

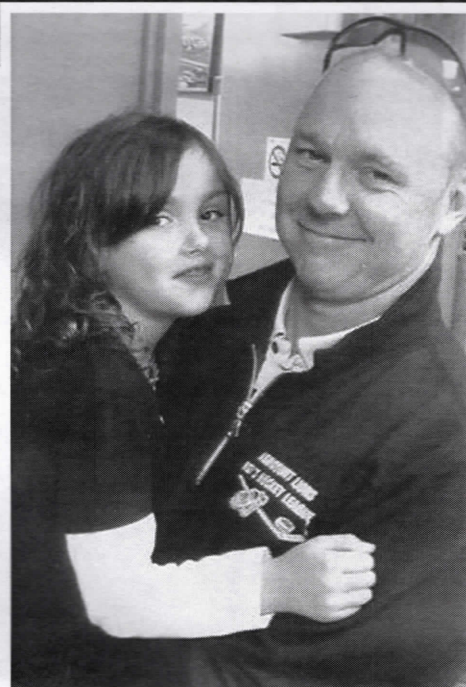


The Powder Horn

In Pace Paratus

Spring/Summer 2009

Troops welcomed home from Afghanistan



(Top) The Queen's Own Rifles of Canada's Commanding Officer, LCol John Fotheringham CD and RSM Shaun Kelly CD hosted a "Welcome Home" family BBQ for members of the regiment who have just returned from their six-month deployment in Afghanistan. Held at Royal Canadian Legion Branch 258 in Highland Creek, almost 100 enjoyed a pleasant Mother's Day celebration.

Family Day BBQ gave WO Donovan O'Halloran's daughter Maeve another chance to show her soldier daddy how much she loves him.



Published by Regimental Headquarters
The Queen's Own Rifles of Canada





Family Reunion: MCpl Adam de Bartok, of Newmarket, (centre) with family members (l. to r.) His father Bob, Ellie Moore, Gordon Moore, Dallas Fleming, his mother Mary Ann MacCormick, his sister Bonnie Lynn de Bartok and Mark Walsh. Adam's mother flew in from Nova Scotia to be present at the Welcome Home BBQ.



(Above) Queen's Own Rifles Toronto Branch Association members Dave Lavery (left) and RSM (ret) Brian Budden create smoke signals while cooking burgers and hot dogs. (Above right) The signs on the wall say it all as Toronto Branch President Bob Dunk passes out souvenir buttons marking the 150th anniversary of the regiment in 2010. (Right). Cake baked and appropriately decorated for the occasion.





Time to play the march "*I'm 95*" for Harry



Queen's Own D-Day veterans (l. to r.) Jack Martin, Jack Hadley, Jim Wilkins and Fred Barnard join RSM Harry Fox MBE to celebrate his 95th birthday in May.



Harry Fox greets old friend Jack Martin, with Jack Hadley and Fred Barnard looking on.

Longtime family friend Sheila McRae with the birthday cake with Harry's picture on it.



"BLOW!"



Sergeant John Doeg: Bugler, Drummer and Infantryman



Sergeant John Doeg, who died April 16, in Windsor, played both drums and bugle in The Queen's Own Rifles Bugle Band. He's seen above leading the buglers on the steps of the regiment's church, St. Paul's Anglican in Toronto and is also seen on the parapets at Casa Loma on the cover of the band's longplay recording made in 1973. In the bottom photo he leads the drums (at left) as the band enters the side doors of the old University Avenue Armouries. During World War Two he served as an infantryman with the 48th Highlanders in the Italian Campaign.



Sgt Doeg's dress busby, crossbelt and bugle are displayed with the LP record made in 1973 which has his photograph on the cover.



Sgt George Walford and Drummer John Missons play *Last Post* and *Reveille* at the funeral of their comrade Sgt John Doeg, a longtime member of The Queen's Own Rifles Bugle Band.



QOR of Canada National Association now a reality

The first annual general meeting of the Queen's Own Rifles of Canada's National Association took place in April, with MGen Herb Pitts MC being acclaimed President. Other officers are 1st Vice President, Bob Dunk; 2nd Vice President, Tom Martin; Secretary, Bob Campbell; Treasurer, Doug McNeil and Membership, Dave Lavery. Added representatives on the committee will be: Don Pryer (Senate); Bob Campbell (Trust Fund); Allan Champion (Regiment) and Brian Budden (Past President).

