



The Duke

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BCR Veterans V-E Day Remembrance Tour

The last major reunion and remembrance tour for Canadian World War II veterans took place in the Netherlands in May last year, and The British Columbia Regiment was well represented, with five WWII veterans, a large group of serving members from the Regiment, and a large contingent from the BCR Band. The BCR was, in fact, the best represented Canadian Regiment at the ceremonies and the parade in Apeldoorn, which formally marked the 60th Anniversary of the end of the war. While this article is mainly about the visit of our veterans, I would like to acknowledge and congratulate the members of the Regiment and the band who participated in the ceremonies and activities. The day of the parade was a proud day to be a Duke!

The four BCR Veterans arrived for the ceremonies in three groups. Gord McKelvie and Jack Crossen traveled together from Toronto, and I met them at the Amsterdam airport, having already made local travel arrangements and accommodations. Albert Walsh

from New Brunswick came with a tour organized by a group in his home town, and Norm Kipnis and his son came with the Regimental group.

Gord and Jack arrived in Amsterdam on 1 May, and we stayed in Nijmegen. After a good dinner and a few beers, we got an early start the next day. We had a good tour of most of the Market-Garden battlefield and worked our way north to

Apeldoorn to get familiar with the set up and make sure we were properly registered with VA, etc. While that wasn't mandatory, it seemed a good idea to make sure it was all taken care of in case we ran into a medical problem or something similar. We then visited Apeldoorn in detail and met some very interesting people - the city was crawling with Veterans and other Canadians. We spent our time visiting and listening to war stories from dozens of veterans from all over Canada. We also met with a number of BCR Association Band members.



Commemoration Ceremony at Grossbeek Canadian War Cemetery Gordon McKelvie and Jack Crossen join other Canadian Veterans in remembering our Fallen Comrades.

The next day was the commemoration at Groosbeek, where the Governor General and Queen Beatrix of the Netherlands presided over a very moving ceremony. There were about 1700 Veterans and another 7000 spectators, accompanying people, etc. It was very emotional, and we visited and laid flowers at the grave of Sgt R.V. Dickson, who was Gord's Troop Sergeant and tank commander. Sgt Dickson was killed later on 8 March 1945, some hours after Gord was wounded. They were amongst twenty or so casualties that occurred in the Regiment during the fighting to take the fortified village of



"May 2005...Two generations of Dukes at Apledorn, the Netherlands." L-R Trooper Timothy D. Laidler; Jack Crossen, Gordon McKelvie, Albert Walsh, Norman Kipnis and Trooper Jason N. Logon flanked by a M4A2 Sherman Firefly (Archie) at Apledorn, the Netherlands.

Veen. We visited the graves of many brave Dukes and paid appropriate tribute.

The next day we went to the ceremony hosted by the Dutch government at Holten Cemetery. That, too, was very moving. The GG and Princess Margaret (born in Ottawa in 1942) presided. By coincidence, we were seated next to George Blackburn, who authored the "Guns" trilogy (Guns of Normandy, Guns of Victory, Where the Hell are the Guns?) and he was very interesting! We also paid tribute to the Dukes buried there, and met with Harry Quarton and SAR veterans. The next day we went touring the Rhineland battlefield, including the Hochwald Forest and the Veen area. We also visited the Reichswald Commonwealth Cemetery - the largest Commonwealth War Grave Cemetery from WWII. It has about 7500 graves, about half British Army and half Commonwealth airmen. Of the airmen, about 900 are Canadians. That reflects the 20 - 25% contribution that Canada made to the WWII RAF (in the wider meaning of Commonwealth) air force effort. We met up with the Regiment that evening - they had just arrived - and arranged the RV to ride with them the next day (on 6 May) on their bus. That is where we met Norm Kipnis from Kamloops, B.C., who was traveling with the Regiment. Norm was a loader - operator. Norm was traveling with his son Evan and they were great fun!



Dutch gentlemen shows a BCR Cap Badges and photo given to him when he was a child by Trooper Raymond L. Nelson in 1945 in the Netherlands.

The next morning we visited the island on the south bank of the Maas River (Kappelsche Veer) where the Lincoln and Wellington Regiment took out a German outpost in January 1945, supported by a Squadron of SARs. We also visited s'Hertogenbosch and the remains of the Concentration Camp nearby. We also visited Tilburg and found the Monastery where the Regiment was garrisoned during the Winter on the Maas. On the way back to Nijmegen we visited the Reichswald Forest Cemetery again, this time with the Regimental members - it was quite emotional as this was the first Commonwealth Cemetery many had visited.

The next day we met with the Regiment and rode with them on their bus again. We took a tour on the Rhine and visited the Rhineland battlefield in detail with the members of the Regiment - a good lesson in Regimental History. We were able to pinpoint where Gord was wounded to within about 300 metres or so, just north of Veen, Germany. We covered all of the 4th Canadian Armoured Division actions, as well as much of the rest of the 2nd Corps. We visited Groosbeek Cemetery with the Regiment on the way home.

The next day was the big Parade at Apeldoorn. Again, we rode with the Regiment. After some confusion the parade came off wonderfully! We met Albert Walsh, another BCR WWII Sherman gunner at the assembly hall, and got some great pictures of the four BCR veterans together in front of a Sherman Firefly. The vets rode, and the BCR and band marched – it was wonderful and it was a great show from the Regiment, with four Veterans, 26 active members of the Regiment (including 2 junior officers, the RSM and the SSM of Recce Squadron) 30 members of the Band and a couple of Association members. I was proud to be a Duke! It turned out that George Blackburn and a vet from the Vancouver Regiment - Irish Fusiliers joined us for the parade. George was in fine fettle, and the Irish Fusilier was good fun.



A WWII M4A2 Sherman Firefly tank, with 17 Pounder Master Weapon, in Apeldoorn, the Netherlands.

The next day was a return to Canada for Jack and Gord after a very fine tour - both were tired, but happy! Two days later the members of the Regiment toured the Ypres area, including the German Cemetery at Langemark, Vancouver Corner, St Julien, Passchendaele, Mount Sorrel and the town of Ypres. Norm laid flowers at the Menin Gate ceremony and the Regiment was on parade for this moving ceremony.

All in all, it was a great tour with a great mix of Dukes, old and young. I'd like to pass on my thanks to all those who contributed and participated!

Keith Maxwell

Veterans Affairs Canada Pilgrimage To The Netherlands – May 2005

Veterans Affairs Canada (VAC) requested the nomination of one World War II Veteran, from all Canadian Units that fought in North West Europe, to attend the official ceremonies commemorating the end of WW II in Europe.

All WW II Veteran's names were placed in a hat. Victor Shaw of Oshawa, Ontario was the lucky man. However, Victor's health prevented him from attending. A second draw named Charles (Pat) Nairne as the lucky Duke. Pat was a driver of an ammunition truck in "A" Echelon.

