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May 2008



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

Melfa Weekend 2008

May 16,17 & 18

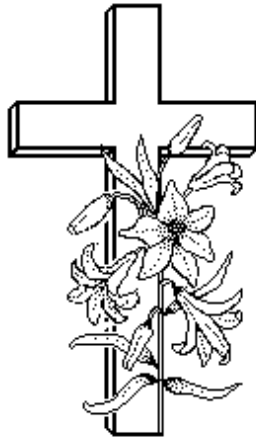
**Friends and family of TF 1-08 are invited to attend the
golf and dinner. Details on last page.**

Notice of Annual General Meeting

**The AGM of the Association is being held Sunday, May
18th at the Armoury. Start time is 11:00 am.**

Local Army Cadet Becomes a Hero!

And another Cadet heads for Royal Military College!



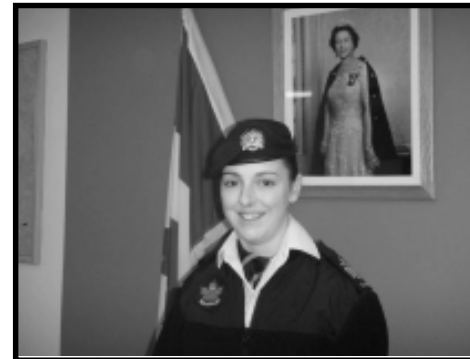
In Memoriam

Hector VEDAN, March 08, Burnaby BC.
Walter S. WESTLUND, July 07, Olds AB*
Joe SWIFT, April 08, Abbotsford BC.

* Curtesy of the RC Legion Last Post

Maple Ridge Army Cadet is off to Canada's RMC

1838RCACC, The Royal Westminster Regiment's CO, Capt. Christopher **Lee** is pleased to announce that **Cdt CWO Jennifer McGregor** has been selected to undergo the Canadian Armed Forces Regular Officer Training Plan (ROTP). CWO McGregor, an honour student from Samuel Robertson Technical Secondary, has been enrolled in RC Army Cadets since 2002. Since her introduction to cadets, she has worked her way through the ranks having attained the position of the Corps' RSM. Her training has taken her to the Vernon Army Cadet Summer Training Centre as well as training exchanges to Hong Kong and Germany. CWO McGregor will attend to RMC, St. Jean, Quebec, for one preparatory year prior to completing a 4 year degree program at RMC, Kingston, Ontario. Following successful completion of her degree, McGregor will be Commissioned as an Officer in the CFORces, where she hopes to take up her role as an Infantry Officer. Cadet CWO McGregor continues a proud family tradition of service to country following in the steps of her father (Seaforth Highlanders of Canada), and grandfather who served with the Black Watch Regiment in Scotland.



While youth who enrol in the Army Cadet program are under no obligation to go on to a military career, 1838 RCACC is proud to say that Cadet McGregor joins fellow cadet **K. Wynes** who will depart for basic training in May, following past cadets **A. Batch** and **M. Caissie** who also went on to serve following their tenures as Royal Canadian Army Cadets. Cadet CWO McGregor is expected to depart for St. Jean this August.

J. Donald E. Caissie, Lieutenant, Public Affairs Officer, 1838 RCACC, Maple Ridge.

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This Editor's Last Words!

As my routine is, get started on the next Groundsheet before the last one is even in the mail. That's just me. If I don't get started on it I will end rushing and just filling it up with items that don't create a lot of interest.

A new life for me! Well a career anyway. As usual I will bring you up to date on my on-going life cycle but feel free to jump to Steve **Cowan's** more than interesting two pages of his posting in Kandahar. For me, I've decided to end early retirement and get back to full time work. Last October I applied for a truck drivers position with the BC Government, Liquor Distribution Branch. Well last week (Feb 8th) I was told I was starting Monday. (Gov't doesn't move too fast when hiring.) So I am back to work 5 days a week and will be delivering liquor and other spirits to an LCB or beer and wine store near you. No I won't drop off leftovers, damaged goods, or half empty jugs if I'm by your house! I am really looking forward to this job as I love driving trucks and the work won't be too difficult. Just enough to get me in better shape for final retirement.

