

The Guards Star

Governor General's Foot Guards Regimental Association, Box 1212, Station B, Ottawa, Ontario, K1P 5R3
Regimental Website: www.footguards.ca/2013

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Message from the President

MWO Marty Lane, CD (Retd)

Things have been rather slow of late for the Association. We were at one time working on purchasing tuba and euphonium covers for the band but that has since been cancelled. At present we have no new projects on the go. We had a request from the Regiment to assist in paying for a bus for a ski trip to Mont Tremblant last month. A quick poll of the executive brought a favourable reply to this request. At the time of the request there seemed to be a fair number of interested, but on the day of the actual trip the number was somewhat lower. From the reports I received and the thanks to the Association for their support, those who attended actually enjoyed their day.

The executive will begin shortly on planning events for the coming year which will include the Annual Reunion Dinner in the fall and the Regimental Ball in February of 2016. (Dates, once determined, will be posted in the Guards Star) The Ball may seem like it is a long way off, but in actual fact it is less than a year away. Events like these cannot be planned on short notice. If you have any ideas or suggestions for these events please speak to me or any member of the executive.

The Executive will be working on the re-write of the Association bylaws so that they will comply with the Canada Revenue Agency regulations pertaining to Not For Profit Organizations. This job has to be done, submitted and approved by CRA prior to next October's Annual General Meeting.

I had the privilege of attending the Change of Command of our Regimental Cadet Corps in January. The Corps said their goodbyes to Capt.

Chris Sloan and welcomed Capt. Chris Moynahan into the Guards family. We wish them both much success in their new endeavours.

Message from the LCol Comd

LCol Kevin MacLean, CD, AdeC

It has been a rather eventful winter with many things going on. Most notable being the "Gathering of the Guards" in Kingston Ontario where the officers and Sr. NCOs met up with our counterparts from the Canadian Grenadier Guards and Governor General's Horse Guards for a weekend of professional development. It was an excellent opportunity for the three units from 3 separate Brigades to share experience on collective training. The key topic of the PD session was individual and collective training with a focus on the Territorial Battalion Group (TBG) construct and domestic operations. LCol Michael Canavan is the current TBG Commander for 34 CBG as well as the full time plans officer prior to taking command and provided the 34 Brigade perspectives on the TBG and Domestic Operation. His presentation primed us all for a wider discussion on individual and collective training that will allow us to apply the experience of all three Regiments to the planning of training for next year. Also included was an opportunity for us all to learn a bit more about each other's Customs and Traditions and reinforce ties as Canada's Household Regiments. A huge thank-you to Capt Ryan Barber who was the man behind the scene putting the plan in place.

As all serving members should be aware, my number 1 priority is to "Sustain the Unit" through force protection, recruiting and retention. Good news on this front in that our "Strategic Intake Plan (SIP)" was doubled from 12 to 24 recruits after

meeting our target of 12 for the fall intake. Sgt Kevin Smith has been working diligently to get applicants through the Recruiting Centre and enrol them all in time for summer training.

We also got good news in the form of the Influence Activities (IA) Company now being formally established. This now means that we can formally post in members from other units as well as move members of the regiment to the IA Coy and free up positions in the other companies. The additional 52 positions, beyond growing the unit will now allow us flexibility in offering a wider breadth of training to our members and opportunities for cross pollination with members posted in from other units and trades within the brigade.

As we leave the winter behind us and look towards the summer, there is a great deal to look forward to Ceremonial Guard, summer training and Exercise Stalwart Guardian. Stalwart Guardian, the end summer exercise will be in Petawawa for the last two weeks of August. Returning to a two week concentration will be a culture shock for most, however, the longer duration will no doubt provide a better opportunity for all participants to benefit from training in a larger construct with all supporting elements.

As a final note, and as we are scheduled to change Sergeant Major on the 29th May, I would like to thank CWO David Snyder for his years of service with the Regiment. It has been an honour and a privilege serving with you and particularly over the past three years as the GGFG Command team.

Up the Guards!

Message from the RSM

CWO (RSM) David Snyder, CD

Congratulations to C/Sgt Alexi Dallaire for receiving his Chief of Defence Staff Commendation, awarded to him by the Brigade Commander during the Christmas dinner. He also recently received the associated scroll from General Lawson himself. This member continues to bring outstanding credit and recognition to the unit.

It's good to see the soldiers getting a lot of use from their cold-weather gear this training session! The consistent presence of below-average temperatures is a great way to give everyone confidence in their clothing and equipment, and to emphasise the importance of practising techniques for efficient winter performance. Those "soldiers" who are avoiding training opportunities during the cold should consider transferring to a lesser unit or getting out.

