



# THE DUKE



## EXERCISE GUNNER DUKE

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Photos courtesy of Cpl Wilson

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**REVOLUTION RESOURCE RECOVERY  
HAPPY NEW YEAR FROM RON & RALPH McRAE  
1 JANUARY 2021**

Ron and Ralph McRae were members of the Regiment in the 1970's and 80's. In 1989, they formed what became *Revolution Resource Recovery*, now one of the largest industrial, commercial and institutional recycling and material recovery businesses in British Columbia.

Over the past dozen years, they have developed two unique facilities that annually sort, classify and divert from disposal hundreds of thousands of metric tonnes of organics, paper products, plastics and construction and demolition material with an industry-leading 80% recovery rate. They then turn the organics into compost, the construction material and plastics into premium alternate fuels and recycle the papers with partner mills in the Northwest. Both their original facility at 460 East Kent Avenue South, Vancouver and their more recent addition at 720 Riverside Road, Abbotsford, sit on a combined 15 acres of industrial land and proudly fly the Regimental flag.



Vancouver



Abbotsford

As long-standing supporters of the Regimental Association, the McRae brothers also own a 700-acre ranch in the Fraser Canyon on which they will gladly develop a 500-meter rifle range for use by the Regiment and its members. They are at this time looking for a qualified and experienced project leader to handle the planning, zoning and development issues. If you know of anyone who might fit the bill, please contact Ralph at: [Ralph@McRaeGroup.ca](mailto:Ralph@McRaeGroup.ca).

Up the Dukes!

**Editor's Note:** Many thanks to Ron and Ralph McRae for their exemplary support of the Regimental Association and the Regimental Association Charitable Trust with its many programs benefitting our Soldiers, Cadets, Veterans and our community.

**CANADIAN FORCES LIAISON COUNCIL  
HPLAW RECOGNITION  
BURNABY, B.C.  
13 JANUARY 2021**

Congratulations to Hawthorne, Piggott & Co on receiving special recognition from the Canadian Forces Liaison Council ("CFLC") for their employer support of the service on deployment of Major Adam McLeod, CD, during Operation Laser (COVID-19 Pandemic). The presentation took place at HPLaw with the introduction by Liaison Officer, Lieutenant-Colonel Brent Purcell, CD, the presentation of the Certificate of Appreciation to Honorary Colonel Ted Hawthorne by the National Chair of CFLC, Scott Shepherd, and some very kind words from Honorary Lieutenant-Colonel of 39 Signal Regiment, Darrel Moriyama, Chairman of the BC Council of CFLC.



Colonel Hawthorne presented his Honorary Colonel Regimental Coin to Major McLeod in recognition of his service and commitment and to Lieutenant-Colonel Purcell in recognition of his exemplary service to CFLC. Congratulations gentlemen!

Kudos and special thanks to our friends at CFLC for their great work in support of our soldiers.

Up the Dukes!

**Editor's Note:** Major McLeod is the Deputy Commanding Officer of 39 Signal Regiment.



### 2290 BCR (101 DCOR) RCACC SUPPORT COMMITTEE EXECUTIVE MEETING 13 JANUARY 2021

The first meeting of 2021 was held in the evening of January 13<sup>th</sup> by the Executive of the Support Committee of 2290 BCR (101 DCOR) RCACC on the ZOOM platform and was well attended. Nyal Wilcox chaired the meeting and comprehensive reports were received by all members. Planning continues at all levels notwithstanding the COVID-19 Pandemic. Honorary Colonel Ted Hawthorne was in attendance as a special guest and reported on this year's commitments of the Regimental Association Charitable Trust from a funding perspective under the Cadet Development Program. Gayle Hawthorne, President of the Regimental Association, was also in attendance and reported as the Regimental Liaison.

Well done and Up the Dukes!



## THE BC REGIMENT (DCO) ASSOCIATION

620 Beatty Street  
Vancouver, British Columbia  
Canada V6B 2L9

Telephone: 604.421.1521

Email: ghawthome@shaw.ca

14 January 2021

Members of the Regimental Association and the Regimental Family:

Dear friends:

### Re: Roger and Louise Prouse – Sovereign's Medal for Volunteers

I am pleased to announce that our good friends and colleagues, Roger Prouse, CD, and Louise Prouse have been awarded the Sovereign's Medal for Volunteers ("SMV") by the Governor General of Canada, Chancellery of Honours. The SMV "recognizes the exceptional volunteer achievements of individuals from across the country or abroad."

On behalf of the Board of Directors of the Regimental Association, I am most pleased to congratulate Roger and Louise for this wonderful recognition and to thank them for their extraordinary dedication and work with The Army Cadet League of Canada, British Columbia Branch, the Regimental Association, the entire Regimental Family and the wider Community. Well done indeed Roger and Louise!

The SMV will be presented to Roger and Louise at a later date.

Up the Dukes!

Sincerely yours,

Gayle J. Hawthorne, President





# Fact Sheet

Office of the Secretary to the Governor General

## SOVEREIGN'S MEDAL FOR VOLUNTEERS

The Sovereign's Medal for Volunteers recognizes exceptional volunteer achievements from across the country and abroad, celebrating a wide range of voluntary contributions.

As an official honour created by the Crown, the Sovereign's Medal for Volunteers is part of the Canadian Honours System. The program has incorporated and replaced the Governor General's Caring Canadian Award, which was created in 1995, by then-Governor General the Right Honourable Roméo LeBlanc.

The Chancellery of Honours, part of the Office of the Secretary to the Governor General, administers the program.

### Nomination Process and Eligibility Criteria

The Sovereign's Medal for Volunteers recognizes living Canadians who have made a significant, sustained and unpaid contribution to their community, in Canada or abroad. Non-Canadians are also eligible if their contribution brings benefit or honour to Canadians or to Canada.

Nominations for the Medal for Volunteers are accepted throughout the year by the Chancellery of Honours and reviewed by an advisory committee, which makes recommendations to the governor general.

**Nominate a friend, neighbour or member of your community who deserves this unique honour by visiting [www.gg.ca/caring](http://www.gg.ca/caring).**

### Description of the Medal

The Sovereign's Medal for Volunteers consists of a silver circular medal that is 36 mm in diameter with a suspension ring. The obverse depicts a contemporary effigy of the Sovereign, circumscribed with the inscription in capital letters of the Canadian Royal Title and the word "CANADA", separated by two maple leaves. The reverse bears a large and a small heart interlaced, set with five maple leaves on the outer edge of the large heart which is surmounted by a coronet bearing three maple leaves. The edge of the reverse is decorated with a sunburst pattern. The medal is suspended from a ribbon that is 32 mm in width, the edges of which shall consist of 9.25 mm deep red stripes and the centre of which shall consist of five 1.5 mm gold stripes interspersed with four 1.5 mm blue stripes.



**Questions concerning the Sovereign's Medal for Volunteers can be sent to [caring-entraide@gg.ca](mailto:caring-entraide@gg.ca) or by calling 1-800-465-6890 (toll-free).**



## EDITOR'S NOTE:

The following announcement was posted on Facebook by The Army Cadet League of Canada, British Columbia Branch and is reproduced verbatim with their very kind permission.

## Army Cadet League of British Columbia

The ACLC BC Branch is pleased to announce our former Directors Roger and Louise Prouse have been awarded the Canada Sovereign's Medal for Volunteers. The Sovereign's medal for volunteers recognizes exceptional volunteer achievements and contributions from across Canada to their community.

The ACLC BC Branch is so proud of our former Executive Board members. They have both contributed so much to the Army Cadet Program in BC, and the Program is indeed more successful with their commitment they have both provided. For more information please visit our Branch Web Page: <https://britishcolumbia.armycadetleague.ca/.../sovereign.../>





**FROM THE DESK OF THE COMMANDING OFFICER  
THE DRILL HALL, VANCOUVER, B.C.  
16 JANUARY 2021**



Happy New Year fellow Dukes!

This week the Regiment is back into full swing after a couple of weeks of work from home. Recce Sqn has begun preparation for a mounted live fire shoot this spring, while IA & Trg Sqn continue with running a brigade level BMQ course. The next 5 months for the Regiment will see a progressive increase in training tempo.

Concurrently, the Drill Hall renovations are progressing and now the whole south east side of the building exterior has been stripped away and the windows have begun being removed and made ready for replacement with new ones this spring.

Up the Dukes  
Faugh A Ballagh

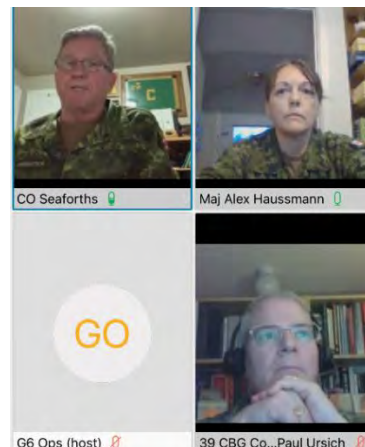
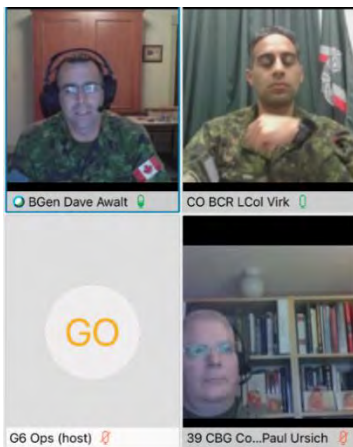
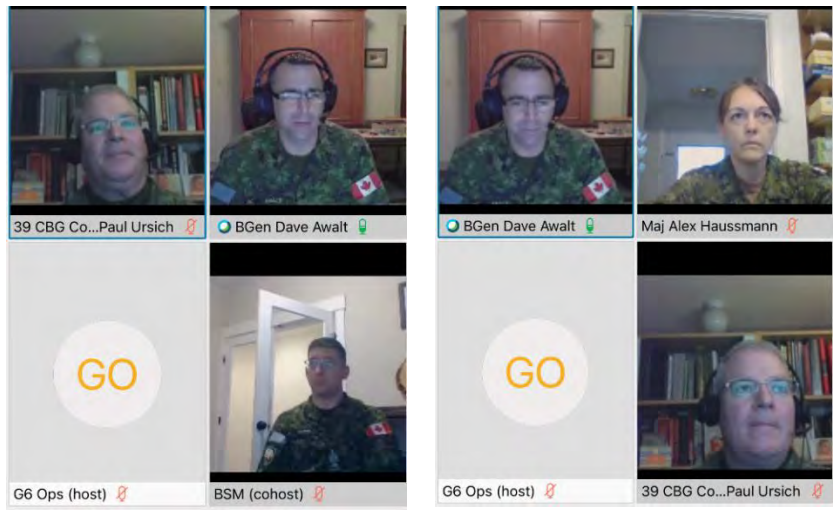
Lieutenant-Colonel Vincent Virk, CD,  
Commanding Officer



## 39 CANADIAN BRIGADE GROUP COMMANDER'S CONFERENCE WEBEX PLATFORM 16 & 17 JANUARY 2021

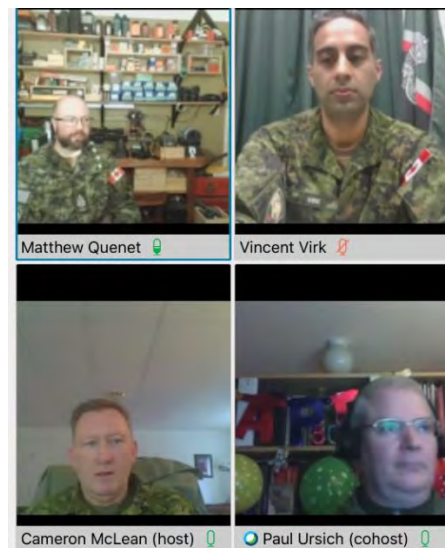
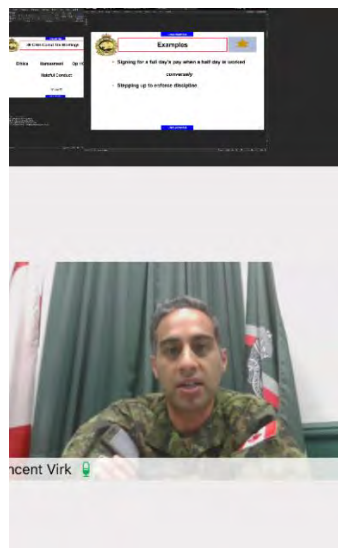
### Day 1:

The Conference was held on the WebEx Platform and the program featured numerous addresses, including, the Commander of 39 CBG, Colonel Paul Ursich, the Commander of 3 Cdn Division, BGen Bill Fletcher, and the Deputy Commander of 3 Cdn Division, BGen Dave Awalt, BSM, CWO Gerald Colgan, and presentations current to the COVID-19 Pandemic situation as well as detailed Reports on the Gender Perspective Working Group and First Nations Relations. The Ranking Board was also a major part of the agenda.

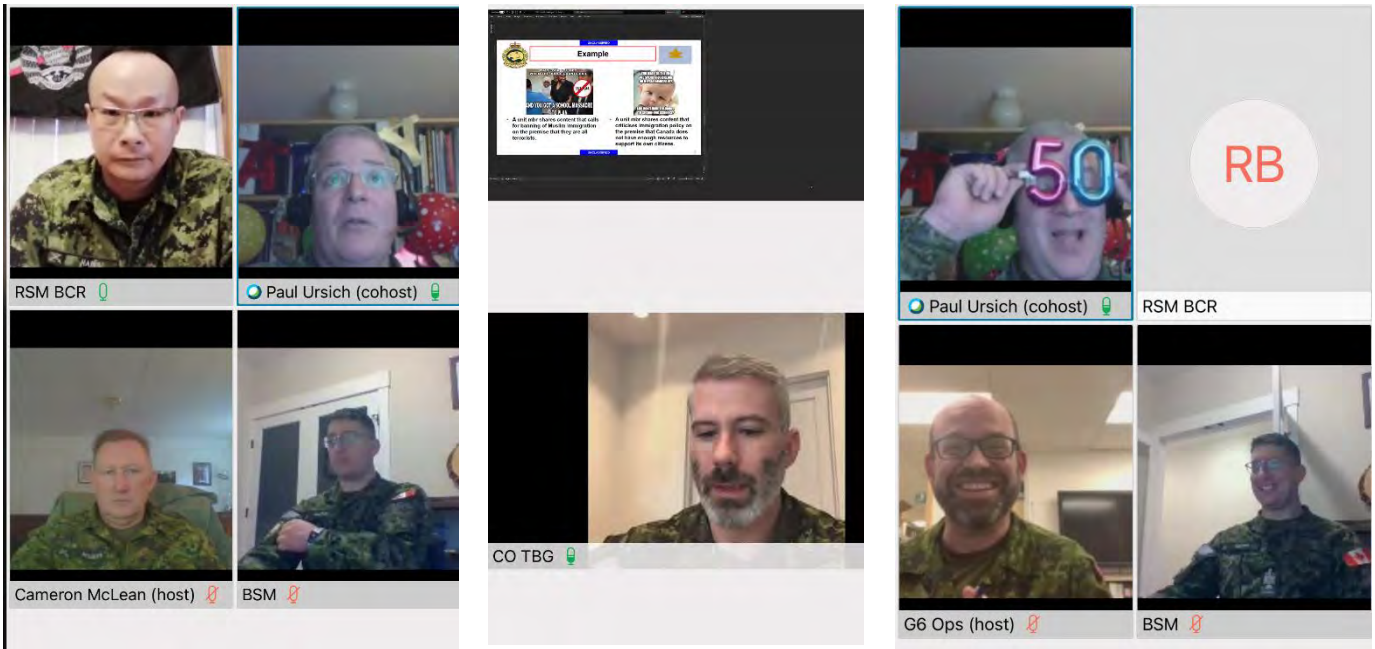


### Day 2:

The pace of the 39 CBG Commander's Conference continued on Day 2 with the Commander's Forum featuring open discussions on Op Honour, Hateful Conduct, Op Laser 2.0 and a most informative and useful discussion on the use of Social Media. The Conference concluded with an Honours & Awards session, a presentation and review of Leadership Development and recent Data and recommendations by BSM. CWO Gerald Colgan, and CWO Clyde Roberts, and a thorough Round Table discussion.







Congratulations, Happy Birthday to 39 CBG Commander, Colonel Paul Ursich, and thank you to 39 CBG for a most successful, well organized and informative conference!

**EASYPARK & ALNOOR BHIMJI, OPERATIONS MANAGER  
HONORARY COLONEL COMMENDATION PRESENTATION  
VANCOUVER, B.C.  
19 JANUARY 2021**

The Honorary Colonel of the Regiment, Ted Hawthorne, conveyed a very special thank you to EasyPark and their Operations Manager, Alnoor Bhimji, for their great support of the Regiment in providing complimentary parking once again for our members on Parade Nights and Special Events for the year 2021. Colonel Hawthorne recognized this support in the foyer of Easy Park's premises situate at 700 West Pender Street in Vancouver at a brief ceremony held in the morning of 19 January 2021 whereby Alnoor was presented with an Honorary Colonel Commendation and an Honorary Colonel Regimental Coin.

Thank you EasyPark and Alnoor and congratulations!

Up the Dukes!



**2290 BCR (101 DCOR) RCACC SUPPORT COMMITTEE  
PIPE BAND SUB-COMMITTEE PLANNING MEETING  
20 JANUARY 2021**

A special meeting of the 2290 BCR (101 DCOR) RCACC Support Committee (Pipe Band Planning Sub-Committee) with Thea Wilcox as Chair, Gayle Hawthorne, Regimental Association President, and Derek Davidson, Band Master, was held on the ZOOM Platform in the evening of 20 January 2021. Special guests included the BCR Cadet Governor, Major Jim Barrett, the BCR Band Governor, HCol 39 CER, Bill Diamond, and the Honorary Colonel of the Regiment, Ted Hawthorne, Chair of the Regimental Association Charitable Trust. The very successful meeting included discussions on Regimental historical protocols, band uniforms, accoutrements and funding with a viable strategy adopted for immediate action.



Thank you to all attendees!

Up the Dukes!

**2020 FOOD BANK PROGRAM  
SANCTA MARIA HOUSE  
21 JANUARY 2021**

The collection of an impressive array of canned goods, non-perishable food and gift certificates donated by the members of the Regiment and the Regimental Family during the Christmas Season was delivered to a very grateful Sancta Maria House (Agape Street Ministry), a women's shelter in Kitsilano, on Thursday, 21 January 2021. Honorary Colonel Ted Hawthorne was greeted by the House Parent, Yvonne Rodriguez, who thanked the Regiment and the Regimental Family for their annual support especially during the COVID-19 Pandemic. The Honorary Colonel conveyed greetings from the Regiment and Regimental Family and thanked Sancta Maria House for their good work.







Many thanks to the Regiment, the Regimental Family and our friends at HPLaw, ReMax Generations Real Estate Partners and ReMax Team Leo for their generous support of this important community outreach program.

Congratulations to Sancta Maria House for their great community service. Up the Dukes!

**THE MAJOR CHARLES WHISKER TOP VOLUNTEER AWARD 2020  
FACEBOOK POST  
26 JANUARY 2021**

This award was created in memory of Major Charles Whisker, CD. Charles was an active participant in the volunteer community and proudly served as the Commanding Officer of the 2422 RCACC and later as the Area Cadet Liaison Officer for Vancouver Island. Major Whisker was such an active participant of the volunteer community and this award is for the dedication of a volunteer he proudly stood for.

After carefully reviewing the numerous applications received, the ACLC BC Branch Honours and Award Committee is pleased to announce that Mr. Michael Johnson, the ACLC BC Branch Treasurer, is the recipient of the 2020 Major Charles Whisker Top Volunteer Award.

The ALCC Branch would like to congratulate Mr. Michael Johnson for his dedication to the Army Cadet Program.

