

# The Rifleman 2019

Battle Honours



1860 - Present



HONOURING THE FALLEN OF THE QUEEN'S OWN RIFLES OF CANADA 1860 - 2018

*The Journal of the Queen's Own Rifles of Canada*  
*"Standing on Guard Since 1860"*

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## LCol Collin Edward Rayment, CD

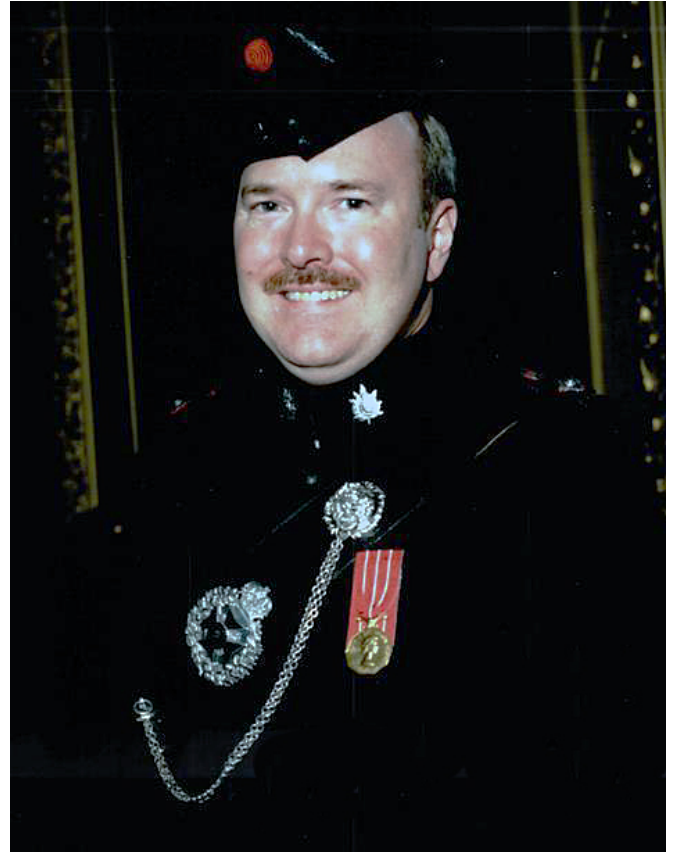
### Words from the Editor

As the editor I am proud of this year's Rifleman Journal. I wish to thank those who have submitted the many interesting and dynamic articles which are included.

This publication was founded in 1979 by Col Elliott Dalton and Capt Adam Hermant. The Journal has been produced continuously for over forty years and will continue into the future in electronic format.

As you can appreciate the Rifleman Journal provides not only an annual historical report of the unit but also a continuous link to the "on-goings" of Canada's longest serving infantry unit.

### In Pace Paratus



The line found at the bottom of the cover, "Standing On Guard Since 1860" states a continuous condition of our service to Canada. It does not replace our motto "in Pace Paratus" which adorns our Cap Badge. Instead this unique statement which was a gift to the Regiment by one of Canada's leading advertising agencies - "J.Walter Thompson" on the occasion of our 150th anniversary of our service to Canada, defines our continuous support to our proud country.

In support of our Airborne Roll I have enclosed a unique article entitled Lieutenant JGK Parachute story which is one of the many articles archived by our Regimental Museum at Casa Loma. Amazing that Lt JGK Strathy who would become Canada's first to qualify as a jumper would end up in later years as our Honorary Colonel.

To all of our Rifleman both past and present as well as our friends of the Regiment, this Journal is a genuine reminder that as a family we need to continually find and define means to support the operating fund of our Trust Fund. Such donations support not only this Journal but also act as the feeder of our annual non public funds budget which generate support for Commanding Officers both present and future.

Your Editor  
LCol Collin Edward Rayment (ret)

# Commanding Officer's Report

Each Rifleman's full embrace of our Regiment's priorities throughout 2018 contributed to strong success in:

- Integration with our Regular Force colleagues and other 32 Canadian Brigade Group units;
- Recruiting;
- Growth;
- Professional development modernization;
- Engagement with Canadians through our Canadian Army Reserve leading social media platform;
- Commemoration of the WWI Armistice centenary; &
- the Unveiling of our Regimental Wall of Honour and Regimental Battle Honours.

Our Regiment led the Tactical Training Group planning, integration, collaboration, and execution of Infantry Battle Task Standards and Field Training Exercises (FTX), seeing a number of units fall under the Queen's Own command during this collective training period. The 2018 FTX series culminated in Exercise PEGASUS STRIKE III (Ex PS III) - an airmobile, airborne seize and hold to facilitate defensive operations training in conjunction with 3rd Battalion, Royal Canadian Regiment's (3RCR) Recce Platoon, 436 Squadron, 450 Squadron, the Royal Regiment of Canada, the Lincoln & Welland Regiment, and 32 Signals Regiment. In the final analysis, Ex PS III served as a strong demonstration of Regimental capability to lead in conjunction with our Reserve and Regular Force counterparts.

Strong integration with 3RCR and the Canadian Army Advanced Warfare Centre (CAAWC) throughout 2018 was observed in FTX integration, a fully-integrated Basic Parachutist Course, a fully-integrated Basic Mountain Operations Course, and strong performance on the Basic Reconnaissance Patrolman Course (Basic Recce) by our well-prepared candidates. Toward that end, MCpl Catenacci achieved the Basic Recce Top Candidate honour - a significant and rare accomplishment in the life of a Rifleman - and a reminder that Army Reservists punch well above their weight regardless of who is on the trace. This truth carried over into the expeditionary operational context as well. In this regard, Major Chris Boileau received the U.S. Meritorious Service Medal for his contributions on deployment in Iraq while Major Sam Leibel received the Canadian Joint Operations Command Commander's Commendation for his service on deployment in Kuwait. Major Scott Moody served in the DCO role as part of Task Force Nijmegen 2018 during the annual Nijmegen marches in the Netherlands.

Our Recruiting Program, arguably the most successful in the Canadian Army Reserve, saw massive growth and the inflow of the next generation of Riflemen. Notably, the Regiment's Officers' Mess more than doubled in size, numerous Non-Commissioned Members are set to engage in their first round of leadership training, and the Battalion added over 125 Riflemen to its complement. And we are just warming up. Our recruiting drive and growth surge continues with the ultimate goal of achieving a significantly enhanced complement that will serve as the Regimental baseline of strength for generations. Toward that end, we strongly encourage every Member of the Regimental Family to refer intelligent, athletic, principled Canadians who wish to contribute to our great Nation to our Recruiting Team.

