



Volume 2012/Issue 3
November 2012



The Groundsheet

The 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



Lest We Forget

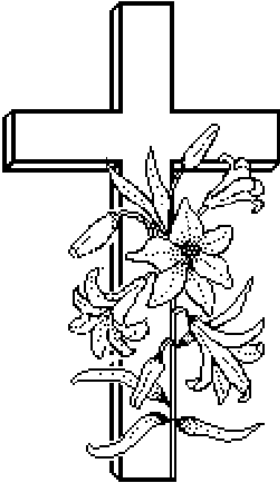
November 11, 2012

Service at the Armoury at 10 AM

“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



Adair William	Abbotsford BC	May 2012	Westminster Regiment
Clerihue Melvin	New Westminster BC	August 2012	Royal Westminster Regiment

Health and Welfare

OCdt Dan Stuart continuing with ongoing cancer treatments but still parading.

B. Meiers was in the province visiting and passes on his regards to the Regiment & Association

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.

Editor's Report

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Hello all again. I hope all is well with everyone. The Regiment is back from summer training and our Association Executive is back to our regular meetings. Note there have been some changes to our executive. Most notably is Sam our new Secretary. Also note that we have changed our address to the Armoury. We will still be using the PO Box for a while but using the Armoury will help getting quicker responses.

As I mentioned last issue we are losing several members now as our veteran's age. We are also losing contact with members. One member in particular is Bruce Eaton. I have been contacted by Paul Ferguson of the Chilliwack Museum and Archives. Paul noted that he believes there were two members of D Company left from WWII. When John McConnell passed away in 2010 there is only one left. That is Bruce Eaton. I reviewed my mailing list and found Bruce's address in Delta. Paul tried contacting him but someone else is at that address now. Paul has a flask related to D Company and needs to find the disposition of Bruce for a final engraving on the flask. I have put Bruce's name with several others we have lost contact with. If anyone has information on these people please drop us a line.

It has been a pleasure to receive another letter from Doug McNaughton. Doug has sent a newspaper article to share with everyone. Unfortunately we are short of space in this issue but I promise it will go in the next issue Doug.

Finally, we are trying to get information out faster to our members. To do this we would like to have every members email. Please forward this to my email at tedwohl@telus.net.

Len Wohlgemuth
Editor

A Blast From The Past



Four members of the Royal Westminster Regiment were among 18 British Columbia militiamen selected for a two month tour of duty with the 4th Canadian Infantry Brigade in Europe. Helping one another pack kits prior to their August 28 departure for Germany are, left to right: Cpl. Mike Rochon, 2779 Mt. View Road and Sgt. Ray Reynolds, 33561 King Road, both of Abbotsford; Sgt. Jack Loeppky, 2580 Clearbrook Road, Clearbrook, and Cpl. Brian Kingman, 2321 Railway Street, Abbotsford.

Sgt Ray Reynolds, Cpl Mike Rochon, Cpl Brian Kingman and Sgt. Jack Loeppky, me, went to Fort York, Soust, West Germany to be attached to the RCR 2nd Battalion Canadian Motor Infantry, ACP's in 1967. Loeppky and Reynolds were put in real charge of a platoon of four carriers each. The RCR's were good to work with and accepted us immediately into their operations.

For more images visit our website at <http://www.royal-westies-assn.ca/index.html> under the Regiment.

Presidents Report

I trust that everyone had an enjoyable and safe summer. Cadets going to summer camps and members of the Regiment taking courses.

The Melfa Dinner was by all accounts enjoyable. Thanks to all who assisted in making it a success. The food and the camaraderie were excellent. The Golf tournament was a success, thanks to Alan Morton. Next year will be a reunion to celebrate 150 years of service to the County of Westminster, so please plan to attend.

The 150 Committee is busy with projects for next year, beginning with New Years Levee. There is also a book with the history of the Regiment being produced.

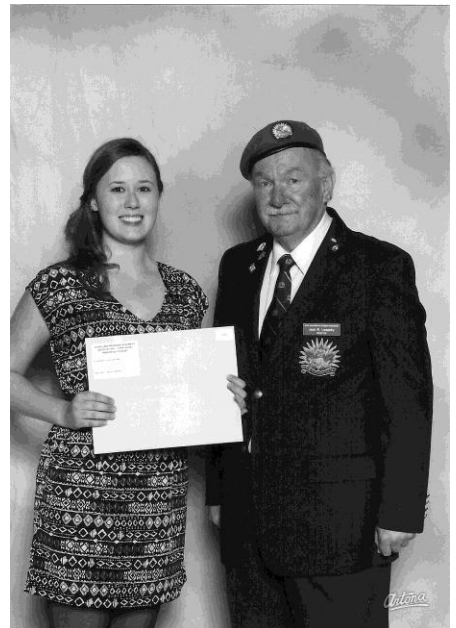
We are in the process of acquiring a Bren Gun Carrier to put on display outside of the Armory. The ASU will be putting a pad down on which the Carrier will sit. We have a photoshop picture in the Museum of what it will look like.