VAC Veteran support requirements allowed Pat's wife Wilma to accompany him on the pilgrimage. Pat advised that the pilgrimage was well organized, supported by both VAC and serving Military personnel who tended to our every need... we were treated like royalty. The ceremonies and parades were second to none, and the Dutch folks warmly welcomed us as they did during the war. It was a most heart warming experience.



Trooper (Ret'd) Charles (Pat) Nairne in Apleorn representing the 28th Armoured Regiment (BCR) on the VAC Pilgrimage, May 2005.

Pat reported that Trooper Jason Villeneuve, a BCR serving soldier, working on the tour, represented the Regiment in good stead, being a great helping hand to Wilma and I.

Pat and Wilma, on behalf of all Dukes, thank you so much for representing the Regiment on this auspicious occasion.

Up The Dukes

Archie Steacy



Pat and Wilma Nairne enjoying some leisure time.

PEACEKEEPERS

The British Columbia Regiment (DCO)

Since 1974, many Dukes have voluntarily served in numerous Peacekeeping Operations. It is important to recognize and show our gratitude to our BCR Soldiers who have taken time away from Regiment and their families to serve in harms for the sake of less fortunate people.

Their overseas tours have taken them to Egypt, Golan Heights, Cyprus, Bosnia and Afganistan.

Abraham, J. Cpl Cyprus	Lam, H. Cpl Op Palladium - Roto 12
Acconci, R. LCol Op Crocodile - Roto 6	Learmouth, J. Tpr Op Palladium - Roto 6
Angulo, F Cpl Op Palladium - Roto 11	Livingstone, C. Cpl Egypt
Archer, C. Cpl Egypt, Golan Heights	Lukacs, K. MCpl Cyprus
Archibald, D. Cpl Cyprus	MacWilliam, S. MCpl Op Palladium - Roto 6
Beaton, J. MCpl UNPROFOR-Op Harmony	Maillie, D. Tpr UNPROFOR-Op Harmony
Bell, P.W. LCol OP Prudence, Uganda; OP Assurance, Central Africa	Millar, I. MCpl Op Palladium - Roto 12
Bentley, D. Capt Op Bronze/Boreas - Roto 0	Mitchell, G. Cpl Egypt
Bodnarchuck, G. Cpl Egypt	Morrison, W. Cpl Egypt
Butcher, D. Tpr Cyprus	Murdoch, C. MCpl Cyprus
Carten, A. MCpl Cyprus	Nagel, H. Sgt Cyprus, Egypt
Castillo, O. Cpl Op Palladium - Roto 7	Nickel, D. Cpl Egypt
Chow, B. Cpl Op Palladium - Roto 6	Paradis, M Cpl Op Palladium - Roto 12
Dahl, C. Tpr Cyprus	Parker, S. Sgt Cyprus / Bosnia
Dobson, D. Capt Egypt	Pelly, D. Cpl Op Palladium - Roto 7; Afganistan
Evans, D. Capt Op Palladium - Roto 11	Pereira, E. Cpl Egypt
Federation, L. Sgt UNPROFOR-Op Harmony	Philcox, P. LCol UNTSO-Lebanon, Syria; Afganistan
Feist, J. Cpl Op Palladium - Roto 7	Pinch, S. Cpl Cyprus
Flynn, D. Cpl Egypt	Prasad, R. Tpr Cyprus
Gauthier, J. Tpr Cyprus	Quinlan, C. Lt Op Palladium - Roto 12
Giesbrecht, M. Tpr Cyprus	Rocan, R. Tpr Cyprus
Gilmartin, J. CWO Cyprus	Sajjan, H. Capt SFOR-Bosnia
Goronzy, R. Sgt UNPROFOR-Op Harmony	Salesse, M. MCpl UNPROFOR-Op Harmony
Goronzy, S. Cpl Egypt	Schofield, J. Cpl Cyprus
Guenkel, P. Capt Op Palladium - Roto 7	Smith, E. Cpl Cyprus
Hardeman, M Tpr Op Palladium - Roto 12	Snow, D. Cpl Cyprus
Harris, T. MCpl UNPROFOR-Op Harmony	Sproule, D. LCol Egypt
Hatch, M. MCpl Cyprus	Strom, B. Tpr Egypt
Heudebourck, D. MCpl Op Palladium - Roto 7	Sutherland, B. Cpl Cyprus
Houghton, T. Cpl Egypt	Szilvassy, Z. Cpl Cyprus
Iverson, J. Cpl Op Palladium - Roto 12	Taylor, P. Cpl Cyprus
Kadonoff, B. Capt Cyprus	Thorpe, D. Capt Op Palladium - Roto 12
Kadonoff, B. Maj Op Palladium - Roto 11	Walker, C. Cpl Cyprus
Klugh, M. Tpr Cyprus	Wesson, E. LCol Egypt
Krahn, J. Cpl Egypt	Young, J. Capt UNPROFOR-Bosnia
Lade, T MCpl Op Palladium - Roto 12	
Laidlaw, C. MCpl Cyprus	

Dukes, the Regimental Family salutes you for your service to mankind and the Regiment.

Up the Dukes.

Archie M. Steacy
President

2381 BCR (Irish Fusilliers) Royal Canadian Army Cadet Corps.

The Cadet Corp's activity highlights during 2005 and my main events planned for 2006 are as follows:

- Feb 2005 Many cadets attended the Chinese New Year Parade in Vancouver Chinatown.
 Mar 2005 Our Cadet Corp hosted 718 RCACS to visit Richmond from Port Hope, Ontario. Cadets had opportunity to meet with the Richmond Mayor and visited Richmond City Hall, Fire Hall, Canadian Coast Guard, Buddhist Temple, Shih Temple, Stanley Park, QE Park, Fairchild TV & Radio Stations and Richmond Nature Park.
 Apr 2005 We are the first Cadet Corps to receive the Major Roy-Rigby Jones, C.D. Award.
 May 2005 Successful Annual Cadet Review (ACR), excellent turnout and displays.
 May 2005 We had a successful fund raising gala dinner. Four hundred and thirty people attended the dinner. Not only we were able to raise fund, but also to build up the excellent image of the Corps.
 June 2005 Cadets Caring for Canada. That was the first time our cadets helped Richmond Fire Hall #1 to clean their fire trucks. After that, cadets had a BBQ, and a water fight with the firefighters. Lots of fun even though we were all drenched.
 July 2005 Our Cadet Corps posted forty-five cadets to the Vernon Army Cadet Training Centre for summer training.
 Oct 2005 Our Cadet Corp received the BCR camp flag from Lt Col A. M. Steacy, C.D. (Ret'd), BCR Association President
 Nov 2005 Our Cadet Corp participated in the Remembrance Day Parade.
 Nov 2005 Our Cadet Corp sent three officers and thirty cadets to Halifax for the Inter-Provincial Cadet Exchange. They all have a good time with lots of interaction with the other Cadets.
 Nov 2005 We had a number of cadets to assist Legion Branch 44 for their Wheel Chair Event.
 Dec 2005 We held a memorable dinner at the Armoury to celebrate the Christmas holiday season. Lots of support from the Cadet's parents.
 Jan 2006 The Cadet RSM Change Over Parade took place on Tuesday, 24 January.
 Feb 2006 The Corp will attend the Chinese New Year Parade in Vancouver Chinatown.
 Feb 2006 ACR
 May 2006 Conduct a Fund Raising Campaign
 Jun 2006 Continue to serve the community by assisting the Canadian Cancer Society
 Jul 2006 Send as many cadets to the VACSTC as possible.
 Nov 2006 Continue to assist Legion Branch 44 for their Wheel Chair Event.
 Nov 2006 Ensure a good turn out again for the Remembrance Day Parade.
 Dec 2006 Trip to New Zealand in planning stage.
 Dec 2006 Annual Christmas Holiday Season Dinner.



