



Volume 2015/Issue 3
November 2015



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’

**530 Queens Ave,
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Canada,
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Lest We Forget

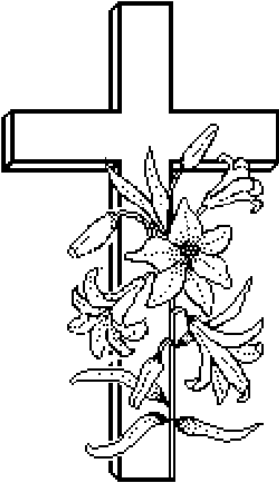
November 11, 2015

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



Wilfred Tyo	Cornwall ON	April 2015	Westminster Regiment WWII
Lloyd Jago	Kamloops BC	July 2015	Royal Westminster Regiment

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.

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Editor

Hello all. Although I thought I would be out of this job by now, it did not happen. For the moment I will continue as editor to not leave communications in jeopardy.

This issue we have multiple contributions from Doug McNaughton, SAM Ronholm, and our treasurer Lee Cooke. Doug has provided use with the obituary and another clipping about Wilfred Tyo who passed away last April. There are still a few of our WWII veterans around. Doug, I do not mind any of your errors. If I could be 50% as able as you at 94 years young I would be very satisfied. SAM has provided an interesting article from our cadets. Lee has provided our financial statements. Financially we are looking very strong.

Many of you who served in the 1980's will recognized Lloyd Jago in our last post. Lloyd was one of my reliable drivers I had when I ran Transport in the Regiment. It is so said to see someone go so young. I understand Mike Kelly visited with Lloyd before he passed.

I managed to see the film Hyena Road and would recommend anyone to see it.

Len Wohlgeomuth

2008-801 4th St. East,
Cornwall, ON, K6H 7M8
20 April 2015

Dear Len:

I am enclosing an obituary notice and another newspaper clipping referring to Wilf TYO, one of the 6 Cornwall and area who served with the Westminster Rgt. (M).

Wilf and his brother William (Bill) were assigned to the Westies while we were in Italy and served the rest of the war with the Regt. He was a proud member of the unit and was always decked out on the Nov. 11th parade with his beret and Westie badge, We met regularly at a Nov. 10th dinner put on by the local Legion for veterans and other service personnel. Also included is another clipping pertaining to Wilf that you might find interesting.

I enlisted in Nov. 1940 with the Victoria Rifles, a Montreal regiment and after serving from Nfld to Nanaimo was sent o/s on a draft following the breakup of the unit. I was assigned to the Westies in Sept. 1943 and served in "A" company signals until early June 1945 when I volunteered for the Pacific Force. I considered myself fortunate to have been a member of the Westminster Regt.(M), a great unit with a fine group of officers and other N.C.O's led by our Company Commander, J.K.Mahony and then Maj.Neil. I returned to Canada for leave and then with surrender of Japan was discharged in Sept. 1945.

It is sad to note that I am the last living member of the *other* five from the area and being in my 93rd year my time is limited.

I enjoy reading the Groundsheet and am enclosing a small cheque to be used for some purpose at the May 23rd dinner.

Best regards and forgive the typos, my old typewriter doesn't spell well.

Doug McNaughton

Presidents Report

Good day Fellow Westies

Its good to be back communicating again in our first groundsheet since the Melfa. It seems we've learned a lesson at the melfa dinner, and probably one thats been learned before and that is that it may be too much to do an AGM and a dinner in one day. Both require energy and attention, and our intent this year is to return to the way of the past and have them on separate days.

On another note, regimental milestones matter and we've just hit an important one. I join the rest of the association in congratulating two fine NCO's of the regiment. MWO Bryan Gardner has just recently participated in the change of appointment ceremony and is our RSM. I've served under Bryan myself and he's a great leader. He'll give great leadership to the NCOs of the regiment, and top quality advice to the CO. And of course he'll have great advice himself from our outgoing RSM, CWO Mike Kelly. For many years, on many projects, Mike has been "the guy." He gets things done and he loves this unit. Thanks for your service up to , and including, your time as RSM. And we are glad that you'll still be around.

