



# The Powder Horn

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## **FOTHERINGHAM ASSUMES COMMAND**

June 10<sup>th</sup>, 2001, marked the beginning of a new chapter in our Regimental history when LCol B.G.McEachern handed over command of The Queen's Own Rifles of Canada to LCol J.M.Fotheringham before a large crowd of dignitaries, former commanding officers, veterans, family members and friends of the Regiment.

The reviewing officer Colonel R.W.Des-Lauriers, OMM,CD, Commander of 32 Canadian Brigade Group, praised the high standard of dress, drill and deportment of the troops on parade. He thanked LCol McEachern for his achievements during his tenure of command and wished LCol Fotheringham every success in his new responsibilities.

LCol Fotheringham joined the Queen's Own Rifles as a Rifleman in 1985. He was commissioned in the rank of 2Lt in 1986 and between that year and the present he has held numerous appointments in the unit including platoon commander, adjutant, company commander and deputy commanding officer. He commanded the Regiment's 50-soldier guard in France for the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of D-Day.

He comes from a long line of citizen soldiers. His great grandfather served with the Ottawa Field Battery in the Fenian Raid of 1866. His grandfather served in France with the C.E.F. and his father, Dr. John B. Fotheringham, served as a Pilot Officer in the Second World War.

LCol Fotheringham graduated from York University in 1979 with a Bachelor of Business Administration degree and recently completed the Masters of Business Administration program at the University of Toronto. He is employed with the Workplace Safety and Insurance Board in Toronto.

In his limited spare time, he serves as a Director of the Canadian Airborne Forces Association and he has initiated a project to properly mark the Canadian graves of Canada's Victoria Cross winners.

All members of the Regimental family wish LCol Fotheringham every success as he assumes command of The Queen's Own Rifles of Canada. With his dedication to the Regiment and his well-rounded military background, the Regiment is bound to succeed.

### **Battalion News**

LCol John M. Fotheringham, who assumed command of The Queen's Own Rifles of Canada on 10 June, reports that the unit has been very busy during the summer.

Serving members recently returned from the Annual Brigade summer training exercise, Steadfast Warrior, held in Petawawa during the week of 17-26 August. Following a parachute jump into the exercise, riflemen participated in various drills, including rappelling, mock tower, obstacle course, pistol/rifle, machine gun, grenade and anti-armour weapon firing, and jungle lane tactics. The extremely high fire index prevented the fire power demonstration which was to include TOW and the new LAV's 25mm chain gun.

A cadre of Queen's Own NCOs, commanded by Capt Peter St. Denis, ran several stands for all Brigade participants. These stands included – rappel tower and site, mock tower, obstacle course, and a jungle lane exercise. The Brigade Commander commented to the Commanding Officer that the professionalism of the Queen's Own cadre had "raised the bar for the Brigade."

Welcome to Capt. Ray Taylor of the Royal Canadian Regiment who comes to the unit as the Regular Force support officer. He is a Ranger-qualified paratrooper whose most recent postings were with the RCR parachute company and LFCA Headquarters. He will assume the role of unit Operations Officer.

Condolences to Sgt. June Parris, the unit's chief clerk, upon the death of her father, Gerald, who served as a gunner during World War II, and was the last surviving black member of Canada's D-Day force.

Congratulations to Harry McCabe, a former RSM and Immediate Past-President of Association's Toronto Branch, who has been appointed Regional Cadet Officer for the Central Ontario Area in the rank of Major. Along with Maj. Derm Wilson (formerly Commanding Officer of the Scarborough Rifles Cadet Corps), he will be responsible for all Cadet Corps between Oshawa and Brampton up to Collingwood.

Upcoming events include the Toronto Garrison Officers' Ball, to be hosted by the Queen's Own Rifles, to take place at the Royal York Hotel on 16 February 2002. The planned theme for this event is "Valour". Sgt. Ernest "Smokey" Smith, VC, Canada's last surviving Victoria Cross recipient, has agreed to attend as the Guest of Honour. Each participating regiment will be invited to have one of their veterans attend the function as a head table guest.