Our next function is Remembrance Day, and I would urge all members of the Association to take part in the Parade, and show the community that we are still strong.

Terry Leith

Pro Rege et Patria

**Jack Leoppky presenting the
John Ford Bursary to Laura
Tatarin at NWSS.**



The Regiment

The soldiers of the Royal Westminster Regiment have completed another tough summer of training and have moved into a new training year with many accolades. Major David Vernon was awarded the US army Commendation Medal for his action and service in the Joint Headquarters in Afghanistan. WO Mike Bergan attended the National Sniper Shooting Competition this past summer and brought back a 3rd place finish. Cpl. Neal Carmen (a Westie recipient of the Sacrifice Medal) and Sgt. Dean Baron participated in the mountain expedition as part of Outward Bound to raise awareness for the Wounded Warriors program. Cpl. Carmen has continued to his next objective, now having his sights set on scaling Mount Everest as part of the same program.

Three of our Westies Participated in selection for the Canadian Special Operation Regiment (CSOR) and were selected. Cpl. Thiesen, Cpl. Litzenberger and Cpl. D'Astoli will now take part in the national competition to become member of CSOR which falls under the Canadian Special Operations Forces Command, which includes JTF-2.

Returning from tour are Sgt. Joe Pingernon and MCpl. Tustin. They have brought back operational skills and knowledge learned as they took part in Operation Attention. Cpl. O'Keefe is currently deployed in Kabul, Afghanistan as part of the same Operation.

This year will be unlike any other in our history for a number of reasons.

The Westies have just kicked off the beginning of another great training year with. 2013 marks our Unit's 150th anniversary and it will be a year of great celebration. The Westies are ready to embark on a celebration of 150 years in the proud tradition of service and leadership within both our great nation and our community. The Royal Westminster Regiment is the oldest active military unit in British Columbia parading 282 soldiers this past September.

The westies have come a long way since then, but have still kept true to their values and honoring those that have severed and scarified before them. There have been many new and exciting things that have come about over the last training year. The regiment is realizing a new book put together by Sgt. Harley, It chronicles the important events over the last 150 years in the regiment's history. In addition the Westie family is growing exponentially, and with this increase size has come the largest influx of Officer Recruits the unit has seen in almost a decade. As a result of this, the commanding staff has instituted for the first time, a mentorship programme, unique the Regiment specifically tailored and designed to mold the mind of these young Officer Cadets into, competent leaders able to command troops both in garrison duties and in combat under the most challenging of circumstances. The mentorship programme is not only preparing these officer cadets with the infantry skills and tactics they will need to complete their phase training, but also the much needed administrative skills as well as developing them mentally by

nurturing and developing their leadership and warrior ethos, the hallmarks of any good officer. Officer Cadets coming off of their phase 1, Common Army Phase, training this past summer will tell you, the mentorship program has been an invaluable experience. Adding to the growth of the regiment are the new order sent down from brigade moving our “B” company from their home in Aldergrove to their new home at Area Support Unit Chilliwack. The Westies are the are contender for the largest infantry unit in the province, tied only I with the Canadian Scottish Regiment on Vancouver Island. With this new move there is even greater potential for more growth and development of the Westie family.

Major David Vernon is currently attached to 39 Canadian Brigade HQ in the planning cell (G5) assisting with the development of the Territorial Brigade Group for Domestic Operations and the move into old Area Support Unit Chilliwack (formally known as CFB Chilliwack). Capt Todd Phillips is currently attached to Joint Task Force North located in Whitehorse NWT as a staff officer in the Operations cell of (G3).

Major Chuck Mackinnon participated in Exercise Rapid Trident, a NATO and partners for Peace exercise conducted near Lviv, Ukraine. The exercise consisted of a US/Ukraine Brigade Headquarters and a Multi-National Brigade Headquarters plus various nations conducting STX (scenario training exercises). Canada assisting and providing its knowledge in Counter-Improvised Explosive Devices (C-IED). Major Mackinnon worked in the Multi-National Brigade HQ planning cell (G5).

Sgt. Todd Singer commissioned from the ranks (CFR) to become a lieutenant.

