



# The Powder Horn

Spring/Summer 2008

## LCol M. Glenn McIver: 20 September, 1916 – 16 March, 2008

Capt Charles McGregor, Editor, Powderhorn

A former Honorary Lieutenant Colonel and four former COs were among the many who attended a memorial service for LCol Glenn McIver, 91, who passed away peacefully in March. He was a World War II veteran, a member of the Army of Occupation in 1945 and Commanding Officer of The Third Battalion of The Queen's Own Rifles of Canada from 1960-1963.

On a sunny spring day those present at the service heard former Honorary LCol The Hon. Barney Danson describe LCol McIver as "A highly respected individual, a highly regarded CO and a good friend." LCol Danson said that they had "enlisted and trained together – and served under RSM Harry Fox," and were recommended for officer training prior to D-Day. "We were in Debert, Nova Scotia at the time and we both wanted to get into action so we went to the CO and pleaded for the chance to go," he said. "The CO said that he'd 'never seen two people more anxious to get themselves killed than you two' – but he sent us anyway." LCol Danson recalled that after entering battle he was out fairly quickly "but not voluntarily." (He was seriously wounded.) "But Glenn fought on through Belgium and took part in the liberation of Holland." Present at Mooshof in the action which earned a Victoria Cross for Sgt Aubrey Cosens, he was wounded in the chest before VE Day, "and missed out on the celebrations," his daughter recalled.

In addition to LCol McIver's wife Jean,

daughter Ruth and son Glenn, and other family members and friends and Bradford's RCL Legion Branch members attending the memorial service, Queen's Own representation included former Commanding Officers, Frank Mulrooney, (who was LCol McIver's Adjutant in the 3rd Bn), C.E. (Ed) Rayment, R.M. (Bob) Campbell and John M. Fotheringham. Also present: former RSMs Harry Fox, MBE and Brian Budden, new (as of April 20) RSM Shawn Kelly, D-Day veteran Roy Shaw, Korea veteran Frank Sypulski and Norm McCracken, who also served in the 3rd Bn under LCol McIver.

Ruth McIver told the assemblage that a highlight of her father's term as CO was an invitation to her mother and father, along with the Commanding Officers of the 1st and 2nd Bns, to represent The Queen's Own Rifles at the wedding of the Regiment's Colonel-in-Chief, Princess Alexandra, to Angus Ogilvy in Westminster Abbey in 1963. During one of several trips to Britain, France and Holland in the '80s and '90s, Ruth said, her parents also had the opportunity to meet with Princess Diana.

Ruth said her father, while training at Camp Borden in 1940, and alerted to an overseas posting coming within the week, called Jean and asked her "Do you still love me?" When she said she did, he said, "Then meet me at City Hall with \$2. So Dad hitchhiked to Toronto and they got married."



LCol M. Glenn McIver

Postwar, LCol McIver taught high school, first at Central Tech and then, for 25 years at Danforth Tech. In addition to Jean and his two children, he is survived by a grandson and a great-grand-daughter, his sisters Elisabeth and Jean and 11 nieces and nephews. Predeceased by parents Murdoch and Mary, sisters Kay and Mary and brothers Malcolm and Jack, who was killed in action WWII.

In his memory, his family has suggested donations may be made to The Queen's Own Rifles of Canada Trust Fund, 4981 Highway 7 East, Unit 12A, Suite 250, Markham, ON, M5A 1R9.



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The Queen's Own Rifles of Canada





# We are looking for your help

In this issue of The Powder Horn you will find some articles written by former members of The Queen's Own Rifles reflecting on their lives or on incidents which occurred during their service with the Regiment. I direct your attention to these articles (see pp 4 and 5, 11 and 12) in the hopes that they will encourage many of you to think back to your own years as a member of The Queen's Own and to write interesting memoirs of your time serving in Rifle Green.

These will be gathered – along with any photographs you might wish to submit – for possible use in the modern history of The Queen's Own Rifles which I am in the process of writing. The book will serve as a followup to the excellent history of the Regiment's first 100 years, written by the late LCol William Barnard ED, CD, published in 1960. The modern history will actually begin in 1950, since the Korean War and Cold War activities which began in the 50s were not covered in any detail in LCol Barnard's book – necessarily so, since his book was packed with information on everything from the Battle of Ridgeway, to the end of World War II.

I have also undertaken to edit and help write a book on the bands of The Queen's Own since 1860, so if there's any-

one out there who wishes to contribute material or photos to this, I'd welcome hearing from you as well. I'm looking for anecdotes about your time in any of the Regimental Bands or Bugle Bands since the 1950s. Both books are being written in connection with the celebrations planned for 2010 when The Queen's Own Rifles of Canada celebrates the 150th anniversary of the Regiment's founding in 1860.

It's my hope that the modern history of The Queen's Own Rifles will be written largely by the people who have served in one of its three battalions and the Regimental Depot since 1950. But I would not wish to exclude the wives and children of the Queen's Own's serving members. If there are some of you out there reading this material who would like to contribute, you are encouraged to send along your stories and memories of what life has been like for you as a member of the Regimental Family of The Queen's Own Rifles – Canada's Oldest and Finest Regiment.

Capt Charles D. McGregor  
Director, Regimental Communications,  
Queen's Own Rifles of Canada.



## Here's what you need to know...

If you think you'd like to be part of the development of these two books here are some suggestions on how you should go about getting your material ready for submission.

Ideally, e-mailed material is the number one choice for preparation and submission. This makes the editing process much smoother at my end, I can assure you.

However, I will also accept copy that is typewritten or written in longhand, with these cautions: Typewritten copy should be double-spaced and typed on one side of the paper only. Handwritten copy should be as legible as you can make it, well spaced on the pages and, also, only written on one side of the paper. All names should be spelled carefully and should include rank, first name, last name and any decorations that were awarded.

