



The Powder Horn

Volume 11

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Issue 1

"The Powder Horn" marks its Tenth Anniversary.

On 1 April 1991, Colonel H.C.F. Elliot, then Honorary Colonel of the Regiment, announced the re-introduction of a Regimental newsletter named "The Powder Horn" to be published twice a year by Regimental Headquarters.

To mark the tenth anniversary of "The Powder Horn", Colonel Elliot has written to say:

The first edition of "The Powder Horn" was published on 1 September 1991, and mailed to all members of our Regimental Family. The main aims of the newsletter, as stated in the first edition, were to maintain cohesion within the Regiment, and to improve communications by providing timely information concerning all upcoming activities of all branches of the Regiment.

Now, ten years later, the newsletter continues to do exactly what it is published to do. This is the result of the efforts of the Regimental Secretary, Stephen Andrunyk and his Regimental Headquarters, together with input from all the Branches.

I congratulate all those who have made "The Powder Horn" an unqualified success, and I hope that it will "keep us in the picture" for many years to come.

Order of Military Merit

The Regiment is pleased to congratulate Major Erik R.C. Simundson, OMM,CD, on his upcoming investiture to the Order of Military Merit on 29 June 2001.

Major Simundson recently retired from the Battalion, having served the Regiment for 39 years from Rifleman to Regimental Sergeant major to Officer Commanding Gurkha (Training) Company.

His notable achievements included equipping, maintaining, and strengthening the volunteer Pioneers & Skirmishers of the Regiment for over two decades with the highest professional standards of drill and discipline; providing a strong incentive for many young Riflemen to become NCOs and to emulate his example; and enabling the Regiment to maintain its links with its allied British Regiments. Beyond this, he served in virtually every role a reserve soldier and officer can perform, including many unpaid volunteer tasks, and has been a respected and well-known member of the Toronto Militia community for over three decades.

Major Simundson continues as the President of the Officers' Mess Committee at Moss Park Armoury. He has also volunteered to assist Regimental Headquarters in any tasks that require additional help.

Commanding Officer Designate

At a meeting on 4 November 2000, the Regimental Senate reluctantly concurred in the request by LCol B.G.McEachern to relinquish command of the Battalion prior to the three year completion of his tenure of command.

The Regimental Senate also concurred in LCol B.G. McEachern's recommendation that Major J.M.Fotheringham be appointed to succeed him.

Subject to the approval of Commander, 32 Brigade, the change of command will take place in Moss Park Armoury on 10 June 2001. Details of this milestone event in the Regiment's history will be communicated to all members of the Regimental family well in advance of the actual event.

Officers' Mess Report

Major E.R.C. Simundson, PMC Officers' Mess, reports that there are no special activities planned for the celebration of the Regiment's 141st birthday. The significant event of 2001 will be the change of command parade scheduled for 10 June 2001 when Major J.M.Fotheringham will assume command of the Battalion.

The Annual Officers' Mess Dinner will take place on 9 November 2001 and the Officers" Mess Christmas Luncheon will be held on 15 December 2001.

The major attraction in 2002 will be The Garrison Ball which will be hosted by the Regiment. Date and location are to be announced at a later date. Since this is to be a gala affair sponsored by the Regiment, a good attendance from all members of the Regimental family is expected.

Appointment

The Army Cadet League of Canada (Ontario) recently announced the appointment of CWO Brian Budden as League Liaison Officer of The Highland Creek # 2881 Cadet Corps. This Corps which is commanded by Capt.D.Silzer is also known as the Scarborough Rifles Corps and will celebrate its 30th anniversary on 31 March 2001.

At its annual inspection on 27 May 2001 at the location of the sponsors of the Corps, namely, Royal Canadian Legion Branch 258 (Highland Creek), the Cadet Corps will receive a special presentation to mark the Corps achievements.

CWO Budden is the former Regimental Sergeant-Major of the Battalion. He is a member of the Warriors' Day Parade Council and is the newly elected President of the QOR Maple Leaf Rifle Club.

Band Concert

The Regimental Band and Bugles of The Queen's Own Rifles of Canada is staging a special evening of military music at St. Paul's Anglican Church in Toronto at 8:00 p.m. on Friday, 27 April 2001.

Children under 10 years of age will be admitted at no cost. Tickets for youth between the ages of 11 and 18 years will cost \$10.00 while the cost for adults will be \$15.00.

Members of the Regimental Band and Bugles invite you to experience the wonderful sounds of military music with Canada's oldest continuously serving military band.

Change of Regimental Sergeant-Major

At an impressive parade at Moss Park Armoury on 21 January 2001 with Colonel P.F. Hughes as the Reviewing Officer, CWO John Wilmot was officially installed as the new Regimental Sergeant-Major, succeeding CWO Andrew Sarossy who served for over six years in that appointment.