By the time you get this, 28 soldiers from our Regiment will have deployed to Afghanistan. **What have you done to show your support?** Get behind an initiative to recognize our soldiers and support them in some manner. They deserve just as our soldiers did in WWII and other conflicts. Lets hope they all return safe. Again we are inviting all the families of the soldiers to the Melfa Dinner. Any that wish to play golf are also welcomed.

An old friend passed away the other day (March). Jim **Thomson**. He wasn't a member of the Association but Jim's brother Rod **Thomson** is a former RSM and Officer in the Regiment and an Association member. Jim was a long serving member of the New Westminster Police and one of the Sgt's I served under. Jim was a former navy man and worked with the Navy League in the Armoury. Jim died at 66 years of age. He will be missed.

I will be requesting the new Executive look for a new editor of the Groundsheet. This is the eighteenth edition I've done since 2002 and I would like to pass the torch to someone else. I have enjoyed doing this newsletter but the last three or four have been a struggle and I always said I would do it as long as I enjoyed it. This little paper is certainly important to the Association, however, I think it is time to depend more on the web site as it is much easier to look after and it is current. I know some of you don't have access to the internet but that can be overcome by a smaller newsletter being sent to those that don't have a computer. I belong to a police association that has done exactly that. Stopped the paper version except to

a very few and the rest keep track of things on the web site. It works very well. The Association web site has been up for over a year now and is very successful. To find out who doesn't have the internet, the Executive can simply do a mailout and those that don't have the internet can return a questionnaire and those that do can simply send an email. And the cost saving for the Association will be a couple of thousand dollars a year that could be spent on other items. My plan is to keep looking after the web site as long as the Executive wants me to but as the editor of the Groundsheet, this will be my last issue. I want to take this opportunity to thank all those who commented how much you appreciated my effort. I am glad I did it and have no regrets. As I said, it is time for someone else to take the lead and put their touch to this paper.

I have also decided not to seek a position as Director with the Executive this year. I would like to step back from the Association and perhaps move my interests over to the museum and help them out. I enjoy being in the museum as it offers so much and with my background of having put a small museum together and publishing a history book, plus my family background, I feel I have a little to offer.

So that's the end of my story telling and tales of Ted Usher for now. Keep a watch on the web site because you never know I may put a 'blog' there to keep you posted on my boring life. Thanks again, all the best to everyone. **Ted Usher - No Longer the Editor!**

Sent: April 12, 2008 1:28 AM

To: Brian Mckenna; Capt Mackinnon; Capt Vernon; LCol Haussmann; Tm Sandulak

Subject: Darfur, Sudan

Good day everyone.

I am taking a few minutes to write you a couple of lines to let you know that everything is going well over here. I don't have much time since I am very busy with courses and camp inspections. The average temperature is over 40°C everyday and we are starting to see some sandstorms and later in June we should have some rain.

We are confined to the camp every day. The security went up last week because of an increase of shooting in the area and a UN vehicle hijack.

All the Canadian AVGPs that are in Sudan are spread out in over 30 camps throughout Darfur province. They are the major fighting vehicles in the region.

Also with running courses, I go inspect the camps where we have our AVGPs. We fly by helicopter (old Russian MIGs), inspect the AVGPs, weaponry and the living conditions in the camp, and we report all that to our chain of command. Also, I have the task of translating the AVGP and gunner course into French. That really keeps me busy, and I don't know how far I am going to get with this one because it's take lots of time.

A couple of weeks ago, we had the Foreign Affairs visit and a team from Ottawa to see the Canadian contribution into Sudan.

For any of you, you are welcome to send me news from the Regiment.

Thanks.

Paul Plante, MWO (Canada)

UNAMID, AVGP TRG ADVISOR

EL FASHIR, DARFUR, SUDAN

Presidents Report

Once again I would like to take the opportunity to report on what has been happening over the last few months with your executive. As usual we have been meeting on the first Monday of each month.

