



Volume 2013/Issue 2  
April 2013



# 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'**

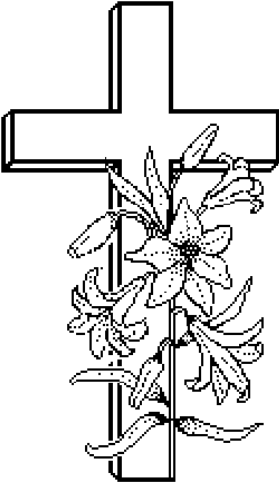
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**[www.royal-westies-assn.ca](http://www.royal-westies-assn.ca)**

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# *In Memoriam*



|                                 |               |                |                            |
|---------------------------------|---------------|----------------|----------------------------|
| <b>Alan Manual</b>              | March 2013    | Kamloops BC    | Westminster Regiment WWII  |
| <b>Charles Henry Birch</b>      | March 2013    | Vancouver BC   | Royal Westminster Regiment |
| <b>John (Jack) Allan Hughes</b> | April 2012    | Maple Ridge BC | Westminster Regiment       |
| <b>Gordon (Bus) Morrison</b>    | February 2013 | Banffshire UK  | Westminster Regiment WWII  |
| <b>Alfred White</b>             | November 2012 | Toronto ON     | Westminster Regiment WWII  |
| <b>Dick Reimer</b>              | February 2013 | Kamloops BC    | Westminster Regiment WWII  |

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## **Health and Welfare**

Peter Koch in the hospital undergoing cancer in the thyroid treatments.

George Dominic's wife passed away 4 months ago and he is feeling a bit low.

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.

## **Your Executive**

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Gary Grigg  
Kelvin Butler  
Alan Morton  
Jack Leoppky

## **Editor's Report**

Hello all again. Well things seem to be shaping up for the 150<sup>th</sup> celebration. Included in this are some notices of events that will be happening throughout the year.

Notice that there are multiple websites to gain information so please check with the 150<sup>th</sup> site ([www.150.royal-westies-assn.ca/](http://www.150.royal-westies-assn.ca/)), the Association site ([www.royal-westies-assn.ca](http://www.royal-westies-assn.ca)), and our Facebook site.

It is nice to know that Ed Farkas, Chuck Prince, The Usher Brothers, Rob Halverson, Doug Nobel, Dave Delisle, Gary Brooks, Graham Burton and I hope many others will be attending the Melfa.

It has been a pleasure to continue to receive letters from Doug McNaughton. He is 91 years old and lost his wife last August. We welcome his donation for the Bren Gun carrier Project. He would like to see a White Scout Car on display one day as well. I am sure many of you who served in WWII would also like to see one.

As we approach the Melfa Weekend and our annual General Meeting we will be losing our President. Terry will be taking over the museum and so will still be part of our executive. We will, however, be needing a new president and some additions to our executive. At our next meeting in March the executive will strike a nominating committee. I would ask that all of you Association members consider becoming a member of our executive.

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](mailto:tedwohl@telus.net).

Len Wohlgemuth  
Editor

On March 20<sup>th</sup> the Regiment hosted a Medals parade at the Armoury. The parade presented

Capt Pong: Canadian Peacekeeping Service Medal,  
CD2

Sgt Buikema: Op ATHENA Roto bar

Cpl McKay: Op ATHENA Roto bar

Cpl Wilson: CD

Additionally, Walter Tyler received his CD with Bar. Walter served with the Regiment, after his service in WWII, into the 1960's. As Lt. Col. Poitras put it “ This is proof that the Westies may be slow on getting these things done but they will eventually be done.”



Lt. Col. Doug Poitras and Walter Tyler

## Presidents Report

It has been a short time since my last report; however, it has been a busy time.

Walter Tyler, Stan Conway Myself and the RSM Kelly attended a memorial for Ditrick (Dick) Reimer.

The family appreciated the support and presence from the Regiment and Association.

I also attended a service for Charlie Birch, a former Captain with the Regiment.

