



The Duke

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2006 Homeless Lunch - Largest Attendance on Record

Thanks to 81 volunteers of Association members, families and friends, BCR serving members, 2290 Cadet Corps, St. Patrick students, and this year for the first time, 10 Senior Branches Girl Guides helped in serving and cooking of a full course Christmas turkey dinner. The luncheon consisted of 600 lbs of turkey, 250 lbs of potatoes, vegetables and dressing.

Four hundred and fifty-three guests were seated and served while listening to a live band playing Christmas Carols. While our guests enjoyed their food inside the Drill Hall, our soldiers were out delivering over 300 sandwiches to the street homeless at the Main and Hastings area.

I wish to thank the Salvation Army and the Catholic Charities for their kind and generous support which without their help, it would not be possible to hold this event. They are the connection to reach out to our homeless guests.

A Special Thank You to L/Col Peter Bell for his support of the event. Also, special mention to WO Murray Robertson, Sgt Mike Hillman and staff for their excellent execution of the Regiment's help in the pick up and deliveries that are needed prior and after the event takes place. Job well done!!

Ray Glover
Vice President
BC Regiment (DCO) Association

Regimental Collar Badges

At a Regimental Parade, on 09 November 2006, the Regiment's Bugle Collar Badges were retired and replaced with the Maid of Erin Collar Badge. The new collar badge symbolizes the relationship of the British Columbia Regiment (DCO) and the Irish Fusiliers (The Vancouver Regiment).

Ted Hawthorne and I, representing the Association were indeed privileged to present new collar badges to a number of soldiers during the ceremony.

The rifle bugle collar badges, officially retired were then marched-off parade and presented to the Regimental Museum Society for inclusion in the Museum's Collection and appropriate display in the Museum.

Please Note: Further details and photos of the Change of Regimental Collar Badges will be placed in the Spring Issue of The Duke.

Archie Steacy
President

The Annual BCR 28th Armoured Regiment Vernon Lunch 29 April 2006

It seems that we are in a constant state of change. For many years the lunch was held at the Pantry Restaurant, however, this year restoration caused a move to a new location. We were fortunate to reserve the Blue Heron Pub that overlooks Lake Okanagan at Okanagan Landing....a wonderful setting for a great group of Dukes.



Front Row, L to R: Norman Kipnis, Frank McCann, Don Cameron and Ray Glover.
Rear Row, L to R: Archie Steacy, Henry Kriwokon, Max Carne, Bill Moore, RSM Floris van Weelderren, Steve Hatt, Gerald Green, Mal Land, Herb Whitehead and Ted Hawthorne.

It was a delightful lunch with so many Dukes from the Kamloops, and Kootenay areas as well as our group from Vancouver....Ted & Gayle Hawthorne, Ray & Carol Glover, Archie & Lynda Steacy, Bob Remple, Colonel & Cathi Gagne, RSM Floris van Weelderren and Jack & Pat Drake from the Cariboo. It was also nice to lunch with Dorothy Harrop and Hazel Gareau.

**Up the Dukes,
Archie Steacy**

A Regimental Footprint in the Martial Community (HCol Darrell Dean)

On Saturday 28 October 06, Brigadier General Dean, our Honorary Colonel presented Mr. John Huntley his 7th Degree Black Belt [Judo] certificate. The presentation was done at the conclusion of a weekend seminar conducted by Mr. Huntley for advanced students of the sport.

Mr. Huntley is the Chief Instructor at the Aberdeen Judo Club in Kamloops. He has been involved in competitive and instructional judo for more than forty-five years. He is also qualified as a national and international referee. Judo grading are broken into two groups, the Mudansha [colored belts] and Yudansha [black belts]. There are ten degrees of black belt and Mr. Huntley is one of only fourteen 7th Degree Black Belts in Canada and one of the very few qualified who are still actively practicing. The attainment of this rare high rank is indeed a very auspicious achievement. During his judo career Mr. Huntley has trained many national level champions. He continues to visit the Kodokan in Japan on a regular basis to sharpen and improve his skills. Believe me you don't want to mess with this sixty-six year old.



Brigadier General Dean is an old friend of Mr. Huntley's and also a student of judo. He is a 5th Degree Black Belt [Judo] and is a former British Army of the Rhine and British Army Champion.

Remembrance Day – 11 Nov 2006

The Regimental Family was certainly blessed in a number of ways for our Remembrance Day observance this year. I was most proud of the fine young officers and soldiers, many with medals for their overseas service, of the Regiment as they marched out of the Drill Hall to Vancouver's Cenotaph Remembrance Day Service.

