



Volume 2007/Issue 2  
May 2007



# The GROUND SHEET

The Official Publication of  
The Royal Westminster Regiment Association

*'Dedicated to the ideals and comradeship  
we knew in wars and peace in our  
services both home and abroad.'*

**'Pro Rege et Patria'**

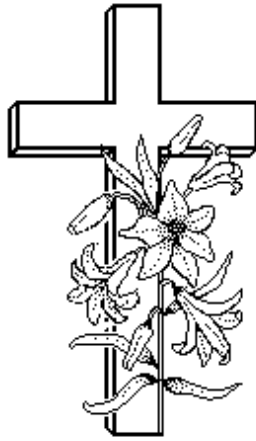
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[www.royal-westies-assn.ca](http://www.royal-westies-assn.ca)

**Eight Westie  
Soldier's are  
serving now in  
Afghanistan.**

**Let's write to our  
troops and let  
them know we are  
thinking of them.**





## *In Memoriam*

**No Westie's names have been provided for this issue. Perhaps it would be appropriate to take a moment in your day to offer a moment of silence to the soldiers who have recently fallen in Afghanistan.**

*We will remember them.*

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### **Health & Welfare**

The Executive has not been receiving much in the way of news regarding the ill health of any of our members. It would be greatly appreciated that if you know of a Association member or serving soldier that is under the weather and not doing well health wise, please let one of the Exeuctive know. We will make every effort to pay them a visit or we will send something along to them to let them know they are being thought of. Until you have been in that position, you have no idea how good it feels knowing your friends are thinking about you. The good side of this is that if we aren't hearing about any of our members in ill health, perhaps all is well.

Please keep this in mind as it is very important we find out so we can at least offer to help.

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### **Write to Our Westie Soldiers in Afghanistan.**

We presently have eight Westie soldiers serving with the battle group in Afghanistan. Would they like to hear from you? You're damn right. Send them a post card, letter or small package.

Name, Rank, Initials

TF Afghanistan

Charlie Company/2 RCR Battle Group

PO Box 5058 Station Forces

Belleville Ontario, K8N 5W6

The 8 soldiers are:

**MCpl Colin Bason, Cpl Michael Campbell, Cpl Paul Guilmain, Cpl Mathew Iverson, Cpl Steven Jackson, Cpl Owne McIntyre, Cpl Sean Stepan, Cpl Dustin Zonnenberg.**

What do think the feeling will be to any one of these soldiers to receive an unsolicited letter from a former serving member of the Regiment, especially a WWII veteran? It would make their day! Do it today!

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## **The Editor is Who?**

What has the New Year brought you so far? For me, a huge tax bill! Being retired on pension can be real good until you realize that working or collecting salary from assorted jobs throughout the year can add up and of course means more tax. With my pension from the Municipal Pension Plan, working with cadets or other jobs really hurts me at the end of the year when tax time rolls along. I don't think it is even worth trying to make a few extra bucks. If that is the least of my worries right now I am doing pretty damn good. I just had to complain!

I've had lots of feedback on the last issue of the GS and I am glad you enjoyed it. I try my best and spend many hours finding interesting things for you to read and it seems to pay off. And I promise not to hound you about helping out the Executive or supporting your Association until page 6!! It is now early March and spring is just around the corner. As reported in the last issue, 8 members of the Regiment left for Afghanistan. I hope before I put this issue to print that I have a report from overseas on how our guys are doing. Efforts are being made to send packages overseas for the members from the Association. Captain Rick **Blyth**, CO of 2822 army cadets in Surrey, is getting his cadets to put packages together for our troops. If you want to help out, call someone from our Executive.

The Melfa Weekend is coming up very quickly. This year the Executive decided the dinner will be held at the Roma Hall in Queensborough. Now if you want a traditional Italian meal prepared by the local Italian community, you won't want to miss this. Make sure you send in the tear-off portion on the last page. The golf will be Friday at Maple Ridge Golf Course and Terry **Leith** is looking after that. If you know a company willing to donate a few prizes, please send them in to Terry. The AGM is Sunday morning at the Armoury preceded by breakfast. Come and enjoy!

