

The Guards Star



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

DECEMBER 2015

EDITOR: ESTELLE LANE

Message from the President

MWO Marty Lane, CD (Retd)

Although it feels like spring outside, it's time again to submit an article for the December Guards Star.

The Association Annual General Meeting held in November produced some changes to the executive committee. We welcome the new faces of Darren Fleming as the Chief Financial Officer and Kevin MacLean as a member at large to the executive. I would like to thank Wayne Younghusband for his many years of service as our Chief Financial Officer and Michael Boughton for his service as Secretary which he gave up to take over the job of Chief Financial Officer, which he is relinquishing this year. I would also like to thank the remainder of the Committee who agreed to remain in their respective positions for another term.

In November, the Association held its annual reunion dinner with 150 people in attendance. Once again special thanks to our HColonel Bryan Brulotte for his generous donation of 50 tickets to be distributed amongst the Junior members of the Regiment. Several of these members were in attendance for the first time, and many of them stated that they enjoyed the evening. They enjoyed being able to talk with the former members of the Regiment and I am sure a few War stories were exchanged.

At this time the Executive and Ball Committee are busy planning the upcoming Regimental Ball which will be held on Saturday February 27, 2016. The ball will be held at the Ottawa Conference and Event Centre which is the same venue as the last ball. More information can be found further in this newsletter.

After close to 30 years as editor of The Guards Star, Estelle is turning over the position of Editor to Brian Schwarz. I hope that everyone will give Brian the same support that you gave Estelle by continuing to supply articles for the Star.

I would like to express the Associations deepest thanks to her for this service to the Regiment and Association.

Best wishes for a Happy and Healthy New Year.

Message from the LCol Comd

LCol Chris Lynam, CD, ADC

It is with great pleasure that I provide my first article to the Guards Star as the Lieutenant-Colonel Commanding. If I remember correctly, the last time I submitted an article was when I was a subaltern and I was "highly encouraged" by the Adjutant of the day to provide a report on some sort of Regimental activity. I may have to ask Estelle to dig it out because I am sure it was Pulitzer worthy.

It has been slightly less than three months since Lieutenant-Colonel MacLean handed over the reins to me on September 29th and as is typical for our Regiment, it has been a busy time. And as I expected, the Regiment has performed admirably in everything it has done. For example, Number One Company, in conjunction with members of the Algonquin Regiment, 2nd Irish Regiment of Canada, 33 Combat Engineer Regiment and 33 Signals Regiment planned and executed a well-attended exercise in November that involved soldiers' completing live-fire jungle lanes and operations in built up areas that included breaching entry obstacles. The Influence Activities Company

(IA Coy) has also carried out interesting and dynamic training as it continues to expand. Number 2 Company has consistently delivered on what I have asked them to do, including preparing recruits for their Basic Military Qualification course and instructing on various courses run out of the 33 Brigade Battle School.

This fall has also been one of the busiest periods the Regimental Band has ever experienced. Most notably, I had the privilege of observing our musicians perform at the Bermuda International Military Tattoo at the end of October. Seeing them in action at a high profile international venue only reinforced my belief in how professional and capable they are. And as always, Number Three Company and the Battalion Headquarters have quietly provided the essential support behind the scenes to make it all happen.

Most recently, 32 members of the Regiment stepped up to support the Government's efforts to bring Syrian refugees to Canada. A platoon comprised mostly of Foot Guards led by Ensign William Roney and his 2IC, Sergeant Kinga Golebiowski has deployed to CFB Kingston and several of the IA Coy members are in Petawawa ready to assist in operating the interim lodging sites that may house the newcomers to Canada. I thank them for volunteering to support this important mission. As we send members out the door on a domestic mission, we get ready to welcome back Master-Corporal Thomas Beckett who will be returning from an operational deployment in Afghanistan in the New Year.

I have no doubt that January and the following months will be as busy as this past fall. In addition to collective training, we will be focusing on getting as many corporals as possible on leadership training and expanding the unit. I will require everyone's assistance in this regard. Therefore, it is important for people to take time over the holidays to relax, spend time with friends and family and come back in the New Year ready to tackle the new challenges that await. Stay safe and I will see you in the 2016. Up the Guards!

Message from the RSM

CWO (RSM) Neal Porter, CD

After a very busy summer, we had large numbers of the regiment conducting a diverse array of tasks – from ceremonial, to training, to marksmanship, to operations. From the long list read out at inclearance, you can get a sense of how many soldiers were out and about over this period.