Presentation of a BCR Camp Flag to 2381 BCR/Irish Fusilliers Cadet Corp in October 2005 by the BC Regiment Association
 L-R: Ted Hawthorne, Secretary; C/Sgt Joe Li, C/WO Ryan Mann, C/MCpl Girard Ly and Archie Steacy, President.

The adult staff of 2381 BCR (Irish Fusilliers) RCACC is as follows:

Commanding Officer	Maj. Gary Law	Supply O	Vol. Bill Leung
DCO	Capt. Archie Pow	Ass't Supply O	Sgt. Eric Mathias
Adm O	CI Sophie Wong	Troop 1 Cdmr	CI. Dane Nicholson
Trg O	Lt. Karm Nagra	Troop 2 Cdmr	Cdt. Dorothy Wong
Ass't Trg O	Cdt. Deanna Lee	Troop 3 Cdmr	CI Mike Larden
Recruiting/Canteen O	CI Anny Law	Troop 4 Cdmr	OCdt. Derrick Yang

Gary Law, Major
 Commanding Officer
 2381 BCR (Irish Fusilliers) RCACC

World War II Duke Inducted into the University of British Columbia Sports Hall of Fame - 1994.

Lieutenant James Clark Harmer, 28th Armoured Regiment (British Columbia Regiment). Killed in action on 19 August 1944 during the Battle of the Closing of the Falaise Gap.



Jim Harmer
Induction Year
1994
Sport
Multi-sport
Category
Athlete

Highlights:

All-around athlete at UBC 1936 to '41; five years starred with 'Birds hockey team, captained UBC football team for three years and for three seasons a standout UBC rugby player. Served two terms as president of UBC men's athletics - lost his life while serving in World War II. Jim Harmer entered UBC in 1936, having been a high school rugby all-star the year previous. Harmer provided this year's Thunderbird team with some much needed hope and had no trouble making the Varsity team alongside some of the veteran greats of UBC rugby, such as Howie McPhee, Strat Leggatt and Dave Carey.

While playing rugby his first year, Harmer was also an impressive newcomer with the Varsity hockey team where the Ubysey described him as "a big steady-playing defenseman." "With Harmer and Taylor in there, I contemplate a victory in tomorrow's game", stated coach Gordon Mathias prior to their hockey tilt with the Washington Huskies. The Ubysey used terms such as "invincible", "shining light" and "Thunderbird star" to describe Harmer's play on the ice this season. Not only did Harmer "bounce the opposition with abandon" as well as score his share of points with the hockey team, but he continued to perform on the rugby field, leading the UBC Thunderbirds to both Miller Cup and McKechnie Cup victories this 1936/37 season.

In 1937/38 the campus rugby people were disappointed as "one of Varsity's best all-around athletes has twisted his affection from the English to the Canadian brand of rugby." Harmer had left rugby to become a two-way player for Maury Van Vliet's football team, his gridiron year highlighted by his kicking the winning field goal for UBC in its Homecoming game victory over the University of Alberta.

Harmer again was the defensive star of the UBC Thunderbirds hockey team this 1937/38 season, a season which featured a hockey series with the USC Trojans in Los Angeles during Rose Bowl week.

In 1938/39 Harmer, a Commerce student, strongly considered spending more time with his studies and less with his three sport specialties. However, it was not long before he rejoined coach A.B. Carey's Varsity rugby team where he not only was more of a scoring threat this season but was the "scrum captain and devastating tackler" for this Miller Cup team. He also rejoined the UBC Thunderbirds hockey team where he was described as putting in 60 minutes of defensive work each game. According to the Ubysey "His speedy breaking, sure passing and iron man tactics kept the whole team fairly cohesive." In Spokane, against Gonzaga, "Get number 12" was the battle cry of the spectators as Harmer checked, skated, shot and generally raised havoc with the Bulldogs, who were led by future NHL goalie Pat McCool. In between his rugby, hockey and studies this season, Harmer found time to write columns for the Ubysey newspaper, covering both rugby and hockey.

In 1939/40 the versatile Harmer decided to return to Thunderbird football and the coaching of Maury Van Vliet. This was to be one of the great teams in UBC history recording an undefeated season, the only UBC football team ever to do so, while winning both the BC championship and the Hardy Cup as champion of western Canadian collegiate football. Harmer was a major factor in this team's success, as exemplified by the Ubysey's account of Harmer during this team's first game; (Harmer) "backed up the line...intercepted two passes and recovered one fumble...joined Joplin and Straight as 60 minute men playing the entire game without substitution." He was a threat on offence as well, scoring a touchdown in each of the two Hardy Cup game victories over Saskatchewan.

Harmer was also the President of UBC Men's Athletics this 1939/40 year, presiding over the body that governed all matters pertaining to athletics on campus. And for the fourth consecutive year he suited up with the UBC Thunderbirds hockey team, again playing "heads up hockey" on defense before crowds of up to 2000.

President of the UBC Men's Athletics for a second term in 1940/41, Harmer did his best to help field a UBC football team at a time when the war effort took precedence. As the team's captain he again was a 60-minute man in what turned out to be an abbreviated schedule. Upon completion of this his third football season, he returned for his third season with the rugby team at the same time playing his fifth season for the UBC Thunderbirds hockey team, living up to his reputation as "the most versatile athlete on the campus."

Jim graduated from UBC with a Bachelor of Commerce degree in the spring of 1941. He also received his seventh Big Block award that spring, which was at the time, a school record. Harmer then joined the BC Regiment DCOR (Duke of Connaught's Own Rifles), which became the 28th Armoured Regiment (The British Columbia Regiment), CASF. Sadly, he was killed at Normandy on August 19, 1944.

Remembered to this day as "a strong, tough playing competitor", "a fine individual" and "a special young man", Harmer touched many and set standards for achievement in a life so brief.