I am also anxious to get as many good quality photographs as possible, in black and white or colour. PLEASE DO NOT SEND ORIGINAL PHOTOS. Instead, take them to a photo copy shop such as Kinko's, Copy Zone, Kwik Kopy or similar establishment, or to Wal Mart or Staples or any business supply store where copying services are available. It costs only a few cents to make excellent copies of photos – assuming that they're sharp and in focus to begin with. Minimum size should be 5"x6" with 8"x10" as a maximum. Having them copied is also the way to send any news clippings you may have.

With respect to the photos, e-mail photos must be high resolution (300 dpi/pixels). Any lower resolution and they're too small to reproduce and any bigger they'll clog up my hard drive and slow down or stop the transmission.

Also, photos should be identified as to what's going on, when and where they were taken, who the main people are in the picture etc. Identification, as I said earlier, should include rank, first name, last name, decorations if known. Identification should be attached securely to the photo in some way. If you plan to write on the backs of the pictures do not use ball point pen, since it shows through, or felt tip pen, since it smudges. A soft pencil is fine, if there's not too much information.

Ideally, identification should be written clearly on plain white paper and attached to any submissions.

If you decide you'd like to do this – and we hope that many of you will – here's what I'd ask you to do. If you are e-mailing copy or pictures, send them to [qorpubs@sympatico.ca](mailto:qorpubs@sympatico.ca). If you want to contact me to ask a question, or for any other reason I can be reached at [mcc@sympatico.ca](mailto:mcc@sympatico.ca) or by telephone at 905 743 0259. If you are mailing copy or photos via Canada Post, the address is 1152 Ashcroft Court, Oshawa, ON, L1K 2N9.

**Capt Charles McGregor**



# Honorary Colonel's report provides an "update on progress of the larger initiatives"

Col Paul F. Hughes CD, Honorary Colonel, Queen's own Rifles



Honorary Colonel Paul Hughes CD congratulates  
Sgt Cecil Parris CD

A very productive meeting of the QOR 2010 planning committee was held in Moss Park Armoury in March. As Chair of the Executive Committee 2010, in addition to Toronto attendees I was pleased to see representatives from Calgary Branch (Jack Glenn sitting in for Bob Titus), Vancouver Island Branch (Bill Brayshaw) and Maritimes Branch (Wayne Thomas and Tom Martin). This was one in a series of meetings leading up to the Canada-wide celebrations of the 150th QOR Birthday in 2010. This brief report is to give all members of the QOR family an update on the progress of the larger initiatives.

**National Association.** I also attended a National Association Meeting chaired by General Herb Pitts and was impressed with the spirit of co-operation that prevailed and the progress being made to bring this organization into being. Herb and his team are making remarkable progress and he will be reporting on this due course.

**HRH The Princess Alexandra, our Colonel-in-Chief.** I have been advised by Buckingham Palace that Princess Alexandra wishes to relinquish her Colonelcy of The Queen's Own Rifles and will be unable to participate in our 150th birthday celebrations. Honorary Lieutenant Colonel Dick Cowling and I met HRH in early April to discuss this situation and to establish the date of her standing down and the names of potential successors. More to follow on this important development.

**Band Book and Modern History Book.** Capt McGregor, Director Regimental Comms is making good progress on writing the QOR Band Book. To date three easy-reading chapters are done, with additional chapters well underway. He entwines the history of our band with developments in Canada and the British Empire. The target date for the band book to be on book shelves is the fall of 2009. The current plan is to produce the Band Book in "coffee table" format (12 X 10 inches) with a generous sprinkling of pictures from all eras. He has also undertaken to write the modern history book (1950-2010) and this is also underway with a view to publication in 2011, to include 2010 activities.

**QOR Band CD.** 2010 committee member Jim Lutz is working with the Director of Music Capt Rita Arendz on the development of a band CD. We anticipate "bundling" the CD with the band book as an option or they could be purchased separately, if so desired.

**QOR Sesquicentennial Stamp.** Initial steps have been taken to see if a QOR Commemorative Stamp might be produced in conjunction with 2010. This might require a letter-writing and email campaign by all members of the QOR family to encourage Canada Post to "get on board." More about this later.

**QOR Web Page.** 2010 has been added to the QOR web page. At present, it contains only summary information but in future detailed information from all across Canada will be added. In addition, Maggie Hermant (Event Support) is considering whether some bookings may be done on line via the QOR Web Page.

**Nijmegen March.** Honorary Lieutenant Colonel Dick Cowling is spearheading an effort to enter an 11-person Queen's Own team in the 2010 Nijmegen March which is held annually in Holland over four days with 25 miles being covered each day. He will do a recce of the 2008 march to determine what is required for the unit's participation.

**Conclusion.** There are many more initiatives being taken that could be commented on but these are the significant few that can be squeezed into a limited format. Keep your eye on the QOR web page for more updates

## CONTACT THE EDITOR

Readers of The Powder Horn and Rifleman who wish to contact the Editor with comments or story ideas can do so via email at [mcc@sympatico.ca](mailto:mcc@sympatico.ca); by regular mail at 1152 Ashcroft Court, Oshawa, ON, L1K 2N9; by telephone at 905 743 0259. Since I have now also undertaken responsibility to

produce a book on the Regimental and Bugle Bands of The Queen's Own since 1860 as well as a Modern History of the Regiment (1950-2010) suggestions on what might be included in those are also welcome.  
Capt Charles D. McGregor.



# **“I have nothing but fond memories”**

**Major-General John Sharpe CD (Former CO 1st Battalion, QOR of C)**

Having commenced my Regular Force service with the Queen's Own – and very much benefiting from the opportunity -- I have nothing but fond memories of the Regiment. As a new Regiment (in the Regular Forces), we were blessed with officers and senior non-commissioned officers who understood they had a very important role to play. And that was to identify, train and groom the future leaders of the Regiment. Many had previously served with the PPCLI. Some came by choice, some were chosen, but regardless of how they arrived at the Queen's Own – the majority were determined to make this an excellent Infantry Regiment.