It is that time of year again when we are well into the planning of the Melfa weekend. This year the Melfa will held be on the weekend of May 16th through 18th. This year we will be returning to the Armoury for the Melfa Dinner after our fantastic dinner that we had last year at the Roma Hall. The dinner this year will be based on as described by our caterer a “Non-Barbecue Barbecue” sounds very enticing. I have seen the menu and I think one and all will enjoy the meal. The serving members of the Regiment will be having their end of year wind up with us at the dinner. This should mean that many more of our serving soldiers will be able to attend. There will be several presentations made after the dinner to recognize our Afghanistan veterans. The Melfa Golf Tournament once again will be held at the Maple Ridge Golf Course on Friday May 16th at 8:30 a.m. Cost \$30.00 per golfer. Terry Leith has it well in hand. Last year we had so many prizes that all participants received several. This year I extend an invitation to all serving members to come out and play. We had no representation last year and for the first time no one won the Low Net Serving Member Trophy. Lets correct that situation.

The dinner will be Saturday May 17th, cocktails at 6:00 p.m. with dinner at 7:00 p.m., cost \$40.00 per person. On Sunday May 18th we will be holding our brunch followed by the Annual General Meeting. Brunch starts at 9:00 a.m. with the meeting to follow at approximately 11:00 a.m. There is no charge for this event. Lets make the 2008 Melfa one to be remembered.

Our accoutrements committee has been busy this year. We have placed the order for the new “Bucky Beaver” Blazer Crests. We have also ordered a second batch of Association ties. These have been a very popular item. We are also planning new Regimental Association pins.

As most of you are aware the Regiment has twenty eight members presently serving in TF1-08 in Afghanistan and also one member serving in the Sudan. We have participated once again in donating to care packages for our deployed troops. We will be doing this at least once more during this deployment. If anyone would like to donate items it would be welcomed. I’m also sure our soldiers would like to receive a letter or post card from time to time from fellow members of the regimental Family. Please keep our serving soldiers in your thoughts as they continue their tours so far from home.

Lets see a great attendance at the Melfa. I look forward to seeing you all there.

Pro Rege et Patria

Alan Morton, President

Former Westie Recieves 4th CD Bar!

Colonel Larry **Watkins** OMM CD, Honorary Colonel of the Service Battalion received his 4th bar to his Canadaian Forces Decoration at a ceremony held in November last year. Col Watkins became eligible for the bar in March of 2006. That is 54 years of service to Canada. A remarkable milestone that only comes every so often. Col Watkins served the Westie’s back a few years ago and left as a Major to the Service Battalion. The Wesite Family certainly wants to pass on their congratulations to Col Watkins for this historcal event.

The Regiment

Greetings All Westies,

As I write this, we are winding down our training year and looking forward to the summer. We will end the year on May 17th with a reflexive shooting exercise in the morning and early afternoon when we'll return to the armoury, clean up and change into CFs for the Melfa Dinner. This annual dinner is organized by the Association and will be a wonderful chance to share a meal with former Westies, including the few remaining WW2 vets. It should be a great way to finish off the year. On that day we also expect to dedicate a memorial to MCpl Bason.

Our thirty deployed soldiers are now settling into their respective routines in Afghanistan and in the Sudan (MWO Plante). From what I've heard, they are performing very well and I know all ranks are proud of them. The family support group has really kicked into gear and is generating regular care packages for our soldiers. They will soon begin their mid-tour leaves which will help break-up the monotony. These soldiers will begin returning home in September and may require some assistance in getting back into the work force. We'll have a better sense of this as we get closer to their return dates. Despite the absence of such a critical mass of soldiers the Westies will have the largest contingent at the Brigade spring live-fire exercise in April-May and we'll be sending a large contingent of soldiers off for training this summer.

We expect to receive more details in the coming weeks of the next rotation to be staffed from Western Canada which will be called Task Force (TF) 3-09. From what we know it will deploy in September 2009 with workup training beginning in January '09.

The plan for next year has us working on patrolling in the fall, winter warfare in the winter, and urban operations in the spring. The Brigade exercise next year is scheduled for August in Wainwright and is called EX Maple Defender 09. We will also be conducting a BMQ course in the fall so our corporals heading off for leadership training this summer will have an excellent opportunity to gain instructional experience. Of course we will continue to emphasize fitness and battlecraft but we will try to put some extra emphasis on marksmanship next year as well.