Regardless of where you served this summer, you brought credit to the larger regimental Family. While you may not think of it when you first joined, you are in fact part of long tradition of service to the regiment, army, and country.

It seems unusual to say that I joined the regiment in the last century, but that is certainly the case and many members came before me and will come after. Next time you go to the BOR take a look on the wall next to the entrance. There you will find the roll of the Sharpshooters from 1885. Take a look not only at the names and casualty notations, but the streets on which the soldiers lived: Wilbrod, Queen, Nepean, Nelson, Chapel, Lisgar, Gloucester, etc. These are streets our current members live and work on – so when you enter through the Drill Hall doors or march on the Ottawa streets in uniform, you are representing not just yourself, but the Guards' tradition and legacy.

You may plan to only be in the regiment for a short period while you finish high school or attend university and may not be thinking in terms of what you want to accomplish and leave as part of your legacy; however, all ranks from Guardsman, Musician, Private, and up should be thinking about their goals and what is needed to accomplish them – whether that is trades, leadership, or professional development training. Start mapping out now what activities you can participate in over the next few summers so that you have an achievable plan, taking into consideration family, school, and work commitments, to get the necessary qualifications and participate in summer concentrations. I encourage you to seek advice from your chain of command if you have questions about career progression or what opportunities are available.

Whatever length of time you are with the regiment, the people you serve with are your friends for life. We recently had the sorrowful duty of attending the funeral of a former member, Captain (*Retired*) Ishman Jack, who was a good friend to many in the regiment, the CHofO and the RCMP. The reception was held at the Drill Hall and large numbers of people from the current and former Ottawa Garrison were in attendance and reconnected with those they had not seen in years. A point that was brought home to many was the importance of keeping in touch and I urge those of you reading this, whether currently parading or not, to reach out and join the Association and come out to its events.

In closing, plan what you want to do with your future – whether during your active years with the regiment or beyond. This training year is already off to an eventful start with Canadian Armed Forces Small Arms Concentration (CAFSAC), exercises, Battle School courses, Band engagements, and the always busy daytime staff. I look forward to noting in my next article how members of the regiment have distinguished themselves this fall and added to the Guards' legacy.

Musical Notes from the Band

LCol Fran Chilton-Mackay, OMM, MSM, CD

As usual the band had an extremely busy fall providing music support for the Brigade, the Army, the Canadian Army Forces, Rideau Hall and the community. By the time Christmas rolls around we will have completed 38 engagements this fall, and 86 for the year in total. Not bad for a part time band! This is only due to the incredible commitment of all of the band members who put the Regiment and band before themselves. I am indeed very proud of them all. Letters and emails of praise flow in after almost every performance we do. Continued support from the Regiment to enable us to fulfill our commitments is also very much appreciated.

Of course the highlight of our fall was the tasking from the Commander Canadian Army to represent the Canadian Armed Forces at the Bermuda Tattoo, commemorating the 50th Anniversary of the Royal Bermuda Regiment. The band quickly adapted to their surroundings having been there for the 2009 Tattoo! Our joint performance with The Cameron Highlanders of Ottawa (Duke of Edinburgh's Own) that traced the 38th Battalion's original posting there in 1915 was very well received. This included a clever arrangement of 'Will Ye No Come Back Again, which was the Battalion's Air at the time. You will also find enclosed an article written by Sgt Rob McKinnon which highlights not only the Tattoo but the fabulous concert we gave at Purvis Elementary School, in which we wowed staff, students and the Bermuda Director of Education alike.

Find also within this Guards Star a photo of Cpl Gordon Tait who finally received his Canadian Citizenship on December 12th. You will recall that Gordon left the Scots Guards Band shortly after our two bands ``collided`` in Bermuda in 2009. Successful efforts were made to permit him to join the Canadian Forces prior to obtaining his citizenship and at last his citizenship papers have finally come through. Well done Gordon and bravo upon pledging allegiance to Her Majesty yet again, on Canadian soil!

In January the band will be putting together a concert programme which will be presented in Perth, ON on Saturday February 6th and in Ottawa on Sunday February 7th. Location for the Ottawa concert is still in flux at time of print but we will be sure to let all know the details as they are finalized.

Regimental Ball 2016

The Regimental Ball is being held on February 27, 2016. The venue this year will be once again **The Ottawa Conference and Event Centre located at 200 Coventry Road and the Vanier Parkway.** The venue includes free underground parking that is connected to the Conference Centre

and both the Hampton Inn and the Courtyard Marriott Hotels.

