



The Powder Horn

Fall 2005

REMEMBRANCE DAY PARADE



CHANGE OF HONORARIES



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The Queen's Own Rifles of Canada





CHANGE OF HONORARIES



On the cover (Top) Led by Commanding Officer LCol Martin Delaney, The Queen's Own marches to St. Paul's for the annual Remembrance Day service. (Bottom left): Retiring Honorary Colonel Don Pryer with new Hon Col Paul Hughes and new Hon LCol Dick Cowling. (Bottom right) The exchange of swords. This page: (Top left) Inspecting Officer Col Gary Stafford, 32 Bde Commander. (Top right) New Hon Col Paul Hughes signs the official document, watched by former Hon Col Don Pryer; (Bottom left) RSM Scott Patterson with a presentation gift for Gen Pryer; (Bottom right) Hon Col Hughes makes a presentation to RSM Patterson.



CALGARY REUNION REPORT

Don Ethell, Coordinator

It has been an exciting and very busy year for the Calgary Branch of the QOR of C Association!! At the request of the then-HLCol Paul and his wife Bev Hughes, in June 2005 the Calgary Branch hosted the QOR2005 Reunion. What a wonderful success!

Following months of preparation on Friday the 3rd of June, over 525 Riflemen and Riflewomen gathered at the University of Calgary MacEwan Hall to register and participate in the 'Meet and Greet'. Met by either Ken Moynahan or Bob Titus, transportation was provided for those arriving at the Calgary airport, and accommodation was provided at the University of Calgary student accommodation, where they were met by either Gary Jackson or Al Polowick.

During the Registration participants were issued a regimental 'tote bag' containing letters of welcome from the Co-Chair/HLCol, the Mayor and the Premier of Alberta; a Reunion souvenir crested letter-opener; name-tags; poems by renowned poet Billy Willbond; various pins; the 'Ridley' tube; Calgary & Alberta travel brochures; a CD of 'pictures from the past'; and many other items of interest. Under the leadership of Ken Barrett the Reunion Kitshop did a booming business! As did the 'Draw-table' led by John Friedt. Many a tearful but joyful reunion took place, particularly for those soldiers and wives who hadn't seen each other for 30 or 40 years - including two soldiers who served with the 2nd Battalion in Korea and hadn't seen each other for 50 years!

The President of the Calgary Branch John Cresswell acted as the Reunion Sgt-at-Arms, whilst the Branch Secretary and Treasurer Louise & Clay Hodder respectfully effectively ran the Registration.

We were honoured to have Herb Pitts as our Featured speaker during the Meet and Greet on the 3rd of June, and Charlie Belzile during the dinner on the 4th. Both spoke eloquently of our Regiment. Don Ethell introduced Herb and Lew MacKenzie introduced Charlie. Following the Co-Chair Paul Hughes welcoming remarks, and those of the HCol Don Pryer, the President of the Regimental Trust Fund Adam Hermant gave attendees an update on the Regimental Trust Fund. Then, the Commanding Officer of the Reserve unit in Toronto, LCol Martin Delaney - accompanied by his RSM Scott Patterson - presented a brief report of the many dynamic activities of the QOR of C unit in Toronto.

Looking across the audience one could see many members of the various Association Branches from across Canada (ie Vancouver Island (Pres Abe MacDonald), Newfound/Maritimes (Pres John Metcalfe),

Toronto (Pres Bob Dunk) and Calgary (Pres John Cresswell). And many individual Riflemen and Riflewomen from across Canada and the UK, USA and Australia!

With the exception of a few whom wished to travel to Banff, the next morning (ie Saturday the 4th) all ranks gathered in MacEwan Hall for the traditional substantial Stampede breakfast - with Western music. In the afternoon, bus tours were arranged for participants to visit Spruce Meadows; the Museum of the Regiments and the local Legion Branch #264. All bus transportation was arranged to return to the University residential



areas by 1630 hrs, in order to prepare for the reception and Regimental Reunion dinner.

