce about old times. Not to mention tackling some long overdue Association business in person. (See page 48 of this edition for an update on the June 2022 reunion.)

Our Chapter Secretary/Treasurer, Calvin Mitchell, has decided to retire from Canada Post and step down as the Secretary/Treasurer. Calvin and Darlene are heading west for an extended vacation to visit family. Congratulations to both on your retirement and thank you for all your hard work over the years. We are grateful to Andrew Fenton for stepping up and taking over as the new Secretary/Treasurer. Welcome aboard Andrew.

Once again Muggsie has been tremendous in her support of the Regiment and Association. Thank you so much for all that you do. You were definitely a vital link between the Regiment and the Association. Enjoy your retirement ... you deserve it.

In closing, once again the support of the Regiment has been outstanding. Unfortunately, due to COVID-19, there hasn't been as much interaction as we would like, but we know that both the CO and RSM are always there for us. Thanks.

Audax et Celer! / Bold and Swift! 🐉



SOUTH CENTRAL ONTARIO

By Steve Lehman

Post COVID-19 finds the South Central Ontario Chapter in a little bit of a reorganization/consolidation phase since I took over as Chapter Chair from Steve Mercer in 2021. This transition was made possible by the great and dedicated work of Terry Shaw and Marc Girard. Throughout the last few years, the lion's share of keeping the Chapter in line has been completed by two wonderful ladies: Rosemary Nash as Chapter Secretary and Heather McVety as Chapter Treasurer. Thank you, ladies, your work has been a Godsend.

Our first post-pandemic event was held 20 October 2021 at the Ontario Regiment Museum and 420 Wing. This was hosted by the ever-energetic Trooper Don White of Oshawa (*below, in 2019 with former CO LCol Marois*) who once again graced us not only with his presence but a few anecdotes from his service with the Dragoons during the Second World War. In true dashing young cavalry form, Don seemed to focus on chatting up the ladies more so than the men in the audience. Don White's BBQ also provided us with the opportunity to conduct a brief general meeting of the Association Chapter. This general meeting afforded us the chance to re-introduce ourselves as well as introduce new members of the Association. Also in attendance were Carl and Sean Wilson, the father and brother (respectively) of Trooper Mark



Wilson who gave his life in service of the Regiment, during Operation MEDUSA in Afghanistan in October 2006. Pro Patria.

11 November 2021 saw members of the Chapter parade at various locations, with me laying the Afghanistan Wreath at the Owen Sound service. In attendance were Bob and Carol Mitchell, parents of Corporal Robert James (Jim) Mitchell who also fell in Afghanistan in the service of the Regiment in October 2006.

2022 saw members of the Regiment, the Association and fellow service personnel take part in the 13th Annual Trooper Mark Wilson Memorial Motorcycle Ride hosted by the 1st Canadian Army Veterans motorcycle club in London, Ontario. The monies raised were donated to the Parkwood Hospital Veterans Care Program, Remembrance Gardens, the Men's Mission, the Woman's Shelter, and the London Soup Kitchen. To date, over \$250,000 has been donated to these wonderful charities in the name of Tpr Wilson through the 1st CAV.

With the summer fast approaching, members are looking forward to the Regimental Association Reunion in beautiful downtown Pembroke, Ontario on 17-19 June 2022. Next on the Chapter's social calendar is the Trooper Don White summer BBQ on 16 July in Oshawa at the White House.

We're still anxiously awaiting confirmation of the 100th Anniversary of the Warrior's Day parade at the Canadian National Exhibition (CNE) in Toronto this August. More to follow, cheers.

Bold and Swift! 



KINGSTON

By Tony Slack

For the second year in a row, the Government's response to the COVID-19 threat dampened our activities. 2021 also saw the departure of Doug Elliott from the Chapter Executive. Doug and his wife, LCol Lisa Elliott, were lucky enough to be posted to Germany. We wish them both well.

As the summer wore on, restrictions were lifted sufficiently for us to hold our annual End of Summer BBQ at Dean and Katrin Milner's beautiful waterfront home north of Kingston. As you can see from the picture, a great number of our members took advantage of the beautiful sunshine, good food and great company. Dragoons came from far and wide, such as Gavin Cross and family travelling from Napanee. We were also blessed to have some special guests, the newly appointed Colonel-Commandant of the RCAC, Gen (ret'd) Walt Natynczyk and his lovely wife Leslie. Coming down from Petawawa were Bill and Veletia Richards. As Doug Elliott has moved on to Europe, our newest member and fellow executive, Tom Newton, stepped up to help myself and Debbie with the cooking and serving. Many great side dishes were contributed to the barbeque fare by those in attendance, not to mention several excellent des-



serts including an impressive apple pie with RCD inscribed on top that was baked by Ron Puddister.

In November, we celebrated Leliefontein with a small social event at the local ANAF club. A fairly good turnout allowed us to keep up the Regimental traditions. Mike Babin and Rob Kennedy made the trip from Trenton. A great time to share some stories and catch up. Unfortunately, the COVID-19 situation worsened at the beginning of December resulting in reimposed restrictions. Despite valiant efforts by both our Chapter and the local Chapter of the RCR Association, we were not able to gather to mark our shared birthday.

As spring is beginning to blossom, so is our optimism for the coming year. Live events are scheduled, and we look forward to catching up with everyone. At the time of writing, we were saddened to learn of the passing of our good friend and comrade, Ron Puddister, at the end of April after a brief but well-fought battle with cancer. He is pictured in the last row of the photo to Dean Milner's left. May he rest in peace.

The Kingston and Region Chapter wishes you all the very best as we come out of this crisis and hope to see you in person soon.

Bold and Swift! 

LEFT: In no particular order, but present in the photo: Dave and Barb Henderson, Bill and Cathy Soros, Gavin Cross and family (3), Denis and Viola Levesque, Pierre and Honour Royer, Terry Cottrell, Kirk and Marie-France Thornton, Tony and Debbie Slack, Tom Newton, Chris Catry, Dean and Katrin Milner, Clive and Shirley Milner, Brian and Gitta Morton, Mark Hutchings, Jim and Nancy Follwell, Ron Puddister, Bill and Veletia Richards, Walt and Leslie Natynczyk.



CHAPTER UPDATE

ALBERTA

By Gerry Olsen & Dave Blackburn

Highlights from the couple years that weren't.

After much solicitation and cajoling from Badger and Mike Rostek, and now Perry Wells, I thought maybe I better put pen to paper and talk about everything we did as a Chapter these past few years. Nope... I got nothing....

You know, as a young Dragoon I used to read these Association Chapter articles in the yearbooks and wonder why. Now that I am semi-retired and I'm a member of a Chapter myself, I get it. I miss you all. I miss my turret. I miss the mod tent mess hall. The smell of diesel, breakfast and coffee. The Holland Room will always have a special place in my heart, and I can't wait to see the latest version in the new hangar. These Chapters help us to re-live those days and to stay in touch.

The Wainwright Dragoons continue to show the flag, led by Capt Jamie Provost, Capt Tom Elliot, Lt "Kinger" Pynn, MWO Jim Marshall, MWO Doug McIlvenna (who just retired in the fall of 2021), WO Harold Willis and so many more. It's



refreshing to see so many Springbok license plates on base. Gents like Lee Boone, Kevin Lovett, Andy Wright, Steve Wright, Dale Briggs, Dan Noieseaux, Ron Laferriere, Matt Bailey and even Joe Ramsay are all still hanging around town. We get to see each other every now and then, but we have yet to have a formal function. This COVID-19 thing took off just as Dave Blackburn and I were starting to get things rolling here in Alberta to rebuild the Alberta Chapter.

I manage to chat with General "Bobby Clobber" Meating on occasion. He's settled in Calgary, showing the flag and enjoying his retirement. Actually, he tells me he works harder at volunteering at a variety of charities than he did as a soldier. I believe it. You could never slow that man down!!

Sad news. We lost Massimo Novati in June 2020. Blood clot. A couple of us managed to attend the funeral, and Dave Blackburn did a stellar job delivering a heartfelt eulogy for Mass. We shared a few beer in the parking lot and told "Mass" stories. "Gun Nut" would be an understatement!! R.I.P. Mass... see you in the great mess hall later on.

There are a few others out here that you may have forgotten about. I know I won't get them all. In Medicine Hat are Fernando Martins, Danny White,

LEFT: Some members of the Alberta Chapter of the Royal Canadian Dragoons Association met in Medicine Hat.



Paul Keating, Ian McTaggart, Bob Barron, Mike Hutchings and more! I apologize for those I missed.

Up in Edmonton are Dave Blackburn, Donny Head, Rod Loesch, Chris Seefried, Marty Frank, Mike Hogan, Stu Ballard and so many more. Sorry if I missed you.

Down in Calgary are Randy Gray, Dave Smith, "Bobby Clobber" Meating.

In Cold Lake are Garry Naylor, Kent Aessie, Walt and Ann Smith, Jeff and Sherry Hogg, and Rob Ovens. Hoping to get up there this summer to get in some fishing with Garry and Tracey.

We have yet to be able to host a Blackhatter event since the last one in the summer of 2019. We wanted to host a Leliefontein event in Wainwright this past November 2021, but again COVID-19 shut us down.

Some notable activities took place though. WO Kevin Smith retired and took up residence in Edmonton, where he can spend more time with his grandkids. Doug McIlivini also retired, and is now



residing in Red Deer, where he too spends more time with his grandbabies. Long

LEFT: Rod Loesch, Gerry Olsen, and Kevin "Chops" Lovett at a gathering before COVID-19.