Had I first gone to the Patricia's, I suspect that the outcome for me would have been quite different. Resting on their laurels, which were not insignificant and very much deserved, too many senior Patricia officers failed to understand the need to develop and promote their best. Proof of that came in the early 1970s shortly after 1 QOR of C rebadged to 3 PPCLI in Victoria. All three Patricia battalions were commanded by officers who, until 1970, were Queen's Own officers. They were LCol John Sharpe (1 PPCLI), LCol Jim Allan (2 PPCLI) and LCol Dick Cowling (3 PPCLI). As difficult as it was to leave one's Regiment, the situation was made palatable by the fact that we already knew many of the Patricias and by the warm and sincere welcome by all ranks. MGen (Ret'd) Cammie Ware, Colonel of the Regiment of the PPCLI, spoke with eloquence and sincerity in his inspection of the rebadged 1 QOR of C on the Monday following the Battalion's final parade at Work Point Barracks in Esquimalt. His example was thereafter emulated by all.

## **Germany - 1 QOR of C - early 60s.**

LGen Geoffrey Walsh, Chief of the General Staff, inspecting 1 QOR of C in Germany. Our self-assured WW2 company commanders and CO were reduced to babbling idiots through their absolute fear of General Walsh. I was too young and naive to be afraid. Apparently it was the General's habit to ALWAYS find fault during an inspection. Nothing was too trivial. Other than continuing to put the fear of God into the senior officers, the inspection was going better than expected. Walking down the road with his entourage he pointed to a building that they were passing and not inspecting. Walsh stopped and demanded, "What's in there?" Before a Major or the CO could reply an older and absolutely unflappable Captain immediately replied, "Everything we don't want you to see, Sir." As a grin slowly came on Walsh's face he said, "Very well, let's go to the Mess and have a drink!" And the inspec-

tion was over. And, of course, the building did contain much of what the Battalion had squirrelled away from the general's eyes!

## **Same Route as the Last Two Years.**

### **Germany - 2 QOR of C - Jan 1960.**

I arrived in Germany as a reinforcement officer on 6 Jan 1960. Within less than a week of my arrival, the Battalion's vehicles were assembled on the parade square in preparation for the move to the Putlos Training Area which is located on the Baltic Coast north of Hamburg - a day's drive away from Deilinghoffen. I was to command a packet of vehicles and reported to the parade square to hear the briefing by the Battalion Transport Officer. With what looked like a large scale map of Europe mounted on an easel, the TO briefed us on the route. He was brief and to the point and essentially said, "Same route as last year except the lunch halt will be north of Hamburg and not South as it was last year. Any questions?" I had not been issued a road map. I had not been issued a route letter. And I had absolutely no idea how to get to the autobahn to start our journey. With some hesitation, as no one else felt the need to ask a question, I raised my hand and asked, "Which way do I turn outside the Main Gate?" Laughter broke out as the officers concluded that this new guy Sharpe is going to be all right ... he has a great sense of humour. Before I could say any more, my Platoon Sergeant quietly approached and said, "It's OK Sir, we'll get there." Having learned to trust my Platoon Sergeants I didn't pursue the matter any further with the TO -- and we did get to Putlos, reasonably directly. There is, of course, an important moral to this story. Don't presume that all leaders have the same knowledge and experience.

## **Rocks from the Sky.**

### **Wainwright - 1 QOR of C - late 50s.**

In the late 50s 1st Canadian Infantry Brigade was commanded by BGen A.E. Wrinch. Helicopters were making their debut in the military and Wrinch loved helicopters. He started to inspect bivouac areas from the air. To expedite communicating with those on the ground, and to avoid having to land, he would write his message onto a field message sheet, wrap it around a rock, hold it all together with elastic bands ... and throw it to the ground. Watching out for these epistles from the sky became a standing joke throughout the Brigade. One message reportedly observed that a unit's latrines were not sufficiently covered with lids. One day the Battalion was on rest and maintenance,

and a church parade had been organized for mid morning. As always, the Protestants and RCs went to separate services. Major Hobbs was the senior RC and as he was marching his group of soldiers across the bald prairie to the RC priest's location, 'Helicopter Wrinch' arrived and hovered over the soldiers. Hobbs halted the group, laid down flat on his back, and saluted the helicopter! The helicopter departed quickly and Brigadier Wrinch was never again seen over the Queen's Own lines! Well done Major Hobbs.

#### **Fire Fire Fire. Germany - 1 QOR of C - early 60s.**

The Artillery Officers who occupied the camp immediately adjacent and attached to Fort McLeod, invited the Battalion officers to a Mess Dinner. During the games after dinner an old upright piano, that had had more than a few drinks spilled over its keys and inner works, was sold by auction. After very keen bidding the piano was sold. Next to be auctioned was an axe. The bidding for the axe far exceeded the bidding for the piano. This was so because the owner of the axe would have the privilege of the first swing of the axe in destroying the just-auctioned piano! The piano was hauled out onto the parking lot and the fun started. Once the piano had been reduced to a pile of wood pieces, ivory and wire, someone had the bright idea of having a bonfire. With some difficulty, the pile was set afire and singing commenced. As dawn was fast approaching and the fire was waning, someone rang the fire alarm so we could all witness the local military Fire Brigade in action. The fire hall was by the main gate to the camp that was visible to our group at the Officers' Mess parking lot. After some delay a fire truck emerged from the fire hall and proceeded to drive around the gunner's camp looking for the fire. The truck eventually came to the Officers' Mess. In unravelling the hoses from the truck the firemen were embarrassed to discover that the closest fire hydrant was back at the Main Gate beside the fire hall. By the time the hose was connected to a hydrant and water emerged our fire wasn't much of a fire anymore. As the firemen were rolling up their hoses in the morning light our laughter reached a new level when we observed six men in strange hats and uniforms running towards the Mess pulling a large two-wheel cart. The cart contained a long fire hose. The men were members of the Deilinghoffen Volunteer Fire Brigade. We subsequently learned that there was a long-standing agreement between the Canadian military and the Village of Deilinghoffen to assist each other in fire fighting. The cost for the Germans to respond was added to the attendees of the Mess Dinner and bonfire! It was worth every Deutsche Mark!