Plans are also underway for some representation from serving members of the unit and the Regimental Band at the dedication ceremonies of the Juno Beach Centre in Normandy on 6 June 2002.

Additional information on the proposed trip to Normandy is contained elsewhere in this newsletter.



### **A Noble and Generous Gesture**

Members of The Lincoln and Welland Regiment went into battle at Kapelesche Verr in Holland in January 1945. They fought valiantly and lost a lot of men. As the battle ensued, one Pte. Victor Howey was killed.

Victor Howey's body, hastily buried during the fierce fighting, rose from the shallow grave 55 years later, almost to the day. It was identified through dental records and Dutch and Canadian authorities arranged for a full military funeral.

Prior to the above ceremonies, newspaper columnist Christie Blatchford of The National Post, wrote a column about the controversy that arose over the decision of the Department of Veterans' Affairs authorization to allow only six military personnel to attend the funeral.

Angry Canadians, including myself, wrote Christie a letter offering to donate \$1,000 on behalf of The Queen's Own Rifles of Canada to help defray some of the costs for travel expenses for veterans of The Lincoln and Welland Regiment to attend the funeral.

Through our kind donation and many others totalling \$21,000, the Lincoln and Welland Regiment was able to send 28 serving members to attend and participate in the burial of Pte. Victor Howey. The ceremony, which was held in the town of Bergen-Op-Zoom took place at 100 hours on the 10<sup>th</sup> of November 2000.

Submitted by John G.B.Strathy

### **Barney Danson Honoured**

It was recently announced by the Central Ontario Campaign of the Canadian War Museum that the theatre in the new Canadian War Museum has been named after LCol The Hon. Barnett J. Danson, PC, OC.

An anonymous friend of the Central Ontario Campaign felt strongly that Barney Danson deserved to be honoured within the Museum for which he had been such a strong advocate. He contacted friends and associates of Barney's who, together, raised the \$500,000 required to name the theatre in Barney's honour in less than a week.

A World War II veteran of the Regiment, Barney Danson served as Parliamentary Secretary to Pierre Trudeau and as Minister of State for Urban Affairs before becoming the Minister of National Defence from 1976 to 1979. A former Honorary Lieutenant Colonel of the Regiment, Barney Danson was Producer of the six-part television series "No Price Too High".

### **For Public Service**

In 1999 Capt. Timothy Nelligan, a retired Regimental officer, presented a trophy to the Regiment to be awarded annually to a serving member of the unit or a member of the Regimental family who has displayed outstanding public service.

The first recipient of the trophy is Stephen Andrunyk who has voluntarily served as the Regimental Secretary since 1980 and has been on the Executive Committee of the Regimental Trust Fund for nearly 25 years.

**News from Toronto Branch**  
**Queen's Own Rifles Association**

At the Annual General Meeting, a very competent Harry McCabe who guided us expertly through the 140<sup>th</sup> celebrations, passed the gavel to Norm McCracken, the new Branch President. Planning for the 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary has begun and I encourage every member of the Regimental family to establish contact with me and get involved in planning of the events.

All riflemen, past and present, should be proud of their contributions in making the Queen's Own Rifles the fine, outstanding Regiment that it is. 150 years of unbroken service to Canada is historically significant. The 140 for 140 historical video has proven to be informative – a great start for the 140 for 150 years. It would be incredible if there were a gathering of Bugle Bands from the 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup>, and 3<sup>rd</sup> Battalions. Photos, stories, etc. would be good references for our Regimental historian (yet to be named – any volunteers?)

There is much activity overseas as Brian Budden maintains contact with our Dutch hosts. The WWII "Switchback Museum" at Oostburg is up and running. The Dutch government has struck a medal for those involved in the liberation and the medal will be distributed by the Dutch Association of Canada.