CWO Wilmot joined the Queen's Own Rifles in May 1979. He was promoted Corporal in April 1980 and participated in mechanized infantry fly-over training with 3 RCR in September 1980. He graduated from the Basic Parachutist course in January 1982 just prior to the Regiment receiving its jump tasking. In November 1983 he completed the demanding CF Unarmed Combat Instructor course.

One highlight of his parachuting career was making the 49th anniversary jump of Operation Market Garden in Holland in September 1993. As part of the same trip, he earned his British wings jumping from a balloon in Britain. The achievement CWO Wilmot takes greatest pride in was qualifying as a Jumpmaster in February 1994.

CWO Wilmot has held virtually all the positions an NCO can hold in the Regiment, from section commander to his most recent appointment as Quartermaster Sergeant Instructor. He was also instrumental in the launching of an excellent internet website (www.qor.com) and currently serves as Assistant Webmaster.

Retirement of Lt. L. Hicks

Lt. Larry Hicks' last parade with the Regiment was the Church Parade on 12 November 2000. He joined the Queen's

Own Rifles in March 1972 as a rifleman rising to the rank of Sergeant in quick order. He qualified as an infantry officer through the RESO program in 1975. He served as the unit Transport Officer and more recently as the Finance Officer and the Non-Public Funds Officer. The Regiment is grateful for his devoted service and will miss his dry sense of humour and his attention to detail.

Appointment

Capt. Robert Tremblay who recently transferred to the Queen's Own Rifles from the Voltigeurs du Quebec has been appointed Officer Commanding the Gurkha Platoon. He will also be responsible for Non-Public Funds and the operation of the Unit Fund.

Iron Man Competition

In the recent Iron Man Competition at CFB Petawawa, the Regiment fielded a team of three riflemen. Cpl Behan finished in a time of 6 hours and 46 minutes placing 29th in a field of 109 who were primarily members of the Regular Force. Rfn Gilic placed 68th and Rfn Coyle placed 77th. Congratulations to the three rifleman for the excellent results!

Peacekeeping Medals

Twenty-one members of the Regiment were recently recipients of the Canadian Peacekeeping Service Medal (CPSM) for serving a tour with UN or NATO forces in one of the following areas of the world: Bosnia, Cambodia, Croatia, Cyprus, Egypt and the Golan Heights.

Association Dues

Your Association needs your support. Don't delay in paying your Annual dues.

News from Toronto Branch
Queen's Own Rifles Association

2000 was an emotional high for all members of the Association. We celebrated our 140th birthday, made a pilgrimage to Holland, marked the 56th anniversary of D-Day, competed in the Annual Warriors' Day Parade and held our Annual Rifle Shoot at CFB Borden. While details and photographs of these events will be given more coverage in the 2000/2001 edition of "The Rifleman", I would like to share some of the highlights with you.

The Regimental 140th Birthday was celebrated on the weekend of April 28/29. It began with an outstanding concert by the Regimental Band and Bugles at St. Paul's Anglican Church on Friday. On Saturday afternoon, the serving members of the Regiment held a parade with the Minister of National Defence, the Hon. Art Eggleton, taking the salute. Later that day, some 225 members of the Regimental family attended a gala "Rifles Ball" at the Toronto Sheraton Centre with music provided by the Regimental Band.

To complement the 140th birthday celebrations, a 30 minute Regimental Video was produced by Major David Vine and his wife Lucia Saja. The final result was a combination of old movie footage and current interviews with a number of QOR members. For their excellent work David and Lucia were designated "Riflemen of the Year" and given a special commemorative plaque. **Copies of this excellent video can be obtained from the Regimental Kit Shop at a cost of \$20.00.**

D-Day was celebrated with a parade on the Armoury floor followed by a sumptuous breakfast in the Officers' Mess. It is always good to see and speak with our stalwart

veterans, not only from D-Day, but from other WW II battles and from the Korean War.

In recognition of the Regiment's 140th Birthday, the Queen's Own Rifles were given the "place of honour" in the order of march for the 2000 Warriors' Day Parade at the Canadian National Exhibition. In addition, the City of Toronto declared the week of 24 April 2000 as "Queen's Own Rifles of Canada Week".

In September the Annual Association Rifle Shoot took place at CFB Borden. Approximately 40 members attended and they were able to fire a variety of weapons – 303, FNC1, M1 (a C7 prototype). They also witnessed a demonstration of the new platoon commander's weapon.

Finally, in December over 30 Association members attended the Junior Ranks Christmas Dinner at Moss Park Armoury.