For more information on the award, please visit the ACLC BC Branch web Page:  
<https://britishcolumbia.armycadetleague.ca/blog/2021/01/26/major-charles-whisker-award/>



**EDITOR'S NOTE:**

The foregoing announcement was posted on Facebook by The Army Cadet League of Canada, British Columbia Branch and is reproduced verbatim herein with their very kind permission.



**THE BRITISH COLUMBIA REGIMENT  
(DUKE OF CONNAUGHT'S OWN)**

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26 January 2021

Mr. Michael Johnson  
1432 Cambridge Road  
West Vancouver BC V7S 3B6  
Canada

Dear Michael,

On behalf of the Commanding Officer of the Regiment, Lieutenant-Colonel Vincent Virk, CD and the entire Regimental Family, I am most pleased to congratulate you on your award of the most prestigious **Major Charles Whisker Top Volunteer Award** for 2020 by The Army Cadet League of Canada, British Columbia Branch.

Your dedicated service and commitment to the League, 2290 BCR (101 DCOR) RCACC and the Cadet Program is truly amazing! Thank you, Mike!

Take care and all the best,

E. A. (Ted) Hawthorne,  
Honorary Colonel





**THE BRITISH COLUMBIA REGIMENT  
(DUKE OF CONNAUGHT'S OWN)**

620 Beatty Street  
Vancouver, British Columbia  
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Telephone: 604-638-3181  
Fax: 604-299-1523  
Email: ted@hplaw.ca

26 January 2021

Trooper (Ret'd) Henry Kriwokon

Dear Henry,

Re: Birthday Greetings

On behalf of the Commanding Officer, Lieutenant-Colonel Vincent Virk, CD, all ranks of the Regiment and the entire Regimental Family, it is my very great pleasure to convey to you our very best wishes and warmest congratulations on the occasion of your one hundred and first birthday.

I also wish you good health and much happiness as you celebrate your special day.

In conclusion, I also wish to thank you for your service in the Regiment and to Canada during World War II.

Up the Dukes!

Sincerely yours,

E. A. (Ted) Hawthorne,  
Honorary Colonel

**HONORARY COLONEL COMMENDATION PRESENTATION  
LIEUTENANT-COLONEL BRUCE KADONOFF, CD  
DOUGLAS COLLEGE, NEW WESTMINSTER, B.C.  
28 JANUARY 2021**

Congratulations to our very own, Lieutenant-Colonel Bruce Kadonoff, Chief Instructor, 3 Canadian Division, on receiving an Honorary Colonel Commendation and Regimental Coin from Honorary Colonel Ted Hawthorne at a special ceremony held at Douglas College in New Westminster. Professor Kadonoff was recognized for his exemplary service and commitment to the Regiment and the Regimental Family through his support of The BC Regiment (DCO) Association Charitable Trust. Colonel Kadonoff will be retiring and releasing from the Canadian Armed Forces on 3 March 2021 after 35 years of service, 8 years of which were spent instructing at the Staff & Command College.

Thank you for your service Colonel Bruce! Up the Dukes!

**Editor's Note:**

Lieutenant-Colonel Bruce Kadonoff commanded the Regiment from 2008 to 2011.



## CHANGE OF COMMAND HMCS VANCOUVER 31 JANUARY 2021

Congratulations to the outgoing Commanding Officer of HMCS Vancouver, Lieutenant-Commander Matthew Arthur, and to the incoming Commanding Officer, Commander Kevin Whiteside. The Change of Command Ceremony was held virtually on the morning of 31 January 2021 aboard ship in the absence of crew due to the COVID-19 Restrictions with Commodore Angus Topshee presiding.

Fair winds and fair seas and our very best wishes to our friends aboard HMCS Vancouver!

**Editor's Note:** The Regiment has been officially affiliated with HMCS Vancouver since 1994.



FROM THE DESK OF THE COMMANDING OFFICER  
THE DRILL HALL, VANCOUVER, B.C.  
3 FEBRUARY 2021



Greetings fellow Dukes!

A Commanding Officer's Parade was not held this evening as was originally planned. Instead, we held an informal Commanding Officer's Hour with our troops in order to address some important matters. As part of



the program, I also had the honour of presenting a Canadian Forces Decoration to MCpl Lam and promoting Cpl Durano to his current rank. Congratulations and well done!

Up the Dukes

Faugh A Ballagh

Lieutenant-Colonel Vincent Virk, CD,  
Commanding Officer



**HONORARY COLONEL COMMENDATION PRESENTATION  
HAWTHORNE, PIGGOTT & COMPANY  
BURNABY, B.C.  
3 FEBRUARY 2021**



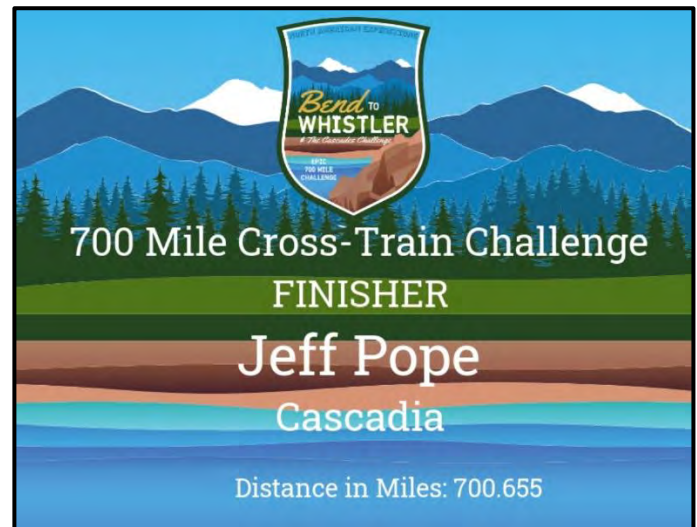
Congratulations to HPLaw on receiving an Honorary Colonel Commendation from Honorary Colonel Ted Hawthorne at a very brief ceremony held in the reception area of HPLaw on Wednesday, 3 February 2021. The firm was recognized for the support of the Regimental Association in facilitating the production and distribution of **The Duke** and **The BCR News** since 2005 and for their extraordinary 25 years of support to the Association and The BC Regiment (DCO) Association Charitable Trust and its programs supporting the Soldiers of the Regiment, Cadets and Veterans. The Commendation was presented to Partner Emeritus, Andrew Emerson, by Colonel Hawthorne in the presence of Major Adam McLeod, Deputy Commanding Officer of 39 Signal Regiment and a partner of the firm.

Up the Dukes!

**BEND TO WHISTLER,  
THE 700 MILE CROSS-TRAIN CHALLENGE  
FINISHER  
6 FEBRUARY 2021  
By: Jeff Pope**

I completed my 700 Mile journey of the Bend to Whistler Challenge rolling into Whistler today under the banner of Wounded Warriors.

<https://secure.e2rm.com/registrator/FundraisingPage.aspx?registrationID=4856889&langPref=en-CA>



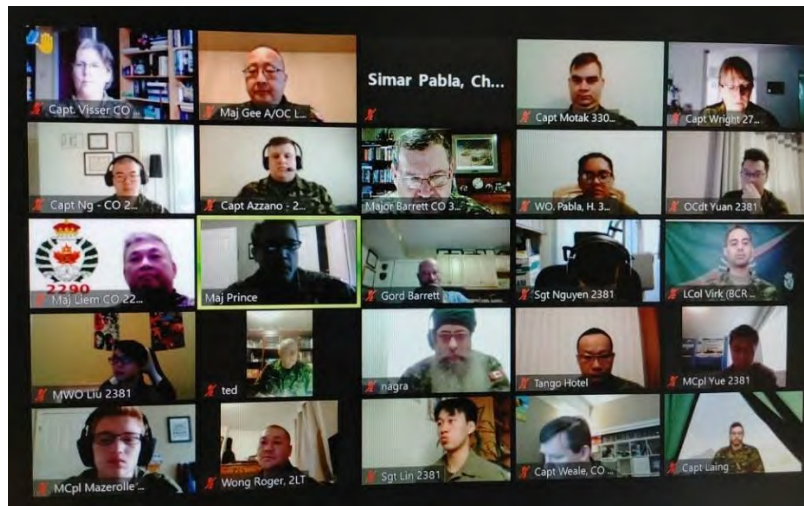
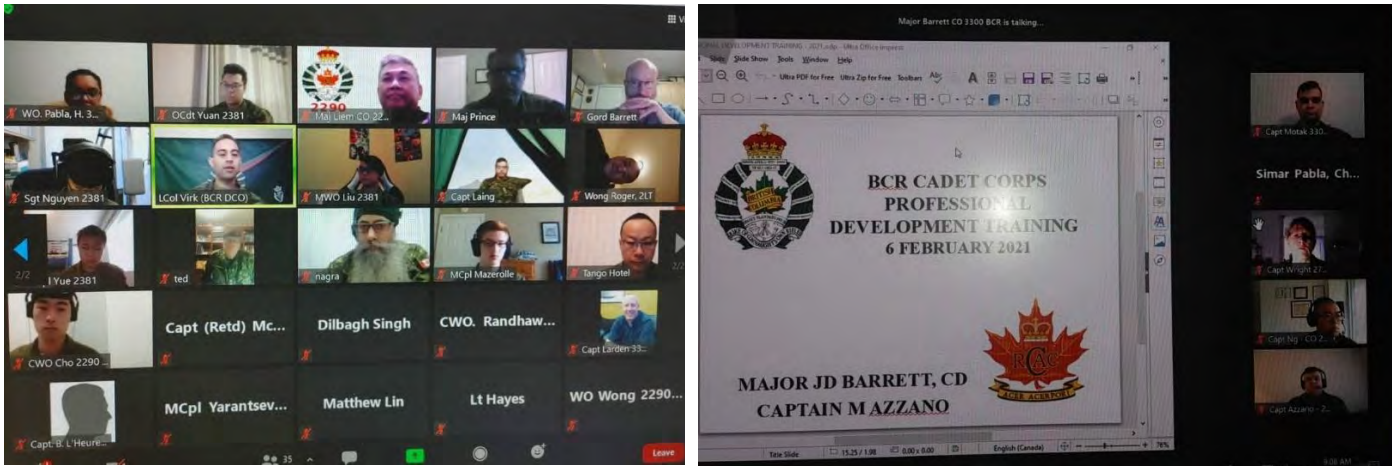
**BCR CADET CORPS  
PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT DAY  
6 FEBRUARY 2021**

**By: WO Harmannat Pabla, 3300 BCR Cadet Correspondent**

The 7th annual BCR Cadet Professional Development Day was organized today virtually on the ZOOM Platform. The cadets from 5 BCR corps were in attendance along with their Officers, Support Committee members and Honoured Guests: the Commanding Officer of the Regiment- LCol. Vincent Virk, the RSM- CWO. Tony Harris, Honorary Colonel- Col. Ted Hawthorne, Maj. Derek Gee and Maj. Prince. The Commanding Officer of 3300 BCR - Maj. Barrett hosted the event and discussed the importance of Professional Development days. The attendees learnt about SMART Goals, Communication Tactics & Best Practices and about Group Dynamics & Ethics.





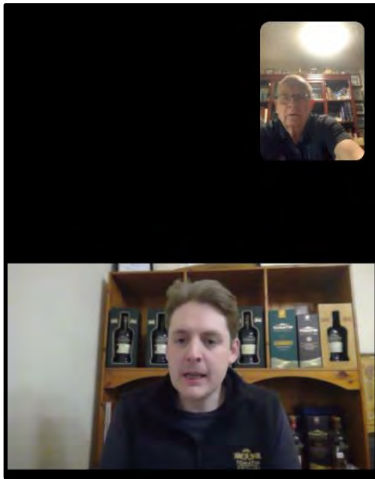
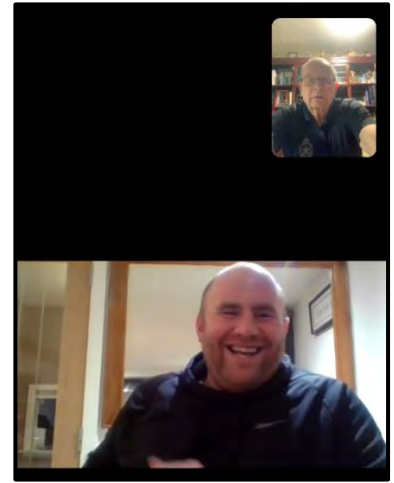


**2021 WHISKEY TASTING  
SPONSORED BY THE BCR OFFICERS' MESS  
6 FEBRUARY 2021**



Congratulations to the PMC of the BCR Officers' Mess, Major Greg McCullough, and Honorary Colonel (39 CER) Bill Diamond for holding such an outstanding virtual Whiskey Tasting event in the early evening of Saturday, 6 February 2021. The special guests and the MCs for the evening were from Tomatin Distillery, 50 miles from Inverness in the Scottish Highlands, Scott Fraser, Sales Manager, and Scott Adamson, Global Ambassador of Tomatin...both gentlemen were in fine form after Scotland's 6 – 11 defeat of England in Rugby! The evening featured seven excellent selections which were thoroughly enjoyed by the many participants along with the great presentation by our two Scots!! (Tomatin Legacy, 12-year-old, 14 year-old, "Cu Bocan", Contrast [Sherry and Bourbon casks] and the extraordinary 1988 Vintage).

Congratulations to all the draw winners and well-done PMC and Colonel Bill. Up the Dukes!



**ROYAL CANADIAN ARMOURED CORPS CONFERENCE  
CFB GAGETWOWN  
1994  
By: LCol (Ret'd) David Sproule, CD**





The photo taken at the Corps Conference of 1994 at CFB Gaagetown is a good historical image of the former Commanding Officers of the Regiment in attendance. L to R (showing retired rank)...LCol David Sproule, LCol Ernie Wesson (VP West), LCol Jack Aird (former VP West), Col Bob Stanley, LCol Romano Acconci (2IC BCR), LCol Irv Mathieson, LCol Joe Seymour (CO BCR) and LCol Paul Philcox (BCR RSS Officer).

## “CHAMPION OF THE DECADE”

By: LCol(R) A. M. Steacy

Below is a letter from Dominion of Canada Rifle Association, dated 14 July 2020, recognizing Ryan Steacy as the “Champion of the Decade”, as the sixth consecutive times Champion. Apparently, one other competitor won the championship twice, consecutively.

In the 2011 BC Service Rifle Championship, Ryan fired the highest score in the history of the BC Service Rifle Championship, 1874 to 2011 – 1478 out of 1500, with 47V Bulls, earning him the Lang Memorial Trophy and BC Services Conditions Gold Bullion Badge.

Along with Ryan winning the prestigious Queen Mary Match at Bisley in 2010, he most certainly among the Regiment’s top shooting competitors.



### *Dominion of Canada Rifle Association Association de Tir du Dominion du Canada*

Connaught Ranges  
Nepean, Ontario  
45 Shirley Boulevard  
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Telephone: (613) 829-8281  
FAX: Contact Office  
E-mail: office@dcra.ca

Website: <http://www.dcra.ca>

#### **PATRON / PRÉSIDENTE D'HONNEUR**

Her Excellency the Right Honourable Julie Payette, C.C., C.M.M., C.O.M., C.D.  
Governor General of Canada  
Son Excellence la très honorable Julie Payette, C.C., C.M.M., C.O.M., C.D.  
Gouverneur général du Canada

#### **PRESIDENT**

Brigadier General (Ret'd) Matthew Overton, O.M.M., C.D.

#### **CHAIRMAN OF COUNCIL**

Mr. S. (Scott) Bissett

#### **EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR**

Mr. L.D. (Don) Haisell

July 14

Cpl. Ryan Steacy (Ret'd)  
8394 McKenzie St.  
Mission, BC

Ryan,

On behalf of the DCRA Council and our members I am pleased to confirm that at our Annual General Meeting on March 28<sup>th</sup>, 2020 you were recognized as the DCRA's "Champion of the Decade" in Service Rifle for 2019. As a now six time Champion you have already earned your place in the DCRA's Service Conditions of Fame, alongside the best Service shooters in Canadian history.

While your shooting performance over the last 10 years has been exceptional it should also be noted that you have routinely worked to share your knowledge with shooters across Canada to help them elevate their skills, equipment and mental management, and you should be commended for that. I know that many shooters, including myself, have benefitted from your experience.

I look forward to seeing you back on the range soon.

Best regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Scott Bissett".

Scott Bissett  
Chairman of Council



# Sancta Maria House

2056 W SEVENTH AVENUE, VANCOUVER, B.C. CANADA V6J 1T4  
604.731-5550

February 10, 2021

Ted Hawthorne Honorary Colonel  
BC Regiment { Duke of Connaught's Own}  
620 Beatty Street  
Vancouver, BC. V6B 2L9

On behalf of the Board of Directors and all the ladies at Sancta Maria House I would like to send a very grateful thank you to your Regiment and the Community Regiment Family for your amazing support. This past year has been difficult for so many people, yet your regiment went out of its way to collect and gift Sancta Maria House with a wonderful display of kindness and care. Your support will help us provide great meals and many needed household essentials. We are happy to share that women are healing from past wounds and trauma and life for them is starting to change. You are a part of lives being renewed and transformed for the good of the individual and the community at large. We can't thank you enough! We send our heartfelt thank you, greetings and best wishes to you and all the good caring people of your Regiment and the Community Regiment Family.

Most Sincerely,  
*Sharon Dobin*  
Sharon Dobin: President.

**3300 BCR (BHAI KANHAIYA) RCACC  
12 FEBRUARY 2021**

**By: WO Harmannat Pabla, 3300 BCR Cadet Correspondent**

3300 BCR cadets participated in the Valentines to Veterans Initiative from Veterans Affairs Canada, locally led by WO Harmannat Pabla.

The initiative was to make handmade valentine cards to spread love and show appreciation for the veterans. 28 cards were mailed to Veterans Affairs to be distributed to veterans across Canada.

With the guidance and recommendation from Major James Barrett and Colonel Ted Hawthorne, Warrant Officer Pabla took the initiative to support local veterans. The Valentine poster and cards were delivered to the veterans and seniors living in the George Derby Centre in Burnaby.







Ms. Ava Turner, the Executive Director of the George Derby Centre received the poster and cards and appreciated the efforts shown by the cadets of 3300 BCR (Bhai Kanhaiya) RCACC.

"Many veterans and seniors are staying in this care place, away from their family members. Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, they may not have any visitors. This initiative by local cadets will help in keeping their spirits high in the midst of these tough times", said Ms. Turner.

On behalf of Officers and Cadets of 3300 BCR, fondest Valentines wishes to all Veterans and Seniors!! Stay Safe and Stay Healthy!!



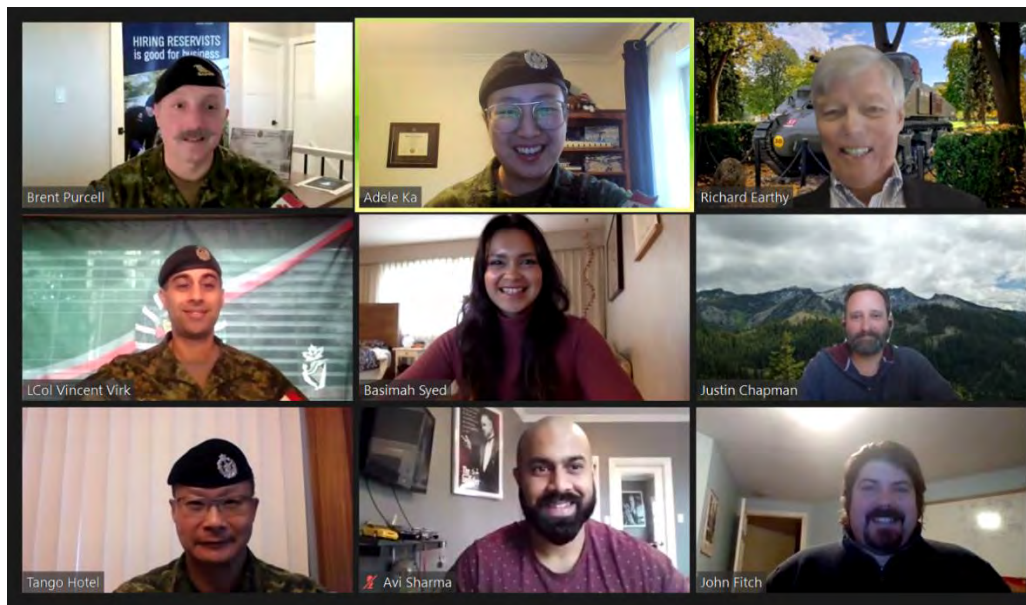
**Editor's Note:** Honorary Colonel Hawthorne is a member of George Derby Care Society and is a former Director, Finance Chair and Vice President of Derby Manor Housing Society.