Breaking ground for the Juno Beach Centre will take place this year, possibly September, with the official opening in June 2002. A party from the Queen's Own will be in attendance. The Association, under the direction of Brian Budden, is organizing a trip for the occasion. Rob Grieve has been asked

to take 30 members in period dress to do an assault on the beach. He already has 20 committed men.

Frank Pearce informs us that the Korea veterans are aware of the possibility that a monument may be erected in Pusan. They, the veterans, are looking for donations.

At the Annual General Meeting, Art Gay was honoured for his faithful commitment to the Association as its membership chairman.

There was considerable discussion at the meeting about the discrepancy between our mailing list and paid-up members. Our mailing list is 1400, but our paid membership is just over 300. We ask everyone to send in their membership fee of \$15.00 so that we can keep the records current and support the costs of printing and mailing of the Regimental newsletters.

While in Gravenhurst this summer, I met Fred "Farmer" St. John who served with the Regiment in Newfoundland and New Brunswick. He asked about Bill Ives and Harry Fox.

Of interesting note, Ralph Moore of Orillia was sorting through his deceased father's papers when he found two 1943 Regimental Christmas cards. One was sent by Rfn. T. Tidy whose wife was a friend of Ralph's mother, Florence; the other was sent by Pte. Maxey, a cousin of Ralph's mother. Both Tidy and Maxey were killed while serving with the Regiment. I have both cards. The pre-WWII Battle Honour crests are of special interest.

Submitted by Norm McCracken



**Report from Calgary Branch**  
**Queen's Own Rifles Association**

The 141<sup>st</sup> Regimental Birthday dinner was a great success with over 100 members and friends in attendance. Col. Paul F. Hughes, Honorary Lieutenant Colonel of the Regiment, and his wife Beverly were the Guests of Honour. Grace was said by Bert Pendlebury. Georgina Phillips proposed the Toast to The Queen; Ralph Ridley proposed the Toast to The Colonel-in-Chief and Jim Stoley gave the Toast to the Regiment. Col. Paul Hughes gave an inspiring speech following the dinner.

For several years, a few of the former officers of the Regiment met for lunch at the Mewata Officers' Mess on the third Friday of each month to re-hash accounts of the "good old days" in the Regimental Depot and the 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> Battalions of the Regular Force. Owing to a decline in the service and parking problems at the Armoury, a decision was made to change the venue to Branch 264 of The Royal Canadian Legion. The group now meets on the 1<sup>st</sup> Friday of each month with satisfactory results. Out-of-towners with a common bond are invited to join the group, however, since Legion membership is desirable, it would be advisable to contact Ralph Ridley (242-3947) if you intend to attend.

MGen Herb Pitts and his wife Marianne passed through Calgary on their return trip from Winnipeg where they attended the Battle of Kapyong celebrations. He reported that 2 PPCLI carried out the event in grand style. The unit was in the process of planning its move to Camp Shilo. The visit by Herb and Marianne was much appreciated and it served as

an example of the importance of maintaining contact with those who have survived the rigors of aging.

Maj Jim Taylor and his wife Dorothy have been involved in extensive travel over the past few months. The United Kingdom, Utah, Yellowstone National Park, Alaska, Portland, and British Columbia were but some of their destinations.

Capt. Rollie Albrecht celebrated his 70<sup>th</sup> birthday in style at the Ranchman's Club hosted by Col Paul Hughes and his wife Beverly. Passing himself as a 39-year old no longer works for Rollie.

Lt. Charlie Park and his wife Mary will be missed by their many friends in Calgary as they have decided to move to Maryville, B.C..

The Branch is saddened by the passing of Capt. Lyle Sales in Okotoks on 6 August and Fran McCulloch, wife of the late LCol Larry McCulloch who commanded the Regimental Depot in Calgary for many years.

Former members of the Regiment who served with the Regimental Depot and the 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> Battalions in Calgary will be interested to know that the former Harvey Barracks has undergone a major change. All military buildings have been razed with only the PMQs remaining. Currie Barracks has largely remained unaltered although much of the space within the buildings has been leased for commercial use.

