



# The Duke

## RECOGNITION OF SERVICE AND DEDICATION

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**Major (Ret'd) Roger W. Prouse, CD, presented with a Certificate of Service by General Walt Natynczyk, CMM, MSC, CD, Chief of Defence Staff.**

A Certificate of Service was presented to Major Roger W. Prouse, CD during a ceremony at the Vernon Army Cadet Summer Training Centre at the conclusion of the Cadet Basic Graduation Parade August 14<sup>th</sup>, 2009. The award was presented at the conclusion of the Basic Graduation Parade, at which Major Prouse was the Reviewing Officer. This well-deserved award honoured his 19 years of service with the British Columbia Regiment (Duke of Connaught's Own), and 19 years as a Cadet Instructor Cadre Officer.

Further ceremonies celebrating the 60<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Vernon Army Cadet Summer Training Centers' Final Parade and Sunset Ceremony and the Army Cadets 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary were held during the evening on the Dieppe Square.

Major Prouse commenced his military career as a Cadet in the 2290 British Columbia Regiment (DCO) from 1953 to 1956 prior to joining The British Columbia Regiment (13<sup>th</sup> Armoured Regiment) RCAC in 1956 serving until 1975. In 1984 he was commissioned as a Cadet Instructor Cadre (CIC) Officer with the 2290 British Columbia Regiment (DCO) Cadet Corps and the Vernon Army Cadet Summer Camp in

the capacity of company 2/IC, Company Commander and the Deputy Commanding Officer, retiring in 2003.

In September 2004 he was appointed as Executive Director of the Army Cadet League of Canada, BC Branch and is presently the BC League's Vice President.

We would be amiss if we did not acknowledge Roger's wife, Louise Prouse, for her dedication, diligence and support to Roger and the British Columbia Army Cadet League.

Roger, on behalf of the Board of Directors and members of the Association, I thank you sincerely for your dedication and service to the Regiment and our Cadets Corps.

UP THE DUKES  
Ray Glover  
President

## **MUSEUM UPDATE**

**by: Jerry Couling**

### **Parade Square Presence:**

In my last article I mentioned, that through discussions with the CO and others in the Regiment, the Museum Society intended to make many of its artifacts more accessible to the Regiment by displaying them on the Drill Hall floor as well as other areas (messes, classrooms, etc.) frequented by Unit members. These intentions will soon take shape.

The Regiment was able to take advantage of the cabinetry skills of Sgt. Kevin Baker, by having him construct several new display cases which are wall mounted around the parade square. The RSM has kindly dedicated the majority of them to the Museum Society. Archie Steacy, Dick Grady, and I recently met with the RSM to view the new cabinets and discuss how they might be used to portray the rich ongoing story of our beloved Regiment. To do the cabinets and Regiment justice, several more meetings will occur over the next few weeks to - (1) decide on the most appropriate display for each cabinet and (2) to assemble and install the selected items in the new cases.

### **29<sup>th</sup> Battalion medals:**

Early in July, Sgt. Dwayne Snow, having noticed the above medals advertised on eBay, asked the Museum Society if it was interested in submitting a bid to which the Board replied "Yes"!! To secure them, Sgt. Ron Leblanc regularly checked the eBay listing and at the appropriate moment successfully placed the winning bid. The group of medals purchased are those of Lance Corporal Edwin A. McVeety, who enlisted in the 29<sup>th</sup> Battalion on the 11 November 1914. The grouping consists of his 1914/15 Star, War & Victory medals, his cased Memorial Cross with full length of ribbon, death plaque medallion, his oak framed Commemorative Scroll, a portrait photo, a poignant 2 page letter to his mother from a soldier who was with him when he was killed and 5 official letters regarding his death.

The McVeety collection cost the Museum Society just under \$1,100 to purchase. To date we have received donations totalling \$500 to help cover the cost. We would like to receive sufficient donations to restore our current account to the pre-purchase level. If you are in a position to assist us, please make your cheque payable to the BC Regiment Museum Society and mail it to us care of the Drill Hall. We will provide a tax receipt for the full amount of the donation.

