



The GROUND SHEET

The Publication of The Royal Westminster Regiment Association

*'Dedicated to the ideals and comradeship
we knew in wars and peace in our
service both home and abroad.'
'Pro Rege et Patria'*

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The Armoury, 530 Queens Avenue
New Westminster, B.C., V3L 1K3
www.royal-westies-assn.ca





In Memoriam

Glen Holling, Kamloops, 14 April 2022 - The Royal Westminster Regiment

Major Glen W. Holling CD 17 April 1946 to 14 April 2022



Glen was born in New Westminster to parents Walter and Virginia Holling and was the eldest of six children. Glen spent his younger years in Surrey completing grade 12 at Queen Elizabeth High School and then the family moved to Prince George in 1963 where he completed grade 13 at Prince George High in 1965. Glen would go on to work in various jobs in Alberta and BC eventually in 1972 he was hired by the Royal Bank which would result in him moving about the Province of BC at various branches where he would finish his career with the bank in 1996 in Williams Lake. From there Glen would go into real estate as a broker/owner and would have three offices on the go and he would eventually retire in 2018. On the military side of Glen's life, he was an army cadet before joining the Rocky Mountain Rangers regiment and in 1967

he would transfer to The Royal Westminster Regiment as an Officer. Glen would reach the rank of Major but also qualified as Lieutenant Colonel but due to a bank transfer to Williams Lake, Glen left the Regiment in 1980. In 1969, Glen would meet the Love of his life in 1969 where he and Fay would spend the next fifty-two plus years together raising their children Kevin and Robyn, both being Christened at the Regimental, Holy Trinity Church. Robyn was also to become a debutante in 1989. Glen and Fay have been awarded with four "*awesome*" grandchildren giving Glen that "*twinkle in his eye and a bigger smile on his face*" each time he was with them. Glen also had a passion for his community in each one he lived in and he gave his time and knowledge to many volunteer organizations in particular the local Rotary Clubs and Rotary International. Glen had a long battle with Alzheimer's and a short battle with Leukemia, however in the end cancer became more aggressive and won the battle. If you are looking to pay tribute to Glen, Fay has asked you help someone in your community by giving your time and he would be honoured to see his friends and associates lie down old grudges and just be kind to each other despite all our uniqueness. The family would also ask that when you see a collection tin or donations are requested for Alzheimer's or Cancer, if you would please drop a loonie or two so we can eradicate these horrible diseases.

"Togetherness in all things makes us stronger."

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Hello fellow Association members:

Where has the summer gone. All of a sudden it is back to school, back to meetings and rushing around.

Melfa was 3 months ago. What a wonderful time was had by all. Good food, good times and good comradeship. Would love to see more of the 60s & 70s guys and gals attend. Please mark your calendar for the last weekend of May 2023.

We held our AGM on Sunday, enough members turned out for a quorum but we could have seen more members attend. We only know what you want when you tell us. We said goodbye to a few directors and welcomed new ones. More on this from Bill in the edition.

Annette Dombrowski is starting a coffee group on October 2nd for coffee and chat with current and retired members of the unit.

We are also holding a “Smoker” on 15th October. Come and reconnect with fellow soldiers. More to come out via email.

I am still waiting for more pictures and articles to be sent to me.

It is such a sad day; we say farewell to our Queen. Attended a memorial service in Agassiz and sang God save the King for the first time.

The Groundsheet is only as good as its members make it. Let's restore the Groundsheet to its former glory.

Pro Rege et Patria

Linda Pickell

President's Report

Hello everyone, following our AGM you will see details of the new Board of Directors in this Groundsheet. I am pleased to be re-elected as your President and I welcome the new members to the Board and thank those who have stood down for their service to the Association.

Now that we are emerging from the restrictions due to COVID 19 restrictions, we had a successful Melfa Golf Tournament and Melfa Dinner in May. The Board has made a decision to resurrect the holding of an “Association Smoker” which will be held on 15 October at the Armoury, New Westminster. We are hoping this will be a “welcome back” for many of you who have not been to the Armoury in a number of years.

We have also decided to give our five Cadet Corps a boost, so this year we are donating \$1000 to each Corps.

Our most ambitious project is planning a trip to Europe in 2025 to cover the battles of the 47th Battalion of the Canadian Expeditionary Force in France and Belgium, and of the Westminster Regiment in the Netherlands.