ABOVE: Harold Willis (with wife Sheila) was promoted to Warrant Officer on 31 March 2022 at CMTC HQ Wainwright, Alberta by LCol Mossop.

TOP LEFT: Tom Skelding and Gerry Olsen at the National War Memorial in Ottawa, November 2019.

time resident of ASU Wainwright, Harold Willis (yes he is still in) was promoted to WO, and serves as SQMS for the Ops Group at CMTC. Congratulations Harold!

And Krista finally made an honest man out of me. We eloped to Mexico in February of 2022 and tied the knot on the beach at sunset. Very awesome ceremony. I now reside in Edmonton, having left Lockheed Martin, and am taking IT courses.

We are looking forward to the complete removal of all the COVID-19 restrictions, when we will certainly organize a get-together for the Alberta RCD veterans.

So, here we are. A quiet couple of years in Alberta. We wanted to do all kinds of things but couldn't.

We sincerely hope this finds you all healthy and safe. In these trying times, it's really our Regimental family that keeps us sane. Thanks for being there!

Bold and Swift! 🚀



CHAPTER UPDATE

BRITISH COLUMBIA

By Bob Black

It would be an understatement to say that the last two years and a bit have been challenging. I see in my notes that when I penned the original draft of this update I wrote, "Well, wasn't 2020 the year of the suck? The only good thing about it was the hope that 2021 will be an improvement." I guess the jury is out on whether 2021 was better than 2020. At least most of us survived and will press on.

One of the most important things that happened during this time was the release of the second volume of our Regimental history. Over half of our Chapter members purchased the history and I used this as an opportunity to confirm and update our membership list. We lost a few, gained a few, but continue to sit at approximately 30 members in BC. Unfortunately, the cost of housing out here continues to skyrocket, but we have welcomed some new, and relatively younger, members of our Chapter so that is encouraging to the rest of



us "old war horses." There are still some retired Dragoons hiding out in various nooks and crannies around the province and I continue to try to entice them into the Association.

Speaking of members, we lost three from the Chapter during this time. We were sad to lose Fred Berge in 2020. Nobody who had met or worked with Fred will ever forget him. And in 2021 we lost BGen Pat Carew and John Pierce. Pat and John were distinguished Dragoons with many years of devoted service to the Regiment and the Corps.

Notwithstanding the miserable pandemic situation, as restrictions eased, so did our ability to socialize improve. We were honoured by a visit of the Colonel of the Regiment, President of the Association and Regimental Patron in September of 2021. This was probably one of the first times most of us had been let out of virtual detention for over a year, and we had about 25 attendees from across BC and even one outlier from Alberta! We enjoyed a convivial lunch sitting on the Sidney waterfront in The Rumrunner Pub, which had opened especially for us that day. It was so nice to get out.

Our next gathering took place in November where the Left Coast Lancers (LCL) came together to celebrate the battle of Liliefontein. The LCL consists of all Black Hatters on Vancouver Island who

From left to right: Paul Philcox, Davy Sproule, Bob Black, and Paul Crober.



ABOVE: The Rumrunner Pub on the Sidney, BC waterfront.

RIGHT: From left to right: Gene Lake, John Olafson, Davy Sproule, Paul Crober, Bob Black, Gary del Villano. (Darrell Dean is AWOL from the photo.)

gather twice annually. Although BC was in the midst of a torrential rainfall that crippled travel across much of the province, we were able to gather seven Dragoons to celebrate.

In December 2021 we found ourselves beset by yet another COVID-19 variant that constrained our ability to gather to celebrate our Regimental birthday. However, Darrell Dean did gather a small group to celebrate on the mainland. I have been encouraging more regional gatherings and trying to get away from always doing everything in Victoria. Our members are aging and not as mobile as they once were, and with the price of travel increasing, regional get-togethers are more appropriate.



Finally, in March of 2022, we joined again with the Left Coast Lancers to celebrate Moreuil Wood. There were not as many Dragoons as usual, but those who were there made enough of an impact to make up for the lack of numbers.

So overall we have made the best of the situation and, as usual, thoroughly enjoyed our comradeship. We look forward to 2022 and the hopes of more opportunities to gather and celebrate the Regiment and our history together.

Audax et Celer! 🏆



LEEWARDEN 2022

FOLLOWING HISTORIC DRAGOON FOOTSTEPS

By Peter Atkinson

The original plan was to take 50 Dragoons to Leeuwarden in 2020 on the 75th Anniversary of the liberation of Leeuwarden. Included in that group was going to be Don White, an RCD trooper who was part of the Dragoons' lead elements that liberated Leeuwarden on 15 April 1945. Tom Skelding and I, Peter Atkinson, were the planners of the trip. Tom did all the route planning so that we would follow the Dragoon advance through the Netherlands, and he was going to provide the historical commentary. I did the travel planning and the coordination with the Dutch authorities and CAA, our travel agency for the trip. We had a great Dutch liaison officer, Gerhard Hendriks, who was appointed by the Canadian embassy in The Hague to help us. He was instrumental in helping us with all the detailed planning on the ground in the Netherlands. He helped to set up all the ceremonies at each location we were to visit, and he secured a band and colour party to accompany us throughout the tour. It is worth noting at this point that the Dutch were so happy that we were coming, they bent over backwards to ensure the visit by the Dragoon contingent was going to be memorable.



As we all know, the world changed in 2020 with the onset of the global pandemic we now know as COVID-19. By 15 March 2020, 30 days out from the trip, I received that fated call with the Dutch and we took the decision to cancel the trip with the intent to revisit in 2021. We went through the tough process of cancelling all the reservations. This was a painful undertaking as the travel industry had never encountered such a mass travel cancellation on this scale before. It took almost three months to obtain refunds and, in some cases, we were only able to get a partial refund and then we were dealing with insurance claims. For the most part, we were able to secure refunds for all.

2021 rolled around and Tom Skelding and I were in constant contact with our Dutch counterparts. By February it was clear that the pandemic was still raging and that nothing was going to happen that year, so we set our sights on 2022. Through the fall of 2021 and the early months of 2022, Tom Skelding and I worked with our Dutch colleagues and CAA, and we resurrected the entire program. All the signs were positive that the Leeuwarden trip 2.0 was going to happen. Then the Omicron variant of COVID-19 happened, and we had to make the difficult decision to cancel the Dragoon trip once again.

It was at this point that I made the personal decision that, if the world travel situation allowed, I

RIGHT: The Hotel de Wereld in Arnhem, where Germany surrendered and ended their occupation of the Netherlands on 5 May 1945.

OPPOSITE PAGE: At the small Dutch town of Burdaard, the mayor, local school children, and Peter Atkinson held a short ceremony to honour the memory of Lt William Thomas Buddell, RCD (24 years old), who was shot by a German sniper on 16 April 1945.

LEFT: Former Dragoon Jeff Draper and Peter Atkinson telling a few war stories at a Dutch café in Amsterdam.

was going to carry on and go to the Netherlands on my own. I had always planned to follow up our visit to Leeuwarden with a Viking cruise from Amsterdam to Budapest with my wife Diana. In fact, Bryan and Rachel Forsyth also booked the same cruise with us. We tracked Omicron up to our planned departure date and we made the decision to go for it. In the meantime, I had reached out to Gerhard Hendriks and told him of my intentions to come to Leeuwarden on my own; he in turn reached out to the organizing committee and Leeuwarden 3.0 for one Dragoon was back on.

We had all our vaccinations and we had to get our pre-flight negative COVID-19 tests and that all went OK. The Forsyths and the Atkinsons boarded the flight in Ottawa for Amsterdam on 11 April 2022. We landed in Amsterdam and passed through all the arrival COVID-19 protocols without incident and the Forsyths headed off in their rental car to Belgium while Diana and I made our way to our hotel in Amsterdam.

Diana and I spent our first 36 hours touring around Amsterdam and getting over our jet lag.





ABOVE: A map from the Kamp Westerbork Museum showing the role it played during WWII.

LEFT: Having lunch with private museum collector Jorrit Volkers and local dignitaries.

On the 13 April we married up with a former Dragoon, Jeff Draper, who had retired and was now working and living in Amsterdam. Jeff was our other man on the ground who was instrumental in our planning for the trip. We caught up at a Dutch café along one of Amsterdam's many canals over supper and good Dutch beer. The next day Diana and I picked up our rental car and drove south toward Arnhem and the Hotel de Wereld, the site of the capitulation of the German troops on 5 May 1945, and the end of the German occupation of the Netherlands in World War II. We went into the hotel and saw the room where the surrender took place and looked at all the artifacts and photos on display. We then had some Dutch coffee and headed off to Kamp Westerbork, a former concentration camp that was liberated by the Canadians and Don White. The RCD Recce Squadron were the first troops to arrive, and Don tells the story of seeing the children and giving them food. There is a good museum, and the camp is largely open fields as all the camp was torn down after the war. There are replica displays where the original infrastructure once stood, plus a touching monument on what looked like a parade square with small copper-coloured stones for each of the prisoners that had died there. While visiting Kamp Westerbork I called Don White back in Toronto to let him know where we were and to give him my impressions of the visit.

RIGHT: Raising the RCD flag at Leeuwarden City Hall with local school children on 15 April 2022, exactly 77 years after the liberation of that town by the RCD on 15 April 1945.