### **The Case of the Missing Cross:**

Following the Vimy Ridge Battle, the 102<sup>nd</sup> Battalion placed two memorial crosses at the battle site to commemorate those of its members who were killed there. After the War the crosses were brought back

to the Regiment, where one remained until November 1925. In that month it was entrusted to a predecessor of the Vancouver Museum by Rev. C.C. Owen, Chaplain of the 7<sup>th</sup> Battalion, for safekeeping. Some time after that, the Vancouver Museum loaned the cross out, either directly to the Engineer's Museum at CFB Chilliwack, or to another museum which passed it on to the Engineer's. (Neither us nor the Vancouver Museum are clear on the sequence of events.) The cross was moved to Gagetown at the time the Engineers were relocated to that Base. The second cross was laid up in St. Andrews Cathedral in Prince Rupert, B.C.

Given that the cross was held by the Vancouver Museum in safekeeping for the Regiment, the Museum Society, acting in a custodial role, is attempting to enforce the Regiment's right of ownership of the cross and, ultimately, reclaim it. In order to do so, we contacted the Vancouver Museum asking them to get it back for us. The Vancouver Museum reported that the Canadian Forces Engineers' Museum in Gagetown confirmed the cross was in its possession but stated that even though the cross had only been leant to them (i.e., not given to them) it was now a Crown asset. For that reason, that CF Museum would be willing only to LOAN it back to the Vancouver Museum.

In a "nutshell" here's the situation. A vital artifact owned by the regimental family was given to the Vancouver Museum for safekeeping and, later, without the regimental family's knowledge, loaned to a CF museum, then moved from BC to a CF museum in Gagetown, where it is now declared by that museum to be a Crown asset! We intend to write to that museum, providing them with our documentation showing the cross is ours and not a Crown asset, and requesting the cross be returned to us, the rightful owners. We will keep you informed of this matter in future articles.

**NORMANDY MEMORIAL CEREMONIES**  
**09 August 2009, 65<sup>th</sup> Anniversary**  
**BCR & Algonquin Hill 111 Memorial and Bretteville-sur-Laize**  
**Canadian War Cemetery, Cintheaux, France**



Hon Major Dr Jean-Pierre Benamou, OBE, MSM, MT  
at the Bretteville-sur-Laize Canadian War Cemetery  
Remembrance Service, 09 August 2009



Floral arrangement laid by Hon Major Dr. Jean-Pierre  
Benamou, OBE MSM MT at the Hill 111 Memorial and  
Bretteville-sur-Laize Canadian War Cemetery.  
09 August 2009

## THE START LINE

by: David Sproule

### Sword Parties that my Sword and I Have Known



Lieutenant and Mrs. David Sproule pass under their Guard of Honour on departing from the Church after their wedding.

A sword party is a strictly military activity associated with military weddings and sometimes mimicked by others such as canoe or rowing clubs whose member when a groom, may exit a church with bride in arm, under an arch of oars or paddles. The first time that I participated in a sword party was during the summer of 1958 while serving with the Strathconas in Calgary. We had spent two months in Wainwright on exercise and had returned to Currie Barracks to languish in the routine of tank maintenance while many went off on leave. It was during this time that Rod Tomlinson, a fellow subaltern in "A" Squadron was to marry his sweetheart in Saskatoon. Rod had asked me to be one of the six in the sword party and I was delighted to be a part of the ceremony. We were all to gather at the church in Saskatoon at the appointed time and I had arranged to travel with Barry Robison. Barry was a realtor in Calgary and an officer with the King's Own Calgary Regiment (KOCR) and he often frequented the Strathcona Officers' Mess and came along on exercises with us. Barry was an original, a very funny guy and being nine years older than me had an influence on me for quite a long time. Barry had a passion for good tailoring, Philip Morris cigarettes and the writings of Max Shulman and often made up acronyms for everyday activities. "Let's go for an H & MS," he would say meaning a hamburger and a milkshake or the "5 S's" – meaning a sh\_ \_ , shower, shave, shampoo and shoeshine. Barry loved life and people loved to be around him. Sadly Barry passed away a few years ago.

