



THE 1860 CLUB

Supporting The Queen's Own Rifles of Canada

The Powder Horn

February 2026



Command Team of the Queen's Own Rifles of Canada

It has been several months since the last update for the Powder Horn, so it is admittedly difficult to know where to start and how to condense the breadth of activity that has been undertaken by the Regiment.

Traditionally, November is the busiest month in our calendar and 2025 was no exception. The Officer's Mess held their annual mess dinner at the Royal Canadian Military Institute, at the onset of the Remembrance weekend. In attendance was the Command Team of 3rd Battalion, The Royal Canadian Regiment, with whom the unit has worked closely over the past several years.

The Regimental Museum hosted displays of unit history and current capability as part of Queen's Own Rifles Day at Casa Loma. The exhibits, featuring period uniforms, modern equipment, interactive displays and antique vehicles, were accentuated by lively performances by the Band and an interactive observation post atop a tower staffed by members of Recce Platoon.

A somber snowfall blanketed the Regiment, as it undertook the annual Remembrance Parade to St. Paul's, Bloor Street and the Cross of Sacrifice. The full strength of the Band, Skirmishers, Pioneers and Guards were accompanied by the Association and Cadets, prior to returning to Moss Park Armoury for the formal dedication of the Victoria Cross Memorial on the Wall of Honour. This tribute to those who displayed outstanding gallantry and heroism in service to the nation, is now on display for future generations of Riflemen and visitors.

Compliments to Regimental Sergeant Major J. Thorn and the Museum team for their diligence in seeing this project through to completion in less than a year.

Exercise QUICK RIG 3 occurred in CFB Trenton on 23 November, whereupon a platoon from Parachute Company completed a full-equipment descent onto DZ Hodgson. This contributed to the sub-unit maintaining currency and competency since our tactical insertion within Exercise STALWART GUARDIAN 25 in August.



At the end of the month, the Regiment deployed to CFB Petawawa to conduct Exercise MAROON SWORD 3 and culminate the fall training cycle. Accompanied by platoons from both The Royal Canadian Regiment and the Lorne Scots, approximately 100 soldiers participated in Level 3 live-fire training. Covered by overhead and flanking machine gun fire, Riflemen decisively and aggressively met their objectives through hasty attacks against fortified positions.

Just prior to the holiday season, the unit held FESTIVE RIFLEMAN. This traditional appreciation dinner was extremely well attended, with awards and recognition bestowed upon an outstanding group of soldiers.

By the middle of December, most personnel deployed to Operation REASSURANCE Rotation 25-02 had returned to Canada and concluded their service to the defence of NATO's eastern flank. At the same time, those slated for Rotation 26-01 were boarding flights bound for Latvia. We bid them a fond farewell as they left the country, their Regiment and their loved ones.

As the calendar turned to 2026, the unit began to refocus on core winter warfare skills, and preparation for Exercise MAROON FROST 1. Concurrently in January, seven members deployed to Fort Wainwright, Alaska with the Global Response Task Force, centred around 3rd Battalion, The Royal Canadian Regiment. There, they will participate in division-level warfighting scenarios and bring back a host of lessons-learned for the Regiment.

Canadian Army Modernization has now begun in earnest, though a separate letter to the Regimental Family will be distributed pertaining to that matter and development. Overall, the future looks bright for The Queen's Own Rifles of Canada.

There are likely several events or milestones which have been bypassed, though it is certainly not intentional.

It is immensely humbling to look back at our time together and recognize what has been accomplished.

In Pace Paratus.
Chris Boileau
Lieutenant-Colonel
Commanding Officer

Justin Thorn
Chief Warrant Officer
Regimental Sergeant Major



The Queen's Own Rifles of Canada Museum

Project McEachren Preservation

On an unknown date, a daughter of [Ensign Malcolm McEachren](#) donated the tunic he was wearing at the time of his death during the June 2nd, 1866 [Battle of Ridgeway](#) to the Fort Erie Historical Society. On the 100th anniversary of the battle in 1966, the tunic was presented to the Regiment and was subsequently placed in the care of the Regimental Museum.

Nine QOR soldiers died that day, but post-battle reports are clear that McEachren, who had only been commissioned as an officer two months previously, was the first to fall in that action. He was also the first casualty in the history of the Regiment, which had only been formed in April of 1860.

It would not be an understatement to say this is the most significant object in our museum's collection and likely unique in any regimental museum's collection. For that reason, we take the serious responsibility of preserving this tunic to the best of our abilities.

Unfortunately, over the past decades, it has suffered UV and insect damage and the loss of some of the braiding and buttons. Someone in the past wrote "Bullet Hole" in white china marker above the hole and stitched around its edges with white thread. We're also not clear whether the current but not original liner is appropriate. Some damage, such as the fading from UV light exposure or insect damage, cannot be reversed, nor would we want to. What we can do is ensure that it is preserved in such a way as to minimize any future deterioration.