At 1800 hrs on Saturday the 4th, the doors to MacEwan Hall opened for the arrival of our guests for the QOR2005 Reunion dinner. The ladies were in their finery, and the gentlemen were dressed appropriately with medals dangling for all to see. World War II veterans, Korea veterans, 27th Brigade veterans, Cold War veterans, Peace Support Operations veterans and soldiers from the QOR of C unit in Toronto, and their ladies. And our beloved widows and widowers. What a grand gathering!

At the commencement of the dinner the Reunion Sgt-at-Arms John Cresswell marched in 'The Rifle party'. The Rifle was carried by Ken Barrett and escorted by John Hearn and Clay Hodder. The Drumline and the two Regimental buglers from Toronto, **Sgts Gus Amodeo and George Walford** greeted their arrival.

Continued



Reunion Continued

It was the consensus of all that our beloved Regiment, serving and retired is 'alive and well'. We have proven that many members of the Regiment and their families are keenly interested in the history and activities of the Regiment – and wish to maintain ties with the Queen's Own.

All that to say that - without interfering with the official celebrations of our 150th anniversary in April 2010 "We are going to do it again in June of 2010!!!"

The Calgary Branch will gather for their traditional Christmas dinner during which the Branch President John Cresswell will describe the historic occasion on the 27th of October 2005 when he presented a picture of Sgt Cosens to the Union Jack Club in London England. Well done John!

...AND HERE'S THE TEAM

Co-chairs: HLCol Paul and Bev Hughes; **Coordinator:** Don Ethell; **Sgt-at-Arms:** John Cresswell, **Pres.** Calgary Br: **Registration:** Louise Hodder, **Sec. Calgary Br;** Clay Hodder: **Treas. Calgary Br;** Arlene Albrecht, Shirley Titus, Jean Pendlebury, Evelyn Grant; **Transportation:** Ken Moynahan, Bob Titus, Bill Turner, Frank Rowe, Ralph Ridley; **Accommodation:** Gary Jackson, Al Polowick; **Kitshop:** Ken Barrett, John Hearn, Lou Point, Bill Galloway; **Draw table:** John and Lyda Friedt, Norm and Kathy Walker.

THANKS FOR A GREAT JOB!

IN MEMORIAM

Gene Bell
Bandsman Doug Hester
RSM/WO1 Bill Demmy, DCM, MMM
Charlie Edhouse
Sgt. William Lorne Hampton
Edward J. McDade
Leo Patrick Walsh



QOR of C Trust Fund

Just a short note to thank everyone who has taken time out to make a donation to the Trust Fund in the past months. Your contributions are vital to the ongoing work done by your Trustees annually.

Since December the Trust Fund has been active supporting not only the needs of the Commanding Officer that are un-funded by DND but to ensuring that our Cross of Sacrifice at St. Paul's is properly cared for during an extensive restoration project the Church is undergoing, key up-grades to our Museum at Casa Loma as recommended by our volunteer Curator and Trustee, Peter Simundson and of course the delivery to all our members of the Powder Horn and the Rifleman Journal.

I know that these messages are 'repetitive' but it is important to remind ourselves, that beyond the work we do as volunteers, it is our personal financial interest, annually, that makes it possible to properly maintain our Regimental heritage, ensure continuity of communication and have a strong and well turned out QORofC.

So, again, thank you to each and everyone. We value your financial support. It is not only welcome ~ it is genuinely appreciated. If you haven't made a donation this year please do. We look forward to sending you a tax receipt for 2005. (All donations \$10 or more will receive a tax receipt).

Adam Hermant
President

PS:. Plan now for the future. Please consider a bequest through your Will to the Trust Fund. If you require information on how to accommodate a Bequest please do contact us. We would be pleased to provide support.

In Pace Paratus



Remembering a D-Day Survivor

Charles McGregor, Editor

For the first time in many years, Remembrance Day passed without Last Post and Rouse being played under the sheltering palm trees in Port Charlotte, Florida. Doug Hester, 82, a member of the Queen's Own Rifles of Canada Bugle Band and a D-Day survivor, passed away in hospital on the morning of November 11th, 2005, his highly polished silver bugle now silenced forever.

Doug's wife, Ruth, called their friend, LCol Frank Mulrooney, to say that the popular bandsman had died quietly, with family members present. Ruth asked Frank to thank all those who had made concerned enquiries about Doug during the last few days of his life.