**CANADIAN FORCES LIAISON COUNCIL  
OP LASER EMPLOYER RECOGNITION  
12 FEBRUARY 2021  
By: Corporal Adele Ka**

A Certificate of Appreciation was presented to Cpl Adele Ka's employer, Basimah Syed and Galvanize, for their relentless support of Cpl Ka's time on Op Laser. Cpl Ka's team was in attendance and the award was presented by LCol Purcell, Liaison Officer from the Directorate of Employer Programmes and Mr. Richard Earthy from the Canadian Forces Liaison Council (CFLC).

Special thanks to the CO and RSM for participating in the presentation and for the kind words of support. I hope to continue contributing to the unit in a meaningful capacity and I am so grateful for all the opportunities I have received.

Up the Dukes!



**AN OBSERVATION ON THE BCR 'BTL CRY' - "UP THE DUKES!"  
12 FEBRUARY 2021  
By: R.O. Acconci**

Following an online disc with Dwayne Snow about the origins of the Regt'l nickname – The Dukes – and thence of the cry 'Up the Dukes', here are some thoughts on one likely origin of the 'cry' itself.

Dwayne explained in detail the tireless research that went into discovering when the term 'Dukes' as the Regt'l nickname first appeared in print or written form in order to establish its place in Regt'l chronology – and by inference, the Regt'l btl cry/Regt'l toast's response, 'Up the Dukes'. It was found that the nickname did not appear in any written or printed form before the early 1920s. In view of this, and the unhappy & fortunately short-lived amalgamation of three lower mainland units into the 1<sup>st</sup> BCRegt (Duke of Connaught's Own) – and consequently the loss of identity of the DCOR - it was quite naturally concluded that the nickname, 'the Dukes', and the saying, 'Up the Dukes', was "coined" in the early 1920s, quite possibly to strengthen the historic identity and roots of the newly amalgamated sub-unit of 1<sup>st</sup> BCRegt(DCO) quartered at the Drill Hall.



Perhaps another view on 'Up the Dukes' can be considered for discussion. Written or printed evidence does not support the nickname or btl cry before the early 1920s and though there doesn't seem to be any evidence that the other local CEF Bns cried 'Up the ....' As they went over the top – does not mean they didn't. There is ample evidence that Bns did cry/shout 'Up the ... ( the Staffords, the Guards, the Johns [nickname of the RWpgR] )...' when going over the top during the long trench warfare period on the Western Front in WW1. So it stands to reason that all British and Commonwealth Bns on the Western Front would have used this btl cry with their name or designation as they went into the smoke and fire of combat. The command, 'Up...' was established as the moment to go over the top as directed by Offrs & WOs/SNOs and this command was repeated by the troops as they left their trenches. The question is, why say 'Up' in the 1920s and not just say 'The Dukes' in response to a Regt'l toast or as a general term for cheering on the Regt on a particular occasion...if the term 'Up the Dukes' had no historical and combat significance in the post WW1 BCRegt (DCO)?

Upon the formation of the C7thBn CEF, the core numbers were provided by the 6thRegt DCOR – this presence established the roots of the C7thBn and it is for this that the Regt perpetuates the C7thBn. A further indication of the strong link between the C7thBn and the BCRegt (DCO) is exemplified by the presentation by the Veterans to the Regt of a finely crafted, silver-plated Figure of Fame statuette holding up a plaque etched with the Btl Honours won by the C7thBn. This statuette, which is still in the Regt's possession, has always said to me..."We, the Veterans of the C7thBn have won these honours with our professionalism, our courage and our blood – we bequeath them to you who follow in our footsteps". They knew who they were, by gifting this 'trophy' to the BCRegt and they knew also their history of the Rifle Brigade (our allied Regt from whom we drew our initial traditions and sense of military lore – which was still very fresh at this time in the Regt's chronology as a Rifle Regt). They demonstrated this with this gift, as over a hundred years before, the Veterans of The Rifle Brigade made a similar presentation to their Regt'l HQs at Winchester – (I likely came across this in either Arthur Bryant's, 'Jackets of Green' or Willoughby Verner's 2 volume, 'History and Campaigns of The Rifle Brigade', I can't recall now!).

It is of interest that from time to time, oral evidence is accepted in certain cases where there is no written evidence to be found. In this case we do have oral evidence. Up until 1979 the Regt used to host an annual commemorative mess dinner for the Veterans of the C7thBn and it was managed and conducted by the serving Jr Sgts and Jr Offrs of the Regt. I served in the final two of these dinners until the Veterans themselves requested, with much gratitude, that this annual event cease, as the final dinner (as it turned out to be) only saw 8 Veterans present – the year before, there were 11! I do remember that when they conducted the toast to the C7thBn, the response was 'Up the Dukes' – and it was expressed with fortitude! Unbeknownst to me, WO(Ret'd) David Holwell also remembers this same response at the C7thBn commemorative mess dinners, where he had served in the same capacity as myself. We gave this info to Dwayne Snow independently and without collusion. I was a little mystified by the response in the toast to the C7thBn and recall that at the next St Julien Dinner I asked a WW2 veteran (Maj Fred Smith) why we responded to the Regt'l toast with 'Up the Dukes' and not with the Regt'l motto which was customary in most regts – his answer was that it was to commemorate the WW1 veterans of the C7thBn whose cheer it was as they went up over the top!

An added thought for consideration could be that though not recorded, the C7thBn may have in fact used the cry, 'Up the 7th' as they went over the top, (as outlined in the foregoing), and that after the war when the Bn settled back into the BCR and the nickname 'the Dukes' gained currency, the cry was morphed into, 'Up the Dukes'. The key to the mystery is the word 'Up'! Again, why use that word if it did not have actual significance to the Bn from the war.

In summary, I would express the origin of the Nickname and Battle Cry of the Regt as follows:

" The Regt's Nickname, 'The Dukes' first appears in print in the early 1920s, but there is strong indication that the Regt's present battle cry, 'Up the Dukes', may have been coined from the likely battle cry used by the C7thBn when ordered to go 'over the top' and into combat during the horrendous days of trench warfare on

the Western Front in WW1 – The nickname, The Dukes, is today an identifying marker for the Regt and is taken from the Regt’s secondary title...”Duke of Connaught’s Own”. Hence, The Dukes! The old battle cry, ‘Up the Dukes’ is now generally used as a cheer of exhortation, a frequent response to the toast to the Regt, or indeed, offered as a toast in its own right”.

The term, “Up the Dukes” is part of Regt’l lore and has been accepted by generations of ‘Dukes’ as our battle cry from WW1. It is the stuff of legend, adding élan and swagger to the very idea of what it means to be a BCR – and unfailingly reminds us we are linked indelibly to our history and to our traditions!

\* \* \*

**NATIONAL FLAG OF CANADA DAY  
QUEEN ELIZABETH PARK  
15 FEBRUARY 2021**



The Honorary Colonel of the Regiment, Ted Hawthorne, and the President of the Regimental Association, Gayle Hawthorne, attended at Queen Elizabeth Park at noon on Monday, 15 February 2021 to mark the 56<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the inauguration of the Canadian National Flag on 15 February 1965. The 60-foot flagpole, dedicated in 2017, and the Canadian Flag (6’ by 12’) were donated by The Flag Shop to honour the legacy of the founder, Jack Braverman. The Flag Shop has generously agreed to donate all future flags for the flagpole as may be required as part of their legacy program. In our new COVID-19 environment, no one was there!

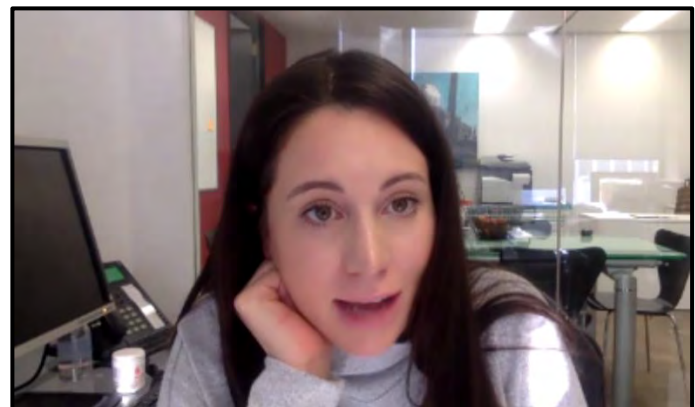
We look forward to 2022 where the City of Vancouver Board of Parks and The Canadian Club of Vancouver will hopefully be able to hold their customary ceremony celebrating this special anniversary.





# FRIENDS OF VICTORY SQUARE BRIEFING REDEVELOPMENT OF 550 CAMBIE STREET ZOOM PLATFORM 17 FEBRUARY 2021

A most informative ZOOM meeting was held in the early afternoon of 17 February 2021 where “The Friends of Victory Square” and other community representatives were updated on the status of the proposed development of 550 Cambie Street and the recognition of the history of Victory Square and the various opportunities to commemorate the service and sacrifice of our Citizen Soldiers. BCRs were well represented with the Honorary Colonel Ted Hawthorne in attendance with Cam Cathcart, President of the BCR Museum and Vancouver Remembers, and Constantine Pappas.



**RECOGNITION CEREMONY  
FORMER HONORARY COLONEL ROD HOFFMEISTER  
SEAFORTH HIGHLANDERS OF CANADA  
19 FEBRUARY 2021**



Congratulations to our good friend and colleague, former Honorary Colonel of the Seaforth Highlanders of Canada, Rod Hoffmeister, on receiving an Honorary Colonel Commendation for his outstanding leadership, dedication, service and commitment and a Regimental Coin from Honorary Colonel Ted Hawthorne at a brief ceremony held at the SHoC Armoury this morning. Honorary Colonel 39 CER, Bill Diamond, was also in attendance and presented his 39 CER Coin to Rod in recognition of his service. Thank you Rod and all the very best!!



**CO'S COMMITTEE & REGIMENTAL TRUST MEETINGS  
ZOOM PLATFORM  
24 FEBRUARY 2021**

The first meetings of the year of the BCR Commanding Officer's Committee and the BCR Trust were held on the ZOOM platform in the early evening of Wednesday, February 24th. At the beginning of the meeting, Honorary Colonel (39 CER) Bill Diamond, Major Jim Barrett and retired Major Roger Prouse were presented with CO's Commendations and Command Team Coins by Lieutenant-Colonel Vince Virk in recognition of their service to the Regiment and the Regimental Family. The Honorary Colonel of the Regiment, Ted



Hawthorne, chaired the very comprehensive CO's Committee meeting which featured thorough reports from the Honorary Colonel, the President of the Regimental Association, the President of the BCR Museum, the Cadet Governor, the Band Governor and the Treasurer of the BCR Trust. The extensive Report of the CO was also very well received by the members. Honorary Lieutenant-Colonel, Farid Rohani, chaired the BCR Trust meeting to conclude the evening. Excellent meetings and thank you to all members! Congratulations to our CO's Commendation recipients!

Up the Dukes!



**2290 BCR (101 DCOR) RCACC SUPPORT COMMITTEE  
EXECUTIVE MEETING  
24 FEBRUARY 2021**

The February meeting of the Executive of the Support Committee of 2290 BCR (101 DCOR) RCACC was held on the ZOOM platform on the evening of 24 February 2021. Nyal Wilcox chaired the meeting and comprehensive reports were received by all members. The Chairman congratulated the Treasurer, Michael Johnson, on behalf of the Support Committee, on being awarded The Major Charles Whisker Top Volunteer Award for 2020 by the Army Cadet League of Canada, BC Branch. Honorary Colonel Ted Hawthorne attended as a special guest and Gayle Hawthorne, President of the Regimental Association, reported to the meeting as the BCR Liaison.

Up the Dukes!



**COLONEL (RET'D) ROBERT MARK HUTCHINGS, M.S.M., C.D.  
KINGSTON, ONTARIO  
25 FEBRUARY 2021**



**The Meritorious Service Decorations (Civil Division)**

The Meritorious Service Decorations recognize great Canadians for exceptional deeds accomplished over a limited period of time that bring honour to our country. They honour achievements in both military and civil divisions.

The Meritorious Service Decorations (Civil Division) were established to recognize remarkable contributions in many different fields of endeavour, from advocacy initiatives and health care services, to research and humanitarian efforts.

Past recipients have tackled poverty in their community, improved education opportunities for children in Canada and abroad, or raised awareness of important causes and issues. They inspire us and make us proud. If this sounds like someone you know, nominate them today!

On 25 February 2021, the Office of the Secretary to the Governor General of Canada announced that “98 remarkable individuals” had been awarded Meritorious Service Decorations, including our friend and colleague, Colonel Mark Hutchings, National Chair of The Hill 70 Memorial Project.

The abbreviated Citation for Colonel Mark’s M.S.M. reads “For spearheading the creation of a monument to commemorate the 1917 Battle of Hill 70 in Loos en Gohelle, France.”

Congratulations Colonel Mark on this well-deserved recognition for your remarkable work and best wishes from the entire Regimental Family.

L to R – Colonel Mark Hutchings and HCol Ted Hawthorne – cheque presentation of \$12,500.00 by Colonel Hawthorne in support of The Hill 70 Memorial Project (May 2017).



**Editor’s Note:** The Regimental Association and the Charitable Trust are proud supporters of The Hill 70 Memorial.

**THE BRITISH COLUMBIA REGIMENT  
(DUKE OF CONNAUGHT’S OWN) MUSEUM SOCIETY  
MEETING OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS  
26 FEBRUARY 2021**

Congratulations to The BC Regiment (DCO) Museum Society and its Board of Directors on receiving an Honorary Colonel Commendation and Regimental Coins from Honorary Colonel Ted Hawthorne at the



February business meeting of the Board held on the ZOOM platform. The Board and its Directors were recognized for their great support of the Regiment and the entire Regimental Family.

Well done and thank you!

Up the Dukes!



**BATTLE OF PAARDEBERG  
REMEMBRANCE OBSERVANCE  
29<sup>TH</sup> BATAILLION C.E.F. MEMORIAL  
PACIFIC NATIONAL EXHIBITION  
27 FEBRUARY 2021**



The service and sacrifice of our Fallen were remembered on the 121st anniversary of the Battle of Paardeberg during the South African War at the 29 Bn CEF Memorial in front of the Coliseum during an impromptu “ceremony” held at 11:00am. A brief introduction on the significance of this day of remembrance was given by Vice-President of the Regimental Association, Jim Barrett, a wreath at the foot of the Memorial, in front of the Candle of Remembrance, was placed by the Honorary Colonel of the Regiment, Ted Hawthorne, and the President of the Regimental Association, Gayle Hawthorne, a moment of silence and remembrance was observed, and the Act of Remembrance was recited by Tom Houghton.

**ACT OF REMEMBRANCE**

They shall not grow old as we who are left grow old.  
Age shall not weary them, nor the years condemn.  
AT THE GOING DOWN OF THE SUN AND IN THE MORNING,  
WE WILL REMEMBER THEM.

Up the Dukes!



**Editor's Note:** Colonel Hawthorne presented his Honorary Colonel Coin to the Vice-President of the BCR Museum, Bill Whalen, and to Pete Whalen, a BCR Museum Firearms Committee member, in recognition of their service to the Regimental Museum and the Regimental Family. Tom Houghton presented a full box of uncirculated Camp Vernon, A Century of Canadian Military, by Hugh Rayment and Patrick Sherlock, to Jim Barrett for the BCR Museum.



## COMMANDING OFFICER'S PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT WEEKEND 27 FEBRUARY 2021

By: Captain Gavin Ducharme

On Saturday February 27, 2021 members of the BCR (DCO) command team deployed out to Cypress Provincial Park to partake in CO's PD training. 6 BCR's including the CO and RSM made their way up Mt Hollyburn on snowshoes to complete a 7 km round trip trek. Weather co-operated and participants were treated to a great view of the Burrard Inlet and North Shore mountains.







At the summit, the CO and RSM took time to address participants and encourage them to reflect on what leadership changes could have positive effect in the Regiment. In all, participant spent 2 hours and 45 minute ascending and descending the mountain, with no injuries aside from pride related to unfamiliarity on snow shoes.

Following the trek participants returned to the DH to receive a briefing on online media awareness. Training focused on bringing attention to the information soldiers put online and how it can affect personal and tactical security. Participants were particularly alerted by how they can exercise strong security practices but still be compromised by others acting, leading to the question, “what is your weakest link?”

BCR troops are back at weekly training in basic recce tasks and gunnery in preparation for Ex Gunner Duke in March 2021. Ex Gunner Duke will be held in Wainwright, Ab and will consist of RAPZ training and a live fire range.

**FROM THE DESK OF THE COMMANDING OFFICER  
THE DRILL HALL, VANCOUVER, B.C.  
5 MARCH 2021**



Greetings fellow Dukes!

This past month the Regiment is moving full steam with its training and operational support. Additional Dukes have joined Operation Laser, the CAFs support operation for assisting with the pandemic efforts. Their commitment and drive to volunteer for the task is commendable and supported by the efforts of the entire regimental system behind them.

The Squadrons are in the midst of the busiest time of the year for them, with Recce Sqn preparing for a week-long live fire exercise in Wainwright this month. IA & Trg Sqn is nearing the completion of its Basic Military Qualification (BMQ) course which will see many new privates complete their first military course this month.

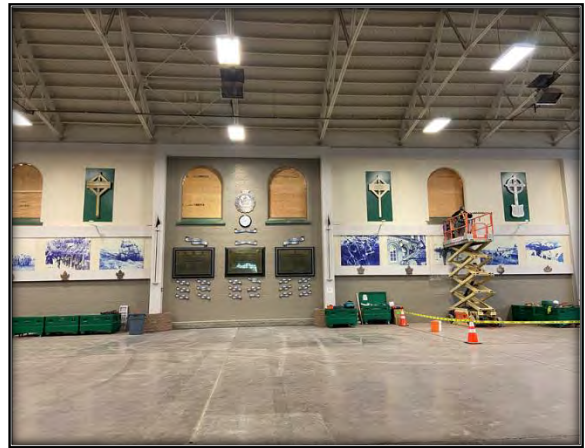
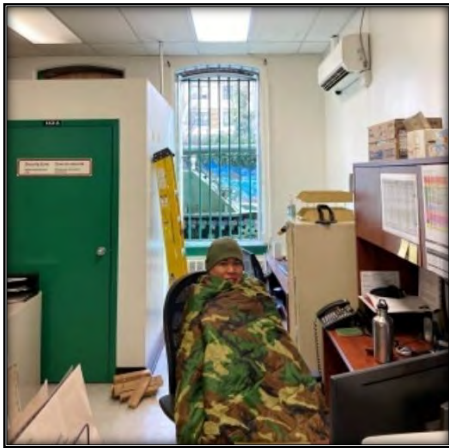
The Drill Hall renovations continue to progress and the facelift is coming along. We are all excited to see the refreshed exterior and new windows in place for this year.

Finally, I want to give a BZ to two members who have recently retired after a distinguished career. WO (Retd) Harris and Cpl (Retd) Pappin. I wish them well with their transition out of uniform and into a green blazer. Once a Duke, always a Duke.