Researched and written by Fred Hume, UBC Athletics Historian

TSUNAMI FUNDRAISER



5 year old Caitlin Steacy, granddaughter of Archie Steacy collected donations of \$147.00 in Archie's old steel helmet.

On 23 January 2005, the Association, the Regimental Brass and the Pipe Bands conducted a first class Band Concert in the Drill Hall to raise funds in aid of the December 2004 Tsunami survivors. The Bands performances were absolutely superb, the large number Association and Regimental Volunteers were deeply committed, but unfortunately, attendance of donors was not heavy. However we did raise \$ 3,000.00 that was turned over to the Canadian Red Cross. It was most heartwarming to be with such a devoted group of Dukes keeping our community footprint visible.

Many thanks to those who gave up their Sunday for such a worthy cause.

Ted and Gayle Hawthorne, Ray and Carol Glover, Gerry and Dominique Couling, Graydon and Sandra Young, Tim and Margaret Monchomp, Archie and Lynda Steacy, Catrina and Caitlin Steacy, Cameron and Christine Cathcart, RSM Mark Arden, Sgt Heather Bottrill, Cpl Jasynt Iverson and all the members of the Brass Band and the Pipes and Drums.

Regimental Change of Command

The Regimental Change of Command is one of the most significant ceremonial traditions conducted in Canadian military units. The tenure of the Regimental Commanding Officer is usually a period of three years. Upon completion of his term of office, a formal Change of Command Parade is conducted to relinquish command of the Regiment to a new Commanding Officer. Since 1883, the Regiment has observed thirty-nine post war Change of Command Parades as well as twelve ceremonies during World War I & II for the Regiment's perpetuated Units.

The British Columbia Regiment (DCO) conducted its thirty-ninth post war Change of Command Parade on 15 September 2005 in conjunction with a change of Regimental Sergeant Majors.

On behalf of BCR Association, sincere congratulations to our out-going Commanding Officer, LCol Bryan H. Gagne, C.D. and Regimental Sergeant Major, Chief Warrant Officer Mark T. Arden, C.D. for their professionalism and unstinting commitment engendering high morale, Regimental pride and operational excellence ranking the Regiment as the best and most progressive Unit in 39 Brigade.

Subsequently, Col Gagne was appointed to the position of Deputy Commander, 39 Brigade Group in Vancouver, B.C. CWO Mark Arden will be retiring, and become a most valuable member of our Association.

Well done gentlemen.

The in-coming Commanding Officer, LCol Peter W.W. Bell, C.D. commenced his military career as an officer cadet with the Regiment in 1992. Col Bell has a vast background in training with the Regular Force. After completing his basic officer training, he served with the Westminster Dragoons of the Royal Yeomanry, served in numerous Canadian Forces Staff and Training assignments over the ensuing years. He was deployed overseas with the UN in Uganda in 1996 and the Central African Republic in 1998.

In civilian life, Col Bell is a solicitor with the Federal Department of Justice in Vancouver, B.C. He is married to Lindsay Gronlund, and they have twin daughters, Maya and Anastasia age 3 years.

The in-coming Regimental Sergeant Major, Master Warrant Officer Floris J.D. van Weelderen, C.D. enrolled as a trooper in The British Columbia Regiment in June 1985. Over the ensuing years, he committed himself to achieving a high standard of armoured qualification while serving with the Regiment and the King's Own Calgary Regiment. MWO van Weelderen organized the BCR 26 soldier contingent that participated in the 60th Anniversary of the Liberation of Holland ceremonies in May 2005. He recently completed his fourth year as Squadron Sergeant Major.

In civilian life, RSM van Weelderen is a Civil Engineer with the firm ND LEA Consultants Ltd., as the Manager of Transportation Planning. He is married to Amy Goldberg and they have one son, Jasper age 3 years.

Congratulations to you both on your appointments.

The Association stands ready to provide our support to you in any way we are able.....just ask.

Up the Dukes.

Archie M. Steacy
President

British Columbia Regiment Association Homeless Christmas Lunch December 10, 2005, held in the Drill Hall.



A Great Success! The Biggest on Record!!

450 guests sat down to a full course turkey lunch with all the trimmings.

Over 60 volunteers helped to make this event a joyous occasion. This included members of the Association, serving members of the Regiment, friends and friends of friends. Our Honorary Colonel, Brigadier General Darrell Dean headed the potato peeling at 0800 hrs., along with many others throwing the spuds in the big pot.

Ten smartly dressed BCR Cadets, Regimental members and students from St. Patrick's High School did a terrific job serving the meals. The turkeys were expertly carved, under the leadership of Wayne Preston and team and nicely served by our wives and friends of the Regiment.

Adding to the festivity, a live band played Christmas carols and songs making the day cheery and bright.



The potato peeling squad.....250 lbs peeled.



Volunteers filling lunch plates for BCR Cadets to serve to our homeless guests.

Regimental members handed-out over 350 boxed turkey sandwiches to street homeless at the Hastings and Main Streets area. The sandwiches disappeared in less than 20 minutes.

Sincere thanks to all and especially Ray Glover, Luncheon Chairman, Lt Col Peter Bell, Mr. & Mrs. Ray Nickel who donated 40 turkeys, Chartwells who cooked the turkeys, the Salvation Army and the Catholic Charities who faithfully support the Association's Annual Homeless Christmas Lunch

All in all, we were exhausted but felt good over a job well done. Once again, the Regiment's footprint in the community was present.

Our sincere gratitude to those members of the Regimental Family and friends who attended the Association's Christmas Fund Raiser held in the Drill Hall on 08 December 2005 to assist with off-setting the cost of the Homeless Christmas Lunch. The event, including a turkey lunch, prepared by Chef Shane Steacy, ended with a fun filled raffle of some fifty donated prizes which raised \$2,515.00.

**Hey Dukes, join with us next year, mark your calendar
Fund Raiser Lunch, 07 Dec 2006 at the Drill Hall.**

Happy New Year
Ray Glover
Vice President,
BC Regiment Association



Homeless Christmas Lunch guests being served a delicious turkey meal by a Regimental member

Museum Update

By Jerry Couling, Treasurer

Below are some occurrences within the museum and its society since our last report as well as some plans expected to be implemented in the near future.

Tours

During November we hosted three Cub packs totalling about 100 kids. Each visit lasted between 2 1/2 to 3 hours commencing with a brief introduction on the Regiment's history and home, leading to a "hands on" museum tour (including a helmet and tunic "dress-up" photo session during which each cub was individually photographed and presented with his Polaroid likeness), followed by a "tour and talk" of the W.O.s' & Sgts' Mess and wrapping up with an artistic expression period in which the kids were requested to create a drawing of something that impressed them during their visit. Some of the art work is currently on display in the museum. After juice, cookies and closing remarks the cubs were sent on their way.