In July 1958, Barry owned a 1958 Pontiac which was fully loaded. He and Bruce Meulaner and I left Calgary for Saskatoon on a pretty strict schedule. What I didn't know was that Barry loved to drive very fast. After waking from a nap, I noticed that the telephone poles were whipping by the window very quickly and looked over at the speedometer and whoa, we were doing 120 MPH way faster than I had ever driven before. Eventually Barry pulled over and said, "OK Davey, it's your turn." Soon I was roaring across that prairie highway at 120 MPH as well. We had a great time on that trip. Rod had arranged for us to stay at the RCAF Station at Saskatoon just north of the city and it was quite adequate and cheap accommodation. I had borrowed a sword to fulfill my obligations at Rod's wedding and showed up along with the others for the task which went smoothly and then away back to Calgary on the Sunday morning. I still have the Strathcona cufflinks that Rod gave to each of us that assisted at the wedding.

Back in the quarters in Calgary, I propped the sword in the corner of my room intending to return it to the Officer that had lent it to me when he returned from annual leave. Swords are expensive accoutrements and in reality aren't used often on parade so officers often didn't purchase them until they were at least captains. The sword that I used belonged to a RCME officer and he had bought his sword in either Japan or Korea when he served there in the early 50's – I really didn't know this officer well at all and as I was about to learn, it was a pretty cheap sword.

I had been to a movie in downtown Calgary and when I returned to my quarters I turned on the light in my room and noticed that the sword was lying on top of the red issue blanket and appeared to have been run through the blanket. I grabbed the hilt to withdraw it and to my amazement, it was in two pieces, the hilt and about a foot of blade in my hand the remainder of the blade lying on the blanket. It appeared that while I was out, some of my buddies were practicing their fencing skills and "my" sword lost the match. "Jesus" what do I do now? You know I don't even remember if the guilty party "fessed-up" and I had this fear of having to tell an officer I hardly knew, that his sword was much shorter than when he lent it to me.

"Dave, why don't we have the LAD welder fix it?" said Don Hein my roommate.

"Do you think that's possible?" I asked.

"It's worth a try," says Don, "and Lord knows you gotta do something."

The next day I took the pieces to the LAD sergeant and asked if it would be possible to ask a favour. Now as a 20 year old COTC second-lieutenant, I didn't have much pull around the Regiment but the sergeant said he would see what he could do. Within a day or two he called and said:

"Sir, you can come pick up your sword now."

"Thanks sergeant, I'll be right over," I quickly replied.

Soon I had the sword in my hand again and in one piece but now of course it looked like a welded sword with this scar half way down the blade. "Maybe you can get it plated," said the sergeant.

Now this was a pretty plain sword as it didn't have any of the fine etching along the blade like a Wilkinson or a Horster. I was now into this thing and was having doubts. Maybe I should have just left it in two parts and told the fellow that I was sorry but I had broken his sword in a duel but now I was attempting to cover the whole thing up. I chose the cowardly route and off I went to have it re-plated.

So in the end the sword was repaired and really one couldn't tell that it had been broken but the repair wasn't cheap either. The officer returned from annual leave and I took the sword to him. He pulled the blade from the scabbard, examined it and pushed it home. Swords make a distinct metallic "cachunk" sound when returned to the scabbard.



“Thanks Dave,” he said, “and how was the wedding?”

“Just great,” I replied trying to remain cool and make a casual exit from his office.

“Thanks for the loan,” I said, “see you at the mess.”

“You can buy me a drink.” I heard him say as I quickly left the room.

“You bet. No problem.” I replied.

At the end of the summer, I went back to university and I never saw this officer again but I have often wondered if he had ever really found out about the bit of history that I had added to his sword.

When Jean and I were married in December 1960, we too had a military wedding. I was then a lieutenant in the RCD in Gagetown and came home to Vancouver where my parents and Jean lived. I had arranged with my old militia regiment the BCR to provide a sword party. I had my own Blues by this time and sabre and along with the gold wire RCD cross belt and spurs, looked every inch the cavalry officer. The photos tell the story as Jeanny and I exited the church on that rainy Wednesday night under a canopy of BCR sabres. The swords raised high made a fitting frame for our beaming faces. It is a classy thing to have a sword party.