We've also suffered a hit to the regimental family this summer for our honouraries. Both our current HCOL Karen Baker Mcgrotty who lost her father, and our former HCOL Les Deane lost his beloved wife. As well, George Dominic passed away and we now really feel the weight of having few left from that generation that served Canada so well. It does however lead us to an interesting conversation about commemoration; specifically what we are going to do as an association and a regimental family for the 75th anniversary of the Melfa Crossing. Rest assured that we will not let this date pass us by and we will commemorate it, and we are currently meeting with the command team of the regiment to figure out the 5 W's on what is going to occur. We also will be having another important commemorative event in the future as the regimental colour may be updated to Reflect the AFGHANISTAN battle honour that has been bestowed on the regiment.

There are some other updates that I'd like to draw your attention too, and particularly emphasise that those things you bring up to us in correspondence and at the AGM produce action in this association. It was identified that the flag poles inside the armoury needed upgrading.

Broomsticks and gun tape worked for a while, but a better product was deserved. So we've acted, and contributed funds to the regiment to replace the provincial and territorial flags hanging above the parade square. It was identified that the BBQ's that the regiment had were weathered and old. A new one was provided by the association for the regiment to use as it sees fit. As the minister of veterans affairs often says " a gap was identified" and that gap was that there should

be a post secondary scholarship that serving members could apply for. We've done work on that, and identified the funds to be provided. We've established a criteria to apply for the scholarship as well as the adjudication plan for assigning the scholarship. Details will be coming soon but I'll use this forum to make this point clear. This scholarship will be a substantial amount of money, and the recipient will be someone that both the regiment and the association can say is a deserving member. Details to follow.

Its important for me to let you know that there's a change coming in the groundsheet team. Len is taking a break and he's earned it. Producing this publication is one of the more time consuming endeavours we do, but its vital to maintaining communication and for its historical content. Thanks Len. And thanks to Sgt Paul Guilmain for stepping up in his place. We can all help Paul, and we will all help Paul as we move forward. Simple things like making sure dates, times, names are accurate and making our submissions on time will aid this publication a lot.

Lastly, I'll reflect on my own situation. I'm retired now. That sounds as odd to me as it does to those around me. I think I'm now getting a glimpse of what the founding members of the association felt like as they were all demobilizing. I miss it already. But the good news is there's work to do here, and we can still be part of the crew that affects positive change on Canada, by helping look after the lads that still wear the uniform.

Pro Rege et Patria

Brian McKenna

Museum

For anyone who has memorabilia and artifacts that pertain to the Regimental history, the Museum would appreciate the items being donated to us. We would rather have the items here than being tossed in the garbage can. You can contact the museum through the website or come into the Museum. We are open on Tuesdays and Thursdays between 11:00 AM and 3:00 pm.

The Regiment

Since our report this past spring, the Westies have participated in a number of exercises, completed the summer individual training cycle, and responded to various taskings across Canada.

From April 30 to May 3, the Westies, along with over 200 soldiers from eight different units across 39 CBG, took part in Exercise DUCIMUS THUNDER 15. The intent of the exercise was to conduct a combined arms training event, focusing on infantry routine in the defense. The exercise took place at Yakima Training Center in Washington State, and featured state-of-the-art interactive targeting systems and live role-playing actors who simulated civilian and irregular force scenarios – all throughout a training area containing 327,000 acres of terrain that was well suited for live fire and maneuvering. In particular, the exercise provided a valuable opportunity to train in a physical environment markedly different from southern British Columbia.

The summer was also a very active period, with Westies participating in a number of taskings, courses and community relations events, including appearances at the Cloverdale Rodeo, the Hyack Parade and the Abbotsford International Airshow. Following the Hyack Parade on May 23rd, members of the community as well as the Regiment gathered in the New Westminster Armoury for the annual Melfa Dinner, with this year marking the 71st anniversary of the Melfa River crossing.

A particularly notable tasking this summer involved sending four Westies to Ottawa as members of the Ceremonial Guard to watch over the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier. Corporal Taj Aujla was among the four from the Royal Westminster Regiment, and was featured in the Ottawa Citizen News as he was the first Canadian Sikh soldier to stand guard at this National War Memorial.

The Brigade Training Exercise, Ex COUGAR DESTROYER 15, took place in the Chilcotin training area, and included (aside from all British Columbia Army Reserve units) soldiers from 1 PPCLI as well as 54 MP Company from the US Army. The exercise was a great interoperability training opportunity for the Westies as many unit soldiers were integrated with their American peers, teaching and learning from each other. Training objectives included recce patrols, withdrawals, defensive operations, and fighting against a mechanized opposing force.