Judging from the responses of the kids and their leaders, the tour was appreciated by all and most look forward to a return trip. These events would not been the success that they were without the voluntary assistance of the following people: Archie Steacy, Cam Cathcart, Ted Hawthorne, Dick Grady, Tim Monchamp, Dave Holwill, and Floris van Weelderren.

In addition to the above Cub Tours we opened the museum to and addressed a group of senior high school history students visiting the Drill Hall in November, to enhance their studies of Canada's contributions and sacrifices in defending and restoring freedom.

Board of Directors Changes

The Society respectfully acknowledges it's gratitude to outgoing Vice President Cam Cathcart for his dedication, creative ideas, labour, and sound judgement. His contributions improved the Museum both visually and functionally. His resignation was accepted with regret. Fortunately, Cam will remain a member of the Society and, hopefully, will be available from time -to- time for "work parties" and counsel. Dick Grady, a board member for several years and former major in the Regiment, agreed to take over the role of Vice President.

During the Museum Society's Annual General Meeting held early in December Tim Monchomp was elected to the Board. All members present expressed their appreciation to Tim for agreeing to become a director. His talents and ideas will be of help.

Here are the current board members:

- Archie M. Steacy – Director & President
- B.D. (Dick) Grady – Director & Vice President
- E. A. (Ted) Hawthorne – Director & Secretary
- G.A. (Jerry) Couling – Director & Treasurer
- R. E. (Bob) Hall - Director
- T.J. (Tim) Monchomp – Director

What Move?

During the year consideration was given by various regimental family stakeholders to moving the museum from its existing second floor location to new space more accessible to the public. The "leading choice" was the area on the Drill Hall floor beneath the South Wall balcony between the elevator and the staircase to the Junior Ranks' Club and extending a few feet beyond the balcony's coverage. Because of funding constraints and possible future alternative space needs by the Regiment, this initiative is on hold for the foreseeable future.

Plans

Going forwarding our first goal is to finalize initiatives already underway. For example, we intend to set up more displays bordering the parade square, similar to the "helmet and gas masks" ones currently on view. The contents of these displays will be changed every few months to keep things fresh and to stimulate continued

interest in our Regiment's history. Within the museum we intend to develop an appropriate display/section containing artifacts from the Irish Fusiliers of Canada's regimental collection to honour that regiment and pay tribute to its contributions to our city and nation. For the future, the board is embracing the concept of theme displays (regimental battles, remembrance, weapons evolution, etc.) which will be "fleshed out" during the coming months and reported on in later editions of *The Duke*.

Parting Words

There are numerous individuals of all ranks and position within the Regiment and the Regimental Family who continue to contribute to the maintenance, development, and guidance of the Museum. Your support is appreciated. Quite simply, without it the museum would cease to exist. Personally, I feel privileged in being a museum member and, as such, a part of the Museum team. Like all volunteer organizations, the Museum can always use extra hands and minds. If any of you Dukes who are not currently members but are interested in joining, please complete the enclosed application form. The cost is only \$10.00.

MEDIA ADVISORY

6 February 2006

From: Captain (Ret'd) P.W. Forsberg, CD, Public Affairs Officer

CONFERENCE OF DEFENCE ASSOCIATIONS WELCOMES GORDON O'CONNOR'S APPOINTMENT AS MINISTER OF NATIONAL DEFENCE

Ottawa – The Conference of Defence Associations (CDA) welcomes the appointment of Brigadier-General (Ret'd) the Honourable Gordon O'Connor as Minister of National Defence. Brigadier-General O'Connor's appointment is, hopefully, the Prime Minister's signal to Canadians, the federal bureaucracy, and Canada's allies of the new government's determination to strengthen Canada's defence capabilities.

Brigadier-General O'Connor's appointment as Minister of National Defence is welcomed by the community of Canadians who have an abiding interest in the defence and security concerns of this country. As well, his appointment is testimony to his dedication in fostering the betterment of our Armed Forces.

The CDA recognizes that the Minister will be facing challenges to the realignment of the ongoing transformation of the Canadian Forces with the defence policy of the new government. The CDA can assure the Minister of National Defence of the Associations' support in his efforts to oversee the ongoing restoration of the CF.

Contact: Alain Pellerin, Executive Director, telephone: (613) 236 1252
Peter Forsberg, Public Affairs Officer, telephone: (613) 236 9903
Matthew Gillard, Project Officer, telephone : (613) 236 9903

The Drill Hall's New Neighbours

The new Concord Pacific highrise development surrounding the east and south sides of the Drill Hall is creating a new look for our Regimental Home. The construction of four 20 to 30 story towers and a row of smaller buildings along Georgia Street began last year with a monstrous excavation that left the Drill perched atop of a 40-foot shear drop-off cliff. Once completed, the project will create a Military Memorial Park at street level and military vehicle parking area underneath the Park. Two streets named Regiment Place and Citadel Way will connect Georgia Street with Dunsmuir Street. Construction of the towers is now slightly above street level.

The photographs below provides you with a view of early 2004 construction and as of 20 January 05.



"The forty foot drop-off at the rear of the Drill Hall....2004"



"Construction now up to street level.....2006."

RIVERSIDE PARK KAMLOOPS

Captain Edward Donald Bellew, V.C. of the 7th Canadian Infantry Battalion, C.E.F. won the first Canadian Officer V.C. on 23 April 1915 at the 2nd Battle of Ypres near St. Julien in Belgium. He resided and ranched around Kamloops, B.C., passing away in 1961. He is buried in Kamloops Hillside Cemetery marked by a small and insignificant headstone. Kamloops city officials and residents were completely unaware that a World War I Hero was a part of the cities heritage. BCR Association produced a bronze plaque, worked with Mayor Rothenbeger in placing and dedicating the memorial at the City's Cenotaph in Riverside park.

At the conclusion of the dedication service, a graveside service was conducted by Chaplin Captain Paul Beckingham. A BCR Firing Party fired three rounds in honour of Captain Bellew, V.C. to conclude the ceremony. All members then placed lighted candles on the graves of other Veterans. A most heart warming time.

We have requested Veterans Affairs Canada to place a Victoria Cross Style Headstone on Captain Bellew's grave.



Memorial Plaque in Riverside Park, Kamloops, BC dedicated to Captain Edward Donald Bellew, V.C. on 23 October 2004
L-R: Gerry Couling, Ray Glover, Chaplin Captain Paul Beckingham, Norman Kipnis, Ted Hawthorne, Bob Hall and Archie Steacy

“Irish Fusiliers of Canada (The Vancouver Regiment)”

Dukes,

Historical data, “what went before” so to speak, is one of the fundamental building blocks that establishes a deeply woven fabric that is our Regiment. Its termed “Regimental History”.