Up the Dukes

Faugh A Ballagh

Lieutenant-Colonel Vincent Virk, CD,  
Commanding Officer



**CHINESE CANADIAN MILITARY MUSEUM SOCIETY  
AND  
ANAVETS, PACIFIC UNIT NO. 280  
6 MARCH 2021**

Special thanks to the Chinese Canadian Military Museum Society and ANAVETS, Pacific Unit 280, for hosting the Speaker's Forum in the late morning of Saturday, 6 March 2021 with special guest speaker Riley Inge on the ZOOM platform. Riley is a well-known social justice activist and a committed and dedicated advocate to make the world a better place. Riley provided an excellent presentation to the members of the Museum and ANAVETS and engaged in a very thorough Q & A session afterwards. King Wan, the Forum's Host, thanked Riley for a most inspirational and informative exchange of ideas, most a propos to our circumstances today. Many will know Riley as a former singer with The Temptations ("My Girl"). Don Chapman and Honorary Colonel Ted Hawthorne, a member of CCMMS for many years, were "in attendance" and were acknowledged by a member for their roles in support of diversity and inclusion in our community.

The regular business meetings followed the presentation (ANAVETS with King Wan in the chair and the Museum with Bud Wong in the chair).

Thank you and congratulations all!







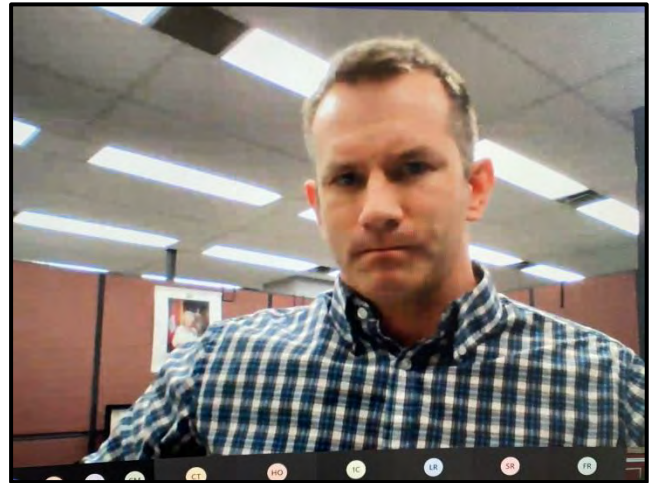
**39 CANADIAN BRIGADE GROUP  
PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT SESSION  
MICROSOFT TEAMS PLATFORM  
9 MARCH 2021**

The 39 Canadian Brigade Group Professional Development Session on “The Evolving Threat and Nature of Warfighting” was very well received and featured excellent speakers, including 39 CBG Commander Colonel Paul Ursich, CFLC RLO Colonel Scott Raesler and Simon Morgan, touching on Strategic (Defence Policy during a shifting balance of global power), Operational (recent war in Nagorno-Karabakh region and lessons learned) and Tactical (our next conflict in an environment with “unmanned” systems of all types) considerations.

Remember...“our adversaries are learning, adapting and innovating all the time!”

Excellent program and presentations by 39 CBG!





**HAPPY BIRTHDAY CHARLIE**  
**K37476 LCpl CHARLES BERNHARDT 100<sup>TH</sup> BIRTHDAY**  
**13 MARCH 2021**

Charlie joined the 6th Regiment (DCOR), marched down 8th Street on 1 Oct 1940 (Wait for Me Daddy), served with 28th Armored Regiment (BCR), transferred to the 27th Armoured Regiment (Sherbrooke Fusilier Regiment) and then to 2nd Canadian Armoured Brigade. He was appointed as Driver for Brigadier R.A. Wyman, landed on D-Day, serving in Europe until war's end. When he drove his armoured car off the LCT, it floundered and he spent most of the day sitting in the car, being shot at by small arms fire, until a bulldozer recovered the car. He spent the night with the Brits, being returned to 2nd Armored Brigade on 7 June 1944. In February 1945, he transferred back to and served as a Sherman tank loader/wireless operator, with the 27th Armoured Regiment until war's end.

He was an ardent BCR Association member, attending reunions in Vancouver, Vernon and Kamloops. Charlie was nominated to represent the Regimental Association at the 2007 rededication of the refurbished Vimy Ridge Memorial. LCpl Charles Bernhardt was awarded the French Legion of Honour for his service in the Battle of Normandie, at a special ceremony conducted, on 25 June 2016, by The British Columbia Regiment (DCO) Association, at his residence in Summerland, B.C.



Charlie was born in Yugoslavia, immigrated to Canada when seven years old. His family settled in Summerland, B.C. After the war, he returned to Summerland where he purchased an apple orchard, and played a very prominent role in the B.C. Fruit Growers' Association, getting the British Columbia Provincial Government to establish the B.C. Fruit Board.

Over the years, Charlie, Lynda and I have established a very personal friendship; we visit and regularly chat on the telephone.



Charlie is now residing in a care facility in Penticton.

Charles Bernhardt  
c/o Haven Hill Retirement Centre  
415 Haven Hill Rd.  
Penticton, BC V2A 4E9

As a fellow Duke, kindly consider sending Charlie a centenary birthday greeting.

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



**THE BRITISH COLUMBIA REGIMENT  
(DUKE OF CONNAUGHT'S OWN)**

620 Beatty Street  
Vancouver, British Columbia  
Canada V6B 2L9

Telephone: 604-638-3181  
Fax: 604-299-1523  
Email: ted@hplaw.ca

13 March 2021

Lance Corporal (Ret'd) Charles Bernhardt  
c/o Haven Hill Retirement Centre  
415 Haven Hill Rd.  
Penticton, BC V2A 4E9

Dear Charlie,

Re: Birthday Greetings

On behalf of the Commanding Officer, Lieutenant-Colonel Vincent Virk, CD, all ranks of the Regiment and the entire Regimental Family, it is my very great pleasure to convey to you our very best wishes and warmest congratulations on the occasion of your one hundredth birthday.

I also wish you good health and much happiness as you celebrate your special day.

In conclusion, I also wish to thank you for your service in the Regiment and to Canada during World War II and for your service and support of the Regimental Association throughout these many years.

Take care and all the very best,

Up the Dukes!

Sincerely yours,

E. A. (Ted) Hawthorne,  
Honorary Colonel

FROM THE DESK OF THE COMMANDING OFFICER  
THE DRILL HALL, VANCOUVER, B.C.  
18 MARCH 2021



Greetings fellow Dukes!

As you know the RSM and I are in Wainwright as the Regiment conducts Ex Gunner Duke this week. We had the pleasure of linking up with the Comd Tm of the LdSH (LCol Angel and CWO King) who have crews shooting on our range side by side with us in the TAPVs.

Our two units have worked great together and this week of ranges continues to show that strong relationship building capacity for both units.

The LdSH provided us with additional TAPVs to now be able to field 6 trucks this week (2 more than the entire 39CBG allotment) for OC Recce, Maj Brown, to push his sqn through an enhanced shoot later in the week. We might even find a way to help the LdSH expend some 120mm rounds (watch out for next week's edition of **The BCR News** for details on this).

Outside of the shooting, we had the pleasure of graduating the BMQ course run by Capt Vinning and his IA &Trg Sqn.

Its good to get troops back into the field where the Dukes always thrive.

Up the Dukes!

Faugh A Ballagh

Lieutenant-Colonel Vincent Virk, CD,  
Commanding Officer







**2021 RECOGNITION CEREMONY  
NATIONAL ABORIGINAL VETERANS DAY, NOVEMBER 8 COMMITTEE AND  
THE BC LOWER MAINLAND ABORIGINAL VETERANS COMMITTEE  
THE CENOTAPH AT VICTORY SQUARE, VANCOUVER  
21 MARCH 2021**

Congratulations to The National Aboriginal Veterans Day, November 8 Committee, The BC Lower Mainland Aboriginal Veterans Committee and the Vancouver Annual Parade Organizers, Joy Ward Dockrey, represented by Veteran Carolyn Oraziotti, Robert Nahanee and Kelly White on receiving the Commendation of the Honorary Colonel of the Regiment in a brief ceremony held at the Cenotaph in Victory Square in the early afternoon. The recipients were recognized by Colonel Hawthorne for “their outstanding leadership, dedication, service and commitment to the Veterans of the Canadian Armed Forces, all for the betterment of our Community and our Country.” The attendees each received the Honorary Colonel’s Regimental Coin to mark the special occasion as part of the presentation ceremony. In turn, Veteran Robert Nahanee presented Colonel Hawthorne with a gift (a complete Smudging Kit) from the Committees as an expression of their appreciation.

Honorary Colonel 39 CER Bill Diamond and Honorary Lieutenant-Colonel Farid Rohani were in attendance along with our good friend and supporter MCpl (R) Chuck Davey, PPCLI, carrying The Metis Association Veterans Flag.

Thank you to all our friends and Up the Dukes!







**ST. JULIEN SQUARE – CARE AND MAINTENANCE  
VANCOUVER  
25 MARCH 2021**

St Julien Square was dedicated in 2006 in remembrance of the tens of thousands of Citizen Soldiers who served in The British Columbia Regiment (DCO), many of whom sacrificed their lives in the cause of freedom. As sacred ground to the Regiment and the Regimental Family, St. Julien Square must be respected and carefully maintained.

The Regimental Association continues to conduct an annual remembrance service every August 9<sup>th</sup> to remember the service and sacrifice of our WW II Veterans who served with the 28th Canadian Armoured Regiment (British Columbia Regiment).



In January 2020, vandals disrespectfully applied nail polish to two of the bronze plaques and keyed the surface of a third bronze plaque; all mounted on seating Benches. I successfully removed the nail polish from the two bronze plaques, but the keyed plaque required refurbishment.

In May 2020, the St. Julien Square, the management company of the Strata Corporation agreed to fully fund the repairs for \$504.00. I removed the plaque and delivered it to the manufacturer, Richmond Ornamental Bronze, in June 2020. In October 2020, the repairs were completed and I retrieved the bronze plaque.

Due to inclement weather and COVID restrictions, finally on Thursday 25 March 2021, my wife Lynda and I reinstalled the bronze plaque honouring the Regiment's Captain Edward Donald Bellew, VC.

Archie M. Steacy, CD  
President Emeritus  
The British Columbia Regiment (DCO) Association



**FROM THE DESK OF THE COMMANDING OFFICER  
THE DRILL HALL, VANCOUVER, B.C.  
26 MARCH 2021**



Greetings fellow Dukes!

This past week, Exercise Gunner Duke wrapped up. It saw the Dukes conduct the range portion of the Dual Remote Weapons System (DRWS) course which had candidates from 1 CBMG, 38 CBG, 39 CBG, and 41 CBG. After the course, Recce Sqn flew in to conduct a level 2 live fire AFV range with the TAPV and LUVW vehicles. With the support of the LdSH, we were able to field a full contingent of vehicles to conduct day and night shoots for the range.

Not to squander an opportunity, Recce Sqn also conducted patrol level drills in the training area, which was enhanced by LdSH UAV Troop looking for the patrols on the move.

Thanks goes out to LCol Angel and A Sqn for arranging to have the Dukes to do a familiarization shoot with them on the Leopard 2 range, sure to be a highlight of many of the troops.

This exercise was a great milestone for the Regiment. With the integration of the TAPV and all the new capabilities it has brought, the DUKES became the first of 3rd Div PRes units to run its own TAPV gunnery qualification range. This now further enhances our ability to integrate with and work side by side with all Armd regiments be it full time or part time forces as part of One Army.

Up the Dukes!

Faugh A Ballagh

Lieutenant-Colonel Vincent Virk, CD,  
Commanding Officer

Photos courtesy of Cpl Wilson











**THE BC LOWER MAINLAND ABORIGINAL VETERANS COMMITTEE  
PRESENTATION TO CAROLYN ORAZIETTI  
BURNABY, B.C.  
31 MARCH 2021**

Congratulations to Carolyn Oraziatti of the Lower Mainland Aboriginal Veterans Committee on receiving the Honorary Colonel's Regimental Coin in recognition of her service to the Veterans' Community. The Regimental Coin was presented by Honorary Colonel Ted Hawthorne to Carolyn at a brief ceremony this morning at the office of Burnaby North Road Business Improvement Association where Carolyn is the Executive Director. Photo compliments of Han Jang, BCIT School of Computing and Academic Studies. Thank you for your service Carolyn.



**NAVAL ASSOCIATION OF B.C.  
ZOOM PRESENTATION OF GRAHAM FULLER  
"SPECULATING ON THE LONG-RANGE FUTURE OF EURASIA"  
31 MARCH 2021**

A very interesting presentation by Graham E. Fuller, a former CIA officer (Station Chief in Kabul), senior political scientist at RAND and current adjunct professor of history at SFU was hosted this morning by the



Naval Association of B.C. with King Wan as MC. The topic was “Speculating on the long-range future of Eurasia” followed by a thorough Q and A. Excellent presentation and thank you to NABC!



**2290 BCR (101 DCOR) RCACC SUPPORT COMMITTEE  
EXECUTIVE MEETING  
31 MARCH 2021**

The March meeting of the Executive of the Support Committee of 2290 BCR (101 DCOR) RCACC was held on the ZOOM platform on Wednesday evening, March 31st. Nyal Wilcox chaired the meeting, and a full slate of comprehensive reports was presented to the members. A highlight of the evening was the presentation of a Certificate of Appreciation by Captain Marek, on behalf of The Army Cadet League of Canada-BC Branch, to Honorary Captain Agnes Keegan in recognition of her 41 years of service to the unit. Honorary Colonel Ted Hawthorne attended as a special guest and Gayle Hawthorne, President of the Regimental Association, reported to the meeting as the BCR Liaison.



Up the Dukes!

**MAJOR MANJEET S. VINNING, CD  
PROMOTION  
31 MARCH 2021**

Congratulations to Manjeet Vinning, who was promoted to the rank of Major on 31 March at a very limited and brief ceremony at The Drill Hall due to COVID-19 restrictions. This has been long awaited and well deserved. The CO, Lieutenant-Colonel Vincent Virk, the RSM, CWO Tony Harris, and the 2IC, Major McCullough were in attendance, with Major Vinning's wife, Simran, joining in by video.



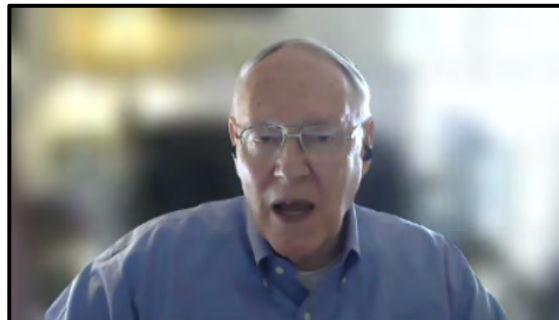
**Editor's Note:** Major Vinning is the Officer Commanding Influence Activities and Training Squadron (IA/Trg Sqn) and Vice PMC of the Officers' Mess. Congratulations Major Vinning from the entire Regimental Family. Up the Dukes!

**CANADIAN GLOBAL AFFAIRS INSTITUTE  
DND PROCUREMENT SERIES  
ZOOM PLATFORM  
6 APRIL 2021**

The early afternoon ZOOM presentation hosted by the Canadian Global Affairs Institute featured Dr David Hulett (Hulett & Associates), Johanne Mullen (Partner, National Capital Projects), Col Thorne (Partner, Engineering & Asset Management at KPMG Australia) and Mark McKiel (Director, Project Management Support at DND) as speakers on the CGAI Procurement Series reviewing the best practices on DND Material



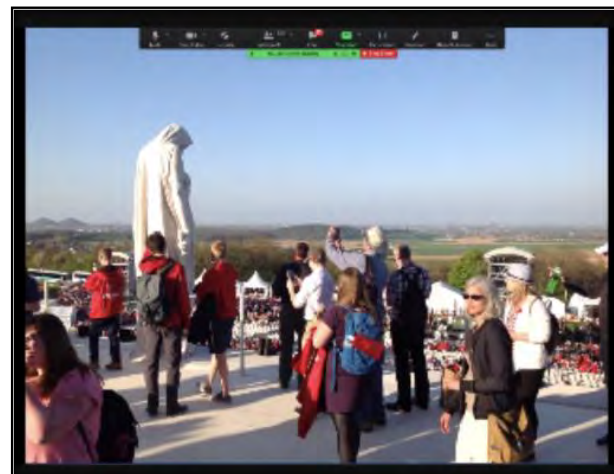
Group procurement scheduling. Current approaches and other perspectives were examined by the presenters in the context of “risk based project scheduling to improve the rigour....of project management”. A Q & A session followed the excellent presentations.



**2021 VIRTUAL SPEAKER SERIES  
THE BATTLE OF VIMY RIDGE – 104<sup>th</sup> ANNIVERSARY  
8 APRIL 2021**

The 2021 Virtual Speaker Series featuring “The Battle of Vimy Ridge - 104th Anniversary” was hosted the evening of April 8<sup>th</sup> by Valour Canada (Peter Boyle) and The Royal Alberta United Services Institute (MGen Paul Bury, retired). The session featured excellent presentations by Dr Spenser Jones on Allied Strategy in 1917, Dr Patrick Brennan on Canadian involvement at the Battle of Vimy Ridge and Dr Geoffrey Bird on the issue of Remembrance and Vimy Ridge. A Q & A followed the presentations.

Kudos to Valour Canada and RAUSI!



**MCPL RANDY SLOAN, CD  
FRASER REGION ABORIGINAL FRIENDSHIP CENTRE ASSOCIATION  
SURREY, B.C.  
8 APRIL 2021**

Congratulations to our very own MCpl Randy Sloan on receiving the Honorary Colonel's Regimental Coin in a brief ceremony held at the Fraser Region Aboriginal Friendship Centre on Whalley Blvd in Surrey. MCpl Sloan is an Outreach & Empowerment Worker at the centre which serves the at risk entrenched Indigenous youth in the community. Well done MCpl Sloan and thank you for your great work in the Regiment for the last 14 years and in our community in the social service sector for the last 20 years. Colonel Hawthorne concluded his visit with the presentation of his personal donation in support of the Centre. Thank you Randy, we are proud of you!

Up the Dukes!





**Fraser Region Aboriginal Friendship Centre Association**

A101 – 10095 Whalley Boulevard, Surrey, BC V3T 4G1

Tel: 604-595-1170 Fax: 604-595-1176

[www.frafca.org](http://www.frafca.org)

Good afternoon BCR Association,

I write to you, as a proud indigenous person, who has been honoured to serve as a reconnaissance soldier with the British Columbia Regiment for the last 14 years, representing the unit domestically and abroad. For the last 20 plus years I have worked in the social service sector supporting our most vulnerable populations and most recently began working as an outreach and empowerment worker for the Fraser Region Aboriginal Friendship Centre Association (FRAFCA). We serve at risk street entrenched Indigenous youth who are in ministry care. Our indigenous youth suffer from barriers such as homelessness, poverty, youth justice, addiction, mental health, sexual exploitation, and a lack of cultural knowledge. Youth come to us during times of despair due to living in homes filled with emotional and physical abuse, alcohol and drug use, and neglect.

We aim to provide safe, supportive, and non-judgmental environments/relationships that empower youth to create self-determined goals and create positive social/family and community connections.

With the help of your kind assistance, our organization will be able to support many youths and preform our daily tasks as outreach workers. Your donation today will help make a big difference in the youths lives we serve; providing opportunity to connect over food, recreation, and cultural; making their time spent with us a great experience.

Our non-profit organization has been operational for the last 9 years. Please visit our website to view our organization [www.frafca.org](http://www.frafca.org)

Also, please note that we are a registered charity, and any contribution you make will be tax-deductible. Please feel free to contact us on 604-537-1614 or [kyla.bains@frafca.org](mailto:kyla.bains@frafca.org)  
We sincerely thank you for considering our organization for making a generous donation.

