



Volume 2008/Issue 3  
November 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'

P.O. Box 854, New Westminster, BC. V3L4Z8

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



## Lest We Forget

November 11, 2008

Service at the Armoury at 10:00 A M

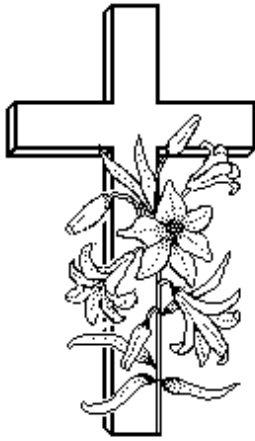
"They shall not grow old, as we who are left grow old.

Age shall not weary them, nor the years condemn.

At the going down of the sun, and in the morning.

....We will remember them."

- **Laurence Binyon - Act of Remembrance**



# In Memoriam

Edwin (Ed) Caney September 2008 Surrey BC 2316 RCACC & RCE

Wm (Bill) MacDonald September 2008 Vancouver BC The Royal  
Westminster Regiment

Barney Jones August 2008 Clearwater BC Westminster Regiment WWII

Walter Barnum July 2008 Nanose Bay BC Westminster Regiment  
WWII

Fred Deighton June 2008 New Westminster BC 2316 RCACC &  
Westminster Regiment

Danny Teal May 2008 Maple Ridge BC Westminster Regiment, CIL

Michael Dragon 2008 Vancouver BC Westminster Regiment WWII

Kenneth G. McLeod May 2008 Burnaby BC Westminster Regiment  
WWII

Raymond J. Rolandi April 2008 Burnaby BC Westminster Regiment  
WWII

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## Health and Welfare

I believe that it is the responsibility of all members of the regimental family to report both positive and negative aspects on our membership and their families. I am sure with such a young Regiment there will be births to report. So please drop me a line if you know anything.

This issue I have 2 people to report on. First Ron Hurley continues with his struggles and has his good moments as well as the poor ones. Second Herb Hamm has come down with a case of the shingles. Having had this myself I know how painful and long this can last. We wish both Ron and Herb well.

Your Executive

President

Alan Morton  
amorton25@shaw.ca  
604-525-6814

Vice President

Terry Ieith  
604-521-0042

Secretary

Herb Hamm  
hehamm@telus.net  
604-515-7933

Treasurer

Lee Cooke  
604-931-7232

Editor

Ian Wohlgenuth  
604-936-0554  
tedwohl@telus.net

Editor Emeritus

Ron Hurley  
2999 Bonnyvale Ave.  
Vancouver V5P 2G4

Directors

Mike Kvarmen  
Kelvin Butler  
Jerry Gargur  
Mat LaPorte - Regt rep.

Editor 's Report

Well it would seem I have a huge task ahead of me to be able to follow such an editor as Ted Usher. He has given the Groundsheet new life and provided us with several different approaches to look at the Regimental Family. As I look back on the six years he has been editor some of the interesting things he has done for the Groundsheet have been to provide a splash of colour, to increase and provide a more consistent content on our cadet affiliates, and to increase and provide new members from past Regimental members in our association such as Ed Farkas and Lorne Pleasants. Along with the Groundsheet Ted took on the maintenance of our nominal roll and started and maintain our website. I have taken over the nominal roll but Ted remains as our webmaster.

A little bit of background on me is that some of you will recognize me as a Past Association President and serving Director on our Executive. I was born and raised in BC and joined the Regiment in 1972. I served in the Regiment until 1992 when my civilian career became to demanding for me to serve the Regiment. During my tenure with the Regiment I was an infantryman and machine gunner. I served all infantry positions from rifleman to CSM. I also serve in the support company as Transport Officer and CSM. My favorite position was Infantry Section Commander. Although I served during the cold war and the demands on a reservist were not as they are today the Regular force still required reservists to fill out their company and battalion positions. I know this from serving with 3 Canadian Mechanized Commando in 1974 in Germany. Their Commanding Officer and RSM remarked on one of the Friday Battalion Parades that they finally had 500 on parade instead of the normal 250. On my civilian career I am an engineer with a global high tech company in semiconductors.

