# The Guards Star

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

MARCH 2016 EDITOR: MWO Brian Schwarz, CD (Retd)



# **Message from the President**

MWO Marty Lane, CD (Retd)

Time sure flies when it comes to doing these articles for the Guards Star. It seems like it was a very short time ago since I was asked to provide the last one. It feels very strange not having Estelle asking (hounding me) for my article any more.

Since the last edition Estelle has turned over the keyboard to our new editor Brian Schwarz. For those of you who don't know him, Brian is a former serving member having held various positions within the regiment such as CSM One Coy, Drum Major of the Regimental Band, RQMS and Drill Sergeant. Here is hoping that everyone will support Brian the same way you did Estelle in providing articles for the Star.

The Association is not working on any new projects at the present time. The executive will be meeting in the near future to brain storm amongst ourselves to see if we can come up with some new ideas for the membership. If you have any suggestions please let the executive know what you have in mind.

In February we held another very successful Guards Ball at the Ottawa Conference and Event Center. Amongst the guests in attendance were The Chief of Defence Staff General Jonathan Vance and Mrs. Vance along with the Canadian Forces Chief Warrant Officer Ken West and Mrs. West.

I would at this time thank all the mess reps who chased after people to purchase tickets and also Estelle who looked after the tickets and doing up the seating plan. This is not an easy task when you are dealing with over 200 people. I think that she did a

pretty good job in attempting to please everyone and ensure they were sitting with their friends.

I would also like to thank LCol Fran Chilton-MacKay and the band members who provided the music during dinner and for the toasts, along with Daren Fleming for his job as Master of Ceremonies and Alexis Dallaire for putting together the slide presentation.

At this time I have heard that there will be a Military Tattoo on May14th on the lawns of Government House. It is my understanding that all three Guards Regiments will take part in this event which is being sponsored by His Excellency The Governor General. More information will be sent out to all members as it becomes available. Unfortunately, Estelle and I will not be in attendance as we are removing one more item from our bucket list and will be out of town.

The Executive is at present still working on our By-Laws so as to bring them in line with the new Revenue Canada regulations regarding not for profit organizations such as ours.

## **Message from the LCol Comd**

LCol Chris Lynam, CD, ADC

As we transition to spring, I am amazed that another training year is almost complete. It is year that has seen Number One Company complete live-fire training up to the platoon level, the deployment and return of soldiers from Operation Provision, numerous candidates and instructors proceeding on individual training courses, a successful ice climbing adventure training event, the substantial growth of the Influence Activities Company, the

hosting of a second Gathering of the Guards weekend with our fellow Household Regiments, a very enjoyable Guards' Ball, many excellent performances by our Band and the welcoming home of MCpl Thomas Beckett from Afghanistan – all things that make me feel very proud during my first year of command.

I note for everyone the important parade that will occur on May 10, 2016 at the Drill Hall. On that evening, the outgoing Director of Music, LCol Fran Chilton-MacKay will handover to the incoming DMus, Ensign Stefan Sikorski. After outlasting nearly a section's worth of Lieutenant-Colonels Commanding, LCol Fran will finally be taking her retirement this year so we will aim to send her off in style. It is shaping up to be a well-attended event.

As the training year ends, I ask all members to begin to prepare themselves for summer courses, Ceremonial Guard, Exercise Stalwart Guardian and other taskings. As I have indicated before, it is my expectation that everyone devote at least one week of fulltime service to the Regiment and Army this spring-summer. The commitment of short periods of full-time service is at the core of being a part-time reservist and has existed since the earliest days of Canada's Militia when summer "camps" were established. I am confident that all can arrange the other parts of their live to free up at least one week to support the Regiment. I applaud the many of you who will be giving more than that.

We still have some important training activities and events before stand down (e.g., IBTS weekend on April 22-24) so I ask that you continue to devote the same level of effort as you have all year so that we can finish on a high point.

Up the Guards!