For those involved in the Primary Reserve, we now are paying into a pension plan. We also have the opportunity to buy back service to increase our contributions. This pension also includes those of us who serve the Cadet Instructors Cadre. As members of the PRes, we qualify as well. Of course to receive a pension there are a number of prerequisites that you must fall into in order to collect a pension when you leave the CF. In my case I will qualify because I served three summers (30 months) at Vernon Military Camp for the summer. There are some calculations you must work out to see if you qualify. As of my pay check for March, I now contribute to the CF Pension Fund. I think this is a huge boost to those that serve the reserve forces, especially considering many are now serving overseas for long periods of time and continue service upon returning to Canada. Not to forget about

those of us who have worked with the cadets branch for many years. Those that take the time to contribute to the cadet movement are, in many cases, as important as those that defend our country considering that working to mould are youth for the future is a difficult and time-consuming task.

If you are interested in knowing more about the CF Pension Modernization , go to this web site [www.forces.gc.ca/dgcb/dpsp/engraph/modernization](http://www.forces.gc.ca/dgcb/dpsp/engraph/modernization).

As you can see from the front cover, eight Westie soldiers are in Afghanistan serving with the Battle Group. Their names are in this issue plus the address where you can write to them. We all should send them a short note on a postcard to let them know we are aware they are there and that we support them. Can you imagine the feeling if they received a couple of hundred postcards? Thirty more soldiers have just left the unit for work-up training in preparation of deployment next year. More details on that group will follow. We will also keep you informed via the web site as to when the troops will be coming home.

As a gesture of support, I've been provided the names and addresses of the families of the eight soldiers and they will receive a copy of this Groundsheet. We hope some of them will attend this years Melfa Dinner. The Executive will make sure they are invited.

It is Easter Sunday and I just finished watching the Masters Golf looking forward to a big Easter dinner with my family when I went and turned my computer on to find that six Canadian soldiers serving in Afghanistan were killed today in an explosion. That news simply turned my day into the opposite direction with emotion.

It just never gets better! As I was watching the ramp ceremony for the fallen six soldiers, it was announced two more soldiers were killed. My thoughts and prayers are with the families at this time.

I am trying to figure out a way to honour our fallen soldiers involved in this recent conflict. I proudly fly the Canadian flag on the front of my house and thought of lowering to half staff. Not sure if that is the answer but I know everytime I look at the flag, I think of those men & women who have given their lives in this recent conflict. Perhaps that is sufficient - keep them in my memory and keep flying my flag.

Did you watch any of the CBC Vimy special on TV around the Easter weekend? I thought that both the Vimy Re-dedication at the 4 hour-two part documdrama was great. I learned so much about Vimy and WWI that I never knew before. It started me thinking about my own relatives who served. Not sure if I have mentioned it but I have researched my family tree for many years now. I have already mentioned the fact, and many know, about my immediate family's participation in the Regiment. Both brothers, both grandfathers and father all served the Regiment. I also knew that a few great uncles had served but didn't know exactly where. I somewhat knew that at least one served the 104th. Well, I did some digging and found out that all three of my grandmother's brothers served in the 104th and all signed up for the CEF in 1915. Robert, Allen and Arthur Shaw are all listed on the Archives Canada WWI list and their attestation papers are there as well. At this time I am not sure if they went overseas. I have ordered their military records to find that out. Their photograph is posted on the Westie's web site if you care to have a look. Because I think it is a great photograph of a few very young (17 & 18 year olds) men who signed on the line to go overseas to fight in a war, I've included it in this edition so those that don't have access to the internet can view it. It certainly says a lot about our youth of that era.

Continued on next page.

# Presidents Report

Well the Melfa weekend is rapidly approaching. Planning is well under way and it promises to be a memorable event. The main change this year is that the dinner will be held at the Roma Hall in Queensborough. This facility has a reputation for serving up a great meal. Terry Leith has the golf tournament well in hand there will be lots of prizes and the usual trophies to be won. I extend an invitation to all Regimental members to come out and compete. Maple Ridge is not a long course but has some challenging holes. Afterwards Bruce Howells has kindly offered his back yard once again for the post game festivities. We will be also serving breakfast on Sunday morning prior to the AGM.