We stayed about two hours and had lunch at the museum before heading cross-country along the back roads to the Canadian War Cemetery at Holten. It is a beautiful resting place for our Canadian soldiers who fell in battle while liberating the Netherlands. Diana and I walked around the cemetery and located all the Dragoon soldiers interred there. I was glad that I went and able to honour our fallen. We then drove north to Leeuwarden about 90 minutes away. We went directly to the Leeuwarden Post Plaza Hotel and met up with Gerhard Hendriks and his wife for dinner.



The impressive entrance to the Holten Canadian War Cemetery.

The next morning after breakfast we left for Leeuwarden City Hall, where we were met by the mayor and city council, a Dutch military contingent, a group of school children and the press. As I walked up to the city hall, I could see the Dragoon brass plaque from 1983 on the wall of the building and I could see the flagpole all prepared to raise the Dragoon flag. After a short reception with everyone inside city hall, we came outside for the ceremony to raise the Dragoon flag in front of city hall. The mayor and I both spoke and then, with the military contingent looking on, the children and I raised the Dragoon flag. I then met with the local press to talk about the significance of the event. This was followed by a walking tour of the city, stopping to view locations of historical significance from 15 April 1945. We also visited the Holocaust Museum that had recently opened. We returned to city hall and had a wonderful luncheon with the mayor and his council. The local Dutch Liberation Committee had assigned us two great escorts, Marco Kalmijn and Yme Westra. Following lunch they drove us to Burdaard for a second short ceremony at the location where Lt Buddell was killed in action. There is a beautiful cairn in the small town; the mayor and school children met us there and we held a short ceremony to honour our fallen. We then did a short walking tour of the town and recounted the action of the day Lt Buddell was killed by a sniper.

I thanked the mayor for honouring the memory of our Dragoon and we departed for our last visit of the day. It was to a private museum collection

owned by Jorrit Volkers. He has a collection of over 100 Second World War vehicles. They include tanks, amphibious landing craft, jeeps, prime movers, motorcycles and even some German staff cars. It is an incredible collection. This gentleman was very interested in everything to do with the Dragoons. He has our flag, and copies of maps that followed the Dragoon operations in the Netherlands. He even had copies of our Regimental histories. I promised to send him a copy of our latest edition. Following our tour of his wonderful museum we gathered in his home for a happy hour. The mayor of Burdaard regaled us by playing on a Grand piano — we came to find out that he was not only the mayor but also a professional singer and songwriter. It was a great way to finish off our visit to Leeuwarden.

The next day Diana and I continued our tour, which followed the Dragoon advance north through Mildham, Oostmahorn and on to Dockum and Groningen. I followed the map routes that Tom Skelding had prepared for the tour. It was a great day. That evening Diana and I had a nice dinner in the Leeuwarden market *platz* and the next morning we returned to Amsterdam. We got to drive through all the tulip fields as we were there right in the middle of prime tulip season. We checked into our hotel adjacent to the port and met up with the Forsyths for dinner that night. It was my birthday so a fitting end to our visit to Leeuwarden. The next morning, we boarded our Viking cruise ship for our sailing up the Rhine and Danube to Budapest. But that is a story for another day. 🚢



HONOURING MARK

13TH ANNUAL TPR MARK WILSON RIDE

Trooper Mark Andrew Wilson, son of Carl and Carolyn Wilson, and husband of Dawn Wilson, was born 15 December 1966. Mark and family resided in London, ON. Mark decided late in life to answer the ‘call to duty,’ becoming a member of The Royal Canadian Dragoons. He was tragically killed in Afghanistan on 7 October 2006 at the age of 39. Mark was repatriated home and laid to rest at St. Peter’s RC Cemetery, London, ON.

In 2010 a veterans-based motorcycle riding club in London, the 1st Canadian Army Veterans (CAV) Ortona Unit, decided to host an annual Trooper Mark Wilson Ride. This annual event would occur on the 2nd weekend of May. All proceeds raised would be donated to the Veterans Care Program at St Joseph’s Parkwood Hospital. A couple of Second World War Dragoons were resident in the veterans’ wing of that hospital.

After a few years hiatus due to the COVID-19 pandemic, this event was brought back to life as the 13th Annual Trooper Mark Wilson Ride on 14 May 2022. The RCD Association supported this event

with nine members participating in the ride portion. The evening prior we all gathered with some local London/St. Thomas-based Dragoons for a beer call at a local sports bar. The following day a couple more local Dragoons attended the closing ceremonies at Remembrance Gardens in London.

All in all, Carl and Carolyn Wilson, who are Honourary Associate Life Members of the RCD Association, were very appreciative and overjoyed at the contingent of Dragoons at this year’s event to honour and remember their son. 🇨🇦

Dragoons at the 13th Annual Tpr Mark Wilson Ride, 14 May 2022 in London. Kneeling (left to right): Sean Wilson, Steve Lehman. First row (left to right): Lynda Cassleman, Greg Young, Carl Wilson, Carolyn Wilson, Denis Levesque, Randy Cassleman. Back row (left to right): Dan Hawco, Trent Williams, Mario Desroches, Tom Moran, John Nayduk, Tom Skelding, Ed Clarke.

Pay Parade

By David Sproule

I’m guessing that pay parade has passed into history like so many things that were familiar to those that served in the pre-direct deposit, pre-digital days. Like puttees and weights, no more pay parades. I still have distinct memories of pay parade, and we got paid this way whether in garrison or in the field. It was a simple procedure but not an efficient one by today’s standards. The SSM and the troop sergeants got everyone lined up alphabetically, which was easy because every soldier knew who he stood behind.

The paymaster, a captain in the Royal Canadian Army Pay Corps, and his pay clerk sergeant sitting to his right, behind a small portable table known as a “3’ folding” or perhaps its larger cousin the “6’ folding”. The briefcase, full of cash, was under the table. The Regimental Police sergeant stood behind them with holstered sidearm, looking stern and arms folded. The general impression was, “Don’t try anything stupid.”

It was a parade, and everyone was quiet and there were usually smiles on faces as troopers were planning on how to spend their cash. And the lucky few who had recently been promoted knowing to a penny how much additional cash would be counted out. The paymaster being ready, Trooper “A” steps up to the table, leans over and signs the acquittance roll shoved forward by the pay sergeant. The paymaster then counts out the bills, soldier picks up the cash with his left hand, steps back and gives the paymaster a “Big 5” (salute), turns right and marches off. Trooper “B” follows suit and so forth until the last soldier has received his pay (we had a soldier whose name started with



David Sproule waits to receive his Egyptian pounds from Canadian paymaster Captain Hovey Tripp, United Nations Emergency Force (UNEF) 1962.

“Z”, poor fellow.) In the meantime, the officers have been idling in the rear, but then it was their turn and so followed the same drill. Once the squadron was paid, the paymaster and his party jumped into their vehicle and headed off to the next squadron. I expect this pay parade procedure was as old as soldiering itself.

The pay staff were highly respected by everyone. When I was in the Dragoons, our paymaster was Captain Reg Kearns, a quiet, thoughtful, and compassionate man with two rows of ribbons on his chest from the war, but one was different from our officer veterans as Reg had the Air Crew Europe Star. He had been on Lancaster bombers and had flown many missions over Germany.

I also remember from my Canadian Officers Training Corps (COTC) and militia days that we were only paid twice yearly, and by cheque, at stand-down at Christmas and in May/June. If we were called out in the summer, then like the regular force we lined up, picked up cash, saluted, turned right, etc. Yes, I know everything nowadays is digital, efficient, but impersonal too. Pay parade was a big deal with an ancient tradition and, as I remember, was usually on a Friday — even better. 🇨🇦



THE CAT

THE OLYMPIC GAMES OF TANK GUNNERY

What is CAT? The Canadian Army Trophy was first offered for tank gunnery competition among the NATO tank forces in 1963. Since then, the competition has been held biennially and has moved upwards from a meeting of gentlemen interested in a little shooting, to the Olympic Games of tank gunnery with millions of dollars of tank sales resting on the outcome.

What is CAT? Same question, different answer. Each country nominates a line battalion on duty in NATO to compete. The battalion in turn designates five troops of three tanks each (15 total). By lottery, four out of the five troops compete for CAT and the top three scores count. Each country sends one troop to do battle each of four days. On the fifth day, the troops of each nation not drawn by lottery compete for a separate trophy. There is absolutely no difference in the calibre of competition in these two separate events as the participants are chosen by lottery and all are trained for CAT.

To pose the question differently. What is CAT? Crisis, Anxiety and Tension; this is CAT. Until you have sat in the gunner's seat on a battle run at this calibre of competition you don't even know what tension is!

The crew commander, well he's just about as anxious as one can get. If you know how close the gunner's head is to the lower anatomy of the crew commander, you can appreciate that the gunner's tension is increased, just praying that the crew commander doesn't become too anxious!





In the beginning it had been all so new: the competition rules, the SOPs, the drills. There was so much to learn. The indoor miniature range (IMR), trying to get it all together: one more run and then the debrief. And the discussions, they could go on forever. There must be a million ways to do it, and we had to find the best.

It was hard work, with lots of skinned knuckles from changing machine guns on the move, but we did it, and did it again, until we could do it in our sleep. We did the maintenance with special care, checking

and checking again: it all had to work. And we spent more hours on the IMR and we did get it together, better than we would ever have believed.

In April we headed out to Regimental Gun Camp in Bergen-Hohne with a will. Eager to put all of our dry training to the test, we found that there was more to learn, and problems to solve. Superb work was done by our mechanics, and we all got to know our equipment better. We fired battle-run after battle-run, and at the end we were ready to take on NATO's best.