Kind Regards,

Randy Sloan  
Outreach & Empowerment Worker  
604-613-6556  
[randy.sloan@frafca.org](mailto:randy.sloan@frafca.org)

**3300 BCR (Bhai Kanhaiya) RCACC  
REMEMBERING THE BATTLE OF VIMY RIDGE  
9 APRIL 2021**

**By: WO Harmannat Pabla, 3300 BCR Cadet Correspondent**

The Officers and Cadets of 3300 BCR (Bhai Kanhaiya) RCACC join fellow Canadians to commemorate the sacrifice of our soldiers during the Battle of Vimy Ridge that transcends time and reminds us of the immense debt of gratitude we owe to all Canadians in uniform, past and present, for their courage, dedication, and service.

Up the Dukes!



**FROM THE DESK OF THE COMMANDING OFFICER  
THE DRILL HALL, VANCOUVER, B.C.  
9 APRIL 2021**



Greetings fellow Dukes!

As the province tackles its 3rd wave of the pandemic, the Regiment has adjusted its posture to minimize group settings and potential for infections. This is one of the ways we preserve our ability to force generate soldiers if the province ever calls for additional military support. Normally, April is the month many of us look forward to for our annual St Julien Remembrance Dinner. Unfortunately, 2021 will now be the second year



we will not gather for this mess dinner. I ask that each of you, in your own way, pays homage to those soldiers and all who followed them in the Great War. For our friends and family of the Regiment remain safe and I can't wait to see you on the flip side of this pandemic.

Up the Dukes

Faugh A Ballagh

Lieutenant-Colonel Vincent Virk, CD,  
Commanding Officer

## REMEMBERING THE BATTLE OF VIMY RIDGE 9 APRIL 2021

As a result of the Coronavirus Pandemic (COVID-19), all official ceremonies of commemoration for the Battle of Vimy Ridge have been cancelled once again for this year. The Honorary Colonel of the Regiment, Ted Hawthorne, and the President of the Regimental Association, Gayle Hawthorne, paid an informal visit to the Cross of Sacrifice, Commonwealth Graves Section, Mountainview Cemetery and to Saint Julien Square, adjacent to the Drill Hall, in order to place Regimental Wreaths to honour the service and sacrifice of our soldiers in the 7<sup>th</sup>, 29<sup>th</sup> and 102<sup>nd</sup> Battalions of the Canadian Expeditionary Force, on the occasion of the 104<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Battle of Vimy Ridge. See the attached remarks, compliments of Cam Cathcart, Chair of The Vancouver Vimy Day Committee.

**They shall grow not old, as we that are left grow old;  
Age shall not weary them, nor the years condemn.  
AT THE GOING DOWN OF THE SUN AND IN THE MORNING,  
WE WILL REMEMBER THEM. WE WILL REMEMBER THEM.**

Up the Dukes!











Remarks by Cam Cathcart, Chair of the Vancouver Vimy Day Committee, at the private, abbreviated Vimy Day wreath placement ceremony at Mountain View Cemetery on 9 April 2021.

*Good morning everyone.*

*Before we begin let us offer our condolences to Her Majesty, the Queen of Canada, and to the Royal Family, in the passing today of Prince Philip, the Duke of Edinburgh. Let us pause for a moment of reflection.*

*Thank you.*

*Today, confronted with a raging and insidious enemy - COVID 19 - we gather privately and in reduced numbers in this place to remember Canada's sacrifices, and victory, at Vimy Ridge over 100 years ago.*

*However modest our safe gathering may be today, it is significant that we honour those who served at Vimy ... in weather not unlike today, but nastier.*

*Many soldiers from British Columbia, including those in the 7th and 72nd Battalions, known today as The British Columbia Regiment and Seaforth Highlanders Regiment of Canada, fought at Vimy.*

*Canadian pilots flying with the Royal Flying Service provided aerial reconnaissance before the battle.*

*Heavy guns of the Royal Canadian Artillery bombarded enemy positions in advance of and with creeping barrages during the attack on the Ridge.*

*Today, those from B.C. who died, were wounded, or survived the Battle of Vimy Ridge, are remembered with the placement of our wreaths at the Cross of Sacrifice here in the Commonwealth War Graves Section of the cemetery.*

*Those placing wreaths are:*

- *Glen Hodges, Manager of Mountain View Cemetery, on behalf of the City of Vancouver.*
- *Honorary Colonel Ted Hawthorne of the B.C. Regiment, and Gayle Hawthorne, President of the B.C. Regiment (DCO) Association on behalf of its members.*

- *Michael Patience, Secretary of the Seaforth Association on behalf of the Seaforth Highlanders Regiment of Canada.*
- *Neil Coward, President of the Air Force Officers Association of B.C. on behalf of its membership.*
- *Roger and Louise Prouse, representing the Army Cadet League of Canada, B.C. Branch. Vimy Day is the official Army Cadet Day of Recognition.*
- *Cam Cathcart, President of The Royal United Services Institute Vancouver, on behalf of its membership.*

***"They shall not grow old, as we that are left grow old:  
Age shall not weary them, nor the years condemn.  
At the going down of the sun and in the morning  
We will remember them."***

*This concludes our brief, 2021 wreath placement in remembrance of the Canadians who served at the Battle of Vimy Ridge on this day in April 1917 during World War One.*

*In closing we offer a special thanks to Mountain View Cemetery for hosting this brief but meaningful ceremony today.*

*Thank you all for being here and stay safe.*

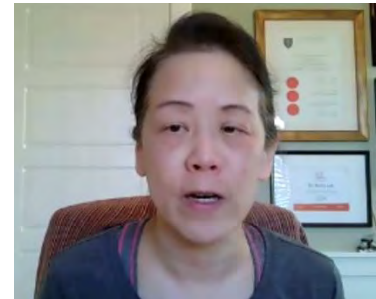
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**CHINESE CANADIAN MILITARY MUSEUM SOCIETY  
AND  
ANAVETS, PACIFIC UNIT NO. 280  
10 APRIL 2021**

Special thanks to the Chinese Canadian Military Museum and ANAVETS, Pacific Unit 280, for hosting the Speaker's Forum in the late morning of Saturday, April 10, 2021 on the ZOOM platform with special guest speaker Dr. Henry Yu. Dr. Yu, an Associate Professor of History and principal of St. John's College, provided a very topical presentation to the members of the Museum and ANAVETS which was entitled "A discussion on the current Anti-Asians sentiments in Canada and the US." A very thorough Q & A session followed the presentation. King Wan, the Forum's Host, thanked Dr. Yu for a most inspirational and informative exchange of ideas, most a propos to our circumstances today. The regular business meetings followed the presentation (ANAVETS with King Wan in the chair and the Museum with Bud Wong in the chair). Thank you and well done!





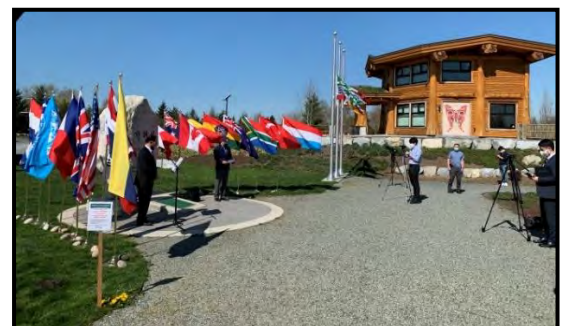


**Editor's Note:** Honorary Colonel Ted Hawthorne is a long-time member of the Chinese Canadian Military Museum Society and is also a member of ANAVETS, Pacific Unit No. 280.

**THE KAPYONG MEMORIAL WALK,  
A SOLEMN JOURNEY OF PEACE AND REMBRANCE ON THE 70TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE  
BATTLE OF KAPYONG, SOUTH KOREA  
7 APRIL TO 16 APRIL 2021  
RADAR HILL, TOFINO TO THE GAPYEONG STONE KOREAN WAR MEMORIAL  
IN LANGLEY TOWNSHIP  
16 APRIL 2021**

We remembered the sacrifice, service and dedication of our soldiers on the 70th Anniversary of the Battle of Kapyong, South Korea at the Gapyong Stone Korean War Memorial in Langley Township this morning. The Honorary Colonel of the Regiment provided a greeting to those in attendance on behalf of the Honourable Harjit S. Sajjan, Minister of National Defence, and the Commanding Officer of the Regiment, Lieutenant-Colonel Vincent Virk. Colonel Hawthorne also presented an Honorary Colonel Commendation and Regimental Coins, along with the Minister's greeting and Medallions, to Guy and Sean Black on the successful completion of their Memorial Walk from Radar Hill in Tofino to this site; a solemn journey of peace and remembrance to mark this anniversary. We will remember them!

After the brief ceremony, observing all COVID-19 protocols, Colonel Hawthorne also presented Regimental Coins to Senator Jonah Martin, MP Tako van Popta and members of The Korean War Veterans Association.





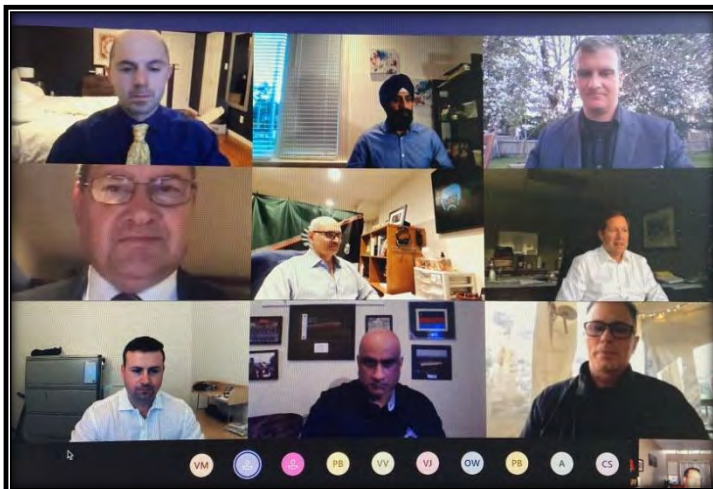
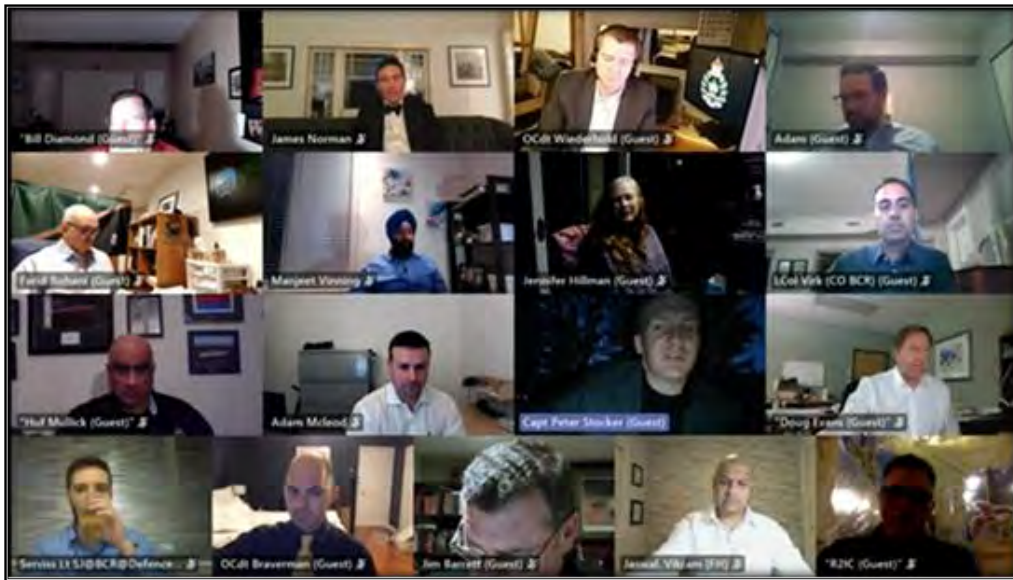
**ST. JULIEN COMMEMORATION  
BCR OFFICERS' MESS  
17 APRIL 2021**

The Officers' Mess of The BC Regiment (DCO) held a virtual St. Julien Commemoration, in lieu of the traditional annual St. Julien Mess Dinner cancelled due to the Pandemic, on the ZOOM platform on the evening of 17 April 2021. The event featured an Introduction by the PMC (2IC Major Greg McCullough), the historical significance of the Battle of St. Julien by Captain Sam Serviss, the official Regimental Toasts, including the Loyal Toast by Captain Norman, the Fallen by Captain Stocker, the Rifles by Officer Cadet Welderhold, "The Vancouver" by Captain Serviss and the Regiment by Captain Mullick. The evening concluded with remarks by the Commanding Officer, Lieutenant-Colonel Vincent Virk, the Honorary Colonel, Ted Hawthorne, the PMC, the incoming PMC, Major Manjeet Vinning, followed by an open discussion by all officers.

Well done PMC and thank you!

Up the Dukes!





**THE ARMY CADET LEAGUE  
OF CANADA**

Celebrating 50 years of exceptional volunteer service  
and support to the Royal Canadian Army Cadets  
1971-2021



**LA LIGUE DES CADETS DE L'ARMÉE  
DU CANADA**

Célébrons 50 ans de service bénévole exceptionnel et  
d'appui aux Cadets royaux de l'Armée canadienne  
1971-2021

April 18, 2021

RE: NATIONAL VOLUNTEER WEEK April 18-24, 2021

'The Value of One, The Power of Many'

**To all our VOLUNTEERS - Coast to Coast to Coast!!!!**

At the start of the National Volunteer week, we would be remiss if we didn't acknowledge the best volunteers in the country!!!

Paul and I are extremely proud and thankful for the work each and every one of you contributes to the best YOUTH PROGRAM in this beautiful country of ours.

As you know, this year is our 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary and is dedicated to honouring our "Volunteers" all year round not just for one week.

We have struck a limited-edition Commemorative coin, which we will be presenting to the most deserving volunteers within each branch as we acknowledge the "best of the best" throughout this year.

We also have a lapel pin for each and every one of you being distributed by your branch so be sure to get yours!

This past year has been unusual to say the least and I am proud and impressed how you have all stepped up and have continued our combined efforts to deliver the best youth program in the country!

I am proud how we all have adapted to change, embraced technology, and continued to move forward as a team better than before.

Sincerely,

Cathy Bach  
National President

Paul Wynnyk  
Honourary President, 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary

[www.armycadetleague.ca](http://www.armycadetleague.ca)

Follow us on

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Instagram - [armycadetleague](https://www.instagram.com/armycadetleague)

Youtube - [ACLCLCAC](https://www.youtube.com/ACLCLCAC)

**NATIONAL OFFICE**

201-1505 Avenue Laperrrière Avenue,

Ottawa, ON, K1Z 7T1

1-877-276-9223



**FRIENDS OF HMCS VANCOUVER**  
**19 APRIL 2021**

Good Day Ladies and Gentlemen,

I hope you and your families are all doing well during these challenging times. We have an update from our Ship, HMCS Vancouver.

Attached is a letter which Cdr Kevin Whiteside recently wrote to our sailors. The letter is written directly to the sailors but in some ways their families and our team at Friends of VANCOUVER are primary intended audiences.

Much has happened since our last communication and the Ship continues to progress well towards their 01 June "first day back at sea" date.

A friendly reminder for those of you on social media, I invite you to follow the Ship on Twitter - @HMCSNCSMVan, as well as Facebook - "HMCS Vancouver crew, families and friends". The Ship has also been actively tagging the Friends of VANCOUVER on twitter with all of their posts. You can also follow Friends of HMCS Vancouver on our Twitter account - @HMCS\_Vancouver. Hopefully between FOV email updates and the Twitter / Facebook accounts you have been kept somewhat apprised of the day-to-day activities. I understand some of you are not on social media so I will still be sending out newsletters as I receive the information.

On the First of April, the ship was at about the two-month mark back from sailing for their Basic Sea Readiness Trials, which will be the first step in their busy fall programme. This fall will see them in and out of Esquimalt conducting local operations as they prepare the team and systems for more in-depth operations in 2022.

I am told they are currently bringing photos, jerseys, street signs and other items out of storage and redecorating the Ship's interior. They will be hanging the various team jerseys in the three messes. This time Canucks jersey and Lions jersey will be placed above the bar in the Wardroom.

With vaccinations progressing across Canada, I do hope that later this year or early next, we will be in a position where we will be able to personally see our ship at sea, or even to stop by for a visit.

More news is in the attached letter.

Kindest Regards,

Mark Zwanski  
Friends of HMCS Vancouver

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

14 April 2021

Electronic Distribution

*Shipmates, Families and Friends of VANCOUVER (VAN),*

On behalf of the Coxswain (CPO1 Andy Ferguson), the Executive Officer (LCdr Matthew Arthur) and I, thank you for all of your efforts thus far in 2021 and in support of our ship and its awesome crew. This has been a challenging start to our second year operating in a COVID-19 environment. It is not lost on me that every one of us is faced with our own individual challenges but I am hopeful that the VAN family will be supportive of each other as we navigate this continued unprecedented period.

With this third wave of COVID now a reality, our team has been directly affected both by a member of our team who tested positive, and by the cluster in Nelles Block which was covered by the media earlier in the month. As a result, many of our team (18) have been in various levels of quarantine and/or isolation, and our onboard crewing reduced to those directly supporting critical pre-sail work. This is a very difficult time for our greater VAN family but I hope that you will rest assured we are taking all steps necessary to ensure the safety of our crew. Please continue to communicate with each other and to support each other in any and every way we can while continuing to follow Maritime Forces Pacific, local, regional, provincial, and national COVID protective health measure guidelines at home as well as at work. Together, we will maintain a safe and healthy workplace as we prepare for our upcoming sailing schedule.

The COVID situation notwithstanding, it is with great excitement that I write to you today, at mid-April. On the first, we reached the critical milestone of being two months from our first day at sea, presently scheduled for 1 June 2021. Following an extensive docking work period over the last couple of years, this first day back at sea will bring to fruition the countless hours of extraordinary effort put forth by present and past crews of VAN, and our numerous friends in industry and shore based support establishments. While I know that work onboard a ship alongside comes with its challenges and familial sacrifices, our fall program will be a busy one and will require continued support from our loved ones as we continue to prepare this awesome ship for international operations in 2022.

As mentioned, VAN's sailing program will commence on or about 1 June and will run for a couple of weeks. Based on the vaccine rollout for BC and the anticipated local prevalence rate, we are preparing for a pre-embarkation isolation period at mid-to-end of May. While timelines will be refined over the coming weeks, we are asking our shipmates to be prepared to isolate in a hotel for up to a 2-week period. We will be planning to have a summer leave period following this initial June sailing period, in hopes that all of our team can enjoy a week or two of leave in whatever capacity that the COVID situation at the time allows. You will have heard that we are scheduled to receive our initial vaccinations at the end of April, which is a significant step

1



towards seeing an end to this pandemic. I am also encouraged by the information the news is passing, in that all of BC will most likely have their initial vaccination by 1 July. Alongside you, I am excited to see an end to this pandemic and for us all to enjoy travel once again.

Our team has access to greater detail of our sailing schedule, but in short, we will be in and out fairly frequently in local waters throughout the fall, with a planned end date to our 2021 sailing schedule of 17 December. We will be starting up again mid-late January and sailing frequently throughout 2022, with the ultimate goal of proceeding to Hawaii for the Rim of the Pacific international exercise next summer, most likely followed by a deployment for the remainder of the year (returning prior to Christmas 2022). I will provide subsequent updates to our sailors and families as the 2022 program becomes clearer.

In closing, I want to thank you again, most sincerely, for the exceptional team effort and support that VAN has received throughout this challenging time. With our upcoming sailing schedule, it will be imperative that we continue to communicate frequently to assist us in addressing concerns as they are raised. I am so proud to be part of this team and of the greater VAN family. I look forward to connecting with you again and more frequently over the coming months. Until then, please stay safe and please reach out if ever in need.

