



THE DUKE



Inside this issue:

Dukes in review.....	1
Exercise Ferrett Duke.....	2
CAF Honoured at Sikh Temple.....	3
Exercise Lynx Duke.....	4
Levee.....	5
HMCS Vancouver Visit.....	6
Presentation to Tochi Sandhu.....	7
Cadet Recruiting Initiative.....	8
Curry Luncheon – 28 Jan.....	9
Regimental Whisky Tasting.....	9
2290 BCR (101 DCOR).....	10
Letter to HCol Hawthorne.....	12
Canadian Club of Vancouver.....	12
RWR Annual Mess Dinner.....	14
Curry Luncheon – 25 Feb.....	15
Annual Paardeberg Dinner.....	15
Dr. Simon's 103 rd Birthday.....	16
CO's Parade – 2 March.....	17
Caring Canadian Award.....	18
Cadet Instructors Cadre.....	21
Ex Virtual Duke.....	22
8 th Spring and Nowruz Day.....	23
St. Patrick's Day Party.....	24
Excellency Riadh Essid.....	26
Curry Luncheon – 31 March.....	26
CO's Parade – 6 April.....	26
Vancouver Strategic Studies.....	27
St. Julien Mess Dinner.....	29
Toast to the Fallen.....	30
Cadet Governor's Report.....	31
Curry Luncheon – 28 April.....	32
Presentation to LCol(R) Sajjan.....	33
Annual General Meeting.....	33
President's Letter.....	35
French Legion of Honour.....	35
Army Gala.....	36
59 RCAC Squadron.....	37
Presentation to Charlotte Yen.....	38
HCol Charles Mercier.....	38
Major Adam J.T. McLeod, CD.....	39
Convocation Ceremony.....	39
From the Barrett Bunker.....	39
The Start Line.....	42
Letters.....	43
Association Kit Shop.....	44
Association Directors/Officers.....	44
Charitable Trust Trustees.....	44
Association Special Projects.....	45
Special Thanks.....	45
Duke's Den.....	45
Asleep.....	46



Official Photographer:
Sgt Ronald Duchesne, Rideau Hall @Her Majesty The Queen in Right of Canada
represented by the Office of the Secretary to the Governor General, 2016

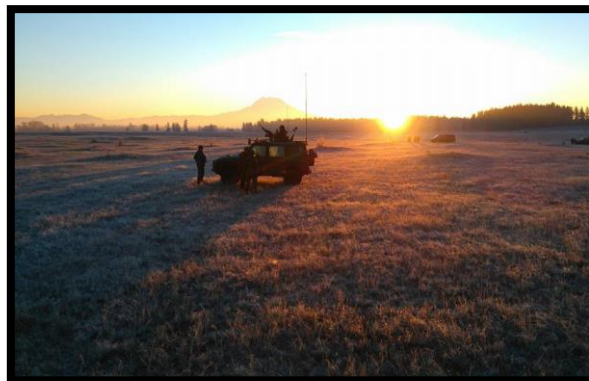


EXERCISE FERRET DUKE

Written by 2Lt David Kim, 42 T

As we rolled in to October we started to look forward to the first Recce Exercise, Exercise Ferret Duke. The anticipation was high, with many newly qualified Troopers, Crew Commanders and both the Troop Leaders coming fresh off their course. To meet the Commanding Officer's intent, the focus was on Crew level skills and the Crew Commanders. Everyone was excited to work with their crews for the first time and carry out the tasks of Recce Soldiers. Once all kit and weapons were signed for and handed out, the Squadron departed the Drill Hall. Once all the Troops consolidated and gathered at the entrance of the Opsee Training area, it was game face on. Troops prepared to go tactical by applying camouflage paint, black out lights and Guns up.

As Troops get prepared to go tactical, the Troop Leaders depart to receive the harbour orders from the Sergeant Major. The occupation of the squadron harbour could have been much better, but for the first time as a Squadron, it was not too bad. There were minor issues that needed to be fixed and basic Standard Operating Procedures (SOP). Once all the vehicles were in position, the troops carried on with the occupation of harbour and hide. Troop Leaders head to the Squadron Headquarters for orders and further direction from the OC, twenty minutes after, the command "Area appears clear" is given. Troops were ordered to go to ground as soon as their vehicle and kit were ready for the day tomorrow.



The squadron kicked off the day with a thorough lesson from the Sargent Major on the occupation of a Squadron harbour. The class was great, it answered a lot of the questions that troops had regarding the night before. We all were optimistic about the weather, because the skies started to clear and sun peeking out. The weekend exercises usually result in a wet and damp one. The troops disperse into their zones to carry on with the mounted tasks. Although the Opsee training area is small and hard to carry out mounted drills it was a great way to start off. The patrol commanders take their patrols, and practice held up drills, vehicle movements, and contact drills. For the Troop Leaders and Patrol commanders, it was a great way to learn about each other. Being a walk through talk through Exercise the squadron was able to get back into the recce mindset, brush off the skills for some who have been away, and for those who were on course, just get more practice.

After a full day of carrying out traditional recce tasks, the troops moved into Troop Hides. Troops were tested by only being given a limited time to occupy, once the occupations drills had started the troop leaders gathered with the OC to receive orders for night activities. The two troops were divided into two patrols in order to conduct two dismounted patrols for the night, for my troop one of the patrols ended up going up the mountain and was able to carry on without being detected. Once the troops were all back safe we went to ground to prepare for another full day.

Sunday started with a bang with both troop hides being ambushed by our assault troop. The ambush was an unforeseen challenge and it required the troops actively apply the skills necessary. We all had areas to improve and were given that time to talk about it and have an in troop after actions review.

The next set of skills the troops practiced was reacting to contact scenarios. The contacts were placed strategically along the routes and created different tactical situations. The troops were able to identify different challenges, based on situations and react differently. One of the situations a patrol in two troop ran into was a road blocked by two dismounts with weapons but with no hostile intent. The patrol set up a successful fire base and was able to remove the road block and continue with trace without elevating the conflict.

The last skill the Squadron practiced was occupying a squadron harbour in a built up area. Using the skills learned on Friday and Saturday the troops occupied the harbour with minimal issues. This concluded the exercise and carried out a squadron level after action review. Once the cleanup of the vehicles and the training area was complete the troops conducted a road move back to the Drill Hall for Post Ex drills.

Overall, the Exercise Ferret Duke was a success. The troops were able to practice a wide variety of skills from occupying hides and harbours to safely and aggressively reacting to contact. This was a great start to start off the year, and a stepping stone for future Recce Exercises to come in the year.

CANADIAN ARMED FORCES HONOURED AT SIKH TEMPLE

By Capt Jeff Manney

A prominent Sikh temple in Surrey, B.C. marked its first-ever Remembrance ceremony with an invitation to Canadian Armed Forces (CAF) personnel and the traditional gift of a kirpan.



British Columbia Regiment (BCR) Honourary Colonel Ted Hawthorne received the exotic memento – a flawless, full length sabre – from the priest of the Surrey Gurdwara Dukh Nivaran Sahib before an audience inside the temple November 7, 2015.

A kirpan—a ceremonial sword or knife—is one of the five articles of faith that a Sikh must wear at all times. The word kirpan comes from the words kirpa, meaning mercy or compassion, and aanaa, meaning honour.

Describing his feelings on receiving the sword, Hawthorne said aanaa was the operative word. “The kirpan that was presented to me by Giyani Narinder Singh Ji is just magnificent. I was so very proud to receive this honour and will never forget it.”

While the kirpan presentation was the highlight of the ceremony, the temple also strived to embrace the more traditional aspects of a Remembrance Day ceremony. Cadets from the BCR 3300 “Bhai Kanhaiya” Army Cadet Corps paraded to the temple doors, followed by the piping of the Lament, a minute of silence and the singing of O Canada by the temple’s youth choir.

The activities were all part of an effort to introduce to the temple audience an important Canadian tradition, said prominent Indo-Canadian publisher and organizer of the event Harbinder Singh Sewak.

“As Sikhs, Remembrance Day should be part of our daily prayers,” said Sewak. “It’s a solemn obligation to remember and be thankful for the sacrifices of our soldiers. We have to teach our kids that they must understand these core values as Canadians”

For Hawthorne, Sewak’s focus on bringing Remembrance to his community had succeeded enormously. “As with all other ceremonies that I have attended, the event today demonstrated the universality of remembrance and commemoration,” he said. “We saw here today the same strong sense of community and

ethos evident in all Canadians. I thoroughly enjoyed myself, especially talking with the many veterans on parade. Wow . . . what an honour indeed!"

Published by DND in the December 2015 edition of the **DEFENCE CONNEXION**.



EXERCISE LYNX DUKE – 20 - 22 November 2015

Written by MCpl Canavan, 42C

Exercise Lynx Duke, The British Columbia Regiment's last exercise of 2015 had them training in Joint Base Lewis-McChord (JBLM), Washington State. The men, spirited by an exciting training scenario, a continuation of exercise Ferret Duke. With a platoon from the Royal Westminster Regiment as opposition force and a clear weather forecast we were all highly motivated and eager for a weekend of hard constructive training.

The Wednesday exercise preparations went smoothly with all members working hard to ensure their vehicles and kit were as prepared as possible setting Recce Squadron up for success. The Friday evening had tight timings and I for one was impressed by how keen the troops were by how many came in early.

With the road move on Friday 20 November to the training area complete with no issues, Recce Squadron moved smoothly into a squadron hide greatly aided by rehearsals on the previous exercise. I knew that a good rest was much needed as the weekend promised to have a vigorous schedule with little let up.



The morning of the 21st proved to be an early start. The entire squadron, up long before the sun in a flurry of last minute preparations before stepping off. With cam paint on, ammo distributed and final orders given the troops moved into positions to secure their lines of departure (LD).

The area of operations (AO) was split into two boundaries, AO Hammer and Anvil. Both 41 and 42 took up positions in AO Hammer to conduct zone and route recce's and were ready for the expected training tempo to commence. H hour launched the squadron into the diverse training ground and it wasn't long before contact reports and sit-reps were being sent up. The morning proved to be a steady pace allowing for after action reviews (AAR) to take place so patrols could quickly learn and reset while also maintaining momentum.

The afternoon had both troops moved to the south east AO, AO Anvil. With the training area at JBLM being diverse the new AO proved to be a change of scenery for both troops. 42 now on the western side of the AO conducting route recce's in enclosed tight canalizing terrain and 41 on the eastern flank conducting an area recce the tempo increased with complex enemy contacts and held up drills.

Saturday night, after a resupply and a hot meal, we moved into troop hides to prepare for dismounted point recce's. I led a four person recce detachment with a task of gaining information on the enemy and ground on an airfield in the north of the training area. The open terrain surrounding the airfield was illuminated by a bright moon in a cloudless night sky and thus had us moving with caution and purpose as we approached the objective. With my over-watch team in place I was able to cloverleaf the objective gaining eyes on enemy vehicles, enemy locations and buildings in the area. With tight timings and while we remained undetected I was satisfied with my point recce and decided to return to the troop hide armed with information to pass onto higher.

Sunday 22nd November had the exercise culminate in a demonstration and practice of patrol movement in an open area in order to solidify the training we had accomplished while in Fort Lewis. The long road move back to the regiment has some minor set-backs but were quickly dealt with by the regiments classic professionalism and expediency.

Exercise Lynx Duke provided me the opportunity to develop my patrol movement, navigation, voice procedure, react to contacts, coordinating activities and SOP's in the patrol context. With perfect clear crisp winter weather, Mount Rainier canvassing the horizon and a diverse training environment, exciting scenario with an enemy force I can safely say it was a highly successful training exercise in which everyone involved learned something new, further developed their existing soldering skills and had fun.