#### **Mess Characters and Events.**

#### **Calgary - 1 QOR of C - late 1950s.**

Lts Grahame Baskerville and Cal Kemper come to mind. Between the two of them they were in trouble so

often that the subalterns' turn at orderly officer was noticeably reduced. Grahame was ROTP, graduated from university before he was 20 and was smart as a whip. However, he would sometimes do silly things; his favourite being fire alarms. Cal Kemper, known as "Cool Cal the Subs' Pal", also got into various kinds of harmless trouble. On one occasion we attempted to wake Kemper up after he had retired to bed before we thought he should. He had locked his door so we couldn't gain access that way. Cal's room was on the second floor of the Mess. Three Lts went onto the roof -- Terry Cassidy, Dick Cowling and Jim Allan. Dick Cowling held the roof ridge and the ankles of Jim Allan. Jim, on his belly, held the ankles of Terry. Terry, head first, proceeded over the edge of the building and rapped on Cal's window. Each time Cal came to see what was happening, Terry would twist away to avoid being seen. That was funny enough, but then Jim started playing with Terry. Acting as serious as possible (and Jim was an excellent actor) it appeared he was losing his grip that would have dropped Terry at least 20 feet onto his head. At one point Jim actually let go with one hand and Terry's face went white -- a mean trick when upside-down! Jim eventually pulled Terry back up onto the roof and all three returned safely into the Mess -- for another drink. Lt Jim Allan was another character. He would do just about anything on a dare. I'll always remember the early morning after a very long Mess Dinner when someone called our attention to something happening in front of the Mess. Once outside we could see Jim Allan, still in his Mess Kit, squatting on the apex of the roof with his hands tucked under his armpits and looking at the rising sun in the East. And then he proceeded to crow like a rooster!

#### **Fun and Games with the Strathcona's**

The Strathcona Officers' Mess, being immediately across the road from the Queen's Own Mess, was simply too close a target to ignore. The Regiments were good friends and respected each other, but that did not stop pranks. Our favourite trick was to take their small cannon from its pedestal in front of the Mess and deposit it on the front steps of City Hall in downtown Calgary. As the Straths increased the size of chains and bolts to keep the cannon in place, we would acquire the tools to deal with the problem. One memorable event involved manoeuvring a living-in subaltern's red MG sports car into the front hallway of the Strath Mess. We physically had to lift and rotate the car to get it around a critical corner. I wasn't there to see the extraction of the car but it was accomplished the next morning without damage to the car or Mess. Mess games were encouraged and if something got broken, so be it. However the guilty party also expected to pay for the repair and to pay for the small brass plate that would be purchased, engraved and mounted at the appropriate location to commemorate the event! It was NOT OK to break memorabilia.



# Queen's Own Association News from Coast to Coast

## Jim Carroll, Victoria Island Branch

Congratulations to Ross Millward, and Jim Duberry for their outstanding performance at the BC Senior Badminton games. Ross won three gold medals for Singles, Doubles, and Mixed Doubles, in the age group 60-65 and Jim won Gold in Single Badminton, and Silver medal for Men's Doubles, in the age group 75-79.

Our current membership of 256, including new members Hank Cheverie, Murry Kesseler, Gilles Pharan, Don Fleming, George Rogers, John Mackinnon. Bob Gallagher and George Clarke, will be pleased to learn dues (now payable) will remain \$15.00 for 2008. Changes are expected in 2009. If you wish to join the National Association it will cost an additional \$7.50, which will include receipt of the Rifleman. More details to come.

Our web site is now operational and anyone wishing to make an entry please contact a committee member for approval, and submission to the Web Master. The Association would like to thank Mike Cuvelier for operation of the Web Site.

The October 2007 Dinner and Dance welcomed 138 attendees, and increase from 97 the previous year. Many old friends gathered for the occasion, with out of town guests Wayne and Francis Thomas from Nfld, John and Lydia Friedt, Calgary, Don and Lin Smith, Chilliwack, John W

Leighton, Vancouver. Don and Barb McDonald, Quadra Island and Ray and Joey Ellis, Aggazzi.

Congratulations to the Committee of the Nfld & Maritime Branch for a great reunion. Special thanks to Tom Martin for his tireless effort in assisting the Branch. The members who went from V.I.B. stated it was a great event.

Special thanks to Robbie Robertson for the D Day Landing Print which will be displayed in the Museum.

Madeline Andrews and Dawna Bright would like to thank those who attended and helped with the celebration of life. Herb Pitts, Bill Brayshaw, Russ Kierstead, Cy Simmons. Bob Darroch, Pete Kolbe, Jim Carroll, Charlie Wendt, Ed Titus, Gordon Hryhoryshen, Lee Drover, Harry Lloy and Wade Cornick

*LAST POST: (2007): James H. Mackendrick, 04 May, Victoria; Jack Taylor, 27 May, Calgary; Ralph E. Ridley, 07 Jun, Calgary; Kenneth M. Francis; 12 Jul, Victoria; Morey John Andrews, 21 Sep, Victoria; Norm Van Tassel, 03 Dec, Winnipeg; Al McMillan, 04 Dec, Calgary; Rene Stang, 07 Dec, Calgary; Ross Bright, 22 Dec, Sooke; Fred Swan, 25 Dec, Calgary. (2008): John Connolly, 04 Jan, Parksville; Lloyd Cornett, 21 Jan, Tsawassen, Weldon Angus Welsh, 23 Jan, Innerkip.*

## Jack Glenn, Calgary Branch

Calgary Branch has a new President - Bob Titus, who served with the regular force units of the regiment from the 1950s to 1968 and is well known to all branch members. Joining Bob on the Executive Committee are Don Ethell, Vice-President; John Cresswell, Past President & Sgt-at-Arms; Louise Hodder, Secretary; Clay Hodder, Treasurer and Ken Barrett, Kit Shop Manager. The new Executive Committee plans to hold monthly meetings and an Annual General Meeting. Its immediate priorities are arrangements for this year's Regimental Birthday Celebration and planning for the 2010 Sesquicentennial Birthday celebrations.

