



The Powder Horn

Spring/Summer 2007

New members of the Order of Canada



Two individuals with very close association to The Queen's Own were honoured by being named Members of the Order of Canada this year. Major General Lewis W. MacKenzie, CM, OOnt, MSC, CD, BA, LLD, joined The Queen's Own as a 2nd Lieutenant in 1960 and 32 years later, was assigned to the UN's Protection Force in Yugoslavia, eventually commanding soldiers from 31 countries that opened the Sarajevo airport for the delivery of humanitarian aid during the height of the Bosnian civil war. Jan de Vries, President of the 1st Canadian Parachute Battalion, jumped into France on D-Day as well as into Germany at the Rhine crossing in 1945. 1 Can Para and its members have had a longstanding relationship with The Queen's Own.

CITATIONS

Major General Lewis W. MacKenzie CM

Lewis MacKenzie is renowned for his professionalism, leadership and dedication to the men and women of the Canadian Forces. He is equally applauded for his humanitarian and voluntary work in Canada and abroad. For more than three decades, he served in various command positions and in many peacekeeping missions. A supporter of charitable causes, he has

been active within organizations such as the Canadian Special Olympics, the Canadian Foundation for Aids Research and Parkinson Society Canada. Moreover, his work as patron of ICROSS Canada (International Community for the Relief of Starvation and Suffering) has won praise both nationally and internationally. He is also known as a writer, lecturer and commentator on United Nations peacekeeping and security matters. His service to others is an inspiration to us all.

Jan de Vries CM

A veteran of the Second World War, Jan de Vries is committed to teaching our youth about the importance of remembrance. As a founding member of the Living History Speakers Bureau and as a member of the Memory Project, he has kept alive the stories of Canadian veterans by visiting schools, youth groups and cadet units. Highly respected for his ability to bridge generations, he has connected with young people through his honest, candid and thoughtful presentations. The 1st Canadian Parachute Battalion Association, the Juno Beach Centre Association and the Corporal Fred Topham VC Fundraising Campaign have all benefited from his determination and leadership.



(Cont'd from previous page)

(*Joanne de Vries accompanied her husband to Ottawa for his investiture on Friday, May 4. They were in interesting company. Others welcomed into the Order that day included Ferguson (Fergie) Jenkins, major-league pitcher with the Texas Rangers and the Chicago Cubs during the 1970s and 1980s; Ross Campbell, DSC, a WWII member of the RCN and former director of the Atomic Energy Board; musician Natalie McMaster; former director of the Stratford Festival, movie, television and stage actor John Neville OBE, and movie, television and stage actor Arthur Hiller, also producer of TV shows "Alfred Hitchcock Presents" and "Gunsmoke." Her report follows.*)

The Investiture at Rideau Hall was delightful. The honourees and primary guests were transported by coach to and from Rideau Hall for the ceremony in the morning. Each honouree was also allowed three additional guests at their own expense and travel for only the ceremony, reception, and tour of Rideau Hall during the morning. Jan's son Peter, daughter Janice, and my daughter Andrea attended.

During the reception following the ceremony the Governor General, Her Excellency the Right Honourable Michaëlle Jean, circulated and chatted for quite some time with award recipients and guests. We had the opportunity to briefly chat with Her Excellency and introduce her to our family. Jan made a point to congratulate and speak with all the recipients who were WWII veterans one of whom, of course, was Ross Campbell. Then all were able to take advantage of tours of the Governor General's residence, Rideau Hall. In the evening the honourees and their primary guests returned to Rideau Hall for a formal dinner.

The evening began with a cocktail reception, a group photo was taken of the honourees with the Governor General, then we were ushered into the room set up for the dinner and escorted to our tables for a very formal dinner with impeccable service. Interestingly, the menu contained foods originating from all across Canada, served with Canadian wines.

At dinner we were seated with other guests as well as two of the Governor General's Aides de Camp. One was an RCAF officer, the other RCN. The young Naval officer was an Aide in training and told me that this was his first formal function. (Lucky guy. Good way to start!)

During the course of the evening the Governor General made a couple of short speeches after which we retired to another room for coffee, chocolates and post dinner drinks. Mme Jean, who is most personable, with a very natural manner and who appears genuine in her role, spent some time circulating both before and after dinner. It was evident that the prime importance of the staff at Rideau Hall was to ensure that we all had a most enjoyable time -- which we did. And we met many very interesting people.

I made it a point to congratulate and speak with most of the female recipients. I particularly recall two delightful ladies; Bertha Allen from Inuvik and Pearl Keenan from the Yukon; as well as Mary V. Seeman and Janice Gross Stein. Others whom we particularly remember were The Hon W. Kenneth Moore from Calgary (WWII vet also) whom we found was a golfing buddy of 1st Can Para Bn veteran, Russ Dixon.

Also, Robert O. Stephens, a doctor from Warkworth who knew the family of a friend of mine. We spoke with A. Jonathan Stoessl and Oren Robison who were particularly interested in Jan's involvement speaking to school students. We also also chatted with anti-smoking activist Garfield Mahood as well as Lynn R. Williams.

We spoke with Fergie Jenkins, who told us that he received notice of his Order of Canada in 1984 but only had received the little lapel pin so thought it was about time to come and get his big medal. Carl Kovacs, President of the Fergie Jenkins Foundation Inc. was with him and took a photo of Jan with Fergie and said he would send an autographed copy, and we very much look forward to receiving that.