Timings and costs of the above are to be found elsewhere within this issue of the Groundsheet.

Since my last report your executive has met every month. The big news is that the berets are here. We will be planning an event to have them issued soon. We have also chosen a new Regimental Association tie design and have ordered fifty. It is hoped that they will be available for the Melfa weekend.

Our Past President and former RSM Brian Knipstrom has donated his Regimental Brass to the 2316 Army Cadet Corps to be worn by their senior Warrant Officer. Len Wohlgemuth attended the presentation on March 26<sup>th</sup> and I believe he has photographs.

As you all are aware we have eight members of the Regiment currently serving in Afghanistan. Their names and addresses are available on the website and in this issue of the Groundsheet. I'm sure they would love to hear from other members of the Regimental Family. So if you can, drop them a line. We will be taking part and donating to the preparation of care packages to be sent to these soldiers later in April. Please keep our serving members and their comrades in your thoughts as they continue to serve far from home.

I will sign off now, I hope to see many of you at the Melfa. Lets make it a good one.

Pro Rege et Patria

**Alan Morton**, President

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Are you looking for WWI relatives? A great web site to go to is Library and Archives Canada. The web address is [www.collectionscanada.ca](http://www.collectionscanada.ca). Look for the Canadian Genealogy tab and then go to the Databases page. Not only will you find the WWI list but several other very useful search areas. When you are searching, make sure you try all sorts of spelling and combinations of your relatives names. When you click on the small paper tab you will be taken to their original attestation document to view.

Another web site I must promote again is the the Army Cadet History web site that my friend Francois Arseneault of Calgary looks after. This site is an obsession to Francois and he does all the work at his own expence. He has over 30,000 images, 3077 corps histories, and almost 60,000 names listed all relating to the army cadets of Canada. You must look around this site. Go to [www.armycadethistory.com](http://www.armycadethistory.com).

That's about all for this issue. The next one will be out in the fall around Remembrance Day. I plan to take it easy this summer and spend it at home enjoying what I have here. Please have a safe summer.

Your editor, **Ted Usher**

# The Regiment

Greetings current and former Westies

As I write this, we are winding down our training year and looking forward to the summer. Our eight deployed soldiers, MCpl **Bason**, Cpl **Campbell**, Cpl **Guilmain**, Cpl **Iverson**, Cpl **Jackson**, Cpl **McIntyre**, Cpl **Stepan**, and Cpl **Zonnenberg**, are now into their third month in Afghanistan and will be looking forward to their mid-tour leave (aka HLTA). Sadly, by now they will have participated in two ramp ceremonies. A sobering reminder of the stakes in the job they are doing. We are all counting the days until their safe return sometime in August. I would be remiss if I didn't mention that our Regimental Association has really stepped up with providing several care packages for each of our eight deployed soldiers. I want to thank everyone that has participated in this crucial endeavour. I can't emphasize enough how important things like this are for the morale of our deployed soldiers.

The past few weeks have seen the departure of nearly thirty more soldiers from the Regiment. These troops are headed to Edmonton or Shilo to begin their pre-deployment training for Task Force (TF) 1-08 which will deploy to Afghanistan in February 2008. The way the army is transforming, we can expect this trend to continue with the next deployment after TF 1-08 being TF 3-09 which will deploy in August 2009 and begin workup training in October 2008.

As you might expect, the loss of almost forty of our soldiers to deployment or pre-deployment has left a large hole in our ranks particularly among NCOs, as so many of them answered the call. This will provide the opportunity next year for new junior leaders to emerge.

As for next year's plan our focus will remain patrolling and urban operations to which we will add a winter exercise. We intend to conduct a number of joint exercises with the Seaforth Highlanders, though the details are being worked out at the time of writing. We will contribute instructors to teach the Junior Leadership course and an Infantry Platoon Support Weapons Course (DP2A) and as usual, our training plan will emphasize my priorities of fitness, marksmanship, and Regimental identity. One other change for next year is that all units in the brigade including the Westies WILL PARADE ON WEDNESDAY NIGHTS starting in September. We are also welcoming Captain Dave Vernon who has joined us Class B as the Territorial Defence Battalion Operations Officer. By the time you receive this, he and the rest of us may be busy fighting floods...