Our war artist Sgt. Chris “Bair” Hennybery is about to depart on his platoon Warrants Officer course in Gagetown, NB Joining OCtd. Scott Anderson who is currently attending his basic platoon commander Course, Development Phase 1.1 (DP 1.1) what some of you will recall as Phase 3)

As you can see while The Royal Westminster Regiment has served both our nation and our community for 150 years, in true Westie fashion we have never stopped moving forward and developing. We carry forward with us a proud tradition of 150 years of service and leadership.

OCtd. Bakas JA
R Westmr R

Our Cadets

1789 Agassiz-Hope - participating in community events and regular trg plan. Change of Command Parade to be held on Sat 6 Oct 12

1838 Maple Ridge - regular trg and weekend adventure trg commenced

1922 Abbotsford - regular trg and weekend adventure trg commenced

2316 New Westminster - regular trg and weekend adventure trg commenced

2822 Surrey-Delta 2822 started the year off with most cadets returning a about 15 new recruits. We had 22 cadets attending summer training throughout BC and Ontario. We are very proud to announce that we had C/CWO Chris Evans and C/MWO Sherman Ho pass there Basic parachute jump course this summer. On Sept 30, 2012 marked the anniversary of 2822, on Sept 29 2012 we gathered all pass cadets and officer together to celebrate and share old stories. We would like to say a special thanks to Col, Baker Macgrotty, Col Glen Richmond and CWO Mike Kelly for attending. A very special thanks to Major Ted Usher (retired) for MCing our event.

All cadet corps COs/Reps are invited to participate in a monthly CUB mtg with the Regt the first Tue of each month to discuss support items and provide updates on the status of each Corps.

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/AWOL

Bruce Eaton
Jordy Anderson
Terry Orser
Rick Cable
Kirsten Luomala
Joe Swift
Ray Pattenden
Jeff Courson
Travis Meade

2012 Melfa Golf Winners

Low Net - Bryan Gardner 73

Low Net Serving Member - Blair Henneberry 73

Low Gross - Terry Leith 85

Closest to the Pin - Perry Fiedler

Longest Drive - Bryan Gardner

Challenge Trophy - RWRA Team

Terry Leith 85

Lee Cooke 95

Alan Morton 99

Bruce Howells 105

Total 384

Something New Offered
Royal United Services Institute
and
Vancouver Military Studies Conference
Summary offered by: Jerry Gangur

Have you ever wondered what it would be like to be briefed about Canada's military role in the world by a series of generals, colonels and professors? What would it be like to meet and ask questions of senior officers who commanded major Canadian operations in Afghanistan? In the same room you would have historians offering their perspective and frank assessment of the likely long term lasting success of Canada's effort. Well, this is what awaits anyone who attends conferences sponsored by the Vancouver Military Studies organization.

Working with the Royal United Services Institute (RUSI), this was the second annual conference organized by the Vancouver Military Studies Conference (VMSC). One of the objectives of the RUSI is to provide a forum for public discussion and information. To this end the conference recruits quality speakers, both from military and civilian sources. The military group consists of serving and retired senior officers. On the civilian side, we see very able military historians, who may have views that offer very sober assessment of the long term success of our military contribution to some parts of the world.

Often little tidbits of information, as offered by Professor Terry Copp, are offered. In one instance, he referred to the optimism of the artillery planners, providing covering support for advancing troops during world war one. A medical team visited wounded personnel and recorded the number of wounded having shrapnel which originated from friendly fire. To find out the percentage of casualties suffered by friendly fire, you have to attend a lecture or scroll the internet.

One of the highlights of the two day conference was a presentation by BGen Andre Corbould, OMM, CD, the third grandson of the regiments' WW2 commanding officer, Lieutenant Colonel Corbould. BGen. Corbould was the former Deputy Commander of the 10 US Mountain Division (this Division relieved the Canadian Task Force in Kandahar, Afghanistan in 2011). His presentation was made together by a US Colonel who worked with BGen. Corbould. Hearing of the close coordination and cooperation between the commanders of both armies is most encouraging.

In summary the quality of personnel and information provided by the speakers is first class and all are encourage to attend the conference in year 12013. For further information go to: www.rusivancouver.ca.



BGen Andre Corbould and Jerry Gangur 1

October 2012

Dear Westies and Friends,

We are quickly approaching 2013 and our plans are well underway to celebrate 150 years of distinguished military service of The Royal Westminster Regiment. On behalf of the C150 Committee, I invite you to join us in celebration by attending events and supporting our 150th legacy projects.

There will be something for everyone – parades, marching bands, military displays, social gatherings, ceremonial events, music performances, art and history projects, a golf tournament, marksmanship competitions, a regimental ball, cadet activities, sporting events, salutes and tributes and a variety of legacy projects. Your participation and support will ensure a year to remember!