Walter Tyler finally (after 56 years) received his CD. It was a very moving presentation by the Commanding Officer, LCol Poitras. It was filmed by Global TV's Aaron McArthur who did a very excellent report. It was even on the National News.

The preparations for the Melfa Dinner Reunion are well under way with 170 responses so far and about 42 have already paid. If you haven't replied yet and are planning on attending, please do so soon as the tickets are limited. The dinner committee is working hard to make this an outstanding reunion.

Also remember that the Association will be in the Hyack Parade, so if you would like to join us on the vehicle you are more than welcome. Come and show the citizens that we are still in existence.

I attended the Regimental Easter Egg hunt on March 30<sup>th</sup>. It was well organized by Dawn Kelly, Meghan Trafananko, The RSM and Tina. The kids had a very good time with the Easter Bunny and lots of food. The RSM said they plan on doing it again next year. I will try to give more warning for the Association to attend.

The Vimy Ceremony was held at Victory Square in Vancouver on April 7<sup>th</sup>. Jack Loeppky and I laid a Wreath on behalf of the Regimental Association in honor of the 47<sup>th</sup> Bn. Kelvin butler, Michael and Janet Kvammen also attended and Janet took Photos of the ceremony

See you at Melfa

Pro Rege et Patria

Terry Leith  
President

## The Regiment

The Royal Westminster Regiment is wrapping up an amazing year of both training and transition. On April 1, we ‘stood up’ our D Company in Chilliwack, officially bringing our presence at CFB Aldergrove to a close. The move further into the valley enables the Unit to support most of the Lower Mainland when required. It also enables the Unit to bolster their potential for growth and development in the coming years.

Our 150<sup>th</sup> Anniversary celebrations continued, showing our proud tradition of leadership and service to both our country and our community. This year’s annual dinner was a resounding success with a fully subscribed attendance. VIPs from across the County of Westminster were in attendance for the event. Our special guest speaker was Mr. John Furlong from VANOC who shared his feelings of pride and solidarity when his country came together for a single cause. To continue this year’s celebrations, make sure to join us for the upcoming Melfa dinner happening in May.

The training of our soldiers has ramped up over the last three months. In preparation for a number of collective training exercises, we have conducted live fire manoeuvres and attacks. We have been sharpening our skills with the tools of a modern infantry platoon, such as our M203 grenade launcher and our C6 heavy machine gun. In March, we conducted the first of our annual collective exercises in the Fort Lewis training center. Located 15 km southwest of Tacoma, in the shadow of Mt Rainier, the base provided our soldiers with an area large enough to facilitate the conduct of a platoon level live fire attack. In total, six attacks were executed, resulting in a great deal of confidence in our soldiers at every level. There was even a class on navigation by the stars taught by Sergeant Joe Cullen of 3 Platoon.

Throughout the remainder of April, the unit will participate in a larger collective training exercise for infantry units called Cougar Ducimus, which will be the conduct of a live fire ambush in the Chilcotin training area. Our Domestic Response capability will also be tested at a joint forces simulator in Regina during Domestic Ram. As the 2012/2013 collective training year comes to a close many of the Westie soldiers are preparing to go on summer training and tasking. Others, such as Major David Vernon and Captain Todd Phillips, are preparing to go on the next rotation to Afghanistan called Operation Attention. Some, such as Cpl Lowell Kingston, are currently serving their country overseas and doing the Regiment proud.

Submitted By,

Ricardo Manmohan  
UIO

View of Mount Rainer from Ft.  
Lewis WA.



