

Colonel of The Regiment Guild Annual Report 2019

Introduction

This is my second annual report and I am happy to say to all the Dragoon family that your Guild is doing very well. We have had a very productive year and have received approval from both CRA and Industry Canada on the changes we made to our governance. We have added a position of the Clerk of the Guild to the Board of Directors and we welcomed Matt Edwards into that position. As of this APS we have bid farewell to our Secretary Treasurer of the past two years Matt Johnson and have welcomed John Maerz to the position. On behalf of the Guild Board of Directors I want to thank Matt Johnson for his great work in shepherding the Guild business these past two years. A list of the current Board of Directors is attached.

Governance

In the area of Governance, we have advanced three key milestones this past year. The first is the issuing of the Guild Policy, Guidance and Procedures manual. This has been an ongoing project for the past three years and I am happy to report that the author Thomas Burnie presented the manual to Board in June and it was approved for the use of the Board. The second key outcome was the writing of the next edition of the Guild Strategic Plan for the period 2019-2024. Thanks go to Bryan Forsyth and the business planning committee for his leadership and their hard work on getting this key piece of our business completed. Lastly the same committee produced a comprehensive Business Plan for FY 2019/2020. This will guide our work for the next twelve months.

Budget versus Expenditures

The Guild operating budget for the past year was \$175,800 and our actual expenses were \$143,255.27.

Report on Investments

Over the past year the Guild has moved our investment portfolio from Investment Group to Manulife and we are getting a much higher return on our investments. The Investment committee headed by our patron David Batten monitor our investments on a regular basis.

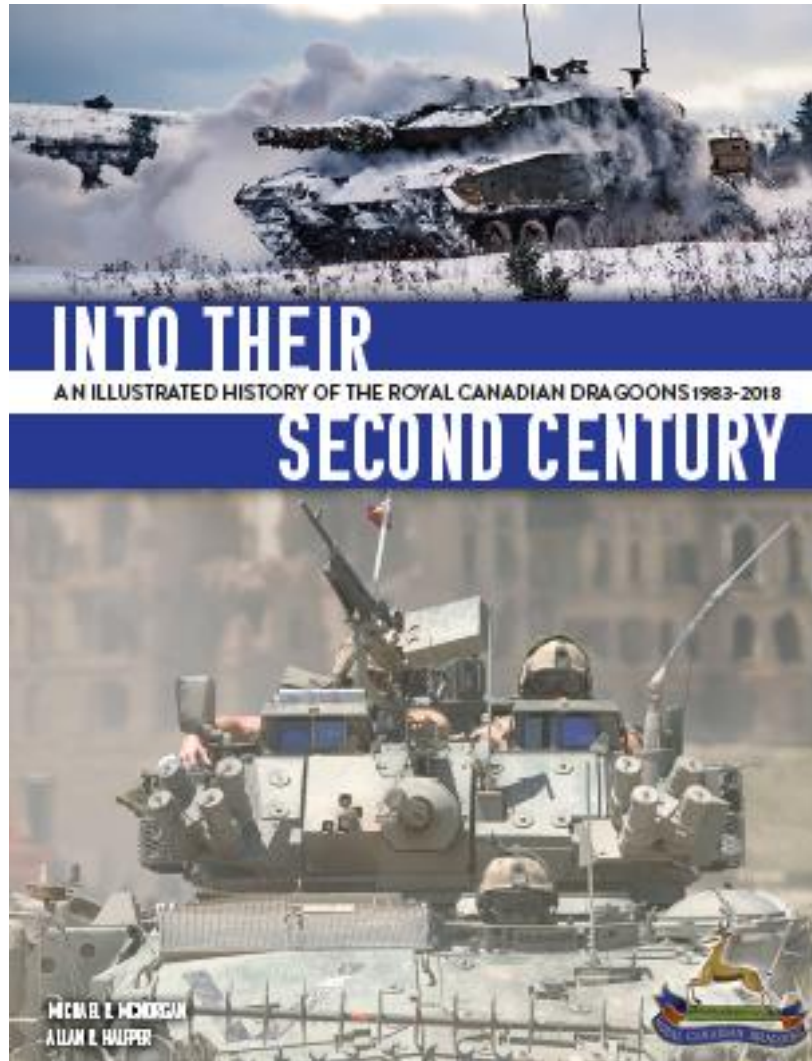
Role of the Regimental Family Advisory Group

One of the key outcomes from the Governance work was the establishment of the Regimental Family Advisory Group chaired by Jeramie Leamon, the RSM. The role of the advisory group is to consult with the Regimental Family and identify what the needs are and to then submit to the Guild Board of Directors a needs proposal as a part of our annual business planning cycle. This process is key to our annual cycle of activity to ensure that the Regimental Family needs are satisfied effectively. This cycle will help improve the Guild mandated charitable program.

Update on the Production of the Next Volume of Our Regimental History

The writing of "Into Their Second Century – An Illustrated History of the Royal Canadian Dragoons 1983-2018" is complete. Work is ongoing on the layout, photos and captions. Everything is on track for the

book to go to print early in the new year and the official book launch is planned for the spring of 2020. Details on the book launch and sales will be promulgated later this fall.