The cost is \$90.00 per person, and tickets will be available from your Mess Representative.

Accommodations can be had at either the Hampton Inn or the Courtyard Marriott at special reduced rates. The Hampton Inn has 10 rooms (5 King beds and 5 with two Queen beds) allocated (can get more if needed) at the rate of \$145.00 + tax double occupancy and \$135.00 + tax single occupancy. When making your booking ask for booking code GCF and group number 2696. These rooms will be held until January 27, 2016 and then released at regular rates. The Hampton also offers a complimentary breakfast bar.

The Courtyard Marriott has 10 rooms (5 King beds and 5 with two Queen beds) allocated (can get more if needed) at the rate of \$122.00 + tax double occupancy and \$132.00 + tax single occupancy. When making your booking ask for reservations @ 613-741-9862 and use booking code GGF and event date. These rooms will be held until January 29, 2016 and then released at regular rates.

In the heat of Bermuda, the Governor General's Foot Guards rendition of Disney's Frozen was a hit

Sgt Rob McKinnon

Hamilton, Bermuda — Even in the near-tropical climate of Bermuda, which has never seen snow in recorded history, the Regimental Band of the Governor General's Foot Guards (GGFG Band) dazzled the children of Purvis Primary School with symphonic highlights from Disney's *Frozen*.

Despite what many people believe, Bermuda is remote from both North America and from the Caribbean Islands, forming a slightly triangular shape with them both. Its air and waters are kept warm by energy from the Gulf Stream which maintains what we Canadians would call a year-round summer. The overall aesthetic of the island is as functional as it is beautiful: the pastel pinks,

greens and yellows used to paint the houses are unaffected by the regular mid-Atlantic storms; and, the bright white limestone roofs of the houses collect and filter rainwater into enormous cisterns hidden underneath the houses as there is little natural fresh water on the island. Strategically sunken shipwrecks off the coast of the island provided hidden security for the island during the Golden Age of Piracy. These shipwrecks are now prized as snorkelling and diving sites.

The GGFG and CH of O bands were invited because of their historical tie to the Bermuda community. As contributing regiments to the 38th Battalion, Canadian Expeditionary Force (38 Bn CEF), the two units performed garrison duty on the tactically important island after the departure of the British Army in 1914 at the onset of the Great War.

The island was considered to be a key refueling station midway between Britain and its interests in the West, and 38 Bn CEF was assigned the crucial task of providing a military presence against any potential aggressors. Although 38 Bn CEF would soon leave Bermuda for the front lines of Europe, they still managed to forge a deep and lasting connection to the community during their stay on the 53-square kilometre island. To put Bermuda's size in perspective, it is more than 100 times smaller than Prince Edward Island with nearly one half of the population!

In the present, the GGFG Band took advantage of a pause in tattoo rehearsals to re-establish their connection to the community by performing some concert music at Purvis Primary School, the alma mater of tattoo Musical Director Major Dwight Robinson. "I am especially pleased that the GGFG was again able to perform at the Purvis Primary School [...] where my interest in music was first piqued," he said.

During a portion of the concert, three groups of children representing each of the school's three "houses" were treated to a marching lesson delivered by GGFG Drum Major, Colour Sergeant Stéphane Marleau. After several minutes of perfecting the quick march, the halt and the salute, the lesson culminated in a friendly marching

competition among the three houses accompanied by Kenneth J. Alford's "Colonel Bogey March" which was judged by teachers. Much to the delight of Maj Robinson, it was Gordon House – the house to which he belonged as a student – that won the marching competition.



Some of the children were also invited to perform with the band as drummers-in-training, providing colourful percussion on wood blocks, tambourine, triangle and cowbell during a medley of well-known tunes by Stevie Wonder. At the end of the concert, there was a smile on the face of every child and teacher in the auditorium and the band was congratulated with a corridor of high-fives on their way back to the Royal Naval Dockyard for the tattoo dress rehearsal.

The tattoo attracted spectators from the community, from cruise ships in harbour and from Her Royal Highness Birgitte, the Duchess of Gloucester and Colonel-in-Chief of the Royal Bermuda Regiment, who was the guest of honour at Saturday evening's performance. Not even the sporadic gales of rain and wind prevented audiences from coming out to be entertained by the cast of international military entertainers.