It is requested that anyone who hears of the illness or death of an Association member be kind enough to inform Gus Amodeo at (416) 488-9971 or at 16 Glencairn Avenue, Toronto, Ontario, M3R 1M5.

Don't forget the Regimental Band Concert at St. Paul's Anglican Church at 8:00 p.m. on Friday, 27 April 2001, and the Association's Annual General Meeting in the Sergeants' Mess at Moss Park Armoury at 1:30 p.m. on Saturday, 28 April 2001.

Harry McCabe

Regimental Trust Fund

Don't forget to send in your donation to the Regimental Trust Fund which depends on every member of the Regimental family for financial support.

News from Calgary Branch
Queen's Own Rifles Association

On 9 December 2000, a luncheon was held at Kensington Branch #264, Royal Canadian Legion, at which time Colonel Paul F. Hughes, Honorary Lieutenant Colonel of the Regiment, presented our Regimental crest to the Branch President, Bert Standing.

The crest was a gift from Colonel and Mrs. Hughes and has been placed in an honoured location along with other Regimental crests. A photograph of the presentation will appear in the next issue of "The Rifleman."

The 141st Regimental birthday celebration will be held at the Kensington Branch on 28 April 2001 at which the guest speaker will be Colonel Paul F. Hughes. Details have yet to be finalized, however, it is hoped that all members of the Regimental family will be in attendance.

A ceremony to commemorate the 50th anniversary of the "Battle of Kapyong" will take place at the Cenotaph at 4th Street and 12th Avenue S.W. at 1015 hours on Saturday, 5 May 2001. Dress will be Regimental blazer or sports jacket with medals. The Consul General of South Korea, the Consul General of the United States, and Al Duerr, the Mayor of Calgary, along with other dignitaries are expected to attend.

Hats off to Barry Ashton, Don Ethell, John and Donnie Creswell, and Ken and June Barrett, who volunteer on a regular basis to assist at charitable Community Bingos and Casinos. A portion of the proceeds from these events go to support the Museum of the Regiments.

A ground-breaking ceremony for the Colonel Belcher Care Centre and Seniors Residence took place at the Foothills

Academy Auditorium on 26 October 2000. Several prominent citizens were in attendance including MGen Barry W. Ashton, Chairman of Friends of Colonel Belcher. This facility is expected to be completed in 2001 and will accommodate 170 veterans. It will replace the present Colonel Belcher Hospital at 4th Street and 12th Avenue S.W. Colonel Don Ethell serves as the Project Advisory Chairman while MWO John Creswell serves as a Committee member.

Congratulations are extended to Barry Ashton who was elected as Chairman of the Calgary Co-operative Board of Directors at their annual meeting held in February 2001.

John Creswell, Dave Luxford, Ken Barrett, and Mike Symons are commended for their service as volunteers at the Museum of the Regiments on a one day per week basis. Their prime task is to conduct visitors through the Museum.

Captain Ralph Ridley, on behalf of his family, extends his heartfelt appreciation for the many tributes and kind messages he and the family received on the loss of his wife Margaret on 5 December 2000.

News from Ottawa

On 31 January 2001, LCol B.G. (Grahame) Baskerville ended his five year appointment to the Ottawa Police Service Board.

Sympathy is extended to the family of LCol Calvin Kempffer who passed away in Ottawa on 7 October 2000 at the age of 72. He served with the 1st Battalion in Calgary during the 1950s. On leaving the Regular Force he served with the Cameron Highlanders of Ottawa as its Commanding Officer. He is survived by his wife Patricia, five children and four grandchildren.

The Queen's Own Rifles of Canada Trust Fund

QOR of C Trust Fund
Regimental Headquarters
Moss Park Armoury
130 Queen Street East
Toronto, Ontario M5A 1R9

I enclose \$..... as my donation to The Queen's Own Rifles of Canada Trust Fund to support those Regimental activities which fall outside the responsibility of DND but which are, nevertheless, essential to the welfare and well-being of the Regiment as a whole.

Name.....

Street Address..... Apt.,if any.....

City and Province..... Postal Code.....

ONCE IN THE QUEEN'S OWN, ALWAYS IN THE QUEEN'S OWN"

..... Cut.....

The Queen's Own Rifles Association (Toronto Branch)

Secretary
The Queen's Own Rifles Association (Toronto)
Moss Park Armoury
130 Queen Street East
Toronto, Ontario M5A 1R9

I enclose payment of \$ 10.00 to cover my membership dues in the Toronto Branch of The Queen's Own Rifles Association for the year 2001.

Name.....

Street Address..... Apt.,if any.....

City and Province.....

Postal Code.....