As always I'm left looking forward to what challenges lay ahead and what opportunities the next exercise will bring. Up the Dukes!

LEVEE – 1 January 2016



HMCS Discovery was the first stop for the "BCR 2016 Levee Team" consisting of Honorary Colonel Ted Hawthorne, Regimental Association VP Gayle Hawthorne, 2290 BCR (101 DCOR) RCACC CO, Major Jim Barrett, Past President and Honorary Colonel of 39 CER, Bill Diamond and his wife Audrey. Commander

Bryan Price and many of our colleagues and friends provided us with the usual high caliber Navy hospitality. The crowded wardroom was open to all ranks for Levee this year.

Next stop was the 15th Field RCA Officers' Mess where the traditional shrimp curry, with rice and vegetables, was served by Mrs. Lum along with many other food options and desserts. Without a doubt, 15th Field is always a must stop on any Levee Tour!



Our last stop was a quick visit to the Seaforth Highlanders of Canada All Ranks Mess at 39 CBG HQ. There was much talk of the return to the Armoury in 2016-17. We wish our friends all the best of luck as it has been a long haul. Also, we had the good fortune to meet BCR Major John Perry, attached to 39 Signal Regiment, at this stop. It was a pleasure to visit and catch up.

Levee was a most enjoyable time this year on such a beautiful sunny New Year's Day.

HMCS VANCOUVER VISIT – 13 January 2016

The "Friends of Vancouver" were special guests invited by Commodore JB Zwick, Commander, Canadian Fleet Pacific, RCN, to a well-attended reception aboard HMCS Vancouver on a courtesy call to its namesake city before heading south to join with the Chilean Navy on exercise.

The Regiment was represented by the Commanding Officer, Major Douglas Evans, Sgt Stephen Clews and Sgt Stephen Cobb. Members of the Regimental Family also in attendance were Honorary Colonel, Ted Hawthorne, along with Regimental Association Vice President Gayle Hawthorne, Past President Bill Diamond (HCol 39 CER), Major Jim Barrett, CO 2290 (101 DCOR) RCACC, Cam Cathcart and Constantine Pappas.

A quartet from HMCS Naden Band provided the music which added greatly to the traditional Navy hospitality. Speeches were delivered by Commodore Zwick, Commander Clive Butler and Friends of Vancouver Chair Mark Zwanski.



Presentations by the Commanding Officer of the Regiment were made to Commander Butler and to the Coxswain, PO1 Pierre Picardel. Colonel Hawthorne presented his Regimental Coin to Commander Butler and wished the Commander and the entire crew of HMCS Vancouver smooth sailing for a very busy 2016 at sea.

The Regiment's affiliation with HMCS Vancouver remains strong!



CERTIFICATE OF APPRECIATION PRESENTATION TOCHI SANDHU – 19 January 2016

It was a special presentation ceremony to our good friend and colleague, Tochi Sandhu, which took place at the offices of Envision Financial (“Envision”) at 6481 120th Street in Delta. Tochi is the Director of Commercial Business Development at Envision.

At the commencement of the ceremony, Tochi greeted the senior leadership of Envision in attendance and specifically welcomed and introduced Honorary Colonel Ted Hawthorne and the Commanding Officer of the Regiment, Major Douglas Evans. In addition, Tochi introduced the newly appointed Chief of Operations, Shelley Besse, and the new President of Envision, Dave Lanphear. Tochi presented gifts to Colonel Hawthorne, Major Evans, Shelley and Dave and thanked everyone for their great leadership.

The presentation ceremony was turned over to Colonel Hawthorne who introduced the Commanding Officer to the group. Major Evans then proceeded to present the Certificate of Appreciation to Tochi and to recognize Tochi's tremendous support of the 2015 European Battlefield Studies Tour. Tochi graciously accepted the certificate and thanked the Commanding Officer and the Honorary Colonel for their leadership.



In concluding the ceremony, Major Evans presented his coin to Shelley Besse and Colonel Hawthorne presented his coin to Dave Lanphear. Many photographs were taken of the assembled group reflecting the very happy occasion.

A small reception was held immediately after the ceremony where everyone had a good opportunity to discuss the Regiment generally and the service of our Citizen Soldiers to Canada and to their community.

Many thanks to Tochi and Envision for their great hospitality and support!



CADET RECRUITING INITIATIVE – 21 January 2016

By Corporal James Alexander

Young members of the 888 Avenger RCACS were recently given inside access to the Reserve Force world of Armoured Reconnaissance by the recruiting staff of the BCR(DCO). The senior cadets of 888 Avenger arrived with enthusiasm and curiosity about the role and tasks of reconnaissance soldiers. These senior cadets were introduced to each soldier on hand, and learned why every member chose to call the Regiment their home away from home.

Over the course of the evening, cadets over the age of 16 learned a little about the history of the Regiment, and had the opportunity to interact with personnel, weapons, and the kit and equipment used to conduct recce tasks as crew members in a reconnaissance vehicle. Additionally, soldiers of the Regiment espoused to the cadets the importance of community, camaraderie, and the Regimental Family.

Highlighting the importance of teamwork, staff took time with the cadets to show how tasks are best completed as highly cooperative crewmembers. Many of the cadets had not seen inside the LUVW recce vehicles, nor had many known about the physical or technical requirements for this demanding vocation. The Avenger cadets suited up with tac-vests, rucksacks, and helmets to test out the physical requirements of the job, and then took turns learning about the different tasks required of crew members while operating on deployment. Learning about observations posts, camouflage and concealment, and other recce tasks, hands-on lessons were conducted using the communication gear in the trucks, while other cadets took a spin up in the turret. All while working together to participate in *the art of seeing without being seen*.

A change from the past, 39 CBG units have recently been strongly encouraged to recruit senior cadets. This mutually beneficial arrangement allows cadets to explore real career options, and give CAF units access to motivated young men and women interested in serving Canada.

This tremendous opportunity engaged members of the Avengers Squadron and achieved its goal of extending an invitation to one-day join the members of the BC Regiment as soldiers, and as members of the Regimental family.



CURRY LUNCHEON – 28 January 2016

By Capt Adam McLeod, CD – PMC, Officers' Mess

With everyone back in the swing of things from the Holidays, and after the December hiatus, the monthly Curry Luncheon Program resumed on January 28th. Guests enjoyed the “Taste of Singapore” curry lunch, prepared by Two Peas in a Pod Catering, and hosted by the Officers' Mess and coordinated by the Regimental Association.

Prior to the meal, Col Hawthorne and Maj Evans welcomed guests to the Mess, and took the time to recognize several guests, including Mr. Ilias Kremmydas, the Consul General of Greece in Vancouver, a good friend of the Regiment, as well as, Maj Jim Barrett, CO of 2290 BCR (101 DCOR) RCACC, Capt Jackson Wong, 2IC of 2381 BCR (Irish Fusiliers) RCACC, VP Gayle Hawthorne, Raymond Greenwood, President of the Canadian Club of Vancouver and Brian Archer, President of Citadel Canine Therapy Society. Our guests were joined by serving officers 2IC Maj Don Bentley, and the PMC, Capt Adam McLeod, who took time from stuffing invitations for the St Julien Dinner (April 9th!) to attend.



The CO gave a quick update on the Regiment, and reminded everyone of the Regimental Whisky Tasting Evening to be held in the upstairs messes on Saturday, January 30th.

Everyone enjoyed the great food and the usual excellent company. The next curry luncheon will be held on Thursday, February 25th, 2016. Many thanks to everyone who attended this month's Curry Luncheon!

REGIMENTAL WHISKY TASTING – 30 January 2016

By: Capt Adam McLeod, CD - “PMC-for-Life”

The funny thing about a whisky tasting is that once you open a bottle, you pretty much have to finish it. So, if there are 20 people, you need one bottle. If there are 40, you need two. But what happens when you have 30, and what does the savvy PMC do with extra offerings? The dilemmas a PMC faces...

On hand for the occasion were both HCol Ted Hawthorne, and HLCol Scott Shepherd. HLCol Shepherd was resplendent in proper highland kilt, as was the PMC (pictured). Also in attendance was former CO, LCol Bruce Kadonoff, taking a break as Chief Instructor of the Army Operations Course (AOC), where Captains Manjeet Vinning and Adam Brown are currently his slaves students. Also noteworthy was the strong showing by the Regiment's subbies: Lt Kevin Kim, Lt Dave Kim, 2Lt Vanessa Vinluan, and 2Lt

Jonathan Robinson, and Lt James Norman (who's still technically a subbie, but only because the British Army forgot he was in Canada).

Curated by Bdr Ryan Crawford, 39 CBG's resident spirits expert, each offering was introduced to our guests with a short history on the distillery, the type of whisky, and the tasting of the whisky itself. The whiskies were accompanied by Storm Brewing Pilsner (for the prairie kid in all of us), and Scottish Ale. Ryan did an outstanding job of picking an interesting (and tasty!) assortment of whiskies, and his great presentation made them all the more enjoyable.

The whiskies showcased were as below, listed as presented from first to last:

1. Connemara Peated Single Malt (Ireland) (\$72 Retail)
2. Penderyn Single Malt Welsh Legend (Wales) (\$105 Retail)
3. Kavalan Concertmaster (Taiwan) (\$134 Retail)
4. Nikka Coffey Malt Whisky (Japan) (\$84 Retail)
5. Aberlour A'Bunadh Cask Strength (Scotland) (\$101 Retail)



One of the highlights of the evening was the Addressing of the Haggis, by B/Sgt Robert Greenslade. Piped in by B/Sgt Rosalie MacDonald, accompanied by the Malts, and guarded by an Englishman, the Addressing was one of verve and vigour, and a pleasure for all who had the good fortune to see it! Rob was obviously eager to get the job for life, and in true Army fashion, if you do it well once, you get to do it forever. Well done Rob!

The Mess also took the time to present Rosalie with a bottle, and its sincere thanks for all of the hard work she has done for the Mess, and for the Regiment. Rosalie has helped at every event asked of her, and has been a tireless member of the Regimental family. Thank you, Rosalie!

The Whisky tasting ended early the next morning when everyone woke up, and continued until all heads were clear. From some accounts, the Whisky tasting ended on Monday. For those looking forward to the next Mess event, a draft beer tasting will likely happen in the late Spring. More to follow!

**2290 BCR (101 DCOR) RCACC
THE DRILL HALL – 13 February 2016
PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT TRAINING**

Submitted by: Maj Jim Barrett

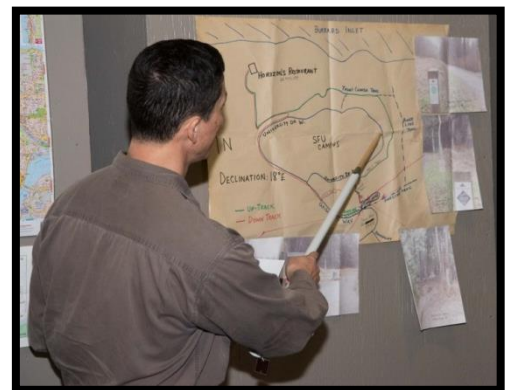
On 13 February 2016, 2290 BCR (101 DCOR) RCACC hosted its second annual Professional Development Day in which all five BCR Cadet Corps were invited to send their officers and interested cadets, sergeants and up. Maj Jim Barrett hosted the event which included training in problem solving similar to the Operational Planning Process taught at Staff College, as well as training in the use of the new orders format for Warning Orders, Administrative Orders and Operation Orders. Participants were given samples to work on in Syndicate as well as the formats to take back to use with their own corps. Also in attendance were two officers and a Cadet Warrant Officer from 15 Field RCA Cadets led by Maj Barret's brother, LT Gord Barrett, and our first Pipe-Major of the BCR Irish Pipes and Drums. Attendees were treated to several guest

speakers including HCol Ted Hawthorne, who spoke on the support the Regimental Family gives to our cadets. Mr. Rick Nicholson, from the Army Cadet League of Canada, provided interesting insights on how the League not only provides insurance for cadet activities, but also how the League can assist a corps CO in times of crisis. Our keynote speaker was the RSM of the BCR, CWO Huf Mullick, who gave a powerful and dynamic presentation on Officer, Warrant Officer and Senior NCO relations, and on how we can work better as a team. By far the best presentation of the day!