IN MEMORIAM

Bugle Sgt Gus Amodeo

LCol R.L. Bickford

George Bolton

Len Bradford

CWO (RSM) Roy W. Bruce

Bugle Sgt. Bob Charman

Lou Decker

Donald George Denslow

Frank Douglas

Sgt. Dave Fletcher

Lt Sam Hughes

Rolph W. Jackson

Helmut Paul Koal

Hugh Lamb

Lt Bob Little

Bruce Long

Anthony Patrick (Pat) McCarthy

Col. Clifford P. (Cliff) McPherson

Maj Jim MacKendrick

Maj Robert C. Newman

Sam Sanregret

Roy Shettell

Ernie Stein

Charles (Chuck) St. Louis

Jim M Stoley

Maj Derm Wilson

James Woodward



The Queen's Own Rifles of Canada Trust Fund 2007 needs your support

Of great significance and very high on the Regimental agenda of The Queen's Own Rifles of Canada is our 2010 sesquicentennial birthday celebration. It is our hope that our Colonel in Chief, Princess Alexandra, will be in Canada to help us celebrate the 150th Anniversary of the founding of The Regiment, an event which will be a milestone in our Regiment's history. A committee has been struck and is now reviewing options and developing plans. The Trust Fund will support this celebration which, as would be expected, will involve considerable expense.

For this reason, and numerous others, the Trust Fund continues to ask for your financial support, not only with regular expenses in 2007 and going forward, but also to fund the exciting events and activities that will take place in 2010. We urgently encourage your participation in that support.

The Queen's Own Rifles Of Canada Trust Fund, which has a long and proud history of supporting Regimental events and activities, held its first meeting in September 1959. Since that time many thousands of dollars have been raised and disbursed to support Canada's oldest and finest Regiment. The original trustees were: LCol His Honour Judge Ian M. MacDonell, MBE., VD., Col J.G.K. Strathy, OBE., ED., LCol Charles O. Dalton, DSO., LCol John O. Crean, LCol N. Charles Bradshaw, LCol Roland A. Harris, OBE., and Maj Edward A. Dunlop OBE., GM.

The trustees who preside over the affairs of the trust today are: Non Executive Chairman, LCol John G. Strathy, CD, President, Capt Adam B. Hermant, Ost.J, CD, Secretary-Treasurer, Maj Tony I.W. Schultz, CD, Capt Bernie Aaron, LCol Steve Brand CD, LCol Robert A. Campbell, CD, Mr. Brenden Caldwell, Mrs. Dorrie E.A. Dunlop, Lt Lionel Goffart, SBStJ, QC, Lt His Honour

Judge John Jennings, LCol Bruce McEachern, CD, Capt Peter Simundson, CD, (Curator of the Regimental Museum within Casa Loma), Maj Harry McCabe, MMM, SBSt.J., CD.

The Trustees are charged with the responsibility to raise and receive by way of legacy, bequest, gift or otherwise transfers or contributions for the efficiency, welfare and well-being of the Regiment and its members. As you know, in respect of this 'charge' the Trust Fund supports annually: The Cross of Sacrifice and the Book of Remembrance at our Regimental Church, St. Paul's Anglican Church on Bloor Street in Toronto; the plaques and other memorials located not only in Canada but in France and the Netherlands where the regiment has served with distinction; soldiers on duty outside of Canada; our regimental museum at Casa Loma in Toronto (and from time to time in Scarborough Ontario, Calgary, Alberta and Victoria British Columbia); uniforms and uniform accoutrements that are not funded by DND; RHQ administration and operations; certain special and significant regimental anniversaries and or functions and regimental communications (the Rifleman Journal, the Powder Horn and the Regimental Website).

So then, the Trust Fund continues to ask for your financial support for all of the aforementioned important reasons. Tax receipts are provided for each donation of \$10 or more. We also urge you to consider a bequest in your Will. You will find a pledge form in this issue of the Powder Horn.

'In the habit of giving.'

Adam Hermant, Trust Fund President



Planning for celebration of the 150th Anniversary now well underway

On 26 April, 2010, The Queen's Own Rifles of Canada will celebrate its 150th anniversary. Planning is already well underway to ensure that the sesquicentennial celebrations of Canada's oldest continuously-serving infantry regiment will be remembered long after the event has become another historical moment in the life of Canada's "Oldest and Finest Regiment."

An invitation has been sent to the Colonel-in-Chief, Her Royal Highness Princess Alexandra, asking her to join her regiment on this auspicious occasion and to travel to Calgary and Victoria to participate in celebratory activities with QOR Association members there, as well as in Toronto, during the latter part of the month of April. In the past the Regimental Anniversary has taken place

over a relatively short period of time. For the 150th, the intent is to plan, organize and execute a continuing series of events and activities on local, regional, national and international levels from early April through to early September. A fundraising plan is also under development, under the guidance of the members of the Regimental Trust, to underwrite the costs of such an ambitious program. (See above)

It is hoped and anticipated that all members of The Queen's Own Rifles of Canada's Regimental Family can be involved in some way in this major undertaking, which will serve to attract media and public attention to the regiment and raise its profile in a positive and supportive fashion. "On to 2010."



Three from QOR named Soldiers of the Year

Three members of The Queen's Own Rifles were recently honoured by 32 Canadian Brigade Group. Cpl Jason McGibbon was named 2006 Soldier of the Year, Sgt Scott Moody was named Senior NCO of the Year and MCpl Ricardo Chiu was named Junior NCO of the Year.

Cpl Jason McGibbon: An unstoppable work ethic and a constant willingness to help his peers led to the selection of Cpl Jason McGibbon as the Brigade's Soldier of the Year for 2006. His year had begun in Kabul, where he was wrapping up a tour with Op ARCHER's Defence & Security Platoon. He gained a reputation in theatre for showing up early and assuming responsibility. Back in Canada, after a couple of weekends in West Isle – the Iron Talons – Cpl McGibbon spent the summer working for ARC in Meaford, returned to West Isle for Vigilant Guardian and then, oblivious to the pain, went straight into his PLQ. Out of uniform, Cpl McGibbon coaches volleyball and volunteers around the Mess. "Great leadership potential and an excellent work ethic" is how the documents sum up this solid soldier.