Members of the Regimental family are encouraged to provide material for "The Powder Horn". Contact Ralph Ridley at telephone No. 403-242-3947.

**News from Victoria Branch  
Queen's Own Rifles Association**

Victoria Branch of the Queen's Own Rifles Association continues to prosper. Although it meets only 3 times a year, the events are well attended.

At its Annual General Meeting on 20 January 2001, the Branch Executive was re-elected by acclamation except for the Treasurer, David Stevenson, who voluntarily stepped down. He was replaced by Jim Carroll. Other members of the Executive are Harold Drinkwalter, President; Fred Mercer, Vice-President; John Tolley, Secretary; Kevin Walsh, Entertainment; Winston Spurr, Kit Shop; and Sandy Rozon, Publicity. The North Island representative is Bernie Schmid while Cy Simmons represents Mid Island.

Under the direction of Herb Pitts, assisted by Harold Drinkwalter and Joe Webb, a display of QOR of C artefacts has been set up in the Esquimalt Base Museum. The Base and the Provincial Museum were extremely helpful with the project which is a credit to the Regiment. (Herb Pitts' report on the display appears later in this newsletter.)

At the Annual General Meeting it was decided to allocate a small sum of money on behalf of deceased Branch members to a charity of the family's choice. Failing such direction, a donation will be made to the Regimental Trust Fund. This action was taken as a result of concerns that deceased members were not receiving due recognition of their service with the Regiment.

The Annual General Meeting also recognized the service of the MacKendrick family to the Regiment by giving honorary Branch membership to a 3<sup>rd</sup> generation Rifleman, James MacKendrick, who is a local resident. He served in the Regiment during the Second World War and with the Queen's Own Rifles Militia Battalion in Toronto from which he retired in 1986.

On April 28<sup>th</sup>, the Branch's annual dinner was held in the Naden Wardroom with 180 people in attendance. Prior to the dinner, MGen H.C.Pitts presented Canadian Peacekeeping Service Medals to eligible members and widows. 140<sup>th</sup> Regimental Anniversary medallions were also distributed to those who had not received them. In his after dinner remarks, MGen Pitts thanked the Executive for its excellent work and paid special tribute to Dave Stevenson for arranging the dinner and to Joe Webb for his work on the Museum display.

Submitted by: Joseph Rozon

**Debert Military History Society**

The Debert Military History Society is attempting to re-establish a museum that will chronicle the importance of Camp Debert during the war years.

Since the Queen's Own Rifles was stationed in Camp Sussex as part of 3<sup>rd</sup> Canadian Infantry Division which was headquartered in Camp Debert before going to Europe in July 1941, any members of the Regiment who have any photographs or information on Camp Debert should contact the Debert Military History Society at P.O.Box 154, Debert, N.S. B0M 1G0



**Expanded QOR of C Exhibit**  
**CFB Esquimalt**

There was an opportunity recently for the Victoria Branch to expand the QOR of C display at the CFB Esquimalt Naval and Military Museum. A visit to the Museum by a few members took note of the circa-1950s barrack room layout which featured exclusively Queen's Own uniforms, webbing and equipment. While this was a welcome sight, it lacked colour and content.

The Branch was apprised of the situation at the last General Meeting and it was unanimously agreed, if necessary, to spend some money and increase the scope of the exhibit to more completely represent the Regiment's service to Canada and, more particularly, here on Vancouver Island. Through the efforts of Joe Webb a contact was established at The Royal B.C. Museum and we secured two display cases on permanent loan. This freed us from a major financial outlay and resulted in lighted, secure and attractive ways to present valuable artefacts. The display is now up and running. It is well worth a visit. We are still in need of mementos and would welcome donations or items for display.