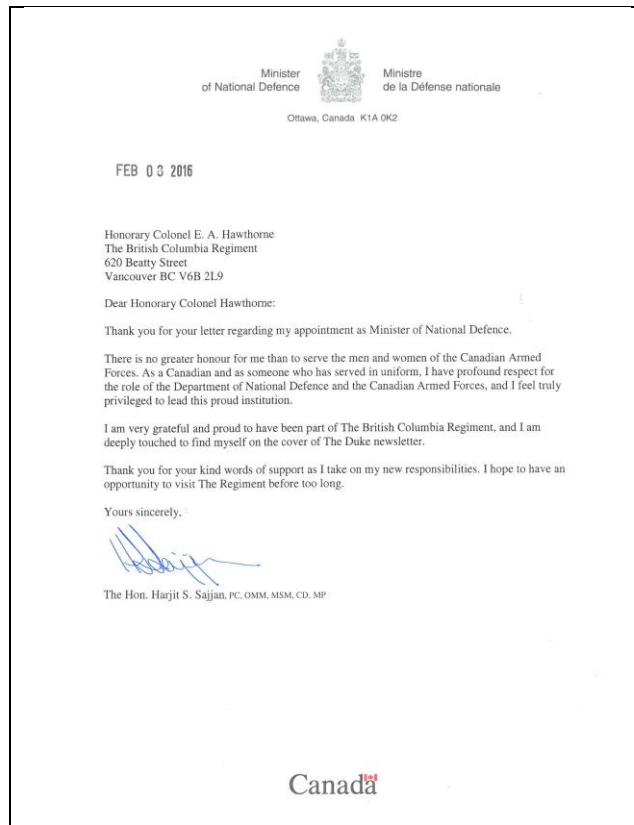


In the afternoon segment, a practical demonstration on the giving of orders was presented by Volunteer Instructor, MCpl (Retd) Stan Clark, who works closely as a mentor for the Senior Cadets of 2290. He reviewed the principles of "Task Procedure" and the importance of "orienting the ground" to the audience, and then launched into a sample demonstration of orders.

All attendees remarked on the value of the training. We only wish that the other Lower Mainland BCR Corps could have found the time to send representatives. Most missed due to conflicts with their own training. Next year's event is already programmed for the 11th of Feb 2017 and all are asked to put the date in their unit calendars to attend. Our thanks to all who participated.



Photos courtesy of John Karmazinuk



CANADIAN CLUB OF VANCOUVER – 15 February 2016



The 51st Anniversary of the Canadian Flag and the 110th Anniversary of the Canadian Club of Vancouver (“CCV”) were celebrated in fine form at a very well attended luncheon held at the Hyatt Regency Hotel in Vancouver. The luncheon was preceded by a Reception where the Minister of National Defence, the Honourable Harjit S. Sajjan, and his wife, Doctor Kuljit Sajjan, greeted many of the guests. It was an excellent opportunity for the Regimental Family to welcome the Minister and Doctor Sajjan to the event. The Head Table, including Minister Sajjan, Doctor Sajjan, the Commanding Officer, Major Douglas Evans and Admiral Couturier, Commander of Maritime Command Pacific, were piped in by BCR Irish Pipes &

Drums Pipe Sgt Rosalie MacDonald. The program commenced with the playing of Garry Owen by Piper Rosalie MacDonald as a tribute to the late Patrick Reid, welcoming remarks by the Master of Ceremonies Raymond Greenwood, President of CCV, O'Canada sung by George Roberts (Vancouver Chamber Choir), a Toast to the Queen by the Commanding Officer with an appropriate reference to our friend and colleague, the former Honorary Colonel of the Regiment, the late Patrick Reid, and the City of Vancouver Flag Day Proclamation presented by Councillor Melissa De Genova.



After the excellent lunch, Keith Mitchell of Farris LLP, the event sponsor, delivered a memorable speech by introducing the Minister who received a standing ovation on the way to the podium. In his address, as the guest of honour, Minister Sajjan remembered the lifetime of commitment and service to Canada of the late Patrick Reid. The Minister acknowledged the effect of Patrick's inspiration on his life and the lives of so many others.

Joyce Murray, MP presented Patrick's family with the Canadian Flag which flew over the Peace Tower on the day of Patrick's passing. Very touching indeed! The family's acknowledgement was delivered by Patrick's daughter Amanda. During her remarks Amanda thanked the Minister for his kind words about her father and said that Patrick greatly admired and supported the Minister. She continued by saying that she was very pleased that Patrick lived long enough to see LCol (R) Sajjan appointed as the Minister of National Defence. Patrick's comment on hearing the news of the appointment was "bloody right!!!"

Kathryn Molloy of Heritage BC and Penny Noble of Heritage Vancouver spoke briefly and a presentation by Ron Royston to Support Services Unlimited concluded the program.

Minister Sajjan was very gracious and took the time to circulate among the full house. Many great photos were taken of the serving members of the Regiment and the rest of the Regimental Family in attendance.





Photos courtesy of Dave Roels, Canadian Club of Vancouver

THE ROYAL WESTMINSTER REGIMENT ANNUAL MESS DINNER – 20 February 2016

The annual mess dinner, hosted by the Commanding Officer, LCol D.J. Vernon, CD, Honorary Colonel Karen Baker-MacGrotty and the Officers' Mess, was held on the drill square at The Armoury in New Westminster. The messes are currently being refurbished. The guest speaker for the evening was Brigadier-General Wayne D. Eyre, MSC, CD, Commander, 3 Canadian Division. General Eyre gave an excellent presentation on the status of "The Army of the West". The dinner, service and music, provided by the RWR Band and 15 Field RCA Band, were all of a very high caliber.



Members of the Regimental Family attending were Honorary Colonel Ted Hawthorne, Honorary Colonel Bill Diamond (39 CER), Major (R) Ken Whitney and SSM (R) Bob Underhill. Special guests included PPCLI Colonel of the Regiment, MGen (R) Brian Vernon, CD, Private M.N. Barilko and Private A.O. Usach, both serving in the Ukrainian Army, who were seriously wounded in action. Major P. Dudek, of 39 CBG HQ, accompanied both soldiers who are visiting in Canada as part of their ongoing recovery, as guests of the Canadian Ukrainian Community. Our very best wishes to these brave young soldiers and we all hope they enjoy their stay in Canada. A most enjoyable evening indeed!



CURRY LUNCHEON – 25 February 2016

It was another full house at the Taste of India Curry Luncheon held in the Officers' and WOs' & Sgts' Mess on Thursday, 25 February 2016. Honorary Colonel Ted Hawthorne greeted the many guests including Honorary Colonel Bill Diamond of 39 CER, Past Honorary Colonels Jim Happer (39 CER) and Bill Ireland (BCR), CO of 2290 BCR (101 DCOR) RCACC Major Jim Barrett and 2I/C of 2381 BCR (Irish Fusiliers) RCACC Captain Jackson Wong, Bob Remple, President of the Regimental Association, Archie Steacy, President of British Columbia Veterans Commemorative Association ("BCVCA"), and Cam Cathcart, President of Royal United Services Institute – Vancouver Society.

Archie Steacy presented a Certificate of Appreciation on behalf of BCVCA to Jeff Perham, Community Specialist, Regional Marketing for Mr. Lube, in recognition of the company's Veterans' Program.

The Commanding Officer, Major Douglas Evans, greeted the assembled guests and provided a short update on the state of the Regiment which is doing very well.



The CO also presented a Certificate of Appreciation to Bill McCarthy, a great supporter of the Regiment and the Regimental Association, in recognition of his significant support of the highly successful 2015 European Battlefield Studies Tour.

Many thanks for the grand support of all attendees as we look forward to our next Curry Luncheon sponsored by the Officers' Mess and coordinated by the Regimental Association, on Thursday, 31 March 2016.

THE ANNUAL PAARDEBERG DINNER – 27 February 2016

The annual Paardeberg Dinner hosted by the WOs' & Sgts' Mess, commemorating the 116th anniversary of the Battle of Paardeberg was a great evening and a complete success. The Regiment's two bands, the Brass & Reed Band provided the entertainment throughout the dinner and the Irish Pipes & Drums piped in the Head Table (Pipe Major Matthew Dolan) and provided a special performance. A great showing indeed by our two bands! After an excellent dinner prepared and served by Two Peas in a Pod, the Commanding Officer, Major Douglas Evans, and the RSM, CWO Huf Mullick, presented Certificates of Appreciation to Honorary Lieutenant Colonel Scott Shepherd and Sgt Dwayne Snow for their support of the 2015 European Battlefield Studies Tour and recognized the service of OpsWO, WO Marvin MacNeill, LdSH (RC) to the Regiment, to his Regiment and to Canada during the past years 28 years. WO MacNeill spoke briefly and eloquently about his operational experience during his many deployments while the mega screen displayed such great photos covering his career. Truly these were special moments for all of us. Many thanks for your remarkable service WO MacNeill!

Speakers for the evening included the CO, RSM and Honorary Colonel Ted Hawthorne, who remembered the visit of members of the Regimental Association, including President Bob Remple (present at the dinner)

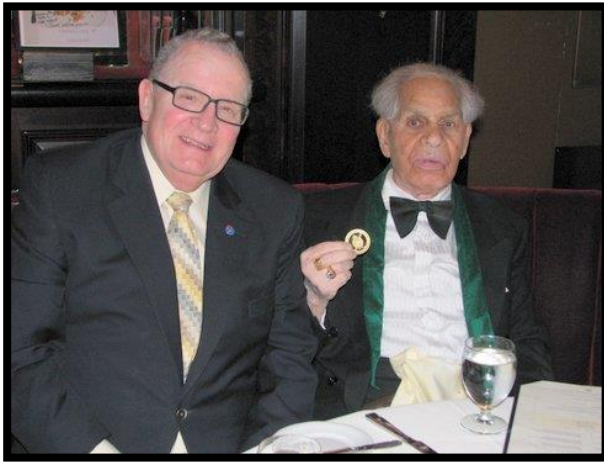
to Paardeberg on the 110th anniversary of the battle where a wreath was placed at the memorial during a special ceremony and our Fallen were remembered at the cemetery close by.

It was truly a memorable evening. Up the Dukes!



HAPPY 103RD BIRTHDAY DR. SIMON!! – 1 March 2016

The directors of the Chacko & Lize Simon Scholarship Fund (“Simon Trust”) celebrated the 103rd birthday of the founder and president of the Simon Trust, Dr. Chacko Simon, at a special luncheon held in the Bacchus Restaurant of the Wedgewood Hotel & Spa on Hornby in Vancouver. As members of the Regimental Association know, the Simon Trust has been a very strong supporter of the annual Bursary Program and the European Battlefield Studies Tours (2012 and 2015) sponsored by The BC Regiment (DCO) Association Charitable Trust. In recognition of this support, Honorary Colonel Ted Hawthorne presented his Honorary Colonel Coin to Dr. Simon and thanked him for his many years of service to our community and to the Regiment. Also in attendance were Lize Simon, Margaret Harris and the Vice President of the Regimental Association, Gayle Hawthorne. Both Gayle and Ted have been directors of the Simon Trust for many years.