## Our Cadets

**2822 Surrey**- No Report.

**1789 Agassiz** – See page 9.

**2316 New Westminster** – No report

**1838 Maple Ridge** - No Report.

**2822 Surrey** – No Report.

**1922 Aldergrove** – No Report.

### 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

David Gowler  
Sam (Keith) Sutter  
Ed E Davies

## MUSEUM

If there are any retired or unemployed people who would like to volunteer at the museum, we would welcome the help. See Terry or Herb @ the museum. WE are open Tuesdays and Thursdays from 11:00 AM to 3:00 PM

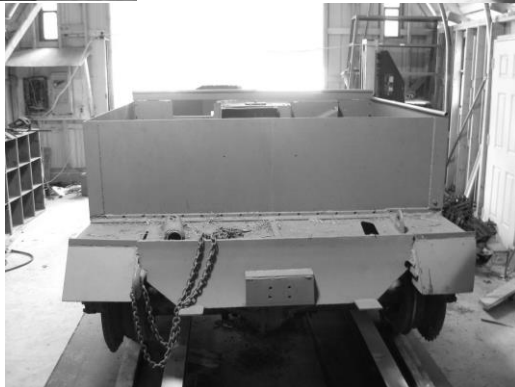
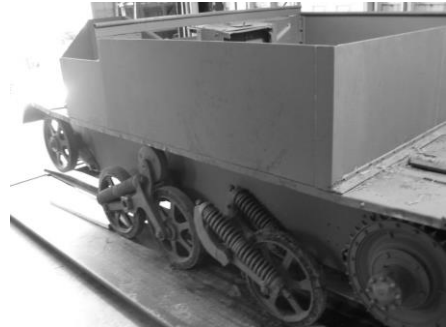
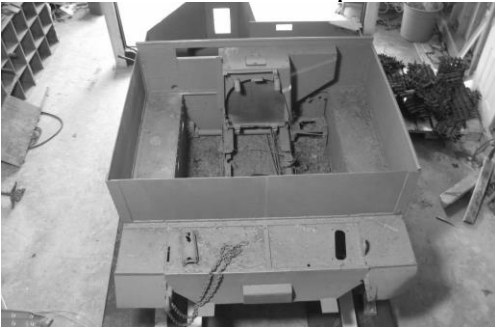


## **“Give us the tools and we will finish the Job!”**

We are approximately 50% complete on the Bren Gun Carrier monument. This monument is in recognition of the efforts of our WWII vets and the families who supported them at home.

We have raised \$3900 of the \$9000 or approx 45% to goal. Buy our Westie “Victory Bonds” by providing donations to help us complete this Salute to our WWII veterans and there families.

Here are the latest pictures of the Bren Gun Carrier in its current state.





Dear Editor (Len),

*Please accept this submission for the upcoming Groundsheet in regards to activities undertaken by 1789 RCACC.*

The training year has been a challenge so far with a complete changeover of training staff in **October** including the Commanding Officer of the Corps. Due to a decline in membership in the Agassiz training location and an increase in the Hope location, the difficult decision was made in **November** to consolidate training and resources in Hope, especially since there were only three officers left on staff. Luckily there were only a few cadets affected by the move.

In **December** we had our Christmas Dinner that from henceforth is designated as the “**Ravenna Dinner**” in order to enjoy the camaraderie of friends and reflect upon the sacrifices that our forefathers endured while campaigning in Italy the winter of 1944.

*“On December 23, 1944, the regiment was withdrawn for rest at Ravenna after 43 days and nights of continuous combat.” ~ Wikipedia*

**January** started off on a great note with many exciting updates and changes. Our first Winter Field Training Exercise (FTX) was held at the Britton Creek Rest Area and all feedback received indicates it was enjoyed by all. The snow was excellent for our snowshoe hikes and BZ to those cadets digging snow shelters that passed inspection as safe enough to sleep in overnight. It was also the deepest fire pit I ever saw thanks to the five feet of snow up there.



We have a Facebook fan page called “**UPPER FRASER VALLEY ARMY CADETS**”, so check us out there if you like to view more pictures.

Also over the month of January, thanks to great fundraising by our Sponsor Committee we have been able to order and received our Regimental accoutrements. Pretty soon in the Agassiz and Hope area you will see “The Royal Westminster Regiment” shoulder titles on every cadet tunic, regimental cap badges for our Red Star and up cadets, regimental lanyards on our Master Corporals and red sashes with regimental belt buckles on our Sergeants. Permission has been requested and granted by LCol Poitras to change the official name of the cadet corps to, “**1789 The Royal Westminster Regiment Cadet Corps**”, versus just

the Army Cadets title. Add to that the Regiment's 150th Anniversary pins we have been authorized to wear and there are some pretty sharp cadets out there!