In addressing those present MGen Pitts emphasized the idea of forming a National Association was to have an organization that would be responsible and accountable in reflecting all elements of the Regiment.

It was agreed that the National Membership fee be set at \$7.50. The due date for payment will be flexible for 2009 but will normally be due by the end of January for each membership year. Benefits will include home delivery of The Rifleman at no charge. Non-members will be charged \$ 10.00. Other benefits to National

Members, in addition to a membership card and a lapel pin, will be entitlement to discounts on 2010 commemorative items and events.

Discussion was held on marking the 150th anniversary in 2010 by establishing a bursary in the name of the Colonel-in-Chief, HRH Princess Alexandra. Everyone was in agreement that this would be much more meaningful than presenting HRH with some other gift.

Thanks were expressed to Ben Turpin of the Newfoundland-Maritimes Association for taking over responsibility of the National Association website and linking it with 2010 activities.

The meeting was advised that, beginning this June, the Regimental Kit Shop operation will be handled by Drouin Enterprises Inc in Gatineau, Quebec. Drouin will ensure that regular Kit Shop items plus 2010 Commemorative Items may be ordered on line in addition to ordering by email, phone or fax.



Lt Benjamin Lee, named the winner of the 2008 Airborne Rifleman of the Year Award, is congratulated by Brigade Commander Colonel Gerry C. Mann, CD. The Brigade Commander also presented Lt. Lee with his award as 2008 32 Canadian Brigade Group Officer of the Year. Looking on is Brigade Sergeant Major CWO Stephen Hurst, CD.



A “dazzling” start to the celebrations of The Queen’s Own’s 50th birthday in 1910

On the following pages are previews of some of the content of the new book "Bands of The Queen's Own Rifles of Canada (1860-2010)" commissioned to commemorate the Regiment's 150th birthday in 2010. The book will contain much historic and anecdotal material as well as many photographs from the late 1800s to present times.

The musicians of The Queen’s Own Rifles were given major roles in the celebrations in 1910 which marked the 50th anniversary of their regiment. The event was an outstanding production and as LCol Barnard noted in his Regimental History: “The regiment was extraordinarily fortunate that the Commanding Officer in 1910 happened to be Sir Henry Mill Pellatt” The author described him variously as “a man of vision, enterprise and singular organizing ability.” Not only was he an individual who “dreamed great dreams but he never permitted himself to become a mere visionary.” He was also a man for whom “The Queen’s Own was his abiding passion from the time when, at 17, he joined the regiment as a rifleman.” Combine these attributes with his love of Canada which was of “an intensity and single-heartedness that would be quite foreign to many of the present (1960s) generation” and “it was inevitable that to celebrate the 50th anniversary properly, the interweaving of Canadian history with regimental history must be demonstrated.”

The week-long celebration began with a monster garden party on Saturday, June 18, with as many as 10,000 people it is said, gathering on the greensward facing the Exhibition Grandstand. As the throng assembled and began milling about, sampling the canapés and cold drinks being served, they were entertained by selections of music ranging from martial to operatic to contemporary and popular played by the Toronto Garrison Bands -- The Military and Bugle bands of The Queen’s Own Rifles, The 10th Royal Grenadiers and the 48th Highlanders. By all accounts it was a dazzling affair. Male invitees, officers and men of the Toronto Garrison, were requested to attend in uniform, with medals and decorations, and the ladies ... well, for the ladies there were choices to be made. With the death of King Edward VII a few short weeks earlier following a series of heart attacks, technically the less-than-a-decade Edwardian era was ended. However the rigid formality of the Edwardian styles were already sharing the stage with those of the Europe-based La Belle Époque (The Beautiful Era) and many of the ladies were now in its thrall. The first decade of the 20th century embraced this famous period in European history that began during the late 19th century and lasted until World War I. It was regarded as a “golden age,” as peace prevailed between the major powers of Europe. Additionally, from the New World had come “The Gibson Girl,” an American cartoon character

whom the artist used to satirize society with his images of “The New Woman” who was competitive, sporty and emancipated, as well as young and beautiful. It would seem the three vogues were present in the fashions on the lawns that day and the ladies doubtless went to great lengths to ensure that the event would indeed be a fashionable tour de force.