Yours Aye,



Kevin Whiteside  
Commander  
Commanding Officer  
HMCS VANCOUVER

Electronic Distribution:

Internal - VANCOUVER crew DWAN addresses  
External - VANCOUVER crew O365 addresses  
Friends of VANCOUVER  
Military Family Resource Centre

**THE COMMANDER CANADIAN ARMY COMMENDATION  
AWARDED TO HONORARY COLONEL E. A. (TED) HAWTHORNE  
ZOOM PLATFORM  
21 APRIL 2021**

**By: The Commanding Officer's Committee**

On April 21, HCol Ted Hawthorne was presented with The Commander Canadian Army Commendation by 3rd Cdn Div Commander BGen William Fletcher. As this was a virtual presentation, there were many guests in attendance including 39 CBG Commander Col Paul Ursich, HCol of the Army, HCol Paul Hindo, Her Honour HCol Judith Guichon, Family and Staff at HP Law, fellow Honoraries, members of the CO's Committee and friends. LCol Virk was the MC for the presentation and for the individual accolades that were given by attendees.

Rather than try to recapture the kind words that were said, I encourage all to visit the link below and spend the 20 minutes to watch the presentation. A copy of the scroll is attached as well.

Congratulations to HCol Ted for this very deserving recognition.

**Editor's Note:**

The presentation can be observed with the following link. It starts at 35:30 with the CO welcoming everyone and ends at the 58 minute mark.

[https://us02web.zoom.us/rec/share/5NzM4hHD8MlVC\\_84HYYgkj96uRnSuFpreRUIwZB73SH1JOUep1ctqk9K30UDvNaz.nCTAN56xvTv5ovp](https://us02web.zoom.us/rec/share/5NzM4hHD8MlVC_84HYYgkj96uRnSuFpreRUIwZB73SH1JOUep1ctqk9K30UDvNaz.nCTAN56xvTv5ovp)  
Passcode: tW?Mw7Sd







The  
*Commander  
Canadian Army  
Commendation*

is presented to

*Honourary Colonel E. A. (Ted) Hawthorne*

*Honourary Colonel Ted Hawthorne displays outstanding leadership and dedication in his capacity as the Honourary Colonel of The British Columbia Regiment (Duke of Connaught's Own). A consummate professional, he has successfully raised significant funds to assist serving members in their pursuit of educational opportunities. Promoting the Regiment throughout the lower mainland, he has provided the vital link between the unit and business community, greatly enhancing the morale and welfare of soldiers, and has brought great credit to the Canadian Army.*

*Signed in the City of Ottawa, Ontario  
on this 10<sup>th</sup> day of March  
Two Thousand and Twenty One*

*Lieutenant-General W.D. Eyre, CMM, MSC, CD  
Commander Canadian Army*

**CO'S COMMITTEE & REGIMENTAL TRUST MEETINGS  
ZOOM PLATFORM  
21 APRIL 2021**

The April meetings of the BCR Commanding Officer's Committee and the BCR Trust were held on the ZOOM platform in the early evening of Wednesday, April 21st. Prior to the commencement of the meetings, Honorary Colonel Ted Hawthorne recognized our good friend and colleague, Jerry Couling, on his retirement from many years of dedicated service to the CO's Committee and the BCR Trust. Jerry was warmly applauded by all members for his exemplary service. In response, Jerry thanked the members for their support and stated that it was an honour to have served. Colonel Hawthorne then proceeded to chair the very comprehensive CO's Committee meeting which included thorough reports from the Honorary Colonel, the President of the Regimental Association, the President of the BCR Museum, the Cadet Governor, the Band Governor and the Treasurer of the BCR Trust. The detailed Report of the CO was also very well received by the members. The Honorary Lieutenant-Colonel, Farid Rohani, chaired the BCR Trust meeting. Excellent meetings and thank you to all members!

Up the Dukes!



**THE BRITISH COLUMBIA REGIMENT  
(DUKE OF CONNAUGHT'S OWN) MUSEUM SOCIETY  
MEETING OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS  
23 APRIL 2021**

The April business meeting of The BCR (DCO) Museum Society was held in the late morning of Friday, 23 April 2021. The meeting featured full reports (President, Treasurer, Archives etc) which were received and reviewed by the Board of Directors. Of particulate note was the thorough and comprehensive Firearms Curation Report submitted by VP Bill Whalen, which was particularly well received.

Honorary Colonel Ted Hawthorne was a guest at the meeting and was recognized by the members for his recent receipt of The Commander Canadian Army Commendation.

Great work by the BCR Museum!

Up the Dukes!





**REMEMBERING THE BATTLE OF SAINT JULIEN  
24 APRIL - 4 MAY 1915  
SAINT JULIEN SQUARE, VANCOUVER  
24 APRIL 2021**

On the 106th anniversary, we remembered the service and sacrifice of our Fallen during the Battle of St Julien, Second Battle of Ypres, at St Julien Square, adjacent to the Drill Hall. The Honorary Colonel of the Regiment, Ted Hawthorne, and Major Jim Barrett, the Commanding Officer of 3300 BCR (Bhai Kanhaiya) RCACC, placed the wreath for the Regiment and Major Barrett, as Vice President of the Regimental Association, and Honorary Major Cam Cathcart, as President of The BCR Museum and RUSI Vancouver, placed a wreath on behalf of our Veterans. Honorary Colonel 39 Combat Engineer Regiment, Bill Diamond, was also in attendance.

**ACT OF REMEMBRANCE**

They shall grow not old, as we that are left grow old;  
Age shall not weary them, nor the years condemn.

**AT THE GOING DOWN OF THE SUN AND IN THE MORNING,  
WE WILL REMEMBER THEM. WE WILL REMEMBER THEM.**

Up the Dukes!







Photos courtesy of HCol W.R. Diamond

**ANZAC MEMORIAL DAY  
CENOTAPH, BURNABY, B.C.  
25 APRIL 2021**

We remember the contribution and sacrifice of all those who have served and died in all wars, conflicts and Peacekeeping operations with our Allies in Australia and New Zealand on this ANZAC Day. A wreath was placed at the Cenotaph in Burnaby by the Honorary Colonel of the Regiment, Ted Hawthorne.



We will remember them!

**PRESENTATION OF HONORARY COLONEL COMMENDATION  
PAUL PINEAU AND THE MORREY AUTO GROUP  
BURNABY, B.C.  
27 APRIL 2021**

Congratulations to our good friends, Paul Pineau and the Morrey Auto Group, on receiving the Honorary Colonel's Commendation this morning in recognition of their steadfast support of the Annual Christmas Fundraiser hosted by the Regimental Association and its Charitable Trust (in support of the BCR Bursary Program for our soldiers and the various programs supporting our Veterans and Cadets). At the conclusion



of the brief ceremony, the Honorary Colonel of the Regiment, Ted Hawthorne, presented his Regimental Coin to Paul Pineau, Jarrett Morrey and Jason Morrey. Regimental Coins were also awarded to Lyle and Gary Morrey who were unable to attend the presentation.

Many thanks once again Paul and the Morrey Family.

Up the Dukes!



**2290 BCR (101 DCOR) RCACC SUPPORT COMMITTEE  
EXECUTIVE MEETING  
28 APRIL 2021**



The April meeting of the Executive of the Support Committee of 2290 BCR (101 DCOR) RCACC was held on the ZOOM platform on the evening of April 28th. Nyal Wilcox chaired the meeting, and a full slate of comprehensive reports was presented to the members. A highlight of the evening was the announcement of the appointment of C/CWO Elizabeth Xiang as the RSM of the Unit. Congratulations RSM! In addition, Honorary Captain Agnes Keegan, suitably kitted out with Chuck in the Unit's new jacket and ball cap combination, displayed the Certificate of Appreciation presented to her by The Army Cadet League of Canada-BC Branch in recognition of her 41 years of service to the Unit. Honorary Colonel Ted Hawthorne attended as a special guest and provided a brief update on Regimental Affairs and Gayle Hawthorne, President of the Regimental Association, reported to the meeting as the BCR Liaison.

The Unit is doing well, the Pandemic notwithstanding!

Up the Dukes!



**FROM THE DESK OF THE COMMANDING OFFICER  
THE DRILL HALL, VANCOUVER, B.C.  
29 APRIL 2021**



Greetings fellow Dukes!

As I reflect on the past month and what the month ahead holds in store for the Regiment, Faugh a Ballagh (Clear the way!) best defines our mindset to everything of late. The pandemic continues to impact training in a fluid and unconventional way. The Sqns have tackled it in a manner to continue moving forward. Annual mandatory administration has been completed and now clears our plates to focus on the next round of training for this spring, summer and fall. As well, now that the Royal Canadian Armoured Corps has begun the official transition of Reconnaissance Sqns to Cavalry Sqns, our path forward as part of that transition will be focused on maintaining momentum in this exciting evolution of our trade. Finally, the Drill Hall renovations. They remain on schedule with the first-floor windows now replaced and the second floor work well underway, quickly to be followed by the exterior surface replacement in short order. All efforts are in place for this to be completed before stand to in September.

I also want to make note that it is not only the Regimental Sqns and Ops Teams who have been working hard. Every component of the Regimental Family from our Cadets, Museum Society, Association, Honoraries, Bands and CO's Committee have been working diligently and with unwavering dedication and commitment to enhance the presence and impacts within each of their respective communities. Their work ensures the Dukes continue to lead the way in showcasing the Regiment as a whole family concept.

Up the Dukes.

Faugh A Ballagh

Lieutenant-Colonel Vincent Virk, CD,  
Commanding Officer





## THE START LINE

By: David Sproule, Victoria

### CHURCH PARADE

I'm thinking way back now to when I was a young officer in both the BC Regiment and the RCD, what I refer to as the "brown army" when we wore battledress and puttees and coveralls when in the field. On solemn regimental occasions or in the field the padres held church parade and of course being a parade, attendance was not optional. Back in the day you were either a protestant or a catholic - no in-betweens, and just try and be an agnostic or an atheist. Simply if you were a protestant you were known as a "right footer" and if catholic, "a left footer," and when it came to attending the parade, we were divided into these two groups and marched away to see our respective regimental padre either at the chapel/church or on the side of a knoll where we could sit on the grass and see and hear the padre.

The Dukes used to march down Georgia Street to Christ Church Cathedral on St. Julien Sunday and slip into the pews designated for the Regiment and remove berets when entering the church slipping them under an epaulette. In those days the retired Regimental Colours could be seen hanging above the congregation. Those colours are now behind glass in the Chapel of the Regiments at the Cathedral. But the Regiment also paraded to Knox Presbyterian Church in Kerrisdale where our beloved Padre Lennox would smile from his pulpit, proud to show off his "Dukes" to his regular Sunday flock. More recently we held a Drumhead Service within the Drill Hall when the Brass Band was reconstituted in 1989. It was a simple parade, and the Guidon Party would drape the Guidon across the top of the tier or drums and the padre would say a few words of remembrance and comfort.



**Padre Harry Lennox**

In the RCD back in the 1960s we would go to the field for all May and June and during this time training would gradually increase in intensity from sub-unit, to unit and finally formation level. For the firsts several weeks the regiment operated out of a tented camp including marquee tents for instruction and the messes. The tanks and scout cars were parked in a field close by – non-tactical and increasingly dusty, tanks being what they are. It was near the tank park that church parades were held every Sunday morning and our Regimental Chaplains get to "do their thing."

Our protestant chaplain was Captain Bill Isaacs, a New Brunswicker and a Presbyterian and new to the army. My connection to Bill started in garrison as I attended the Chapel on Sundays and sang bass in the choir. Somehow Bill assumed that because I was a singer, I should play the portable field organ when he held forth on that grassy hillside. Once again, another character-building experience set aside for young subbies.

"Sproule", the adjutant called out, "seeing you can sing, I assume you can read music, you'll be playing the organ for Bill Isaacs on Sunday. See him and he'll let you know the hymns."

"Dave," said padre Isaacs, here is the list of hymns, now help me set up this portable organ."

It was made of oak, a rectangular box and when unfolded had legs for support, a keyboard, music stand and two pedals to pump to make an organ-like sound. Simple and yet intimidating to me as I had quit piano lessons at age 13. They were used all through the war for just such occasions. I found a grey folding metal chair, set

up the hymn book and waited for my no-practice debut. Soon the senior NCOs had the men sitting on the grass, some in bush pants others in coveralls and my fellow subbies smirking at the back of the crowd. It was a reluctant assemblage on that Sunday morning but soon, I was pumping away on the pedals, playing with my right hand and flipping pages in the hymnal with my left and doing my best at "Abide with Me." My performance was forgettable for everyone thankfully, but for me, the memory, stick it did.

Bill dressed in his cassock carried on with the service, after all this was his moment and these were his soldiers but then something stirred in the long grass over his shoulder. There had been a squadron smoker the night before and one of the troopers decided to spend the night curled up in that field. He stood up, scratched himself, looked around and realized what was happening. He glanced across the familiar faces, saw some of his comrades and went and joined them. Under normal circumstances there would have been laughter, smartass remarks and a sergeant or two rising to the occasion but it was church and although there were smiles, Padre Bill didn't miss a beat. "Join me in singing "Onward Christian Soldiers'." Hymn book at the ready I struck the chord, pumped those pedals and we all sang.

## THE BARRETT BUNKER APRIL 2020

April remains a significant month in the history of the Regiment, remembering our valient stand at St Julien and Gravenstafel Ridge during the Second Battle for Ypres from 22-25 April 1915, Vimy Ridge from 9-12 April 1917, and our advances in WW II as the 28<sup>th</sup> Armoured Regiment (BC) during the fighting from the Netherlands into Nazi Germany in 1945. For this month I thought we should turn to the history of one of our perpetuated Great War units, the 102<sup>nd</sup> Battalion (North British Columbia) CEF, and its contribution to our victory at Vimy Ridge in 1917.



Lt-Col John W. Warden

Raised in British Columbia in 1915 under the command of Lt-Col Jack Warden, who had recovered from wounds sustained serving with the 7<sup>th</sup> Bn (1<sup>st</sup> BC) CEF at St Julien, the Regiment trained in the Comox Valley before being deployed to Britain and subsequently, France, as part of the 4<sup>th</sup> Canadian Division commanded by Maj-Gen Watson.

The 102<sup>nd</sup> saw its first action at the Somme in late 1916 with the Canadian Corps, however, we will pick up the unit story following its arrival and training in preparation for the assault at Vimy Ridge. Under the leadership of our Corps Commander, Lt-Gen Sir Julien Byng, unprecedented artillery resources were available to support the Canadian assault, tunnels were dug to get the troops unobserved as close to their jumping off points as possible, and every aspect of the battle was rehearsed by each battalion down to the lowest rank against a large scale model build in a field, and maps were issued en mass to the troops. The new 106 fuse which exploded on the mere touch of a strand of wire meant that there was a realistic opportunity of actually clearing the fields of German barbed wire. New techniques of sound and flash ranging were employed to locate the locations of the German gun batteries, and overhead the Royal Flying Corps provided Aerial Reconnaissance and cover from German observation. As part of a larger action at Arras, the 3<sup>rd</sup> British Corps prepared to advance on our left and a French Army on our right.





8 Inch Howitzer Fires at Vimy 1917

The 102<sup>nd</sup> went forward on the morning of 3 April, with two companies moving into Cavalier Tunnel to await the attack. The rest of the Battalion nearby. The artillery began its six day escalation barrage on the German positions and over 80% of the German Batteries were destroyed. On the 6<sup>th</sup> the guns manned by Canadian, British, and Sikhs from Lahore, started wire-cutting in preparation for the first attack which had been set for 0530 hrs on April 8<sup>th</sup>. Weather conditions on the morning of the 8<sup>th</sup> were horrendous, so the attack was delayed for 24 hours. By noon on the 8<sup>th</sup>, all soldiers from the 102<sup>nd</sup> were assembled in their tunnels and waiting. The four Company Commanders were given their final orders at 2030 hrs by the Acting CO, as Lt-Col Warden was away, with instructions that the 102<sup>nd</sup> was to pass through the 54<sup>th</sup> Bn once it had taken its objectives, and with their support push forward to their own objectives. On their left flank would be the 87<sup>th</sup> Bn supported by the 75<sup>th</sup>, and on the right would be the 42<sup>nd</sup> Bn acting as a connecting link between the 102<sup>nd</sup> and the PPCLI.

On the Dawn of April 9<sup>th</sup>, Easter Monday, the weather had grown much worse and when at the creeping barrage opened at 0530 hrs, the troops of the Canadian Corps advanced into a driving snow storm. The 102<sup>nd</sup> went over in perfect formation and on time. Updates were provided by wounded Officers returning to the dressing stations. By 0600 hrs the second line of enemy trenches had been taken and the third line of trenches by 0640 hrs. With all three of the 102<sup>nd</sup>'s objectives taken, the soldiers dug in to hold against German Counter-attacks.



Canadian Corps Advances at Vimy Ridge 1917

All of the officers had become casualties in the attack by the 102<sup>nd</sup> and active command fell to CSM Russell of C Company. Elsewhere, Sgt Georgeson, MM held a strong point at Broadmarsh Crater with a Platoon. The 54<sup>th</sup> which had subsequently passed through the 102<sup>nd</sup> to continue the advance had to fall back and consolidate with the 102<sup>nd</sup> NBCRs. On the left the 87<sup>th</sup> had not yet achieved its objectives against stiff resistance, leaving the 102<sup>nd</sup>'s flank exposed to sniper fire.

At 0930 hrs the Acting CO, Major Casey had obtained permission from BHQ to go forward in person to recce the positions and was able to return three hours later to report that the 102<sup>nd</sup> was secure in their positions and reported the severe sniping coming from Hill 145 on the left. Bombs and small arms ammunition supplies were brought forward, and with the capture of Hill 145 by the 85<sup>th</sup> Bn at 2030 hrs the sniping fire from the left largely ceased. Lt-Col Warden arrived in the Battalion HQ to resume command later that night.



Canadian Troops Consolidate Positions on Objectives Vimy 1917

The fighting for the 102<sup>nd</sup> North British Columbians at Vimy was over. The German Army had abandoned the ridge and was in full retreat towards his next lien of defences near Lens. Killed in action were six officers, 119 Other Ranks and 27 ORs reported missing. Nine officers were wounded in action and 180 Ors. Captured were 119 prisoners, 1 Minnenwerfer, 4 bomb throwers, and two machineguns.



Victory at Vimy Ridge

The Canadian Victory at Vimy was a resounding success. For our three fighting battalions present, the price for the 7<sup>th</sup> was 459 Dead, wounded and missing, the 29<sup>th</sup> at 68 casualties and the 102<sup>nd</sup> Battalion had 341 casualties. As for the larger battle of Arras, 3<sup>rd</sup> British Corps on our left achieved its objectives, however the French on our right were badly mauled by the German defenders. This resulted in the infamous mutiny in the French Army in 1917. For the Canadian Corps, our Commander, General Byng was promoted and given command of an Army, and his replacement was General Currie, who would go on to command the Canadians for the rest of the war.



## THE BC REGIMENT BRASS & REED BAND

### PLAYER PROFILE

#### CHRIS AHERN

By: Frederica Panon

Chris Ahern, the British Columbia Regiment Band Society's Bugle Major, is one of the longer-serving members. Chris joined the Band in 2002, shortly after arriving with his family in Canada from South Africa.



Cadet groups and bands were part of the South African secondary school scene. Chris was first introduced to bugle playing in his cadet band, performing in ceremonies and competitions over five years, eventually becoming the Drum Major. In parallel, Chris joined the Natal Carbineers Band, a volunteer military concert band associated with the Natal Carbineers, a South African Reserve regiment. They performed frequently in Pieter Maritzburg, the capital of the province of Natal in South Africa. While studying computer science in university, Chris also joined other classical musicians to form a pop music quintet as a bass guitar player. After university, he formed a two-man band for a few years in Pretoria.