In keeping with Ted's tradition of discussing about visits with Association members I would like to talk about a trip some of us did to Salt Spring Island. In our visiting group were Tammy and Gary Brooks, Al Morton, and myself. Both Tammy and Gary are former Sergeants with the Regiment. Our goal was to finally visit Gerry and Linda Pickell at their

home on Salt Spring. Gerry was an RSM of the Regiment multiple times and helped to mature us as senior NCOs'. Gerry and Linda on numerous occasions cooked the turkeys for the men's Christmas dinner. Gerry finished up with the Regiment as the Logistics Officer in the late 1980's. Eventually, Gerry and Linda built a home on Salt Spring Island and retired to a simpler island life. When they moved to Salt Spring we promised to invade them with the Regiment, or some portion of it, and have party weekend. Well for 20 years we thought of this but nothing came about. The reasons are probably the typical involvements we always have in our own lives. So when Gerry and Linda came to the Melfa this year I had a conversation with Linda about a visit. She remarked that we should do it soon as they were going to move to the lower mainland soon. So I hastily organized our group to go over in July. It was well worth the effort. None of us had been to Salt Spring before so the weather, drive, and the ferry ride were very enjoyable. We did not get to see too much of Salt Spring as we had a lot of catching up to do and it was just a pleasant time with Gerry and Linda. They have 3 children Kristine (33) married in Calgary, Andrew (30) in Langley, and Edward (28) in the LDSH in Afghanistan. As usual the festivities included plenty of beer, wine, excellent cooked steaks, salad, and corn on the cob provided by Gary, Tammy and myself. Gerry and Linda provided the barbeque and strawberry shortcake with strawberries from their own garden. Not to be sold short Al provided his usual bubbling personality with a lot of his usual entertaining stories and that Scottish accent. The Pickells have a wonderful acreage with a fine home Gerry built himself. They have a dog and 60 chickens. It must have been a wonderful place for their kids to grow up. Certainly a big change from their 28 foot sail boat. So the afternoon, evening, and next morning were just a relaxing time to talk and caught up on everything. Linda served an excellent lunch and we were then off to catch the ferry. Gerry and Linda are planning to move to the Chilliwack-Agassiz region. We hope to see them more often.

This issue of the Groundsheet is light on articles as I did not start until October. I do thank the contributors for their input. We have the usual Commanding Officers Report, President's Report, and some information from the 2316 Cadets. I have also included the financial statements and budget information from our AGM held last May. Finally, I have included some images from Melfa Golf and the Melfa Dinner from last May.

For future issues I would appreciate some articles from our Regimental Family members. There are certain enough around to provide some simple paragraphs on the Museum, Afghanistan, Cadets, or Association related activities. I would hope some or one of those who has returned from Afghanistan would write about how things are going or what has happened since returning home.

Len Wohlgenuth

## Presidents Report

Once again, I would like to take the opportunity to bring you all up to date with what has been happening since the last newsletter in May. I hope everyone had a pleasant summer. The executive did not meet as usual through the summer, but is back up and running now.

The Melfa Weekend once again was a success. The Golf tournament on the Friday had 28 golfers, which is the largest turnout we have had in recent years. This year we had good representation from the serving members and I am pleased to say that the Low Net Serving Member Trophy was awarded to John Kim. Everyone received at least one prize. The Melfa Dinner returned to the Armoury on Saturday evening. Attendance was up on the previous year, an excellent buffet style meal was, I believe enjoyed by all. It was good to see some faces in the gathering that had not been to a Melfa in many years. Once again it was a great opportunity to catch up and to tell stories from the past.

The A.G.M. and brunch was on Sunday morning. The new executive was elected with a few changes from last year. Terry Leith is our new Vice-President, and Kelvin Butler has come on board as an executive member. I would like to say thanks to our departing members for their time and effort over the last few years.

One change of note to report is that Ted Usher has stepped down from being our editor and producing the Groundsheet after six years. I for one think he has done an amazing job, and I would like to say thank you. I know it is a big job and I must say the pay is nothing to write home about. So over the summer the word was out that we needed a new editor, someone able to work like a slave to a hard deadline and for no pay. Well, believe it or not that person did step forward and volunteer. None other than Len Wohlgenuth past president and executive member for many years. So Len, I wish you all the best with the task. To one and all I invite you to send any articles, stories, pictures etc. That you would like to see published, all input is welcome.

Remembrance day is fast approaching, and once again I am asking for a large turnout of association members. Lets show off our new berets.

On the Regimental side, it is good to hear that all our serving members have completed their tour in Afghanistan and are home. Also MWO Plante is home from his tour in the Sudan. We were able to take part in the sending of care packages while they were in theatre, we had also received some funds from other organizations and individuals, which assisted in this endeavour. Welcome home one and all.

I will sign off now, hope to see many of you on Remembrance Day.

Pro Rege et Patria

Alan Morton  
President

# The Regiment

Greetings current and former W esties,

We have just welcomed home the last of the TF1-08 veterans from Afghanistan and MWO Plante from the Sudan, all safe and sound. We did have a bit of a scare when, in July, Cpl Neil Carman was wounded in an IED strike. He was treated in theatre, and returned to duty to complete his tour, complete with a scar in his hindquarters! The thirty deployed soldiers are now enjoying a well-deserved leave, but will be returning to Regimental duty by Christmas. We will enjoy a brief period with all unit members in Garrison before the next contingent departs in February for workup training for Afghanistan. In true Westie fashion, another thirty soldiers have volunteered for the next rotation, which will be known as TF3-09.