CO'S PARADE – 2 March 2016

The monthly CO's Parade commenced promptly at 9:30 pm with the Commanding Officer, Major Douglas Evans, taking over the parade and addressing the soldiers with a brief overview of the many components comprised in the high tempo of the Regiment and the need to prioritize activities, both personal and military, for future exercises.

Presentations consisted of two Commanding Officer's Commendations presented to Pte Steven Brewer and Cpl James Alexander. A third CO's Commendation will be presented to Cpl Sloan at a later date, as he was not on parade.

The CO also announced the availability of an additional 25 underground parking spaces for members and thanked our good friend of the Regiment Farid Rohani for his excellent work in making this happen.

Honorary Colonel Ted Hawthorne had the last word acknowledging the service of our members, the recipients of the CO's Commendation and the work of the Regimental Association and the Charitable Trust.

Also in attendance were Band Governor and Honorary Colonel (39 CER) Bill Diamond, Farid Rohani and Padre Michael McGee.



CARING CANADIAN AWARD PRESENTED TO HONORARY COLONEL E.A. HAWTHORNE ON FRIDAY, MARCH 4, 2016

By HCol Bill Diamond, 39 CER

On Friday, March 4 I had the distinct pleasure of attending the Governor General's Honours presentations at the Chan Centre at UBC. It was a well organized and inspiring day. There were recipients from Manitoba, Saskatchewan, Alberta, British Columbia and the Northwest Territories who received their Canadian Honour from the Governor General.

As I sat through the presentations it was impressive to hear the involvement and acts of many people who were being acknowledged. As many said, it is inspiring to hear what so many do and it encourages us all to continue to contribute to our various communities.

It was at the afternoon presentation that HCol Ted Hawthorne was presented with his Caring Canadian pin and certificate. His medal will be presented after April 1. The BC Regimental Family was well represented. Attendees included the CO Major Doug Evans, RSM CWO Huf Mullick, 2IC Major Don Bentley, 2290 CO Major Jim Barrett, Association Treasurer and CO's Committee Secretary Capt (Ret'd) Jerry Couling and Dominique Michel, Col (Ret'd) Keith Maxwell and special guests of the HCol were Gayle Hawthorne, Michelle Hawthorne and Charlotte Yen.

After the presentation there was a nice reception that enabled the recipients and guests to mingle and have photos taken. The Governor General briefly attended and was kind enough to pose for a photo with the Hawthorne's. A consistent theme from those that spoke about the Governor General was how impressed we were with his speeches as well as making everyone he met feel at ease right way.

This was a great day for The BC Regiment, the Regimental Family and the Hawthorne family. As we all know, we are blessed to have such a dedicated and giving HCol who always has time to help out. It may mean he works later or gets up early the next day, but he is always there. I am sure I speak for many when I say that we are so very pleased to see Ted be acknowledged for the tremendous amount of work he does and that we are proud to be able to work with him.

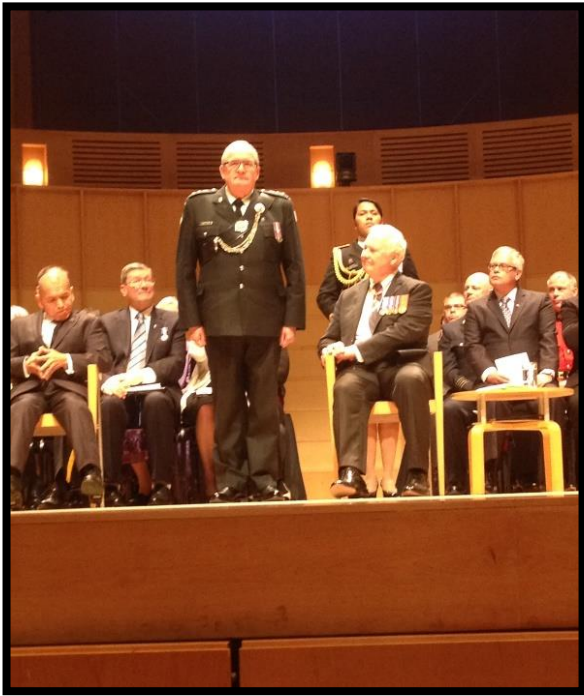
In closing, I thought that I would share a few quotes I saw on FaceBook after the presentation:



"He is the most selfless, caring and giving person I know."

"Could not go to a more deserving person."

"To the man of the hour, the Honorary Colonel, who was presented with the Governor General's Caring Canadian Award. It is incredible to have someone so special in my life who volunteers his time to help others and to build a smarter and more caring nation. His compassion and engagement has made a huge impact on the lives of so many and I am so proud to call him my Granddad."



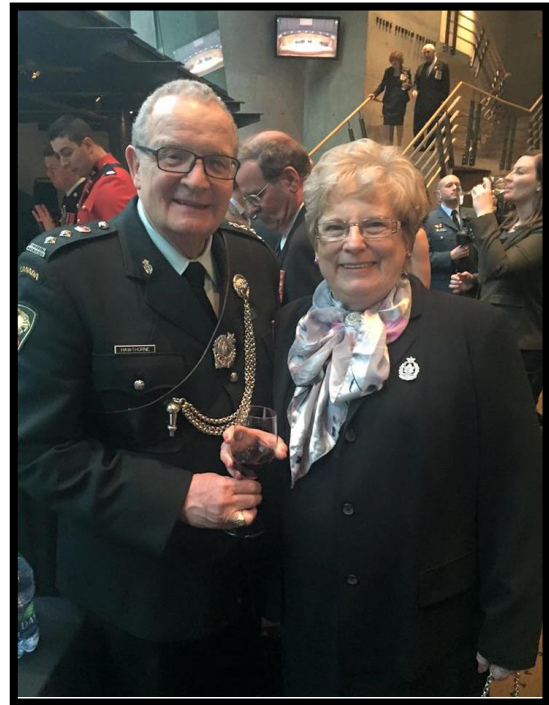
Getting Ready for the presentation



Closer view of Getting Ready for the presentation



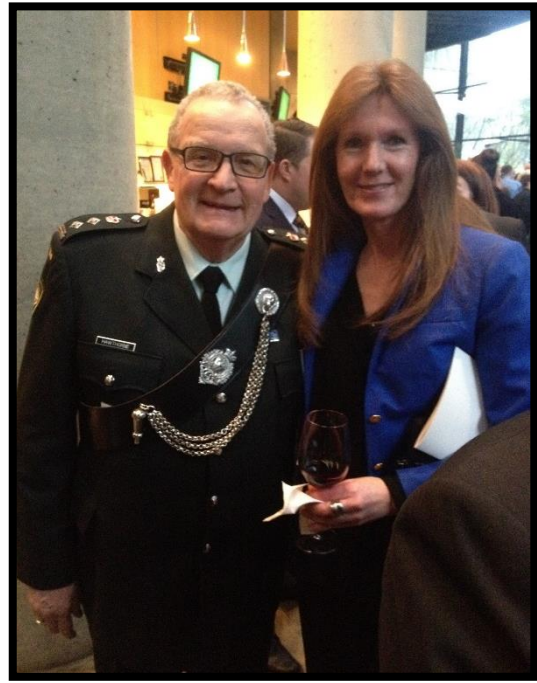
Proud recipient



HCol and Gayle Hawthorne



HCol and daughter Michelle Hawthorne



HCol and Charlotte Yen



Major Bentley, HCol, Lt. Gov Judith Guichon,
CO Major Evans and RSM CWO Mullick



CO Major Evans, HCol
and Col (Ret'd) Keith Maxwell



Major Bentley, CO Major Evans, RSM CWO Mullick,
HCol and Col (Ret'd) Keith Maxwell



Capt (Ret'd) Jerry Couling, HCol
and Col (Ret'd) Keith Maxwell

CADET INSTRUCTORS CADRE BRANCH DINNER – 5 March 2016

The 18th annual dinner was held on Saturday night in the Fairmont Room of Newlands Golf & Country Club in Langley. The very enjoyable evening included cocktails and a social in the reception area, a first class dinner, the Loyal Toast and a Toast to the Branch. Lieutenant Colonel Terry Kopan introduced the Head Table which included the Guest Speaker, Chief Constable (Ret'd) Jamie Graham, OOM, SBStJ, Honorary Colonel Ted Hawthorne, Vice President and 2290 BCR Sponsoring Committee member Gayle Hawthorne, Major Jim Barrett, Commanding Officer of 2290 BCR (101 DCOR) RCACC and his wife Patricia and Louise Prouse, Honours & Awards Executive of the Army Cadet League. Colonel Kopan also recognized and congratulated Colonel Hawthorne as a recipient of the Caring Canadian Award which was presented to him at the Chan Centre at UBC by the Governor General of Canada, His Excellency, David Johnston on Friday, March 4th. Colonel Kopan introduced the Guest Speaker, Chief Constable Graham, who delivered an excellent address on leadership which was very well received by all attendees. Truly a remarkable speaker and the culmination of a great evening!



Photos courtesy of Wayne Emdy

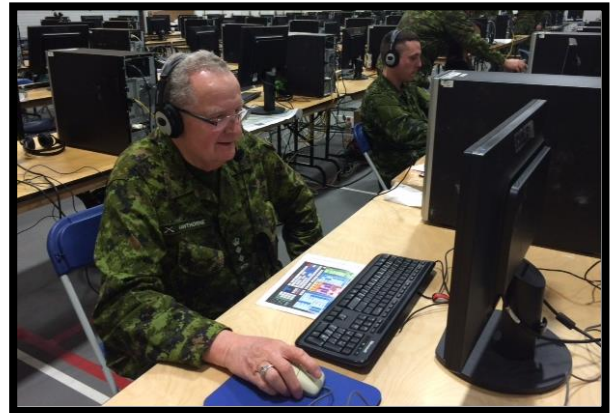
EX VIRTUAL DUKE 39 SERVICE BATTALION – 12 March 2016

A joint computer exercise with the Recce Squadrons of the Regiment and The British Columbia Dragoons was held at 39 Service Battalion in Richmond on 12/13 March 2016. OC Recce, Major Vince Virk, was the Commander of Ex Virtual Duke. Over 115 soldiers participated in the two day exercise. Sgt Dwayne Snow provided the RSM, CWO Huf Mullick, and the Honorary Colonel, Ted Hawthorne, with a short briefing and tour of the set-up which took up the entire drill square of Colonel Sherman Armoury with an amazing array of electronic equipment shipped from Wainwright.

An Executrek briefing was conducted by LCol Rod Needham, Liaison Officer for Canadian Forces Liaison Council, for employers whose staff members were also present on this exercise. Colonel Needham also conducted a tour of the facility where employers were able to visit with their soldier/staff members in order to see what they do on the Army side. The group was also briefed by the Commander of Ex Virtual Duke, Major Virk, who provided an excellent outline of the objectives of the exercise. SSM MWO Tony Harris also provided practical commentary from an operational perspective. A quick luncheon took place followed by Executrek guests, including Colonel Hawthorne; participating in the computer simulation of a recce exercise (Colonel Hawthorne assumed the gunner position with Cpl Nathan Palmer as crew commander and his employer as driver). A very interesting experience indeed! A final briefing took place by Major Virk and at the conclusion a group photograph was taken of many of our members. It was great to see so many familiar faces on the joint exercise!

The Executrek group returned to the Officers' Mess for a final briefing by Colonel Needham. Colonel Hawthorne, with the 2IC, Major Don Bentley, and Sgt Snow, presented the Commanding Officer's Regimental Coin to the employer representatives present and thanked them for their support of the soldiers and complimented them for taking the time to attend and observe the excellent training their staff members receive in their "other life".