1981 - Competition change: 4-tank platoons are the competing elements. The U.S. standard at the time was still a 5-tank platoon. A proportional scoring system is used for the British 3-tank platoons.


| 1981 | Rank | Unit | Nation |
|---|------|--------------------------------------|--|
|  | | | |
| Leopard 1A4 | 1 | 4. Kompanie, Panzerbataillon 294 |  Germany |
| Leopard 1A1 | 2 | 2e Lansiers |  Belgium |
| M60A3 | 3 | C Company, 1st Battalion, 32nd Armor |  United States |
| Leopard 1A3 | 4 | A Squadron, Royal Canadian Dragoons |  Canada |
| Chieftan Mk.9 | 5 | C Squadron, Queen's Own Hussars |  United Kingdom |
| Leopard 1A1 | 6 | B Eskadron, 41 Tankbataljon |  Netherlands |

12-19 June 1981
Grafenwöhr, West Germany
Hosted by United States



Our three-week stay in Grafenwöhr was enjoyed by all. We trained hard when we had the ranges, we worked hard on our tanks, making sure each detail was taken care of, and we played hard in our spare time. The team received support of the

highest standard from the CAT support organization that deployed with it and from the rest of the Regiment who picked up the extra load back at home.

Competition Week. Excitement, pressure, moments of ecstasy and of despair. We didn't win. We came fourth out of six. But we were up against the best and we were in it to the very end. We made friends; we had fun; but most of all we learned about ourselves and about our tank. We will be there in '83; once again we will make the rest of NATO stand up and take notice. 

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CHERISHED MEMORIES DRAGOONS IN HOLLAND, 1995

By Captain James Bradley

The Royal Canadian Dragoons' foreign adventures in 1995 did not only include Bosnia and Herzegovina. For ten soldiers of the Regiment, 1995 will be memorable for a trip to a different country, seemingly millions of miles away from Bosnia. These soldiers were fortunate enough to be able to travel to Holland for the 50th anniversary celebrations of the country's liberation from Nazi occupation.

Having just completed six months with UNPROFOR in Bosnia, Holland was a welcome change. The contingent departed Petawawa on 30 April and the official events carried on until 8 May. The pace for the nine days was hectic. There were no complaints though, because no one was shooting, there were no land mines and flak jackets were not required attire. The contingent was headed by myself and MWO Tom Skelding. Each squadron was represented by at least one soldier and wherever we went in Holland we were known as the "ten guys from Bosnia." The RCD was the only regiment that sent a contingent of soldiers to attend the ceremonies with their veterans. We were proud to be there, and Dragoon veterans were equally proud that we were there to share the experience with them.

Each town in Holland was hosting Canadian veterans. The ten of us, along with approximately fifty Dragoon veterans and 200 other veterans, were in the town of Almelo, which is in the eastern part of the country. The hospitality could not have been better. The entire town was decorated, and all citizens made the Canadians feel welcome. It was especially nice to be at a function where everyone from the youngest to oldest was singing *O Canada*.



through the front gate of the camp 50 years ago. He retold in great detail the events of that day as he and his lieutenant entered the camp as liberators. It was history in the flesh.

May 4th is a very special day. It is the Dutch National Memorial Day, the equivalent of our Remembrance Day. We

The veterans and serving soldiers were all billeted with host families, who worked hard to make the Canadians feel at home. They seemed to be very proud to be hosting the Canadians and relished in treating us well. Many close friendships were formed. Indeed, shortly after his return to Petawawa, Master-Corporal Bacon had the pleasure of hosting his Dutch host family here in Canada.

The events over the nine days were quite varied. There were emotional events, such as the Memorial Service at the Canadian War Cemetery in Holten, parades in three different cities, and a special show put on by a theatre company from England. One very touching moment was when there were 6,000 veterans visiting Camp Westerbork. This was a collection point for Dutch Jews, Gypsies, and others deemed undesirable by the Nazi occupiers. From Westerbork they were sent to places such as Auschwitz and Birkenau. Of the more than 104,000 people who were sent out of the camp, only 5,000 survived the war. A Dutch television crew who was documenting the 50th anniversary celebrations was talking to one of the Dragoon veterans. Art Thompson was one of the first

went to the Canadian War Cemetery in Holten for a huge ceremony. Of the 1,400 graves, more than 1,200 are Canadian. There are 13 Dragoon soldiers buried in Holten. We visited each one and placed small Canadian and RCD flags at each. It was very moving to listen to the Dragoon veterans talking about their fallen comrades.

The evening of the 4th had us as the Guard of Honour for the ceremony in our host community of Almelo. Corporals Draper and Balser were in Scarlets. At the end of the ceremony, they were very popular and seemingly had their photographs taken by everyone in town. During the ceremony Brigadier-General Bell placed a wreath on behalf of the veterans.



May 5th proved to be another big day. The Dragoon veterans, their wives, and the ten serving soldiers drove up to Leeuwarden for a parade and celebrations there. Although there were approximately 700 veterans in the city, the RCD were the guests of honour. As we entered the city it was very interesting to listen to the veterans as they told the tale of when they first entered the city 50 years before. Our first function was to have a special ceremony at the former Royal Palace. Major-General Milner presented to the city a montage of the RCD Battle Group's deployment to Bosnia and each of us received a special medal commemorating 50 years of liberation. Next was the raising of the Regimental flag at City Hall.

Following these events was a huge parade. The parade included 350 Second World War vehicles. The Colonel of the Regiment had the honour of leading the parade in a vintage World War II-era jeep. BGen Bell followed shortly thereafter riding a motorcycle similar to one he had used during the war. The ten serving Dragoons were in or on a variety of the vintage vehicles as they drove through the city. To top things off, there was a Spitfire and other old aircraft, including the Memphis Belle, flying overhead. That evening there was a dinner for all the Canadians and local dignitaries. Again, the RCD were the guests of honour. It was all very overwhelming. Following the dinner, the ten of us went to the local airbase where we were staying for the night.

Up at 0730 hours for our return trip to Almelo where we had a parade through the centre of town. It was not as big as Leeuwarden, but I enjoyed it more, as it was more intimate. Since it was our host town, we knew the people and they knew us. We formed up and, once the Pipe Band started to play, we began marching. Again, we had two of the soldiers in Scarlets. The crowd was even better than in Leeuwarden. They closed in on us and the veterans. Flowers, hugs and kisses were flowing freely towards the veterans. It was a parade like no other we had been in. Then again, the same could be said of the parade the previous day. That evening there was a performance put on by a theatre group from England. It had all the old songs and included a couple of skits of "Dad's



Left to right: BGen Jean-Prospere Gautier, MWO Tom Skelding and BGen George Bell at the Leeuwarden Town Hall, 5 May 1995.

Army." It was a magnificent performance and was thoroughly enjoyed by all.

May 8th was the great National Parade in Apeldoorn. It was also perhaps one of the most unorthodox parades ever experienced. There was no plan for the ten serving Dragoons to be in the parade. We were to be spectators and let the real veterans have their day. The Dragoon veterans had other ideas though. They wanted their Bosnian "veterans" in with them. In what will no doubt be a memorable moment in his life, Corporal Barker was flanked by the Colonel of the Regiment, Major-General Milner and Brigadier-General Bell. The three of them proudly lead the RCD contingent. Along the route, with its many stops and starts, people were handing out flowers and pins. Some of the more spry veterans had impromptu dances with the locals.

Apeldoorn was the last official event for us. After such a fast-paced week most of us were ready to relax. Some of us came home while others, such as Corporals Johnson and Bessey, stayed in Holland for a few extra days. The events of the 50th anniversary were a once in a lifetime experience. The ten of us will not soon forget our experiences in Holland. All of those who were there — veterans, spouses, the serving soldiers, and the Dutch — will have memories that will be cherished for a lifetime. 🇳🇱

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THE LEOPARD TANK REPLACEMENT PROJECT

DEFENCE PROCUREMENT AGAINST ALL ODDS



ABOVE: A Leopard 2A6M Main Battle Tank from The Lord Strathcona's Horse (Royal Canadians) on patrol with the 1 Royal Canadian Regiment Battle Group (1 RCR BG) in Kandahar Province, Afghanistan. Photo by Cpl Shilo Adamson.

LEFT: A Leopard C2 Main Battle Tank with a mine plow attached to the front. Photo by Sgt Dennis Power.

Lieutenant-Colonel (ret'd) Perry Wells
The Royal Canadian Dragoons

(Project Director for the Tank Replacement Project from March 2007 to August 2011)

Throughout the early 2000s, as the Canadian Army was shifting toward becoming a multipurpose, combat-capable land force equipped almost exclusively with wheeled vehicles, the number of in-service Leopard C2ⁱ main battle tanks was slowly being reduced. The gradual phasing out of the Leopard



ABOVE & LEFT: Leopard 2A6M CAN rollout, 2 August 2007 at KMW in Munich. Photo courtesy of KWM Munich.

C2 was in anticipation of the acquisition of 66 Mobile Gun Systems (MGS) from General Dynamics Land Systems (GDLS) which mounted a 105 mm main gun on an eight-wheeled light armoured vehicle (LAV) chassis. [In an article published on 13 May 2021, the U.S. Army announced that it would divest all of its Stryker MGS by the end of 2022, citing ‘obsolescence and systemic issues’ with the cannon and autoloader (www.army-technology.com/news/us-army-ditching-stryker-mobile-gun-systems/). In hindsight, it was a good thing Canada did not purchase the MGS.] By 2006, most of the Leopard C2s were in the process of being decommissioned for disposal, with many waiting to be turned into monuments and museum displays.