The British Columbia Regiment (DCO) was officially established on 12 October 1883. However, our ancestry dates back to circa 1866 with the Seymour Artillery Company located in New Westminster, B.C. Over the subsequent 139 years, the Regiment experienced many name and role changes. A few of the name changes are; BC Provisional Regiment of Garrison Artillery; 6th Battalion of Rifles; 1st British Columbia Regiment; The British Columbia Regiment (Duke of Connaught’s Own Rifles); 13th Armoured Regiment (The British Columbia Regiment); The British Columbia Regiment (Duke of Connaught’s Own) RCAC and presently, The British Columbia Regiment (DCO) that is a merger of the BC Regiment (DCO) RCAC and the Irish Fusiliers of Canada (The Vancouver Regiment).

During WW I, the Regiment was titled the 7th Canadian Infantry Battalion, CEF, and during WW II, the Regiment had two designations. The Duke of Connaught’s Own Rifles (1939 to 1942) and the 28th Armoured Regiment (British Columbia Regiment) CAC.

Our perpetuated Battalions are: 7th, 29th, 62nd, 102nd and 158th Canadian Infantry Battalions, and the 1st and 2nd Depot Battalions.

As you can see, we do have a very deeply woven Regimental fabric.

I recently received a copy of an historical article titled, “Irish Fusiliers of Canada (The Vancouver Regiment)” during the period 1950 to 1968, written by Colonel Donald F. Spankie, O.B.E., E.D., a former Irish Fusilier. It is quite a lengthy article so we will deliver it in three sections in successive issues of the Duke News letter.

Thanks to Jim Munro former Piper and Lieutenant, 1st Bn. Irish Fusiliers for providing this article.

Part 1. 1950 to 1968

For a period of twelve years the Regiment, functioned as an anti-aircraft gunner unit. At the beginning there was a feeling of frustration and some degree of trepidation on the part of all ranks, past and present. However, in settling down to the task of acquiring gunner skills, these feelings were overcome and as the personnel became more proficient in their new duties, gradually a spirit of achievement and accomplishment became established. Of tremendous assistance in the early months of this period was the extremely warm welcome extended to the Irish by the Gunners. They were quickly made to feel that they were indeed a part of the Royal Regiment of the Canadian Artillery. This spirit of friendship increased in strength and in depth with the passing years.

The Gunner phase of the Regiment’s history was terminated suddenly and somewhat dramatically. There had been no forewarning of the likelihood of any change occurring. Then suddenly official word was received that effective as of 1 September 1958 the Regiment would be reorganized as an Infantry unit assuming the title “Irish Fusiliers of Canada (The Vancouver Regiment)”. It was indeed difficult to believe at first that the Regiment was returning to the Infantry Arm of the Service. Needless to say, this was an order emanating from authority which was received and welcomed with loud acclaim by all ranks as well as former serving personnel. Once again the Regiment would function in the manner and style for which it had originally been formed and in which it had served in two World Wars.

There was, however, a tinge of regret upon leaving the Royal Regiment and terminating the period of service as “Irish Gunners”, an unique distinction shared with the Liverpool Irish of the Territorial Army. As Gunners both Regiments had continued to wear the caubeen and march to the strain of Irish Pipes. The warm ties and strong feelings of friendship with the Gunners has continued to prevail through the ensuing years.

The conversion to Infantry also brought with it amalgamation with a very old and distinguished North British Columbia Militia Unit located in Prince Rupert. At this time, the 120th Independent Field Battery, R.C.A. became “D” Company of the Irish Fusiliers. Thus the associations formed by the Regiment during two World Wars while serving in the Prince Rupert area now became more closely and permanently identified through having a company located in the northern city.

It is rather a coincidence that the history of the Prince Rupert militia unit has followed a somewhat similar pattern to that of the Irish. The original unit was formed in the early years of this century as an independent rifle company. On 1 April 1910, it was designated as "Earl Grey's Own Rifles". Prior to the outbreak of war in 1914, the unit was expanded to a four company regiment. Later, on 2 November 1914 it was renamed "68th Regiment (Earl Grey's Own Rifles)". During the Great War it assisted with recruiting for the Canadian Expeditionary Force and became very closely identified with the 102nd Battalion (Northern British Columbia) C.E.F., a unit that was to be commanded by an Irish Fusilier, Lt Col E.J. Ryan, D.S.O. in the closing phase of the Great War. When the Militia was reorganized following the restoration of peace, the Prince Rupert unit became, on 15th March 1920, the Northern British Columbia Regiment. In 1936, it was converted to artillery as the 102nd (Northern British Columbia) Heavy Battery, R.C.A and served during World War II. Once again, this Unit was instrumental in providing personnel for overseas service with the First Canadian Army. Following the War, the unit was reconstituted as the 120th Coast Battery, R.C.A. In 1948 it became a heavy anti-aircraft battery. Then in 1954, a further change was affected and it became 120th Harbour Defence Troop, R.C.A. Again in 1956, it was redesignated as the 120th Independent Battery, R.C.A. remaining in this role until 1958 when it became "D" Company of the Irish Fusiliers of Canada (The Vancouver Regiment).

Throughout the years and in spite of the many changes, a very close association was maintained with the Veterans of the 102nd Canadian Infantry Battalion, C.E.F. It is of interest to note that the colours of the 102nd Battalion were laid-up in Christ Church Cathedral in Vancouver a number of years ago where they may be found resting side by side with the colours of the 7th and 29th Battalions, all of these Units closely associated with the Irish Fusiliers.

There followed a period of tremendous activity. Special training courses were arranged in order to qualify personnel in Infantry skills. The enthusiasm displayed by all ranks was reflected in the success of the Regiment at the conclusion of its first year as an Infantry Unit, finishing in second place in the annual competition to determine the standards of training, efficiency and administration of British Columbia Militia Units. Such initial success was indicative of what might be expected of the Regiment during succeeding years.

It was also necessary in this initial period to consider and deal with such matters as Regimental Dress Regulations, the design of badges and buttons and the designing of a new stand of colours. The willing services of former officers were co-opted in order to deal expeditiously with these various matters.

During the early hours of 18 March 1960 the Stanley Park Armoury, home of the Irish Fusiliers was completely destroyed by fire. This was indeed a sad blow and a terrible loss. Not only was it a total loss of treasured trophies, records and Regimental property and equipment, but more seriously the loss of a home. The building was one of the City's landmarks. It was erected in the early years of the century as a horse show building, the largest of its kind at that time in North America. It had a seating capacity of 3,500, and was the scene of much social activity in the years prior to August 1914. From that time on the building was used for a variety of military purposes. It was taken over by the Irish Fusiliers in 1936.

Following the Fire, friends and supporters of the Regiment quickly came forward to assist in re-establishing the Unit and in helping to replace lost equipment. During this period the Gunners were extremely kind and generous in extending a warm friendly hand that helped greatly to maintain spirit and morale of the Irish. Temporary accommodation was provided initially at the Jericho Army Base area, and then subsequently in the Shaughnessy Barracks, a World War II temporary hutted Camp.