# **Message from the RSM**

CWO (RSM) Neal Porter, CD

I would like to start by commending all of those who have achieved professional milestones

over the past few months. Here I am thinking of the soldiers who completed training, whether it be a leadership, weapon, or recruit course, or any of the other sessions that you have attended (if I was to use acronyms I would end up with a seemingly random sequence of BMQ, PLQ, WDM, ASA, DP4 CSM, ILP, ALP...). I know from speaking to members returning from Gagetown, Petawawa, and Kingston that we are in good stead for the current state of professional knowledge within the Regiment and that you will be passing on your knowledge and experience in upcoming training opportunities. The LCC and I recently had the pleasure of attending the Basic Military Qualification course graduation for 15 of our newest members. I urge all of you to take the Commander Canadian Army's and Brigade Commander's words to heart and be proud of what you have done over the past months. It was also obvious that your families and friends were similarly proud of you and you should not be shy in asking for the Regimental family's or their support over the length of your career.

There has also been a spate of promotions recently, whether to corporal, master corporal, sergeant, or colour sergeant. I especially wish to highlight those who have joined the Sergeants' Mess. This is indeed a professional and personal accomplishment demonstrating excellence and commitment to the Regiment. Those having taken this step since this summer include Sgt Kinga Golebiowski, Sgt Tammy Shaw, Sgt Ryan Michael, and Sgt Marc Giamberardino. Before he was promoted, Sgt Giamberardino was the recipient of 'The Leader' award, which is presented to the Master Corporal of the Year by the colour sergeants and sergeants of the Regiment. I would also note that Rob McKinnon was promoted to colour sergeant. Finally, I had the pleasure of welcoming CWO Laurent Guyon from 30 Field Regiment, RCA for the promotion of MBdr Oliver Ratcliffe, a member of 33 CBG Influence Activities Company, to sergeant.

While it has been a good time to pause and reflect on all that has been accomplished this training year, it is in fact close the start of the summer training season, whether ceremonial duties

The Guards Star

or Reserve Summer Training. All currently serving soldiers should have had discussions with their chain of command as to their availability for this summer and should be seeking updates as to their task or course loading status. Since 2012 there have been a number of changes in the courses required for promotion within a number of trades and at the national level. Anyone with any questions should speak to their chain of command and understand their path to promotion, including reasonable timelines and pre-requisites.

On a final note, there has been an ongoing, multi-year project to collect photographs of past Regimental Sergeants Major. I have accosted a number of you seeking suitable photos, but would ask anyone who has older photos to engage me so we can complete this project.

#### **Musical Notes from the Band**

LCol Fran Chilton-Mackay, OMM, MSM, CD

This past February the band performed two concerts to capacity audiences. The first was a repeat performance on Sat Feb 6th at St. Paul's United Church in Perth, ON. Once again this lovely church was packed to the rafters with a very appreciative and musically knowledgeable audience. It was a real pleasure to perform there again this year. The band joined with the organist, Mr. Brad Mills, to perform the final movement of Camille Saint- Saëns' "Symphony No. 3 (Organ)" as the concert finale. It was indeed a thrill to hear the band and organ in 'full flight'.

Our annual Ottawa concert venue was moved this year from the War Museum to the Council Chambers of Ottawa City Hall. Once again an incredibly appreciative audience was on hand, as were several Star Wars characters from the local 501 Legion to add to the mystique and excitement of John William's "Star Wars" themes and melodies. We were also accompanied by the Pipes and Drums of The Cameron Highlanders of Ottawa (Duke of Edinburgh's Own) who performed the Bermuda Tattoo set with us for the first time to a

local audience. All in all these two concerts were very well received, and the band performed to their usual high standard. I wish to thank the many members of the Guard's family who attended the concerts, and especially to our former band members who came out in support.

The Band now turns their focus to the 12th Annual Army Ball being held on April 16th at the Hilton Lac Leamy Hotel. The Ball will commemorate 150 years of service of the Canadian Army to Canada and the band will be front and centre at this annual event.