Finally, the new training year was kicked off in full swing with Ex WESTIE TRIDENT 15. A stand-based training exercise in the Chilliwack area, sections competed against each other in conducting recce patrols, section attacks, and casualty evacuation scenarios. The exercise was well received and provided everyone a chance to step out of their comfort zones – a good indication of what's to come in the new training year.

OCdt Charbonneau

Westie Soldier Awarded Commendation

On Saturday, 3 October, Sgt Irvine J.P. Irvine was awarded a Commander of the Canadian Army Commendation. The commendation was awarded in recognition of his outstanding initiative and attention to the well-being of his fellow soldiers during the deployment and reintegration of the unit's personnel, following his deployment to Afghanistan in 2008/09. Congratulations, Sgt Irvine!

Maj Schultz

		R.W.R. ASS'N					Initials	Date
		BANK BALANCE				Prepared By		
		DECEMBER 31, 2014				Approved By		
	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
	ASSETS:			LIABILITIES:				
1	BANK		\$ 14,204.34	ASS'N EQUITY		\$ 29,482.90		1
2	ACCOUNTS PAYABLE		15,428.56	A/P		150.-		2
3			<u>\$ 29,632.90</u>			<u>\$ 29,632.90</u>		3
4								4
5								5
6	REVENUE			EXPENSES				
7								7
8	VANCOUVER FOUNDATION		\$ 7662.43	BREN GUZ CARRIER		\$ 2624.36		8
9	DONATIONS		500.-	SICK & VISITING		359.44		9
10	DOES		515.-	GROUND SHEET		2574.80		10
11	ACCOUNTS PAYABLE		190.-	MELFA WEEKEND		5486.60		11
12	MELFA WEEKEND		5635.-	R.W.R.		500.-		12
13			<u>\$ 14,502.43</u>	CADETS		250.-		13
14				WREATHS / POSTAGE		268.56		14
15				BANK CHARGES		5.49		15
16				WEBSITE		158.19		16
17						<u>\$ 12,027.44</u>		17
18								18

Our Cadets

1789 Agassiz-Hope – See page 4

1838 Maple Ridge – No report

1922 Abbotsford – No report

2316 New Westminster – No Report

2822 Surrey-Delta – 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

Larry Beckett

2015 Melfa Golf Winners

Low Gross – Paul Guilmain - 86

Low Net - Bernie Killam - 71

Low Net Serving Member – Alan Kerekanich - 71

Longest Drive – Liam Burrows

Closest to the Pin – Brian McKenna

Foursome Challenge – W.O. \$ Sgt's Mess
Brian Gardner,
Brian McKenna,
Bair Henneberry,
Alan Kerekanich

1789 RCACC – Westie Cadets in Hope

Another training year has started for all the cadet units and most of the Corps have already undertaken their Fall Field Training exercises. Since it is early in the training year, there is not much to report, so I will provide a Vernon story.

During the summer months all the Cadets go to Cadet Training Centres (CTCs) across Canada and abroad. The 1789 Westie Cadets from Hope were no exception with six cadets off to Vernon CTC, one Cadet off to Connaught CTC in Ontario and one was off to Outward Bound Course in Wales, UK. All Cadets performed well and came back with excellent anecdotes AND our Connaught course cadet earning a spot on next year's Bisley Team as a spare.



This past summer I was able to get the summer off work and went to Vernon CTC as the Adjutant, so I decided that the Corps mascot, "Sgt Bruin" should join me as the unofficial Assistant Adjutant. For Christmas 2013, I donated this WWF Grizzly Bear to the Corps as a Christmas present and "Sgt Bruin" has always been an absolute hit in the specially tailored uniform made for him by one of our talented Cadet mothers, Ms. Elisabeth Sell.

It seemed only fitting to have him travel to Vernon CTC this past summer since his namesake was the mascot that Westminster Regiment brought to Camp Vernon in 1915, 100 years ago.

The office of the Adjutant is a busy one, and "Sgt Bruin" proved to be an excellent ambassador of not only Camp Vernon history, but of the history of service the The Royal Westminster Regiment has provided within British Columbia and to Canada. The Regimental history, "For King and Country" was also on display and was perused by many visitors. He was also a tremendous asset as a Conflict Management Assistant when troubled staff or cadets had occasion to visit the Adjutant's office. He was also invited out and completed some Expedition Course training.



“Sgt Bruin” has returned from TD and will continue to join the Corps on their many training activities and events. Although I have completed my tenure as Commanding Officer and will be handing over command on 24 Oct 2015, I hope that the 1789 Westie Cadets will allow Sgt Bruin to return to Vernon CTC in future summers.



