

# The Guards Star

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

JUNE 2015

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## Message from the President

MWO Marty Lane, CD (Retd)

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Once again it is time to inform the members of the Association what your Executive has been planning for the coming year. At this time we are beginning preparations for the Regimental Association reunion weekend. At this time, the Reunion weekend is tentatively planned for the October 30-31 weekend. The timing for this event is late in the fall but training events make this necessary. I realize this not an ideal time as many of our members have young children and would be with them on that evening. As I said this is the tentative date. I will be meeting with the LCC once again to discuss alternate dates and I'll keep you posted.

The other event we have started planning for is the Regimental Ball scheduled for February 27, 2016. This date sounds like it is far off but before we know it will be upon us. The Ball will be held at the Conference and Event Center on Coventry Road. This is the same venue that we used last year and we were very pleased with the venue and service that we received.

I would like to remind all members that the Annual General Meeting of the Association will be held on the Friday evening of the reunion weekend. The meeting will be held prior to the Meet and Greet and the election of Officers for the Association for the coming year will take place at this meeting. There are vacancies to be filled so if you think you might like to serve on the Executive in some capacity this is the time to make your intentions known. If you have any questions regarding positions on the Executive please feel free to contact me or any of the Executive members for information.

Congratulations to CWO David Snyder on his retirement after 31 years of dedicated service to the Regiment. I would also like to wish all members of the Regiment who are going on courses and those that are doing Ceremonial Guard or attending shooting matches a successful summer.

UP THE GUARDS!!!!

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## Message from the LCol Comd

LCol Kevin MacLean, CD, AdeC

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It was rather fitting to mark the change of Regimental Sergeant Major during an outdoor parade as the sun set on Tuesday evening 26 May. For the past 31 years Chief Warrant Officer Snyder has spent his Tuesday evenings at the Drill Hall with a few exceptions for service in Cyprus, the Balkans and Afghanistan. As I alluded to in my remarks during the parade, Chief Warrant Officer Snyder and I have been on parallel tracks as a command team at platoon, company and unit level. As I look back on the past years serving with CWO Snyder, there are multiple stories and excellent memories from working together that will no doubt live on and be mildly embellished as we grow old.

As I look forward following the change of stick to Sergeant Major Porter I see a strong unit with an experienced cadre of Sergeants and Sr. NCOs that was built by all past Sergeants Major, a legacy that he will no doubt maintain and build upon. One of his largest challenges will be building the Sgts and Sr. NCOs to fill our newly established positions within the Influence Activities Company. After several years of mandated low intake numbers to bring us back down to our established strength he is charged with ensuring the large number of new

recruits coming aboard this year are trained and retained in order to generate the future leadership of the Regiment.

On the 2nd of June we had our final training night and I had the opportunity to wish all members present well as we embark on summer tasks and individual training. It was also an opportunity to pass on the Army Commander's guidance on the action plan in response to the Independent External Review to examine sexual misconduct in the CAF by former Supreme Court Justice Madame Marie Deschamps.

Having over 27 years in uniform, I have seen changes in attitudes, behaviours in both general society and in the military. Although we have come a long way; from reading the report, it is clear that from an outsider's perspective we still have work to do. This is the value of commissioning an external independent audit and I am pleased to see senior leadership engaged and that all recommendations are being actioned.

In my experience many 'boulders' have moved as our culture evolves, there is greater acceptance for diversity as we ourselves become more diverse. Encouraging diversity is not about lowering standards to be more inclusive, it is about lowering the barriers that encourage the best of Canadian society to see the Canadian Forces as the place they belong and be retained within our ranks. By establishing an environment that enables each member to see themselves and be seen by others as a soldier first rather than be identified by any other label enables the esprit-de-corps that is crucial to military operations. We are Guardsmen first and foremost, any label that one is identified with be it gender, sexual preference, cultural or social background should be secondary as soon as they put the uniform on. That said we all have an identity outside of uniform that is equally important in defining who we are as individuals and at no time should that identity make us any less or more of a soldier.