Our band family continues to grow and over the past month we have welcomed Léo, first child of Cpl Gabriel Bouchard and his wife Dounya; and Suzanna, the second child of Esgn Stefan Sikorski and his wife Yola, and brother Frederik. At time of print we have yet to hear of the arrival of a baby to Cpl Flora Lei but wish her well as she has currently re-located to London, ON to be with her husband. Congratulations on the promotion of CSgt Rob McKinnon. Rob has been an indispensable member of the band for many years. He is currently working on a Class B contract at Army Headquarters, in the Army Public Affairs section, as well as continuing all of his duties with the Regimental Band. Well done, Rob!

By the time this edition of the Guards Star is released I will be nearing the end of my term as Director of Music and approaching my retirement from the Canadian Armed Force in July. Indeed, after having penned more than forty "Notes from the Band", this is my last Guards Star article to write. It has been an amazing honour and privilege to have been named the Director of Music of the Regimental Band, and I can say with all honesty it has been without doubt the most significant and rewarding appointment that I have been afforded over the span of my military and civilian career. None of this would have been possible without the support of the amazing musicians who have come and gone over the years, and particularly to those who have steadfastly been there over the duration of my tenure. In fear of singling out some and not others, I simply wish to thank each and every band member for their confidence in me and loyalty towards me. It has been the outmost honour to be your Director and time will never diminish the pride I have felt to be able to say that I have been the Director of Music of the Regimental Band of the Governor General's Foot Guards! I would be remiss if I did not however thank my right hand, the Band Sergeant Major, MWO Gord Birkinshaw, for his stalwart and unfailing support to me and the band during my tenure as Director of Music.

Finally I must give a huge thank you to the five Lieutenant-Colonels Commanding who I have had the pleasure of working with since I took over the band in September 2005 – namely – LCol Curcumelli-Rodostamo, LCol Foster, LCol Cheff, LCol MacLean and LCol Lynam. They have each afforded me enough rein to dream big and the support to allow me to do it. This does not happen often. The relationship between the regiment and the band has been so very positive from start to finish. Thank you indeed!

The passing of the baton will occur on the parade night of Tues May 10th, and I am confident that the band is in very good musical hands. I wish Esgn Sikorski and all members of the band continued musical excellence and challenge them to remain to be the face of Army music in the NCR. I will of course be watching on the side lines with great pride, with both a smile on my face and twinkle in my eye!

With my heartfelt thanks and sincere appreciation to all.

Up the Guards!

#### **Memorials and Tributes**

Estelle Lane

#### English, Mavis

On December 14, 2015, wife of Roy English (see Roy English obit below)

## Sukey, "Nancy" Agnes

On January 3, 2016, dear mother of Doug Sukey who served with the Regiment in the mid 1970s prior to pursuing a career with the Regular Force

#### Duncan, John

On Sunday February 14, 2016, dear brother of Capt (Ret'd) Rob Duncan, who served as RSM from 1985 to 1990.

## Hardy, John L.C.

On March 8, 2016, dear father of MCpl Angela (Hardy) Beare

#### English, Roy WOII (Ret'd) CDII

On March 10, 2016. He was a member of the GGFG Band

#### **Defosse Quinn, Catherine**

On March 10, 2016, dear mother of MCpl Michael Quinn

#### Soucy, Raymond

On Tuesday March 15, 2016. He played clarinet with the GGFG Band post WW2 until sometime in the sixties.

#### Arthur, C. Douglas, CD, MA

On March 15, 2016, beloved wife of Jeannine. He served with the RCAF from 1942-45. He joined the Governor General's Foot Guards as a Lieutenant and served as the LCC of the Regiment from 1960-64. In 1996, he was appointed Honorary Lieutenant Colonel of the Regiment, a position he held until 2002

### 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**

For first acknowledgment I would like to thank Estelle Lane for her steady hand in producing the Guards Star, year after year. My hat is off to you Estelle for all of your hard work.

If anyone would like to submit an article for the Guards Star, please don't hesitate in sending it to me brian.schwarz@canuckweb.ca.

NEXT ISSUE....
Submissions for the next edition of the GUARDS STAR are due 15 June