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 on May 17th, we'll see you at stand-to on SATURDAY, September 6th, 2008.

Pro Rege et Patria

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

Our Cadets

***'I was scared like hell'* Burnaby youth receives silver and gold medals for saving teen who was stuck in pool filter.**

Jennifer Moreau, Burnaby Now Published: Wednesday, April 09, 2008

Last June, Caleb Gillett and a group of kids were swimming in his apartment complex pool in Burnaby when they noticed a friend was missing. When they found him motionless at the bottom of the deep end, they thought it was a joke. "We basically saw him sitting at the bottom of pool," Caleb recalled of his friend. But when the 13-year-old dove down to look, he realized it was serious. "I went down, swam down, and punched (him) to see if he would respond, and he didn't," Caleb said, estimating his friend was underwater for up to four minutes.

The boy, also 13, was a recent immigrant from Sudan and could not swim. Apparently, he had slipped into the deep end and his swimsuit was caught in the pool's exposed drain. "I was scared like hell," Caleb said, adding he came back up for air, took another breath and went down again. "I tried pulling him, but his bathing suit was stuck in the filter system," Caleb said. "I had to rip him out of his bathing suit ... then I pulled him back up." As the boy lay unconscious and not breathing by the side of the pool, Caleb thought maybe he was dead. "By that time, I was screaming for help basically," he said, adding his little brother ran to get their mom. Meanwhile, a woman swimming in the pool did CPR on the boy. "Whatever she did was enough to get the blood rolling," said Caleb's mom, Caroline Lefebvre.

She recalled how the boy regained consciousness: he sat straight up as if he were possessed, and started thrashing around, screaming and shouting in his native language. He had water coming out of his mouth and nose, and his chest was like a balloon. "It was pretty frightening," she said. "He said something in his language, and then all of a sudden there was like, this calm." The boy then asked what was happening, and his mom arrived shortly after as some of the kids had run to her home to fetch her. "She (didn't) really see the intensity, and how close she came to losing him," Lefebvre said.

By this time police, ambulance and firetrucks were on the scene, and paramedics took over. The boy recovered and is OK. He thanked Caleb afterwards and said he would pay him back.

On March 29, Caleb, now 14, was awarded the silver medal for bravery from the Lifesaving Society, an organization that honours the heroic rescue efforts of average people. During the ceremony, Caleb was surprised to get a second medal - the governor's gold medal for bravery - awarded for the single most heroic water rescue in the B.C. and Yukon. "I feel good," Caleb said, adding other people helped save the young boy's life: the woman who did CPR, whom they tried to find after but couldn't; and a friend named Imran, who helped lift the boy out of the pool. When asked if he felt proud to get the hero award, Caleb said: "When it happened, I wasn't really thinking of an award, I sort of just did it for him ... I'm happy he came out OK." Caleb's mom was also pleased. "I wanted people to know, because it's not every day a 13-year-old saves a life and has the altruism to do it without thought," she said.

Editors note: Caleb is a Corporal with 2316 The Royal Westminster Regiment Army Cadet Corps based in the Armoury in New Westminster. Well done Caleb! Your Regimental Family are very proud of you.

A Westie in Kandahar, Afghanistan

Last summer I was handed a notice about a vacancy as a Travel Coordinator with the Canadian Forces Personnel Support Agency (CFPSA) in Kandahar, Afghanistan. I had never dealt with the CFPSA and knew very little about the Personnel Support Program (PSP) of the Canadian Forces (CF). Even though I had been a member of the Primary Reserves, and now the Cadet Instructor Cadre (CIC), I only knew about the Canex operation of the PSP.

Having finished a 30-year airline career and being too old to go overseas in uniform with the CF, the CFPSA travel job looked very interesting. Besides the travel job there were retail jobs (including Tim Hortons) as well as recreational coordinators, barbers and other support jobs. Of the 2,400-odd applicants, 107 were selected for further training and screening at CFB Kingston in October. Some 96 finished the two-week course and I was one of about seventy who were selected to go overseas on deployment to Kandahar Airfield (KAF).