After joining the BC Regiment Band thanks to our advertisement in the Georgia Straight, Chris also played with the Little Mountain Brass Band (LMBB) and the Royal Westminster Regiment Band, and the Deep Cove Big Band. During a particularly active summer for the LMBB, their band leader, Jim Littleford, was struggling with the logistics of notifying members about upcoming engagements. Upon doing a search and realising that there wasn't an available, pre-existing software solution, Chris created the online service, Muzodo.com, for simplifying the performance notification and response-tracking process for medium to large musical groups.

Muzodo is enjoying success, and is used all over the world, including Canada, the U.K, the U.S, Australia and New Zealand. British Brass and Pipe Bands who share players have enthusiastically welcomed Muzodo. Many concert bands and choirs are also use the service. Chris is very aware of the various ongoing expenses community musical groups have and only charges a nominal fee of \$5/month. Chris has spent hundreds of hours refining his online software; it more a labour of love supporting the community bands than a commercial enterprise.

The mentoring and encouragement from John More, former Bugle Major of the BC Regiment Band, were critical in Chris taking up the bugle again. It was a step out of his comfort zone to start bugling for ceremonies: being in the spotlight, there is pressure to get all the notes right. Chris has bugled at funerals, school Remembrance Day assemblies, and the Cloverdale Remembrance Day ceremony, hospitals and long-term care homes. Chris finds it deeply fulfilling to play to commemorate the Fallen with the deeper, fuller tones of the bugle. Chris Ahern was officially recognised as Bugle Major, succeeding John More, in a ceremony in 2017.

Chris also led the BCR Brass Group for four years, to provide more challenging music for more advanced brass players. He led additional rehearsals and found performances around the GVRD for the Brass Group. This led to Victoria Day performances for the full Band at the Burnaby Village Museum. He also wrote an arrangement of "A Bugle Blast" and got the music for "South African Songs" from the Natal Carbineers.

Between increasing work and family commitments, Chris has pared back his community engagements to just playing with the BC Regiment Band Society and continuing improvements of Muzodo.

## THE BC REGIMENT IRISH PIPES AND DRUMS

### PLAYER PROFILE

#### ROBERT GREENSLADE

Robert Greenslade joined the BCR Irish Pipes & Drums in May 2000 as the Bass Drummer, making him the second longest serving current member of the band. With his Scottish ancestry, he has always been a fan of pipe and drum music and Scottish culture, competing in the heavy events in the amateur class at highland games and performing the Address to the Haggis at Robbie Burns dinners and weddings.

An old family friend introduced Rob to the Irish Band at an annual event called Hip, Hip, Hurray (a fundraiser for hip replacement surgery) at Spanish Banks. Having arrived at the event as a spectator, then P/M Gord Barrett rushed over to shake his hand, saying it was nice to meet the band's new Bass Drummer!



Although blindsided, Rob attended the next practice two days later and has been with the band ever since. Assisted by lessons from Chris Curr, a former bass drummer from the Maple Ridge Pipe Band, and his own interest in percussion, he quickly adapted to the role.



Rob also acts as the band's Quartermaster, overseeing equipment acquisition and issuance, as well as Dress and Department. Well-versed in Regimental history, he helps new members understand the significance of military events and uniform.

Aside from his interest in music, Rob has owned and campaigned several Champion show dogs, winning championships in both Canada and the USA, including having the number 1 male Weimaraner in Canada for 2008. Rob also avidly travels the globe as part of his longstanding interest in ancient architecture and stone working, visiting sites and giving lectures concerning accepted and alternate theories about construction methods and dating.



# THE BC REGIMENT IRISH PIPES AND DRUMS

## PLAYER PROFILE

### ROSALIE MACDONALD

Born and raised in Cape Breton, Rosalie was immersed in Celtic music from an early age. She picked up the bagpipes in her early teens after taking practice chanter lessons at St. Ann's Gaelic College.

She joined the BCR Pipes and Drums in October 2002 after seeing an advertisement for players in the Georgia Straight. She immediately called the number while standing on the sidewalk because she was so eager to reconnect with Celtic music after moving to BC.



Nearly twenty years later, she continues as a senior member of the band, playing an integral role as the Band Secretary, facilitating communication both internally and on social media. She organizes practices and is an abundant source of wise cracks in an authentic East Coast accent.

She met her husband, Cpl RTS (Terry) Haigh (retired), during a combined regiment / band rehearsal at the Beatty Drill Hall.



## COLUMBUS LONG TERM CARE SOCIETY

### A DONOR'S STORY

#### TED & GAYLE HAWTHORNE

I have been involved, at various levels, in the planning, construction, opening and operation of Columbus Residence, for a period of 37 years since its inception. During that period of time, I have been a member, a director for at least 30 of those years and its President for 5 years. At all times, it has been an honour for me to be associated with Columbus Residence and its exceptional staff and volunteers. Their service, dedication and commitment to our residents is second to none and has always been that way and continues to be so today. The ethos that drives Columbus Residence to be the standard of excellence in our community is, in my opinion, based upon the respect and professionalism of our staff and volunteers, each unto the other, which translates into the premium health care received by our most precious consideration, our residents. My wife Gayle and I have also supported Columbus Residence as donors every year since the beginning and we will continue to do same in the future as we are truly blessed to have such a wonderful facility in our community! Needless to say, there is always a great need to support our residents and to provide many of the extras which the Health Authority is unable to provide. Columbus Residence has been exceedingly successful in accomplishing its many fundraising objectives from day one! After so many years of successful operation, it is our view and our recommendation to any potential donor to consider the record of Columbus Residence as a leader in delivering premium health care to all of its residents...a proud fact indeed!



#### DUKE'S DEN



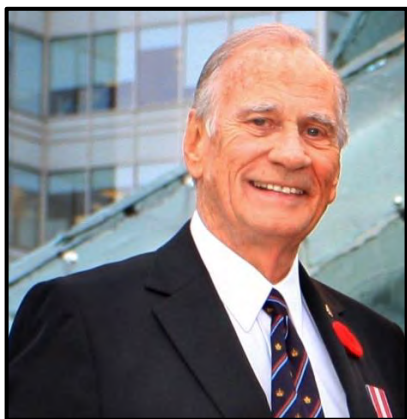
Duke A. Bear and Colleen enjoying  
St. Patrick's Day 2021



Duke A. Bear enjoying Easter 2021



## THE B.C. REGIMENT (DCO) MUSEUM SOCIETY THE MUSEUM UPDATE



Like everyone in the Regimental family, the COVID 19 pandemic has kept members of the British Columbia Regiment Museum Society away from the Drill Hall for more than a year to ensure our health and safety. As a result, our volunteer members with very few exceptions, have been prevented from being actively working at various tasks in the museum and archives. To say the past year has been challenging for the museum is an understatement!

Like others, we expected to be free of the pandemic by now and that restrictions would be lifted but as we all know that prediction was dashed as we approached spring. Our hope today is for a return to normalcy, and to the museum and archives, this coming fall.

While the pandemic forced the closure of the museum and archives, it has allowed the planned physical improvements to the Drill Hall to proceed without interruption. This included replacement of all windows in the building, and five in the two-room museum on the second floor.

With the help of soldiers from the Regiment, silverware, display cases and various movables were safely shifted away from the wall to make room for the contractor to remove the 120-year-old windows and replaced with heavy duty security glass windows. Our museum and its valuable collections will be more secure than ever.

Once the green light is given for renewed access to the Drill Hall all display cases and various items will be moved back, freshly cleaned drapes re-hung, and the weapons collection returned to secure display cases. As a security measure all firearms were relocated to safe location during the window replacement work in the museum.

A great deal of archival work has been put on hold since the pandemic restrictions were imposed and volunteer members are anxious to return to accession work, which is a priority, along with sorting and digitizing photographs and general clean-up. In addition, physical improvements to the archival space will take place in the coming year.

Special access was granted during the pandemic to our Weapons Curator and Vice-president, Bill Whalen, to conduct a full inventory of the museum weapons collection. His report, submitted to Society Directors at the April 2021 meeting, is an extensive analysis and series of recommendations on the future status of the collection.

After spending close to 50 volunteer hours, Mr. Whalen found that 75 firearms are held by the museum, which is a large number for a small organization such as ours. He believes the focus of our collection be on firearms used by, or have a direct relevance to, the B.C. Regiment in its history. He has therefore recommended the de-acquisition of specific weapons. The Whalen report and its recommendations have been approved by Society Directors.

In early January, before the “third wave” of the pandemic was detected, the museum was approached by the Commanding Officer of the Regiment to assist with securing pictures of former COs on the hallway wall leading to the Officers Mess. In consultation with the PMC a carpenter was engaged, and a picture

rail was installed. The museum undertook the repainting and to re-affix the pictures. The result is a satisfactory and secure improvement.

This initiative has prompted the restoration and revival of the hallway leading to the museum on the second floor. The retention of certain pictures and the replacement of others in this space is being discussed together with improved lighting and a new coat of paint. When the all-clear is given for full access to the Drill Hall a small museum team will proceed with this work in consultation with the Commanding Officer.

At the request of the Commanding Officer the museum will initiate the upgrading of historical displays on the parade square. This action will include updating exhibits where required along with standardizing new signage and information. The aim is to ensure that members of the Regiment are more fully aware of the importance of its history. Related to this is a plan to offer a presentation of artifacts for up to 10 soldiers in the museum once per month. All of which will begin once current restrictions are lifted.

The pandemic has not slowed donations to the museum. Late last year we received several valuable first-edition books, and recently the uniform, medals (including MC) and decorations of LCol R.G. Parkhurst, the last Commanding Officer of the 29<sup>th</sup> Bn (Vancouver Regiment). This month we received the silver cigarette case and walking stick of LCol H.S. Tobin, who commanded the 29<sup>th</sup> Bn (Tobin's Tigers) during WW 1.

The Regiment website has undergone major upgrading in recent months and the museum "page" on website will soon be revised and updated, with special attention to reporting changes, acquisitions, historic features, and improvements in the museum and archives as they occur. The aim is to also report current news of museum and archives activity, including sales and donations, on the website page.

I would be remiss to not mention that "Swift & Strong - The Pictorial History of The British Columbia Regiment (Duke of Connaught's Own)" is available for sale at the reasonable cost of \$50.00. This wonderful book would make a great gift for anyone as a birthday, anniversary or 'anytime' gift to a relative or friend. We have a good supply on hand so please order any time.

Looking ahead, Society Directors have approved setting up a special museum "reset" committee with a mandate to evaluate and set future priorities, policies, administration, collections, displays and exhibits, donations and acquisitions, regimental relations, educational opportunities (internal/external), public access, and physical improvements. This is a broad objective but necessary as the museum approaches a full re-opening of activity in the coming months. The committee has been asked to provide its report at the Society Annual General Meeting in November 2021.

The B.C. Regiment (DCO) Museum Society is a foundational component of the history of the Regiment, for it provides a glimpse into the lives, actions, and sacrifices of former and currently serving soldiers. As such the museum and archives has a significant responsibility to ensure that the history and heritage of the Regiment is safely and securely retained, improved upon and enjoyed by future generations. This stewardship is imperative.

HMaj Cam Cathcart, President  
The B.C Regiment (DCO) Museum Society  
lhccathcart@gmail.com  
April 2021



**THE BRITISH COLUMBIA REGIMENT  
(DUKE OF CONNAUGHT'S OWN) MUSEUM SOCIETY**



**CHALLENGE COIN**

\$20.00 (plus postage)

To place a coin order please contact Rick Hourie,  
Vice President, at [rickhourie@shaw.ca](mailto:rickhourie@shaw.ca)



**SWIFT & STRONG**

\$50.00 (plus postage)

For a copy of **Swift & Strong**, please  
contact Cam Cathcart, President, at  
[lhccathcart@gmail.com](mailto:lhccathcart@gmail.com) or 604-682-5453

The BCR Museum is always looking for volunteers for a variety of tasks. If you are interested in assisting with the Regimental Archives, please get in touch with the Museum President, Cam Cathcart, at [lhccathcart@gmail.com](mailto:lhccathcart@gmail.com) or 604-682-5453.

**ASSOCIATION KIT SHOP**

The BCR Kit Shop is now online:

<http://www.canex.ca/military/military-kit-shops/army-kit-shops.html?cat=1262>

You can now buy a BCR tie, blazer crest, lapel pin, hoodie and PT Shirts (male and female option) through Canex online. You pay online and they are shipped direct to you.

The blazer crest is available online at <http://www.canex.ca/british-columbia-regiment-blazercrest.html>

The Kit Shop has the following items for sale:

1. Mini Guidons – estimated cost is \$130.00 – in stock.
2. **NEW:** BCR cap badge on cuff links, pens and pocket watch.
3. **NEW:** BCR flag (36" x 72") - \$150.00

To place an order, please e-mail [KitShop@DukeABear.com](mailto:KitShop@DukeABear.com)



Mini Guidons



Cuff Links  
\$35.00



Pen  
\$25.00



Pocket Watch  
\$105.00

## ASSOCIATION DIRECTORS AND OFFICERS

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

## TRUSTEES OF THE REGIMENTAL ASSOCIATION CHARITABLE TRUST

Don Bentley	Bill Ireland
Andy Conradi	Bill McCarthy
Bill Diamond (Secretary)	Archie Steacy
Ted Hawthorne (Chair)	

## 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.

## NOTICE TO ALL PROVINCIAL EMPLOYEES

The Provincial Employees Community Services Fund (“PECSF”) is registered with Canada Revenue Agency’s Charities Directorate as a Charitable Employee Trust. Each year the PECSF runs a fundraising campaign for provincial government employees throughout BC. Please consider designating the BCR Charitable Trust when supporting this program.



# REMEMBRANCE

## REMEMBERING BRIGADIER GENERAL PATRICK CAREW, CD 29 JANUARY 2021

By: Colonel Steve Graham  
Director – Royal Canadian Armoured Corps

Members of the Royal Canadian Armoured Corps / Aux membres du Corps blindé royal canadien,

It is my unfortunate duty to inform you of the passing of Brigadier General Patrick Carew, CD at the age of 89.

BGen Carew was first commissioned in 1948 as an officer in the Lord Strathcona's Horse (Royal Canadian). He would go on to serve with the Fort Garry Horse and would culminate his regimental service with The Royal Canadian Dragoons as the Regiment's 32nd Commanding Officer. BGen Carew would later command CFB Suffield and the Canadian Land Forces Command and Staff College in Kingston. After 37 years of service he transferred to the supplemental reserve and served as both an Honourary Lieutenant Colonel of the BCD and as the RCD's Colonel of the Regiment. He has lived in British Columbia since his retirement from the Canadian Forces.

At this point, because of COVID, there are no plans for a service in the near term. The RCD will post any updates to their Guild's Facebook site.

I would ask that this email be shared amongst the various associations of our Corps.

My condolences to BGen Carew's family, his friends and his acquaintances.



-----  
J'ai le triste devoir aujourd'hui de vous informer du décès de Bgén Patrick Carew, CD à l'âge de 89 ans.

Le Bgén Carew avait été nommé pour la première fois en 1948, comme officier des Lord Strathcona's Horse (Royal Canadian). Il avait servi aussi avec le Fort Garry Horse, et a terminer son service régimentaire avec le Royal Canadian Dragoons en tant que 32e commandant du régiment. Le Bgén Carew avait commandé plus tard, la BFC Suffield et le Collège de commandement et d'état-major des Forces terrestres canadiens à Kingston. Après 37 ans de service, il avait été muté à la réserve supplémentaire et avait servi comme lieutenant-colonel honoraire du BCD et comme colonel du régiment du RCD. Depuis sa retraite des Forces canadiennes, Il avait vit en Colombie-Britannique.

A ce temps, en raison de COVID, il n'y aura pas de plans pour un service à court terme. Le RCD publiera toutes les mises à jour sur the site Facebook du Guild of The Royal Canadian Dragoons.

Veuillez transmettre le présent courriel ou son contenu aux diverses associations de notre Corps.

Mes condoléances à la famille de, ainsi qu'à ses amis et connaissances.

Worthy!

Colonel Steve Graham

Director – Royal Canadian Armoured Corps (Dir RCAC)

Canadian Armed Forces

steven.graham4@forces.gc.ca | Tel: 613-541-5010 x 7601 | Cell: 613-484-3611

Directeur – Corps blindé royal canadien (Dir CBRC)

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## EDITOR'S NOTE:

The following announcement entitled "Honouring a Canadian Hero" was originally published on 26 March 2021 in the **Village Update** and was reproduced verbatim by the **Juno Beach Centre Association**. The announcement is reproduced with their kind permission.



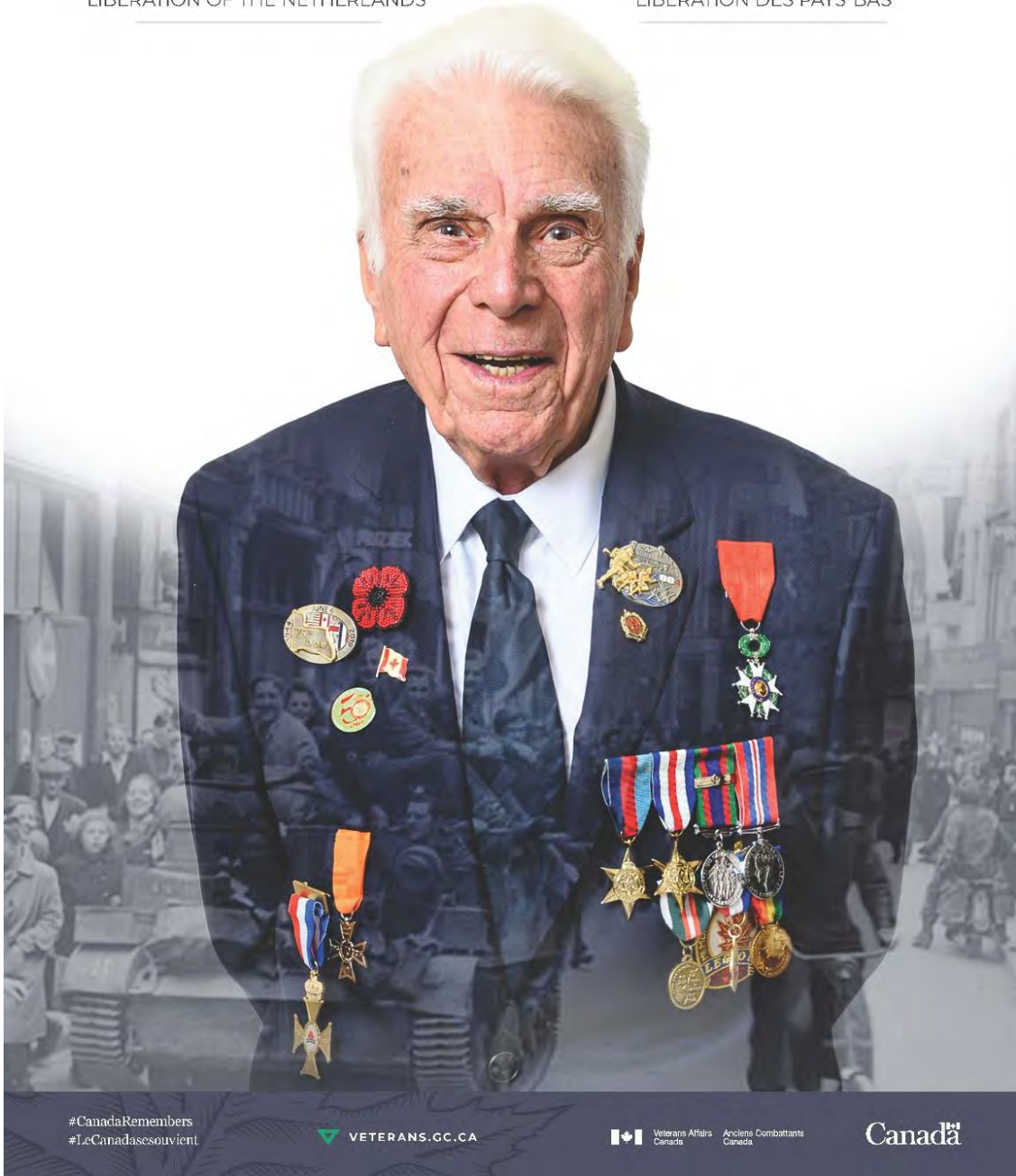


# VICTORY 75 VICTOIRE

Victory in Europe (V-E) Day  
LIBERATION OF THE NETHERLANDS

1945-2020

Le jour de la Victoire en Europe  
LIBÉRATION DES PAYS-BAS



#CanadaRemembers  
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Honouring a Canadian Hero !