Regimental esprit de corps is alive and well in the Upper Fraser Valley and we are excited to learn that our affiliated unit will soon be joining us in establishing a firm presence in the Upper Fraser Valley with the establishment of a company at ASU Chilliwack.

M.E. Sam Ronholm, CD  
Captain  
Commanding Officer  
[CO.1789@cadets.gc.ca](mailto:CO.1789@cadets.gc.ca)



**Your Executive with Other Members and our new Association Banner**



## SAVE THE DATE

### UPCOMING EVENTS

|   |  |
|---|--|
| <b>39 CBG Garrison Military Ball</b><br>Saturday, April 6, 2013 | <b>Baptism of Children at Holy Trinity Cathedral</b><br>Sunday, May 19, 2013 (TBC) |
| <b>Hyack Anvil Battery Salute</b><br>Monday, May 20, 2013       | <b>Melfa 2013 Reunion Weekend</b><br>May 23 - 26, 2013                             |
| <b>Hyack International Parade</b><br>Saturday, May 25, 2013     | <b>Cadet Corps Combined ACR</b><br>Saturday, June 1, 2013                          |

**JOIN THE FUN!**  
**HELP CELEBRATE 150!**  
**NEW C150 WEBSITE LAUNCHED!**  
**Stay Informed!**

Our new Westies 150 Website was launched in mid-December. Visit: [www.150.royal-westies-assn.ca/](http://www.150.royal-westies-assn.ca/)  
 Check the website periodically for updates and new events/projects.  
 Please sign up for our e-Newsletter through the website link to receive updates monthly.

**New C150 Pin, C150 Commemorative Medallions, C150 Window Decals**

Just released! C150 Items are selling very fast and we have placed another order for more inventory. Please visit the website to view the items for sale!  
 Contact a C150 Committee member to purchase!

#### **Melfa Weekend:**

**HOTEL ACCOMODATION:** Special arrangements have been made at the Inn at the Quay for The Royal Westminster Regiment at only \$129 plus tax per night. To reserve phone 604-520-1776 or toll free: 1-800-663-2001 and quote Group Code: WESTIES. This special rate is not available online. Limited number of rooms available. Book ASAP! (Please note: this is the same weekend as the Hyack Festival and all hotels in town will be sold out early. Act now to avoid disappointment.)

# MELFA WEEKEND 2013

## May 24, 25, and 26

### **Melfa Golf:**

Location--- Delta Golf Course  
11550 #10 HWY  
Delta, B.C.

Date—Friday May 24, 2013

First Tee-Off – 0900 Hrs.

Cost -- \$60.00 per Golfer (Includes Golf, Sandwich and a Beer)

Registration by May 17, 2013

Contact—Alan Morton 604 315 2114 [amorton25@telus.net](mailto:amorton25@telus.net)

### **Melfa Dinner:**

Location—The Armoury New Westminster

Date – Saturday May 25,2013

Cocktails 1800 to 1900 Hrs.

Dinner at 1900 Hrs.

Dress—Casual Dress (No Jeans) or Uniform

Cost--\$50.00 per person by May 11, 2013—No Tickets after that date

RSVP by mail or e-mail to [tmleith@gmail.com](mailto:tmleith@gmail.com) or [hehamm@telus.net](mailto:hehamm@telus.net)

### **Brunch/AGM:**

Location—The Armoury New Westminster

Date—Sunday May 26,2013

Brunch—0930 Hrs.

AGM—1100 Hrs.

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Golf—(\$60.00 per person) \_\_\_\_\_ = \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Dinner—(\$50.00 per Person) \_\_\_\_\_ = \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Brunch—(No Cost) \_\_\_\_\_ = N/A

**TOTAL** \_\_\_\_\_ \$ \_\_\_\_\_

### **Mail to:**

The Royal Westminster Regiment Association  
530 Queens Avenue  
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V3L 1K3