To engage the next generation, we launched our Regimental Social Media Platform across Instagram, Twitter, and Facebook as well as our Website. Within the year, the Regiment became the most-followed Canadian Army Reserve organization in the Canadian Armed Forces. Our approach and the policies that form the foundation of our platform approach have served as the model for many other units within and beyond 32 CBG. Aside from serving in the Battalion, it is the best place to stay engaged and up-to-date with the Regiment. So get after it and follow us @QueensOwnRifles.



To guide the next generation and develop a culture of learning and a Regiment of intellectual warriors, we modernized Regimental professional development through the launch of “Command Team Reads” and “RIFLESx: Leadership Forum”. Command Team Reads focuses our Team on the review of academic works on themes of leadership, command, manoeuvre, fitness, mental resilience, and ethics. RIFLESx: Leadership Forum reinforces our topical readings through a Guest-Speaker series focusing on the above-noted themes which culminates in remarks and an open-forum lessons learned discussion. The approach was well received - both by serving Rifleman and in the social media domain. As such, we will continue it into the future. To instill our institutional values in the next generation, we conducted a policy overhaul and effected a modernized, digitized, distributed, and easily-accessed and understood policy package throughout the entire Regiment.

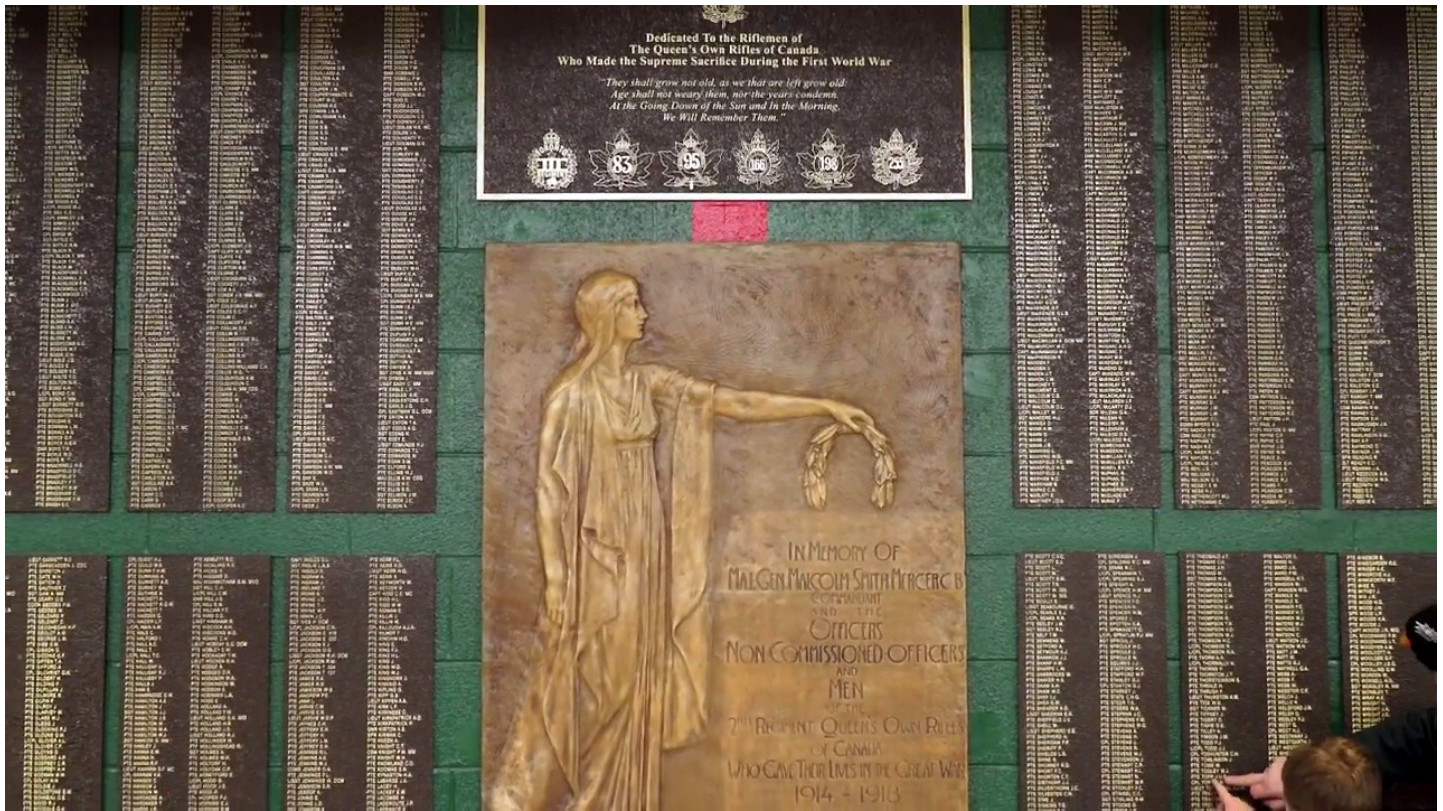
We fostered a culture of inclusiveness and Canadian values through charitable engagement in Canadian communities, promotion of the role of Women in the CAF, and the importance and strength of diversity in the CAF. The promotion of our culture of fitness, capability, and deployability - a foundational staple from the outset of my tenure - was observed in Regular Fitness Testing, our Toronto Half Marathon Team, our Army Run Team, and our Hockey Team. Bottom line, our Riflemen are fit to fight and ready to serve Canada and the international community.

Our Regiment was entrusted and honoured to commemorate the 100th anniversary of the World War I Armistice. 2,241 brave souls from our Regiment and the Battalions we perpetuate made the supreme sacrifice in WWI in service of Canada the cause of peace. To honour their legacy, we held the Armistice Dinner at Casa Loma where vignettes from a number of their War Diaries were read throughout the evening. Then, on 11 November 2019, we unveiled the Regimental Wall of Honour which now includes each of the names of those who made the supreme sacrifice in WWI, thereby eternally enshrining their names in bronze alongside the names of our Regiment’s Fallen from other Wars and conflicts. Thereafter, we unveiled our Regiment’s Battle Honours to complete our Wall of Honour. It was a powerful commemorative period which, together with the Wall of Honour, will serve to inspire all successive generations of Rifleman. For those who have not had an opportunity to visit our Wall of Honour, we encourage you to do so. Its weight and the weight of sacrifice it embodies will move and inspire you.