Sgt Scott Moody: At The Queen's Own Rifles of Canada, the go-to guy for parachute planning is Sgt Scott Moody. The unit's senior jump master, he's regarded by the CO, LCol Delaney, as "an outstanding resource for parachute-related activity." He's worked with the air force enough to

have his Unit Emplaning Officer course, he handles the physical screening of wannabe jumpers, and even is borrowed by 3 RCR for their practice jumps. Sgt Moody attends the exercises – he was a platoon 2 i/c at Vigilant Guardian – and his parade nights are long, since he's the PMC of his Mess. Away from the regiment, he's the phys-ed teacher who takes on the extras: the Terry Fox Run, the coaching, the fundraiser. He's also president of the local chapter of the Canadian Airborne Forces Association. In short, Sgt Moody contributes a great deal to (as LCol Delaney says) "a cohesive team and an excellent working environment."

MCpl Ricardo Chiu: MCpl Ricardo Chiu is a man with an abundance of initiative. Fresh off his PLQ, he still knows how to volunteer: Mess Secretary, Vigil Party, Safety Officer at Dalton Armoury, even Adult Literacy at the Toronto Public Library. He "seeks and accepts a myriad of responsibility" (according to his platoon commander) and is always "a good example for the soldiers," especially while teaching. MCpl Chiu, an electrical engineering college student, is also full of ideas. Many are intended to firmly establish Buffs Company in Scarborough, developing "initiatives to have the soldiers identify with the new company, and make it . . . their own." And having welcomed a brand-new baby boy in December, this NCO of the Year is busier than ever. Courtesy "Steadfast" 32 CBG Newsletter.



Easter Greetings Banner to the troops overseas

Members of Buffs Company of The Queen's Own Rifles of Canada assisted in helping Canadian soldiers stationed in Afghanistan to receive an Easter Greetings banner signed by members of two Scarborough-based branches of the Royal Canadian Legion, as well as families and friends. More than 1,000 names were on the banner when it was shipped overseas via the military delivery system.

Don Capalbo, president of Branch 345 (Brigadier Martin), said that he and his Legion members, along with those of Branch 617 (Dam Busters), came up with the idea of sending the special Easter Greetings. After the two Scarborough RCL branches teamed up to have the banner professionally printed and produced, they contacted Major Allan Champion of The Queen's Own's Scarborough-based Buffs Company to determine if it was feasible to have it signed, packaged, addressed and shipped to the troops in time to arrive before Easter weekend.

Maj Champion said that "We were delighted to assist in this warm gesture of support for our

troops serving overseas on this important mission." He added that members of Buffs Company were among nine troops from The Queen's Own who had just returned from Afghanistan.

While most Land Force Central Area (Ontario)-based personnel – including the nine from The Queen's Own -- had returned to Canada upon completion of their rotation in Afghanistan, the Easter Banner was expected to be well received by the troops from Land Forces Atlantic Area who have now joined the Task Force in Afghanistan. After going on a well-earned leave period, the returned soldiers, while continuing with part time service in the Army Reserve, went back to their civilian jobs, or in many cases looked toward the next semester in school.

Colonel Allan Halfper, Deputy Commander of Land Force Central Area was present at Royal Canadian Legion Branch 345 to receive the banner on March 21. Soldiers from Buffs Company attended, along with members of Scarborough Legion branches.



"We in the Queen's Own Rifles have had quite a ride in 2006!"

Colonel Paul F. Hughes, Honorary Colonel, Queen's Own Rifles of Canada



First things first. The Officers and NCOs must be doing a lot of things right as our strength keeps growing. The last report I had from our Commanding Officer put the strength over 250 which he informs me is the largest in 32 Brigade. Based on these numbers, my experience tells me it would stack up well against

the rest of Canada. I would hazard a guess that our strength is the best in Canada.

This year's concentration, Vigilant Guardian '06 (VG06) at CFB Petawawa was a great success. Our strength was substantial and the enthusiasm, equipment and the fitness of the troops was beyond my forty years of personal experience. During our brief visit, Col Dick Cowling, the Honorary Lieutenant Colonel, and I had a very pleasant lunch with a number of our Riflemen who could not say enough about the exercise and their time and experiences in The Queen's Own Rifles.

It was wonderful to see Mrs. Marie Dalton (widow of Col H.E. Dalton, DSO, OC A Company QOR on D Day) attending the unveiling of a bronze plaque in the new Dalton Armoury. As reported in the Powder Horn, this event was attended by the Commander 32 Brigade, Colonel Gerry Mann. The wording for the plaque now mounted in the armoury is:

**In grateful recognition of two Canadian heroes
who served their King, Country and Comrades with
distinction and honour.**

**This building was opened in The Year of the Veteran in honour of
Colonel Charles Osborne Dalton, DSO, ED and
Colonel Hume Elliot Dalton, DSO, ED
on the 146th Birthday of
The Queen's Own Rifles of Canada
22 April 2006
In Pace Paratus**

At the opening of the new armoury Mrs. Dalton and I had the great pleasure of presenting Major Allan Champion, OC Buffs with an oil painting of Major C.O. Dalton on D Day assaulting a German pill box with his pistol. It now proudly hangs in the composite mess of the armoury. The painting was executed by Katherine Taylor of Ottawa, a noted military artist, who also painted the picture of Sergeant Aubrey



Cosens, VC, which proudly resides in the Sergeants' Mess, MPA.

As of 1 January 2007 the Queen's Own had nine unit members in Afghanistan and I was pleased to send Christmas and New Year's greetings to them on behalf of all of us. I have received responses from many of them and,

although busy, they appear to be coping very well.

I was in communication with our Colonel-in-Chief HRH Princess Alexandra in late 2006 and she sent her greeting to all ranks. Her secretary also sent new photographs of her which I am sure you will agree are magnificent.