In spite of having the handicap of having to occupy temporary and inadequate accommodation for an Infantry Battalion, the Regiment carried on with training with redoubled vigour with the result that in 1962 it was awarded the Wallace Trophy, emblematic of being judged as the most efficient and best all-round Militia Infantry Regiment in British Columbia for that year.

The next part of the Irish History will be continued in the next issue of the Duke.

Archie Steacy

REMEMBRANCE SERVICE 29TH BTN



"The laying of the wreath at the Memorial at the P.N.E. Grounds, Vancouver, in remembrance of the 29th Canadian Infantry Battalion, C.E.F. Fallen." Service was conducted by Chaplin Lieutenant Walter Bayley.

The annual Memorial Service commemorating The Fallen of the 29th (Tobin's Tigers) Canadian Infantry Battalion, CEF was held on 25 September 2005 at the Memorial Cairn located in the Pacific National Exhibition Grounds, Vancouver, B.C. The 29th Battalion, formerly perpetuated by the Irish Fusiliers of Canada (The Vancouver Regiment) is now perpetuated by The British Columbia Regiment (DCO) since the merger of the two Regiments.

Major James Barrett, C.D. was the Parade Commander and the Service was conducted by Chaplin Lieutenant Walter G. Bayley. Former members of the Irish Fusiliers, Cadets from 2381 BCR/Irish Fusiliers Cadet Corp and Pipe Major Gordon Barrett attended the Ceremony.

A reception, provided by the BCR Association was held in the PNE Office Complex at the conclusion of the Remembrance Service.



"Former members of the Irish Fusiliers of Canada (The Vancouver Regiment) who attended the Annual Remembrance Service."

BURSARIES

During the Regiment's Battle on Hill 111 on 9 August 1944, Lieutenant William Bicknell was killed during that horrific action. I am pleased to inform you that Lieutenant Bicknell's nephew, Mr. Donald Bicknell, an Air Canada pilot who resides in Barrie Ontario, made contact with the Association desiring to learn more about his Uncle. Don attended a number of Regimental functions over the past year, most recently the Annual Reunion Dinner in Vancouver. He spoke at length with Don Cameron regarding his Uncle's service in the Regiment.

I am very pleased to inform you that Don has provided a perpetual Regimental Association Bursary, in honour of his Uncle, Lieutenant William Bicknell, to be awarded annually to a serving member of the Regimental Family.

I am also pleased to inform you that Major (Ret'd) Henry Howitt, M.C. provides annual funding for a Regimental Association Bursary to be awarded annually to a serving member of the Regimental Family.

Thanks Henry and Don for your support and thoughtfulness.

Archie Steacy

The BC Veterans Commemorative Association

Report by Jerry Couling, BCVCA Treasurer

Origin & Purpose:

In the early 1990's both Veteran Affairs Canada (VAC) and various veteran groups recognized the need to create a body dedicated to commemorating the contributions made by Canadians in service of their country during times of war and peace. Although initially a VAC committee, it evolved into an independent entity a few years ago, known as the BC Veterans Commemorative Association (BCVCA). Presently it has about 80 members of which most are members of Regimental Associations, Peacekeeper Associations and Veteran service clubs (Royal Canadian Legion and ANAVets).

BC Regiment Connection:

From its inception as a VAC committee through to its current status as an independent, entity, your Regimental Association President, Archie Steacy, has provided leadership to BCVCA through team building and scope development. In recognition of his skills and other attributes, it is not surprising that Archie was chosen as the Association's founding president. Although Archie stepped down as president a year or two later, he stayed on as a director. To this day, he continues to be a "guiding light" to this young organization. Another "Duke" (and lawyer), Ted Hawthorne, donated his professional time to process all the legal work necessary to incorporate this association. Subsequently, he has donated many additional hours of advice keeping BCVCA "out of trouble". He now serves on its board as Secretary, along with Jerry Couling (Treasurer), a retired Bank Executive Officer who has unstintingly provided his time and financial expertise and Archie.

Activities:

Through Archie's stewardship the following BCVCA initiatives have flourished.

- Veterans Licence Plate: This program received provincial government consent in June 2004. Since that date about 27,000 veteran plate applications have been processed by BCVCA and its agents. Those eligible for plates are, **any person who served in the Canadian Forces with an MOC (military occupation classification) and is honourably discharged.**
- Fellow Dukes, because of your military service with the Reserves (Militia), you are classified as a "Veteran". You are entitled to receive and display Veterans License plates on your motor vehicle, as well as Veterans benefits for injuries/disabilities sustained during your service.(ie) hearing deficiency, physical injuries, Complete your application, include a copy of your discharge (service record) and a cheque for \$5.00 to BCVCA, 106 – 96 East Broadway, Vancouver, B.C. V5T 4N9 for approval for Veterans License Plates in recognition of your military service. The application can be down loaded from BCVCA's web site (<http://www.geocities.com/bcvca/>) or picked-up at any ICBC Auto Plan Agent's Office.

LEST WE FORGET

A most thoughtful and respectful act of a Canadian citizen who noticed a British Columbia Veterans License Plate.

After much coaxing, my father finally applied for and received the 2005 Veteran Specialty license plates. Two weeks after installing them on his car, he and my mother drove the Coquihalla toll highway to visit me in Peachland.

Four kilometres before the toll, a car sped up and passed them. Arriving at the toll booth, my father waited his turn while the driver in front paid the \$10.00 toll then, money in hand, eased forward to the window.

"That gentleman just paid your toll," smiled the operator. "And he asked me to tell you, 'Thanks for serving!'"

Lonnie McLean, Peachland, B.C.

Credit to the Readers Digest, February 2006

- Commemorative Candles: About 12 years ago Canadian distribution rights to a unique commemorative candle produced in Holland were awarded to BCVCA's predecessor but inherited by BCVCA. Any of you who have attended a veteran's candlelight commemorative service, held at numerous cemeteries through out

Canada, will be familiar with the candles. They are in a red translucent cylindrical holder topped with a brass wind shield. The candles are designed to glow safely for several hours but to go out if tipped over.

- School Program: Each year in November, BCVCA and VAC jointly sponsor this educational event in which school aged students tour exhibits, watch plays and or video presentations describing the contributions and sacrifices Canadian veterans made to ensure subsequent generations of Canadians would live in a democratic and just society. Students are given an opportunity to mingle and talk directly to veterans. In the past, many of these events have been conducted in the Drill Hall. It is common for over two thousand of our youth to participate in this four day event.
- Year of the Veteran: In commemorating the “Year of the Veteran” BCVCA, through partnership with VAC, held a special service at Victory Square on August 14th followed by a parade to the Chinese Cultural Centre and a reception at the Centre. That evening a special dinner dance was held in the Drill Hall for approximately 200 veterans and their guests. Music popular during the war years was played by Dal Richards and his band. It was a most enjoyable evening.

In Closing ..