My sabre has been used many times over the years both on parade and at weddings. It has cut cakes and been proudly held at the “carry” for colonels and generals and governors general and a prince or two. There is not a lot of occasion when one needs to know sword drill but given the right occasion it was good to know how to do it. Now our Georgian and Victorian predecessors knew how to use a sword. They saw the terror on an enemy’s face and felt its power in their hand as the body of an enemy went limp, eyes glazed over falling in a heap at their feet. Later at some stage wiping the blade and returning it – “cachunk” to its scabbard. No blood has my sabre seen but one has to use the same care in wiping wedding cake icing from the blade as a victim’s blood.

My sabre is a Horster, bought when I was a troop leader in the RCD, now sits atop a book case among other military memorabilia ready for its next call on a parade or at a wedding. Someone else will own it someday, maybe the Regiment, maybe a collector. My daughter says she would like it too. Sounds like a duel coming up but at least a good Horster sword should never break in two.

## **2009 RECIPIENTS OF THE VAC MINISTER’S COMMENDATION**

We are pleased to advise of the July 2009 presentation of Veterans Affairs Canada Minister’s Commendations were awarded to Archie M. Steacy, Harry J. Quarton and Cameron Cathcart for their involvement, over the past years with Veterans commemorative activities.

Congratulations gentlemen!

## **SAMSON, OUR FRIENDLY GHOST, APPEARS AGAIN...TWICE**



In the early morning of a mid July 2009 day, Ms. Diana Morency, BCR Administrative Clerk, was standing on the Drill Floor adjacent to the Orderly Room when she happened to look-up towards one of the windows of the second floor Museum hallway that overlooks the Drill Hall’s main floor. As the lighted red fire exit sign in the hallway drew her attention, she saw a male ghostly figure walk slowly past the window.

On Saturday 05 September 2009, Jerry Couling and I were also working on the main floor resorting and verifying the Museum's library collection. At approximately 1315 hours, on four separate occasions, we heard the sound of interior doors being opened and slammed shut. Samson got our attention too.

Don't worry Diana, Sampson is an old Duke who loves the Regiment, is quite happy taking care of the Drill Hall and is likely to ask someone to pour him a rum and coke...where are his ashes....Officers' or Sergeants' Mess?

Any other sightings please advise us.

UP THE DUKES  
Archie Steacy

## DEPLOYMENT TO AFGHANISTAN



Regimental Association mascot "Duke A. Bear" will be deploying to Afghanistan on Roto 03-09 (October 2009). Be advised that Duke will be conducting surprise inspections for the RSM!

## **CADET GOVERNOR'S REPORT**

I am very pleased to report that our four Cadet Corps had an outstanding Training year 2008/09.

The 2381 BCR Irish won the Roy Rigby- Jones Cup for being selected as the top Cadet Corps in BC.

C/CWO Raven McCallum, RSM of the 2290 BCR, won the President's Cup for being selected as the top Army Cadet in BC. Her name has been advanced to Ottawa and is in the running to receive the Walsh Sword as the top Army Cadet in Canada.

C/Sgt David Atkinson of the 2781 BCR Powell River was the top Cadet in Pre Para training in Vernon at Spring break. His sister, C/Cpl Sylvie Atkinson was selected "best in Company" at the first intake of the 3 week Cadet Leader Course at the Vernon Army Cadet Summer Training Center (VACSTC) this summer.

And not to be out done, the 2827 BCR Port Moody sent 5 Staff Cadets, one Officer to the VACSTC. They also placed 14 Cadets on the various ACSTC courses in Canada. For a small Cadet Corps of only 31 cadets and five officers, this is a remarkable achievement.

I was able to attend all but one of our Corps Annual Ceremonial Reviews in the spring and I was very pleased with the standard of drill, dress and deportment. While enrolment is down across the Province, our Corps seems to be maintaining their strength. Our BCR Irish Fusilier Corps is the largest Cadet Corps in Western Canada with over 120 Cadets on strength.