We recognize the momentum we currently enjoy. It is a privilege we never take for granted. Instead, it is earned by our Regiment - each and every day. We are pleased with recent achievements, but never satisfied. Indeed, our jobs are never done. Much work lies ahead as we move forward Regimentally and in service of Canada and the international community. And so, we drive on, come what may. In so doing, we are ever mindful of the immortal words of Robert Frost: “We have promises to keep, And miles to go before we sleep, And miles to go before we sleep.”

In Pace Paratus. AIRBORNE!  
F.D. (Frank) Lamie, CD  
Lieutenant Colonel  
Commanding Officer  
The Queen’s Own Rifles of Canada

# Memorial Wall



On Remembrance Day, 2018, the Queen's Own Rifles of Canada unveiled the Great War Memorial in a solemn ceremony following the Church Parade. In attendance were Honorary Colonel Major-General Walter Holmes, Honorary Lieutenant-Colonel Lionel Goffart, Colonel Dan Stepaniuk (Commander of 32 Canadian Brigade Group), Lieutenant-Colonel Joseph Nonato (Commanding Officer of the Royal Regiment of Canada), and other dignitaries.



The Memorial, which features the names of 2,241 Fallen Riflemen, was the result of years of research into the six Canadian Expeditionary Force (CEF) battalions perpetuated by the Queen's Own Rifles. The comprehensive list of names includes such notable Riflemen as Major-General Malcolm Mercer, who remains the highest-ranking Canadian officer to be killed in combat.



For their efforts, Major (retired) John Stephens, Major Chris Boileau, Chief Warrant Officer (retired) Shaun Kelly, and Master Warrant Officer Bryan Burns were recognized by the Command Team during the annual Christmas Dinner.



# Major-General Herbert C. Pitts, MC, CD 1929-2018

## THE LIFE of a RIFLEMAN

Major-General (MGen) Herb Pitts epitomized what it meant to be a rifleman. He demonstrated fitness, tactical acuity and led from the front. From a young Lieutenant in the Korean War he went on to command the First Battalion of the Queens Own Rifles of Canada (QOR of C), the Canadian Airborne Regiment (CAR) and was eventually appointed Chief of Land Operations before retiring as a Major -General. Throughout it all and into his very active retirement, he remained a friend to the Regiment and helped shape it for years to come.

## EARLY YEARS

MGen Pitts was born in 1929 and raised in Nelson, BC. For much of his youth (ages 10-15) Herb's father was deployed during the Second World War. While Herb's Father returned safely in 1945, the experience gave Herb perspective and helped him develop into a man who never shrunk from a challenge. Growing up, Herb was a self-described "community leader kid", actively involved in many groups in his home town who went on to excel in athletics and academics.

As a result of his performance, he was one of the 180 of the 900 applicants selected to go to what was then called the Canadian Services College in 1948 . Four years later he was one of the 72 who remained. As a young cadet, he was recognized as a leader and was awarded the Harris Bigelow Trophy (graduate with the best combination of athletic and academic ability) and the Victor Vander Smissen-Ridout Memorial Award (voted on by fellow cadets as the best all around). Although he had originally gone to military college as an inexpensive way to get his degree, he soon found the life suited him and a month after graduation in June of 1952, he was on his way to Korea.

## KOREA

Herb Pitts was originally commissioned as an Armoured Officer in the Lord Strathcona's Horse (Royal Canadians). However, when he checked in to 25th Canadian Infantry Brigade HQ in Korea he was informed that there was a shortage of infantry officers and he would be going to the Patricias. While there was an opportunity to rotate back to an armored squadron, in his words he "saw the light" and was happy to trade his black beret for a maroon one joining the Third Battalion Princess Patricia's Canadian Light Infantry (3 PPCLI).





# Major-General Herbert C. Pitts, MC, CD 1929-2018

## KOREA

His arrival coincided with the 25th Brigade being in First Commonwealth Division reserve, which gave him an opportunity to acclimatize and learn his role. Commencing in early August 1952 and ending in July of 1953, his unit was deployed along a key feature of the Korean peninsula known as “The Hook”, the sight of 3 major battles each of which saw the Chinese attack and withdraw but only after taking casualties in the thousands. When 3 PPCLI was relieved by 1 PPCLI, MGen Pitts stayed on. While the job was to “Hold the line”, it was as Pitts later described it, very much a subaltern’s war:

*“Young officers starting out on Army careers could hardly have been given a better introduction to the Service...there was, at times, a great deal of emphasis on officer-led patrols and patrolling generally, on the building, repair and maintenance of defence works, on Sapper jobs of all sorts, on gunner support, on communications to dispersed elements and, finally, on man management. All of us came away from the tour with the feeling that something unique had been done – by us for us.”*

One such task was to lead night patrols to set up obstacles. A young Lieutenant Pitts volunteered to lead a ‘special wiring party’ that was tasked with setting up wire less than 100 yards from the enemy positions. Instructed by Combat Engineers, he and his group of volunteers practiced laying wire silently and quickly until they could lay 100m of concertina wire in 10 minutes in the dark. On three successive nights, his patrol went into no-man’s land to lay obstacles in the face of the enemy. On the first night, one of Pitt’s soldiers set off a bounding mine killing Cpl Mullin and Pte Batsch. While that could have been the end of the mission, Pitts calm leadership saw the successful completion of the task on that and two subsequent nights. His leadership would also earn him the Military Cross for gallantry. From the beginning, MGen Pitt’s philosophy was to lead from the front or as he describes it, “If I sent them somewhere, I told them I would be with them all the way.

## REGIMENTAL DUTIES

Upon return to Canada, he served with the First Battalion, QOR of C where he served for 3 years including Suez in 1956 before moving on to staff duties with the 4th Canadian Infantry Brigade Group then deployed in West Germany. After being promoted to Major in 1962, he served for 2 year as a Company Commander in 2nd Battalion QOR of C and after another posting as a staff officer with the 4th Brigade he returned to the regiment in 1967 to command the First Battalion, QOR of C then out of Victoria, B.C.