To stay informed about our Westies 150th, please join our email list to receive our monthly Westies 150 e-newsletter. Sign up at:
<http://visitor.r20.constantcontact.com/d.jsp?llr=o4ygxyiab&p=oi&m=1108931208174>

Together with the various communities in the County of Westminster, we will “Celebrate the past, commemorate the present and create the future!”

I look forward to seeing you in 2013!

Kind regards,

***Colonel K.E. (Karen) Baker-MacGrotty
Honorary Colonel
The Royal Westminster Regiment
Chair C150C***

Pro Rege et Patria

Balance Sheet

<u>Assets</u>	<u>Liabilities</u>
General Ledger \$ 26,273.59	\$26,273.59
Bank Statement \$9,788.03	150 th Committee \$ 2,000.00
Prepaid Expenses	Honour House Donations \$ 240.00
Melfa (Wine) \$387.00	Assn. Equity \$ <u>24,033.59</u>
Accountments <u>\$16,098.59</u>	Total <u>\$ 26,273.59</u>
Total: <u>\$ 26,273.59</u>	

<u>Statement of Income</u>	<u>Statement of Expenditures</u>
Dues \$ 2,814.00	Lewis Gun RWR Museum \$ 1,000.00
Lewis Gun JRs \$ 500.00	Health and Welfare \$ 140.00
Melfa Weekend \$ 7,235.00	Groundsheet \$ 4,161.84
Bank Interest \$ 1.23	Melfa Weekend \$ 6,344.50
Accountments \$ 75.00	R. Westmr. R \$ 500.00
Total Income \$ 10,625.23	Afghanistan Portrait \$ 100.00
	Seaforth Dinner \$ 80.00
	P.O. Box/ Misc Postage \$ 291.26
	Website \$ 168.74
	Remembrance Day/Vimy Wreaths \$ 183.00
	150 th Committee \$ 2,000.00
	<u>All Ranks BBQ</u> \$ 400.00
	Total \$13,597.06

<u>Budget 2012 Income</u>	<u>Budget 2012 Expenditures</u>
Donations \$ 600.00	Regimental Grant \$ 500.00
Dues \$ 2,000.00	Afghanistan Packages \$ 500.00
Interest \$ 5.00	Health and Welfare \$ 200.00
Vancouver Foundation \$ 2,500.00	Cadet Corps \$ 1,000.00
Melfa Weekend \$ 3,000.00	Certificates \$ 200.00
Life Memberships \$ 200.00	Accountments – Purchase \$ 1,000.00
Accountments –Sales \$ 1,000.00	Memorial Preservation \$ 300.00
John Ford Bursary \$ 250.00	Change Over \$ 400.00
TOTAL \$11,555.00	Poppy Fund \$ 100.00
	Future Fund \$ 600.00
	Groundsheet \$ 3,400.00
	Melfa Weekend \$ 3,000.00
	Sundry \$ 225.00
	<u>John Ford Bursary</u> \$ 250.00
	TOTAL \$11,675.00

MELFA 2013

The 2013 Melfa Dinner will be held on the 25th of May. We would like to make it a large reunion to celebrate the 150th Anniversary of The Regiment. To make it easier on the organizers, we would appreciate early responses. We have to let the caterer know, and then we must prepare the layout of the Armory based on the returns that we get.

Persons coming from out of town and would like accommodations should let us know as early as possible so that we may block some hotel rooms. The cut-off date for tickets will be two weeks before the dinner (the 11th) There will be no tickets sold at the door. A reminder that Melfa 2012 was sold out.

Also, we would like to have volunteers to assist the committee in organizing the Golf, Dinner and The AGM.

You may reply to the following e-mails tmleith@gmail.com hehamm@telus.net or captsamme@gmail.com

You may also reply by letter to
The Royal Westminster Regiment Association
530 Queens Avenue
New Westminster, B.C. V3L 1K3

Bren Gun Carrier Project

The Bren Gun Carrier project is proceeding as planned. We are trying to have the Air Force Engineers bring it over to help defray costs. Then a group of Volunteers, headed by Hans Mulder will restore it and prepare it for mounting outside the Armory. We are still in need of donations to complete the restoration of this Carrier, so any assistance that members can give will be appreciated.

Buster's Boosters

The following individuals have made Donations to the Association. Some are for the Bren Gun Carrier Project, and others are general donations.

Doug McNaughton
Serge Touchette
Jerry Gangur
Matthew Skinner

Freda Hogg
Walter Tyler
Terry Leith

Bruce Howells
Andrew Trafanako
Bill White

Gerry & Linda Pickell
Tom Walton
Karen Baker-McGrotty

All donations are greatly appreciated. The donations help the Association carry out projects and keep the groundsheet going.