It was against this backdrop in April 2006 that the decision was taken to cancel the MGS project, leaving the Army without a dedicated, mobile, direct fire platform. This cancellation would relegate the Royal Canadian Armoured Corps



(RCAC) to a reconnaissance and surveillance role only. The Armoured Corps was getting out of the tank business.

As this was taking place in Ottawa, Canada’s war effort in Afghanistan had recently shifted from Kabul to Kandahar in the south. In September 2006, the 1st Royal Canadian Regiment (1 RCR) Battle Group launched Operation MEDUSA in an attempt to clear the Panjwaii District of Taliban fighters. However, certain aspects of the operation did not go well, and a number of Canadian soldiers were killed and their equipment destroyed. That led to the Battle Group commander, Lieutenant-Colonel Omer Lavoie, to request the immediate deployment of main battle tanks to support all future operations. Operation MEDUSA poignantly highlighted the need for a highly mobile (tracked), well protected, large calibre, direct fire capability — namely, a tank. And with that request, the RCAC was back in the tank business.

On 15 September 2006, the Government of Canada committed to Afghanistan a squadron of 15 Leopard C2 tanks (plus two spares) and two armoured recovery vehicles (ARV) from the Lord Strathcona’s Horse (Royal Canadians). A call went out to

LEFT: Canada’s ambassador to Germany, Paul Dubois (centre), accepts the ceremonial key to the first Leopard 2A6M CAN from Stefan Krischik, KMW CFO, during the rollout ceremony. Also present are Lieutenant-Colonel Stéphane Siegrist, Project Manager, and Lieutenant-Colonel Perry Wells, Project Director. Photo courtesy of KMW Munich.



Live-fire gun camp, Range 6, Bergen-Hohne, October 2010. This was the last of 14 courses run at the *Panzertruppschule*. Photo by Capt Alain Bernard.

identify the best Leopard C2s still in active service, plus those slated for disposal, from which to select the tanks that could most easily be readied for immediate deployment to Afghanistan.ⁱⁱ Not surprisingly, as soon as they arrived, the Leopard C2 tanks provided enhanced protection, deterred insurgent attacks and cleared routes of mines and explosives with their plows, rollers and dozer blades. The superior mobility, protection and firepower of the tank provided the ability to access insurgent positions that were otherwise impassable to wheeled, light armoured vehicles.

But even as the Leopard C2s were being prepared for Afghanistan, it became obvious that they would have a number of deficiencies that would need to be addressed. Namely, the lack of all-round protection against non-conventional 360-degree threats (in particular, rocket-propelled grenades, mines and IEDs), issues with internal environmental controls, and the progressively worsening obsolescence management issues (e.g., lack of spare parts).

LEOPARD 1 MAIN BATTLE TANK

The Leopard 1 main battle tank was originally designed for operations in a conventional war

RIGHT: First serial of Canadian shadow instructors at the Royal Netherlands Army Land Training Centre, Amersfoort. Photo by Capt Brian Corbett.

in the temperate climate of northwest Europe. Therefore, it was poorly suited to the Afghanistan climate where the summer daytime temperature could easily reach above 40 degrees Celsius. Compounding the problem was the hydraulic turret drive system, which was a significant source of internal heating, particularly since it had to cope with moving the additional appliqué armour that had been added to the turret. That combination of solar and equipment heating would cause temperatures of 60 (+) degrees Celsius inside the tank, rendering the crew combat ineffective and causing equipment failures. In addition, Canada’s aging Leopard C2 tanks lacked sufficient mine blast and fragmentation protection for the specific threats faced in Afghanistan. The driver’s station was particularly vulnerable and could not be effectively protected. Also, the hydraulic fluid used in the hydraulic turret drive was a fire/burn hazard in the event of a mine incident. Finally, the Leopard C2 was at its absolute weight limit regarding automotive performance, and any





The first Leopard 2A6M CAN arrives at Kandahar in Afghanistan on 15 August 2007 aboard an Antonov 124-100 aircraft. Photo by MCpl Bruno Turcotte.

additional armour, such as a mine blast kit, would severely limit mobility and increase the rate of drive line system failures. Overarching all of this was the fact that the Leopard C2 was at the end of its serviceable life. Industry was to cease support in 2012, which would render it unsupportable by 2015, if not sooner.

LEOPARD 2 MAIN BATTLE TANK

In 1979, the Leopard 2 main battle tank entered service as the Leopard 2A4 with the German Army, and it has undergone several enhancements since. Later versions of the Leopard 2 (such as the Leopard 2A5 and Leopard 2A6) and special purpose vehicles are almost exclusively produced from the initial 3,600 Leopard 2A4s. The Leopard 2 is currently in service with 19 armies worldwide, with a number of nations considering its purchase.

TANKS IN AFGHANISTAN

To address the deficiencies with the deployed Leopard C2, a small but capable team was assembled in the late autumn of 2006 to look at options to quickly replace it with a more sustainable and capable vehicle. That led to the formal stand-up of the Tank Replacement Project in January 2007 with an absolute maximum budget of \$650 million.

The Army leadership and project team also saw this as an opportunity to replace the entire fleet of aging Leopard C2s with a modern main battle tank now that the MGS project was cancelled. The Tank Replacement Project therefore had two linked but separate objectives: to replace the Leopard C2s in Afghanistan, and to acquire a new state-of-the-art tank for the RCAC.

The first and most urgent challenge was to identify possible tanks that were immediately available to face the asymmetric threats found in Afghanistan — namely, direct fire (mainly from rocket-propelled grenades), mines and IEDs. A number of options were pursued to include the American M1 Abrams, French Leclerc, Israeli Merkava and German Leopard 2. The only tank that was readily available with the necessary protection was the German Leopard 2A6M, and it was the “M” (mine protection) that tipped the scales in its favour.

The next hurdle was to approach Germany about the possibility of purchasing, leasing, renting or borrowing a squadron of Leopard 2A6Ms. After some lengthy negotiations, the German Army Commander eventually agreed to provide Canada with 20 of his recently upgraded Leopard



2A6Ms and two Leopard 2 ARVs. The initial agreement required Canada to pay Germany 10 million euros for the use of their equipment. However, thanks to the intervention of Colonel Tony Battista, the Canadian Defence Attaché in Berlin, that was negotiated to zero and became a no-cost loan. As there were just 70 or so Leopard 2A6Ms in existence worldwide at the time, and Canada now had 20 of them, Germany only agreed to a two-year loan (ending on 1 September 2009). At the time, that was acceptable, as Canada’s mandate in Afghanistan was to end at the same time. It is worth noting that one of the reasons Germany agreed to support Canada’s request for tanks was that they saw it as a way to fulfill a portion of their commitment to the NATO mission in Afghanistan.

As modern and capable as the Leopard 2A6M was, it still needed a number of critical upgrades before it would be ready for operations in an asymmetric theatre of war. In addition to our own in-house research, the Tank Replacement Project also received excellent advice from Denmark, Norway and Sweden on which upgrades to consider. The task of preparing the tanks for Afghanistan was contracted to Krauss-Maffei Wegmann (KMW) in Munich, Germany, and included: an in-depth service check and tune-up; installation of Canadian communications equipment; integration of a cooling system (which included a



ABOVE & LEFT: Leopard 2A6M CAN Main Battle Tanks in Afghanistan. Photos by Cpl Shilo Adamson (above) and Cpl James Nightingale (left).

thermal blanket, turret “umbrella,” insulation between the engine bay and crew compartment, and crew chiller vests); provision of Canadian-specific storage requirements; improved torsion bars and hydraulic bump stops; an explosion suppression system in the fuel tanks; canister ammunition; enhanced glacis plate armour; and slat armourⁱⁱⁱ to the rear and sides of the turret and hull. That long list of items was completed in approximately three months and required KMW to add extra shifts to their work force and incur penalties on other contracts that had to be pushed aside to make room for Canada. The resulting modifications and improvements created the newly designated Leopard 2A6M CAN.

Similar modifications were done by Rheinmetall Landsysteme (RLS) in Unterlüß, Germany, to the two Leopard 2 *Biiffel* 3 ARVs that were also borrowed from Germany.

Canada is one of only a few armies that mount mine clearance implements (mine rollers and mine



RIGHT: Canada formally signs the purchase agreement with the Netherlands on 14 December 2007. Photo by Sébastien Provost.



LEFT: During their Leopard 2 conversion course, Sgt Steve Slade, Cpl Trevor Osborne, Tpr Tony Drew and Tpr Ryan Chase were assessed to be the top students in their respective crew position. In recognition of that achievement, they had the honour of being the first Canadian crew to operate the Leopard 2A4M CAN. Here they are accepting the “key” to the first Leopard 2A4M CAN from Frank Haun, KMW CEO, on 7 October 2010. Photo by Capt Alain Bernard.

plows) on their main battle tanks. The expectation was that implements could also be mounted on the Leopard 2A6M CAN but, after analysis by KMW, it was determined that this would not be possible. It turns out that, unlike the large monolithic plates of thick armour steel that were welded together to form the hull of the Leopard 1, the Leopard 2 hull is modular in design and made up of various “compartments”^{iv} that have been welded together. As a result, the amount of stress (in particular, torsional stress) the hull can accommodate is reduced as compared to the Leopard 1. That meant that some Leopard C2s would have to remain in theatre while a solution to the mine plow and mine roller problem was found.