I arrived 04JAN08 and was greeted by wet, windy weather. The first day was in-routine with forms, ID card, laundry bags (2 numbered bags issued). Then a quick meal in one of the three dining facilities (called DFACs) followed by a walking tour of KAF. First impressions are that this is the only construction site in the world with its own airfield and army. I had arrived during a winter period of rain and then snow. The dirt and gravel roads were wet with large pools of water everywhere. That evening I had a chance to settle into my accommodation. I have a 6-foot by 8-foot curtained space in an 8-person weather-haven tent. The place is nice and warm and kept that way by the blower that is right by my nook.

As a Travel Coordinator I am one of a team of ten CFPSA civilian employees who look after the home leave for the CF members on deployment. Everyone works every day. In a 6-month deployment CF members get an 18-day leave period, plus travel time home and back to KAF. Each member is entitled to a Home Leave Travel Allowance (HLTA) and should a member choose to go elsewhere, the HLTA can be used to help pay for the transportation to and back from the leave location, up to a set dollar amount. Since this is designed to get members home, only transportation can be part of the HLTA, no accommodations, meals, day-tours, sightseeing or tourist attractions.

To ensure that each member gets home or to a “third location”, each Travel Coordination is assigned a block of members. As the Block Master it is my job to ensure that the 50+ members in that group have all their itinerary arrangements done by various deadlines, all tickets are issued and ready for distribution and any non-entitled travel arrangements not covered by the Department of National Defence (DND) are paid by the member before they go. Before the block leaves KAF a Departure Assistance Group (DAG) briefing is done. At the DAG the military staff go over various items with the members and then it’s the Block Master’s turn. The members are briefed on various tips, procedures and contact points. And the tickets are signed for by the members. When the block returns another briefing is given by the military staff. While the travel staff are not involved in an arrival briefing, our job is to ensure that the HLTA travel claim is done. For a simple straight forward KAF to home and return, with mileage for the family car between airport and home, a claim can be done in about 5-minutes. The fun is a claim going to, say, Thailand, where we need receipts and ticket copies. It’s fun to work with the members going over the trip details, hear their trip stories and to finalize their claim.

With the change from ROTO 4 to ROTO 5 the relative quiet in our office will turn very busy. We will have to do an out-routine for the departing ROTO 4. For ROTO 5 each and every member must come to the travel office to book their leave travel. The travel office runs 0800-2000 hours everyday. The fax machine will start glowing in the dark as we fire off travel requests to the contracted travel agency in Canada. Then each member must come in to verify their travel arrangements and costs. Everyone in the office turns too and we handle who ever in next waiting, regardless of the block they are in. Each Block Master follows a series of deadlines to ensure that each member's travel arrangements are completed on time. If you're not doing a booking, confirming details with the member and replying to e-mails and faxes, you are always checking your Blocks getting ready for a DAG. A DAG is every other day and each Block Master has a departure every ten days or so. When A DAG is held all staff attend to help distribute and review the HLTA details with the members.

Life here is never boring. I can dine in any of the three DFACs. For dinner (lunch) we usually go to the British DFAC, called, Cambridge. They always serve a range of curry dishes as well as other items. Our lines are near the American DFAC so we have breakfast in the Niagara DFAC. Over by the Canadian National Support Element (NSE) is the Luxembourg DFAC. It's amazing that whatever meal you have in what ever DFAC you rarely see the same people. It's always a mixture of uniforms and nationalities.

I didn't know there were so many types of desert uniforms. The Brit colours are similar to the Romanian, but more tan than brown. The USA Army colours have more green hues than tan. The Canadian colours appear to be more fitting to the local landscape. The Dutch look like the US Navy. The Estonia colours look good while the Mongolian colours are a dark pattern. It's a real fashion show on what nationality believes appropriate for desert or arid terrain.

I have attended three ramp ceremonies since arriving here. All the CFPSA staff attend and we fall-in behind the formation of Canadian troops. All the CFPSA activities cease while we pay our respects. The US and British forces also attend the Canadian ramp ceremonies. No one wants another ramp ceremony.