What a day...over 275 presently serving, Association and Cadet Dukes, both bands and family members turned out to commemorate Canada's Military Fallen. The weather was most favourable...cloudy, a little sunshine but no rain. Premier Gordon Campbell attended the ceremony and took the salute for the march past. Back at the Drill, we toasted the Regiment and the Fallen with our traditional black rum and "Up the Dukes".

As the initiator of the British Columbia Veterans Licence Plate Program and Chairman of the British Columbia Veterans Commemorative Association (BCVCA) Veterans License Plate Committee, I requested Premier Campbell to make the presentation of the 30,000th B.C. Veterans Licence Plate at our Drill Hall on Remembrance Day. Ms. Anna Allman resident of Richmond, B.C., a Canadian Womens Army Corps (CWAC) member was the 30,000th recipient. Our congratulations to Anna.

It was my pleasure to introduce, thank and present Premier Campbell with a special framed presentation licence plate on behalf of all B.C. Veterans for his support in authorizing a Veterans license plate to recognize and honour Veterans residing in British Columbia.

Premier Campbell paid his respects to band members, visited the Junior Ranks Mess, thanked them for their service to Canada and rang the Mess Bell. He mingled with members on the Drill Hall floor and viewed the BCVCA National War Memorial Replica.

Indeed a wonderful day of Remembrance.

Up the Dukes.
Archie Steacy



President Archie Steacy having candles for the Regiment's Fallen lighted by soldiers of the Regiment



President Archie Steacy introducing British Columbia Premier Gordon Campbell in recognition of his approval of the B.C. Veterans Licence Plate Program



Premier Gordon Campbell, President Archie Steacy and Mark Francis, Manager, ICBC Regulated Vehicle Programs on the Drill Hall main floor



Premier Campbell responding to the presentation and presentation of the 30,000th B.C. Veterans Licence Plate to Anna Allman, CWAC Veteran



Premier Campbell, President Archie Steacy, BCRA, President Sharel Fraser, BCVCA and Secretary Ted Hawthorne, BCRA viewing and discussing the BCVCA Canadian National War Memorial replica

Reunion Dinner The Battle for Hill 111, Normandie – 9 August 1944

This year we decided to hold the reunion dinner on 10 November at the Delta Suites Hotel in downtown Vancouver to accommodate those Dukes who find it difficult to attend the Reunion and Remembrance Day when they are separated a week or two apart, Ray Glover negotiated an excellent room rate of \$90.00. A number of us stayed at the Hotel making easy attendance for the Remembrance Day Service and Parade.

It was a good choice, as we had 81 members, wives and guests attend. Unfortunately, the flu prevented four members from attending.

This year only two World War Veterans, Sgt (Ret'd) Joe Bernard and Trooper (Ret'd) Charles (Pat) Nairne were able to be with us. However, this year we were privileged to recognize and dine with Captains Michael Mallette, Adam McLeod and Corporal David Pelly who had very recently returned from tours in Afghanistan. Cpl Pelly served two tours in Afghanistan. Also, Captains Christopher Quinlan and Douglas Evans who served in Bosnia were with us.

After dinner, the Commanding Officer, LCol Peter Bell spoke at length of the activities and health of the Regiment. I am pleased to advise you that his leadership is a guiding light for our famous Regiment....our sincere thanks to Col Bell.

The Regimental Museum Society resurrected the magnificent Lt. Col. Whyte Shooting Trophy honoring Rifleman Sam Perry, the first Canadian winner of the King's Prize at Bisely in 1904. The trophy has not been awarded since 1912. Col Bell presented the trophy to Cpl D. Ryan Steacy, the winner of the British Columbia Rifle Competition with scores averaging 560 out of 600 for the years 1998 to 2006 inclusive.

As President, I reviewed the many Association activities and commitments during the past year. The highlight of the year was Exercise Summit Duke, initiated and planned by Sergeant Ronald Leblanc and fully supported by the Association. Nine Dukes assaulted Mounts Hart-McHarg and Worthington and the Association procured bronzed plaques recognizing and honouring the Colonels.

A short video presentation created by Sgt Leblanc was presented and narrated by RSM Floris van Weelderren as Sgt Leblanc was unable to attend the dinner.

Presentation of Sweetheart Brooches were made to Christine Cathcart and Ciara Martin for their invaluable service in support of Association activities. Christine for her work in completing art articles and as a tireless worker during our Annual Homeless Christmas Dinners. Ciara for her unstinting support, computer skills and commitment in the production of the Duke Newsletter.

As always we hold a raffle of prizes provided by the Directors and others. This year, the case of the Association's Black Beret Wine was won by Wilma Nairne.