Mounted Troop Sitrep

Many of you that were present at ceremonial occasions this year and ardent followers of the Dragoon Facebook pages will have noted the presence of mounted Dragoons on parade this past year. The Commanding Officer, Lieutenant-Colonel Rob Maris, a rider himself has been the driving force behind building a capacity to have mounted Dragoons available for key ceremonial occasions. While the intent is to have a small cadre of Dragoons trained, equipped and available for those key occasions it is not our intent to establish a riding troop like the Strathcona's. Two soldiers were trained at the RCMP riding school and they were subsequently employed as escorts welcoming all attendees at the Army Ball in

April in Ottawa. The intent is to use local horses in conjunction with our trained Dragoon riders to support Regimental activities.



Guild Vehicle

Charlie Butler from Butler Chev Olds Cadillac has graciously provided the Guild a Chevrolet Equinox for the exclusive use of the Guild for the next three years. The vehicle is hard to miss with its distinctive wrap depicting the Guild logo.



Staghound Repair

The Staghound is currently at the Ontario Regiment Museum undergoing a comprehensive overhaul and repair. It is anticipated that the work will be complete by the end of the year. The Ontario Regiment museum volunteered to do the work for free with their craftsman while the Guild pays for parts and any transport related costs. It will be great to have our Staghound functional and back in the Regimental lines.



Update on Fox and Dingo

We have located a Fox in southern Ontario and a Dingo in the Ottawa Valley, and we are working with the owners to develop a relationship that would allow these historic vehicles to parade with the Dragoons in Petawawa for key ceremonial occasions.

Fundraising Strep

1. Y007 – \$19,504
2. Regular donations – \$64,259.99
3. Friends of The Regiment – \$44,500
5. Miscellaneous other – \$4,553.12

New Brass Helmet Purchase for the Dragoon Scarlet Guard

A need was identified for twenty new helmets for the scarlet guard and the helmets have been ordered and we expect delivery in the fall of 2019.

RCD Museum Collection

We are in the process of moving the portion of the collection currently housed in B-102 to the Base Museum where the bulk of the RCD collection is on display. A portion of the collection is planned to be put on display in the new RCD lines once that construction is complete. A complete accounting was done of the collection held in the Regimental lines. The collection of artifacts has been assessed and several items have been disposed of, including damaged mess properties and trophies. The Leopard C1 fire-control system, tank tools and SABCA FCS test equipment, formerly held in B102, have been transferred to the Ontario Regiment Museum. Surplus uniforms have been disposed of or earmarked for the Regiment's affiliated Royal Canadian Army Cadet Corps.

RCD Archives

Work on the digitizing of the archives continues. The War Diaries from Afghanistan have been redacted and a copy of the complete archive is now available in our archives in Petawawa and at DHH. New software was acquired to manage the physical holdings of the Guild. The information held in the former software suite, Past Perfect, has been imported in the Museum Archive Software – MUSARCH. MUSARCH allows the Guild to catalogue artifacts, print bar code labels and use a hand-held scanner to quickly take stock of the Guild's holdings.

RCD Library

The Ussher library which has been housed in B-102 is in the process of being transferred and donated to the College Militaire Royale Library in St Jean. The collection will be suitably recognized as donated by the Guild of The Royal Canadian Dragoons.

Regimental Accoutrements for New Soldiers

Forty-nine new soldiers joined the Regiment this year and have been provided with an initial issue of RCD accoutrements.

Bursary Sitrep

For 2018 three bursaries were given out and we are in the process of preparing the 2019 recipients list. They will be announced at Leliefontein as is our current practice. The recipients for 2018 were:

1. Malika Richards
2. Kathleen Donald
3. Megan Jones
4. Addison Yeomans

RCD Cadet Corps Update

The RCD and the Guild currently sponsor three cadet corps in Ottawa, the 2332 Major Holland VC Cadet Corps, the 2870 Connaught Cadet Corps and the 137 Ashbury Cadet Corps. All three corps had an exciting year of training and their programs continue to grow. I was able to visit each of the corps to observe their training and was present for each of their annual inspections in June of this year.

Family Support

The Guild holds and will always maintain three shadow boxes for the families of our serving fallen. Unfortunately, we have had to present two shadow boxes to the families of our fallen this year. The carpenter has replenished the two and we remain at three. The second funeral kit is now in location in NB and held with C Sqn this is to include a stained-glass display, flag set, and saddle. The last remaining item will be riding boots. Recently we had a serving member lose his nephew to a car accident. The family could not cover funeral costs and costs of our serving member making trips to and from the Ottawa General Hospital. A Go Fund Me page was started by the member and the Guild donated \$2,500.00 to help cover funeral costs and travel expenses.

Leeuwarden 2020 Planning

The Regiment has been invited by the Mayor of Leeuwarden to send a contingent to Leeuwarden to help commemorate the 75th anniversary of the liberation of Leeuwarden in April of 2020. Plans are underway to request a Scarlet Guard and a small contingent from the Regiment as well as a contingent of retired Dragoons to participate. Currently Don White is planning to travel with the retired contingent for this special occasion.

Upcoming Guild Projects

Guild support to the replacement of the Guidon as early as June 2020 and Leliefontein 125 in 2025.

Peter Atkinson

Brigadier-General (retired)

Colonel of the Regiment

The Royal Canadian Dragoons

30 September 2019