As a Regiment we continue to make the Governor General's Foot Guards "The" infantry

regiment to join in Ottawa and we have a wide cross section of Canadians wishing to join. This was best illustrated this past year with well over 300 unsolicited applicants contacting our recruiter Sgt. Smith to join the Guards. This combined with exit interviews of those transferring or releasing is an indication that we are doing things right. As any Drill Sergeant will attest to, there is always room for improvement. I was personally taken aback when I read the report as it did not reflect my experience nor is it the Army I wish to be associated with. I trust all agree that if this is the image we are projecting it is time to change.

I will close with my best wishes to all for a safe and challenging summer and in particular to our members serving with Op ADDENDA in Kabul and Op REASSURANCE in Central/Eastern Europe, we look forward to your safe return.

Up the Guards!

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### Message from the RSM

CWO (RSM) David Snyder, CD

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The unit is facing the normal spring challenges of not having enough instructors and too many members to train. Members are being encouraged to include the 4 Division Exercise Stalwart Guardian in their summer plans, a task made more difficult since that exercise is two weeks long, including three weekends, instead of the one week it has been for several years. Ceremonial tasks are continuing at a constant tempo but will soon come to an end as Ceremonial Guard begins their operations.

Congratulations to Colour Sergeant Roos for being awarded the St. John Chancellor's Commendation. This commendation is awarded by the Chancellor of the Priory of Canada of the Most Venerable Order of the Hospital of St. John of Jerusalem to recognize a particularly meritorious contribution to the Order on the national scene. A maximum of 10 may be awarded in any given year,

and it is authorised to be worn on service dress. Colour Sergeant Roos has been an active and valuable first aid instructor for many years.

Congratulations also to Master Corporal Daniow for being awarded the Honorary Colonel Brulotte scholarship of \$2,000. Having joined in 2002, he has been a quietly committed soldier and is currently pursuing a Master's degree at Montreal's Concordia University.

Former members and those who have been serving for a while will no doubt be saddened by the loss of Joe Pelisek, long-time member of the unit and past Association President. His cheerfulness and devotion to unit activities were key characteristics that made him respected by many of those who met him. He will be missed.

The shooting team is again off to a fantastic start. During the Ontario Rifle Association competition held in May, Corporal Fortin won the overall grand aggregate, making him the top shot, while Captain Gagnon was second overall. The GGFG four-man team also won first place. Corporal Valcour who earned a position on the Bisley team last year also placed very high in the standings.

To all those guardsmen who have upcoming summer tasks, either long or short, remember to put forth the extra effort that distinguishes us from other units. Also, I hope you had some cake and beer on the Regimental birthday – June 7<sup>th</sup>!

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### Musical Notes from the Band

LCol Fran Chilton-Mackay, OMM, MSM, CD

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The Band had a whirlwind spring and by the end of June will have notched up twenty-four engagements, ranging from The Army Ball at the Hilton Lac-Leamy Hotel, the Annual ANZAC Day Ceremony at the Canadian War Museum, 33 Signals Regt Change of Command, Earnscliffe Garden Party Celebrating the UK General Election, the Canadian Battlefield Foundation, Canadian Infantry Association, and the Canadian Forces Liaison Council dinners, and Mess dinners for The

Brockville Rifles, 33 Service Bn and our own Cut Knife Hill and Regimental Birthday dinners. The Jazz Combo and Fanfare team once again performed for the Governor General's Performing Arts Awards. All of our small ensembles have been kept busy and performing when a smaller group is more suitable to the musical request. This also includes the Flute Ensemble, Saxophone Quartet, Brass Quintet and Celtic Ensemble. We are regularly providing trumpeters to fulfill taskings at Beechwood Cemetery and musicians to augment the Central Band of the Canadian Armed Forces.



Sentries at the Anzac 100<sup>th</sup> Commemoration

No doubt the premier performance of the band was The Army Ball at the Hilton Lac-Leamy Hotel on April 11<sup>th</sup>. The band featured prominently throughout the evening as the guests were treated to a re-creation of the Liberation of the Netherlands and celebrations that occurred across Canada in 1945. The band's solo performance depicted a typical celebration scene, big band style, complete with swing dancers. Cpl Dan Beaulac, dressed in a World War Two uniform, and Cpl Angela Beare, his "wartime sweetheart" performed a heartfelt song. The finale of the evening featured MCpl Tammy Shaw singing the Canadian and Dutch Anthems. A thrilled staff from the Embassy of the Netherlands indicated her Dutch was spot on!