Good news continues to emanate from the 2881 Scarborough Rifles Cadet Corps. Recruiting is strong and considerable interest is being shown in the creation of a cadet bugle band for the Corps. The 30 bugles ordered for use by the corps arrived earlier this year and I would be remiss if I did not mention the tireless efforts of Corporal Robert Frankling of the Regimental Band and Bugles in sourcing their manufacturer.

While on the subject of Bands -- the most visible public face of The Queen's Own, due to its appearance in many parades, concerts and other activities throughout the year -- the Regimental Band has had its paid strength increased from six to twenty six paid positions effective 1 April 2007. This was great news and long overdue. I hope this is an indication that a more rational approach is being taken to staffing levels within the Militia. For that we shall have to wait and see. Needless to say my wife, who is a great supporter of the Regimental Band, under the capable leadership of Captain Rita Arendz, was very pleased with the news.

I think it is important to maintain Regimental traditions as much as this is possible. In 2010 we will be marking the 150th birthday of The Queen's Own -- Canada's longest continuously-serving infantry Regiment -- and would anticipate that our own Regimental band and Bugles will be accompanied by the Bugle Band and Drums of the Scarboro Rifles Cadet Corps at this most significant celebration.

Finally, my best wishes to all ranks in 2007 and beyond. Once in The Queen's Own, always in The Queen's Own.



“The Regiment continues to excel in everything”

Colonel Richard Cowling, Honorary Lieutenant Colonel, Queen's Own Rifles of Canada



I have completed my first full year as your Honorary Lieutenant Colonel and what a year it has been. The Regiment continues to excel in everything it undertakes. The strength and retention rates are outstanding and there is little doubt that this has to do with high morale as a result of very effective individual and collective training. The new

Dalton Armoury is another example of the Regiment's successful expansion. The parade and other events that took place at the ceremonial opening were, as usual, of the highest standard.

During the year I had occasion to be the Reviewing Officer for our Cadets, both in the 2881 Corps and those who were in attendance at Blackdown Park. In both cases I was amazed at the enthusiasm and desire to succeed shown by these youths whose counterparts on “Civvy Street” are often the epitome of failure and apathy. The Cadet Movement is at least a partial, if not the whole answer to any perceived problems with our young people. A number of Cadets, of course, continue their service by joining the Regiment. Their performance is characteristically of a high standard.

In all Regimental and Cadet events the Band

and Bugles were in evidence. Ably led by our Director of Music, Captain Rita Arendz, and Bugle Major MWO Fred Haire, this magnificent group does so much to keep the Regiment front and centre on all occasions. I have tried to keep my promise to get involved in operations and training where appropriate. I haven't accomplished as much as I would like, but there were a few occasions that highlighted my year. I attended Para refresher training with our jump contingent. It was very professionally conducted and by all QOR instructors. Unfortunately the powers that be have yet to allow me to jump, but I will keep trying.

A visit to the Regimental Family Day in CFB Borden afforded me the opportunity to join you for some rappel tower training. The Commanding Officer and I made fairly acceptable descents from the helicopter strut and walked away without any damage. I accompanied the Honorary Colonel, Colonel Paul Hughes, to Petawawa for Exercise Vigilant Guardian. It was a great visit only marred by too little contact with our troops. We did happen to run into our contingent long enough for a brief chat and a photo op. We also attended a briefing for a tricky helicopter mission given by Major Peter St. Denis, and had lunch with a small group of our skirmishers. Of the five members at lunch, three had already had a tour in Afghanistan. That is quite a statistic!

It is an honour to serve with such professional troops. I wish you good luck and God speed in your future activities.



The Honouraries with the troops at Ex Vigilant Guardian 06.



French Legion of Honour presentations

By Charles McGregor (Reprinted courtesy of the Uxbridge Times-Journal)

When Fred Barnard opened the letter notifying him that he would be recognized by the Government of France by being awarded the prestigious Légion d'Honneur, he had one immediate question. "What's the Légion d'Honneur?"

The Uxbridge resident is one of three members of The Queen's Own Rifles of Canada who served and were wounded in the Battle of Normandy in 1944, who, along with three other WW Two veterans were presented with this prestigious award in Toronto in March. Also honoured were former Queen's own Honorary Lieutenant Colonel Barnett J. (Barney) Danson, Toronto and James H. (Jim) McCullough of Loretto, Ontario.

When he learned that The French Legion of Honour is a civilian and military decoration, instituted in 1802 by the Emperor Napoleon Bonaparte that's conferred upon men and women, either French citizens or foreigners, for outstanding achievements in military or civil life, Barnard had a further question -- "Why me?"

French Ambassador to Canada Daniel Jouanneau had the answer to that. In notifying the veterans of the honour, he wrote that "I have the pleasure to inform you that the President of the French Republic, M. Jacques Chirac, awarded you the Légion d'Honneur and, on his behalf, I would like to express my heartiest congratulations upon having received such an honour.

"This medal is a reward you greatly deserve for the exemplary and outstanding behaviour you demonstrated during the fierce battles of the liberation of France and Europe. By awarding you such a high distinction, France wants to honour a great Canadian soldier who fought for freedom. This is an achievement you can be proud of."

Colonel Paul F. Hughes, Honorary Colonel of The Queen's Own Rifles said that "We are extremely proud of the record forged by soldiers of our Regiment in the battle to liberate North West Europe, from the D-Day landings in June 1944 to the ultimate victory reached in May 1945. It was not accomplished without loss of life and many wounded among the Queen's Own ranks. They are represented by our three veterans, each of whom was wounded in battle in France.

"For the President of France to honour these men in this fashion is a gesture which will further solidify the bond between our two countries established so many years ago. It is also important to note that, in the long history of The Queen's Own Rifles, this is the first time any of its members have been honoured with this famous and historic award."