With that in mind, we have developed a three-step plan:

The first step was to acquire a new exhibit case that would protect it as much as possible. In 2018, we purchased a custom-made museum-quality case with frameless UV filtering glass, Abloy security locks, and an airtight exhibit compartment with a desiccant tray to ensure a constant humidity level. This was possible with donations from a number of supporters, a bequest from the estate of the late Captain Scott Patterson, and from The Queen's Own Rifles of Canada Trust Fund.

Step 2 involved replacing the wooden mount (or mannequin) with a museum-quality mount. Wood off-gases, and this would be more of an issue in a sealed case. The tunic was transferred to a new mount before COVID shut down our volunteer operations for a significant time.

Now that the tunic was well protected from future deterioration, the final step was some professional conservation and preservation work. We contacted an accredited textile conservator whose company, "CRC Conservation/Restoration," is near Quebec City. After receiving a preliminary treatment proposal, the Museum Board of Governors approved this project, and we have engaged this conservator.

This past week, our Museum Director personally delivered the tunic to the Conservator in Quebec City, despite a snowstorm creating some driving challenges between Cornwall and Quebec City! We anticipate that the rather painstaking work will be completed over the next four months and the tunic will be back on display in time for the June 2nd 160th anniversary of McEachren's death.

While we are very excited to complete this final step in protecting and preserving this very significant object, it does come with an equally significant cost. We are thankful for the support of the QOR Trust Fund and from several donors to date. If you would like to support this project you can do so online at www.1860club.ca/donate or [Canada Helps](#) and select "In Honour of McEachren Project".



National Memorial to the Fallen

On 1 November 2025, a new National Memorial to the Fallen was unveiled in Kingston, ON.

The memorial honours, in a single location, the over 120,000 Canadian service members who have died in wars and conflicts since the War of 1812, as recorded in the eight Books of Remembrance on Parliament Hill in Ottawa. It also honours those who, prior to 1812, helped shape Canada through their involvement in earlier conflicts. The memorial was conceived and built by the National Wall of Remembrance Association (NWORA) in partnership with the City of Kingston.

Centered around a Canadian Flag flying high on a 25-foot flagpole and surrounded by a large compass rose base representing the far corners of the world where Canadian service personnel have fought and died for Canada, there are four large granite pillars representing four periods of conflict: Pre-First World War; the First World War; the Second World War, and Post-Second World War. Each pillar includes key images from those time frames reflecting the human face of war. Of particular significance to QOR members is imagery depicting [the Fenian Raids on the panel 2 of the Pre-First World War pillar and reference to the QOR in the virtual memorial](#) .

Complimenting this physical memorial is a virtual memorial with profiles for each of the 120,000 fallen with the aim to gather information and stories over the coming years. NWORA also supports four other programmes to help honour the fallen via their Community Memorials Programme which helps provide funding for communities to repair or build local monuments; the Education Outreach Programme to help educate Canadian youth about the sacrifices of the Fallen; a new Scholarship Programme; and finally, the Flag Programme.

For more information on the physical memorial, virtual memorial and NWORA programmes, please visit [CanadianFallen.ca](#) .

Cassandra de Bartok, MA

Board of Directors, National Wall of Remembrance Association



Leadership in war and peace: Colonel James Gowan Kirkpatrick Strathy, OBE, ED, CD, KStJ 1905 - 1978

On January 10th, 2026, Post Media's Live's Told Story featured a story about Colonel James Gowan Kirkpatrick Strathy, OBE, ED, CD, KStJ 1905 - 1978. The feature is titled

"Leadership in war and peace: Colonel James Gowan Kirkpatrick Strathy, OBE, ED, CD, KStJ1905 - 1978" and can be found at the following link:

<https://lifestold.com/story/james-gowan-kirkpatrick-strathy-93/>

The Queen's Own Rifles of Canada Association (Toronto Branch)

The Association had a great turnout of 17 members in attendance at The Queen's Own Rifles Soldier's Holiday Dinner on 03 Dec 25. This provided the unique opportunity to share in comradeship between Association members and the Regiment.

Congratulations to the following:

QORA Rifleman of The Year - 2025 - **Sgt (ret'd) Tom Fabry** - Recently retired after 40 Years service to to the QOR.
Colonel Paul Hughes & Bev Hughes Award for Excellence - 2025 - **Commanding Officer - L/Col Chris Boileau**

Look forward to seeing QOR Association Rifleman out to this year's events:

MAY 16 – QORA – AGM – RCL BRANCH 258 – 10:00 HRS.

JULY 27TH – KOREAN WALL CEREMONY - BRAMPTON

AUG 9TH – PEACEKEEPER DAY – ANGUS – PEACEKEEPER PARK

AUG 22nd – 105th WARRIORS DAY PARADE – CNE

On behalf of the Association, we extend to members of the Regiment, we wish you all on deployment for a successful and safe deployment.