Our junior band family keeps growing as we welcomed two more “junior musicians” into the ranks. Congratulations to Sgt Melanie Mayor and MCpl Stephen Hum on the safe arrival of their first child, a daughter Hayden, in March and Cpl Dan Beaulac and his wife, Vanessa, who welcomed a whopping 9 lb, 5 oz son, Ephraim, into the world! His two big sisters are thrilled with having a baby boy in the house.

In the weeks remaining before stand down there will be performances by the Jazz Combo at Rideau Hall, the Fanfare Team at the St John Ambulance National Investiture and once again the

band has been tasked to the Army Reserve Operations Course Dinner at Fort Frontenac, Kingston in July. We anticipate another record number of regimental marches to be played at the end of the evening, both Canadian and Foreign Army. We will see if we surpass our record from last year of fifty-six! By the beginning of the public duties season ten members of the band will be with the Ceremonial Guard Band, and this year we will be sending MCpl Tammy Shaw and CSgt Mark Rocheleau to the Royal Nova Scotia International Tattoo to augment with Reserve Army musicians from the Atlantic Provinces.

I wish all a safe and productive summer with sufficient time to replenish energy levels. The tempo of the band continues at a very high pace. We are always the talk of the town and I am indeed honoured as the Director of Music to be on the receiving end of countless accolades each time we perform. Thank you to all and to the stellar support we receive from the Regiment and the Lieutenant-Colonel Commanding.



LCol (ret) Stephen Delaney and Major Bell at Uhuru (Peace) Summit, the highest point on Mount Kilimanjaro, Tanzania, June 2012. Part of a 7 day expedition to climb the mountain, they carried with them LCol MacLean's Regimental Camp flag, returning it to Africa for the second time.

**FAREWELL SPEECH (COMPLETE VERSION!)**

CWO (Ret) David Snyder, CD

Thanks to all ranks in the unit who supported me during my incredible experience with the Governor General's Foot Guards. During the change-of-RSM parade, I blundered by not being able to find page 2 of my speech which spoke of the importance of the unit's infantry role and the sergeants' mess. The entire address, including this missing portion, is written below.

Also, thanks to the band for ensuring the unit's positive connection with the public and the armed forces at large through their continued dedication and excellent performances. You work hard through a demanding schedule, and it was a pleasure to be able to slow-march away to the arrangement of Cpl Tait!

*I have experienced many adventures and witnessed many changes in this fine unit and within the army since I joined in 1984.*

*The ceremonial role of the unit has provided me the opportunity to travel to Disney World, New York City, London, and Winchester, Ontario. I have had the privilege of meeting personages of great standing such as Her Majesty, Governors General, Prime Ministers, Dom Kowlessar, Joe Pelisek, and Marty and Estelle Lane. That ceremonial environment was crucial in developing the focus and attention to detail required for success in the challenging conditions of infantry operations.*

*The infantry role of the unit has given me the opportunity to serve the Crown and Canadians overseas in Cyprus, Bosnia, and Afghanistan. Over these deployments and countless unit exercises and training courses, I have been drenched in sweat, immersed in water and rain, frozen in place by snow and ice, sunburned, sleep-deprived, bitten by spiders and insects, exhausted, bored, starving, had loaded weapons pointed at me, but always happy to be doing noble work and getting free food. The field has been the source of endless stories remembered*

*and retold for years, some of which the best comedy writers would never think of.*

*I have made great friends in the sergeants' mess where the heart of this unit resides. Despite being set on fire in there twice and being the victim of wheelchair accidents, I have always found it to be a great place to relax and discuss the near and far-term future of the unit.*

*These opportunities for adventure and contribution are in front of all of you regardless of your age or years of service. This unit provides an environment where all of you can discover your limits, overcome challenges, and realise your potential. From watching you and working with you, I know that there are many fine, intelligent, strong, organised, and committed soldiers here. Never forget that the entire Canadian Armed Forces exists to serve the infantry. It is the infantry that closes with and destroys the enemy. Your mental and physical burdens should also be your source of pride and dignity.*