She said that Doug been hospitalized for a couple of weeks with complications arising from a blood clot in his leg which had moved into his lung. "But he was able to go to a hospice where we could visit with him," she said. "His daughter Jan, and one of his four sons, Doug, was with him when he passed away."

Doug, and another former Queen's Own bandsman and bugler living in Florida, Herb Goldring, had been regulars at the Remembrance Day ceremonies held in their community.

LCol Mulrooney said that, "Last year I was there on November 11 and they made rather a feature of Doug as a D-Day veteran and Bugler. Since 1991 he has played the Last Post for every Queen's Own who died."

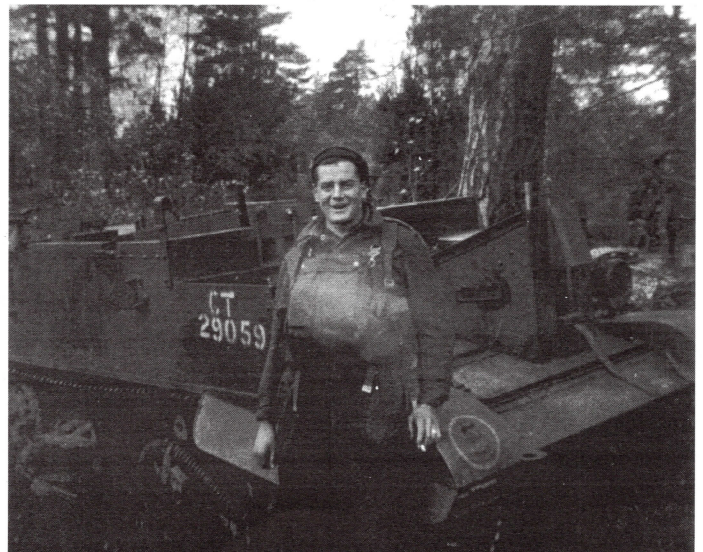
When The Regiment paraded at Moss Park Armoury the Wednesday following Bandsman Hester's death, CO, LCol Martin Delaney arranged for a tribute to be given to honour this remarkable soldier's life, noting that he had landed on D-Day as a rifleman in Major Charlie Dalton's "B" Coy, where despite being wounded he helped clear a gun emplacement. LCol Mulrooney, who attended the Moss Park ceremony, said that after the buglers played Last Post, there was a full two minutes silence before Rouse. "It was a fitting tribute to a Bugler and Rifleman. Truly Doug Hester was "Once Queen's Own, always Queen's Own."



Remembering RSM J.P. Moore

Charles McGregor, Editor

The editor of Powder Horn owes an apology to the family of RSM J. P. Moore, whom we inadvertently demoted in rank in the last issue in reporting his death. Moore (B64464), a member of Lt. Stan Biggs' Carrier Platoon, landed on D-Day with the Support Company of The Queen's Own Rifles, and according to the Regimental History, "it was generally conceded that Rfn Moore was the finest driver the battalion ever had." After the war "JP", as he was generally known, rose through the ranks to become a Warrant Officer First Class and was RSM of the Regiment on the occasion of its Centenary in 1960. Rest easy, JP.





Carved oak tree salutes veterans

By Jim Wilkes

(November 9, 2005) Bill Bettridge stands ramrod straight, eyes cast across Brampton's Gage Park to the cenotaph at City Hall's Ken Whillans Square.

He cuts quite a figure at just over 3 metres high, a chestful of war medals glistening in a rust-coloured stain and varnish that accentuate the twisted grain in his red oak outfit.

And there's Bill Bettridge — the real one — glancing up at his finely hewn alter ego, still sturdy at 84, shiny silver and golden medals catching the sun more than 61 years after he stormed Juno Beach in Normandy in the first wave of attacks on D-Day.

He'll be at the park again this morning when Mayor Susan Fennell officially unveils the statue carved from a 150-year-old tree to honour Brampton's war veterans and those who gave their lives overseas in defence of freedom.

"I'm so proud to represent all the ones who went, the ones who came back and the ones who are still over there, the ones who didn't come home," he said, tugging the brim of a well-worn green beret that bears the badge of the Queen's Own Rifles.