As I mentioned in my last submission, we're still in the middle of a big push for recruits. If any of you know of suitable young men and women, encourage them to call recruiting at 604-666-4282 to learn more about how to become a Westie. In closing I'd like to thank all Westie soldiers for their hard work this past year. I'd also like to thank all spouses, former Westies and other members of the 'extended Westie family' for the support you've shown to our soldiers. Enjoy your summer and if we don't see you at Melfa we'll see you at stand-to on Wednesday September 5<sup>th</sup> 2007.

**M.P. Haussmann**  
**Lieutenant-Colonel**  
**Commanding Officer**

# News From Our Cadets

Each Spring, all cadets corps hold what is called an Annual Ceremonial Review. This is where each corps puts on their best uniform, displays all the skills they have learned throughout the year and end the training year with a parade for their family and friends. If you know of a corps in your area that is holding their ACR, your effort in attending is appreciated. Remember, these corps belong to the community.

**1922 Aldergrove.** On April 4<sup>th</sup>, 2007, 1922 RCACC held their first Commanding Officers Inspection and Parade with newly appointed CO, Captain Brandon **Banks**. 13 cadets were recognized by receiving promotions and one cadet, C/Sgt Jessica Beckman was presented with a certificate awarding her successful completion of the National Star Certification Exam held in February.

1922 has recently started a military band with the assistance of Capt Bob **Pratt** - Army Cadet Development Officer and preparations are underway for the band to perform at the cadet Annual Ceremonial review to be held on **Sunday 27 May 2007**.

The corps has started fund-raising efforts to purchase various regalia items such as a Drum Major's mace, baldric, and two Royal Westminster Regiment Flags; one to carry on parade by the corps Flag Party and one to permanently display at the corps local headquarters at CFS Aldergrove.

**2822 Surrey.** This is an exciting year for 2822 RCACC. The corps is celebrating their 40th Anniversary. To mark that even, their Annual Ceremonial Review will be held **Saturday June 2nd** at 1330 hrs at the Armoury. The day will finish off with a cadet Mess Dinner for invited guest at the Armoury as well.

**2316 New Westminster** - No Report

**1789 Agassiz** - No Report

**1838 Maple Ridge** - No report.

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## Are Your Dues Up To Date?

The Royal Westminster Regiment Association depends on your dues and donations. Yearly dues are \$15 and a Life Membership is \$100. How about a tax deductible donation? You can identify where you want the donation to go. The Future Fund, Cadets, Health & Welfare, or whatever you feel is worthwhile. Whatever you support, it is appreciated. Send in your dues today. Thanks.

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## MIA/AWOL

**Al Pradine** - Parksville

# Test Your Knowledge

Want to see how much you know about the Canadian Forces and your Regiment? Take the following test and see how you do on the answers. Don't peek at the answer until you have at least tried them once. Many of the answers are on our web site.

1. What is the date of Unification of the Canadian Forces?
2. What does the badge at right identify?
3. What were the two organizational names used over it's history?
4. What does Pro Regt et Patria mean?
5. What is our Regimental march?
6. How many cadet corps does this Regiment have affiliated to it? Bonus - where are they?
7. Who commanded the Regiment in 1952?
8. At the begining of WWII, the Regiment had training barracks located in the City. Where were they located at what is presently there?
9. In 1936, two Regimental companies were located in the Fraser Valley. Name the company and location of each.
10. What month and year did the present armoury become home to our ancestors?
11. Why was the new armoury built?
12. Two former members of the Regiment were awarded the Order of Military Merit while serving it. Who are they and what year were they appointed? This is a tough one!
13. For those from the 1970's, what was the Wallace Efficiency Trophy awarded for and in which year(s) did the Regiment receive it?
14. Again testing you from the 70s and 80s, what award did the Regiment win in 1972,73,84 and 1985? What was it for?
15. Lastly, name 10 members you served with during your time in the Regiment. Are they members of the Association? Why not?