He was assigned from 1969 to 1971 as an Exchange Instructor with the United States Army Command and Staff College. Following that posting he attended the National Defence College in Kingston until his promotion to Colonel in 1971. With that promotion came the command of the Airborne Regiment. During his time as Regimental Commander, Pitts would play a critical role in developing the CAF’s airborne and deployable capabilities.

After his time commanding the CAR, a then Brigadier-General Pitts served as Director General of Land Operations from 1973 to 1975 at NDHQ. He was promoted to Major General in 1976, retiring 2 years later in 1978 after 30 years of active service.

# Major-General Herbert C. Pitts, MC, CD 1929-2018

## IN 'RETIREMENT'

Retirement is a tough word to use when describing MGen Pitts' life after he left the regular force. It certainly did not affect his sense of dedication. He stayed close to each of 'his regiments' serving as the Colonel of the Regiment for the PPCLI, the CAR and later serving as the Honorary Lieutenant Colonel of the QOR of C from 1994 to 2000. In addition, he served as Patron for the 1st Canadian Parachute Battalion and continued to advocate for the airborne community for another 30 years.

Pitts would also volunteer with Scouts Canada becoming its President, International and National Commissioner. Luckily for the International Scouts, Pitts accompanied the Canadian contingent in 1991 to the World Scout Jamboree in South Korea. When he arrived he discovered the Scouts had failed to plan for sufficient bathroom facilities for all 20,000 Scouts from 135 countries. While the international scouting leadership contemplated the issue, a retired MGen Pitts called up one of his old friends from the US Army Staff College who headed up the US Korean Command. Sufficient portable toilets were airlifted in that day.

During a visit to a hospital to see a member of the contingent who had twisted an ankle, Pitts encountered a Korean toddler who had both legs amputated after a car accident. Pitts was so moved after seeing the little girl he set up a fund through Scouts Canada to pay for her surgeries and prosthetics in Canada as she grew. That girl entered university at the age of 15 and graduated summa cum laude, crediting Scouts Canada with giving her opportunity.

## IMPACT

MGen Pitts passed away on the 27 Sept 2018 and is survived by his beloved wife Marianne of 63 years, his brother Bob as well as his daughter Susan, sons Gerry and David and two grandchildren Sara and Mike. In all, he spent more than 44 years in uniform serving in both regular and honorary roles.

During his memorial service, what became clear was that he always approached a problem from the angle of how to help his subordinates succeed. He was modest to a fault and for those who worked with MGen Pitts, it was never about him but always about how he could help others succeed.

MGen Pitt's heart was always with the QOR and the Canadian Airborne a fact that should not be lost on the regiment's young jumpers who may wonder how the Regiment was able to secure its para task.

Without leaders like MGen Pitts it is unlikely the opportunity for the para task would have come to the Regiment. From that grew numerous other opportunities and the ability to recruit the right kind of people. It's now up to the rest of us to make the most of it.

MWO Johnston, J.L., CD

# Celebration of life



## 2019 Report



What a splendid year of accomplishments The Regiment has had! Every facet of regimental life, be it operational, ceremonial, commemorative or social, has been executed with passion, precision and dedication. I am proud of all members of the regimental family who have contributed to our successes. The pages you will read in this issue of the Rifleman will inform you of all of the great things that have happened in 2018 so there is little need for me to go into any detail here.

Our Regiment is blessed with enthusiastic, competent and professional leaders and individuals who are willing to put their shoulders to the wheel to get on with what ever the task demands. This was demonstrated to me first hand on many occasions during the year, whether it be unit recruiting and being the lead unit for Brigade collective training, the Wall of Honour project, the Casa Loma Armistice dinner held to honour our WW I fallen, planning for the D Day 75 commemoration or all the things the members of the Senate, Association, Museum, Trust and others within the regimental family do to ensure The Regiment thrives and continues to move forward.

My sincere thanks to all who have stepped up, no matter your contribution, and I look forward to working with you in the coming months for the betterment of our great Regiment.

Lastly, we lost a true hero of The Regiment in 2018 with the death of Major General Herb Pitts, MC. Herb's support of, and dedication to the QOR was second to none. He and Marianne remained committed to the Victoria Branch of the Association until his passing. We are all indebted to Herb for his lifelong commitment to The Regiment, he is missed, and we will remember him.

In Pace Paratus,  
HCol Walter Holmes



Forever  
grateful.

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# Historic Parachute Jump



The August 1926 report on what was likely the first Queen's Own Rifles parachute jump by then J. G. K Strathy who had been sent on a pilot officer training course at Camp Borden.



"AIR SERVICE".  
Camp Borden, Ontario, August 21st, 6

TO- Officer Commanding,  
Training Squadron,  
No. 1 Flying Training Station,  
R.C.A.F. Camp Borden, Ontario.

FROM- P.F.O. J.G.K. Strathy.

SUBJECT- Practice Parachute Descent.

I beg to make a report on my parachute descent on the 19-8-26. I was advised by Flight Lieutenant A.A. Leitch, that I was to make a parachute jump.

I, therefore, went to the parachute section and assisted with the folding of the parachute, which took about 45 minutes. I then put on the jumping outfit consisting of two parachutes and went over to "A" Flight, having made sure the equipment fitted snugly.

The aeroplane used was an Avro 504 K/R. "A.P. I practiced the correct method of climbing out of the cockpit and received final instructions from Flight Lieut. Leitch.

Flight Lieutenant Brookes was the pilot; as the wind was blowing from the S.E., he flew across wind up and down the line of hangars till he had reached 2,000 feet. The aircraft was then going S.W., so Flight Lieut. Brookes turned into wind, and throttled down, while I climbed out on the step, this being the most difficult part of the whole proceedings. At a spot to the east of Wing Headquarters I saw Flight Lieut. Brookes nod, so making sure I had a tight hold of the rip cord, I let go and fell backwards; quite a pleasant falling with no sensation of falling. Having counted three I pulled the rip cord and after a fraction of a second I felt a slight tug, as the opening parachute brought me from a head-down position, to a sitting position. I still held my rip cord. I noticed I was drifting quite a bit, but could not make out any appreciable decrease in height, I gradually floated down, and when about 500 feet I started swinging, and found I was going backwards. I made an effort to turn around but was unsuccessful. Having been warned by previous jumpers that the last 50 feet came very fast, I was prepared but could not do anything as I was just on the downward sweep and going backwards, so I landed on my back. I then collapsed the parachute and Sgt. Anderson packed it in a bag and we went back to the hangars on the truck. I landed in the outer drome just over the hill.