We are grateful for the assistance of Lorna Davey (B.C. Museum), Peter Simundson (QOR Museum in Toronto), Don Thomas and Debbie Towell (CFB Esquimalt Museum) for their assistance in getting the articles on display in time for visits by Association members during the last Regimental Birthday week-end. John Cresswell sent us a couple of artifacts from Calgary which were surplus to their needs.

**Regimental Trust Fund**  
**Annual Meeting**

The Annual Meeting of Trustees was held in Toronto on 8 June 2001 under the chairmanship of President John G.B. Strathy.

The audited financial statement showed receipts of \$49,722 while disbursements amounted to \$48,930. Major expenses included \$11,471 for printing and distribution of "The Rifleman" and two issues of "The Powder Horn"; \$17,365 for support of the Militia Battalion; \$3,348 for insurance premium on regimental property; \$8,799 for upkeep of the Regimental Museum and restoration of portraits; and \$7,957 for restoration of the Cross of Sacrifice, carving of the crest at the Royal Memorial Chapel in Sandhurst, and the operation of Regimental Headquarters.

Re-elected as Trustees for a further term of one year were: John Strathy, President; Paul Hughes, Vice President; Steve Andrunyk, Secretary-Treasurer; Bernie Aaron and Art Gay, members of the Executive Committee; and Adam Hermant, Moore Jackson, John Jennings, Herb Pitts, Tony Schultz, Peter Simundson, and John Whyte. Elected for one year terms were Bob Campbell and Sam Hughes.

President John Strathy expressed the gratitude of the Trustees to those members of the Regimental family who made financial contributions to the Trust Fund. He noted that estimated expenditures in 2001 will amount to \$40,000 which required the financial support of every member to ensure a balanced budget.

### **Re-Visit to Normandy**

WOI Brian Budden reports that arrangements are underway for all Queen's Own veterans, Association members and their families to visit Normandy on the occasion of the official opening of the Juno Beach Centre on 6 June 2002.

Queen's Own ceremonies will take place at Bernieres-sur-Mer, Beny-Sur-Mer Cemetery, Le Mesnil Patry, Giberville, Anguerny, Anisy, Caen, and Authie. Museum and other tours will also form part of the agenda.

The trip is expected to take place between 6 and 16 June 2002.

Those who are interested in this trip are asked to contact Verstraete Travel at telephone number (416) 969-8100, Fax at (905) 727-8113, or Toll Free at 1-800-565-9267.

Web Site: [www.aurora@verstraete.com](http://www.aurora@verstraete.com).

Please inform the Travel Agency that you are with the Queen's Own Rifles of Canada group.

### **Association Annual Rifle Shoot**

This event will take place at CFB Borden Langemark Ranges on Saturday, 22 September 2001. The bus will leave Moss Park Armoury at 0900 hours so please ensure that you are there at least ten minutes earlier.

If you are going to CFB Borden by your own means of transportation, meet the group at the Langemark Ranges at 1030 hours.

The cost is \$20.00 per person.

### **Canadian Army Training Pamphlets**

Capt. F. David Luxford is collecting Canadian Army Training Pamphlets for the PPCLI Museum in Calgary.

If you have any of these training pamphlets that are gathering dust in your attic or basement, please bundle them up and send them to David at the following address:

Capt. F. David Luxford, CD  
107 Mapleglade Close S.E.  
Calgary, Alberta T2J 2H1

### **50<sup>th</sup> Wedding Anniversary**

Congratulations and best wishes to Maj. Bill and Evelyn Mountain who will be celebrating their 50<sup>th</sup> wedding anniversary on Saturday, 13 October 2001.

### **Dates to Remember**

#### **9 November 2001**

Annual Officers' Mess Dinner – Moss Park Armoury.

#### **11 November 2001**

Regimental Remembrance Day Church Parade and Service at St. Paul's Church in Toronto.

#### **15 December 2001**

Officers' Pre-Christmas Luncheon – Moss Park Armoury.

### **Just a Reminder**

If you are moving or intend to move, please let us have your new address.