1. February 1st, 1968.
2. Mobile Command badge.
3. Mobile Command 1968-1975, Forces Mobile Command 1975-1997.
4. For King and Country.
5. The Maple Leaf Forever.
6. Five. Check page 7.
7. LCol Basil Morgan.
8. 8th Street & 10th Ave. New Westminster Secondary School.
9. C Coy Mission, D Coy Chilliwack.
10. March 1896.
11. The armoury located downtown was burned down in the great fire.
12. MMMS - Captain's Jack Usher (1976) & Gerry Pickell (1987).
13. The best militia unit in BC, 1970,71 & 1984.
14. The Sir Casimir Gzowski trophy for the best militia infantry unit in Canada.
15. Locate them and get them signed up!

How well did you do? Did you get 10 right? Not bad. Less than that you should get back in uniform, spit shine those boots and be on the parade square in September for LCol Haussmann as a new recruit!



## Calling on All Westie's!!!!

Many of you have accessed the new web site for the Association and Regiment. We know because we are watching the counter and many have made comment about it. We know that many of you have photographs, memorabilia and stories from your service in the Regiment or Cadets. If you noticed on the site recently, former RSM Brian **Knipstrom** was cleaning house preparing to move and he donated some photographs to the Sgt's Mess. The webmaster got them first and placed them on the web site. It is a well known fact that most of you have some old photographs kicking around and others would love to see them. You know the feeling when you look at an image from the past and the memories it brings back? Well that's what we want to do with the website. Load it up with your memories so others can enjoy those same times. Not everyone has the same photographs. It is easy to contribute. You can either scan the image at minimum 300 dpi and send it to Ted **Usher** (captain66@shaw.ca) or you can send the original to the Association post box and it will be scanned and returned to you within a short period of time. ***It's that easy!*** (As Shell Busey says.) How about a place where you can tell a few short stories about your experience with the Regiment? Here is a few - Anyone recall a time when the Regiment went to CFB Chilliwack where we tied a young soldier to the top bunk with toilet paper and then wrote Happy Birthday on his stomach in felt pen? Or the time the CO broke his leg playing crude at the Officer's Mess in Chilliwack? Who used to always ask for kippers for breakfast?

So there is the challenge! Get your photos and other things for the web site in and we will post them up for others to enjoy.

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## Canadian Forces Web Site

You want to look at a great web site with loads of information, images, wave (movie) files and more? You must go to the web site for the CF. You can spend many hours looking around the site reading all the articles and seeing what our modern soldiers are up to. Write to the troops. See what Recruiting is offering. Read the monthly news paper of the forces, The Maple Leaf. Simply a fantastic site to see and hear what our CF is doing around the world. The web site is [www.forces.gc.ca](http://www.forces.gc.ca).

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## Melfa Dinner - Roma Hall Directions

The Roma Hall is located at 940 Ewen Ave in Queensborough, New Westminster. Queensborough is the small community on LuLu Island just over the Queensborough Bridge. From the Armoury you should travel west on Royal Ave, down the hill to Stewardson Way and turn right at the lights next to the old Terminal Pub. Follow Stewardson Way along, stay in the left lane and go over the Queensborough Bridge (Hwy 91A to Richmond/Surrey). At the end of the bridge be in the left lane and turn left at the first set of lights at Howe St. Head straight south on Howe until you reach Ewen Ave. You will see the hall over to your left on the corner. (Brick building) Turn left on Ewen and then right into the lot. From the south or Surrey, follow Hwy 91A over the Alex Fraser into New Westminster and turn right on Howe Street. See the directions above.

**SEE YOU AT THE MELFA DINNER!**



The cartoons here are the work of military cartoonist Robert Mullan. Robert is a retired CF member and many of his work has been displayed in military magazines and papers for several years.



### **The Shaw Brother's**

Robert, Allen and Arthur Shaw were all born in New Westminster in the late 1800's. All three were members of the 104th Regiment Westminster Fusiliers before signing up in 1915 with the Canadian Expeditionary Force in WWI. At this point it is not know if any of them served overseas as their military records are still being researched. The Shaw brother's are the great uncles of Ted **Usher**, Editor of the Groundsheet.

If you have any relatives who served the Regiment in years past and would like their story told, send it in.

# 14 March 2007 NEWS RELEASE

## RCL Troop Morale Fund

OTTAWA – The Royal Canadian Legion has announced today it is initiating an “RCL Troop Morale Fund” to buy the troops deployed in Afghanistan a Tim Hortons coffee and a doughnut.