*J.G.K. Strathy*  
(J.G.K. Strathy) Lieutenant,  
Queen's Own Rifles.

# The Queen's Own Rifles of Canada Trust Fund

**Overall 2018** was a successful year for your Trust Fund as it continued its mandate of providing support to the CO and Regiment, the Museum, Monuments and Memorials, RHQ and the Regimental Family.

At the end of 2018, the trustees of the Trust Fund were:

Voting members:

Major A. I. W. Schultz CD, (President), Captain A Hermant OSTJ, CD, AdeC, (Acting Secretary), Captain R. Chan CD (Treasurer), LCol John Fotheringham CD (Chair Memorials), WO Phil Ten Kortenaar CD (Chair Finance Committee), LCol C.E. Rayment CD, Former HLCOL Brendan Caldwell, Captain Kevin Sheedy, CD, LCol Chris Heyes CD, Lt. Chris Donald.

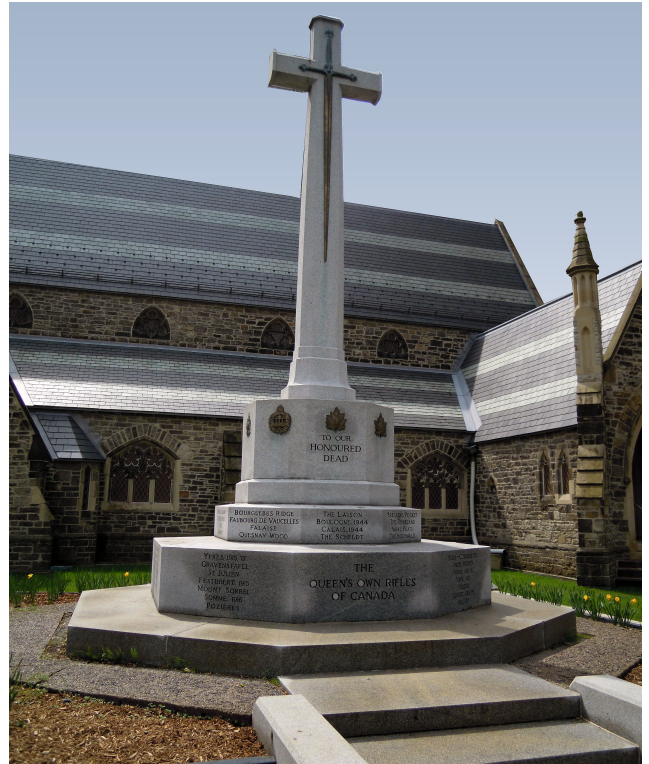
Associate Voting Member:

Mr. Jim Lutz.

Non-Voting ex-Officio members:

HCol, HLCOL, CO, and the President of the National Association.

Honorary Life Members: BGen D. A. Pryer CD, and Colonel Paul F. Hughes CD.



During the year the Trust undertook fund raising to support the World War 1 Memorial Wall and Battle Honor project which was unveiled by the Regiment on November 11, 2018. This was moderately successful raising almost 40% of the approximately \$60,000 cost of the project. It is hoped that a Veteran's Affairs Canada grant will provide about \$23,000. The Trust also was the financial sponsor for the November 9th Armistice Anniversary Dinner held at Casa Loma. This event proved to be a "break even" event so there was no negative financial impact to the Trust. During the year the Trust also worked with the Regiment on a fund raising project to provide support to the Family of Sgt Thomas MB whose son has cancer. Many other smaller activities were supported for the Regiment during the year including the hockey and running teams. Late in the year the Museum conducted a fundraising with the Trust to support the activities of the Museum.

The Rifleman magazine was published and mailed to members of the Association, Trust donors and friends of the Regiment at a cost of \$11,000 paid by the Trust Fund offset by advertising revenues. Having said all of the above, fundraising continues to be our highest priority as our donor base continues to decline. As in past years the focus of support will be on the CO and the Regiment, The Regimental Museum and Archives, Memorials and Monuments and support of RHQ including the Rifleman. Please see the insert card and support your Trust Fund. Tax receipts are available for donations of \$10 or more.

Yours Regimentally,  
Major (ret'd) Anthony (Tony) Schultz, CD

# QOR Trust Fund Donation Form



Registered Name: THE QUEEN'S OWN RIFLES OF CANADA TRUST FUND

Business Number: 119252385RR0001

The Trust Fund has the mission of raising and administering funds to promote the efficiency, welfare and well being of the Regiment. Such support includes the Regimental Band, Bugles, the Regimental Museum, all QOR memorials, the Cross of Sacrifice, the Books of Remembrance, publishing The Rifleman Journal, and funding of Regimental Headquarters. Visit [queensownrifles.com](http://queensownrifles.com) for more information.

To Donate please provide;

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail \_\_\_\_\_

Phone number \_\_\_\_\_

Donate by cheque \$25.00  \$50.00  \$100.00  Other amount

Other amount

\$ \_\_\_\_\_

Optional Information;

1. Apply my donation as follows:

General  Museum  In Memory

Include a message for this charity

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Payment by:  Credit Card - [www.canadahelps.org/en/dn/14353](http://www.canadahelps.org/en/dn/14353)

Personal Cheque - Forward by mail to address below:

Queen's Own Rifles of Canada Trust Fund  
4981 Highway 7 East SUITE 12A, Box 250  
Markham, ON , L3R 1N1





## A conversation with Honorary Lieutenant Colonel Lionel J. Goffart, QC, OStJ

### On Escaping the Nazi Invasion of Europe



“It was quite the sensible journey. I was living in Belgrade, Yugoslavia, at the time. My father was in the Belgian Diplomatic Corps, and served as First Secretary in the Embassy. A few days before the invasion, the British Embassy called its allies to let them know that the Germans would be invading at such-and-such time, at this particular location. Well, my father thanked them profusely, and my mother went out to acquire train tickets. We ended up on the last train to Istanbul, though it was quite the civilized journey. The diplomatic staff in Istanbul took very good care of us, and the Belgian government directed us to Jerusalem. At that time, the extent of my English was “Thank you, hope to see you soon again!”

The British Mandate of Palestine was beautifully run, and we were able to visit many places. Eventually, we headed for Cairo to board a ship to New York. The ship was chartered by a Jewish man, and it was filled with refugees. We were all very fortunate that Montgomery had won the Battle of El Alamein against Rommel! We departed from the Port of Suez, and made a stop in Mombasa, Kenya. We were warned of German cruisers in the Indian Ocean, but thankfully they never appeared.