I wish to recognize and offer thanks to the following for their energy and unstinting commitment to the Association: Ted and Gayle Hawthorne, Ray and Carole Glover, Lynda Steacy, Ray and Sylvia Brickell, Andrew Conradi, Graydon and Sandra Young.

I wish you all good health. Hope you had a Merry Christmas and wish you a most prosperous New Year.

Best regards and Up the Dukes.

Archie M. Steacy
President

The following complimentary article to Canada and its soldiers from a British gentleman, surfaced recently. I thought you should be made aware of his thoughts.

Sunday Telegraph Article -From today's UK wires: Salute to a brave and modest nation- Kevin Myers, The Sunday Telegraph

LONDON - Until the deaths last week of four Canadian soldiers accidentally killed by a U.S. warplane in Afghanistan, probably almost no one outside their home country had been aware that Canadian troops were deployed in the region. And as always, Canada will now bury its dead, just as the rest of the world as always will forget its sacrifice, just as it always forgets nearly everything Canada ever does.

It seems that Canada's historic mission is to come to the selfless aid both of its friends and of complete strangers, and then, once the crisis is over, to be well and truly ignored. Canada is the perpetual wallflower that stands on the edge of the hall, waiting for someone to come and ask her for a dance. A fire breaks out, she risks life and limb to rescue her fellow dance-goers, and suffers serious injuries. But when the hall is repaired and the dancing resumes, there is Canada, the wallflower still, while those she once helped glamorously cavort across the floor, blithely neglecting her yet again.

That is the price Canada pays for sharing the North American continent with the United States, and for being a selfless friend of Britain in two global conflicts. For much of the 20th century, Canada was torn in two different directions: It seemed to be a part of the old world, yet had an address in the new one, and that divided identity ensured that it never fully got the gratitude it deserved.

Yet its purely voluntary contribution to the cause of freedom in two world wars was perhaps the greatest of any democracy. Almost 10% of Canada's entire population of seven million people served in the armed forces during the First World War, and nearly 60,000 died. The great Allied victories of 1918 were spearheaded by Canadian troops, perhaps the most capable soldiers in the entire British order of battle.

Canada was repaid for its enormous sacrifice by downright neglect, its unique contribution to victory being absorbed into the popular Memory as somehow or other the work of the "British." The Second World War provided a re-run. The Canadian navy began the war with a half dozen vessels, and ended up policing nearly half of the Atlantic against U-boat attack. More than 120 Canadian warships participated in the Normandy landings, during which 15,000 Canadian soldiers went ashore on D-Day alone. Canada finished the war with the third-largest navy and the fourth-largest air force in the world.

The world thanked Canada with the same sublime indifference as it had the previous time. Canadian participation in the war was acknowledged in film only if it was necessary to give an American actor a part in a campaign in which the United States had clearly not participated - a touching scrupulousness which, of course, Hollywood has since abandoned, as it has any notion of a separate Canadian identity.

So it is a general rule that actors and filmmakers arriving in Hollywood keep their nationality - unless, that is, they are Canadian. Thus Mary Pickford, Walter Huston, Donald Sutherland, Michael J. Fox, William Shatner, Norman Jewison, David Cronenberg, Alex Trebek, Art Linkletter and Dan Aykroyd have in the popular perception become American, and Christopher Plummer, British. It is as if, in the very act of becoming famous, a Canadian ceases to be Canadian, unless she is Margaret Atwood, who is as unshakably Canadian as a moose, or Celine Dion, for whom Canada has proved quite unable to find any takers.

Moreover, Canada is every bit as querulously alert to the achievements of its sons and daughters as the rest of the world is completely unaware of them. The Canadians proudly say of themselves - and are unheard by anyone else - that 1% of the world's population has provided 10% of the world's peacekeeping forces. Canadian soldiers in the past half century have been the greatest peacekeepers on Earth - in 39 missions on UN mandates, and six on non-UN peacekeeping duties, from Vietnam to East Timor, from Sinai to Bosnia.

Yet the only foreign engagement that has entered the popular on-Canadian imagination was the sorry affair in Somalia, in which out-of-control paratroopers murdered two Somali infiltrators. Their regiment was then disbanded in disgrace - a uniquely Canadian act of self-abasement for which, naturally, the Canadians received no international credit.

So who today in the United States knows about the stoic and selfless friendship its northern neighbour has given it in Afghanistan? Rather like Cyrano de Bergerac, Canada repeatedly does honourable things for honourable motives, but instead of being thanked for it, it remains something of a figure of fun.

It is the Canadian way, for which Canadians should be proud, yet such honour comes at a high cost. Recently four more grieving Canadian families knew that cost all too tragically well.