A successful "Gathering of the Guards" event occurred on February 28th in Kingston where the officers and sergeants of the Horse Guards, Foot Guards, and Grenadier Guards discussed issues of common interest. It was emphasised that those in guards units have to be aware of the special distinction of being in a guards unit and strive for a commitment to excellence in support of that.

Congratulations to the Influence Activity company who has demonstrated the best attendance of the three influence activity companies within the Division. This is a positive reflection of the leadership and members of that organisation.

The time to secure a position on Ceremonial Guard is now, before they are all gone. Non-commissioned officers are especially encouraged to attempt to get time to go to Meaford, even just for a few weeks, or Ceremonial Guard as part of their development within the unit.

Good luck over the next few months as training continues. Always strive to do the one little extra thing required to set a great example as guardsmen!

Musical Notes from the Band

LCol Fran Chilton-Mackay, OMM, MSM, CD

The year started off quickly for the band as they travelled to Kingston, ON on January 11th to take part in that city's commemoration of the 200th Anniversary of the birth of Canada's first Prime Minister, Sir John A. MacDonald. Despite the weather the band performed outside for the official ceremony and then moved indoors to warm the crowd.

Given the resounding success of our feature concert at the Canadian War Museum in February of 2014, the Museum asked us back for a repeat performance. Once again a packed house showed up this year for our concert on Sunday February 8th. Described as a family concert we invited the public to show up with their children dressed as their favourite character from the Disney blockbuster movie, "Frozen". Well little did we realize just how many little "Elsa's" and "Anna's" there are in the Ottawa area! The children came up to the microphone and under the vocal leadership of MCpl Tammy Shaw they sang their way through such highlights as "Do You Want to be a Snowman?" and "Let it Go"!! Following this the kids went off and under the superb direction of former GGFG Drum Major, Captain Dave Rennie, they were taught the basics of military drill. The concert finale featured a company's worth of junior guardsmen marching back into the Lebreton Gallery to the tune of "Colonel Bogey", halting and saluting their parents! Needless to say all iphones and cameras madly clicked away! All in all, it was a wonderful opportunity to connect with the general public throughout the NCR.

The concert also included what could be considered the Canadian premiere of "Hougoumont". This piece was commissioned by the Coldstream Guards Band to commemorate the 100th Anniversary of the Coldstream Guards Association. It was a narrator and band recollection of the famous battle of Hougoumont in 1815 which led to great victory over the French in the Battle of Waterloo. Cpl Gordon Tait also wrote and performed a wonderful arrangement for Bb Whistle

and band which was a compilation of several traditional Celtic melodies.

The night before the War Museum concert, the band was afforded the opportunity for a 'live run through' at St. Paul's United Church in Perth, ON. The church was packed to the rafters to hear our performance. I must say that the arts and culture community of Perth is alive and very well. They were so appreciative that we brought our music to them. Thanks goes out to Mr. Brad Mills, father of percussionist Cpl Greg Upham-Mills. It was Brad's idea to hold the concert and as the church organist and Director of Music he was invaluable to the organization. The Ladies Auxiliary also provided us with a home cooked dinner "second to none"! This concert was one that the band will not soon forget.

Other military engagements included the Army Commanders' Annual Mess Dinner and the Royal Canadian Armoured Corps Dinner at the Army Officers' Mess. Our small ensembles performed once again for the Conference of Defence Association Annual General Dinner at the Chateau Laurier.

The Band now turns their focus to the 11th Annual Army Ball being held on April 11th. The Ball will commemorate the Liberation of the Netherlands and Victory in Europe in 1945 and so the band's routine will bring out the best of the big band era.

On Tuesday March 3rd the LCC announced MCpl Stefan Sikorski as the Director of Music designate. Once commissioned, he will become the Assistant Director of Music and will shadow me over the next year as I prepare for my retirement from the CAF at the ripe old age of 60 in July 2016. Stefan holds a Master's Degree in Wind Conducting from the University of Toronto and has been a member of the band for several years. We all wish him well as he steers his way and as the Regimental band prepares for the next chapter in our auspicious history.



Padre Clunie addresses the children before they retired to the Parish Hall, prior to the Christmas Carol Service.



Children's Christmas Party, which the adults enjoyed almost as much as the kids.