The ladies were left to their own devices, however, when the Armouries on University Avenue opened its massive front doors to the Reunion Smoker that evening. Those in attendance at the “Men Only” event, some 2,500, received a package of tobacco and a regimentally-crested clay pipe upon arrival. It was an evening for good fellowship, smoking and drinking, with musical entertainment being provided throughout by The Queen’s Own Military Band. The musicians, having marched to the Armouries from their afternoon performances at the Garden Party, were perhaps justifiably wondering what time they might get home to their wives and families. But they were cheered mightily for their efforts, as were the boxers who participated in the bouts which have always been so closely aligned with every smoker of the times. Sir Henry Pellatt, fresh from a ceremony during the Garden Party in which he had been named Chief Tanauyasara (Dawn of the Morning) of the Six Nations at the Garden Party, was to be honoured yet again. The presentation of a large gold medal to commemorate the regiment’s 50th anniversary caused guests at the smoker to cheer loudly and lustily and to applaud heartily and offer more cheers as The Queens’ Own’s bandsmen played “The Regimental” for their Commanding Officer.

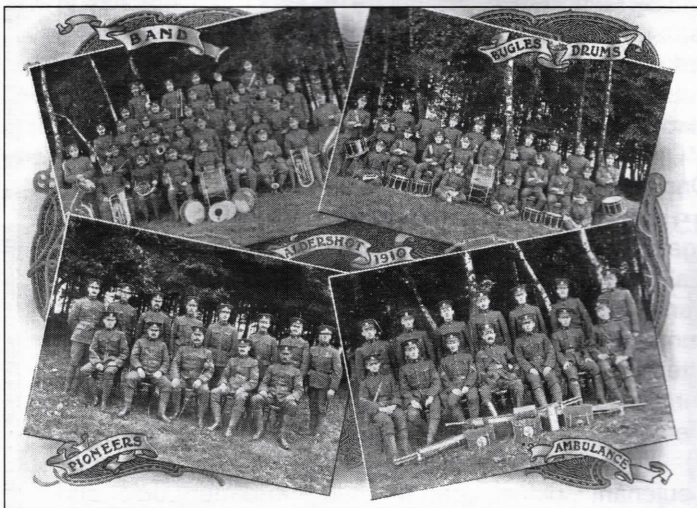
The following day the same, now weary bandsmen were back in uniform on parade on a hot and sultry afternoon, this time to lead a parade of upwards of 2,000, including “Veterans of 1866,” to an outdoor divine service held on the campus of the University of Toronto. In addition to Sir Henry, leading on horseback, were 200 former band members, some now getting well along in years who, 150 with instruments, the remainder without, formed another band to march in the parade of more than 800 proud serving members of The Queen’s Own Rifles. A favourite piece played repeatedly by both bands on the march was Alexander Muir’s “The Maple Leaf Forever,” written in 1867 by the former Queen’s Own rifleman to honour Canada’s Confederation.



Souvenir photos of The Queen's Own in England in 1910



On a route march through Kent, some members of The Queen's Own Bugle Band are attracted by the female hop pickers in the roadside fields.



In 1910 Commanding Officer Sir Henry Pellatt took the 700-member regiment to England for a month to show the "mother country" that the Canadian troops were a match for those of the British Army by participating in the annual military manoeuvres at Aldershot.



The 2nd Battalion was at Vimy on the 100th



To celebrate the 100th Anniversary of The Queen's Own, in 1960 175 all ranks of the 2nd Battalion, then stationed at Fort McLeod, Germany, retraced the route

of the 1st Battalion from –Day to VE Day. it was recorded in the 1960 issue of The Powder Horn that their journey also took them to “those named places, synonymous with World War One, Ypres, Mons, Flanders, Vimy.” At the Vimy Memorial, a member of the Battalion Bugles sounded Last Post and Reveille while an honour guard stood with rifles at the “Present.”

