



The Guards Star

Foot Guards Association, Box 1212, Station B, Ottawa, Ontario, K1P 5R3
Regimental Website: www.ggfg.ottawa.on.ca

MARCH 2009

EDITOR: ESTELLE LANE

President's Message

Marty Lane, CD

It is that time again - to do a submission for the Guards Star. It has been sort of a quiet winter both on the snow side and the Association side. The Board of Directors met in February, with General Gervais chairing this meeting which was his last one as the Honorary Lieutenant Colonel. The members of the executive were briefed as to the happenings of the Association and were brought up to date on the current events. The statue project is just about complete with just a few minor problems to be rectified by the contractor once the weather improves.

At the present time the plans for the reunion dinner in the fall are still being worked on. It will be in early September, which will be a change from past dinners. This is due to the heavy fall training schedule for the Regiment. More information will follow in the June Star.

As I have mentioned before, if anyone has any ideas as to how we can improve **Your Association** please let me or the members of the Executive know what you would like to see take place. We will make sure that ideas get discussed at an executive meeting.

Message from the LCC

Lieutenant Colonel Rob Foster, CD, ADC

It is unbelievable that it is March already and spring is now in our sights! We are beginning preparations to receive home the soldiers who were

on deployment in Afghanistan, the first of which will be Major Cheff who arrives home on the 21st of March after spending time in Kabul as the ISAF Provincial Reconstruction Team (PRT) Engagement Officer for Regional Command (South). The rest of the Officers and NCOs should be home by April. To celebrate their homecoming we will hold a parade on 30 May 2009 on the grounds of City Hall starting at 13:00 hours. I encourage you to attend the parade, as it will showcase all soldiers from 33 Canadian Brigade Group who were deployed on Task Force 3-08. The Brigade change of command will also take place at that time. Colonel Paul Scagnetti will hand over command to Colonel Dwayne Waite, formerly of the Governor General's Horse Guards in Toronto.

The change of RSM parade will take place on 12 May 2009. Sergeant Major Carleton will pass over the pace-stick to the Drill Sergeant, MWO Art MacKenzie. Sergeant Major Carleton has been a fixture of the Regiment for over twenty-four years. His noted professionalism, sarcasm, discipline, fitness, sarcasm, attention-to-detail, sarcasm will be sorely missed. He is a staunch supporter of the NCMs of the Regiment and looks to their interest first and foremost. He is articulate and well prepared when engaging in issues of Regimental importance. I personally have relied on his intellect and calm demeanour to weather a number of tough issues that the Regiment has faced over the last three years. As he told me when I took command, "Sir, my job is to make your problems go away" referring to administrative and disciplinary issues. My reply to his efforts are, "Well Done! Sergeant Major" and thank you for your support. Sergeant Major Carleton has accepted a new appointment to be the RSM of the Ottawa Territorial Battalion Group.

For MWO MacKenzie, I know you will be as reliable and supportive as Sergeant Major Carleton. Congratulations on your appointment.

This past week, I was advised that LCol Michel Lavigne has completed his process to transfer to the Regular Force. He has been interviewed and accepted as an RCR Major. He will complete his transfer in April and all indications are that he will be posted to a position within the Land Staff. Michel, Best of Luck to you!

Another long serving officer will be retiring in April. Major James Cross who has spent the last several years with Directorate of Reserves (DRes) will finally retire. James has been working Class A with DRes for the last year after accepting civilian employment with the Defence Ombudsman. Good Luck James!

I had a quick interview with Sergeant Dominique Kowlessar and he indicated that he is slowly getting back to normal. He ran his 6 km running route the other week albeit a little slower than normal. He expects to be back at work soon just in time to take parental leave to spend time with his daughter

One company has had an extremely busy year focusing on patrolling and individual soldier skills. Capt Gagnon has also helped MCpl Dallaire establish a Combat Conditioning Club which now practices on Friday evenings with brand new equipment. The training meets my intent of promoting fitness and is extremely relevant to today's operational environment. The training will continue to increase over the next year.

Two company continues to provide stellar support to the local Battle School and is also in recruiting mode for the Fall Basic Military Qualification (BMQ) serials.