The 2010 Winter Olympic Games have temporarily displaced two of our Cadet Corps.

The 2290 will be parading at Branch 177 Legion Hall on West 10<sup>th</sup> at Main St. effective at stand to in September. The 2381 Irish will be parading at the Alliance Church on #3 Road in Richmond. These Corps are expected to be out of their normal parade locations until May 2010.

Major (Ret'd) Roger W Prouse, CD  
BCR Cadet Governor

### **THE VIEW FROM THE BUTTE – CARIBOO SUMMER**

**by: Jack Drake**

WOOD - WOOD - WOOD

Firewood! Starting in early summer - June - we are out cutting firewood - lots of dead pine - No problem! Nine cords of wood are now split and stacked and undercover. The Indian Princess is now quite fit.

VISITORS - VISITORS - VISITORS

Starting in late June and ending in August we have been inundated with guests. Fishing??? Good Lord, who has time! We're running an unpaid B&B here that includes lunch, dinner, and laundry service. The Indian Princess has gone through two wash boards already and the otters are annoyed about the soap suds in the creek.

SMOKE - SMOKE - SMOKE

Smoke has drifted into the valley along with an orange ball for the sun - almost like an eclipse. I send the Indian Princess to the roof to check it out; relying on her hereditary skills from reading smoke signals.



She is a little hesitant about going on the roof without four feet of snow to fall on if she should slip; as she has sometimes done when changing channels in the winter. However my leadership training cuts in and I remind her that if the task is not completed immediately - I will not allow her the once monthly trip to 100 Mile House for beads and trinkets. She determines the fires are far to the west - fears allayed.

It is now late August and peace has arrived at the claim - no visitors - no dogs - just peace and quiet. The leaves are starting to turn to their golden fall hues. Zero degrees in the mornings but still twenty degrees in the afternoons. The sun is now low in the sky reflecting off the lake through the birch trees. Very much an A.Y. Jackson scene. Fall is beginning - winter on the horizon - I've already acquired a second trap line for the Indian Princess as I don't want her to be bored while I'm watching hockey - Go Detroit!

And that's the view from the Butte.

## BRITISH COLUMBIA REGIMENT (DCO) PIPE BAND REPORT



British Columbia Regiment (DCO) Pipes and Drums

The Pipe Band has been very active this year. It all started in February with our successful Whiskey Tasting event held in the Drill Hall. This was quickly followed by the Celtic Fest Week in March culminating with the St. Patrick's Day parade on March 15. Once again this was a huge success with the BC Regiment Irish Pipes & Drums leading the parade with a band of 25 members and no less than 15 Pipers including Piper Andrew Carlisle of the 2nd Batt. Royal Irish Regiment who was visiting for his 3rd consecutive visit. For those that attended the BCR Association St. Patrick's Day gathering in the Sgts. Mess you will recall Piper Carlisle stopped by to play a few tunes. It was third time lucky for Piper Carlisle – schedules aligned and he had the pleasure of meeting the CO and RSM during this year's visit. Special thanks to Pipe Major Jordan Seguin and Rob Greenslade our base drummer for taking turns billeting him and a number of very late nights where had by all - talking Piping of course.

The band continues to play at the annual St. Julien's Dinner, as well as a number of civic and cultural events over the spring months. Fund raising efforts are ongoing by playing at several festivals and weddings. We also had the honour of playing at the "All Ireland" versus Team Canada Rugby Match held at UBC Thunderbird Stadium on May 23rd.

The band is happy to report that it has received via Lt. Colonel Bruce Kadonoff a formal invitation from the 2nd Battalion of the Royal Irish to visit Ireland in March 2010, and join with the Pipe Drums and Bugles of the Royal Irish in St. Patrick's Week celebrations there.

An advance party of 3, led by the Pipe Major visited Northern Ireland in August and met the Royal Irish Regiment (RIR) to lay the ground for this visit. It was a successful trip notably with time spent in N. Ireland hosted by Warrant Officer James Knox, MBE, Pipe Major of the 2nd Batt. Royal Irish Regiment.