"There were all kinds of guys who did what I did," Barnard said. "We just did it because we wanted to fight for our country, because we thought it was the right thing to do. I don't think I was any braver than anyone else. I was wounded twice and sent home before it was over, but a lot of my friends were killed and never came home. They're buried over there."

The rifleman was in one of the two assault companies of The Queen's Own Rifles who stormed Juno Beach on D-Day, June 6, 1944, and he says that "I was pretty well the first one on the beach. Heaven only knows why I wasn't shot. Lucky, I guess." Unfortunately, his younger brother Donald wasn't as lucky. He was shot through the chest and, Fred figures, died right then.

"They told us over and over that when we landed we couldn't stop for anything, otherwise we'd get hit," Fred says. "They told us there'd be lots of wounded guys but we were ordered to keep going and not stop to help them up, or try to

drag them to cover or even to give them aid. But this was my brother..."

Uxbridge author, Ted Barris, in his gripping book "Juno", quotes Fred as saying, "As we were going down the ramp, I yelled to my brother 'give 'em hell', and the next thing I know I'm in four feet of water. Then I saw my brother Don...lying on his back as if he was asleep. There was just a black hole in his uniform, right in the middle of his chest. No blood. He must have died instantly."

Fred never forgot his brother, naming his daughter Donna and son Donald in their memory. Both were with him at the presentation, along with Donald's wife, Judy, his brother Edward and wife Barbara, and their son, David.

In the presentation of the awards to the six soldiers, which took place on the parade square at Moss Park Armoury in front of the soldiers of The Queen's Own dressed in combat uniforms, as well as family members and friends, Ambassador Jouanneau read out the citations of each veteran, before pinning the medal on their jackets. (See Citations.)

Standing next to Fred in the medals presentation ceremony was Barney Danson, who has served as the Regiment's Honorary Lieutenant-Colonel. He enlisted as a Rifleman in the Queen's Own aged 18, was promoted Sergeant and later commissioned as Lieutenant. He was wounded in action in Normandy in August of 1944, hospitalized in England and later invalided back to Canada.

Elected as York North MP in 1968, he was appointed to the Cabinet in 1974 as Minister of State for urban affairs and in 1976 became Minister of National Defence. He served in that position until the defeat of the Liberal government in 1979. From 1984 to 1986, Mr. Danson was Canada's Consul General in Boston.

He takes special pride in his role as the founder of Katimivik, the national youth program considered to be the most successful ever undertaken in Canada. In 2002, his autobiography, *Not Bad for a Sergeant: The Memoirs of Barney Danson*, was published.

Others who were honoured were Arthur Boon, Stratford, 19th Royal Canadian Artillery; William Hale, Sarnia, Fort Garry Horse tank regiment and Jack Bennett, Perkinsfield, 2nd Division Signals, who was captured at Dieppe in 1942 and spent the rest of the war as a prisoner.

Following the ceremony, honourees and their families and guests were feted at a reception in The Queen's Own's Officers' Mess, hosted by the French Ambassador, catered by his chef and featuring fine French wines and Calvados, an apple brandy produced in Normandy which was offered by the French to their liberators as they made their way towards Germany and eventual victory.

"Good stuff that," Fred says. "But you have to be careful how much you drink. It packs quite a punch!" Much like the Canadians as they fought their way through France and to whom their government paid tribute more than 60 years later.

As the evening wound down, the wife of the Ambassador approached former Corporal (and Sergeant) Barnard and said to him that, "I was not born when you and your fellow Canadians came to France to liberate my country. But I know all about you and what you did for us, and I will always be grateful. What you did and the sacrifices you made have permitted me, and all French people, to live in freedom and happiness. Thank you very much."



French Legion of Honour Citations



Fred Barnard with his French Legion of Honour medal.

Frederick (Fred) Barnard

"Frederick Barnard was a corporal in The Queen's Own Rifles of the 3rd Canadian Division. He enlisted at the end of 1941 and after two and a half years of intensive training landed in the early hours of 6 June 1944, accompanied by his brother, who was mortally wounded on the beach that same day. During the landing Cpl Barnard went to the aid of many soldiers in his unit who were wounded. He went on to fight in the battle to take Carpiquet Airport and was involved in the liberation of Caen. In the Quesnay Woods, following an order to travel across a clearing the leader of his platoon was wounded by artillery fire. Cpl Barnard immediately took charge of the detachment. He, himself, was wounded by shrapnel in the neck and foot. The Barnard family, through the participation of his father in

the first world war, and the sacrifice of his brother on the beaches in Normandy, as well as his own bravery, contributed greatly to the liberation of France."

James (Jim) McCullough

"James McCullough joined the Canadian Army in 1942 and was attached to "D" Company in The Queen's Own Rifles of Canada. With his company, an integral part of the 8th Canadian Infantry Brigade (3rd Canadian Infantry Division) in the 3rd Canadian Infantry Division of the 8th Canadian Infantry Brigade, he landed on June 6 1944 on Juno Beach, near the community of Courseulles-sur-Mer. An observer and expert sniper, Corporal McCullough took part in fierce battles in which the regiment was involved. Notably, he fought in the liberation of Carpiquet, Caen and Boulogne, receiving a head wound in the last conflict. His skill as an expert rifleman and the quality of the information dispatches which were transmitted to his commander contributed greatly to the success of his unit."

Barnett J. (Barney) Danson

"Danson, of the Queen's Own Rifles of Canada in the 3rd Canadian Infantry Division, landed in Normandy in 1944 and took part in the Arromanches and Falaise conflicts, where he was wounded and lost his left eye. Following the war, he was an MP for several decades as well being the Minister of Defence. His work included being a member of Commonwealth observers in Uganda in 1980 and involvement in the new Canadian War Museum. He was named an Officer in France's Order of National Merit in 1994, was made an Officer of the Order of Canada in 1996 and received the Vimy Award in 2000."