Cadets Change of Command Ceremony January 24, 2015. L-R: Capt Chris Sloan, LCol Bob Barette and Capt Chris Moynahan

Memorials and Tributes

Estelle Lane

DE CARLE, Peter

Peacefully, on Sunday November 9, 2014, at home, after a courageous battle with cancer, at the age of 69. Loving son of Len and Audrey de Carle.

DE CARLE, Audrey

Peacefully in her 92nd year, wife of Len de Carle, a former member of the GGFG Band. Audrey loved to travel, spent many summers at her cottage in Luskville, and was active in many organizations especially St. George's CWL, GGFG Sgts Mess Ladies Auxiliary and the UCT. She and Len enjoyed many winters as Snowbirds at the Blue Parrot Park in Florida where they golfed, danced, swam, shopped and generally enjoyed life. (Posted In Ottawa Citizen Jan 2, 2015)

WITHERS, Ramsey Muir, General (Ret'd), CMM, CStJ, CD, LLD

Suddenly and unexpectedly on Wednesday, December 24, 2014 in his home at The Royale in Kanata. General Withers' long career as a soldier and civil servant was marked by deep integrity and

professional excellence. A decorated Korean War veteran, he began his service at HMCS Royal Roads (H2951, Honorary President – RMC Club) in 1948. As an officer of the Royal Canadian Corps of Signals, he served with both the Royal 22e Régiment and the Royal Canadian Dragoons. General Withers held senior appointments in Yellowknife, Germany and Ottawa, culminating with his appointment as Chief of the Defence Staff. After retiring, he also served as Honorary Lieutenant-Colonel of the Governor-General's Foot Guards. In 1983, General Withers was appointed Deputy Minister of Transport, and later worked in the private sector. He also dedicated much of his time to volunteering, particularly with the Canadian Museum of Civilization, the Canadian War Museum with whom he served as a volunteer interpreter even up to the week of his passing, and Scouts Canada.

RENWICK, Donald William

Passed away, suddenly, on January 20, 2015, at the age of 79. Donald Renwick was the father of Inspector Chris Renwick (OPS) who served with the Regiment in the 1980's.

BLACKMORE, Percy H. C 58805

Passed away peacefully in the Renfrew Victoria Hospital on Thursday, January 22, 2015 in his 100th year. Percy served with 21 CAR(GGFG) and was a life member of the Foot Guards Association.

MOORE, Clifford H.

Passed away at the Ottawa Hospital General Campus on January 24, 2015 in his 91st year. He joined the RCAF on his 18th birthday and served in RAF Bomber Command in England for three years. He joined the Governor General's Foot Guards as a guardsman and retired as second-in-command with the rank of major. He was also one of the first national directors of the Royal Canadian Army Cadet Corps. He was a president and a Lt. Governor of Rideau Kiwanis and was Chairman of the Ottawa Civic Hospital when the Cardiac Unit was built. He was a director of CAA Ottawa Club for more than 25 years, serving a term as Chairman, and also found the time to become a charter member of Tunis Shriners, becoming a potentate.

CLOUTHIER, Wilfred Claude C58205

Passed away on January 24, 2015 at the age of 92. Wilf served with 21st CAR(GGFG) and was wounded on March 3, 1945. He was awarded the National Order of the Legion of Honour (Knight) by the French Government at a ceremony held at the Canadian War Memorial on November 8, 2014.

Gardner, Donald Arthur, P.Eng

Suddenly at home on Tuesday, January 27, 2015 at the age of 84 years. Loving father of Steve Gardner, who served with the Regiment in the 1980's and presently serves with the Ottawa Police Service.

SALESSE, Sgt Mark

Swept away by an avalanche on February 5, 2015, at the age of 44. He joined the Canadian Armed Forces in the fall of 1989 at the age of 18 as a member of the Governor General Foot Guards, a Primary Reserve infantry unit in Ottawa, Ontario. After serving with the Foot Guards for a year, he moved to British Columbia and joined the British Columbia Regiment (Duke of Connaught's Own), a Reserve Force armoured reconnaissance unit in Vancouver, British Columbia.

He returned to the infantry after nearly nine years with the armoured corps, and transferred to the Regular Force and was posted to the 2nd Battalion, Princess Patricia's Canadian Light Infantry (2 PPCLI) in Winnipeg, Manitoba. Building on his experiences in the Canadian Army, Sergeant Salesse decided to apply to become a search and rescue (SAR) technician.

FORTIER, Olive

Passed away suddenly on February 7, 2015 at the age of 58. Beloved wife of John Fortier who served with the Regiment in the 1960's.

NEXT ISSUE....

**Submissions for the next edition
of the GUARDS STAR are due
May 27, 2015**