We ended up in Cape Town after the crew mutinied, as they were so ill-treated. The Belgian consul-general looked after us, and we were able to leave after the mutiny was quelled. As we sailed from Cape Town to Brazil, we coincidentally passed by the point where our sister ship had been sunk by German U-boats the year before.

After stopping in Trinidad, we finally arrived in New York. The Belgian government sent us to Montreal, of course, as we were able to speak the language.”

### On Life in a New Country

“Diplomats moved every 3 years to a new country, so it was no big deal. Except for my mother, who had to find us a new home while my father went to the office. She never received a shred of recognition for that. We were not used to the French accent in Montreal at first, but people were very nice to us. Best of all, there were no German bombs, and the rationing was much less strict! My brother and sister started their schooling in English, but I was sent to Collège Jean-de-Brébeuf, where the Trudeau children went. In the end, we adapted because we always moved.”

## On Joining the Armed Forces

“My father was an officer in a Guards regiment, and it was always understood that I would end up in the armed forces. I joined the Air Cadets, which had the first French-Canadian squadron. I rose to the rank of Flight Sergeant, which was the second-highest rank. Afterwards, it was logical for me to join the Officer Training Corps—first at the University of Montreal, then at the University of Toronto. In the end, it was a matter of tradition.”

## On Serving with the PPCLI

“After the end of Phase 3, you had to spend 3 months with a Regular Force battalion. Everyone wanted to go to the 27th Brigade in Germany, but I had just got out of Europe! Instead, I went as far west as possible, to the Patricias in Calgary. Many of the lieutenants in the 2nd Battalion had fought in the Battle of Kapyong as corporals and sergeants, and they were the nicest possible people. They helped me at every turn, and I have the highest regard for them. When I was ready to leave, the CO invited me to remain. Unfortunately, I had just gone through 8 years of education, and it was difficult to switch careers at that point.”

## On Career Advice for Officers

“Do your job, and learn everything you possibly can. I’m awfully glad for the years I had in the Officer Training Corps, especially my time with the Patricias. It was quite the education, and I’m thankful for the opportunity.”

## On Joining the Queen’s Own Rifles

“I wanted to join a respectable regiment after completing my training courses. I had hoped to join the 48th Highlanders, but they made it blatantly clear that I would not be considered because of my French accent. Nobody questioned that at the Queen’s Own Rifles, and it was a pleasure to join such a regiment. I enjoyed the company of my fellow lieutenants, and it was the logical thing for me to return as an Honorary many years later.”

## On his Proudest Moment with the Queen’s Own Rifles

“My proudest moment was accompanying 80 Riflemen to France for the Vimy centennial. It was a well-done trip, and the men loved it. I’m glad to have made three trips back to Europe, to see the battlefields and the military cemeteries. A number of Riflemen thanked me for the opportunity to visit Europe, and to follow in the footsteps of the Regiment during wartime.”

## On His Favorite Drink

“I prefer Irish Whiskey, as my wife could not tolerate Scotch. I enjoy Writers’ Tears, which harkens back to Ireland’s tradition of producing superb writers.”

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[irmmart@shaw.ca](mailto:irmmart@shaw.ca)

**VP- Joe Rozon**

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**Treasurer- Sandi Rozon**

[jsrozon@shaw.ca](mailto:jsrozon@shaw.ca)

**Secretary- Janice  
 Mercer**

[qorbsecretary@gmail.com](mailto:qorbsecretary@gmail.com)

**Webmaster-Mike  
 Cuvelier**

[mikecuvelier@shaw.ca](mailto:mikecuvelier@shaw.ca)

**Directors –**

**Gordie Hryhoryshen**

**Dale Ratzlaff**

**Wayne Thomas**

**Presidents Overview.**

As your President it is indeed a pleasure to have the opportunity to forward my comments via this 1st Addition of our Quarterly West-Coaster News. It is our intention to use this medium to stay in contact with all Riflemen that have access to email and snail mail to others.

It should be noted that the next issue of the Rifleman magazine is the last issue to be printed due to cost restraints.

Your Volunteer Executive have been working diligently over this past months dealing with association matters and particularly the compiling of information to ensure our membership data is correct and duly recorded on the National Data base .I would like to impress on you the importance of you notifying our Secretary- Janice, [qorbsecretary@gmail.com](mailto:qorbsecretary@gmail.com) of any changes to your email information.

The late **Herb Pitts** left us with a clear message, " Race, Creed, Colour, Religion or Rank has no place in our Association," we are all **Rifleman**.

It is our intention to follow the context of this message and we want every **Rifleman** in our Province and beyond, to be part of and registered with our Association.

Accurate documentation of all member's information file will ensure you are kept in the loop on what is happening in BC and hopefully throughout Canada.

All Branches are working to having an accurate National database compiled and it is important to have You registered.

We also encourage you to pass on any comments or suggestions that you might have and you might like to see us do and as well contribute any items that may be of interest to other Rifleman.

We look forward to keeping you up to date on your Association and will be forwarding some new ideas to you in the future.

Thanking you in advance for your continued support.  
 IPP

*Tom Martin*

Once a Queens Own, Always a Queens Own.

# 2018 National Association Report

## PRINCESS ALEXANDRA

Colonel-in-Chief of The Queen's Own Rifles of Canada from 1959 to 2010 was Her Royal Highness Princess Alexandra, the grand-daughter of Her Majesty Queen Mary.

She is the second child and only daughter of the late Duke and Duchess of Kent (her brothers are the present Duke of Kent and Prince Michael of Kent). Her father was killed in a wartime flying accident in 1942 when she was five years old.

Married to Sir Angus Ogilvy, who served in the Scots Guards, they had two children, James, born in 1964, and Marina, born in 1966. Sir Angus died on 26 December 2004.