The nature of the 2010 Anniversary Celebrations in Calgary, as is the case with other branches of the Association, will hinge on whether our Colonel-in-Chief, Her Royal Highness Princess Alexandra will be in attendance. The Branch Executive Committee is proposing that our core activity will be a reception and dinner, probably followed by a dance, at #264 Legion. The Branch is also proposing to refurbish and, if HRH is in attendance, re-dedicate the pedestal at the north end of Rifles Field at Currie Barracks that commemorates the QOR of C's service at the Home Station there from 1954 to 1968. If HRH is not in attendance, we would likely still proceed with the refurbishment of the pedestal and the

Executive are in the process of obtaining an estimate for costs. There are other opportunities for involving HRH, if time permits - e.g. rededication of the stained glass windows from the Protestant Chapel at Currie Barracks which were donated by QOR of C and which have been installed in the Colonel Belcher Veterans' Care Centre .

We will be in touch with Vancouver Island Branch with respect to coordination of the dates for our events and the participation of the Bugles and Skirmishers.

As in past years, our 2008 Regimental Birthday will be celebrated with a dinner at #264 Legion. In order to accommodate members who also want to attend the Vancouver Island Branch's celebrations, the executive has moved our dinner ahead to Friday, 18 April. The dinner will be preceded by a brief Annual General Meeting, beginning at 1800 hrs, and our new President urges members to make a special effort to be in attendance to help get our branch off to a good start for this year and headed in the right direction for 2010. By the time you receive this issue of the Powder Horn, the event may well be over. In any event we are all hoping for a record turnout.

### **Bob Dunk, Toronto Branch**

Planning is well under way for the QOR2010 Birthday celebrations in Toronto. A reunion will be held at the Westin Harbour Castle the weekend of April 23rd to 25th, 2010.

Friday night will see a 'meet and greet' with displays of Regimental memorabilia representing our entire 150 year history. Local trips and tours are planned for Saturday with a gala dinner Saturday evening at the Harbour Castle followed by not one but two dances. All followed by Church Parade Sunday morning with the unique opportunity to be one of hundreds of Association members from across the country on parade once again with the Regiment.

Fund raising is very important to help keep the cost of these events down to an affordable level. We are holding our 3rd Annual Golf Tournament at Heather Glen in June, a Texas Hold'em in September as well as a major event in conjunction with the Regiment later this fall. If you can't attend in person, why not buy a ticket to show your support? If you would like to help out with any of our birthday committees, please get in touch with any member of the executive and we'd be more than happy to see you!

### **John Metcalfe, Maritimes-Newfoundland and Labrador Branch**

This year we will plan a reunion meeting in Clarenville, which is two hours from all the major points in Eastern Newfoundland. It is about two hours from the farthest point on the Burin Peninsula, about the same distance from Bonavista Peninsula, Gander and St. John's. This will give members from most of the Province's major centres an opportunity to get together without a lot of travel. Our last meeting was out of province and didn't provide this opportunity to meet "on the cheap." We expect that everyone will save for the Sesquicentennial anniversary to be held in 2010 and we should all go as a group.

The agenda, time and date for the meeting in Clarenville has not been set. You now have an opportunity to persuade us to choose your preferred date and you should mention any activity you'd like included.

It is our belief that there are many pictures out there waiting to be destroyed by time, fire, floods or other disasters causing them to be lost forever. There are people who spent a lot of time and effort gathering pictures as a hobby and these pictures are enjoyed by few. We don't want to see pictures harboured under the copyright act as they may as well be destroyed if old soldiers can't freely enjoy them. We at QOR-East are determined to gather and share with you photos long forgotten. At the moment we are gathering Platoon pictures. If you have any you'd like to share we will look after digitizing them and returning the originals to the sender. (Or, for those with the capability on their computers, you can send them to us as high resolution jpg files. Minimum 300 dpi/pixels). If you have pictures that are slightly damaged or stained we can correct that as well. Once these are scanned and placed on the web they

### **Dates to remember for the remainder of 2008:**

- **April 6th, Toronto Branch get together at RCL Branch 258**
- **April 26th, Toronto Branch AGM at RCL Branch 344, 1100hrs**
- **May 25th, Veterans' BBQ at RCL Branch 344**
- **June 17th, 3rd Annual Golf Tournament at Heather Glen**
- **June 6th, D-Day Memorial Service at Moss**
- **July 1st, Canada Day at RCL Branch 258**
- **July 27th, KVA Memorial Service in Brampton**
- **August 9th, dedication of the CAVUNP Memorial in Angus**
- **August 23rd, Warrior's Day Parade at the CNE**
- **September, Texas Hold'em**
- **November 9th, Remembrance Day Church Parade**

will be "disaster proofed" and enjoyed by all for all time. Any member without web access may request his platoon picture and if we have it we will make a copy and mail it along to you. Those with access to the web can view and download and print any picture we have posted there. Those who have access should view the pictures and if you know any of the names; we would love to know them also so we can post them with the pictures. We appreciate any comments as well. If you have any suggestion for other picture categories please let us know. I am sure there are plenty of you out there who can help us with this endeavour. Email photos to [bturpin@personainternet.com](mailto:bturpin@personainternet.com). Visit our site - <http://www.qor-east.com> and check out the pictures under Photo Gallery. Leave a note in our Guest Book.

At our Sydney meeting we decided the year for the fees would be changed to match the calendar year. In future fees will cover January to December. For those who have already paid your dues for 2008, we thank you very much. If you have not yet paid, please take a minute and send a cheque or money order for \$20.00 payable to: QOR NL Association, 17 Riverview Ext., Clarenville, NL A5A 4N2

Over the past three years, a tremendous amount of thought and effort has been put into the drafting of a national constitution. In 2009 we will be a branch of a truly national Association. There will be a levy of \$7.50 per member to be paid to the National at the beginning of that year. Our dues of \$20.00 may have to be raised to \$25.00 for 2009 and we may be paying the levy to the National on your behalf. These and other items will be discussed at our meeting in Clarenville. So keep well my friends, we'll see you there. John Metcalfe, President.