8TH ANNUAL SPRING AND NOWRUZ DAY CAPILANO MALL – 13 March 2016

By: Farid Rohani

The Canadian parliament has designated the first day of spring as 'Nowruz Day', marking the Persian New Year. The United Nations has also designated the 21st day of March as International Day of Nowruz that celebrates the start of the Persian spring festival of Nowruz every year. It occurs on or around the time of the March equinox. That is the time of the year that the day and night are of equal length and from that day forward the days get longer. It is celebrated as a victory of light over darkness.

Nowruz is an ancient celebration of the start of the new year by over 500 million people from Afghanistan, Turkey, Iran; by Kurds, Tajik, Azerbaijanis and many other people. It is also celebrated by many as a religious festival marking the first day of spring and the renewal of nature. It has always been regarded as a way to promote peace and solidarity, particularly in families. The day also focuses reconciliation and neighborliness, contributing to cultural diversity and friendship among peoples and different communities.

In Canada, over 400,000 Canadians of Iranian descent celebrate Nowruz and last weekend at Capilano Mall, in North Vancouver several thousand people attended a celebration of Nowruz. The British Columbia Regiment (DCO) was welcomed and represented by Honorary Colonel Ted Hawthorne, Corporals Pouya Aliakbar and Mike Medrano. Colonel Hawthorne spoke about the Regiment, its history and diversity and received a warm and loud welcome. Many in the crowd were surprised that the Regiment had a soldier of Iranian background and many were delighted to be able to take pictures with the soldiers.

The Iranian television program requested the BCR representatives to welcome the Persian New Year in Farsi, the language of the Iranians and will broadcast the same on their program on Saturday.

They requested to attend the Drill Hall for a follow up on the Regiment, its history and to speak to the Commanding Officer.

Colonel Hawthorne took the opportunity to acknowledge the community spirit and support of Corporals Aliakbar and Medrano by presenting each of them with his Regimental Coin while on Iranian TV.



ST. PATRICK'S DAY PARTY – March 13, 2016

By Sandra Young

The time of year came again where members of the Regiment, Regimental Association and friends would get together to test their St. Patrick's Day luck. The day started early to get the WOs' & Sgts' Mess decorated and the stew ready to go for when everyone arrived. Lunch included homemade "Irish" Stew, Salad & Buns (Sandra & Graydon Young), the famous Trifle (Ellen MacKenzie) & decorated cupcakes (Gayle Hawthorne). Thank you all for your help. There were many prizes to be won with either door prizes or you could test your luck with the lucky draw prizes or 50/50 as well as a best dressed prize. MCpl Duke A Bear was there dressed in his best Irish regalia along with friend Colleen.

Honorary Colonel Ted Hawthorne presented Rob Greenslade with the Commanding Officer's Commendation and the CO's Coin. In addition, Colonel Hawthorne recognized Agnes Keegan, Dr. Chacko Simon and Graydon & Sandra Young for their dedication and contributions. Colonel Hawthorne bought the customary round for the band and included everyone else in this gesture.

The BCR Irish Pipes & Drums Band played two sets for us, which was probably one of the best we've heard. Each piper flew a designated pennant attached to their pipes (one for the CO, both BCR Honoraries and LCol (R) Archie Steacy). Bill Diamond, Honorary Colonel of 39 CER, ably described the history of these pennants and took the opportunity to recognize the late Bill Schmidt, a great supporter of the band, and Archie Steacy for their great support of the Regiment and Regimental Family. This year the best dressed prize was won by Darrin Davies. Some of the other lucky draw prize winners were Louise Prouse (Vancouver Canucks Tickets), Ernie Truant (Scratch Ticket Tree) and Steve Scott (Grey Goose Vodka).

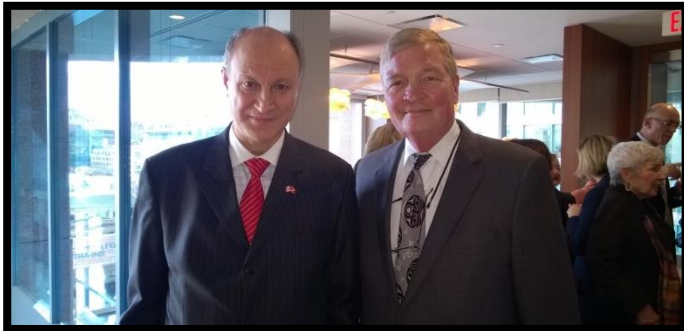
Special thanks to thank Dan & Ellen Mackenzie for once again taking care of the door check-in and Kevin Baker for taking care of the bar. A special thank you to all the people from the Regiment, Regiment Association, Coquitlam Legion #263, Mission Legion #57 and friends that came out to make this another fun and successful event. Hope to see everyone next year.

Up the Dukes!



RECEPTION IN HONOUR OF HIS EXCELLENCY RIADH ESSID, AMBASSADOR FOR THE REPUBLIC OF TUNISIA IN CANADA – 22 March 2016

A reception was held at the Offices of Clarke Wilson LLP, 885 West Georgia Street, in Vancouver and was hosted by Lyall D. Knott, QC, Honorary Consul General for the Republic of Tunisia (Vancouver), in order to welcome Ambassador Riadh Essid on his visit to British Columbia. His Excellency delivered a very positive and detailed presentation of Tunisia's remarkable success in establishing a fledgling democracy. The democratic transition of Tunisia has received very strong support from many different segments of Tunisian society. Ambassador Essid emphasized that his country seeks support from Canada and other democratic nations as Tunisia is one of the limited success stories in North Africa resulting from the "Arab Spring" which started in Tunisia on 18 December 2010 and remains a work in progress.



The reception was well attended and afforded many guests with the opportunity to speak to the Ambassador at length. As many will know, retired Honorary Captain (N) Lyall Knott is also the BC Chair of Canadian Forces Liaison Council. Honorary Colonel Ted Hawthorne, a BC Director of CFLC, also attended.

CURRY LUNCHEON – 31 March 2016

The Taste of Thailand Curry Luncheon was a most enjoyable event on a beautiful sunny day in Vancouver. Honorary Colonel Ted Hawthorne greeted and welcomed all guests, including Major Jim Barrett, CO, 2290 BCR (101 DCOR) RCACC, Bob Remple, President of the Regimental Association and many Seaforth friends. Major Douglas Evans, the Commanding Officer of the Regiment, addressed our guests and welcomed everyone to another Curry Luncheon. The attendees then proceeded to enjoy a very delightful "Thai Curry" lunch prepared by our very talented "Two Peas in a Pod Catering". Kudos to Pat and Cynthia for the excellent meal and great service!



Many thanks to all of our friends for supporting this successful event!

CO'S PARADE – 6 April 2016

April's CO's Parade was well attended and the Regiment looked in fine form. The Commanding Officer, Major Douglas Evans, took command of the parade promptly at 9:30pm and, after a brief introduction, presented to the Regiment two previously sworn in members, namely OCdt McCullough and OCdt Serviss. Major Evans then proceeded to promote our UK Exchange Officer, Lt. James Norman, to the rank of

Captain and presented the Canadian Forces Decoration to MCpl Chu. The CO concluded his presentation by providing a quick overview of the high tempo of the Regiment and complimented the members on past exercises and activities and their support of upcoming events (Ex. Virtual Duke, Cougar Ready, Regimental Skate, BCD Change of Command, upcoming Vancouver Strategic Studies Conference, St. Julien Mess Dinner and Sherman Duke Cougar Conqueror).

Honorary Colonel Ted Hawthorne had the last word by acknowledging the service of our members, by welcoming our two new recruits and by congratulating Captain Norman on his promotion and MCpl Chu on receiving his CD. It was especially fitting that Captain Norman's parents were in attendance as they are visiting from the UK. Also in attendance were Band Governor and Honorary Colonel (39 CER) Bill Diamond, Padre Michael McGee, President Bob Remple, and VP Gayle Hawthorne.

It was another very successful and memorable CO's Parade.



2016 VANCOUVER STRATEGIC STUDIES CONFERENCE VANCOUVER PUBLIC LIBRARY – 8-9 April 2016

The Vancouver Strategic Studies Conference (“Conference”) was held in the Alice McKay Room at the Vancouver Public Library at 350 West Georgia Street. The Conference was organized and hosted by the Royal United Services Institute – Vancouver (“RUSI Vancouver”). As stated in the program, “RUSI Vancouver is a non-profit society that promotes public awareness and education in the development of Canada’s foreign, security, defence and veterans’ affairs policies, as well as the preservation of Canada’s military heritage. RUSI Vancouver contributes to civil engagement and education through conferences and forums while advocating for Canada’s continued security and prosperity in an uncertain world. RUSI Vancouver is a unique organization founded in 1921 and has been a leader in helping shape public opinion for almost a century.”

An informal reception was held in the Officers’ Mess of the Regiment prior to the commencement of the Conference. Special guests included the Honourable Judith Guichon, OBC, Lieutenant Governor of BC, with her AdeC Major Don Bentley, senior leadership of 39 CBG and Conference presenters and panel participants. Guests were greeted by Honorary Colonel Ted Hawthorne, Commanding Officer Major Douglas Evans and RSM, CWO Huf Mullick.

Friday evening’s agenda included Opening Remarks by The Honourable Judith Guichon, OBC, followed by “Global Flashpoints”, moderated by CBC Journalist Cecilia Walters with panelists Dr. Jim Boutilier, Political

Advisor to Commander Maritime Forces Pacific, BGen (R) Bob Chekan, Former Ambassador Jill Stirk and Professor Allen Sens, UBC.

Saturday morning's program commenced promptly at 9:00 with a presentation by Professor Alex Moens, SFU, Political Science Department, on *"NATO: Threats, Challenges, and the Responses of Allies and Partners"*, followed by the presentation of BGen (R) Bob Chekan, RCAF, entitled *"Expeditionary Air Operations, at Home and Abroad"*. After a short coffee break, Dr. Jim Boutilier spoke on *"China and the West Pacific"*. All presentations were excellent and very well received with numerous follow up questions by attendees.

The lunch break was taken at the historic Drill Hall, home of the Regiment, where all attendees enjoyed a good lunch along with a great deal of discussion in a most appropriate setting.

The afternoon program commenced at 12:50pm with a presentation by Dr. Allen Sens on *"The Middle East: Conflict and Conflict Management"* which was followed by Ambassador Jill Stirk on *"Human Rights and Refugees in the Middle East"*. A Panel Discussion followed on the topic of *"The Arctic-Whose Future is This Anyway"* featuring Ambassador Stirk, Professor Moens, Dr. Boutilier and BGen Chekan.

The feature address of the Conference entitled the *William Hart-McHarg Memorial Lecture* was presented by special guest speaker, The Honourable Harjit Sajjan, PC, OMM, MSM, CD, Minister of National Defence. Minister Sajjan spoke on the topic of *"Canada and International Security"*. The Minister's presentation was very well received.

Closing remarks were given by Cam Cathcart, President of RUSI Vancouver, who acknowledged the exceptional and timely presentations and thanked everyone for attending. Mr. Cathcart particularly acknowledged Minister Sajjan for the giving of his valuable time in attending and in making his presentation.

Many thanks to our friends and colleagues Cam Cathcart and Keith Maxwell for their excellent work in organizing this exceptional Conference. Truly a great success!