To launch and run the RCL Troop Morale Fund, the Legion is working with the Canadian Forces Personnel Support Agency (CFPSA) which operates the Tim Hortons outlet in Afghanistan.

The intention is to have Legion branches collect donations from members at Legion branches and have the branch send the funds to Dominion Command in Ottawa for disbursement. Whenever the fund reaches a specified level the required amount of coffee and doughnut certificates are ordered and over-printed with the line “This certificate courtesy of The Royal Canadian Legion and its supporters in Canada”. They are then sent to Afghanistan for distribution by the CFPSA to the troops there.

Legion Dominion President Jack Frost sees the fund establishment as another way of helping the troops deployed in that location. “We help fund an annual show tour to that location and we are involved in Operation Santa Claus which ensures that they all get an annual Christmas present from the Legion. This effort will further show that we and many more Canadians care about their service and their sacrifices,” he says. “It’s a little gift but it means a lot, and it carries on our tradition of assistance to service people that we established in World War Two,” he concludes. At that time the Legion was heavily involved in providing troops with morale boosting materials and educational upgrades.

To start the ball rolling, Dominion Command of the Legion has made the first donation and is preparing the first shipment of certificates for presentation. It is hoped that member and public donations will fund a weekly purchase of a coffee and a doughnut for each deployed troop as long as they are in that theatre of operations. (Courtesy Royal Canadian Legion web site)

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### **Russell Harrison Reaching Out in Ontario**

Russell **Harrison** of Coburg Ontario came to the Melfa Dinner last year and signed up as a new member. Russ was attached to the Regiment from 1941 to 1945 and came from the 72nd L.A.D of R.C.E.M.E. He would like to get in touch with any of our members who are in or around the Toronto area. Russ can be reached at 905-885-7220 or email is joanrussgabby@aol.com. Please contact Russ if you are in the area as he would like to possibly meet some former acquaintances.

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**Take a moment TODAY - not tomorrow - and write a quick note to one of our soldiers in Afghanistan. It will make you feel good, and without a doubt, will make them feel good. The cost of a stamp and a few minutes of your time is all it will take. Do it now!**

# Melfa Weekend 2007

## May 18, 19 and 20th

This year the Melfa Weekend will kick off with a golf game at Maple Ridge Golf Course at 0900 . Our organizer, Terry **Leith** (521-0042) has worked hard to secure a course so it is hoped you will make an effort to play. In past years we have barely had enough members come out to make a four-some. Lets play golf!

The dinner will be Saturday evening on the 19th at the Roma Hall in Queensborough on Ewen Ave. This will be a several course Italian meal. The cost per person will be \$40. The Roma Hall is the community home of our Italian friends and we are hoping to have a few of them join us for the dinner.

Sunday will start off with a breakfast at the Armoury followed by the Annual General Meeting being held in the Officer's Mess.

Please do your best to come out to at least one of the events on this special weekend.

**Golf - Friday the 18th**  
**9:00 Start time at Maple Ridge Golf Course. Cost is \$27.**  
**A BBQ will be held at Bruce Howells residence after golf.**

**Museum - Saturday the 19th - 2pm-5pm.**

**Dinner - Saturday the 19th**  
**Saturday 19 May - 5:30 cocktails - dinner 6:30 pm. Cost is \$40 per person.**  
**Dress is business attire or uniform for the troops.**

**Sunday Breakfast -the 20th**  
**9:30 am at the Armoury. No cost for this. Museum will be open.**

**Annual General Meeting**  
**10:30 am in the Mess**

Melfa Weekend RSVP Tear-off and mail to Association by **10 May 2007**.  
 Make check payable to The Royal Westmister Regiment Association

<b>Golf - Cost is \$27.00</b>	<b>x</b>	_____	= \$	_____
<b>Dinner - Cost is \$40/person</b>	<b>x</b>	_____	= \$	_____
<b>Breakfast - Free</b>	<b>x</b>	_____	=	<b>nc</b>
<b>Total</b>		_____	\$	_____

**Print Name - \_\_\_\_\_ Phone No# \_\_\_\_\_**