"Thank you", to an unknown gentleman.

Archie Steacy

"Fetch, Sunray, Over"

I have found that military training leaves a long-lasting impression on one's psyche. The fact that I can remember minutiae from a classroom long ago says nothing about the quality of my memory but rather of the effectiveness of the Army methods of instruction. Not long ago I was thinking about radio appointment titles - don't ask me why I just seem to do that on occasion. It seemed to me that there is real humour in words that were selected as radio appointment titles that we all have used.

In my quest to learn about such things, I did what any staff trained guy would do, I "Googled" it. I don't remember whether I typed in "wireless" or "radio" but believe it or not in the 50's we used the term "wireless". Eventually I pulled up the Royal Corps of Signals, Museum and Archives website and I guessed that I had arrived at the right place. I asked the question, "Is there any record on why the words selected as radio appointment titles, were used?" I did receive a reply a day or so later with an attachment. The curator could only suggest that a committee must have selected the names. I agreed. The attachment was the appropriate page from the British voice procedure pamphlet. I was glad that he had forwarded it because there were a few titles that were getting a bit fuzzy in the old brain. Let's examine some of these titles as that mysterious committee may have conceived them so long ago.

Sunray - Out of the "fog of battle" a ray of sun shines on the one "man with the plan" who will save the day. Let's call him (or her) - Sunray.

Sunray Minor – Well what more can you expect from a person with the title of 2i/c or DCO. No originality required here. “Always a bridesmaid never a bride.”

Seagull – This is a wonderfully creative name for the battle captain or operations officer. We all know what seagulls do best so this officer is the one with “the poop from group” - enough said.

Moonbeam – This is a new one to me but is the title for the Chief of Staff in the Australian army. No Sunray Minors (sunrays minor??) for the chaps from down under and trust the Aussies to find the humour in the title.

Acorn – All right then, the Intelligence staff also need a title. We all know that military intelligence is an oxymoron but acorns are a hard nut to crack so that does it.

Bluebell – An armoured favourite. “Fetch Bluebell, over.” This tells anyone with a headset on that your tank is in distress – broken down or bogged down and only Bluebell can help. What a lovely name for such good fellows. Bluebell.

Ironsides – The most obvious name anyone could have thought of for Armour. One likes to think that its origins are with Cromwell’s model army – what!! His cavalry were referred to as Ironsides. Anyway you know what they say about cavalry officers.

Foxhounds – A yes the queen of battle – the infantry. It is the foxhounds that run before the horses – to search and destroy the enemy. Poor fox.

Shelldrake – A great name for the gunners. Proud, imposing. Shell – good start, as that is what they do and drake – either Sir Francis or a male duck. Must be Sir Francis shelling the Spanish Main.

Holdfast – The engineers. They lay mines, recover mines, build bridges, and improve roadways and water treatment facilities. Holdfast - because it bloody well better.

Pronto – Wouldn’t you know that signals would reserve such a name for themselves? Pronto – that is what we expect of “Jimmy,” to get there - pronto.

Playtime – Obviously there was no transportation or Service Corps folks on the committee. Back in the echelon, that must be what they have lots of – playtime.

Molar – One would think this would have been reserved for the brigade dentist but is meant to summon the Logistics Officer. It is derived from either of two Latin words (*mola*) meaning a millstone or (*moles*) meaning acting on or by means of large masses. OK, millstones for the masses – boy the committee sure got it right.

Starlight – The medical officer has to do his job operating under all sorts of conditions – even the light of a star shining onto his patient. This is a good one, right up there with **Bluebell**.

They’re a few other titles that are listed in the VP pamphlet that we would seldom use but are worthy of mention.

Shotgun – This is for the armaments equipment officer. He had better have someone riding “shotgun” with him as well.

Glowworm – This is for the Ground Liaison Officer. He needs to shine just enough to be seen but not too brightly.

Manhole – The appointment title for the administrative staff. Lots of steely overhead cover. There is nothing like rubbing it in when you can, eh.

Skypilot – Just as “Onward Christian Soldiers” is the unofficial march-past of the Chaplain Corps, so is Skypilot just as unofficial but it just seems right. This of course begs the question; do they teach radio procedures to chaplains?

“Skypilot here. Now what do I do? Can somebody help me with this thing?” can be heard over the command net as the padre stays stuck on send. Oh well we all know that padres have a special net all of their own to the **Really Big Sunray**.

There is one more word used in combination with all of the above titles and that word is “fetch.” I consulted my Oxford Concise and it states: “as a verb it can mean to bring back a person or thing; to run backwards and forwards with things; cause to come forth such as tears or blood.” Or when used as a noun it can mean a personal wraith or a double. This sounds a lot like cloning to me. Many a Sunray has wished he could do just that on occasion.