Three company recently finished the Annual Technical Inspection (ATI) achieving a satisfactory

The Guards Star

rating and they were acknowledged for their positive attitude.

The Band is in the process of recording a new compact disc. The CD, which is being done as a promotional item will have a limited quantity and be available as a give away at Regimental band concerts. The Band is also beginning its preparations to attend a Military Tattoo celebrating the 400th anniversary of Bermuda in October 2009.

The shooting program is starting up again and I hope to see another successful year. We will provide a 3-person team to the NATO Reserve Shooting Competition in Scotland for the Fourth year in a row. We will lead the CFSAC LFCA Reserve Team and are hoping to have competitors in Bisley and possibly Australia. More to follow in the fall when we list the trophies!

For those of you planning to go to Ceremonial Guard this is the last reminder to put your names in as the Regiment has received limited positions. The Operations Officer and the Sergeant Major are finalizing the list and a submission will be made next week

In closing, all the best to the Regiment and the Regimental Family as we enter into spring and the final part of the training year.

Announcement

Congratulations to our Sergeant-Major, Kevin Carleton, and his wife Estelle Ethier on the birth of their first child, a little girl born at 0001 hours on Wednesday, February fourth. Lexi Myla Carleton weighed seven pounds, nine and one-half ounces. It seems everything went well and, last we heard, the proud parents and daughter are getting a little rest and continue to do well.

Message from the RSM

CWO (RSM) Kevin Carleton, CD

3

This should prove to be my final submission in my capacity as the Sergeant Major. The date for the change of RSM parade has been set for Tuesday, 12 May 2009 and my successor has been named as MWO Art McKenzie. Congratulations Art, I can honestly say that I have no reservations in passing on the responsibilities of RSM to you for the continued health of the Regiment. While I am not necessarily looking forward to giving up this job yet, after 24+ years of working every Tuesday night I am certainly looking forward to taking advantage of the cheap movie theatre prices on Tuesday nights. Movies are still only \$2.50 on Tuesdays, right?

(Editor: Sorry, this deal has gone the way of the dodo bird. You'll have to wait for senior discount)

For the past three years I have been propped up by a stalwart group of Junior and Senior NCOs who in many cases have given freely of their time to ensure the unit continues to be strong and succeeds in providing Canada with the same exemplary standard of professionalism demanded and exhibited by a Guardsman. While many of us will remain friends into the future, I will regret not participating in the weekly banter in the Sergeants Mess after ten o'clock. I will not miss struggling to get out bed on Wednesday mornings after only four hours' sleep.

My most sincere thanks to LCol Foster for the many laughs, unusual situations, near-death driving experiences and difficult decisions we shared over these past years. I'm not sure that we ever disagreed on any decisions affecting the Regiment (except maybe who should drive), which made for an excellent professional working relationship. The fact that we had the same vision for the Regiment made it easy for the unit to function without unnecessary delays or distractions.

One of my remaining official duties will be to welcome our soldiers returning from Afghanistan, starting at the end of March and continuing into early May. This will be something I eagerly look forward to doing again, presenting

The Guards Star

myself as a representative of the larger Guards Family to proudly welcome home our veterans.

On a side note, my full-time job gave me the opportunity in January to go to Kandahar City, where I was fortunate to meet up with our own CSgt Greg Witol, who is a platoon second-in-command at the provincial reconstruction team. We had the opportunity for one photo before I departed on a road move to Kandahar Airfield; it's the fourth opportunity I've had in the past three years to greet our soldiers disembarking from overseas operations.



As a reminder to all former and serving Sr NCOs of the Sgt's Mess, the annual Cut Knife Hill Dinner, commemorating the unit's first Battle Honour, will be held on Saturday, 2 May 2009. Invitations will be in the mail shortly. For this 124th anniversary of the battle, I have ordered a special meal to commemorate my final dinner as RSM: if you like escargots, lobster, rack of lamb, and an open bar, then you'll really be surprised at the dinner because we're having none of that. But please come anyway, it will be a most enjoyable time as always – and that's an order!