BCVCA has accomplished a lot since its inception. To help it to grow and to expand its existing commemoration programs it needs more members. If any of you are interested in joining, please phone me (Jerry Couling) at 604-222-1962. The membership fee is only \$10.00.

Donations to the Charitable Trust Fund

Many thanks to those Dukes who so generously made donations to support our Regimental Commemoration Projects and Bursaries.

Lloyd Augustus, Ronald Banks, Charles Baskerville, Zane Beam, Donald Bicknell, Louis Bohemier, Gilbert Brett, Raymond Brickell, Donald N. Cameron, Maxwell Carne, Cameron Cathcart, Raymond Chaddock, Joe Christensen, Keith Crandlemire, Eugene Dowling, Jack Drake, Thomas(AI) Drinkwater, John Fraser, Frank Fukui, Robert Gibb, John Gillespie, Robert Gourlay, Scott Hamilton, John Harvey, Ted Hawthorne, John Hostler, Henry Howitt, Ken Hyland, Kelly Ip, Keith Irvine, John James, Charles Laidlaw, Nornam Kipnis, Paul Lanfranco, Laurence (Bud) Lay, Monty lee, Merwin (Slim) Loverage, Robert Lyon, Tom Lyth, Irv Mathieson, Gwen Mathieson, Keith Maxwell, Fancis McCann, Gordon McKelvie, Dan McKenzie, Keith Moore, Clifford Murch, Archie Mutch, Henry Newcombe, Frank Owen, Constantine Pappas, Paul Philcox, Roger Prouse, Leo Querin, Peter Reamer, Patrick Reid, Keith Robertson, James Russell, Tudor Rutherglen, William Schmidt, Victor Shaw, Warren Sherk, Joe Simpson, David Sproule, William Stalman, Albert Steenhoff, John Stock, James Tedlie, Thomas Wagstaff, Kenneth Whitney, Walter Zaholic.

Thank you.

ASLEEP

Lieutenant Colonel William T. Lane, C.D. served with UBC COTC Contingent, the Canadian Armoured Corps during WW II and The British Columbia Regiment (DCO). He passed away on 24 November 2005. Bill, Betsey and family resided in Vancouver, B.C.

Sergeant William C. Morrison, C.D. served with The British Columbia Regiment (DCO). He passed away on 14 November 2005. Bill and family resided in Vancouver, B.C.

Tpr Raymond L. B. Nelson served in the 28th Armoured Regiment (BCR) during WW II. He passed away on 12 September 1999. Born in Philadelphia, PA on 18 April 1914. Ray, Eva and family resided in Penticton, BC.

WE SHALL REMEMBER THEM

SICK PARADE

We are pleased to let you know former Commanding Officer of the Regiment, LCol (Ret'd) Andrew P. Conradi is recovering from a recent heart operation. Andy came through with flying colours. You can't get a good old Duke down. Hope to see you at the Drill Hall soon. Best wishes and a speedy recovery from all Dukes.

AWOL

We need your help. Do you know the whereabouts of the following AWOL Dukes?

Wane Banks; George Beckett; Randy Belong; Evert Boer; Norman M. Brown; Mathew F. Brown; Ralph. F. Brown; J.W. Burke; Wally Carter; Harry Chaplin; Alfred Dubin; R. Halverson; Reginald Hodson; Arthur Holmes; Errol Knowles; T.R.L. Law; James J. McDougall; Donald B. McGill; Lee Montgomery; Terry A. Noakes; Ole Ostensen; Kenneth A. Parr; Raymond A.L. Pfeifer; W.E. Prahouser; G. Robson; Leonard Sutherby.

Dukes....please remember to advise the Association if you change your address and e-mail address.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Please be advised of the following Regimental and Association Activities:

Thursday Lunches - Thursday Lunches, held in the Officers Mess, were started upon the Regiment's return from World War II. To-day, the lunches are held every second week, as our numbers have dropped-off over the past few years. It's a Regimental tradition Dukes that we must ensure continues for camaraderie and to maintain our community footprint. Please consider joining your (old) buddies and friends for lunch. It's a soup and sandwich lunch costing \$10.00. Hope to see you there.

Lunch Dates: 09 & 23 March; 13 & 27 April and 11 May 06

Regimental Functions:

- 22 April 06 - Officers St. Julien Dinner commemorating the 2nd Battle of Ypres, 23 April 1915.
- 29 April 06 - BCR Association WW II Veterans Vernon Lunch.
- 27 May 2006 - BCR Regimental Hockey Game and Regimental Family Awards Reception and Barbecue

Up the Dukes!

SPECIAL ANNOUNCEMENT

Regimental Challenge Medallion (RCM)

The start of a new BCR tradition!!

The Association designed and minted a Regimental Challenge Medallion that memorializes the Fallen of the 28th Armoured Regiment (British Columbia Regiment) intending to make it available to members of the Regimental past and present in 2005, The Year of the Veteran.

However, due to production errors, the medallion wording had to be corrected and re-minted. You will be hearing from us shortly regarding the procurement details for your **Regimental Challenge Medallion**. It's truly superb!

The New Authorized Regimental Tie

The Commanding Officers Committee recently authorized an addition to the Regimental tie. A narrow red stripe symbolizes the Irish Fusiliers of Canada (The Vancouver Regiment) merger with The British Columbia Regiment (DCO).

The Association undertook the responsibility to obtain a quotation to produce a quality silk tie at an affordable cost. We accepted a quotation from Eugene Neckware of Ontario, and are presently awaiting a sample of the tie that will be presented to the Commanding Officers Committee for acceptance.

Again, you will be hearing shortly regarding the new Regimental Tie.

BC Regiment Museum Society

Five years ago, The Museum Society created a project titled "Regimental Medal Find". The project objective is to retrieve single medals, and medal groups of former members of the Regiment and our perpetuated battalions (7th; 29th; 62nd; 102nd; 158th Battalions) and the 28th Armoured Regiment (BCR) to create a living history of "Dukes" to be displayed in the Museum.

We have recovered a number of Regimental medals over that past few years via donations and purchases. However, retrieval of medals is dependent on being able to purchase when advertised for sale on e-bay and private collectors. The Museum, not being a wealthy organization, has depended on the generosity of its membership and other members of the Regimental Family when medals are put up for sale.

We are presently in the process of purchasing the medal group of Pte/Lt R.P. Dick, M.M. of the 102nd Canadian Infantry Battalion, C.E.F. at a cost of \$1,300.00 (Cdn). I agree, this is a horrendous price, but based on to-days market, it is an acceptable price. To-date, through the support and generosity of members of the Regimental Family, we have received donations totalling \$1,000.00. Please help us with this worthy project.



Donations received in excess of the present purchase will be retained in the Museum's Medal Find War Chest.
Archie Steacy.

Best wishes to you and your families.

Up the Dukes.

Archie M. Steacy
President