I would like to reflect on the recent death of our Queen Elizabeth. It was Her Majesty that granted us the designation “Royal” and in setting a new protocol, by approving the appointment of the Duke of Westminster as our Colonel in Chief. She lived a life dedicated to service that in particular recognised and supported the men and women of the Canadian Armed Forces. May she rest in peace

Pro Rege et Patria

Bill White
President



LAST POST FUND
FONDS DU SOUVENIR

The Last Post Fund's mission is to ensure that no Veteran is denied a dignified funeral and burial, as well as a military gravestone, due to insufficient funds at the time of death. Its primary mandate is to deliver the Veterans Affairs Canada Funeral and Burial Program which provides funeral, burial and grave marking benefits for eligible Canadian and Allied Veterans. The **Unmarked Grave Program** provides military markers for unmarked Veterans' graves. In March 2019, the **Indigenous Veterans Initiative** was launched in an effort to commemorate and honour the memory of over 18,000 Indigenous Veterans, many of whom are thought to lie in unmarked graves. The Last Post Fund owns and manages its own military cemetery, the Last Post Fund National Field of Honour, as well as supporting and promoting other initiatives designed to honour the memory of Canadian and Allied Veterans. A national non-profit organization, the Last Post Fund's National office is located in Montreal, supporting the Provincial Boards across the country. The Last Post Fund is supported financially by Veterans Affairs Canada and by private donations.

A Brief History

December 1908. Two policemen find a homeless man huddled in a doorway of downtown Montreal. Unconscious, the man is taken to the nearby General Hospital where he is quickly diagnosed as being a drunk and taken to a room where he could sleep it off. When the head orderly Arthur Hair looks on the so-called drunk, he notices a blue envelope sticking out of the man's pocket. Being a Veteran of the South African War, Hair is familiar with that type of envelope. Issued by Britain's War Office, it contains the honourable discharge of one Trooper James Daly, who has served the Empire for more than 20 years. This blue envelope represents his sole possession. However, Trooper Daly was not drunk. Instead, he was suffering from hypothermia and malnutrition. He died 2 days later, still unconscious, at age 53. Since his body was unclaimed, his remains would be turned over to science for medical research, as was customary in those days. Hair was utterly shocked by the Empire's disregard for its Veteran. So he raised money from friends and colleagues to give the soldier a decent and dignified funeral. Daly was then buried at the Notre-Dame-des-Neiges cemetery on Mount-Royal. This was the catalyst for the creation of the Last Post Fund in Montreal, in April 1909. Trooper Daly was the first of nearly 150,000 servicemen and women for whom the Last Post Fund has provided financial benefits over the past century.

Our main objective is to ensure that no Veteran will ever experience the same fate as Trooper Daly.

The First Interments

The first formal interments took place there on 7 May 1910. Then, the First World War came and went... **A total of 619,636 men and women served in the Canadian Forces in the First World War, and of these 66,655 gave their lives and another 172,950 were wounded.** Soon enough, the two plots on Mount-Royal were filled to capacity, so the Last Post Fund decided to buy its own piece of land. In April 1929, the Québec Branch of the Fund purchased six acres of land adjacent to the Lakeview Cemetery in Pointe-Claire. This piece of land would become the *National Field of Honour*, owned and managed by the Last Post Fund. Officially consecrated in September 1930, the National Field of Honour's inauguration was widely covered by the media. For instance, a Montreal paper wrote that it must be "one of the Empire's most beautiful cemeteries". It is now the final resting place for more than 22,000 Veterans and their close ones. They are both Canadian and Allied Veterans, the latter from the U.S., France, Belgium, Italy, Britain, Australia, Greece, and so on... Dr. Serge M. Durflinger has written a history of the first 90 years of the Last Post Fund. Entitled "Lest We Forget" in English and "Je me souviens" in French, his book has been described as a "readable and profusely-illustrated account which sensitively places the Last Post Fund within the context of Canada's unfolding social and military history."

Ted Usher, CD Major (Retired), Life Member of the Association, is a volunteer researcher for the Unmarked Grave Program in the Comox Valley and as of March 2022 has identified over 60 unmarked graves and applied for headstones for our Veterans on Vancouver Island, and several other communities in BC.

If you know a Veteran in need of the services of the Last Post Fund, please go to www.lastpostfund.ca for more information or contact Ted at tedusher@gmail.com.



Some more of your Executive members
Ernie Bodrogi



2Lt Ernie Bodrogi first enrolled with the Royal Westminster Regiment in 1982, serving until 1991. During which time he took every opportunity to participate in infantry qualification and leadership courses. Additionally, on class B service at various battle schools, he held staff positions instructing leadership and reconnaissance patrolman courses. Ernie's time at the Regiment was mostly shared between the recce platoon and the jump platoon. Finishing as a Sergeant, he then moved to Tokyo, Japan to teach for several years. Upon his return to Vancouver, Ernie's career evolved from finance to consumer lending, to credit counselling and now insolvency counselling.