The next edition of The Rifleman, covering 2006 and the first few months of 2007, is in the process of preparation. Much has been happening with The Regiment, as you are aware, and The Rifleman will include reports on the troops who were in Afghanistan, as well as Maj Sandi Banerjee's Soudan excursion, along with much news on regimental activities. It will also contain an up-to-date and detailed account of what is being planned for the Sesquicentennial Celebrations in 2010. Capt Charles McGregor, Editor:

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905 743 0259; mcc@sympatico.ca**



Target is Sidney, Nova Scotia in September. Be there!

John Shapter, President Maritimes - Newfoundland - Labrador Association

We did not hold an annual general meeting this year because of the decision by members at the last reunion and meeting to hold AGMs every two years. It was decided at that time to hold the next meeting and reunion in one of the Maritime Provinces.

The Executive planned a visit to Woody Island in September and all members were invited. I have to tell you the members that couldn't make it for whatever reason missed a true old Newfoundland kitchen party. We had a wonderful time and the meals were out of this world. We did a two hour boat trip up through Placentia Bay and stopped for a picnic on an Island before we headed home and parted ways. We believe the low attendance for this outing was due to traveling expenses in Newfoundland. It may be a factor for many deciding not to attend.

Many other recommendations were made as to what we might be able to do for members during the year. This may be something for the new executive to review. We are here to serve the members but all members have to be a part to make things work.

In September the changeover of the Executive took place. We have been working together to make things happen and it looks like in 2007 we will be very busy with the up coming Reunion. The new Executive for the year are: President-John Shapter; Past President/Membership-John Metcalfe; Kit Shop-Ed Jackman; Secretary-Treasurer-Ben Turpin. We are with-

out a Vice President and if any member of the Association would care to volunteer we would appreciate you joining our team.

The job of reunion planning was taken on by Tom Martin and Ivan MacPhee who did a wonderful job. The Reunion will be held in Sydney, Nova Scotia on the weekend of September 15, 2007. It is expected to be a great time. We moved it to Sydney hoping to attract more members from the surrounding provinces and area. We hope to meet some members who have not attended a reunion in the past. We hope to be able to meet old friends and make new ones. May we suggest to all members to hold off on holidays until September and include the reunion as part of your holidays.

Last year, after 40 years, I made contact with Mervin Messner, a former Queen's Own buddy who lived in Gibson's BC. We talked for hours on the phone and he made plans to come to the reunion next year. I waited for a long time to make contact with him and this up-coming reunion was to be a reunion of remembrance as we enjoyed many old stories we shared on the phone. Sadly, he passed away late last year at a young age of 59 and I will never get to see my friend, Mervin again. I say to all of you, this is the time to get your old friends out to the reunion as you never know what tomorrow may bring.

For more information on the upcoming Reunion go to: <http://www.personainternet.com/rifleman>



Bob Charman honoured by Sandy Cove veterans

Ivor MacLeod

More than 200 were in attendance at the funeral of QOR of C Bandsman Bob Charman in October. They included members of the Regimental Band and Bugles under the direction of Capt Rita Arendz, which played an exceptional selection of music. Queen's Own Buglers played "Last Post" and "Reveille" and a lone piper played the "Lament." Bob had been an executive member of the Sandycove Veterans Social Club and those veterans who were present each pinned a Remembrance Poppy to one of the floral tributes. The Club president, Andy LaPlante (an ex-ranker with the Lord Strathcona's Horse) and Past President QOR Band Sgt Cliff Ashdown were among the pall bearers. A very moving ceremony.

The Huronia Branch of the Canadian Airborne Forces Association conducted an enjoyable choral performance at the Army, Navy and Air Force Club in Barrie. Featuring the OPP Chorus and the Sandycove "Covettes", this very well-attended event, which featured many old and favourite songs -- was MC'd by Pat MacLeod. Those in attendance brought a variety of foodstuffs which were donated to the Barrie food bank.

The Barrie Concert Band presented an "Armed Forces Musical Tribute" at the ANAF Club -- another sold-out event. Huronia Branch CAFA President Ken Luttrell was the MC and the Welcoming Address was given by B-Gen John Hayter KStJ, CD.



Toronto Branch supports soldiers through its Queen's Own Riflemen's Fund

Bob Dunk, President

This will be a shortened report as the Editor kindly printed a lengthy update of Toronto Branch's 2006 activities in the fall issue of the Powder Horn.

At the Men's Christmas Dinner, the award for Rifleman of the Year was presented to Bugle Sergeant George Walford. George has been a solid member of the Bugle Band for many, many years and can always be counted on, even with short notice, to play the Last Post at memorial services for our Fallen Comrades. Congratulations George for a well deserved award! Top shot from our September shoot was none other than George Galea!

In 2006, Toronto Branch formed the Queen's Own Riflemen's Fund as a sub-committee to raise and administer funds in support of our soldiers serving overseas on UN and NATO duty. The committee consists of Craig Cameron, Buzz Currie and Clay Downes who have been very active and inventive in their fund raising. Please see their separate report on the good work they have been doing on behalf of all Association members.

On January 13th, we hosted 40 QOR cadets and officers for a personally guided tour of our Regimental Museum at Casa Loma. Peter Simundson arranged for their admission to the castle and the Association provided the transportation for the cadets. Toronto Branch executive members took advantage of the opportunity to also meet at Casa Loma and Peter provided us with a very entertaining and informative behind-the-scenes tour. 2007 is proving to be another busy year with the fol-

lowing activities already planned:

June 6th, D-Day Memorial Service, Moss Park Armoury

June 26th, 2nd Annual Toronto Branch Golf Tournament, Heather Glen

In June or July, we are planning on hosting a dinner/dance cruise of the Toronto Islands

July 21st, Washago, Norm and Trish McCracken to host a lunch BBQ at their home. All welcome.