# Role-playing with Afghanistan-bound troops at CFB Wainwright

Col Richard (Dick) Cowling, Honorary LCol, Queen's Own Rifles of Canada



*Photograph taken after the initial "Shura" held with the "Governor of Kandahar" and his entourage. (Mr Amer, who played the part of the Governor, has been an experienced diplomat in the service of Afghanistan.) L to R: Hon LCol Dick Cowling (DAFIT), LCol Woodworth (CO PRT), Ghulam Ghaus Amer (Governor of Kandahar), Aziz Ahmad (Minister of Interior).*

Ex MAPLE GUARDIAN is the final definitive exercise conducted for our troops deploying to Afghanistan. In order to experience the scope of the exercise, and to contribute in some way, I volunteered to play the role of the Department of Foreign Affairs and International Trade (DAFIT) representative on the Provincial Reconstruction Team (PRT).

This gave me the opportunity to not only gain experience in this important activity, but also to mix with various persons from the acting profession. This was a story in itself! My activities were pretty mundane, having to do with rule of law and governance. I did meet the real DAFIT representative who gave me valuable advice on how to play my part. On the other hand, my experience as a professional soldier allowed me to offer assistance in other areas of the exercise.

By far the most interesting and important part of the role-playing was the inclusion of a number of Afghan nationals, now residing in Canada, who added much realism to the scenarios. Many of these people put themselves and their families at risk by participation in this exercise. It was also of great interest to speak to them in private and get their points of view on the many aspects of the situation. Without exception they are all highly appreciative of Canada's efforts and sacrifices on behalf of their beloved native land.

It was a great experience and I shall continue to support this training in some other capacity. However, I have decided that as an actor I make a pretty good soldier!



## "Honour a Veteran" means something in Barrie

RSM (ret'd) Brian Budden

Queen's Own Rifles D-Day veteran Roy Shaw pulled into the Canadian Tire Gas Bar on Barrie's Anne St South a while back and after filling up his gas tank heard a noise as he pulled away. When he got out and found his muffler and tail pipe assembly had come loose, he asked the attendant to call the Ontario Motor League for assistance. Instead the attendant told him to drive to the Pennzoil just down the street. When his car was fixed and he went to pay, the manager, Bill Desjardins, pointed at Roy's "Veteran Ontario"

licence plate and said, "You've already paid sir."

In 1940 Roy volunteered to join The Queen's Own Rifles. He entrained with them to Sussex NB and then went overseas with the Regiment. He landed in the first wave on D-Day, June 6th 1944, at Bernieres-sur-Mer, Normandy, with Maj Charles O. Dalton's B Company where he was wounded in the right shoulder shortly after landing. He stayed with The Queen's Own until discharged in 1945.

## Via offers free rail travel to Canadian Forces

Via Rail is offering Canadian Forces members, veterans and National Defence employees free rail travel for the month of July in a gesture of appreciation, railway officials said Wednesday in Halifax.

"The clear intention here is for Via Rail to express on behalf of all Canadians how much we appreciate the service of men and women in uniform and our veterans and their families," Defence Minister Peter MacKay said at the announcement.

Via officials said the railway and the military have long been linked, with trains carrying 90 per cent of the First and

Second World War troops to the ports and home again.

More than half a million people will be eligible for the free, unlimited travel along the railway's routes, Via said.

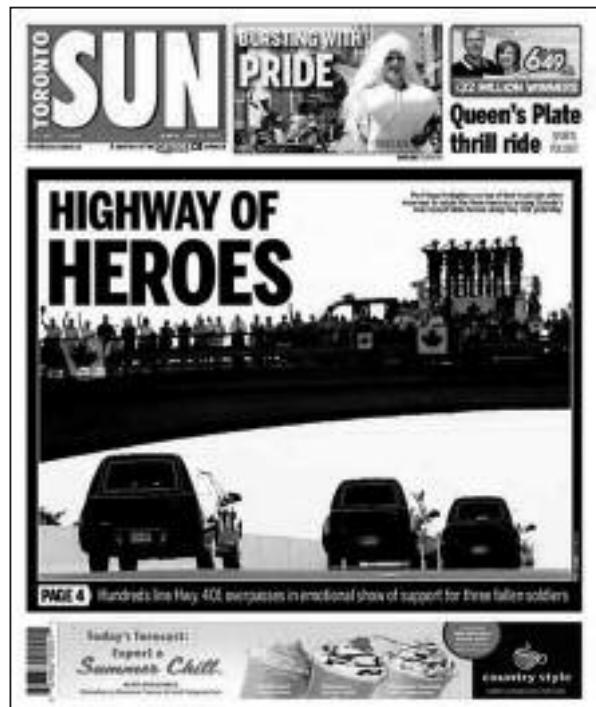
"The people that will be able to use this is everyone attached to the Department of Defence," said Via chairman Donald Wright.

"Reservists are included and veterans are included." The offer also includes for members of the Canadian Forces a 50 per cent discount for up to five family members.

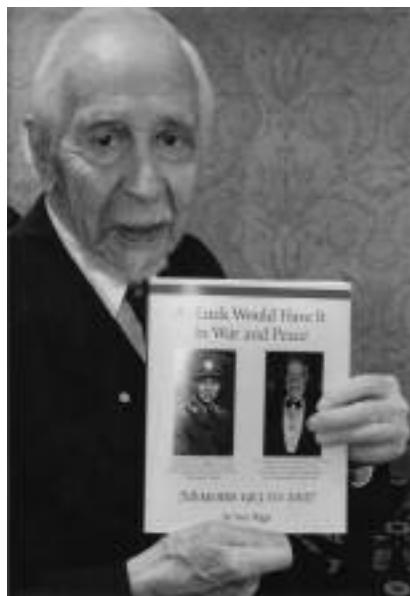


# Ontario's Highway of Heroes

In September, 2007, the Ontario government unveiled "Highway of Heroes" signs along a stretch of Highway 401, formally dedicating the route to Canada's fallen soldiers. The 172-kilometre stretch, extending from Toronto to Trenton, is the route taken to transport the bodies of fallen soldiers to the coroner's office in Toronto once they return to Canada. Large crowds -- including veterans, emergency service personnel and parents with their children -- have routinely gathered on the highway's overpasses to wave flags in support of the troops. Despite inclement weather conditions, the tribute continued throughout the worst of the past winter.