Captain M.E Sam Ronholm, CD
CO – 1789 RCACC Hope

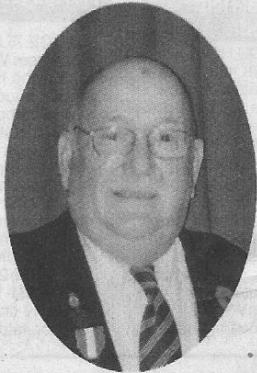
Pro Rege et Patria

Acer Acerpori (As the Maple, So the Sapling)

LAHAIE & SULLIVAN
CORNWALL FUNERAL HOMES



WEST BRANCH
 613-932-8482



TYO, Wilfred - Passed away peacefully at Sandfield Place, on Wednesday, April 8, 2015. Wilfred Alexander Tyo of Cornwall; age 89 years. Beloved husband of the late Doreen (Merkley) Tyo. Loving father of Ron Tyo (Joanne Lebrun), Yvonne Last (Eric) and Joanne Labelle (Robert) all of Cornwall. Cherished grandfather of Garnett Last (Jessica), Stephen Last, Marianne Last, Sherri Tyo, Lynn Tyo, Zack Labelle (Leslie) and Cole Labelle. Great-grandfather of Serenity Last, Kaitlyn Last and Tyson Labelle. Survived by one brother Donald Tyo. Predeceased by his brothers, William (Jeannette), Norman, Harvey (Huguette), Paul (Late Lea) and Arthur (Juliette) Tyo and sisters Bertha Goulet (Late Alex) and Jeannette Lapierre (Keith). Son of the late Alexander Tyo and the late Blanche Sauve. Resting at **LAHAIE & SULLIVAN CORNWALL FUNERAL HOMES, West Branch, 20 Seventh Street West (613-932-8482)**, from 2 p.m. Sunday. Funeral Monday, April 13, 2015 for Mass of Christian Burial in St. Francis De Sales Church at 11 a.m. Spring Interment, St. Lawrence Valley Cemetery. The family will be in attendance from 2 p.m. to 4 p.m. and from 7 p.m. to 9 p.m. on Sunday and from 9 a.m. until the time of Funeral on Monday. As expressions of sympathy, Memorial Donations the Heart and Stroke Foundation or to Big Brothers Big Sisters would be appreciated by the family. Messages of condolences may be left at

www.lahaiesullivan.ca.

MAN AMONG MEN: First Cornwall Big Brother ever passes away

TODD LIHOU
 toddlihou@cbc.ca

CORNWALL, Ontario - Chances are if you passed Wilfred Tyo on the street you wouldn't know the impact he has had on countless lives in Cornwall.

But after peeling back the layers it's clear the first man to ever be a Big Brother in Cornwall touched the hearts of many.

Tyo's life was remembered Wednesday by dozens of people whom he had come to know through years of volunteering his time as a mentor to young people. He passed away Wednesday morning following a short stay in hospital at the



WILFRED TYO

have someone to talk to all the time." The pair spent the next 40-plus years together, seam at the hip some might say. While their match officially ended when Graham turned 18, their relationship continued to blossom.

Perhaps the biggest beneficiary of Tyo's time as a Big Brother is Ron Graham. The two were the first match created by the fledgling Cornwall chapter back in 1973.

"He was such a positive role model," said Graham. "It was nice to

age of 89.

Tyo was best man at Graham's wedding and the two attended every Big Brother banquet that was held - including the last event when the elder part of the duo was in a wheelchair.

"He told him he was going to bring him to the banquet, even if he had to carry him in," said Big Brothers and Big Sisters Cornwall office executive director Amanda Brisson in an interview. "I just stopped crying so I could answer the phone."

Despite the match of time, the two stayed committed to each other. As the years went on it became clear that Graham was assuming the role of Big Brother to Tyo.

"I think I took him on his first goose hunt," said Graham, who added the outdoors was a staple part of their relationship. "We would spend hours on woodworking in his shop."

"And a weekend camping trip would turn into all summer."

Tyo's family is mourning a man who dedicated himself to helping young people.

"The kids just gravitated towards him," said Yvonne Last, one of Tyo's three children. "Dad just wanted to help other young kids. He was no nonsense. He was kind to them and helped them out." Brisson said the agency is planning a tribute to Tyo in the future.