I am very impressed with the work done by all CFPSA staff. It's a real team effort and the various sections mix and socialize when time allows. I recently went to the local market. It's an area where the local Afghan merchants, having passed the security, set up various stalls for the KAF personnel. It's amazing to wonder around and see what it offered. There are lots of cloth good for the gifts back home, a wide range of trinkets as well a souvenirs made of stone, metal and wood. There were two stalls that included antique firearms including a Martini-Henry .577 drop-box British rifle dated 1855 (Second Afghan War, I think). And again the range of uniforms of the allied nations was fascinating to see. All the different range and formation badges made it more colourful.

I look forward to seeing any Westies in KAF. I know they have to come to our CFPSA Travel Office to book their home leave. I'd like to see anyone who may have attended the 2008 Regimental Dinner and I regret I will be unable to attend.

Steve Cowan,

KandaharAfghanistan,

(Former Lieutenant, R Westmr R Asst Ops O 1981-1983 with LCol Wilkes and

Regtl Paymr and NPFAO 1989-1993 with LCol White. Presently Lieutenant Commander CIC)

Is a CIC Officer a Member of the CF, a Soldier, a Youth Leader?

Short answer - **YES!** So where is this going? There is a long standing, rather ignorant attitude with the odd person in the CF that certain elements should not be included in *their* element. Meaning: A few regular forces (RegF) soldiers don't feel reserve (militia - PRes) are equal and should not be considered equal. As well, some reserve soldiers (and Officer's) don't feel the officer's of the Cadet Instructor Cadet (CIC) are members of the CF or at least considered equal in status. It is a small issue that occasionally crops up and it is basically an ignorant, often miss-understanding of what the other branch or element does or where they came from. This article is not an effort to try and persuade those that think this way to change their attitude but perhaps understand where it is the other comes from. And this problem does occasionally surface, it has almost diminished over recent years.

Not so much now, but I do recall when many RegF force personnel never considered the militia soldier an equal. Of course that certainly has changed with the recent integration of the PRes and RegF soldier. And you only have to look at Bosnia and Afghanistan to see the two working along side each other and no one can tell who is who. You now have PRes soldiers commanding RegF soldiers in the field. So what about the CIC officer.? Should they be considered equal to the PRes or RegF soldier? Equal in all aspects? Of course not. But respected for what they do and the contribution they make to the youth of this country and the position they are granted in their community is what is expected from their brother soldier. There is not enough space in this newsletter to tell you all of what a CIC officer working with a local cadet corps does, the hours they put in for no pay, the rules and regulations they are subjected to for working with the youth and much more.

So where does this come from? Recently a PRes soldier was overheard saying something to the effect that why a group of CIC officer's were being included in an event being attended by PRes officer's and NCMs. The tone was negative in nature. The statement certainly annoyed some CIC officers who overheard it.

For those of you in the PRes, I suggest you take a moment and go into the museum or on to the Association web site and take a look at any of the older group photographs of the unit officers. I challenge you to try a pick who are 'cadet' officers and who are 'unit' officers. You can't tell because they are all wearing the exact same uniform with the Westie hat badge. I recall in my earlier days when unit range exercises at Chilliwack were all run by officers from the cadet corps. This allowed the unit officers to do their proper job with their coy. I also recall a number of exercises when I was called upon as a junior CIC Lt to come along with the unit and fill platoon commander positions. I once commanded a platoon of APC's at Fort Lewis one MilCon and my platoon NCO was Ed **Farkas**, a militia WO. I was a 'cadet' officer. Col Howe **Lee** is the Honourary LCol of the Service Battalion. Col Lee was also a unit officer and a former CO of the cadet corps in the Armoury. I could go on for pages of CIC/CIL/CSofC officers who did regimental duty. That's just the way it was. They were considered equal in all aspects.

In recent years the role of the CIC officer has changed and DND ensures their focus is on their duty; to look after the youth of Canada in the Canadian Cadet Movement.