“Vimy Ridge itself has remained, as much as nature will permit, as it was at the armistice,” the Powder Horn report noted. “In many places the scars of war have grown over, but still to be seen are the shell holes and craters, tunnels and zig-zag trenches, dugouts and barbed wire that mark the conflict 42 years past. Some of the positions have been preserved in sand-bagged concert with German and Canadian positions a mere 60 yards apart.

“One does not need a vivid imagination to realize the deadliness, the privations and the extreme misery of life at the front during that war. Indeed, walking over Vimy Ridge today, one can almost hear the rumble of the distant guns, the crackle of heavy machine guns, the snap of a sniper's bullet, the crash of artillery shells, the sudden cry of a man hit or the involuntary moaning of the wounded and dying. One can smell the wet earth, the mud and the dead. There is a quietness about the place as if the Almighty had decreed that no noise of the onrushing world shall violate the dignity of this memorial.”

John McCrae: Former bugler and Queen's Own officer best known as a poet

It is not generally known that John McCrae, author of one of the world's most famous poems about war – “In Flanders Fields” – had served in The Queen's Own Rifles in the late 1890s, whilst a student at the University of Toronto's Medical School.

As a youngster in his hometown of Guelph, the son of Lieutenant-Colonel David McCrae, he joined the Highfield School Highland Cadet Corps at 14, where he was awarded a gold medal for proficiency in drill. He later enlisted in the militia field artillery battery commanded by his father, where not only did he learn to be a gunner he also learned to play the bugle. Commissioned 2nd Lieutenant in his father's #2 Battery, he was promoted Captain upon joining The Queen's Own and named a company commander.

He served as a gunner in the South African War with D Battery of the Canadian Field Artillery and brought home with him memories of the poor and inadequate treatment afforded wounded soldiers. Although he had resigned his commission in 1904, McCrae rejoined the colours upon the outbreak of war in 1914 and was appointed Brigade-Surgeon and second-in-command of the 1st Brigade of

the Canadian Forces Artillery, with the rank of major.

By coincidence, in April 1915, Major McCrae was in the trenches near Ypres, Belgium, at the same time as the 3rd (Toronto) Battalion and its many Queen's Own troops. Some of the heaviest fighting of the First World War took place there during what was known as the Second Battle of Ypres (and which was to become the first World War One Battle Honour awarded to the Queen's Own Rifles.)

On April 22, the enemy used deadly chlorine gas against Allied troops in a desperate attempt to break a stalemate. Despite the debilitating effects of the gas, Canadian soldiers fought relentlessly and held the line for another 16 days, while in the trenches John McCrae attended to hundreds of wounded soldiers every day, surrounded by the dead and the dying, including many members of The Queen's Own Rifles.

It was there that he wrote his famous poem. Promoted Lieutenant Colonel, John McCrae – a former bugler and Queen's Own officer -- died in January, 1918 of pneumonia and meningitis and is buried in the Military Cemetery at Wimereux, France.



"Blow bugle, blow, set the wild echoes flying"

(Sir Alfred Lord Tennyson)

(In 2005 Col Paul Hughes, Honorary Colonel of The Queen's Own Rifles, set the wheels in motion to establish a Bugle Band in the 2881 Scarborough Rifles Cadet Corps, in support of the cadets as well as to provide a source of new musicians who might eventually join the Regimental Band and Bugles. Easier said than done, it seems. Here's a sitrep from the Honorary Colonel.)

One of the first difficulties I encountered in attempting to assist in starting a bugle band for the Scarborough Rifles was sourcing a supply of B-flat bugles. As I quickly found out, these items are not available "off the shelf." I was chatting, post-parade, with Cpl Bob Frankling, a trumpeter in the Regimental Band and Bugles and when I mentioned this he said, "Let me look into it for you." So it was game on. And Cpl Frankling, I'm quite certain, had no idea how much work lay ahead of him.

After much research he found that bugles with a single horizontally-mounted valve of the type currently used by the QOR buglers had not been produced since the 1960s. Beginning in 1975, apparently, bugle bands began using new vertically-mounted two-valve instruments, a change which eventually evolved into the introduction of three (and occasionally four-valve bugles) used principally by U.S.-based marching bands (or drum and bugle corps.) These bands played on specially-designed large-bore cornets that

came in all sizes. They were officially called "bugle bands," but they were now in fact, brass bands. While there had once been hundreds of single-valve bugle bands in Canada and the U.S., now there are almost none. The QOR bugle band was one of a handful in North America before it was merged with the Regimental Band.