After closely examining all of the appointment titles, I agree with my Royal Signals friend. Radio appointment titles had to have been thought up by a committee with only the chairman having to signing off on the document. He certainly didn't have to submit the list to “higher” for approval or else we probably still wouldn't have an approved list of titles, at least none with as much humour as the current lot. Over and Out.

David Sproule

Canada's National Military Cemetery

Canada has buried its war dead in far-flung Commonwealth cemeteries and in many countries around the globe. This was of course a necessity as it was not possible to effectively repatriate a serviceman's remains home to Canada. In addition, many returning servicemen and women that have since passed away are often buried in military corners of cemeteries across the country.

The National Military Cemetery is located on 8.29 acres within Beechwood a non-denominational cemetery that is dedicated to Canadian service personnel who have faithfully served their Nation, in peace and in war, at home and abroad and are now at rest. It is a national focal point for a respectful and grateful nation to honour those that have placed themselves in harms way, on their behalf.

All serving and honourably released members of the Canadian Forces and Merchant Navy, whether regular or reserve, are eligible to be buried in Beechwood. One family member may also be interred in the same plot as the service member. Application is through DND and once received and verified, the applicant will be notified of acceptance and authorized to make arrangements directly with Beechwood Cemetery. Applications should be made to;

The Centre
C/o Director Casualty Support and Administration 6 (DCSA6)
National Defence Headquarters
Major-General George R. Pearkes Building
101 Colonel By Drive
Ottawa, Ontario
K1A 0K2
Or email: Centre@forces.gc.ca
Telephone: 1-800-883-6094. All calls are Confidential.

Applicants or their estate will typically deal with the funeral home of their choice and funeral directors will coordinate burial arrangements directly with Beechwood Cemetery. Beechwood will coordinate the purchase, production and installation of all headstones as specified by DND. Plots cannot be pre-selected or allocated on the basis of rank, service or regiment.

Fees for burial and related services are established annually based on rates set by the Ontario Ministry of Corporate and Consumer Affairs. DND will assume all costs for personnel who died while still serving and in the case of veterans, will be borne by the estate for the veteran and the designated family member. The Canadian Forces will provide a military presence for all internments including an Honour Guard, Padre, bugler or piper, without fee. Current rates for a grave plot are \$2,840 + GST or \$1,420 + GST for a cremation plot. An NMC headstone is \$2,100 + GST. All fees can be prepaid to Beechwood Cemetery.

The Beechwood Cemetery is located at 280 Beechwood Avenue, Ottawa, Ontario, K1L 8A6. Interested persons should contact Jo-Ann Joly of Family Services at Beechwood at (613) 741- 9530 or:

jjoly@beechwoodcemetery.com.

Their website is: www.beechwoodcemetery.com.

Although our Fallen that are buried abroad are treated with great respect and dignity by Canadians and by the citizens of countries like France and Holland, many families have never had the opportunity to visit the grave of a loved-one. In a way and at a personal level, family and friends may have lost touch with the sacrifice that was

made by that individual. Those of us that have had the privilege of visiting a Commonwealth cemetery realize there is something very compelling and sacred when walking among the gravestones. Suddenly names carved in stone, take flesh. Although Canada is a big country The National Military Cemetery will be easier for families to attend to the burial of their loved one and to visit from time to time. In this way families and friends will be able to gain closure and deal with the loss of a loved one through personal attention. The NMC will therefore continue to be a significant part of our wonderful military heritage. A place all Canadians can be proud of and a place to be visited.

David Sproule
December 2006



Canada's National Military Cemetery, Beechwood near Ottawa

The British Columbia Veterans Commemorative Association

Update by Jerry Couling

Celebrating the 30,000th Veterans Licence Plate:

Those of you who were at The Drill Hall on Remembrance Day no doubt witnessed Gordon Campbell, the Premier of B.C., presenting Mrs. Anna Allman, a WW2 CWAC veteran, with the 30,000th Veteran Plate. Present at the ceremony were representatives from ICBC (who installed the plate on Mrs. Allman's car) as well as key officers of BC Veterans Commemorative Association, namely: Sharel Fraser, President, Archie Steacy, Vice President, Ted Hawthorne, Secretary and Jerry Couling, Treasurer. In a companion ceremony, the Premier was given a special presentation plate in recognition of his vital assistance in launching the Veterans Licence Plate Program. Our Founding President, Archie Steacy, was the creative force behind this special ceremony and was responsible for arranging for the Premier to be in attendance.