July 27th, KVA Remembrance Ceremony, Brampton

August 18th, Warriors Day, CNE

September 22nd, Association Shoot, CFB Borden

October, we are planning on hosting a QOR Day at Casa Loma for the Regimental family

November 11th, Remembrance Day Church Parade

One last item for all members of the Regimental family living in Ontario. Don't forget our official Province of Ontario personalized license plates. These all have the QOR cap badge in three colours on the left side of the plate with our own, unique numbering system. The cost for the plates is only \$52.10 and a quick trip to your local MTO office is all it takes to have the plates transferred to your car. See Andy Macnaughton in the Kit Shop who has a supply on hand or order them through your local MTO office.

And don't forget to regularly check the Association pages on the Regimental website, www.qor.com The site will contain all of the latest news of Toronto Branch activities to keep you up-to-date and well informed.



Elements of Calgary Home Station to be preserved

Jack Glenn

Reunion 2010: The Calgary Branch is looking forward to hosting the Regiment's 150th Anniversary Reunion in 2010. Honorary Colonel Paul Hughes has confirmed that HRH Princess Alexandra has been invited to visit the Regiment at various locations in Canada, including Calgary, in 2010. The dates for the reunion will coincide with HRH's visit to Calgary. Planning for this event has begun at RHQ and updates will be provided on the QOR website.

Former Home Station: Association members who spent time at Currie Barracks in Calgary with the 1st or 2nd Battalions or the Regimental Depot when they were part of the Regular Army might be interested to know what steps the City of Calgary and Canada Lands are taking to preserve some elements of our former Home Station.

Currie Barracks came into existence during the 1930s when the federal government mounted a Depression relief project to turn a training area on the outskirts of Calgary into a garrison for elements of the permanent armed forces.

And as we all know, the Queen's Own Rifles of Canada, Canada's oldest continuously serving infantry regiment, was reinstated as a component of the Regular Army in October of 1953, when the 1st and 2nd Canadian Rifles were re-designated the 1st and 2nd Battalions, Queen's Own Rifles of Canada. The following year, the storied Toronto regiment and the Calgary garrison forged the beginnings of a relationship that was to last for 12 years, weaving a distinct chapter in the history of the regiment and making a memorable contribution to the military legacy of the City of Calgary.

The regiment's continuous occupation of Currie Barracks dates from January 1954 when, Lt. Col. Barnard's history tells us, the 1st Battalion held its first formal parade after taking up residence on its return from Germany in November of 1953. In 1956, the Regimental Depot moved south from Edmonton to set up shop at Currie and that same year Currie Barracks was designated as the Home Station of the Queen's Own Rifles of Canada. In 1960, 1st Battalion went to Germany to take 2nd Battalion's place in 4CIBG and

(Cont'd from previous page)

2nd Battalion returned to Canada to take up residence at Currie Barracks. The 2nd Battalion and the Regimental Depot remained at Currie until 1968 when the 2nd Battalion was reduced to nil strength and the Depot was closed. During that 12 year period, most members of the regular component spent some part of their service at Currie Barracks and many lived with their families in the Currie PMQs that were located East of the barracks on the other side of what was 24th Street and is now Crowchild Trail.

During the 1990s, all Regular Army units stationed in Calgary were moved to Edmonton and Currie Barracks and the Currie PMQs were transferred to Canada Lands Company, a Crown corporation, for redevelopment and disposal. The Currie PMQ area, renamed Garrison Woods, has been extensively redeveloped into an award winning residential area which also features some commercial space, two schools and The Military Museums (formerly the Museum of the Regiments).

Canada Lands is now polishing up a final plan for a mixed residential, office and commercial community on the Currie Barracks site, which it hopes to develop over the next 5 to 10 years. One important aspect of this development will be measures to preserve the military legacy of the area. This began in 1999, when the Province of Alberta officially designated 10 buildings and two sites within the area as a Provincial Historic Resource. This is rarely obtained. The buildings and sites on this list that are of significance to the regiment include the Athlone Building, home of battalion headquarters; the Bessborough and Bennett Buildings, the main Depot buildings; the three barrack buildings adjacent to the parade square, known to the Queen's Own as the Durie, Pellat and Otter Blocks; the Officers' Mess and gardens; Transimeno Crescent, the tree-lined road winding up to the Officers' Mess; and the Parade Square. The exteriors of most of the buildings will be preserved except for the three barrack blocks, where only the shape and colour will be preserved. Still this should be sufficient for them to be recognizable.

Some elements of the interior of the Officers' Mess will be preserved and the preservation of some elements of the interior of the Athlone Building is under consideration. The form of Transimeno Crescent will be preserved at least from the Officers' Mess to the intersection at Ramshead House (formerly the Brigade Commander's house). Consideration is being given to preserving the form of the entire Crescent to its terminus at Quesnay Wood Drive. Likewise, the form of the Parade Square will

be preserved, which suggests that the tarmac surface, which is presently used for basketball and shinny by some of the five schools in the adjacent area, is likely to be replaced, perhaps by some sort of landscaping. This should sit easier with former RSMs , some of whom were known to become upset if pigeons or dependents wives pushing strollers wandered onto the square – Rowbotham and Hampton come to mind, than having the Cirque de Soleil set up on their former domain, which has happened in recent years.