## PRINCESS ALEXANDRA BURSARY

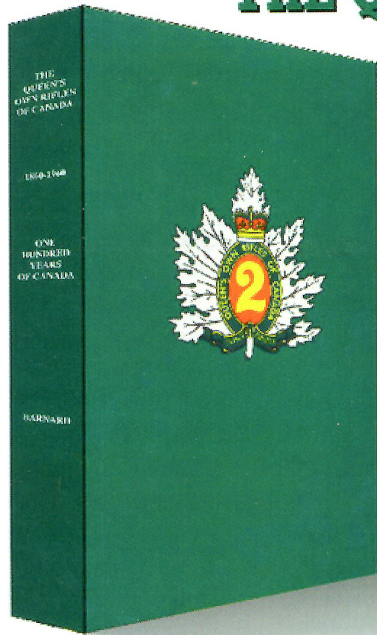
The Bursary continues to provide assistance for young Canadians pursuing a post-secondary education. This year, nine applicants shared \$14,000 in bursaries.

## 2018 RECIPIENTS

- Kyleigh Starnes, taking a Personal Trainer course at Grande Prairie Regional College. Kyleigh's grandfather is Patrick Roy and Peter Bryson is a former QO Rifleman. \$1,000
- Catherine Power is enrolled in Business/Accounting at Fanshawe College. Catherine is the granddaughter of John Power, a former CO of the Regiment. \$1,000
- Gillian & Teagan Cameron presented a bit of a dilemma for the adjudicators this year. They are twins both studying at the University of Alberta. Gillian is taking Microbiology and Teagan is enrolled in Ancient & Medieval History. There was virtually nothing to differentiate between their applications. They were both awarded The Colonel and Mrs. PF Hughes Scholarship and each received \$3,000. Gillian and Teagan are the granddaughters of Albert Maxwell Pitcher, a former QOR rifleman.
- Kurtis Butt is enrolled in Nursing at the Memorial University of Newfoundland. Kurtis is the nephew of Brian Budden, a former RSM of the Regiment. \$1,000
- Corporal Lydia Radewych is pursuing a Holistic Nutritionist Designation at the Canadian School of Natural Nutrition in Toronto. Corporal Radewych is currently serving in the Regiment. \$1,000
- Sergeant Gordon Brown is studying Economics at University in Toronto. Sergeant Brown is the Orderly Room Sergeant in the Regiment and was also awarded the Sergeant Aubrey Cosens VC Scholarship. \$2,000
- Brandon Gallard is studying Computer Science at Camosun College. Brandon is the grandson of Joseph Rozen, a former rifleman in the Regiment. \$1,000
- Grace Margaret Martin is studying Psychology at Queen's University. Grace is the granddaughter of Tom Martin, a former rifleman and the President of Vancouver Island Branch of the Association. \$1,000

Regards, Bob Dunk  
President National Association

## Items for Purchase



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**At long last a soft covered Regimental History by LCol W.T.Barnard.**  
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The books are being sold by Joe Drouin Enterprises Ltd on behalf of the QOR  
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 Order quickly while supplies last

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Tailer to The Queen's Own Rifles of Canada

# The Queen's Own Rifles of Canada Regimental Museum



## A big thank you to all our 2018 volunteers!

Chair Jim Lutz of the Museum Board has presented CWO (Ret'd) Shaun Kelly, CD with a Certificate of Appreciation for over 750 hours of service to the Museum.

## Becoming a Sustaining Donor

Dear Museum Supporters,

Each year we recognize the outstanding efforts of our dedicated team of museum volunteers. Since the fall of 2012, they have contributed over 9,000 hours of service. You may already have read about this year's recognition reception - if not you can do so on our museum website blog.

Our team consists of a great cross section of serving members of the regiment, former members, museum professionals, public historians, and others interested in helping to preserve and present this important history. If you would be interested in volunteering, more information is on our website.

We appreciate however that many of you are unable to join our volunteer team but still believe in the importance of our work. You can support this work by becoming a sustaining donor through an automatic monthly donation. It can be as little as \$10 a month, or consider joining the "1860 Club" (the year the Queen's Own Rifles was formed!)

Whatever amount you choose, making a recurring monthly donation is a manageable and effective way to support the Queen's Own Rifles Regimental Museum and Archive!

Sincerely,

Maj John M. Stephens, CD (Ret'd)

Curator, The Queen's Own Rifles of Canada  
Regimental Museum and Archives

# QOR - Ontario Association

## ACTIVITIES

### Association Activities

This year, as in previous years, we participated in a number of activities and events, such as:

- Re-dedication of WWII Memorial Plaque – Sneek, Holland
- D-Day Ceremonies at Moss Park Armoury & Toronto City Hall.
- Korean Veterans Association Memorial in Brampton.
- 97th Annual Warriors Day Parade by Jerry Senetchko placed 3rd
- March to the Cross of Sacrifice at St. Paul's Church for the annual QOR Remembrance Church Parade.
- Remembrance Day Ceremony at St. Paul's Church.
- QOR Soldier's XMAS Dinner – December 5th
- Quarterly Pub Nights – 2 this year – Next one in January 2020
- Every 2 – 3 months we visit our QOR Veterans at Hospitals or home



## MEMBERSHIP

If your membership has lapsed why not take this opportunity to renew? Contact our Membership Chairperson: Josie Mulvihill – [qora.membership@gmail.com](mailto:qora.membership@gmail.com)

Please, take the time to fill out the membership form on the next page and send us your dues for 2020 to help maintain our important role in the Regimental Family.

# QOR - Ontario Association

## AWARDS

At this year's Soldiers Christmas Dinner, on December 5, we presented two important awards. Rifleman of the year to Association Executive Member Neil Arsenault for service in support of the Regiment and Regimental Family. The recipient of this year's Colonel Paul and Beverly Hughes Award for Excellence is Tom Martin for his commitment to excellence as President Victoria Branch. Plus he was instrumental in handling MGen Herb Pitts' affairs before and after his death.

I am pleased to report that work by Association Members, and by the efforts of MCpl Chris Hinds and Cpl Lydia Radewych our membership is attracting many new QOR Soldiers.

Ron Craig and Cpl. Lydia Radewych have designed a new website for our association, Have a look [qorassociationtoronto@gmail.com](mailto:qorassociationtoronto@gmail.com)

Another initiative assisted by the Association is the Recruiting Drive. Feel free to have a look. Go to: [www.queensownrifles.com](http://www.queensownrifles.com)

The Queen's Own Rifles of Canada Association (Toronto Branch)  
1235 Trafalgar Road P.O. Box 84024  
Oakville, Ontario L6H 3J0

To pay by e-mail: The address is [qora-tor-treasurer@rogers.com](mailto:qora-tor-treasurer@rogers.com) and password would be "RIFLES".