ST JULIEN MESS DINNER – 9 April 2016

The Officers' Mess held their annual St Julien Mess Dinner commemorating the 101st anniversary of the Battle of St Julien (24 April – 5 May 1915) on 9 April 2016 in the Drill Hall. It was a very memorable evening with over 140 guests attending. Head Table guests included Special Guest, the Minister of National Defence, The Honourable Harjit Sajjan, the Commanding Officer, Major Douglas Evans, Colonels David Awalt, 39 CBG Commander, and Bryan Gagne, COS, 1st Canadian Division, Colonel (Ret'd) Keith Maxwell, BGen (Ret'd) Bob Chekan, Honorary Colonel Ted Hawthorne, Honorary Lieutenant Colonel Scott Shepherd and PMC, Captain Adam McLeod, "the best PMC in 39 CBG". The Regiment's two volunteer bands, the Brass & Reed Band and the Irish Pipes & Drums, had a very strong performance and added a great deal to the overall success of the evening. The Toasts were given by 2Lt Vinluan (The Queen), Lt Ellis (The President of the United States), Maj Lindsay (The Fallen), Lt Kim (HMCS Vancouver), Capt Norman (The Rifles) and Capt McCullough (The Regiment). The Commanding Officer delivered an excellent speech to the assembled guests with a state of the Regiment report. The Officers' Mess was honoured with the presence of special guest Minister Sajjan who so generously gave of his time to make himself available to all guests before, during and after the dinner. The Minister's address was enjoyed by all! Lieutenant Colonel (Ret'd) Sajjan was also "mugged out" in true Duke fashion!

It was truly a very great evening for all Dukes and their guests at such a memorable mess dinner enjoyed by all. Truly one of the best ever for sure! Well done PMC!



TOAST TO THE FALLEN **at the St Julien Mess Dinner – 9 April 2016**

By Major Paul Lindsay

I'm going to take this opportunity to speak briefly about the Battle of St. Julien, which this dinner commemorates every year.

In Apr 1915 as part of the 1st Canadian Div, the 7th Bn (1st British Columbia)-made up of soldiers of the DCOR, Irish Fusiliers, New Westminster, Victoria, Kootenays was holding the Allied line in front of the city of Ypres, with 2 British Divisions on their right, and a French division on their left.

On April 22nd, in a bid to punch a hole through the allied line, the Germans launched poison gas for the first time. As yellow-green clouds of chlorine engulfed the French position many died coughing and choking as their lungs filled with blood while others broke and ran in terror under the unexpected onslaught. The neutralization of the French division left a 6km gap in the line, placing the entire defense in jeopardy.

Over the next 48 hours, Canadian troops maneuvered and counterattacked to fill that gap. On 24 April, near the Village of St. Julien, the Germans again launched chlorine gas directly into the Canadian line seeking to press their advantage. In addition to the gas, the defenders were punished by artillery and machine gun fire but fought on, gasping for air with urine soaked handkerchiefs clamped over their mouths...they did not break.

The cost was high – the 7th Bn alone suffered 650 casualties. 1 soldier in 3 from the larger Canadian contingent was lost in the action – to put that in perspective, look around the room – had we joined the battle that day, 50 of us would not be going home to our loved ones tonight.

SOMME:

Given that this year also marks the 100th anniversary of a significant campaign that took place a year after the Battle of St. Julien, I would be remiss not to mention our part in the Somme. An example of attrition warfare at its worst, the first day of the campaign on 1 July, 1916 produced nearly 60,000 casualties. While Canadians were not involved in this initial action, as the campaign drew on into August, both the 7th and 29th (Vancouver) Canadian Bns would be pulled into the fray. The 29th played a key role in the first ever offensive utilizing tanks at Courcellete, while the 7th Bn was deployed at Thiepval Ridge. Throughout this controversial and costly 5 month campaign, both sides suffered heavily with total casualties soaring over the one million mark. Today, these numbers are staggering and the human cost is immeasurable.

PRESENT:

On a more personal note, this year is the 10th anniversary of my deployment to Kandahar. During my time there, 24 brave Canadians were killed – 2 within days of my arrival in theatre. As I attended the ramp ceremonies that followed each of these losses, my pride in the men and women of the CAF continued to grow along with my desire to ensure their lives were not wasted, and not forgotten. Their sacrifice has always given me something tangible to pause and reflect upon during moments of silence and introspection.

All gave some, but some gave all... Please join me in a moment of silence to honour those who fell in the defense of our way of life.

CADET GOVERNOR'S REPORT

Respectfully Submitted: Roger W Prouse, BCR Cadet Governor

I am pleased to report that our five BCR Cadet Corps are doing well and under good leadership by Cadet Instructor Cadre (CIC) and Civilian Instructor (CI) staff. The Cadets are nearing the end of the training year and with all training objectives met, they are preparing for their Annual Ceremonial Reviews and attendance at the various Cadet Training Centers this summer in Canada and abroad.

Major Barrett, CO 2290 BCR (101 DCOR) RCACC, was the Cadet Instructor Cadre (CIC) Office of Primary Interest (OPI) for the Vancouver Vimy Parade. This important event brought together over 300 Army Cadets from the Vancouver area Army Cadet Corps to commemorate the 99th anniversary of the Battle for Vimy. The parade was held at Mountain View Cemetery (MVC) in Vancouver at 1100hrs on 10 April 2016. Over 360 WW1 Veterans are buried at MVC in the Commonwealth grave site. Many of our brave soldiers that are buried there died of their wounds as a result of this great battle at Vimy Ridge 99 years ago.



There were many dignitaries in attendance including, The Hon Harjit Sajjan MND, our own HCol Ted Hawthorne, the Provincial Attorney General, The Hon Susan Anton, Vancouver's Deputy Mayor, Mr. Raymond Louie and our BCRA President, Mr. Bob Remple. Bob laid a wreath on behalf of the Regiment. HMajor Cam Cathcart was the MC for this important commemoration. Following the parade,

Cadets, dignitaries and guests were treated to a delicious chili lunch served by the 2290 BCR Parent Sponsoring Committee.

Preparations are underway for next year's Commemoration which will mark 100 years since the Battle for Vimy Ridge.

Please note the following BCR Cadet Corps Annual Ceremonial Review dates.

You are well come to attend these parades and your presence is very much appreciated by the Cadets and their officers.

Annual Ceremonial Reviews 2016

Corps	Date and time	Reviewing Officer	Place
2290 BCR RCACC	28 May 2016 – 1330 hours	Major Doug Evans	The Drill Hall
2381 BCR Irish Fusiliers	29 May 2016 – 1300 hours	Col Ted Hawthorne	Sherman Armouries
2827 BCR Port Moody	4 June 2016 – 1300 hours	Maj (Ret'd) Roger Prouse	Br. 133 RCL Port Coq
3300 BCR – Surrey	2 June 2016 – 1900 hours	HLCol Scott Shepherd	Surrey BC
2781 BCR Powell River	21 May 2016 – 1300 hours	Maj Doug Evans	Powell River BC

CURRY LUNCHEON – 28 April 2016

By Capt Adam McLeod – PMC, Officers' Mess

Hot on the heels of St Julien, April's Curry Luncheon saw a record turnout. Was it because people already had such high mess bills that another \$25 didn't matter? Was it because the PMC was back from his "vacation" with the Law Society of BC? Or was it because of the fantastic seafood curry in the "taste of the Caribbean" put on by the always delicious Two Peas in a Pod catering? Read more to find out!

Hosted by the BCR Association, at the Officers' and Sr NCO's Mess, guests were greeted by the Commanding Officer, Maj Doug Evans. Col Hawthorne was unable to attend as he was gallivanting about on the high seas with his bride, though he sent his regrets [Ed: and pointed instructions to take a picture and write an article!]. The CO welcomed guests to the Regiment, including BGen Rob-Roy Mackenzie, the Chief of Staff Reserves, and Col Nigel Whittaker, the Regional Liaison Pacific to the Canadian Forces Liaison Council, Col Glenn Richmond, former Commander 39 Canadian Brigade Group, as well as CO of 2290 RCACA, Maj Jim Barrett. They were joined by several serving officers, including: Maj Paul Lindsay, and the recently returned (and still the hardest working PMC in the Brigade), Capt Adam McLeod.



This month saw two presentations: First, a presentation to the Vancouver Police Department with an award from the Canadian Forces Liaison Council. The CFLC fosters support of reserve members from civilian employers, and this award was for outstanding support by a reserve employer to reservists. Employing four members of the Regiment (and 15% of the Officers Mess), support from the VPD has been of tremendous assistance to our members, and the Regiment. Receiving the award from the CFLC on behalf of the VPD was Acting Deputy Chief Constable Steve Eely, and Sgt Dave Robertson. It was presented by Mr. Lyall Knott and Col Nigel Whittaker from the CFLC, and



Maj Paul Lindsay, who is also serving member of the VPD. The nominator of the award, Capt (and VPD Sgt) Greg McCullough would have liked to have attended, but unfortunately had to work.

The second presentation was the Depart with Dignity ceremony of Col Glenn Richmond, former Commander of 39 Canadian Brigade Group. Col Richmond's distinguished career and many accomplishments were presented by Col Whittaker, who also read tributes by friends unable to attend. On hand for the ceremony were many of Col Richmond's friends and former comrades. We wish him the best in his retirement!

After the presentations, Maj Evans updated all on the busy pace of the Regiment, and then it was down to the important business of the day: Lunch!

Everyone enjoyed the great food and the usual excellent comradery. The next curry luncheon (and last one until September) will be held on Thursday, May 26th, 2016. Many thanks to everyone who attended this month's Curry Luncheon!

CERTIFICATE OF APPRECIATION PRESENTATION – 29 April 2016



During a brief ceremony at the Drill Hall, the Commanding Officer of the Regiment, Major Douglas Evans, presented a Certificate of Appreciation to LCol (Retired) Harjit S. Sajjan for his tremendous support of the highly successful European Battlefield Studies Tour in April and May of 2015.

Congratulations to Minister Sajjan and many thanks for your support of our soldiers!

Up the Dukes!

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING THE BC REGIMENT (DCO) ASSOCIATION – 30 April 2016

The 2016 Annual General Meeting of members of the Regimental Association was held in the Toogood Room at the Drill Hall on Saturday at 10:00am. The meeting was very well attended and featured a full agenda, indicative of the busy Regimental Association. Please refer to the previously circulated letter of President Bob Remple dated 30 April 2016 for full details of the election of directors, appointment of officers and appointment of two new additional trustees of the Charitable Trust.



Post meeting activities included a quick change of venue to False Creek (by Science World) to board Bob's yacht for a special luncheon and brief tour of the inlet. Many thanks to Recce Bob for his tremendous hospitality and seamanship...truly a great time on a beautiful Vancouver day!





THE BC REGIMENT (DCO) ASSOCIATION

620 Beatty Street
Vancouver, British Columbia
Canada V6B 2L9
Telephone: 360-223-9623
Email: rremple@hotmail.com

30 April 2016

Members of the Regimental Association, friends and supporters,

Dear colleagues:

I am pleased to announce that the following members were elected as directors and appointed officers of the Regimental Association at the annual general meeting of members held at the Drill Hall on 30 April 2016:

President	Bob Remple
Vice President	Gayle Hawthorne
Treasurer	Jerry Couling
Secretary	Sandra Young
Director at Large	Jim Barrett
Director at Large	Roger Prouse
Director at Large	Graydon Young

I am also very pleased to announce that the Regimental Association has appointed retired Honorary Colonel William Ireland and William McCarthy to be trustees of The BC Regiment (DCO) Association Charitable Trust.

I am confident that our strong board of directors and trustees will continue to follow the well-established policy or tradition of supporting the Commanding Officer, the Regiment, our Veterans, and our wider Regimental Family.

I wish to take this opportunity to congratulate the new board on their election and our new trustees for their strong background of service and commitment to the Regimental Association and the entire Regimental Family.

Sincerely yours,

R. A. (Bob) Remple. President

FRENCH LEGION OF HONOUR – 1 May 2016

Submitted by LCol (Ret'd) Archie M. Steacy, CD UE, President Emeritus



B30020 Sergeant (Ret'd) Jack Freeman Crossen
28th Canadian Armoured Regiment (British Columbia Regiment)
Canadian Armoured Corps

On 1 May 2016, 95 year old, Sergeant Jack Crossen was presented with the French Legion of Honour, recognizing his military service during the Battle of Normandy, 1944, by Lt Col Roger Vandomme, French Deputy Defense Attaché at a ceremony at Jack's residence, in Richmond Hills, Ontario.