Queen's Own memento at Currie Barracks that Canada Lands has decided will remain in situ is the wall or pedestal located on the high ground at the north end of the sports field across Quesnay Road Dr. from Harvey Hall. This commemorative pedestal was unveiled on 15 July 1968, when LGen W.A.B. Anderson, Commander of Mobile Command, accompanied by Col. J.G.K. Strathy, Colonel of the Regiment, and LCol N.A. Robinson, CO 2Bn, decreed that the sports field would henceforth be known as Rifles' Field. A photo of the dedication ceremony can be found on page 67 of the 1968 edition of the Powder Horn. The inscription on the wall reads: " LGen. W.A.B. Anderson, OBE, CD, Commander Mobile Command designated this field RIFLES FIELD on July 15, 1968 to commemorate the service of the Queen's Own Rifles of Canada at their Home Station Currie Barracks, Calgary. 1954-1968." After withstanding nearly 40 years of Calgary weather the pedestal is a little the worse for wear and someone has 'liberated' the QOR of C plaque that was inset at the bottom of the wall. The Regimental Adjutant has suggested that, since the pedestal was provided by the QOR of C, Calgary Branch might take the lead in restoring the pedestal. It has been proposed that Rifles' Field should become the site of a condo development named Rifles' Green, but that some of the grassed area around the pedestal should be preserved.

Lunch get-togethers: Meanwhile, throughout 2006, we continued to hold our regular Branch luncheon get-togethers at #264 (Kensington) Legion on the first Friday of each month. The turnout seemed to be improving as the year progressed. We hope this trend will continue in 2007. This year, Calgary Branch will celebrate the Regimental Birthday on Friday, 21 April. As in past years, the celebration will take the form of a dinner and dance at #264 (Kensington) Legion , beginning at 1730 for 1800.

Happy (rather belated) Birthday: Ralph Ridley, who has always been an active member of the Calgary Branch of the Association and who was for many years our Powder Horn ad Rifleman correspondent, celebrated his 80th birthday on 23 January.



Vancouver Island members are keepin' busy

Bob Drinkwater

Branch Executive:

Ira MacDonald resigned as President on January 25, 2006 and was replaced by Bill Brayshaw; Ed Titus accepted the position of Branch Vice-President. On behalf of the members, a huge vote of thanks to Ira MacDonald for all of his hard work during his two terms as Branch President. Anyone wishing to contact the Vancouver Island Branch is asked to call Jim Carroll at (250) 727-2064 or to email him at: tigerlily.sask@shaw.ca.



146th Regimental Birthday

The Branch's 146th Regimental Birthday Dinner and Dance was held this year at the Prince Edward Branch (Langford) RCL #91 located at 761 Station Road, Langford. The location for the Dinner/Dance was moved from the Naden Wardroom due to a substantial increase in proposed meal costs, a refusal to provide accommodation for out of town Members and an unreasonable limit on the number of persons who could attend.

This event continues to be well attended every year and we were pleased to have had Don Ethell, and his wife Linda join over 200 Members and their guests at this year's celebration.

Branch News

The Vancouver Island Branch continues to be well supported by the members. Our monthly luncheon in Victoria sees an average of 50 members come out to see friends and catch up on the Branch activities and the regular monthly coffee break in Nanaimo averages an attendance of 25 members. Our membership stands at 277 for 2006.

We want to thank Teresa Whelan for donating a portrait of our Colonel-In-Chief, Princess Alexandra of Kent that was a proud possession of her late husband Bob. We will be displaying this fine portrait at all of our Mess functions.

Tim Towers, who joined the Branch Executive last year to help Kevin Walsh with entertainment, has been busy selling tickets on a Sterling Silver Hat Badge minted in 1913 and mounted on a pin so that it can be worn as a brooch. And Sy Simmons and Art Saretsky have once again raised over \$600 for the Branch by selling tickets on a Shadow Box made by Art.

Once again the Branch has directly supported our fellow Veterans by sponsoring a hole at the Annual Broadmead Lodge Charity Golf Tournament. This \$250 donation goes to support Veterans living in Broadmead Lodge.

QOR of C Museum Display

The display of our Regimental memorabilia at the Naden Base Museum continues to expand and improve thanks to the hard work and dedication of a small group headed by Jim Schulz. The Museum Committee would like to especially thank Donna Windenmaier, of Moose Jaw Saskatchewan, for donating a QOR Raincoat worn by her late husband Donald. The raincoat has been placed in the Barrack Room Display which now contains a complete kit.

The Naden Museum is open weekdays from 10:00 to 16:00 and will be open on Saturday, April 22nd following the Regimental Birthday celebration, from 10:00 to 13:00 so that our out-of-town visitors can tour the displays. All members and guests are invited as well. Please contact Jim Schulz at (250) 478-9633 if you wish to make a donation of memorabilia to the Museum.

Work Point Mess in the News

During the latter part of Feb and early March, the "deconstruction" of the Work Point Officers' Mess made the papers locally for a few days as the "destroy / remove" deadline approached. This news was greeted with more than a little dismay by Groups who had worked to save the heritage building and put it to use for the benefit of the Community.

Efforts to save the Mess, lead by local Arts and Heritage Groups, have caused concern and raised support from local Regimental Associations, Legions, United Services Institutes and local, municipal and Federal politicians. Support for the restoration and preservation is growing and is strong.

The Mess initiative fits very nicely with another effort to keep a focus on "Remember Canada's Military" ("working title"). With the "Year of the Veteran" now over, some are concerned that focus gained in the last year, on the continuous and continuing Service to Canada, will be allowed to recede until another decade or two is past, if ever. It would be a shame if the recent support gained for the Military were to evaporate. A Group is coming together to further the ideas of keeping attention on the Military and that could well come into play locally, with the Mess at Work Point being a centerpiece of the effort, in the short term.

Our 150th Anniversary will be celebrated in 2010; how we're not yet certain. The PPCLI 100th Anniversary is coming up in 2014 and plans for that are now forming. Both Associations could have considerable interest if events move forward to promote the preservation of the Work Point Mess, as now appears to be the case. STAY TUNED!