*Like me, my replacement – CWO Porter - has been a guardsman since he was a teenager. I have total confidence that despite the grumpy appearance of never being satisfied, he will be working to protect the interests of all of you and this proud unit. He will be fully capable of maintaining the fine reputation of the Governor General's Foot Guards.*

*Although I will miss this, I now will have more time to spend with my family whose support and understanding has been incomparable. Thank you Emily and Maggie, Dad and Mum.*

*Lieutenant-Colonel MacLean, former members, serving members, friends – thank you all, sincerely.*

## GGFG Regimental Association

### SENTRY FUND

As of 30 April 2015

• Donations	\$58,806
• Income	\$1,645
• Disbursements from Income	\$300

Creation and management of the Sentry Fund is governed by Section 36 of the bylaws of the GGFG Regimental Association. The capital (donations) will not be spent. Only the income will be made available for regimental projects.

Cash donations are preferred, but gifts in kind will be welcomed.

Cheques payable to the Sentry Fund should be mailed to the GGFG Association, Box 1212, Postal Station B, Ottawa, ON K1P 5R3

Sentry Fund trustees: John Brockway, Roy Longbottom and Larry Lomas.  
Tel: (In Confidence) 613 720-3847.



Dour Kirker of Prescott laid a wreath at his father's grave in Bergen op Zoom. Gdsm L.R. Kirker was KIA on October 29, 1944

### Memorials and Tributes

Estelle Lane

#### HOWES, Gdsm George – B149791

From Fergus, Ontario, on June 29, 2014 at the age of 97.

#### GREGORIS, Gdsm Nick – B137421

From South Porcupine, Ontario, on July 26, 2014 at the age of 92.

#### ROBERTS, Gdsm Douglas G. – B147487

From Pickering, Ontario, on August 28, 2014 at the age of 90.

These 3 Guardsmen served overseas with 21 CAR (GGFG). Posting from the RCL May/June 2015 magazine.

#### POTVIN, Donald Andrew – C58557

#### POTVIN, Marie Phyllis

Donald passed away at the Windsor Metropolitan Hospital on Sunday March 8, 2015 at the age of 92.

Marie passed away at the Glebe Centre Ottawa Ontario on Friday March 6, 2015 at the age of 90.

Donald served overseas with 21 CAR (GGFG).



**NASH John "Reed"**

Of Lunenburg, MA, passed away peacefully on Thursday, April 2, 2015 at the age of 58 after a battle with cancer. Reed was born in Halifax, Nova Scotia. He was a proud member of the Governor General's Foot Guards. Reed graduated from Bell High School and later from Algonquin College.

**PELISEK, Capt (Retd) Joe**

Passed away on Friday May 1, 2015.

Joe joined the GGFG in the 50's, left the Regiment as a Corporal and took a commission with The Canadian Guards. Upon his retirement from the Canadian Guards he returned to the Regimental family as a member of the GGFG Association.

He served in various position in the Association – President, Vice President, Member-at-large. He was also very active with the Cadets and was Cadet Liaison Officer for several years and Chairman of the Museum Committee. For several years he wrote the "Here and There With the Guards" column for the Guards Star. To gather his information Joe would talk to everyone in the Regiment, spending time in each of the Messes or on the Drill Hall floor where he enjoyed chatting and laughing with his friends. From the Lieutenant-Colonel Commanding to the most junior Guardsmen, from the most senior of our World War Two Vet's to the youngest Cadet. Joe was a very busy man, judging to his affiliation to numerous other organizations. He will be missed by many.

**PEPPERDINE, TIMOTHY LENNOX**

Of Imperial, PA, passed away at home on Monday, May 18, 2015, at the age of 59, after a long and courageous battle with multiple sclerosis. Tim achieved the rank of Sergeant while serving with the Regiment in the late 70's. Those of us who served with him will remember and miss his smile and his laugh.

**NEXT ISSUE....****Submissions for the next edition  
of the GUARDS STAR are due  
September 1, 2015**