The Thomas Ross Guards' Officers Club

Capt Jamie R. Bell

The Thomas Ross Guards Officers Club continues to thrive and has planned a full list of activities for winter and spring. Super bowl Sunday, graciously hosted by Major Maclean, was enjoyed as a "Captains and Majors outing", which included one die hard Lieutenant-Colonel fan. The Ladies Valentine Dinner was well attended at the Army Ottawa Officers Mess. Next up, was the Port and Stilton Night Friday 13 March, an opportunity to sample a range of Port wines, paired with strong Stilton cheeses. Other events planned include: the Officers Dining-In 17 April; and the annual Officers Regimental Birthday Dinner Saturday 6 June.

In addition to the club activities, there is of course the Army Ball planned for April. Lieutenant Colonel Fran Chilton-McKay, recognized for her strong command and control abilities, is again coordinating this event for the entire Army. It promises to again be a superb evening, this year at the Casino Lac Lemay.

The Thomas Ross Guards Officers Club looks forward to the safe return of its deployed officers, Major Cheff and Captains Shanahan and Barber. All are deployed in Afghanistan and due to return between March and May. News from all is good and we are looking forward to hearing of their experiences upon their return.

Esgn Kaine recently returned from a visit to the London, United Kingdom where he was well received by the Guards family. He brought home some high quality silk Guards pattern ties - already snapped up by a few now well-dressed subalterns.

The Mess remains active each Tuesday night (often, with a select few, leading into the odd Wednesday morning...). As the tempo of training, courses and day time activities continue, the Mess provides a welcome respite at the end of each night and as always an opportunity to practice our Texas Hold'em skills, under the expert tutelage of Captain Hladik!

The Guards Star

NOTES FROM THE BAND

MCorporal Rob McKinnon

The band ended the first half of this year on a positive note with the grand successes of both its Christmas concerts. Our concert at St. Joseph's Parish in Orleans was another standing-room only success and was enjoyed by the many who braved the weather to come out and catch the holiday fever. Concert-goers were treated to a full evening of holiday music from the band and the choir of St. Joseph's and also from the band's brass ensemble. A very special highlight of the program was the performance of two pieces arranged specially for the band and choir by renowned Canadian composer Howard Cable. The success of this concert was followed by the popular GGFG Carol Service at St. Bartholomew's Church. The event was well attended by the regimental family and the brass ensemble was on hand to provide music for the service while the saxophone quartet entertained at the children's party.

The band ushered in the New Year with a flurry of gigs beginning with a concert at the Canadian War Museum. Turnout was good despite bad weather and a bus strike, and the band presented a challenging programme of music which entertained the audience and allowed the band to show off a bit in a concert setting.

In a more intimate setting, the band was invited to serenade at the Conference of Defence Association's Annual General Dinner and at the CEFCOM mess dinner. At the close of the latter, LGen Gauthier presented Sgt Angela Steele and Cpl Lauren Reade, as representatives of the band, a CEFCOM coin as congratulations for a job well done. The band was also active on the educational front, sending 5 of its wind players to the NAC for its annual Petting Zoo in support of its Children's Concerts. Don't be fooled, the only animals at this Petting Zoo were the musicians themselves allowing the amazed children an exciting opportunity to try out their instruments.

In January, we said farewell to MCpl Dan Hill who has joined the Royal 22e Band in Quebec City and we welcomed Mscn Jocelyn Auger from the Montreal Fusiliers. We also congratulate Sgt Kris Richardson on his recent promotion. Congratulations also to MCpl Rob McKinnon who, in December, was the recipient of the Band CSgt John V Birchall Award. Not being one to say too much to an audience, and owing some to a touch of laryngitis, MCpl McKinnon was short on words at the time but feels that great thanks are due to every member of the band as it is they who inspire him to work hard for the improvement of the regimental band.

After a very energetic opening to 2009, the band is now settling into a quieter routine in preparation for their first recording in many years. The CD is tentatively entitled "Encore! Music from Canada's Capital" and will feature a delightful pastiche of concert band music and a few hidden gems from the marching repertoire. Also on the horizon for the band is a new drill routine - which will be presented at this year's Army Ball in late April - and hopefully the RCMP Musical Ride again in late June. They are also very excited that they have been tasked by the CLS to represent the Canadian Forces at the upcoming Bermuda Tattoo in October 2009. The event will be part of celebrations that mark the 400th anniversary of Bermuda. We thank all of the members of the regimental family for their continued support and look forward to seeing you all out at future engagements.