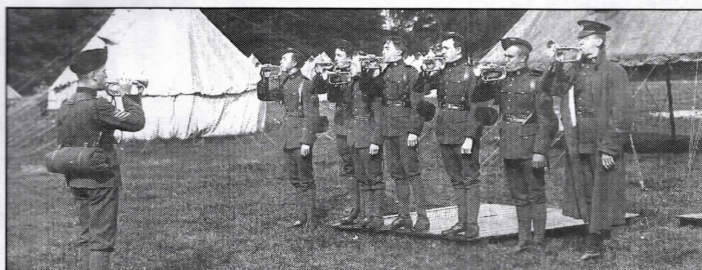
In any event, after research covering makers in 30 countries, Frankling found that "The Hellcats," the drum and bugle corps of the United States Military Academy at West Point, was still using single-valve bugles. Aha! So I sent Cpl Frankling to West Point where he spent three days with the Bugle Major and the bandsmen testing their bugles, which apparently are truly excellent. The Hellcats had a brand new set of one-valve instruments recently created by Clifford Blackburn of Tennessee. I called Mr. Blackburn and was soon on a first-name basis with him. Without going into all the details of what went into the fine bugles his company produced -- although superlative in sound and intonation -- at about \$2,000-\$3,000 U.S. per instrument, it seemed a bit "pricey." Unfortunately, I didn't have the U.S. Government's budget for bugle band purchases.

So Frankling continued his search and eventually found the "Carol Trumpets" website in Taiwan (written mostly in Chinese) which listed bugles among its products. I called the owner, who asked me how I found them because "Our website isn't in English."

"Just lucky," I told him. I thought we would have to send them a sample bugle but all they needed was some digital pictures of a current version. The single-valve bugle Mr. Lee built from scratch from those pictures was amazing. We ordered a sample which when it was delivered was tested by Bugle Sgt. George Walford who stated, "I can't tell it from the bugle I currently use". Cpl Frankling, described it as "fantastic" after he had the chance to play it. At 14" compared to 17" it's apparently lighter and somewhat more compact than the QOR's bugles. It also has a cornet bell, giving more of a real bugle sound, rather than a trumpet sound. Or so they tell me.

In any event, thirty bugles were ordered and the cadet drum and bugle band was operative. Originally equipped with borrowed drums I purchased four snare drums, two tenor drums and a bass drum, all carrying The Queen's Own cap badge on their shells and by Labour Day, 2008, the band was ready to start practice again following Stand To. With Director of Music Rita Arendz as Bugle Instructor and Toronto Police Officer Gary Gomez, a member of precision drumming group CADRE as drum instructor, we're all looking forward to 2010 when the 2881 Scarborough Cadets Bugle Band and the Regimental Band and Bugles of The Queen's Own Rifles of Canada can parade together in honour of the 150th birthday of Canada's oldest and finest continuously serving infantry regiment.

Scenes from the regiment's trip to England in 1910



While their month in England gave members of The Queen's Own ample opportunity to do sightseeing and other off-duty things, there was still much to do for the bandsmen. Here, the bugle band is formed up ready to take part in yet another route march through the English countryside. Also, perhaps only recently roused from their camp cots, a few of the buglers practice scales and calls among the tent lines.



When Harry met Ingrid...



When 16-year-old Harry Thornton went on parade with The Queen's Own Rifles Bugle Band in 1942 he had two things on his mind. One was to play well enough that the Bugle Major didn't tweak his ear. And the other was to get an autograph.

The occasion was a Victory Bond Drive rally at the University Avenue Armouries in

Toronto and the star of the event was actress Ingrid Bergman. To Harry she was "the most beautiful woman in the world," and one he'd had a crush on since he'd seen her play Ilsa Lund in the movie "Casablanca." "She was something else," he remembers.