LEOPARD 2A6M TRAINING

In parallel to preparing the tanks, the tank crews needed to be trained. As the Armour School would not have the ability to train Leopard 2 crews for several years, the Tank Replacement Project reached out to a number of NATO Leopard 2 user nations to see who had the capacity and availability to train Canadian tank crews. Spain, Denmark, the Netherlands and Germany were all considered, with the *Panzertruppenschule* in Munster, Germany, being the preferred option as they offered a turnkey solution.

The challenge was to develop a training methodology that recognized the fact that the Canadian tank crews had completed all their Afghanistan work-up training on the Leopard C2 and were, in essence, at the “operational readiness” (OPRED) level to deploy. The only thing missing was a “conversion” course to the Leopard 2A6M CAN.

However, before any training could take place, turret drills had to be developed that addressed the differences between how German and Canadian tank crews fight a tank. For that task, 24 “shadow instructors” from the Armour School and across the RCAC were trained over two course serials at the Dutch Armour School in Amersfoort. Those shadow instructors were responsible for the development of Canadian turret drills and target engagement procedures that they then taught, in conjunction with German gunnery instructors, at the German Armour School. Canadian shadow instructors (plus German-to-English and/or German-to-French interpreters^v) were used during each of the subsequent 14 course serials of conversion training.

While the turret crews were learning to fire the main gun, the drivers underwent extensive driver and maintenance (D&M) training before they were joined up with their turret crew for the last week of training.

A four-week conversion course with the capacity to train ten crews at a time was put in place. That included a one-week live-fire gun camp at the end of the course. In total, 140 crews (560 all ranks) coming from all Regular Force armoured regiments and some Reserve units were converted to the Leopard 2A6M CAN. A total of 210,000 x 7.62 mm machine gun rounds, 5,740 x 120 mm main armament rounds (including training practice discarding sabot [TPDS], operational high explosive antitank [HEAT] and training practice HEAT rounds) were fired.

The cooperation and support shown by the *Panzertruppenschule* was incredible when you consider that they had to turn over their entire school two

RIGHT: Leopard 2A4M CAN. Photo by Capt Alain Bernard.



to three times a year for four weeks at a time to train soldiers from another nation. Training was of the highest quality and quickly became a matter of immense pride for the German instructors and interpreters.

Technician training was jointly conducted by KMW and RLS over a seven-week period. Materiel support (vehicles and tooling) was provided by the *Bundeswehr*. Seven weeks was recognized as insufficient time to fully train a technician, and the shortfall was made up by deploying field service representatives (FSR) from industry during the time the Leopard 2s were in Afghanistan.

LOGISTICS SUPPORT

The last piece of the puzzle was logistics support. This was the first time that any nation had deployed the Leopard 2 into high intensity combat (apart from Kosovo as a show of force) and, as such, there were a number of challenges for Canada to overcome, the most serious being the lack of repair parts and the obsolescence of some mission-critical components.

As an example of the operational tempo, in the first 30 months in Afghanistan, each Leopard 2A6M CAN travelled approximately 7,000 km, operated more than 2,700 hours, and fired an average of 120 main gun rounds. By comparison, the German Army was using 15 km/week/tank as its planning figure when scaling for repair parts. That meant that, with only 20 (deployed) tanks, Canada was consuming more parts than Germany would use for its entire fleet of 350 tanks.

The German Army initially agreed to provide logistics support and Leopard 2-specific special tools and test equipment (STTE), often at the expense of supporting their own tank fleet. But even that would not be enough. So, when Canada signed the logistics support agreement with Germany, the purchase of 15 surplus Leopard 2A4 tanks was included as part of the agreement in order to allow Canada to become more self-sufficient

in spare parts. That ensured a more ready supply of critical items (such as transmissions, electric turret drives, fire control computers, power electronics, and commander’s thermal imaging [TI] sights).

The first Leopard 2A6M CAN deployed to Afghanistan on 15 August 2007, thanks to an incredible feat of cooperation and teamwork by the Tank Replacement Project, the ADM(Mat) himself^{vi}, Public Works and Government Services Canada (PWGSC), Treasury Board Secretariat, the German Ministry of Defence, German industry (KMW and RLS), various higher headquarters, and countless others. In short succession, three more tanks and the two ARVs arrived in Kandahar, allowing initial operational capability (IOC) to be declared on 28 August 2007. It took only seven months, as compared to the typical timeline of 15.6 years, to field a new capability, to have Leopard 2A6M CANs in theatre with trained crews and a logistics support system in place.

THE DUTCH TANKS

While all that was going on, options to find a new tank for the RCAC were also being considered. After a thorough search of the used tank market, the decision was made to purchase 100 surplus Leopard 2s from the Netherlands — 20 fully operational, combat-ready Leopard 2A6s (with no mine blast kit) and 80 much older “as is” Leopard 2A4s. A formal purchase agreement between the Netherlands and Canada was signed at Le Régiment de Hull (RCAC) Armoury in Gatineau on 14 December 2007.

Unfortunately, the Tank Replacement Project was unable to purchase a complete “Armoured Corps”



Leopard 2A4M CAN in Afghanistan.
Photo by Capt Scott Franklin.

with recovery vehicles, spare parts, STTE, training systems, etc. Those shortfalls would need to be tackled at a later date as part of a follow-on or subsequent project.

CANADA EXTENDS ITS MISSION IN AFGHANISTAN

No sooner had the ink dried on the purchase agreement with the Netherlands than Parliament extended the Afghanistan mission to December 2011. When the initial mission end date was 1 September 2009, everything worked out well because the loan agreement with Germany stipulated that Canada must return the tanks and ARVs, in the same condition as they were received, by September 2009. However, the extension created a significant problem for the Tank Replacement Project, because how was Canada going to keep tanks in theatre while still meeting the obligations of the agreement with Germany?

In the end, Germany agreed to extend the loan for another three years (ending now on 1 September 2012). Not unexpectedly, the German Army Commander was very concerned that, after five years in continuous operations, the loaned tanks and ARVs would be in desperate need of a lengthy

repair and overhaul before they could be put back into service with the German Army. There was also the added concern that the overall life expectancy of the tanks would be greatly reduced from their time in Afghanistan.

The eventual solution was to upgrade the 20 recently purchased Dutch Leopard 2A6s to the German Leopard 2A6M standard as a “replacement in kind” (as it was coined by the Tank Replacement Project). That switch resulted in Canada keeping the German tanks and Germany getting refurbished tanks that had not suffered battle damage, Canadian modifications, or years of continuous operations in Afghanistan.

The Netherlands’ Leopard 2A6 tanks were over 90 percent common with the German Leopard 2A6Ms. The main differences were the lack of mine protection kits and the improved mine-resistant crew seating. Other minor differences included missing storage boxes, a different machine gun, and smoke grenade dischargers. A serious and additional concern was that the Dutch tanks were made (under licence) in the Netherlands and therefore would not be of the same standard and quality as a German-made tank.

RIGHT: Canada’s first “as is” Leopard 2A4 touches Canadian soil at the port of Montreal on 14 November 2008. Photo by LCol Perry Wells.



The mission extension also meant training would have to continue in Germany and an already complex logistics and supply chain had to be carefully managed to keep the fleet running longer in theatre.

LEOPARD 2A4M CAN

The “replacement in kind” meant the Leopard 2A6M CAN tanks would remain in theatre well beyond the point recommended by KMW for a complete repair and overhaul. To address that looming problem, it was decided to take 20 of the best “as is” Dutch Leopard 2A4s and contract KMW to create the Leopard 2A4M CAN as a second operational squadron. Building on the lessons learned from Afghanistan, plus KMW’s own internal research and development into future tank technologies, a comprehensive list of improvements was considered for the Leopard 2A4M CAN.

To create a main battle tank better suited for the asymmetric threats of Afghanistan and possible future battlefields, the key upgrades and modifications included an enhanced protection system designed to cover 360 degrees (based on the Leopard 2A7 Peace Support Operation [PSO] concept tank); the full Leopard 2A6M mine protection kit; the crew and equipment cooling system used on the Leopard 2A6M CAN; and a digital electric turret drive (as opposed to the analogue turret drive found on the Leopard 2A5 and/or A6). Numerous additional changes were made to greatly enhance the tank’s war-fighting abilities. The end result, despite being based on the older Leopard 2A4, was a hybrid that, in many ways, was an improvement on the more modern Leopard 2A6 (and should have perhaps been called a Leopard 2A4.5 or Leopard 2A6.5 to distinguish it from all other Leopard 2s).

Fielding of the Leopard 2A4M CAN began in December 2010 and allowed the Leopard 2A6M CAN tanks to be rotated out of theatre and sent to KMW for a much-needed repair and overhaul.