Sir Norman Kirby  
July, 9<sup>th</sup> 1925 - March 24<sup>th</sup> 2021

As our hearts are in pain for the loss of our beloved WWII Veteran and longtime Lions Bay resident Sir Norman Kirby, we feel the impact and what it means to know what a courageous young Canadian boy and his legacy has instilled in us. No matter how often we listened to his stories, paid tribute to his life, watched the interviews, shared our endearing love and were awakened on what his sacrifice infused to the generations that are us now.

As we sang O' Canada, we deeply felt the impact Sir Norman made from Sea to shining Sea. He left the West Coast as a young soldier, headed off to Halifax, and onward to distant and foreign places and beaches in Europe to Stand on Guard for thee. Returning to the West Coast and later settled in his newfound sanctuary on Howe Sound to heal the battle wounds

with his wife Vicky at his side. Their journey an unique Love Story with every step of the way.

Norman leaves an enormous space of emptiness, including a pair of boots that will never be filled again.

To All of you who embraced the last few weeks with your kindness, words, help, gestures, cards, flowers, prayers, and good wishes "Thank YOU!" All of it lifted both Norman and Vicky's spirits as they found their road map on how to navigate the times at Lions Gate Hospital during the past few weeks. A special and heartfelt "THANK YOU" to Dr. Ross Brown of Lions Bay for his unwavering support, the many hospital visits on all things possible.

I often head into the woods to find my equilibrium and Wednesday afternoon was one of those times. With rake in hand I cleaned up piles of windfall debris. I noticed a few specks of colour amongst the leaves. Upon closer inspection I noticed a painted "2020



Remembrance Day Rock.” I lifted it up, dusted it off and placed it back where it belonged.

A few short hours later the sad news arrived that Sir Norman Kirby passed away. With his beloved wife Vicky at his side, his last breath came peacefully as he slipped away.

Each one of us will feel and know snippets of memories that fill our hearts as we carry on.

The flags are lowered in deep Sympathy, Respect & Gratitude for Sir Norman Kirby, his wife Vicky and their extended families.

You might visit the Lions Bay Memorial Cairn as your time allows for a special and unique tribute to a Man who inspired so many by his actions and service. Notice the “Canadian Liberator Tulips” they are showing their 2021 signs of rebirth. It seems such a short while ago when our pots, horns drums, National Anthems sounded on Lions Bay Avenue in our

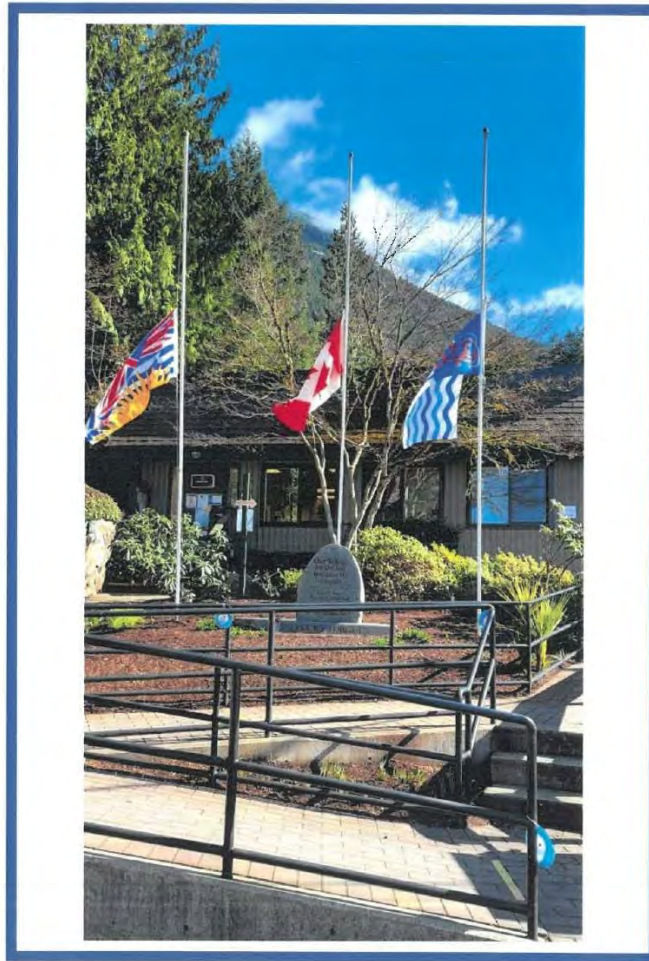
collective Covid way to gather and honour Sir Norman Kirby on May 5<sup>th</sup> 2020. That date marked the 75<sup>th</sup> Liberation Day of the Netherlands.

As a special Lions Bay tribute to Sir Norman Kirby, let us come together in our homes and light a PEACE candle on Sunday, March 28<sup>th</sup> at 7.00 PM.

In quiet Remembrance.

Trudi Luethy





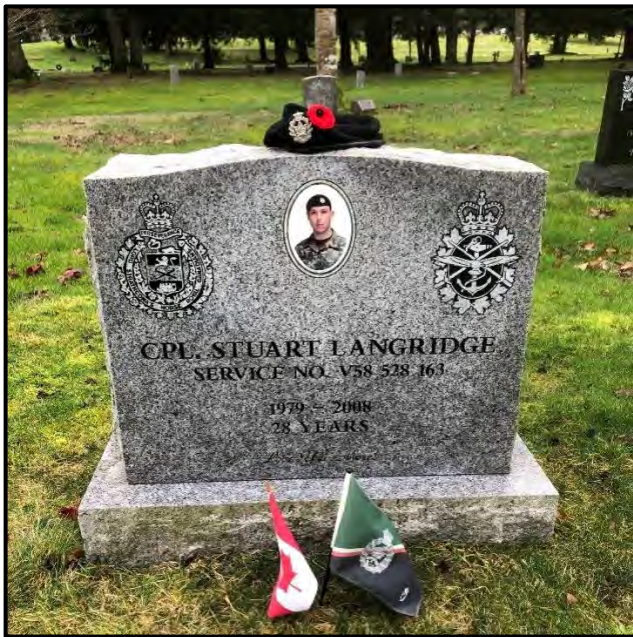
**REMEMBERING  
CPL STUART LANGRIDGE  
29 JANUARY 2021  
By: Jeff Pope**

I just popped by to clean Stuart's grave marker and pay my respects at Hatley Memorial Gardens across from Royal Roads. Lovely location. On leaving I noticed a memorial bench some 10m in front, green - I scrubbed it down for his Mum.

Up the Dukes!







#### **EDITOR'S NOTE:**

The family of Colonel Howe Lee has kindly given their consent to the publication of Howe's Biography and the Eulogy of Edmund Wu, recited at the private funeral ceremony held at Ocean View Funeral Home in Burnaby on Wednesday, March 24, 2021.

Honorary Colonel Ted Hawthorne, representing the Regiment, the Regimental Family and the Honoraries of 39 Canadian Brigade Group, attended the Viewing at Ocean View Funeral Home on Tuesday evening.

Thank you and our sincere condolences to Hilda, Richard and Elena.

### **HOWE YET LEE**

Howe Yet Lee was born in Armstrong, BC on November 2, 1932. He grew up in a welcoming home that instilled great pride in their Chinese heritage, which he shared with 10 other siblings. Howe was proud of his family's work ethic and the fact that they were pioneers in growing and distributing Chinese produce to the local area and as far as Winnipeg. He always spoke fondly of his youth and brought his memories alive with his amazing ability to recall and tell the stories of his past.

In 1951, Howe moved to Vancouver to attend the University of British Columbia, obtaining a Bachelor of Science Degree. He went on to further his education at UBC receiving a Diploma in Education in 1958. Immediately after graduation, he began his teaching career at Alpha Secondary School in Burnaby. Howe began his postgraduate work in 1966 at the University of Washington where he completed his Masters of Education in 1969. He continued his career

throughout the Burnaby School District teaching at Edmonds Elementary School, Edmonds Junior Secondary School, Burnaby South, and finally retiring from his teaching career back at the school which he began; Alpha Secondary in 1989.

Howe met Hilda at a professional development day in 1969. Their courtship was a short one as Howe proposed only three months after they met. Howe and Hilda were married on July 25, 1970 and built the family home on Haszard Street in Burnaby. On June 3, 1977, Howe and Hilda welcomed their pride and joy, Richard, who completed their family.

During the summers, Howe worked for Agriculture Canada as a primary products inspector. This reflected his love of farming that was developed in his youth. Howe enjoyed planting vegetable gardens and taking care of the landscaping at his family home. Hilda and Howe enjoyed this as a pass time they took part in together.

Howe was not one to slow down and after retiring from his teaching career he began a new career as a realtor from 1990 to 2005.

Throughout his whole life, Howe was involved in the military. As a youth he was involved in the Army Cadet program in his hometown. When he became of age, he joined the Rocky Mountain Rangers in Armstrong as a Private. Once completing his Officer training, Howe served until 1987 in various roles and capacities in the Junior Officer ranks and the Senior Officer ranks including:

- Platoon Commander,
- Company Commander,
- Deputy Commanding Officer,
- Commanding Officer,
- Staff Officer, Operations and Training,
- Senior Staff Officer, Operations and Training, and
- Senior Staff Officer of Planning.

Throughout his career, he served with:

- The Royal Canadian Army Service Corps,
- Vernon Army Cadet Camp,
- The Royal Westminster Regiment,
- 12 Service Battalion,
- 39 Service battalion, and
- Headquarters, Pacific Militia Area.

Howe did not entirely retire from the military as he continued on in honorary roles, appointments, and committees. At various times, he was:

- a Regimental Secretary,
- an Honorary Lieutenant Colonel, and
- an Honorary Colonel.

Howe was very passionate about his Chinese heritage. He was involved with:

- The Chinese Canadian Association of Public Affairs,



- The Chinese Cultural Centre Museum and Archives, and
- The Chinese Cultural Centre of Greater Vancouver.

One accomplishment that he was extremely proud of was the founding of the Chinese Canadian Military Museum.

Throughout the community, Howe has been involved as a member, director, president, or advisor to a number of national, provincial, and municipal organizations. These include appointments within:

- The Department of National Defence,
- The Correctional Service of Canada,
- The Royal United Services Institute,
- The National Congress of Chinese Canadians,
- The B.C. Summer Games,
- The Chinese Canadian Military Museum,
- Vancouver Victory Square,
- Vancouver Chinatown Memorial Square,
- The Asian Heritage Month Society, and
- The Chinatown Re-vitalization.

Howe has been recognized for his lifelong achievements with the following awards, namely:

- the Canadian Forces Decoration,
- the Queen's Golden Jubilee Medal,
- the Queen's Diamond Jubilee Medal,
- Minister of Veterans Affairs Commendation,
- the Realtors Caring Award of Greater Vancouver, and
- the Paul Harris Fellow award by the Rotary Clubs International.

Howe has also been recognized for his dedication by many of the societies he has been part of.

In June of 2017, Howe was presented the Meritorious Service Medal by the Governor General. Howe, Hilda, Richard, and Elena had the honor of traveling to Ottawa together where Howe was presented with this award. In many ways, this award was the culmination of Howe's lifelong dedication to the service of others.

## **A EULOGY FOR HOWE LEE**

**By: Edmund Wu**

My family and I were greatly saddened by the passing of Colonel Howe Lee.

Hilda, Richard, and Elena – Our sincere condolences to you and your family.

I have many fond memories of Howe as a Veteran of Canada, a scholar, and a close friend.

Apart from many other community involvements, Howe was also a member of an Advisory Committee of the Pacific Region of the Correctional Service of Canada, which led him to visit various federal correctional institutions in the Fraser Valley and Vancouver Island. During a visit to William Head Institution in Victoria,

he noticed an area with headstones which he then learned as the burial site for the fallen members of the Chinese Labour Corps recruited from Shandong Province of China, who were in transit to France via Halifax, Nova Scotia to participate in the First World War and on their return to William Head Institution after the War before heading back to China.

Howe had since actively promoted the revitalization and recognition of this 'Chinese Military Cemetery' at William Head Institution and, hence, was instrumental in bringing the plan to visit the Institution to fruition in 2013 and 2014 for members of the Chinese Canadian Military Museum and ANAVETS Pacific Unit 280 to pay tribute to the Chinese Labour Corps of WWI. With Howe's input, a cairn was also built and placed in the 'Chinese Military Cemetery' at William Head Institution, which is well maintained to this date with the support of the management of the Institution.

I frequently remember the many pleasant occasions which Howe and I attended together including military functions and events. We often went for meals or coffee as well. Howe and I last met for coffee at the end of August of last year. Thereafter, we continued to maintain contact by phone.

Hilda, Howe mentioned, at times, about his commitment and pleasure of going out with you for the weekly family shopping on Wednesdays before the COVID-19 pandemic.

Richard, your Dad was proud of you as a dedicated paramedic. He took pride of your career development and assuming a managerial position in Northern B.C. in 2018. Likewise, he was pleased that you returned to Vancouver last year for a new assignment. He often talked about his appreciation to you for mowing their lawn and doing heavy work around their house in addition to getting groceries for them during the pandemic.

I will continue to miss Howe dearly. He was indeed an Officer and a gentleman. Although Howe has departed us on this earth, he will never be forgotten.

We will meet again!

## **CHINESE CANADIAN MILITARY MUSEUM SOCIETY FACE BOOK POST – 7 MARCH 2021**

Some sad news from our Tuskegee friends from south of the border. We learned that Robert "Bob" Ashby, a Tuskegee airman and the first black captain for Frontier Airlines passed away on March 5, 2021.

Bob was born in Yemassee, South Carolina on July 17, 1926. After his father died, Bob and his mother Lillian Ashby, moved to Jersey City, New Jersey, along with his brother James and sister, Elizabeth. As a student in high school, Bob began to investigate pilot training after hearing of the experiences of black pilots in the 99th.

Bob graduated from Ferris High School in Jersey City, New Jersey at seventeen and enlisted in the Army Air Corps. He was called to active duty in 1944 and was assigned to Keesler Field, Mississippi for basic training and testing for entry into the Aviation Cadet program. In December 1944, Ashby was sent to Tuskegee, Alabama to begin cadet training in the Stearman PT-17, AT-6, and the B-25 aircraft. On November 20, 1945, he graduated as a 2nd Lt. in the Class of 45-H.

The man was a class act. We are so pleased that over the years we got to know him through our Chinese Canadian veterans and their enduring friendship with the Tuskegee airmen.

We salute you sir.





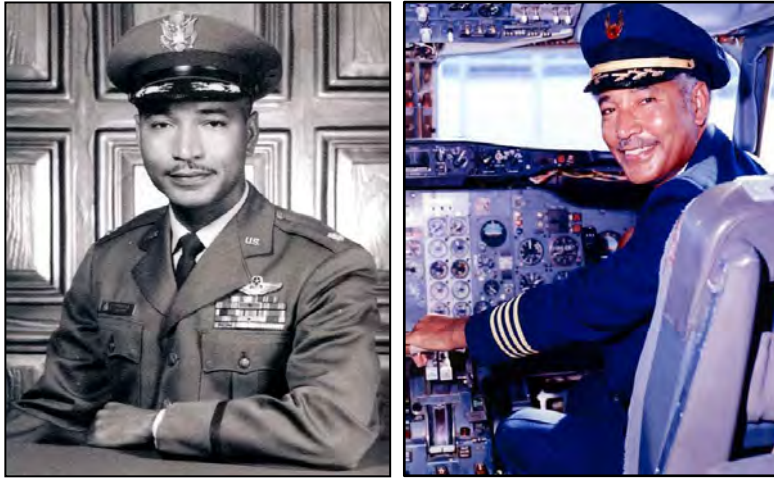
**EDITOR'S NOTE:** The above Face Book post was reprinted verbatim with the kind permission of CCMMS and King Wan (photographer).



The photo to the left was taken in June 2013 during the historic visit by the Tuskegee Airman to Vancouver for the "Red Tails and Dragon Tales" Summit organized by the CCMMS. Our sincere condolences to the family and friends of Colonel Bob and to our Tuskegee Airmen friends.

We will remember him!

## ONE OF THREE SURVIVING TUSKEGEE AIRMEN IN ARIZONA PASSES AWAY



Lt. Col. Robert Ashby, USAF, Ret. Frontier Airlines Captain, Retired

Lt. Col. (Retired) Robert Ashby, USAF, and Captain (Retired) Frontier Airlines, passed away Friday, March 5, 2021 at his home in Sun City, AZ. He was 95 years old. This Tuskegee Airman was the first African American hired by Frontier Airlines.

He was born in Yemassee, SC on July 17, 1926. After his father died, his mother Lillian, brother James, sister Elizabeth, and Bob moved to Jersey City, NJ. While in high school, Bob investigated pilot training after hearing of the experiences of black pilots in the 99th Pursuit Squadron of the U.S. Army Air Corps at Tuskegee, AL. At seventeen, he enlisted in the Army Air Corps Aviation Cadet program and was called to active duty in August 1944 after graduating from Ferris High School in Jersey City, N.J. Bob was assigned to Keesler Field, MS for basic training and in December 1944 he was sent to Tuskegee, AL to begin aviation training. As a cadet he flew the Stearman PT-17, AT-6, and the B-25. Ashby graduated and was commissioned a Second Lieutenant with the Tuskegee Class of 45-H on November 20, 1945.

Second Lieutenant Ashby was assigned to Japan as a part of the U.S. occupying force. Upon his arrival, he was rejected by two white flying units because of his color as the Army was still segregated. Ashby was removed from pilot status and assigned to a black company in the Quartermaster Department in Tokyo, Japan. In May 1949, Ashby was reassigned to the black unit at Lockbourne Airfield, OH and was reinstated to flying status. In August 1949, Ashby was assigned to Wright Patterson AFB for a short tour, then to Cleveland Municipal Airport to a Reserve Troop Carrier Wing. Here he trained Reserve weekend warriors in the T-6 and C-46 aircraft.

In 1952, Ashby flew combat in B-26s for a year while stationed in Korea. In 1956, he was assigned to England and flew the T-33, B-45, and B-66 aircraft. Later Ashby trained in the B-47 bomber and later served as a B-47 instructor. In July 1965, Robert Ashby retired as a Lt. Col. after twenty-one years of honorable service in U.S. Air Force. During his career, Bob attended the University of Maryland and U.C.L.A college programs.

Ashby started his commercial aviation career in 1965 with United Airlines as one of their flight operations instructors. He taught in the classroom, on the airplane simulator, and in the 727 aircraft. In 1968, he helped write the training program for the 747 aircraft, including the curriculum, the objectives for the 747, and the instructions for the aircrews. He also served as a classroom and simulator instructor.

In 1973, Ashby was employed by Frontier Airlines as a second officer pilot, first officer, and then as captain. He flew the Twin Otter, Convair 580, Boeing 737, and MD-80. He had an outstanding record of precision, quality, courtesy, and safety with Frontier Airlines and over 20,000 flying hours. In addition, he was the first African American pilot to reach mandatory retirement age (60 years) with a major airline. Bob Ashby retired on July 17, 1986.

Bob Ashby is survived by his wife, Dorina and three sons. Funeral services will be private due the continued pandemic.

For additional information, please contact Joseph Olano, Public Information Officer, Archer-Ragsdale Arizona Chapter, Tuskegee Airmen, Inc. Phone: 951-660-9463; email: josephaolano@gmail.com.





## **ASLEEP**

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