Courtesy Sun Media



Capt Stan Biggs is the most recent member of The Queen's Own Family to have written a book. His autobiography, "As Luck Would Have It In War and Peace: Memoirs 1913-2007," is now available for purchase through Trafford Publishing in Vancouver. Copies will also soon be available through the Kit Shop. Biggs, a D-Day veteran, joins other former Queen's Own members to have written books. Another D-Day veteran, Maj Ben Dunkelman

DSO, was the first with "Dual Allegiance," covering his experiences in WWII as well as a volunteer fighting with the Israeli forces in 1948. Former Rfn Dunkelman eventually commanded a brigade in the Arab-Israeli war. Other books include "Battle Diary" written by D-Day veteran CSM Charlie Martin, DCM MM; "Born Lucky," the WWII story of RSM Harry Fox MBE, written by QOR former Padre Capt Craig Cameron; "Not Bad for a Sergeant" by LCol Barney Danson, PC CC and "The Canadians," a study of QOR personnel in WWII written by Roy Whitsed.



Photo NDHQ

General Rick Hillier, Chief of the Canadian Defence Staff, salutes as Queen's Own Rifles 2/Lt Scott Newlands (centre) sings the National Anthem at "Armed Forces Night" at the Air Canada Centre in March before almost 20,000 fans and more than one million watching on national TV.



# Korean War Vet Norm Van Tassel a “Great Hero of Our Age.”



A veteran of the 2nd Battalion Queen's Own Rifles, Norm. Van Tassel was honoured with the presentation of the Department of Veterans Affairs Commendation by Minister John McCallum, just one of many awards he received.

from Lynne, his devoted wife of 42 years, Norm was an active volunteer with the Last Post Fund, ANAVETS Assoc., the KVA and CAVUNP. In 1974 he founded Winchester House (the first licensed group home for problem children in Manitoba) and Van Tassel Homes of Winnipeg, which included a wilderness camp at Wallace Lake.

Less than a month before he died he was honoured by the Manitoba Legislative Assembly with a private member's statement introduced by Bonnie Korzeniowski, MLA St. James, which read:

*“Mr. Speaker, there are people who do great deeds in life, but not all of them are heroes. I would like to recognize a person who is undoubtedly a hero of our age. Norm Van Tassel is a Korean War veteran and past president of the Korea Veterans Association Unit 17.*

As a member of the board of directors for the Last Post Fund in Winnipeg, Norm was involved in a successful

Norman Reginald Van Tassel, died aged 72, in Winnipeg on Dec 3, 2007. Born in Digby, NS, he moved to Toronto and joined the Canadian Army in 1952, serving until 1962. He went to Korea in 1954 with the 2nd Bn Queen's Own Rifles. A member of the QOR Association, after retiring from the military he was a correctional officer at Headingley and then a fireman at AECL. With never-ending support

fundraising initiative that supported the building of a columbarium in the Brookside Cemetery Field of Honour. It was created in 1998, to commemorate those servicemen from Manitoba who were killed in Korea and those in the Canoe River train wreck on their way to serve in Korea.

Norm was recognized for his continued outstanding contributions to fellow veterans when he was awarded the Korea Veterans Association's highest award, the Distinguished Service Star, the only one issued in

Manitoba. In 2002, Norm was awarded the Queen's Golden Jubilee Medal in recognition of his work on behalf of the Canadian Association of Veterans in United Nations

Peacekeeping. He has been instrumental in the creation of the Sgt. Tommy Prince Unit of RCL No. 4 in St. James.

Norm worked diligently with myself and the Member for Assiniboia in the creation of a memorial for peacekeepers' work in the past, present and future on Memorial Boulevard. The memorial acts as a constant reminder of Canada's role in developing and participating in peace-keeping missions. The memorial also looks to our future involvement and the sacrifices that Canada will be making towards keeping the peace.

*It isn't every day that we get to take stride beside great heroes. We often come to know them through stories and history books. It is through the patient advocacy and personal valour that a person like Norm Van Tassel becomes a great hero of our age. The guidance and forethought that a person like him provides to each and every one of us makes us wiser and more aware of the world we live in. I know that I have always looked to Norm as a friend and trusted voice on veterans' issues. It has been a pleasure to work with this great Canadian. I would ask that all honourable members join me in congratulating Norm Van Tassel for his exemplary service to his country, his province and his community. Indeed, we will remember them.”*

## IN MEMORIAM

Pete Bergeron  
Cecil Brooks  
G.G. Cole

Albert Crozie  
Maj Arthur Woodruff Dunbar  
LCol Glenn McIver  
Roy Smith

Ernie Stallan  
William Upton  
Harry Williams



# “Deuce Horn” was the mascot of The Queen’s Own’s 2nd Battalion



## From the website of the late Norman van Tassel CD

“Deuce Horn, a huge Great Dane, joined The Queen’s Own Rifles as the Regimental Mascot in Camp Ipperwash, Ontario in 1952. He originally belonged to 2/Lt Bissette who left the QOR to become a pilot with the Fleet Air Arm of the Royal Canadian Navy but died in Nova Scotia in 1953 when his Hawker Sea Fury fighter plane crashed.

“With Bissette gone, LCol W.H.V. Matthews MC took custody of Deuce Horn and when the 2nd Bn left for Korea in 1954 the mascot embarked with the main body. They boarded the USS Marine Lynx and for the voyage Deuce Horn was put into a cage on the main deck. For some reason, every time an American sailor would pass by his cage he would growl and bark until the sailor was past his turf. He had no problems with members of The Queen’s Own and would wag his tail and allow them near him but not the Americans. Must have been the uniform.