The meeting with the Royal Irish included Captain Jonathon Huxley, Adj. of the 2nd Batt. RIR, at their Headquarters in Portadown, N. Ireland and the dates of the proposed visit are March 12–21, 2010.

The Royal Irish indicated they would offer accommodation and board at one of their bases either in Belfast or nearby. Some help with transportation within Ireland to the military functions would be offered. Despite resources being tight they are prepared to make us welcome and several events are already planned with their Pipe Band and Battalion in and around Belfast and Portadown on March 13 & 14.

There may also be an opportunity for the band to be involved with the City of Belfast at their St. Patrick's Day events on March 17th, as well as an event in Armagh in support of the Royal Irish Fusiliers Museum Society. It is likely other events will surface between now and then. The Deputy Chief Constable of the Police Service of Northern Ireland is very supportive of our plan to visit and hopes we can perform with their Pipe Band. Interest and support was also expressed by the Minister of State for Culture, Mr. Nelson McCausland, of the Northern Ireland Assembly.

So the ground work is in place. The next few weeks will involve drafting a budget and detailed travel plan and confirming how many band members are able to make the trip.

Any financial support the band can receive from members of The BC Regiment Association would be greatly appreciated!!

If you have any questions or would like additional information, please feel free to contact me directly.

Pat Connell  
Pipe Sgt  
604 802-2576  
[irishpipesanddrums@hotmail.com](mailto:irishpipesanddrums@hotmail.com)

## **THE BC REGIMENT (DCO) CHARITABLE TRUST**

We are pleased to advise that Jerry Couling was appointed a Trustee of the Charitable Trust by the Regimental Association on 12 August 2009. Jerry will fill the vacancy created by the resignation of Ray Brickell.

We wish to extend to Ray Brickell our very best wishes and our gratitude for his many years of service to the Regimental Association and the Charitable Trust. Thank you Ray!

## **ASSOCIATION DIRECTORS AND OFFICERS**

We are pleased to advise that the following directors were elected by the members of the Regimental Association at the annual general meeting held on August 12, 2009

Kim Bekesinski  
Jerry Couling - Treasurer  
Andrew Conradi  
Bill Diamond - Secretary  
Raymond Glover – President  
Ted Hawthorne – Vice-President  
Keith Maxwell  
Archie Steacy – President Emeritus  
Graydon Young

A special welcome to Keith Maxwell, a 60's Duke, who is new to the board and will bring extensive experience to it.

## **ASSOCIATION SPECIAL PROJECTS**

The Association continues to support, through its Charitable Trust, various annual initiatives such as our Bursary Program for serving members of the Regiment and our dinner for the homeless in the month of December. In addition, the Charitable Trust supports various projects which assist in maintaining our link with the history of the Regiment (i.e. commemorative ceremonies, dedication of memorial plaques and support of our four Cadet Corps).

A special thank you to all of those members who support the Charitable Trust! Your generosity has made it possible to accomplish many of the commemorative projects your Association has undertaken.

We also wish to thank our supporters for their "In Memoriam" donations. This is a very effective way to remember our loved ones.

## **FROM AN UNKNOWN CANADIAN SOLDIER SERVING IN AFGHANISTAN**

**Subject: What is Canada doing in Afghanistan and what have we contributed?**

Most folks are not aware of the large contribution our troops have made in Afghanistan to security, reconstruction and development. My hope is that you will keep this list and feel pride in what Canada has accomplished in Afghanistan through our troops, but remember 98 soldiers, a diplomat and several civilian aid workers have all made the ultimate sacrifice in service of Canada helping Afghans to become self sufficient. Security operations conducted by our Canadian Battle Group is a vital part of rebuilding Afghanistan, and providing the space to allow the Afghan army and police forces the training time to become viable and capable of self protection. This is a far off distant land that most of us will never see nor understand, but be proud of Canadian accomplishments. Because of our troops commitment and resolve our contribution is massive, and has allowed:

Construction of over 4000 schools, trained 9000 teachers, allowing increased enrolment from @ 7,000 (all male) compared to-days 6 million (1/3 are female);  
Construction of over 1200 wells and 150Km of irrigation canals;

Distributed seed and fertilizer to over 20,000 farmers for alternative crops;  
Trained over 35,000 Afghan army troops;  
Disarmed and demobilized over 63,000 combatants;  
Confiscated and destroyed over 85,000 small arms and 16,000 heavy weapons;  
Ran numerous free clinics and basic instruction on health, safety and hygiene;  
Over 1500 women trained to cultivate back yard gardens to supplement diet with clean and healthy foods; (this in itself is mind boggling in the numbers trained)

Also the RCMP and other Canadian Police Force members as well as Corrections Canada have trained numerous police and corrections officials.