Annual General Meeting:

The AGM was held on October 5th. Among the directors elected were the following three from the Regimental Family: - Archie Steacy, Vice President and Founding President, Ted Hawthorne, Secretary, and Jerry Couling, Treasurer. The new board consists of a dedicated and competent group with some ambitious plans for the coming year. (Some of these will be reported on in future issues of the Duke).

If any of you are interested in becoming a member of this worthwhile Association please let one of the above Dukes know.

Accomplishments of 2827 BCR (DCO) RCACC

This past 2005/2006 Training year the cadets of 2827 RCACC have raised the bar for up and coming junior cadets.

National Rifle Team 2006 – Cadet CWO Christopher Congram

CWO Congram was introduced to target shooting at 2827 Royal Canadian Army Cadet Corp in Port Moody where he has been an active member since the age of 12. He was so taken with the sport that he has accomplished what only a select few have been able to achieve. In the summer of 2005 Chris was selected as one of 18 cadets in Canada for the Bisley National Rifle Team of 2006 spending 9 weeks in Ottawa and Great Britain. At the end of the 9 weeks 2006 he was awarded the top Cadet, awarded to him by the Honourable Gordon O'Connor Minister of National Defense. This accomplishment has been 3 years of hard work, determination and endless hours of practice at cadets as well as at a local range. CWO Congram is constantly proving himself to be a well rounded focused individual with a passion for target shooting. He is one of 3 to be invited back to represent Canada for the Bisley National Rifle Team 2007 and he is one of two to represent British Columbia in the sport of target shooting for the 2007 Winter Games. His other cadet accomplishments include: Legion Medal of Excellence, Lord Strathcona Award, and Army Cadet Service Medal. In Academic – Achieved Honor Roll, Achieved work habits honor roll, Terry Fox award for Outstanding Service.

Para 2006 - Cadet CWO Castling (now aged out)

Upon successful completion of a two week pre-parachute course at Connaught Army Cadet National Summer Training Centre Cadet CWO Castling took the Basic Para course at the Canadian Parachute Centre (CPC) at CFB Trenton. This is an outstanding young man and he will be missed on Tuesday nights.

Qualification Received:

- CF Basic Parachutist Qualification (AHYL)
- Complete prerequisite for selection as a staff cadet instructor
- Authorization to wear course badge on uniform

Staff Cadet, C/Sgt Pablo Benavente VACSTC 2006

Presented with the Blayne Materi Citizenship Award. This award is presented by Miss Blaire Materi in memory of her sister, Cadet MWO Blayne Materi. The award is presented to the cadet who has participated in or supported activities with the local community, who has taken a personal interest in the well being and morale of his cadets, who respects and used authority properly and maintains outstanding personal conduct.

National Star Certification Exam VACSTC 2006

Cadet WO Patrick Tse

NSCE - Placed 9th in BC.

He Attended the USA - Outward Bound Florida. Cadet WO Tse was one of 18 Canadian Army Cadets that participated in a joint training and cultural program in Florida USA. The focus of the training component was an Adventure Course in Scuba Diving off the Florida Keys. He returned early in August and finished off his summer as a Cadet staff member in VACSTC.

Cadet WO Nicholas DeVaal

NSCE - Placed 10th in BC.

He attended the Leadership and Challenge Course at the Rocky Mountain Army Cadet National Summer Training Centre, Cochrane Ab. For 6 Weeks. The course includes canoeing, kayaking, hiking, rock climbing, glacier training, trekking and other adventurous experiences.

Shannon Rothwell
Lieutenant
Commanding Officer
604-520-7604

The Cavalry Dukes

It's 0330 in the morning, the sky is clear and dark and the air crisp. Suddenly, the morning silence is broken by the shouts of "MOVE IT YOU SHAVE TAIL MAGGOTS!". This is the start of the 303rd Cavalry Silver Spur competition.



From left - LCol Bell, Cpl Laidler, Cpl Pesklavits, Cpl Clews, MCpl Angulo, Capt, Mallette, Sgt Harris, Cpl Haigh Not shown- MCpl Mckee, Cpl Birzneck, Lt Virk

The 1-303rd Cavalry, WANG, recently came back from a tour in Iraq and changed rolls from armour to cavalry. Handing in their M1A1 Abrams for M3 Bradleys and Armoured Humvees, the unit has Troops (Cav equivalent to a Canadian Armoured Sqn) located in the Kent, Puyallup and Bremerton areas. As with every Cavalry unit in the United States Army, there is a tradition called the Silver Spurs competition. This competition dates back to when the Cavalry was mounted with horse and sabre and a new rider would be given a horse who's tail was shaved off to identify them as a new trooper. The horse with a shaved tail was given extra space in which to operate since it's rider was marked as an amateur. Also the reason to why participants in the event are called "Shave Tails". Once the trooper had learned enough to ride and fight on his steed he would be presented with his spurs, where the awarding of gilt Spurs symbolized entry into the ranks and fraternity of mounted warriors.