“Because of his good conduct while on the ship the CO promoted Deuce Horn to LCpl. After arriving in Korea the new NCO went missing for about two weeks and it was feared that he had ended up in one of the kimchi pots that were famous for cooking up a good stew. But the

on parade for the funeral. A cement marker was placed on the grave by Sgt Rocky Merritt from the Pioneer Pl and MCpl Frank Melton was I/C.”

**Jim Carroll remembers that:** “The Battalion used to mount a daily Quarter Guard on the front gate,



Bugles and Drums of the 2nd Battalion, Queen’s Own Rifles of Canada, led by the Regimental Mascot, “Deuce Horn” at Camp Ipperwash, Ontario. Deuce Horn later embarked with the 2nd Battalion for service in Korea in 1954.

popular Great Dane suddenly appeared at the Officer’s Mess in a state of physical disarray. He was exhausted and soon passed out in front of the fireplace. Once he recovered and could be held accountable for his actions he was charged with being AWOL and escorted before the Commanding Officer by then Lt Ron (Awful) Werry. He was reduced to the rank of Rfn and sentenced to 14 days CK (Confined to Kennel). He must have learned his lesson as he never went AWOL again during his tour of duty. Upon the Regiment’s return to Canada he went on to Camp Gordon Head, (Victoria, BC) and from there he went with the Battalion to Germany to serve with NATO at Fort McLeod.

“Deuce Horn died in Germany in 1958. His grave digging was supervised by Drill Sergeant Major George Collins and the task completed by MCpls Seeley, Arseneault, Jim Carroll and six pallbearers. The 2nd Bn Queen’s Own Rifles were

and if you were the lucky person to be chosen as the “Stick Man”, you then saw Deuce Horn’s regular handler who listed your responsibilities, which could include making sure the dog was fed or taken for walks or sometimes for a bath. Whoever it was would be with the dog from about 0900hrs till about 1500hrs, Monday to Friday. Every day it was a different Rifleman. I recall Cpl Taylor was Deuce Horn’s handler for some time.





# The often devastating losses of “Collateral Casualties”

The Honourable Barnett J. Danson, P.C., C.C.



*(Barney Danson, now 87, enlisted as a Rifleman in the Queen's Own Rifles aged 18 and, commissioned from the rank of Sergeant, was wounded in action in Normandy in August, 1944, losing the sight of one eye. He later served as Honorary Lieutenant-Colonel of the Regiment and currently serves on the Regimental Senate. Elected to the House of Commons as the Liberal*

*Member of Parliament for York North in 1968 he was named Minister of National Defence in 1976, a position he held until leaving politics in 1979. Mr. Danson 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 2007, along with Queen's Own D-Day veterans Fred Barnard and Jim McCullough, he was awarded the French Legion of Honour and in early 2008 was named a Companion of the Order of Canada.)*

I have two letters in front of me. One from the daughter of our World War Two Regimental Padre, Jack Clough, to tell me of her mother's passing in her 90s and the other from the two daughters of Lieutenant (Acting Captain) David Hazzard, with whom I served in Normandy but who was killed at Carpiquet Airport and whose grave I have visited in the Canadian Military Cemetery at Beny-sur-Mer, behind the D-Day beaches. The daughters wrote of their mother's death in her 90s, a woman who left a precious collection of over 250 letters written by David throughout the war and until his death.

This is not singularly uncommon. In recent years I have heard from a number of family members who have tracked me down amongst the dwindling number of survivors of The Queen's Own Rifles from WWII and who wish to make contact with former comrades to learn something of their fathers or grandfathers, and frequently uncles who in most cases they never knew, or have little personal recollections of, yet were in some way part of their lives.

These contacts have caused me to reflect on what I call the “collateral casualties” of war, of whom we know very little, though their loss was often devastating.

In reduced numbers, of course, but no less meaningful or heart-breaking for the families involved, as of mid-March this year 81 Canadian soldiers had died in the Afghanistan war zone. Doubtless there will be other collateral casualties as this difficult mission runs its future course.

On the west wall of the parade square at Toronto's Moss Park Armoury there is a large plaque with the names of over 400 Queen's Own who died in wars reaching back to the late 1800s. In many ways we pay tribute to the thousands of veterans who survive but we think too little of the young women who, with the arrival of the fateful telegram found they had become widows, often as their tears brushed the faces of now fatherless children.

Those children, now mostly in their 70s, and their children, from whom I now hear as they try to fill in the blanks in their memories, were raised in many instances by a grieving mother who lived with only memories of a tragically brief marriage, often following years of separation until death in action ended their long period of hope for return and a normal family life.

We do remember the 45,000 Canadians who did not survive WWII but largely unrecognized is a large silent army of men and women who were personally devastated by their loss and generations more who bear their genes. Mothers and fathers, grandparents, terribly traumatized by the anguish of a young man's death. Brothers and sisters, cousins, aunts and uncles who had their own special attachments. I mourn for them, but most especially for the men and their young wives – made widows – with young families, boys and girls who never really got to know their fathers.

But then there are the more gratifying stories, such as Audrey Hazzard, of which I know there are many more. In her late 20s Audrey was left with two girls – Karen, six and Anne, nine. Without interest in any other men, she brought them up with complete devotion and embarked on a career as a schoolteacher, which was her secondary interest and one in which she excelled.

Soon her daughters will return to David's grave in the meticulously maintained cemetery at Beny-sur-Mer. They will carry their mother's ashes to mingle with the earth and flowers of David's grave and will complete the cycle of bringing their parents together forever after over 60 years apart, though somehow, perhaps partly because of those letters, never quite separated.

*(Editor's note: In reduced numbers, of course, but no less meaningful or heart-breaking for the families involved, as of mid-March this year 81 Canadian soldiers had died in the Afghanistan war zone. Doubtless there will be other collateral casualties as this difficult mission runs its future course. The most recent was Sgt Jason Boyes of the 2nd Bn PPCLI, on his third tour to Afghanistan, whose parents said that "We have always, and still do, support this mission.")*