The following narrative details his service during the Battle of Normandy, 27 July to 30 August 1944.

B30020 Sergeant Jack Freeman Crossen

28th Canadian Armoured Regiment (British Columbia Regiment) Canadian Armoured Corps; 4th Canadian Armoured Brigade, 4th Canadian Armoured Division, 1st Canadian Army, World War II 1939 - 1945.

Sergeant Crossen was a member of Regimental Headquarters Squadron tasked to fulfill numerous administrative duties. He landed at Gold Beach, Mulberry B (Port Winston), Arromanche, Normandy, France on 27 July 1944, and onward to 4th Canadian Armoured Division assembly area at Ryes, Normandy. In early August the Regiment moved to Mondeville south East of Caen, a few days prior to Operation Totalize, 08/09 August 1944. During the early morning hours of 09 August, 28th Armoured Regiment advanced from its laager, north of Cintheaux, south along Highway N158 towards the Hill 195 Objective. Due to a navigation error, the Regiment's tanks arrived and formed a defensive area approximately 1100 meters north east of Hill 140; field headquarters of General Kurt Meyer's 12th SS Panzer Division. During the ensuing battle forty-seven tanks were knocked-out of action by 88 mm anti tank fire. The battle ended at 9:00 PM, 9 August 1944, with wounded and surviving members making their way back to Canadian lines through the wheat fields and surrounding woods, over the next few days. Sergeant Crossen's administrative tasking required him to handle all matters to account for the dead, wounded and missing soldiers.

During Operation Tractable, the advance to Falaise, on 14 August 1944, Sergeant Crossen was involved in action during the attack across the Liason River and onward through Rouvre, Olendon, Epancy, Trun and closing the Falaise Gap on 22 August 1944. He continued in action during the rout of the Germans to and across the River Seine at Elbeuf, through northern France to the Belgium border, ending the fighting with the liberation of France.

Jack Freeman Crossen joined the Canadian Army voluntarily, when 20 years old, to help destroy Nazi tyranny and restoring freedom to the citizens of Europe. He is now 95 years old still proudly reminiscing about his participation in the Battle of Normandy and the final battles in the Liberation of France.

Special thanks are extended to LCol (Ret'd) Irvine Mathieson, WO (Ret'd) Gwen Mathieson and Donald Bicknell who organized and conducted the presentation ceremony, Jack's family, the Legion Branch president and flag party and many residents of the care facility attended the ceremony. An Association certificate of recognition and a booklet containing ceremonial documentation were presented to Jack.

The Regiment is indeed proud to have seven World War II Dukes receive the French Legion of Honour.

They are: K38082 Captain Edwin (Ted) A.H. Weddell, CD
L36298 WO II Vernon A. Salisbury, MM
K37674 Sergeant Donald N, Cameron
B30020 Sergeant Jack F. Crossen
K37476 Trooper Charles Bernhardt
K66411 Trooper Keith S. Moore
G3967 Trooper Albert J. Walsh

HOW THE BCR'S TOOK OVER THE ARMY GALA – 7 May 2016

By Major Adam McLeod, CD

The BC Army Gala was held in the Crystal Ballroom of the Pan Pacific hotel in downtown Vancouver. The sold out crowd of 400 enjoyed an evening of elegance, good friends, good food (the grill New York strips were excellent), and shockingly overpriced drinks (they'll be cheaper next year, I swear!). Taking shameless advantage of the discounted early bird tickets, the Officers and Sr NCO's of the Regiment

teamed up to take over the Army Gala. This year **over a hundred members of the Regimental family** (including 18 members of the Warrington family!) went out in force. [ed: The Gala committee has since decided not to sell early bird tickets next year lest the same thing happen again...I have no regrets]

Notable guests included the Lieutenant Governor, her Honour Judith Guichon, Senator (HMaj of the Regiment) Larry Campbell, Comd MARPAC, RAdm Gilles Couturier, DComd 3 Cdn Div, BGen Nick Stanton, Chief of Staff Reserves, BGen Rob-Roy MacKenzie, and Comd 39 Canadian Brigade Group, Col David Awalt. Also in attendance were the Div Reserve Sgt-Maj, CWO Al Rishchynski, and his designate, the current BSM's of 38 CBG, CWO Albert Boucher, as well as 39 CBG's own CWO's Mark Arden and Sean Parker. Earlier in the day, CWO Mark Arden passed on the mantle of Brigade Sgt-Maj to CWO Sean Parker, also BCR alum. We wish him well in his well-earned retirement!

Among this year's highlights included a gift exchange at BCR Table #3, where those at the table had decided to honour each other with simple gifts brought from home. These were all (co-incidentally) bottles of wine, all of which were (coincidentally) on the Hotel's wine list. Also in attendance were LCol Bruce Kadonoff, taking a break as the Chief Instructor on the Army Operations Course, and his "date" LCol John Hlibchuk, a BCR alum and now CO of the Royal Canadian Hussars in Montreal.

Thanks to everyone who came out!



59 ROYAL CANADIAN AIR CADET SQUADRON ANNUAL MESS DINNER – 8 May 2016

The second annual Mess Dinner for 59 Vancouver Squadron was held at the Italian Cultural Centre in Vancouver on Sunday evening, May 8th. Head table guests included Greg McCulloch (The Duke of Edinburgh's International Award representative), Lisa Pang (Sponsoring Committee Chair), Honorary Colonel Ted Hawthorne (Guest of Honour), Captain Sarra Lyford (Commanding Officer) and F/Sgt Jasmine Chan (PMC).





The program for the evening included an excellent Italian dinner, various traditional challenges and responses by the many senior cadets present, toasts, and speeches by Lisa Pang, the CO and Colonel Hawthorne. At the conclusion of the evening, Colonel Hawthorne was presented with a Certificate of Appreciation for his support of the unit by the CO and PMC and he is now an Honorary Member of 59 Vancouver Squadron! A group photograph was taken to conclude the very successful mess dinner and the most enjoyable evening for the 37 cadets in attendance.

Congratulations one and all!

PRESENTATION TO CHARLOTTE YEN – 9 May 2016

As most members will already know, Charlotte Yen has been the production coordinator for the publication of **The Duke** newsletter for many years. In addition, Charlotte also assists in numerous other “behind the scenes” administrative tasks for the Regimental Association and the Charitable Trust. Charlotte’s dedication and commitment is very definitely second to none!

At a brief ceremony, Honorary Colonel Ted Hawthorne presented his Honorary Colonel Regimental Coin to Charlotte in recognition of her many years of service and thanked her on behalf of the entire Regimental Family.

Congratulations Charlotte and thank you for all you do!

Up the Dukes!



HONORARY COLONEL CHARLES MERCIER THE ONTARIO REGIMENT (RCAC) – 11 May 2016



Honorary Colonel Chuck Mercier paid a visit to the Drill Hall on Wednesday, 11 May 2016 and was greeted by the Commanding Officer, Major Douglas Evans. During the course of the visit, a wide range of topics of mutual interest were discussed and the CO presented Colonel Mercier with a copy of **Swift & Strong** to mark the occasion.

The ONTRs are celebrating their 150th anniversary this year and many activities are planned in Oshawa, including a Black Hat BBQ, Change of Command in September and the publication of a Regimental History Book.

Our very best wishes to our friends in the ONTRs!

MAJOR ADAM J. T. McLEOD, CD

It has been an exceedingly busy April and May for Major McLeod with his successful completion of the Law Society of British Columbia's Professional Legal Training Course and his key participation in organizing the highly successful BC Army Gala, in addition to his regular duties as Officer Commanding Training Squadron, PMC of the Officers' Mess and articling with HPLaw.

On 4 May 2016, then Captain McLeod was presented with a Commander's Commendation by Colonel David Awalt, 39 CBG Commander, in recognition of "...his outstanding contribution to Exercise COUGAR DESTROYER 2015...". In addition to this recognition by 39 CBG, the Commanding Officer of the Regiment, Major Douglas Evans, promoted Captain McLeod to the rank of Major at a brief ceremony on 18 May 2016.

Congratulations Major McLeod for this recognition and promotion!



CONVOCATION CEREMONY ROYAL MILITARY COLLEGE OF CANADA – 19 May 2016



Congratulations are in order for our very own Officer Cadet Ali Mansour who graduated from RMCC on Thursday, 19 May 2016.

The photograph with Ali and his former CO, the Minister of National Defence, Harjit Sajjan, says it all.

Our very best wishes Ali from the entire Regimental Family!

Up the Dukes!

FROM THE BARRETT BUNKER – May 2016

By: Major Jim Barrett

This year marks the 100th anniversary of the Battle of the Somme in which the opening day on 1 July 1916 marked the highest casualties for a single day for the British Army and Empire. To understand the larger scope of the battle it is important to look at what has been happening elsewhere on the front and specifically at the French Fortresses at Verdun where the German Army was engaged in the decimation of the French Army. The attack on the Somme as a combined British and French Assault was to relieve the pressure on the French at Verdun while eating away at the



Canadian Soldiers Fix Bayonets at the Somme 1916

German Army. The story of the initial phases of the battle with its high casualties among the British troops of Kitchener's 'New Army,' and the story of the Newfoundlanders at Beaumont-Hamel is best left to other sources.



Our view of the battle begins with the arrival of the Canadian Corps, 50,000 strong with three divisions, in early September 1916 north-east of the village of Pozieres to relieve the Australian Corps.

First into action from our perpetuated CEF Battalions were the 29th BN CEF (Tobin's Tigers), at the battle of Flers-Coucelette where tanks were first used in action. Beginning the Battle in Reserve, the 29th a lead role in the expansion and consolidation of Canadian gains north-east of Courcelette in late September.



"15 September 1916. We tried out the land ships...and they worked great. It's a big armour plated thing. The ugliest thing you ever saw, and when Fritz saw it, that was enough. It's the first time a thing like that has been around, and poor old Fritz beat it in all directions."

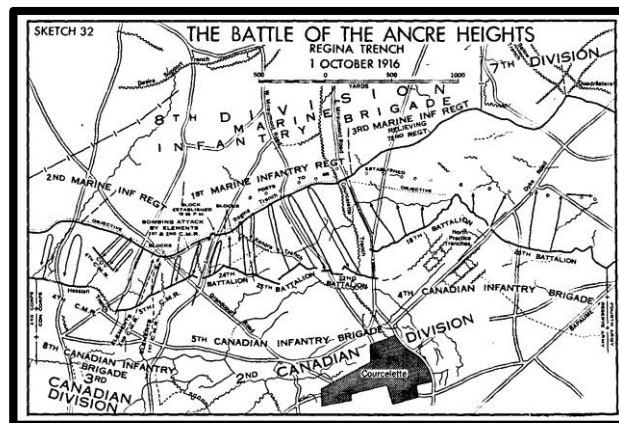
Diary of Private Jack Frost, Stretcher Bearer 29th BN (From [Swift & Strong 2011](#))



The 7th Bn CEF (British Columbia) spent most of August in training at Eperlecques. On 7 September 1916, the 7th moved forward into the front-line trenches near a German stronghold known as Mouquet Farm. The stretcher bearers of the 7th were kept busy bringing in the wounded of the Australians who had launched an unsuccessful attempt to take the stronghold. Private Michael O'Rourke won the Military Medal for his efforts.



Pte Michael O'Rourke



Three weeks later the 7th was involved in the successful attacks on Thiepval Ridge and on the Regina trench in September and October, with our third 'fighting battalion' the 102nd BN CEF North BC) having participated in their first assault at Regina Trench and the Desire trench system in October and November 1916.