Harry, who was 83 in 2009, now living in Port Perry, Ontario had only been in the band for about a year at the time, but he'd learned to play drums before joining so he was pretty confident of his ability to march and play with the older members. But he wasn't over-confident about his chances of getting the autograph. "I was just a kid, after all."

He said, "We paraded for her and she took the salute and then walked through the ranks talking to some of the soldiers. She stopped and looked at me. 'Are you in the army?' she asked. Yes ma'am, I said. 'You're so young,' she told me. I didn't know what to say, so I asked for her autograph. I just blurted it out. 'I'd be pleased to,' she said and asked if I had

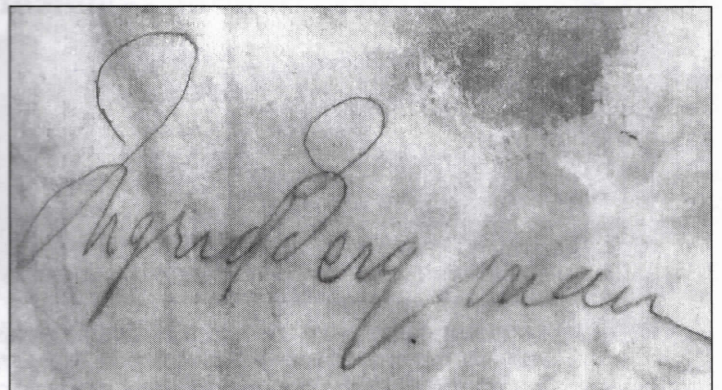


something to write with. I had a pencil. I had taken it with me, just in case. And she signed my drumhead."

Now Harry had the autograph he wanted but what was he going to do with it? There it was on his batter head, in her large, clear handwriting. There was only one thing he could do, Harry thought. "Punch a big hole in the drumhead and ask for a new one. I tried it at home with my drumstick but I couldn't get it through the calfskin, so I looked for something heavier. I forget what, but it worked. I got a new drumhead from the band room and kept the old one. I cut out the piece with the autograph on it, and I still have that."