Married to Masami, his long-suffering partner, they have two sons. Ernie has been very active with various volunteer youth organizations as he keeps up with his son's activities over the years. More recently, Ernie served as Chair of 808 Coquitlam Squadron RCACS for three years, where is younger son Keita (WO2), is still serving. Takeo (OCdt) his eldest is a 4th year cadet at RMC. Ernie has returned to the Westies a freshly promoted 2Lt as the Training Officer of 2316 RCACC.

COFFEE ANYONE?

Sunday, 02 October 2022
10:30 to Noon

WO's & Sgt's Mess
The Armoury, 530 Queens St.,
New Westminster



Coffee & Goodies \$2

Hosted by The Royal Westminster Regiment Association

Come and talk and enjoy a cup of coffee with fellow soldiers and retired soldiers. Our intent is to have one coffee morning per month. Please check on the calendar on our website for dates. (www.royal-westies-assn.ca)



Melfa Golf Tournament

The Melfa Golf Tournament was held at the Delta Course on Friday 27 May 2022 after a gap of two years due to COVID-19. There were 13 golfers in attendance. The weather was good, and the camaraderie was excellent. Pictured with Terry Leith (former President, centre) and Bill White (current President, right) were the tournaments winners.



Low net – Bradley Atchinson



Low gross – Chris Henneberry



Closest to the pin – Ben Pong



Longest Drive – Todd Singer

The President, Bill White, has “thrown down the gauntlet” by challenging the Officers and Senior NCOs to enter teams next year to take on the “old guard”.

Melfa Dinner 2022

The Melfa Dinner was held at the Armoury on Saturday evening, 28 May 2022. This was the first dinner held in the Armoury since the last one in 2019 due to COVID-19. There were 79 in attendance, including members of The Royal Westminster Regiment Band.

At the dinner there was for the toast to the Melfa, diners had the option of drinking the toast with Molinari liqueur which is made in Colfeliche and was presented to us on our trip to Italy in 2019. [The reason that we visited Colfeliche was to view the location where George Dominuk and his section, when driving their Bren Carrier along the railway track, heard and then discovered a number of Italians hiding in a box culvert under the railway embankment. They had been hiding from the Germans and to escape the bombing. The location is south of Colfeliche and near the District of Camponi. He told them that they were free i.e. liberated. There is now a shrine on the Via Taglia 1, just east of the culvert, to mark this event.]

At the end of the dinner, following the toasts, there were a number of presentations made by the President, Bill White. These included a presentation to Cpl Brian Smith, a long serving member of The Royal Westminster Regiment Band.

The Association also likes to recognise soldiers who have deployed either overseas on Operational tours of duty or on operations, in support of the Province, to respond to natural disasters such as fires and floods. The following soldiers (rank shown at time of the operation) who were at the dinner received certificates of Meritorious Service.

Operation Lentus 2104 – Support to British Columbia (Fires)

Major B. T. W. Pong

Operation Lentus 2106 - Support to British Columbia (Floods – November 2021)

Cpl S. Kim

Sgt S.S. Kullar

Maj B.T.W. Pong

Cpl J.E. Simpson

Pte M. Szeto

Pte E.A.M. Thomas

Certificates with the list of all the soldiers that deployed for each of these operations were also presented to the Museum, represented by Captain Mike Kelly.

The Commanding Officer also made a presentation to the Honorary Colonel, the Honorable Chuck Strahl, of Col Strahl's Commissioning Scroll



Cpl Brian Smith presented with a Certificate of Meritorious Service for 31 years of service to the Band



Lt Col Greg Chan, CO presents Hon Col, The Honorable Chuck Strahl with his Commissioning Scroll



Maj Ben Pong receives the first of two certificates of Meritorious Service for deploying on Ops Lentus 2104