The British Columbia Regiment (DCO) was invited to the 303rd's first annual spurs event which took place 8-10 of September 2006. The Regiment committed a team of 11 participants ranging in rank from Cpl to CO of the unit itself. The BCR contingent arrived at Fort Lewis at 0100 on the 9th and then were up and ready to go at 0330 for the spurs morning PT to kick off the competition. The morning's exercise was a bit different from the standard CF routine, and consisted of duck walking while quacking, holding hands while running in a circle, and a wholehearted break dancing display by Capt Mallette. When asked what he thought, Cpl Tim Laidler stated "the course style awakening at 0330 in the morning and PT that followed was slightly demoralizing, however, seeing the CO get a full water jerry dumped on him and the Ops O break dancing helped me realize that it was all in good fun". The spirits of the Canadian members were high throughout the early activities and after being berated by the competition staff for our enthusiasm the members left to prepare themselves for the days events.

At about 0600 all participants arrived at the training area. After a quick brief and instruction, the 3 man teams all separated and carried on with their tasking. Everyone taking part would eventually cover all stands but in a different order. These stands consisted of weapons handling----- (for Canadians C6,C9), call for artillery support fire, conduct nuclear, biological, chemical drills, first aid and call for medevac, navigation, communication, establish an observation post, and recite the Cavalry poem Fiddlers Green. Each stand was set up on a different part of the training area, and by the end of the event at 1700 most the teams had covered over 30 km, and a few of the Dukes had taken some injuries along the way and still endeavored to carry on. For example MCpl Angulo had rather sore knees by the end of the day and still pressed on.



Cpl Colnut handing out beef jerky to Lt Virk, MCpl Angulo during the foot check after the competition

BCR results were outstanding. Apparently getting a water jerry dumped on you and/or break dancing is good motivation, as the team of LCol Bell, Capt Mallette, and Lt Virk tied for first. All other BCR teams earned their spurs, compared to about a 70% pass rate for the 1-303 teams.

By participating in this event, some good experience was gained for all the members some lessons learned will be brought back to the Regiment, and a closer relationship has been made with our friends across the border. Hooah, Dukes!

Cpl S. Clews

State Funeral Petition

Dear petition supporter:

You did it! Thanks to you and the over 90,000 people who signed our petition for a State Funeral for the last veteran of the First World War, the Parliament of Canada unanimously passed the following motion introduced by M.P. Peter Stoffer on Tuesday, November 21: "That, in the opinion of this House, the Government of Canada should honour all who served Canada in the First World War by sponsoring a State Funeral on the passing of the last Canadian veteran of this Great War." This binding motion will ensure that at the appropriate time the family of the last veteran of the Great War will be offered a full State Funeral to recognise the service and sacrifice of their loved one and the 600,000 fellow Canadians who served under arms from 1914 to 1918. This brings to a conclusion the Dominion Institute's public campaign for a State Funeral for the last First World War veteran. On behalf of all the veterans, staff and volunteers at the Dominion Institute thank you for supporting for this important national cause!

Rudyard Griffiths, Executive Director The Dominion Institute <http://www.dominion.ca/statefuneral>

State funeral for last war vet wins approval THE GLOBE AND MAIL, ONLINE EDITION - TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 21 BY SCOTT DEVEAU The last remaining Canadian First World War veteran will be laid to rest at a state funeral, after Ottawa voted unanimously Tuesday in favour an NDP motion to bestow the honour, which is normally reserved for former heads of government. Just three Canadian first World War veterans are believed to be still alive - the oldest being 106 years old. While state funerals in Canada are normally reserved former Governors-General and Prime Ministers, there has been an enormous groundswell of support in recent weeks for honouring the passing of the last remaining First World War veteran with such a ceremony. The campaign was launched by the Dominion Institute in the build up to Remembrance Day, and in just a few weeks drew more than 90,000 signatures from Canadians across the country on a petition in support of the initiative. NDP critic for Veterans Affairs Peter Stoffer picked up the cause Tuesday by introducing a motion in the House, which required the consent of all four federal parties before a state funeral could be awarded. The motion received unanimous support Tuesday morning. "Canada's veterans are our greatest heroes and our country's greatest volunteers," Mr. Stoffer said Tuesday. "Offering a state funeral for the last Canadian veteran of the First World War is a fitting and symbolic tribute to recognize the great personal sacrifices of those who have served and who are currently serving our country." The move mirrors an Australian initiative that saw that country's last veteran buried in a state funeral in 2005. In Canada, during a state funeral, the body arrives at Parliament Hill by hearse, where the deceased is brought to the centre block for a simple ceremony. After lying guarded in state for two days, the body is escorted to Christ Church Cathedral in Ottawa, where the funeral service is held. More than 60,000 Canadians died in the fighting between 1914 and 1918.