LEOPARD 2A4 TRAINING TANK

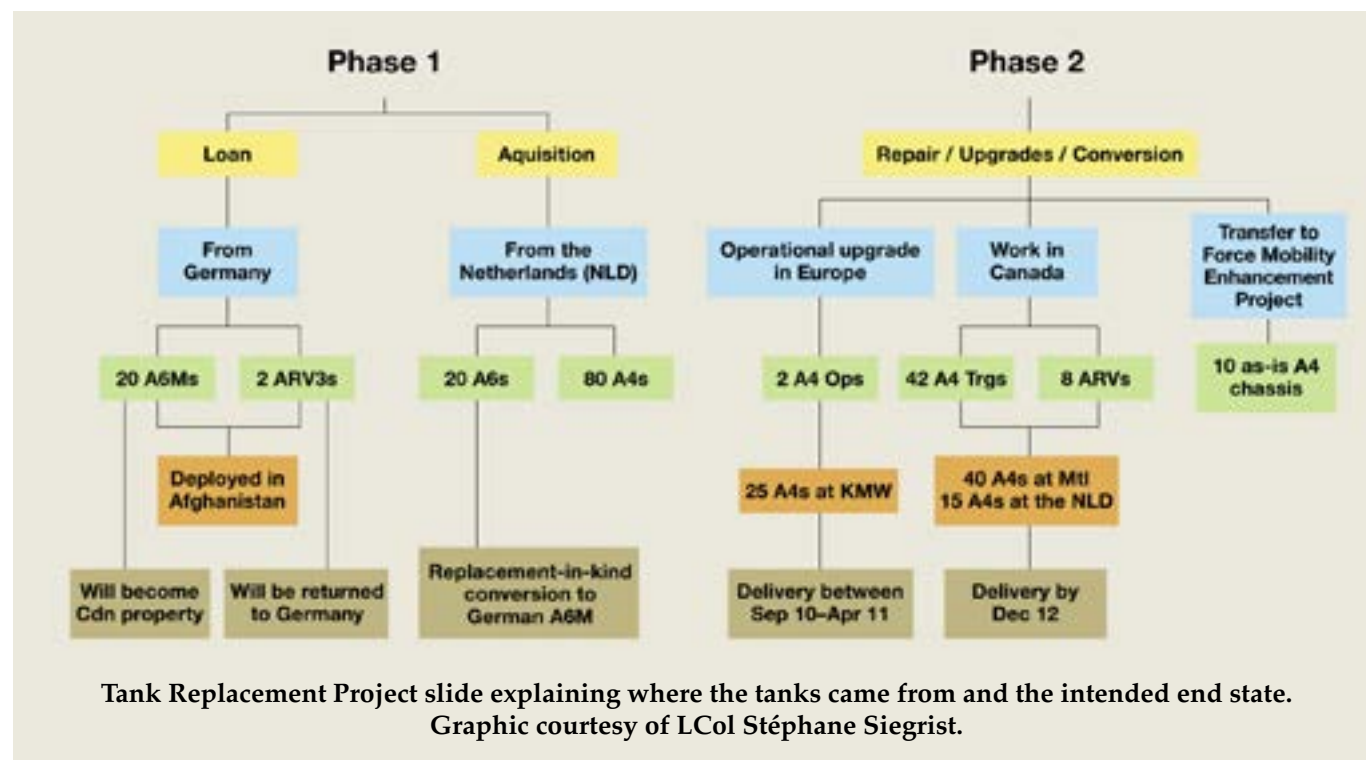
With support to operations in Afghanistan in hand, it was time to address what to do about Canada’s long-term armour needs, particularly how to create a training capability and the necessary logistics infrastructure in Canada.

Of the 80 Leopard 2A4s purchased from the Netherlands, 40 were shipped to Canada and placed into temporary storage at 25 Canadian Forces Supply Depot (25 CFSD) until a repair and overhaul contract could be put in place. The other 40 Leopard 2A4s remained in Europe in case they were needed to support other aspects of the project. (For example, in order for KMW to select the best 20 tanks to build the Leopard 2A4M CAN, 25 “as is” Leopard 2A4s were sent to Munich.)

Treasury Board mandated that, to the extent possible, all work on the Leopard 2A4s had to be done in Canada. That led to a contract being awarded to Rheinmetall Canada (RhC), in Saint-Jean-sur-Richelieu, on 25 August 2010 to conduct a basic repair and overhaul on the Leopard 2A4s, creating the Leopard 2A4 Training variant. Regrettably, there were insufficient funds to do any sort of upgrade or attempt to standardize the fleet in some way.

CANADIAN LEOPARD 2 FAMILY OF VEHICLES

The early direction to the Tank Replacement Project was to field 40 fully operational tanks (which was achieved with the 20 Leopard 2A6M CANs and 20 Leopard 2A4M CANs), 42 training tanks



(Leopard 2A4 Trg) and eight ARVs, along with the associated training and logistics support.

It should be noted that, in addition to the Tank Replacement Project, there was also the Force Mobility Enhancement Project running in parallel. That \$376.4 million project would eventually field 18 armoured engineer vehicles (AEV), an additional four ARVs, and a suite of tactical mobility implements (to include 16 x mine plows, 16 x mine rollers and 18 x dozer blades) for the main battle tanks. Ten of the Leopard 2A4s purchased from the Netherlands were transferred to the Force Mobility Enhancement Project so that they could be converted into AEVs.

The final end state of the Tank Replacement Project and Force Mobility Enhancement Project is a fleet of 112 Leopard 2s of all configurations.

TANK REPLACEMENT PROJECT SUMMARY

- By all accounts, the deployment of the Leopard 2

main battle tanks to Afghanistan was a huge success and is best summarized by an 8 December 2007 quote from the *Globe and Mail*: “That young kid called home and said, ‘Mom, I wouldn’t be alive if it had been any other vehicle but a Leopard 2.’”

- The first time a Leopard 2 of any nation fired in combat occurred on 11 October 2007 when a

RCAC MEMBERS OF THE TANK REPLACEMENT PROJECT (2006–2011)

I would like to thank the former members of the Tank Replacement Project for their input to this article. Any errors or omissions are purely my own.

Major Alain Bernard, 12^e Régiment blindé du Canada
Lieutenant-Colonel Alan Bolster, Royal Canadian Dragoons
Lieutenant-Colonel Brian Corbett, Lord Strathcona’s Horse (Royal Canadians)
Captain Scott Franklin, Royal Canadian Dragoons
Lieutenant-Colonel Perry Wells, Royal Canadian Dragoons
Major Mike Wionzek, Royal Canadian Dragoons

(Rank at the time of retirement from the CAF)

LEOPARD 2 CONFIGURATIONS & VARIANTS

Leopard 2A4 (right)

- Base model from which all other Leopard 2 tank variants and special purpose vehicles are derived
- Hydraulic turret drive
- 52 tonnes



Leopard 2A5

- Developed in 1995
- Improved armour
- Electric turret drive
- 59 tonnes



Leopard 2A6

- Developed in 2001
- New longer gun
- Electric turret drive
- 60 tonnes
- Leopard 2A6M (2006)

Armoured Recovery Vehicle

- Developed in 1998
- Recovery, towing, repairs/maintenance
- 54 tonnes



Armoured Engineer Vehicle

- Prototype developed in 2008
- Obstacle clearance, construction/bulldozing
- 62 tonnes



Canadian Leopard 2A6M CAN crew (C/S 32B [12 RBC]) achieved a first round hit on a Taliban mortar position at 1,600 metres with a HEAT round.

- The first engagement by the Leopard 2A4M CAN took place on 21 January 2011.
- In the first three years of continuous operations, there were 32 mine and/or IED incidents involving Canadian Leopard 1s and Leopard 2s. A total of nine Leopard 1s and five Leopard 2s were destroyed.

Regrettably, with the limited budget, it was not possible for the Tank Replacement Project to field a cohesive and common fleet of tanks for the RCAC. The RCAC ended up with three different types of main battle tanks, with all the attendant training and logistics problems. But, as the then Chief of Staff of Land Forces Western Area, Colonel Dave Anderson, astutely pointed out during a briefing in February 2011 — “It may be a dog’s breakfast but at least it’s breakfast.”

This article was previously published in Volume 19.2 of The Canadian Army Journal

ENDNOTES

- The upgraded Canadian Leopard C2 was fielded in 1999 and is an up-armoured Leopard 1A5 with a thermal imaging gun site.
- While some of the Leopard C2 tanks that eventually deployed to Afghanistan were identified for disposal, none had been converted to monuments, contrary to popular belief.
- Conventional add-on-armour was the preferred option but proved too heavy (and time consuming to install), so a compromise of slat armour was selected.

- These compartments contain the “secret recipe” passive amour modules or blocks that provide the Leopard 2 with its superior protection.
- Approximately 50 dedicated and truly outstanding interpreters were required to support the training in Germany.
- Brigadier-General (ret’d) Dan Ross was ADM(Mat) and a key proponent of the Tank Replacement Project. He was instrumental in skillfully and tactfully guiding the project through the complex Government of Canada approval process.



RV 22

OTTAWA VALLEY HOSPITALITY, JUNE 17-19, 2022

By Bruce Prendergast

Greetings from the Ottawa Valley Chapter. On behalf of the RCD Ottawa Valley Chapter committee, we would like to thank all those who came out for the weekend and helped make the reunion a tremendous success.

Thanks to the COVID-19 pandemic, the Ottawa Valley Chapter has had to cancel two years' worth of planned activities and delay the RCD Association Reunion twice.

In April/May 2019 we set-up a Reunion planning committee; however, with the frequent changes and delays imposed by COVID-19, several of the volunteers moved on to greener pastures. There-

fore, I had to recruit a Secretary/Treasurer because Calvin Mitchell retired. This position was filled by Samantha Paquette, who works with me in the trailer park. She turned out to be a very valuable asset in the accounting and tracking of members.

In early March, Denis Levesque and I decided to contact the Chapter Chairs across Canada and see if there was enough interest to conduct the RV in 2022. We had a cutoff date of 15 April 2022, and by then the response was favourable so we proceeded with the planning. Unfortunately, all the arrangements that were made prior with the Best Western Hotel fell through because they couldn't accommodate us with the new dates.