"I'm just getting a lot of attention because there aren't very many of us left to talk about it."

Fennell championed the idea of the statue only three weeks ago after a resident suggested putting the dead tree to good use instead of just chopping it down. A week later, Orangeville artist Jim Menken began.

"Over a million Canadians have been to war and we've lost thousands of people who never came home," Fennell said. "Here we are in the Year of the Veteran and that red oak tree has stood in Gage Park through all the challenges of time and stood its ground. It reminds me of how all these soldiers stood their ground, in all sorts of weather in all sorts of challenges."

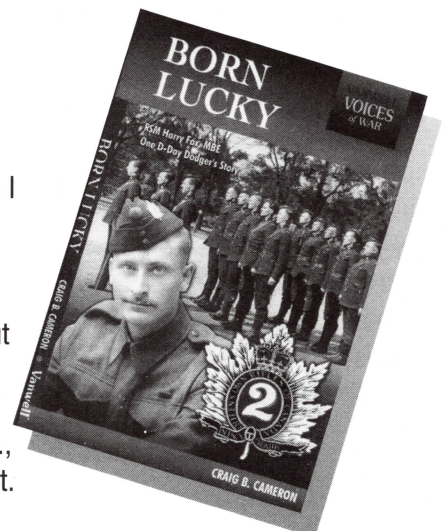
The towering carving, at the foot of stairs leading to Royal Canadian Legion Branch 15, reminds Bettridge of all the comrades he left overseas. "There are still so many guys still over there under the ground," he said. "So often I wish they were all back here with me now."

Courtesy Toronto Star



HELP WANTED!

In addition to the Powder Horn, I have taken on the responsibility of Editor of The Rifleman, the Regimental Journal. And I'm looking for help. In each issue I plan to include a look back at the years gone by and I'm asking anyone out there who has a story or a photo or two that says something about The Queen's Own Rifles to think about sending it on. As an example, with the author's permission, I plan to use something from Capt. Cameron's book about RSM Harry Fox, now on sale at about \$20. (See story p. 8). I'm particularly interested in any WWII or post war material that's available. I can be reached at chickmcgregor@sympatico.ca, by mail at 22 Calder Cres., Whitby, ON, L1N 6M3, or by phone at 905 430 1680. Thanks, in advance. Capt. C.D. McGregor. In Pace Paratus.





REGIMENTAL SECRETARY'S REPORT

Robert A. Campbell, Regimental Secretary

We are working towards getting the Regimental Kit Shop operating again after a difficult year of limitations due to construction in the Armoury. Our Kit Shop Manger, Andy McNaughton has done a great job holding things together with either no space or limited space in which to work.

The Regimental Major, David Vine has provided support and assistance in getting inventory and financial statements together. Our vision is to be able to reach the point where we can operate online over the web.

Recently, we met with the CEO of Casa Loma to dis-

cuss placing Regimental Kit Shop items for sale in the Casa Loma Souvenir Store. It would be a great place for the general public to see and purchase items and increase our sales, which will benefit the Trust Fund and our members. It was agreed to proceed with this project by December of this year.

As we approach the holiday season you should be aware that Regimental Christmas Cards will be available at the kit shop. May you all have a joyful holiday and a wonderful year in 2006.



Colonel Donald Stewart Ethell, OMM, OStJ, AOE, MSC, CD

To his other decorations, Colonel Don Ethell (Photo, p.3) will soon be able add O.C. to designate his appointment as an Officer of the Order of Canada. He was named to receive the award to reward his many years of voluntary service by former Governor General Adrienne Clarkson earlier this year. The presentation will be made by Governor General Michaëlle Jean at a ceremony in Ottawa early next year.

Col Ethell is a veteran of over 38 years of service, including 14 peacekeeping tours and other secondments to the United Nations and other international organizations. He joined the Canadian Army at 17, receiving basic training as a rifleman in The Queen's Own Rifles at Currie Barracks in Calgary. When the QOR was removed from regular army service in 1970, all members of the battalion, including Ethell, changed their affiliation to the Princess

Patricia's Canadian Light Infantry. He quickly rose through the non-commissioned officer ranks to that of warrant officer until being commissioned as an officer in 1972. This was to foreshadow a distinguished career in the military.