In Pace Paratus
CWO (ret'd) Brian Budden, CD1
QORA (Toronto Branch)
President & Health & Welfare Chairman
brianbudden@rogers.com
416-417-4975



Upcoming Events

- March 1st, 2026 - Association Zoom call
- March 31st, 2026 - Change of Command, R.S McLaughlin Armoury, Oshawa
- April 1st, 2026 - Change of Appointment RSM, Moss Park Armoury
- April 11th, 2026 - Toronto Garrison Ball - Liberty Grand
- April 17th, 2026 - The Airborne Luncheon - RCMI
- April 26th, 2026 - Regimental Birthday
- May 1st, 2026 - 1860 Club Founder Recognition Event at Casa Loma

- MAY 16th, 2026 - QORA – AGM – RCL Branch 258 – 10:00 HRS.
- June 3rd, 2026 - D-Day Dinner Casa Loma
- August 28th, 2026 - 18th Annual Golf Tournament, Cardinal Golf Club

We are looking for Sponsors for our Dinner on June 3rd and Golf Tournament on August 28th, in advance of the event invitations. This will permit us to identify our sponsors on the initial invitation. Please email smoody@1860club.ca should you be interested.

36th Annual Airborne Luncheon



April 17th, 2026



Royal Canadian Military Institute
426 University Avenue, Toronto
RSVP by April 1st to
susan.cook@rcmi.org

2026 Fundraising

Donations to our fundraising initiatives, as well as sponsorship of our D-Day Dinner and Golf Tournament, directly support our non-publicly funded components of the Regiment. The 80th Anniversary of the Liberation of the Netherlands and VE-Day pilgrimage that was held in May 2025, maintenance and improvements to the Museum at Casa Loma, maintenance and installation of monuments, our cadet corps, the Children's Christmas Party, and care packages to our deployed members are just a few of these initiatives.

As the end of the year approaches, we kindly ask you to consider making an end-of-year donation to the Regimental Trust. For your convenience, you can also arrange to have donations automatically

withdrawn on an annual or monthly basis. A donation of \$1860 will make an individual a "Founder" of the 1860 Club. All donations come with a tax receipt and will help elevate your donor status within the 1860 Club.

[Donation Link](#)

CANADIAN AIRBORNE FORCES ASSOCIATION (CAFA)



Open to all Canadian veteran and serving parachutists

CAFA supports the following initiatives:

- Preservation of Canadian Airborne history and monuments
- Annual student bursary of \$3000
- Airborne Soldier of the Year
- Maroon Beret Magazine
- National and branch events

Join CAFA here:

Free for serving
CAF members



canadianairborneforces.ca
[@canadianairborneforces](https://twitter.com/canadianairborneforces)

Canadian Infantry Association

My name is LCol (ret'd) Doug Johnson. I commanded the Lorne Scots from 1997-2000. I write you today as the President of the Central Ontario Branch of the Canadian Infantry Association. Central Ontario Branch is made up of all Infantry units in 32 Brigade. The CIA has been around since 1912. All Infantry Regiments are members of the Association. Traditionally, The Commanding Officers of each unit have been the ones representing the Regiments at meetings. It's purpose is to support and advance the Infantry profession. We belong to the Conference of Defence Association as do all the other military trade organizations such as Engineers, Intelligence as well as the other two services. We are independent of DND or the CAF so we can represent our members on Infantry issues.

We have recently begun to revise the organization of the organization. We are now have opened the membership so that all Infanteers, regardless of rank regular force or reserve, can become members rather than just the units. There is no cost to join CIA.

I write to you to solicit your help in reaching out to your members, both active and retired, to make them aware of CIA and encourage them to join. They can visit the website for more complete information at www.ducimus.army and complete the form under the membership category. Again, there is no cost to joining.

We appreciate your help in getting this information out and encouraging membership. Should you have any questions please feel free to respond to this email or call me at 905-321-5462



Online Links

The QOR of C Regimental Association

More information about The Queen's Own Rifles of Canada Association Branches can be found at:

Toronto Branch

<https://www.facebook.com/qortorontoassociation>

Calgary Branch

<https://www.qorcalgary.com>

Vancouver Island Branch

<https://www.qorvi.com>

The Rifleman Magazine (Annual Journal of the QOR of C)

<https://fliphtml5.com/insrc/ryzm>

The Queen's Own Rifles of Canada Regimental Museum
<https://qormuseum.org/>

The Queen's Own Rifles of Canada Website
<https://www.queensownrifles.com/>

Kit Shop
<https://sites.google.com/view/qorkitshop/>

CAFA
canadianairborneforcesassociation.ca

[Donate Now](#)