The Museum

Marty Lane

In January LCol Foster appointed Estelle as a second Curator of the Museum. It is well deserved considering the big contribution she has

The Guards Star

made in making it what it is today. There are many projects in the works so I guess, God willing, we will be there for a few more years.

We are revamping all the photo albums in museum quality albums which also include page protectors, which will help keep the pictures in place and free of fingerprints.

We have also acquired a cabinet with multiple drawers in which we will create a new display of medals, hopefully with pictures and a brief history of the recipients. The drawers will be enclosed with Plexiglas, which should be a more secure way of displaying the medal collection. We will also include displays of badges, buttons, etc. as space permits.

Since last fall we had the good fortune in obtaining a student volunteer, who comes in on Tuesday nights. His name is Sean Foster and is a nephew of the LCol Commanding. He has been very helpful in duplicating an old scrapbook which belonged to LCol MacPherson, the second LCol Commanding of the Regiment. He is also setting up new displays of rank badges, shoulder titles etc in the hanging display board.

John Gray's Retirement

Jim Milne, OMM, CD

On January 17th, a retirement party was held at the Holland Armouries for GGFG long-timer John Gray, marking the completion of 48 years service to the Crown. John joined the Band of the Governor General's Foot Guards in 1961 at the age of seventeen. He has served continuously with the GGFG and the Cadet Instructors Cadre since that time. Early in his career with the GGFG John was promoted to Band Colour Sergeant, the rank he held at CRA. In the GGFG Band he played the bassoon under Directors of Music Capt. Alex MacCurdie, Capt. Ted Lydall, Capt. George Aubrey, Major Jim Milne, Capt. Terry Porter and LCol. Fran Chilton-Mackay. He has shown his musical versatility by

6

also playing the clarinet, cymbals and bass drum when required to do so. John is one of the few holders of the Canadian Forces Decoration that has three bars. Although he reached the CRA for the Militia, John continued to perform with the band as an Associate Member.

When John retired from his regular job as a science and music teacher with the Ottawa-Carleton District Board of Education, he decided to fill in his retirement years by joining the Army Cadet Instructors Cadre, in which he was eventually promoted to Captain. He took on the work of instructing the band of the 2332 Major EJG Holland VC RCACC attached to 763 (Ottawa) Communications Regiment. Under John, the band prospered and played an important role in the Corps activities. Until a replacement is found, John will continue volunteering as the band's director.

A large gathering of family and friends was present in the mess at the Holland Armouries when John was lauded for his military career. Presentations were made to John and his wife, Ruth, by Chief of Staff General Walt Natynczyk, LCol. Fran Chilton-Mackay, the commander of 2333 RCACC Capt. C.L.Morris, former commanders Maj. F.S. Buckler and Major E. Hughes and other representatives of the Army Cadet League. General Natynczyk spoke at length about John's contribution to his country and the army.

Visitors to a rehearsal in the band room at Cartier Square can still see John playing his clarinet with the band as he continues his long contribution - as an Associate member - with the Band of the Governor General's Foot Guards.

UP THE GUARDS!

Provided by LCol Robert Foster, CD, ADC

After every parade the Guards dismiss with the phrase, "Up the Guards!". An internet search revealed some information on this phrase which was attributed to the Duke of Wellington at the Battle of Waterloo in 1815. The Guards, he

The Guards Star

ordered, were the First Guards, later to be known as the Grenadiers, but it was adopted by all Regiments of the Household Division. The Battle of Waterloo was significant to the Guards not only for the motto but also for our bearskin hat which was taken as a trophy from the French Guards.

"Field Marshal Arthur Wellesley, 1st Duke of Wellington, KG, KP, GCB, GCH, PC, FRS (c. 1 May 1769 – 14 September 1852), was a soldier and statesman, and one of the leading military and political figures of the nineteenth century.