Throughout the years, his tours of duty have included service in Germany, Cyprus, Lebanon, Syria, Jordan, Egypt, Israel, Central America, and the Balkans. Col Ethell, who was coordinator of the recent most successful Queen's Own Rifles Reunion in Calgary, is also the National President of the Canadian Association of Veterans of United Nations Peacekeepers (CAVUNP) among many of his volunteer involvements.

The Order of Canada is the highest civilian honour that can be presented by the Canadian Government.



SANDYCOVE VETERANS SOCIAL CLUB

LCol Ivor Macleod

On Sunday 06Nov05 we held our community Remembrance Day services, as is customary the weekend before 11Nov. This year the Salute for the Veterans' marchpast was taken by Sandycove resident Jack van Daalen, a pre WW2 Sergeant Major with the Dutch Army who was taken prisoner by the Japanese at the fall of Singapore.

Last year I took Jack and his wife, Evelyn, to a meeting of the Huronia Branch of the Canadian Airborne Forces Association where he met CAFA member Leo Berard who was captured at Hong Kong with the Winnipeg Grenadiers. Quite a meeting! Jack got an inscribed copy

of Leo's book "17 Days Until Christmas," his story of his POW experience.

Three of us from Sandycove went to Nantyr Shores Secondary School to take part in their Remembrance services. Unlike last year, when I was the sole representative to speak to two separate school assemblies, this year we were taken all over the school visiting classrooms, meeting a large number of students, talking about our various experiences and answering their questions. Certainly a good way to talk with many young people, and as another three Sandycove veterans followed I have to think it was an excellent idea.



Year of the Veteran Dinner

CWO (ret'd) Brian Budden, CD, QOR of C Association

To remember, honour and celebrate a very successful Year of the Veterans, a Dinner/Dance was held at RCL 344 in October, with 30 veterans present among the 125 guests. Representatives were present from The Queen's Own, Sherbrooke Fusiliers, HLI, Perth Regt, RCA, 1st Cdn Airborne, Royal Regt., Calgary Highlanders, 4th Princess Louise Dragoon Guards. Also British Army, CWAC, WRENS, RCN, Merchant Navy and RCAF,

In making this event so enjoyable and such a success the President of the Branch, Mary Keates should be congratulated on all her hard work and dedication to the Veterans. A special mention also to those in the background who helped make the evening memorable. Thanks as well to Buglers Gus Amodeo and George Walford for excellent dinner calls, Last Post and Reveille.



BORN LUCKY One D-Day Dodger's Story: RSM Harry Fox, MBE

Craig B. Cameron (Former Padre 3rd Bn, QOR of C)

Vanwell Publishing

These are the military memoirs of the Queen's Own's legendary RSM, Harry Fox, MBE, published on the 70th anniversary of his enlistment in the Regiment.

Born in England, he immigrated with his family to Ontario in 1920 at the age of six. The Foxes moved to Toronto in 1929 and Harry left school to work for the T. Eaton Company. Continuing a family tradition of military service, in 1932 Harry chose to enlist in Canada's oldest continuously serving infantry Regiments, The Queen's Own Rifles of Canada. He participated in the Regiment's 75th birthday trip to England in 1935.

Mr. Fox was a sergeant upon the outbreak of the Second World War in 1939. When the 1st Battalion, QOR of C was mobilized for overseas service in June 1940, Harry was enrolled and became Company Sergeant Major for Charlie

Company. He served in this capacity at Borden, Newfoundland, Sussex, New Brunswick and in England until May 1942.

CSM Fox was named Regimental Sergeant Major of the 1st Bn and served in that capacity until October 1943, when he was sent on a draft to Italy to gain combat experience. RSM Fox joined The Hastings and Prince Edward Regiment in January 1944 and became a permanent replacement for their famous Regimental Sergeant-Major, Angus Duffy. He served with the "Hasty P's" throughout 1944 and 1945, and was with them in Holland in the spring of 1945. He returned to Canada with his "adopted" regiment in the fall of 1945 and moved back to Toronto. Mr. Fox was persuaded to come back to The Queen's Own Rifles as RSM in 1947 and served for a year before retiring.