A CIC officer is sworn in under the same oath as any member of the RegF and PRes. A CIC officer's commission scroll is exactly the same one an officer in the PRes and RegF receives. CIC officers are subject to the same Code of Discipline. And on, and on, and on. Do they have the same job? No! A CIC officer receives training in the administration and training of Canada's largest youth organization that is partially funded by DND and partially by your community through Sponsoring Committees. It is up to the individual officer and soldier regardless of the branch of service to gain the respect of their fellow soldiers by how they carry themselves, how they dress and how they act. It is also up to the individual to educate the other on what it is we all do in our role in the CF. But most importantly, regardless of the branch (RegF, PRes or CIC), we are all members of the Canadian Forces and wear the uniform of this country. The fact our military occupation may read something different, we all have the same goals; we serve the Queen of Canada, we serve this country and we are all trying to make it a better place.

Going back to my first paragraph and why do people make these comments is based purely on their lack of knowledge of what the other does. It also has to do with decisions made in life about what they (CIC) want to do. Not everyone can or wants to serve full time as a soldier and that's why there are options. Some have other motives to simply want to work with the youth and what better way than with the Canadian Cadet Movement.

As a CIC officer myself, I have militia experience, cadet experience and was a police officer for almost 30 years. I feel I have served my country in equal status to any other man or woman who has joined the RegF or PRes and served their country. I made the decision to do it from my community. Have I always been ready to serve at time of war, conflict or crisis? I sure have.

It is situations like this I like to use my father, Jack Usher as an example. My Dad joined the militia and went overseas in WWII underage (he lied about his age). After he came back from almost 5 years in Europe, he served the Westies for another 30 years in the militia. He then went on and joined the CIL (CIC) in Nanaimo and served another 10 years. You would not want to be on the receiving end of a blast from Jack Usher if you told him that as a CIC officer, "he didn't belong" or questioned service.

My suggestion to anyone, regardless of the branch or the colour of uniform, when you hear someone making a negative comment about who they belong to or their role I suggest you step forward and let your feelings known and educate that person on what it is you do in your role. Being a soldier and serving your country is a noble and proud role and we should not be afraid to stand on our loyalty and make a positive statement supporting our cause.

As a second challenge; any PRes or RegF soldier who wants to try and entertain and supervise anywhere from 30 to 100 twelve to eighteen year olds are surely welcomed to try. You will soon learn that perhaps being fired at is a little less stressful!!! And I know many of you in those two branches (PRes & RegF) who have worked with cadets at corps and summer training centres know what I am talking about. Dealing with cadets (kids) and their parents is an incredible challenge that needs that special person to have the right skills and knowledge to do it. That's what the CIC does and they do it professionally..

A CIC may not be a professional 'soldier', but they are dedicated to an important part of the overall 'family' of the Canadian Forces and should be recognized for that.

Anyone who has feedback on this subject are certainly welcome to send it in to the Groundsheet.

Ted Usher, Editor.

Melfa Weekend 2008

May 16, 17 & 18.

This year the Melfa Weekend will kick off with a golf game at Maple Ridge Golf Course at 0830. Our organizer, Terry **Leith** (521-0042) has worked hard to secure a course so it is hoped you will make an effort to play. Lets play golf!

The dinner will be Saturday evening on the 17th.

Sunday will start off with a light 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 May 16th.

8:30 Start time at Maple Ridge Golf Course. Cost is \$30.

Museum - Saturday May 17th - 2pm-5pm.

Dinner - Saturday May 17th.

Saturday May - 6:00 cocktails - dinner 7:00 pm. Cost is \$40 per person.

Dress is business attire or uniform for the troops.

Sunday Breakfast - May 18th

9:00 am at the Armoury. No cost for this. Museum will be open.

Annual General Meeting

11:00 am in the Officer's Mess

Melfa Weekend RSVP Tear-off and mail to Association by

10 May 2007.

Make check payable to The Royal Westmister Regiment Association

Golf - Cost is \$30.00	x _____	= \$ _____
Dinner - Cost is \$40/person	x _____	= \$ _____
Breakfast - Free	x _____	= nc
Total	_____	\$ _____

Print Name - _____ Phone No# _____