The list is endless, and continues to expand each day we are in Afghanistan. Leaving Afghanistan is not an option--we must see this through to a successful conclusion. Too much has been sacrificed, gained, with much still to gain. This is not a four or a ten year job or to quote a biblical parallel not even a 40 year job. This will and must go on for a long time, and Canadians as freedom loving people must support the Afghanistan people win a freedom similar to what we take for granted in Canada. Think of Canada's sacrifices to world peace during world conflicts and the peacekeeping and peace making our nation has supported.

Rob in Afghanistan

Many thanks to Rob for sharing his on sight observations of successful enterprises completed or Afghanistan citizens by Canadian soldiers. Over 30 Dukes have shared in these activities while serving in Afghanistan.

Archie Steacy, Editor

## **COMING EVENTS – SEPTEMBER TO DECEMBER 2009**

Regiments Birthday...126 years young.....12 October  
"Duke Family Day" at the Drill Hall.....17 October  
Hill 111 Annual Reunion Dinner..... 07 November  
Remembrance Day..... 11 November  
Annual Fundraiser.....17 December  
Homeless Christmas Lunch..... 19 December  
Junior Ranks Christmas Dinner..... 19 December

## **NEW MEMBERS**

We are indeed honoured to welcome Tom and Bill Le Sarge and Matthew Morton as family members of the Regimental Association. Tom and Bill are sons of Trooper Orval Le Sarge, 28<sup>th</sup> Canadian Armoured Regiment (BCR), WW II. Matthew Morton is Orval's grandson, and is the first grandchild of a Duke Veteran to become a Regimental Association member.

Tom and Bill, wearing a BCR Cap badge, attended the 65<sup>th</sup> D-Day Anniversary (6 Jun 09), met Gauthier Hebbelynck, one of our European Field Officers, at the Queens Own Regiment Normandy House at St. Aubin-sur-Mer and introduced them to BCR Association.

Welcome aboard gentlemen. We are pleased you are with us to represent your father/grandfather's service to our great Regiment and Canada.

We also welcome the following new members:

Terence Ko  
Paul Lau  
Robert G. Wangenstein

Thank you for your support of the Regimental Association!

## **DOWN MEMORY LANE**

by: MCpl (Ret'd) Tim Monchamp

Concurrent Activity, Seize the Opportunity, Make it Happen.

All good army sayings, easy to preach, but hard to live by.

MajorJack Drake lived them.

It was June of 78 when Jack was commanding Recce SQN at the Militia concentration at, where else, Fort Lewis, Washington. I was swamping on the POL truck for Sgt. Stan Razmus. The SQN. had just rolled into North Fort Lewis where we were bedding down the night before heading home. As I knew nothing about 2 1/2 tonners at that time, and the barracks for the refore, no help parading the truck, Stan sent me off to take care of some urgent personal maintenance.

There was a story going round that the US Army had a bad drug problem when Fort Lewis was a staging area for the war in Vietnam. As a result, had removed the stalls from around the toilets in the barracks. When I arrived in great haste, I found sinks along one wall urinals down another and an open row of toilets on the other two. I had just parked on my chosen thrown when in stumbled the high price help, who to a man took up stations similar to mine.

Now as we know, an O GROUP is as close to a formal parade as we get off the parade square. You arrive early, properly dressed ditch the coffee no smoking, line up in call sign order.

Jack, one of the gathering, looks around and said "We are all here, GENTLEMEN, ORDERS.....".