The GGFG and CH of O bands presented an extraordinary program of music and marching which opened with an arrangement of Strauss' Also "Sprach Zarathustra," a piece featured in the opening to Stanley Kubrick's 1968 film 2001: A Space Odyssey as well as arrangements of traditional tunes for bagpipes and military band

such as "Calliope House", "John MacDonald's Exercise" and the 38 Bn CEF regimental march, "Will Ye No' Come Back Again."



It is interesting to consider the effect that the GGFG and CH of O combined band performance had on the tattoo audience. Its combination of coordinated drill; musical settings which incorporated Celtic instruments, vocalists and bagpipes into the standard marching band; and synchronized video with narration, entertained not only the audience but fellow participants. A U.S. Marine Corps musician complimented the GGFG and CH of O contingent saying that "not only was it a cool musical and visual production," but that he also learned some history during the performance."

Major (Retired) Stephen Caton, Executive Director of the Bermuda Tattoo Committee, remarked that, "...spectators were delighted by the rare archival footage aired as part of the combined bands' performance set, showing the 38th marching in Bermuda a century ago, along the same streets that many would have travelled themselves to attend the Tattoo.

The modern tattoo bears little resemblance to the historical ceremony of the 17th and 18th centuries. Once a martial ceremony with music that signalled innkeepers that it was time to send troops back to their beds for the night, the modern tattoo is a festival of musical virtuosity showcasing military bands in local, national or international settings. The most well-known of these military tattoos is the Edinburgh Military Tattoo which attracts military

and civilian performers from nearly 30 countries and over 200,000 spectators in Edinburgh, Scotland every August.

Just as the 18th century tattoo ceremony signaled that it was time for soldiers billeted in the town to return to their quarters for the evening, the final performance of the Last Post signaled to the GGFG and CH of O bands that it was time to go home to Canada.

During the course of a week, the bands had performed for thousands of locals and tourists and fostered camaraderie and friendship with military bands and performers from the United States and the broader Commonwealth. As Maj Robinson noted with satisfaction, "to arrange to have a quality organization such as the GGFG Band perform in Bermuda was my pleasure. Their visit may have a similar or greater effect on another Maestro-in-the-making."

On December 15th, Cpl Gordon Tate, our ex-Scots Guards musician finally received his Citizenship.



Today I was humbled to be able to swear my allegiance to Her Majesty the Queen for the third time and to become a Canadian Citizen.

Memorials and Tributes

Estelle Lane

Clark, Allen Nordenstierna

The family of Allen Clark is sad to announce his recent passing at the age of 83. Allen grew up in Schumacher, Ontario and like most of the young men there his first job was working in the McIntyre Mine. In later years he followed in his brothers' footsteps and attended Queen's University. He spent a number of years working as a research assistant with the National Research Council. One of his great joys was being a drummer in the Governor General's Foot Guard band. He also enjoyed many hours at "the cottage" in the Gatineau area. Friends and family will remember the delicious maple syrup from the trees he tapped there. Allen must also be recognized for the years of devoted care that he gave to mother Vera right up to her passing in 1988. (Published in the Citizen of September 4, 2015)

Botting, Gerald "Gerry" Major (Ret'd) 2-PPCLI

Peacefully at the Perley & Rideau Veterans' Health Centre on Sunday, May 31, 2015 at the age of 87 after a long life of dedicated public service. His military career continued after Korea as a member of the Canadian Guards. He was a life member of the GGFG Regimental Association.

Hubert-Dutrisac, Winnifred "Winnie" (née Joiner)

1920 – 2015 The family announces the passing of Winnie on November 23, 2015. Winnie was the sister of Marty Joiner, who drove Forceful, the Commanding Officer's Sherman tank, during the Second World War.

Sheldrake, Derek William

Passed away on November 20, 2015 at the age of 85. He served in our Regimental Band and retired with the rank of Sergeant.

WOODS, John Russell O St J, KCLJ,

Peacefully, and lovingly surrounded by all of his extended family, on November 26, 2015 at the age of 85. John, was the brother of Guthrie Woods, who many of you will remember, joined the Regiment and commissioned in 1948. He went on to serve with the 2nd Battalion, The Royal Canadian Regiment in Korea. John was a life member of the GGFG Regimental Association.

Editor's note

My sincere thanks to all you wonderful people who have contributed articles for the Guards Star. There wouldn't be a Guards Star without you. After 30 some years doing this, it is time to pass on the torch. I wish to extend my best wishes to my successor, Brian Schwarz, and I have no doubt you will extend the same cooperation to Brian as you did to me.

NEXT ISSUE....

**Submissions for the next edition
of the GUARDS STAR are due
(to be determined)**