We recall the story of 102nd BN Sniper, Private Francis “Frank” Gott who lied about his age in the ‘other’ direction and after dyeing his hair, enlisted at the age of about 65 in the army. He was the inspiration they say for the 102nd’s Indian Chief Cap badge, and he participated in the attacks on Regina trench.



Private Francis ‘Frank’ Gott,
102nd Battalion (North British Columbia)

A member of the T’it’q’et (Lillooet) First Nation Band, he served with distinction as a sniper throughout the fall and winter of 1916 before being invalided due to illness in March 1917. He was invalided back to Canada and honourably discharged due to being over age.

The Battle of the Somme dragged on for two more grim months. The war diary of the 7th Bn records their second turn in the front-lines in mid-October.

“Entire area under heavy bombardment...holding the line...counter-attack repelled...bombing attack to clear up location at map reference...very heavy casualties...”

On October 17th the first three Divisions of the Canadian Corps retired to a relatively quiet sector between Arras and Lens, with the newly arrived 4th Division carrying on in the fighting until the end of November. Canadian Casualties in this battle amounted to 24,000 men.



Adanac Canadian Cemetery on Pozieres Ridge on the Somme
containing 3,172 graves from the First World War

In this article we have remembered the great losses incurred by British and Imperial Troops, including Canadians, at the Battle of the Somme from 1 July to late November where at great cost in lives a small amount of ground was gained from the Germans. The roles played by our perpetuated battalions in the Canadian Corps were of great value to the success of Canada’s participation in the Battle. Ironically, Canada would be thrown in once again after initial objectives were not taken at another infamous battle a year later at Passchendaele Ridge in 1917.

My sources for this article were the Excellent Regimental Histories of the BCR, The Dukes, Maj Douglas Harker 1974, Swift & Strong, Leblanc, Maxwell, Snow, Deschenes 2011, and various internet sources.

THE START LINE TRAINING – A PROUD CANADIAN FORCES TRADITION

By: David Sproule

It is no surprise for those of us that have been through the CF Training System that we excel at training but it may not be generally known that we have been training other nationals for many years. Back in the late 1960s and early 70s the Armoured and Infantry schools were training young Nigerian, Kenyan and Tanzanian officers and the Air Force was training Malaysian and Nigerian pilots. The CF is continually refining its training techniques based on well considered training standards and using the best tools and technologies available to imbue essential skills in its members. Recently the Afghan army received the benefit of the wisdom and experience of our soldiers and now it is the Khurds. Experience is the best teacher and nothing provides better experience than combat.

I found an old photo from my officer-cadet days at the Armoured Corps School and it reminded me of the excellent training that I and other like me, experienced at the hands of officers and NCMs with wartime experience. I was a cold war soldier and a peacekeeper and never had the hard teaching that combat provides but it was certainly inculcated in us in our training and we all realized that combat was something we had trained for and had every reason to expect.



The photo was taken in July 1957 on the Summer Tank Park at Meaford Tank Range and I was 19 (that's me front left). I was in my second summer of training. I and my COTC colleagues spent most of the summer at Meaford undergoing tank gunnery and troop tactics training. We did three weeks of MG and tank gunnery and five weeks of tactics. We had already had a week refresher on wireless (that's what we called it back then) and three weeks of D&M learning to drive the Sherman, deuces, 3/4s and the Jeep. It was an absolutely fantastic summer and during tactics training, we filled all crew positions and so we gained a lot of experience fast. The tactics course was bloody tough as we always had a regular force instructor on the back deck providing encouragement and feedback. We went into harbour every night and usually had to crash harbour every night thereby ensuring that we got very little sleep during the five weeks. All of our tactics training took place under the watchful eye of the Tactics Squadron OC, a gruff and grizzled Strathcona major, with an MC on his chest, named W.A.P. Smith. *(At one point after the war I believe he was the regular force support staff officer to the Dukes.)* He drove around the training area in a turretless Sherman viewing the successes and trials of his young charges and the actions of his regular force instructional staff. Since those days, I met many OCs of Tactics Squadron, including Bruce Rutherford, Ken Mulligan and Ernie Wesson all great teachers and mentors. Completion of the tactics course marked the official end of our officer-cadet training for soon we would be entrusted with the Queen's Commission and to carry out the responsibilities spelled out on that scroll. The next summer I was a troop leader in the Strathconas with that responsibility.

The same must hold true today with excellent and experienced instructors guiding the uninitiated through their drills and instilling pride and confidence which are essential to all that wear the uniform. Later in my career, I had the great opportunity to attend the Company/Squadron Commanders' course in Gagetown. It too was a bloody tough course of 90 days duration all in the field with all of the toys. It was supposed to be tough and we expected nothing less. It is a fair assumption that the Infantry experience is the same or similar and so those Khurdish Peshmerga fighters are fortunate in having the best instructors that Canada can send. Their success in operations is our responsibility and in time will be our reward.

Her Majesty's Canadian Ship Vancouver
P.O. Box 17000, Station Forces
Victoria, British Columbia V9A 7N2



Navire Canadien de Sa Majesté Vancouver
C.P. 17000, Succursale Forces
Victoria, Colombie-Britannique V9A 7N2

1775-1 (A/HOD LOG)

10 February 2016

Mr. Ted Hawthorne
Honorary Colonel
British Columbia Regiment
620 Beatty Street
Vancouver BC, V6B 2L9

Dear *Colonel Hawthorne,*

On behalf of the officers and crew of Her Majesty's Canadian Ship VANCOUVER, I would like to share the tremendous pride we felt in being able to bring the ship back to our namesake city in January. Although it was a short visit, it was wonderful to connect with you and host you and your guest during our reception alongside.

Yours aye,

Clive
C.D.A. Butler
Commander
Commanding Officer

*Sir,
Thanks for all of your
support to VAN not just
during the New but since
I took command.
C.*

Ever on Guard

12 March 2016

The BC Regiment (DCO) Association
620 Beatty Street,
Vancouver, BC, V6B 2L9

To the Regimental Association, and the family and friends of Sergeant Pierangelo Dal Magro,

I am deeply honoured to be awarded the Sergeant Pierangelo Dal Magro, CD Memorial Bursary, and I would like to extend my sincerest gratitude. Piero, as he was known to many of us, continues to be an important and positive influence in my life. He exemplified the qualities of a true mentor, even at the hardest times, and taught me more than I can hope to express about leadership, service and life. I think of him often, measuring my own actions and accomplishments against the yardstick of his example. This award is not only extremely helpful financially, but is also a meaningful reminder of his advice and friendship.

I have been in the Canadian Forces since 2001 and in the British Columbia Regiment since 2005. When I arrived at the Regiment, I instantly felt welcome and at home. I owe that sense of family and belonging largely to the Association and its supporters, who have supported me in a variety of ways throughout my career. Whether serving in Afghanistan, or pursuing higher education at home, the Association has been there for me. Much to the thanks of your continued support, I have successfully completed my degree at the University of British Columbia, and am now working towards a Master of Science degree in Biology at Simon Fraser University. Upon completing current degree, I plan to pursue a doctorate in marine biology. One of the many things that Sergeant Dal Magro taught me was the value of service, not only in the military, but to society, family and friends. I hope that through pursuing an advanced education, I will be able to make more a meaningful contribution to Canadian society.

Sergeant Dal Magro always stressed to me the importance of excellence and personal drive. He encouraged me to settle for nothing less than my full potential. I am extremely grateful to receive this award in his name, and I will do my very best to honour his example.

Up the Dukes.

Sincerely,

Jessica A. Schultz
Sergeant
British Columbia Regiment (DCO)



March 8, 2016

Dear Mrs. Keegan,

On behalf of His Excellency the Right Honourable David Johnston, Governor General of Canada, I am pleased to inform you that you have been awarded the Governor General's Caring Canadian Award in recognition of your contribution to your community. The Caring Canadian Award, which was established by the former Governor General Roméo LeBlanc, recognizes individuals who volunteer their time to help others and to build a smart and caring nation.

To ensure our records are accurate, I would be grateful if you could complete and return the attached form to the Chancellery of Honours by email at caring-entraide@gg.ca (a scanned copy).

We will be in touch with you at a later date concerning the presentation of your award. Ceremonies are held throughout the year in conjunction with the Governor General's travel across Canada and as his program schedule permits. Awards will be mailed to recipients directly, should a presentation ceremony not be possible, or at the request of the recipient.

In the meantime, if you have any questions about the Caring Canadian Award program in general, please feel free to contact the program by phone at 613-993-3529 or 1-800-465-6890, or by email: caring-entraide@gg.ca

Please accept His Excellency's warmest congratulations and best wishes, as well as my own.

Jennifer Baird
Program Manager
Governor General's Caring Canadian Award

Enclosures

JBjd

ASSOCIATION KIT SHOP

The Kit Shop has the following items for sale:

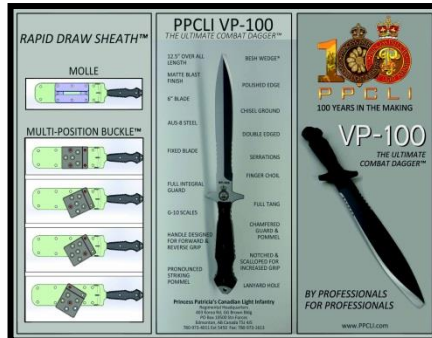
1. Mini Guidons - \$115.00. Once we have 10 confirmed requests, the order will be placed.
2. Custom designed BCR Knife - \$140.00.
3. Crests - \$35; Lapel Pins - \$10.00; BCR Ties - \$45.00; and Flags - \$12.00.
4. **NEW:** BCR Hoodie (cap badge embroidered on left chest) - \$40.00. Once we have 12 confirmed requests, the order will be placed.

To place an order, please e-mail Bill Diamond at Bill@DukeABear.com

Mini Guidons - \$115.00



BCR Knife - \$140.00



BCR Hoodie - \$40.00



ASSOCIATION DIRECTORS AND OFFICERS

<i>DIRECTORS</i>	<i>THE DUKE</i>
President – Bob Remple Vice President – Gayle Hawthorne Treasurer – Jerry Couling Secretary – Sandra Young Director at Large – Jim Barrett Director at Large – Roger Prouse Director at Large – Graydon Young	Editor & Publisher: The BC Regiment (DCO) Association

TRUSTEES OF THE REGIMENTAL ASSOCIATION CHARITABLE TRUST

Andy Conradi
 Bill Diamond
 Ted Hawthorne
 Bill Ireland
 Bill McCarthy
 Archie Steacy

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 community outreach program 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 five Cadet Corps). The Association has increased its support of the Cadet Corps by the establishment of the Cadet Development Program. Further information will be published as these programs develop.

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.

SPECIAL THANKS

The Editor of *The Duke* would like to recognize Bill Diamond for his great work in providing the necessary photographs of so many events held by the Regimental Family and reported in this newsletter.

Many thanks, Bill, for recording history!!

DUKE'S DEN





ASLEEP

Lieutenant Colonel Joseph P. Seymour, CD commenced his military service with the Queen's York Rangers (1st Americans) and retired after his tenure of command of The British Columbia Regiment (DCO) RCAC. Col Joe passed away on 14 April 2016. He was born in Ontario in 1953 and moved west with his children, Michael and Kim to reside in North Vancouver, British Columbia.

A memorial service, conducted by our Regimental Padre Capt Michael McGee, on 8 May 2016 at the Drill Hall was attended by former commanding officers, members of the Regiment and many members and friends of the family.

Thank you Joe, for your service to the Regiment and Canada.

Up the Dukes!

Thank you for your service to the Regiment and Canada.

At the going down of the sun,
and in the morning,
We shall remember them.