## **POST SCRIPT**

I wish to extend heartfelt thanks to Ted Hawthorne and his staff, Jean Bowman and Charlotte Yen. The newsletter would not be what it is without their expertise and professionalism. Thank you so much Ted and Ladies.

I do hope you had a most enjoyable summer, traveling, at the beach, your summer cabin or just relaxing in your own back yard.

Best wishes to you and your families.

Archie M. Steacy,  
Editor, Duke Newsletter



# A MESSAGE FROM THE PREMIER



Spring 2009

## *A Message from the Premier*

*to*

### *Lt. Col. Archie M. Steacy, CD*

As Premier of the Province of British Columbia, I am pleased to acknowledge your many years of service with the British Columbia Regiment. You have served the Regiment with honour and loyalty, and for that you have earned the very high regard of your fellow service members, family and friends.

I understand that you have been with the Regiment for 60 years, acting as President for the last fifteen. The commitment and dedication that you have demonstrated during that time in commemorating the fallen and working with our veterans as a member of both the Regimental Association and the BC Veterans Commemorative Association, have truly made you a role model to others.

I would also like to recognize the work that you and your wife, Lynda, undertook as part of the group that spearheaded the BC150 project. British Columbia is a better place because of people like you who lead by example and make positive contributions to the betterment of your community.

I wish you all the best for continued good health and happiness as you look forward to enjoying your retirement. I am sure that you have many fond memories to share with family and friends as you look back on your years with the British Columbia Regiment.

On behalf of the people of British Columbia, I thank you for your dedication.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Gordon Campbell".

Gordon Campbell  
Premier



## **IMPORTANT NOTICE FROM THE REGIMENT**

**Att: Any and All members of the Regimental Family!  
You are invited to an Open House at your Second Home – The  
Drill Hall!**

# ***Dukes Day!***

**Saturday October 17<sup>th</sup>  
13:00 - 18:00**

**Dress: Casual**

**Come celebrate the 126th Birthday of B.C.'s oldest active serving unit!**

**13:00 – Meet and Greet in all Mess's**

**14:00 – BCR Brass Band performance**

**15:00 – LUVW (new recce jeep) demonstration**

**16:00 – BCR Brass Band performance &**

**16:30 – Regimental Birthday Salute & Birthday Cake cutting**

- \* The Regiment has added \$10,000.00 in display cases to the parade square!**
- \* The Regiment has now moved our vehicles into its own underground Vehicle Hanger!**
- \* We will also be unveiling 2 new Vimy crosses repatriated to the Regiment!**
- \* A sample of the new history of the Regiment book!  
(a photo history of the Regiment!)**

**50/ 50 Draw!**

**Music!**

**Comrades!**

**Don't forget your camera!!**

**RSVP's not necessary – be there or be Seaforth!**

## ASLEEP



SL1014433 Trooper James G. Painter served with the 28<sup>th</sup> Canadian Armoured Regiment (British Columbia Regiment) during World War II. He passed away on 22 November 2008. Jim and family resided in Provost, Alberta.

K45085 Trooper Charles (Pat) A. Nairne served with the 28th Canadian Armoured Regiment (British Columbia Regiment) during World War II. He passed away on 08 June 2009. Pat, Wilma and family resided in Vancouver and Abbotsford, B.C.

K 37505 L/Corporal Steven S. Hatt served with the 28<sup>th</sup> Canadian Armoured Regiment (British Columbia Regiment) during World War II. He passed away on 07 August 2009. Steve and Eleanor resided in Kelowna and Vernon B.C.

Captain, Doctor John S. Stock served with the 28<sup>th</sup> Canadian Armoured Regiment (British Columbia Regiment) during World War II. He passed away on 20 June 2009. John, Phyllis and family resided in Belleville, Ontario.

B63002 Major Lloyd G. Augustus served with the 28<sup>th</sup> Canadian Armoured Regiment (British Columbia Regiment) during World War II. He passed away on 31 August 2009. Lloyd, Mary and family resided in Etobicoke, Ontario.

**We thank them for their service to the Regiment and Canada.  
At the going down of the sun, and  
In the morning, we shall remember them.**