<http://www.theglobeandmail.com/servlet/story/RTGAM.20061121.wvetfunera>

2006 Homeless Dinner Fund Raising Lunch A record turnout raises a record!

The 2006 fund raising lunch held on December 7th in support of the Annual Christmas Lunch for Vancouver's Homeless was a great success, setting an all-time record for the number of people attending and for raising more than 6-thousand dollars! In fact the amount raised was the direct result of the Silent Auction, held for the first time as part of the fund-raising lunch, together with the high quality of donated gifts being offered. This proved to be a winning combination and likely will be repeated next year.

Our thanks go to the generous donors who helped to make the Silent Auction a success. Among these are The River Rock Casino, Coast Hotels and Resorts (West End), Delta Vancouver Suites, Pappas Furs, Surdel Carpets, and the BCR Association. Individual donors to the Silent Auction included Ray Brickell, Michelle Hawthorne, Bryan Gagne, Allan De Genova and Bill Diamond. Prize Draw donations were made by Ray & Carol Glover, Bob Matthews, Doug Campbell, Ron Banks, Cam & Chris Cathcart, Pat & Wilma Nairne, Benny Dies, Lynda & Archie Steacy, Ted & Gayle Hawthorne and Floris van Weelderren.

Not to be forgotten are the generous folks who enjoyed the lunch and financially assisted the Association's 2007 Christmas Lunch for Vancouver's Homeless on December 9th by participating in the Silent Auction and Prize Draws. Your attendance and support is gratefully acknowledged.

Museum Update

By Jerry Couling

Tours:

On November 8th, as arranged by Sgt. Ron Leblanc as part of the Regiment's community outreach, close to 200 high school students visited the Drill Hall to receive an overview on the Regiment from its origin right up to present time. The visit was intended to augment class work on Canada's involvement during the two World Wars covered in the students' Canadian History course. Archie Steacy, Dick Grady, Bob Hall, and Jerry Couling, were pleased to assist Sgt. Leblanc on behalf of the Museum Society with the event by opening and manning the museum, and conveying to the students and teachers the significance of key artefacts in the museum's collection.

The Museum was also open on November 11th to accommodate the extended Regimental Family and guests.

Annual General Meeting

The Museum's AGM was held in the evening of December 4th in the boardroom of Hawthorne & Piggott, Barristers and Solicitors. The following directors were re-elected:

- Archie Steacy (President)
- Dick Grady (Vice President)
- Ted Hawthorne (Secretary)
- Jerry Couling (Treasurer)
- Bob Hall
- Tim Monchamp

During the meeting a request was made by members Dwayne Snow, Floris vanWeelderen, and Ron Leblanc for the Museum Society to support their initiatives to obtain additional archival material relating to the 7th Battalion and other WW1 battalions perpetuated by the Regiment. Their request is supported by the board. These members are to be congratulated for their work to date in this area.

ASLEEP

Tk99697 Captain Keith I. Robertson served with the B.C Regiment (DCO) RCAC. He passed away on 25 October 2006. Keith, Deloris and family resided in Langley, B.C.

K440535 WO 2 Lawrence (Bud) J. Lay served with the British Columbia Regiment (DCO) RCAC. He passed away on 11 November 2006. Bud, Joan and family resided in Vancouver and Aldergrove, B.C.

B138497 Trooper Gordon McKelvie served with the 28th Armoured Regiment (British Columbia Regiment) Canadian Armoured Corps during World War II. He passed away on 28 November 2006. Gord, May and family resided in Burlington, ON.

K441616 Lance Corporal Walter Zaholuc served with the British Columbia Regiment (DCO) RCAC. He passed away on 19 October 2006. Walter resided in Vancouver, B.C.

WE SHALL REMEMBER THEM

UNDER THE WEATHER

Best wishes for a speedy recovery to Jack Drake who recently underwent surgery.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

- Officers St. Julien Dinner – TBA
- WOs' & Sgts' Paardeburg Dinner - 24 Feb 2007
- Vernon Lunch, 28th Arm'd Regiment - TBA

Irish Fusiliers Part 3 (final) to follow in the Spring Edition.