The training year is under way, with a patrolling exercise completed in May, and a range exercise in October. November will see the unit's sections compete head-to-head, and December will have our troops practicing their winter warfare skills. We will have a bit of a late Soldiers' Christmas Dinner this year, as it will be on December 20<sup>th</sup>. That day will feature some Regimental 'professional development' with a theme of 'Building the Warrior Spirit' before culminating with the traditional dinner. The new year will see us build toward a large collective exercise in late April or early May in Shilo or Suf field. The unit is also running a recruit course at present, and will be involved in either a machine gun or leadership course in the Winter / Spring.

Westies have built quite an enviable reputation in this brigade for getting the job done and getting it done right. Part of this success is due to our excellent recruiting NCOs, and to the word-of-mouth recruiting that all members of the Regimental family do on our behalf. So thank you for your continued efforts at encouraging all suitable young men and women to call recruiting at 604-666-4282 to learn more about how to become a Westie.

Pro Rege et Patria

M.P. Haussmann  
Lieutenant-Colonel  
Commanding Officer

# Our Cadets

1789 Agassiz - No Report.

2316 New Westminster - Captain W. Blomme is presented 10 yr clasp for her CD by former CO

2316 RCACC, Major J. Blomme CD

Upcoming "Open HOUSE" 20 Oct

Halloween costumed "Festival of Fun" 27 Oct

Poppy sales with New Westminster Legion 7-9 Nov

Swim Night - 10 Nov

1838 Maple Ridge - No Report.

1922 Aldergrove - 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.

MIA / AW O L

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## Melfa Golf 2008 Winners

Low Gross

Low Net

Low Net Serving Member

Longest Drive

Closest to the Pin

Dan Bourke

Alan Morton

John Kim

Jerry Gangur

Terry Killam

## FINANCIAL STATEMENT 2007

### Balance Sheet

#### Assets

Pre-Paid Roma Hall (Melfa 07)	\$ 600.00
Bank Statement	\$ 8,501.78
O/s Chq #341	<\$548.05>
<u>O/S Chq #342</u>	<u>&lt;\$500.00&gt;</u>
Total:	\$ 7,453.73

#### Liabilities

Forward 1 Jan 07	\$ 19,734.76
<u>Loss 2007</u>	<u>\$ 12,286.03</u>
Total	\$ 7,453.73

### Statement of Income

Vancouver Foundation	\$ 4,260.70
Accoutrements	\$ 865.00
Dues	\$ 2,270.00
Donations*	\$ 4,870.00
Bank Interest/Close Cassino Act.	\$ 137.80
Italy 2006	\$ 3,050.00
<u>Melfa Weekend</u>	<u>\$ 2,916.00</u>
Total Income	\$18,369.50

\* Other contributions were made directly to the Future Fund

### Statement of Expenditures

Italy DVD	\$ 1,133.43
Melfa Weekend	\$ 5,609.52
Grant to Regiment.	\$ 500.00
Groundsheet	\$ 3,204.34
Accoutrements	\$14,453.43
Sundry: Website/PO Box/	
Afghan Pack/PO Box	\$ 909.79
Change Over Dinner	\$ 434.86
Future Fund	\$ 4,000.00
<u>Health and Welfare</u>	<u>\$ 210.16</u>
Total	\$30,655.53
Surplus/<Loss> 07	<\$12,286.03>



## Budget 2008 Income

Donations	\$11,000.00
Dues	\$ 3,000.00
Interest	\$ 5.00
Vancouver Foundation	\$ 4,200.00
Melfa Weekend	\$ 3,000.00
Life Memberships	\$ 500.00
Accoutrements -Sales	\$ 5,000.00
<u>John Ford Bursary</u>	<u>\$ 250.00</u>
TO T A L	\$26,955.00

## Budget 2008 Expenditures

Regimental Grant	\$ 500.00
Afghanistan Packages	\$ 600.00
Health and Welfare	\$ 500.00
Cadet Corps	\$ 1,000.00
Certificates	\$ 200.00
Accoutrements - Purchase	\$ 5,000.00
Melfa Commemoration - Preservation	\$ 500.00
Change Over	\$ 400.00
Poppy Fund	\$ 100.00
Future Fund	\$10,000.00
Groundsheet	\$ 3,400.00
Melfa Weekend	\$ 4,000.00
Sundry	\$ 225.00
<u>John Ford Bursary</u>	<u>\$ 250.00</u>
TO T A L	\$26,675.00

Melfa Golf 2008



Matthew Haussmann, Len Wohlgenuth, WWII Veteran Stan Conway, Jerry Gangur



Low Net Serving Regimental Member - John Kim

Melfa Dinner 2008



Ian Bailey?



John Haldorson, Dave Dunnington, Janet MacDonald

Melfa Dinner 2008



Mike Morrison, Ruby Carey, B. Henebery



Terry Killan, ?, Penny Caney, Bernie Killan