Born in Ireland to a prominent Ascendancy family, he was commissioned an ensign in the British Army in 1787. Serving in Ireland as aide-de-camp to two successive Lords Lieutenant of Ireland he was also elected as Member of Parliament in the Irish House of Commons. A colonel by 1796, Wellesley saw action in the Netherlands and later India where he fought in the Fourth Anglo-Mysore War at the Battle of Seringapatam. He was later appointed Governor of Seringapatam and Mysore.

Wellesley rose to prominence as a General during the Peninsular Campaign of the Napoleonic Wars, and was promoted to the rank of field marshal after leading the Allied forces to victory against the French at the Battle of Vitoria in 1813. Following Napoleon's exile in 1814, he served as the ambassador to France and was granted a Dukedom. During the Hundred Days in 1815, he commanded the Allied army which defeated Napoleon at the Battle of Waterloo.

An opponent of parliamentary reform, he was given the epithet the "Iron Duke" because of the iron shutters he had fixed to his windows to stop the pro-reform mob from breaking them. He was twice Prime Minister of the United Kingdom under the Tory party and oversaw the passage of Catholic Relief Act 1829. He was Prime Minister from 1828-



30 and served briefly in 1834. He was unable to prevent the passage of the Reform Act of 1832 and continued as one of the leading figures in the House of Lords until his retirement. He remained Commander-in-Chief of the British Army until his death". – Wikipedia, accessed 14 March 2009

"Wellington did not stand on ceremony when he gave his celebrated order at Waterloo, "Up, Guards, and at 'em!" This phrase has been the accepted form of the order, although the Duke afterward said he did not remember using such words. The guards were lying down beyond the crest of the hill, to escape the French fire; and when the enemy was almost close upon them, Wellington said he very probably gave some such order as, "Stand up, guards!" Be that as it may, "Up, Guards, and at 'em!" has become a household word, as so it will likely remain. –Chambers' Journal" ©Published 6 May 1895, The New York Times

Memorials and Tributes

Estelle Lane

Lane, Brian

Monday December 29, 2008 at the Glebe Centre at the age of 65. Brian was the brother of Marty Lane, President of the Foot Guards Association

Charlebois, Rene

On Sunday December 7, 2008 at the Hull Hospital at the age of 80 years, brother of Roger Charlebois.

The Guards Star

Roger is a Life Member of the Foot Guards Association, and served with 21 CAR (GGFG).

Glover, Judith

Beloved wife of Jim Glover, at the Ottawa General Hospital on Saturday December 20, 2008. Jim played with the GGFG Band from 1978 to 1993, and is a Life Member of the Foot Guards Association.

Primeau, Patricia

Dear wife of Wayne Primeau, at home on Sunday January 18, 2009. Wayne is a former serving Officer from 1969 to 1977 and later commanded the Cameron Highlanders of Ottawa. Wayne is also a Life Member of the Foot Guards Association

Latimer Ronald D.

On December 29, 2008 at the age of 73. Ron was a serving Officer from 1956 to 1967. He was a Life Member of the Foot Guards Association.

Larabie, Valmor C 58184

In hospital on Tuesday March 3, 2009. Val served with 21 CAR (GGFG) and was a Life Member of the Foot Guards Association.

*May their souls and the souls of all
the departed, rest in peace*

NOTICE

Please do not forget to notify us of your new address if you are planning to move.

By telephone: 613-233-6979

By email: elane22@rogers.com

**DEADLINE FOR THE JUNE 2009 GUARDS
STAR IS MAY 26, 2009**

The Guards Star

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ Postal Code _____

Telephone _____

Email address _____

Dates of Service from _____ to _____

Decorations _____

Date of Birth _____

Please find enclosed \$ _____ for Annual/Life Membership
in the Foot Guards Association.

Signature: _____ Date _____

Applications and dues to be returned to:

The Foot Guards Association
PO Box 1212, Stn B
Ottawa, ON, K1P5R3
Attention: Membership Chairman

Membership

Membership Application

Membership Fees

Annual \$25.00

Life \$100.00

Life membership may be granted to a member of the Foot
Guards of a lump sum of money once the member has reached
the age of sixty-five (65).

Please return this section to the Association