With only two months to the proposed date, this created an urgency; however, after numerous phone calls, etc. we secured the Clarion Hotel and Conference Centre for the event.

By the cut-off date, we had a sufficient number of members registered, so we notified the Chapter Chairs that it was a go. In conversations with several people, they were reluctant to commit to a date that far out, so I extended the cut-off date to 10 May 22.

I would like to thank all the committee members (Sterling and Sandra Mercer, deputy chairman/welcome co-ord; Marc Tremblay, meet & greet/mixed dining in; Stephane Larouche and Janique Lariviere, admin support; Muggsie Boland, spousal program co-ordination; Gordie Meighan, music co-ord; Keith Christopher, golf co-ord; Samantha Paquette, secretary/treasurer; Kevin Langille and his assistant, photography) as well as the Regiment. They were extremely helpful in providing some last-minute resources, and for the vehicle display, kit shop, and tour of the new building, Y-137.

We finally got the members and the Regimental Family together. On Friday evening at the meet & greet, we acknowledged a number of distinguished guests, and had a draw for door prizes that were donated by the various RCD Chapters. This was a great success — the door prizes were well received. On Saturday morning, RCD Association President Denis Levesque conducted his final Annual General Meeting (AGM). His last official act before closing the meeting was to



welcome Tom Skelding as the new Association President. The Association ladies enjoyed an early morning meditation, followed by a walk through Pembroke's beautiful waterfront trails. In the afternoon, several members enjoyed a round of golf at the Twin Rivers Golf Club; meanwhile, many others participated in a tour of Y-137 and a vehicle display. Saturday evening, General Rick Hillier gave an informative and entertaining speech. Then the RCD Association had Janique Lariviere present Muggsie with a well-deserved retirement gift. The dinner on Saturday was delicious, as commented on by a number of members. Lori Lauzon, General Manager of the Clarion, as well as her hotel staff, provided an excellent meal and service.

Once again, I would like to thank Jim and Mary Ferron, Matt and Ann MacDonald, James Crombie, and Danny Plourde for generously donating their registration fees after unfortunately having to cancel. This provided funding so the members could enjoy wine with their meal.

I hope everybody enjoys the photos that Kevin has uploaded to the website. There will be more to follow, including the portraits taken Saturday evening. I'd also like to thank Jim Follwell for his input and assisting with putting out communications via the Dragon website.

The Kingston Chapter has graciously agreed to host the next RV in two years (2024). Hope to see as many members as possible there.

Audax et Celer! / Bold and Swift! 🐉



BUSINESS ARISING

2017-2022

The RCD Association is dedicated to fostering, maintaining and promoting the traditions, well-being and esprit de corps of the Regiment. We are composed of retired and serving members of the Regiment and those who have served with and supported the RCD at home and abroad.

The aim of the Association is two-fold: firstly, a portal where past and present Dragoons and their families can reach out to each other to re-establish old friendships; and secondly, to keep current on Regimental activities.

Once a Dragoon, always a Dragoon!

Audax et Celer! 

ABOVE: Tom Skelding (left), the incoming RCD Association President, presents Denis (Badger) Levesque with an RCD print in appreciation of the last six years as President of the RCD Association on the occasion of their Change of Command during the 18 June 2022 AGM.

Royal Canadian Dragoon Association Board of Directors

(as of 18 June 2022 Association Annual General Meeting (AGM))

OFFICERS

- **President (2016 to 18 June 2022):** Denis Levesque
- **President (18 June 2022 onward):** Thomas Skelding
- **1st Vice President:** Vacant
- **2nd Vice President:** Janique Larivière
- **Secretary/Treasurer:** Marc Girard
- **Editor of the Newsletter:** Perry Wells

DIRECTORS

- Stephen Wright: Alberta
- Sterling Mercer: Petawawa
- Lance Wiebe: New Brunswick
- Louis Lucier: Ontario
- Randy Payne: Kingston
- Dan Sicotte: Quebec

CHAPTER CHAIRS

- Thomas Skelding: Newfoundland and Labrador
- Lance Wiebe: Atlantic (NB, NS and PEI)
- Karl Kramell: Quebec
- Richard Moreau (Interim): National Capital Region (NCR)
- Bruce Prendergast: Ottawa Valley
- Denis Levesque: Kingston
- Steve Lehman: South Central Ontario
- Gerry Olsen: Alberta
- Robert Black: British Columbia



ASSOCIATION ACTIVE MEMBERSHIP REPORT

(as of the 18 June 2022
Association Annual General
Meeting (AGM))

| Chapter | Total |
|-------------------------|------------|
| Outside Canada | 10 |
| British Columbia | 30 |
| Alberta | 54 |
| South Central Ontario | 102 |
| Upper Ottawa Valley | 48 |
| National Capital Region | 77 |
| Kingston | 52 |
| Quebec | 8 |
| Atlantic | 142 |
| Newfoundland & Labrador | 16 |
| Grand Total | 539 |

Membership has been holding steady over the last few years. However, everyone is encouraged to reach out to the Dragoons (either retired, serving, or friends of the Regiment) living in your area and urge them to join the Association. For more information see the blank RCD Association Membership Application Form on page 53.

RCD ASSOCIATION

Financial Report for the period 2017 to 7 June 2022

*Three-year GIC investment of \$25,000.00 from 10 August 2018 to 10 August 2021.

A note of special thanks to William (Billy) Dunster from the Atlantic Chapter for the very kind \$300.00 donation on 7 January 2022.

current as of: 7 June 2022

| Year | Deposits | | Expenses | Net Surplus |
|-------------------------|-------------|--------------|-------------|--------------|
| | Memberships | GIC Interest | | |
| Bank Balance (2017) | | | | \$ 51,907.57 |
| 2017 | \$ 3,510.00 | | \$ 611.79 | \$ 2,898.21 |
| 2018 | \$ 1,950.00 | | \$ 970.09 | \$ 979.91 |
| 2019 | \$ 4,820.00 | | \$ 1,307.56 | \$ 3,512.44 |
| 2020 | \$ 4,760.00 | | \$ 4,404.98 | \$ 355.02 |
| 2021 | \$ 4,779.95 | \$ 3,006.33 | \$ 3,916.77 | \$ 3,869.51 |
| 2022 | \$ 1,325.00 | | \$ 465.55 | \$ 859.45 |
| Total Surplus | | | | \$ 64,382.11 |
| GIC* | | | | \$ 25,000.00 |
| Bank Balance (7 Jun 22) | | | | \$ 89,382.11 |



THE LAST TRUMPET CALL FAREWELL FRIENDS

*"They shall grow not old, as we that are left grow old:
Age shall not weary them, nor the years condemn.
At the going down of the sun and in the morning
We will remember them."*

2021

- Richard Smith
- Pat Carew
- Arthur Lougherty
- Gerald Sutherland
- Tom Colpitts
- Bryon Conrad
- Dale Franklin
- William Wallace
- Robert Santer
- Gary Bart

2022

- John Brocklehurst
- David McKee
- Chris Glauninger
- Henry Monnon
- Russell Berry
- James "Danny" Wilkin
- Walter Conrad
- Edward Foster
- Raymond Park
- Alan Wright
- Alfred Johnson
- Michael Devaney
- Ron Puddister
- David Sawyer (Regimental MP Sgt in the 1990s)
- David Smith
- Norman Lloyd
- Murray Pierce

BELOW: David Sawyer served as Regimental MP Sgt in the 1990s.



The Royal Canadian Dragoons Association Membership Application Form

Applicant Name: _____
Surname _____ Given Name _____

Spouse/Partner's Name: _____
Surname _____ Given Names _____

Address: _____ Prov: _____ Postal Code: _____

Home Phone: _____ Cell: _____ Email: _____

Membership Type as per The RCD Association By-Law No. 4: (Check the ☐ appropriate box)

- ☐ Regular (voting member) ☐ Life Membership Chapter
- ☐ Associate (non-voting) ☐ Annual Membership (1 Jan - 31 Dec)
- ☐ Serving or former CAF members who were temp att to the Regiment
- ☐ Widows or widowers of Regular members (Life or Annual Member)
- ☐ Widows or widowers of serving/former non-association mbr of the Regiment
- ☐ Individuals who have a special interest in the Regiment

Membership Fees:

- ☐ Life Member – \$100.00
- ☐ Regular Annual or Associate Member – \$25.00 (\$20.00 National + \$5.00 Chapter)

Submitted by: _____
Type Name _____ Date _____

Payment Options:

- a) e-transfer to rcdassoc.dues@gmail.com
- b) Cheque or Money Order. Payable to: The RCD Association

Application Submission Options:

- a) Email application to: rcdassoc.admn@gmail.com
- b) Mail your application (and cheque/money order if not sending e-transfer) to your Chapter Chair or the National Secretary/Treasurer

Contact Information:

- | | |
|---|--|
| National Secretary/Treasurer: | Mr. Marc Girard (129 Marsh St., PO Box 293, Clarksburg, ON, N0H 1J0) |
| Newfoundland & Labrador Chapter: | Mr. Thomas Skelding |
| Atlantic Chapter: | Mr. Lance Wiebe |
| Quebec Chapter: | Mr. Karl Kramell |
| National Capital Region (NCR) Chapter: | Mr. Richard Moreau |
| Ottawa Valley Chapter: | Mr. Bruce Prendergast |
| Kingston Chapter: | Mr. Tony Slack |
| South Central Ontario Chapter: | Mr. Steve Lehman |
| Alberta Chapter: | Mr. Gerry Olsen |
| British Columbia: | Mr. Bob Black |