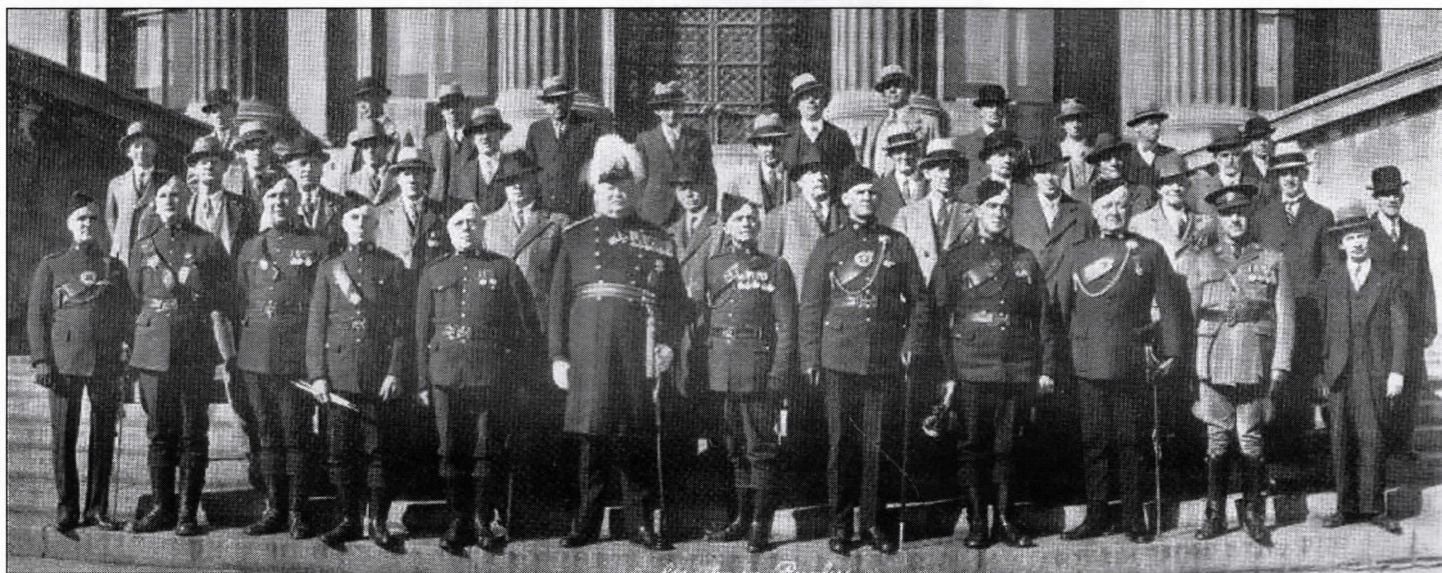


Queen's Own Rifles Bugle Band drummer Harry Thornton with his photo of Ingrid Bergman -- "The most beautiful woman in the world" -- and a piece of his drumhead which she autographed in 1942, when he was 17. "She was something else," he remembered.





The “*Gentlemen Buglers*” would be invited to play *Last Post* at Sir Henry’s funeral in 1939



Formed in May, 1934, The Queen’s Own Buglers’ Association continues to this day. The “Ex-Buglers” met in the Buglers’ Mess which had been established at 185 Spadina Avenue in Toronto. At their inaugural meeting officers were selected and a committee appointed to carry on and “there followed a party where the utmost conviviality prevailed.” In November, the Buglers’ Association marched in the annual church parade to St. Paul’s Anglican Church, “marching with the QOR of C Association as a separate unit.” In February, 1935, “the old-timers were given an opportunity to demonstrate to all and sundry whether or not they had or they had not lost any of their skill and ability with “stick” and “lip” by joining in band practice with the present active

members of the Bugle Band. The result was entirely satisfactory and most encouraging and proved that the old-timers were still able to do their stuff.” Here, they are joined by Sir Henry Pellatt CVO ADC, who, despite major financial setbacks resulting in the loss of Casa Loma, was still a loyal member of The Queens Own Rifles, At Sir Henry’s left is Bugler “Little Dougie” Williams, wearing medals from the Boer War and World War One. Williams had blown the “Charge” at the Battle of Paardeberg in 1900. In 1939, some of the buglers in the picture were among those who played Last Post at their former Commanding Officer’s interment in Forest Lawn Mausoleum, in the former village of Lansing, near Toronto.

Buglers and Drummers Wanted!

Sgt George Walford is looking for former buglers and drummers of Queen's Own bands, including the 1st and 2nd Battalion Bugles, who'd like to join the "Gentlemen Buglers and Drummers." The plan is to rehearse and play several well-known Queen's Own Bugle Band marches as part of the Sesquicentennial ceremonies and celebrations in Toronto in 2010. For information call George at 416-748-5716.

IN MEMORIAM

Jim Carroll
Bob Catlow
Geoff Costeloe

John Doeg
Art Gay
Alex Kemp (D-Day Veteran)

Norm Marsden
Wilfred John Rollman
Doug Scott (D-Day Veteran)
Ken Scott



Director of Music Capt Rita Arendz CD conducts the Regimental Band and Bugles during the annual Spring Concert on the 149th Birthday Weekend in April.

SAVE TEN DOLLARS ON THE NEW BAND BOOK AND GET A FREE BAND CD BY ORDERING NOW!

When **"THE BANDS OF THE QUEEN'S OWN RIFLES OF CANADA (1860-2010)"** goes on general sale in September the price will be \$55.00 (plus \$10.00 postage). Included with the book will be a free copy of a new "Historic Marches and Music" CD featuring Queen's Own Rifles Band music from the past.

Both items will celebrate the 150th anniversary of The Queen's Own Rifles of Canada in 2010. The hardcover book is a lively account of the military and bugle bands of The Queen's Own since 1860, featuring anecdotal material and rare photographs. The 45-minute, 19 selection CD includes such favourites as The Regimental, The Maple Leaf Forever, Burma Star and Nightfall in Camp.

YOU CAN RESERVE BOTH NOW FOR \$45.00 (plus \$10.00 postage)

by sending your cheque or money order for \$55.00 made payable to:

2010 Sesquicentennial Committee, c/o John Fielder, 167 Robert St. Toronto, M5S 2K6

Your book and CD (or books/CDs) will be shipped to you in September.