CWO (ret'd) Brian Budden, CD  
President  
QOR Association (Toronto Branch)  
[brianbudden@rogers.com](mailto:brianbudden@rogers.com)

## MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Associate Member     Serving Soldier     Retired     Rank: \_\_\_\_\_

Street Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ Province: \_\_\_\_\_ Postal Code: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_ Telephone: \_\_\_\_\_

Dues Paid:    Active Duty Junior Ranks: \$10     All Others: \$25     Paid by: Cheque     Cash     E-transfer\*

Membership Package Received: Yes     No

\*Send E-transfer to: [qora-tor-treasurer@rogers.com](mailto:qora-tor-treasurer@rogers.com), use password "RIFLES"



## QOR Canada Regimental Band and Bugles

The Queen's Own Rifles of Canada Band & Bugles is a Canadian Forces military band serving as the regimental band for The Queen's Own Rifles of Canada. It is the oldest fanfare of the militia in uninterrupted service in Canada. Like the Band and Bugles of The Rifles, the QOR band employed bugles at its front, as a testament to the fact that those instruments were used to give orders on the battlefield during the conflicts of the 18th century. It is currently one of only several drum and bugle corps in the Canadian Armed Forces in service.



The band was formed in Toronto in 1862 under the direction of Adam Maul, an Englishman who had served in the British Army. Under the leadership of John Bayley beginning in the mid to late 1870s, the band quickly gained international recognition, especially in the United States. The band toured Canada from east to west for the rest of the century and made a visit to London in 1910. During World War II, director James Buckle maintained the band with great efficiency, performing at concerts for Canadian soldiers throughout Europe. During the 1980s and early 1990s the band, with an increasing number of women members, was one of the more active units in the Toronto Garrison, performing in parks, at the CNE and often playing at mess functions of the regular force staff.

The Drum and Bugle Corps portion of the band has a separate history. It was founded just two years before the band in 1860 by Francis Clark, the first regimental bugle major, and in 1866 was turned into a full drum and bugle corps. It was the first in the Canadian Army and unique for armed forces bands in North American. Its touring concerts in the United States in the late 1880s and into the 1890s served as a partial inspiration towards the establishment of the US drum and bugle corps traditions.



# Winter Exercises



## Pegasus Strike



## Twice the Citizen



Twice the Citizen - Members of the QOR of C Parachute Company who for their full-time employment are Municipal Police Officers from Durham Regional Police, Peel Regional Police and York Regional Police. The Reserves are a great stepping stone for a career in law enforcement.



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## 2881 QOR Cadets RCACC

2881 QOR Cadets RCACC is the affiliated Army Cadet Corps of, and is proudly badged, Queen's Own Rifles. The QOR Cadets are keenly aware of the history they perpetuate, and that they carry on the legacy of Cadets of UCC who formed a Rifle Company in 1860 attached to the Regiment shortly after it was founded in Toronto. The UCC Cadets, in 1866, when the Fenians threatened Ontario, were called to active service with the QOR, and guarded the port, armouries and government buildings of Toronto while the Regiment proceeded to Niagara and the Battle of Ridgeway.

With the advent of a new scheme in 1879 for the establishment of "Associations for Drill in Educational Institutions", the opportunity for Cadets to be employed in active service, and the current emphasis on citizenship, physical fitness, healthy living, outdoor and military skills including marksmanship, as well as military history and familiarity with military traditions.



The 2018 Training Year provided tremendous opportunities for our Cadets to develop, learn and have fun. Just before the turn of the year, Capt Seerat Pershad handed over, after a good tour, and was snapped up by a slightly younger regiment down in Hamilton. Capt Calvin Facey was again called to the helm, assisted by Capt Shaun Bridge, the longest serving member of the Corps where he has earned two bars to his Canadian Forces Decoration. Filling the role of Training Officer is Capt Ken Kominek, a former CWO and CSM at the QOR and an extraordinarily valuable addition to the cadre. Rounding out the team are Mursal Sameh, Jennifer Anger and Leo Afonso, all with extensive cadet/reserve experience, and supplemented by the author who is well qualified to provide cover from view and fire.

The Cadet program, most importantly, is about the Cadets. We celebrated the service of RSM Shaylen Young and CSM Maya Royer, among others, who completed their cadet service and moved on to higher education. The entire QOR Cadets team also took great pride in Victor Betti, who was sworn in as a member of the Queen's Own.

Congratulations were also in order for RSM Dianne Pereira, and MWOs Justin Anger and Taranpaul Chatha, who have collectively taken up the mantle of Cadet leadership.

In addition to the wide variety of skills gained in classrooms, and also the sports and fitness activities, during the weekly parade nights QOR Cadets prepared for a number of weekend activities, as well as community activities.

## 2881 QOR Cadets RCACC

Together with the Cadets of the RHLI, our Corps conducted Ex Sunny Days in the spring. With the extraordinary support of QOR Sgt Jason Bridge, the cadets experienced a challenging Zip Line, and perfected their navigation and marksmanship skills.

In the spirit of supporting our local community, the Cadets participated in the Rouge National Urban Park Great Canadian Shoreline Cleanup effort, removing garbage from the beach/park areas at the mouth of the Rouge River.

In the fall, the Cadets participated in FTX Camp Fire, giving some their first taste of living on a bivouac, and giving the senior cadets the opportunity to demonstrate the skills they have gained during their Corps and Summer Camp training experiences.

The QOR Cadets were again invited to participate in the Remembrance Day ceremony at the Toronto Zoo, where they support the Acts of Remembrance.

2881 QOR RCACC remains active, strong and are considered a valuable program in the local community. Come and visit us one evening during the school year on a Tuesday evening at Sir Oliver Mowat, or follow us on social media: [QORCadets](#).





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Last Post

*We Will Remember Them*

## In Memoriam 2018-2019

Major (Ret'd) Mike McMurtrie

Ivan Crampton

Ed Titus

Mark O'Connell

Brad Ellison

Don Krazanowski

Chan Duncan

Ed Baker

William (Bill) Fowler

Donald Rex MacDonald

M/Gen Herb Pitts

WWII D-Day Veteran – Kenneth Jamieson

Dave Currah

Frank Pearce

Don "Moose" McDonald Homer Touchette

Neil Douglas Donnelly

Ed Sullivan

Korean Veteran - Art Lefever

WWII D-Day Veteran - Fred Barnard

WWII D-Day Veteran - Jack (John) Hadley

Leigh McEachern