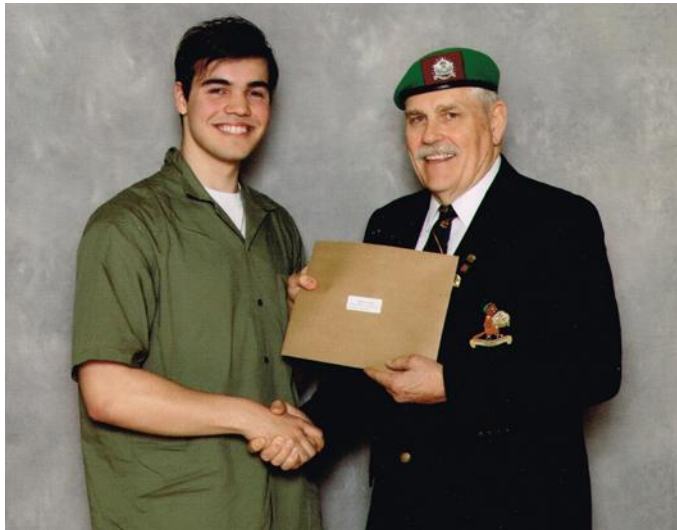


Capt Mike Kelly receiving plaques with the list of names for Op Lentus 2104 (Fires) & Op Lentus 2106 (Floods)

The Royal Westminster Regiment Association Bursary New Westminster Secondary School

The John Ford family started a bursary for a student at the New Westminster Secondary School. The Association continues to provide funding for this bursary. The criteria are as follows; “Candidates should be currently serving as a member of The Royal Westminster Regiment or The Royal Westminster Cadet Corps or a descendant of anyone who served with the regiment (son, daughter, grandchild, brother, or sister), and must have maintained a C+ average or better. The candidates will demonstrate outstanding citizenship (particularly in school affairs) and will be enrolling at a BC university, regional college, or a diploma (2 year) course at BCIT.”

The awards ceremony for the 2021-22 school year was held at the school on 21 June 2022. This year’s recipient was Nathaniel Akey, a former Cadet with 2822 RCACC, shown below with President, Bill White. The photo is provided by kind permission of The Artona Group Inc.



Then & Now

Royal Visit 1951



HRH Princess Elizabeth inspected the Westminster Regiment accompanied by Capt Walt Tyler, on 27 October 1951 prior to leaving New Westminster via train to Edmonton.

Royal Visit 07 May 1971



HM Queen Elizabeth being saluted by Capt Glen Holling at the Abbotsford Airport



HM Queen Elizabeth being greeted by Lt Col Deane in front of City Hall, New Westminster



HM Queen Elizabeth with Mayor Muni Evers, MWO Conroy is front left



HM Queen Elizabeth with Sgt Howels to the right

Royal Visit – 10 March 1983



HM Queen Elizabeth on the dias, accepting the Royal Salute from The Royal Westminster Regiment.
Mayor Tom and Mrs. Baker were standing to the left of the dias.



The Colours being marched on



HM Queen Elizabeth starting to inspect The Royal Westminster Regiment

Picture on front cover is HM Queen Elizabeth with Major Paul Smiley during the inspection of the Regiment.

Awards & Honours



The Army Cadet League of Canada, BC Branch, honoured Colonel Leslie Deane with several awards including naming him as President Emeritus for the BC League. Col Deane was one of the founding members of the BC League back in the 1970s & it was felt he deserved recognition. Col Deane is a former CO of The Royal Westminster Regiment as well as Honorary LtCol & Col. Col Deane has continued to support the Army Cadet League during his over 50 years of military service. He was also very active in many other organizations, too many to name.

The other part of the ceremony was to honour Louise & [Roger Prouse](#) for their many years of exemplary service & dedication to the Army Cadet League of Canada. The ceremony was held in the Officer's Mess of The Royal Westminster Regiment.

Missing Groundsheets

We received an additional batch of old editions of the Groundsheet from Jim Dumont so that has significantly reduced the number of missing versions. So here are the ones that we are missing.

Volume	Issue No(s)	Year
1	all	1951
2	all	1952
3	all	1953
4	all	1954
5	all	1955
6	all	1956
7	all	1957
8	all	1958
9	all except #5	1959
10	all except #2	1960
11	all except #3&6	1961
12	all except #3&6	1962
13	all except #5	1963
14	all except #2&4	1964/5
15	all	1966
16	all except # 5,6,11	1967
17	all except #3,4,6,7,8	1968
18	#3	1969

Volume	Issue No(s)	Year
21	#2 & 3	1972
22	# 4 & 5	1973
23	#2	1974
27	#3 & 5	1978
30	#2	1981
31	#5	1982
32	#2	1983
34	#1	1985
36	#4?	1988
37	#4?	1989
38	#3	1990
39	all except #1	1990
40	#4?	1991
41	#3 & 4	1992
44	#4?	1992
96	#4?	1996
2000	#4	2000

It would be appreciated for those who have any of the above editions of the Groundsheets if you could let the President (president@royal-westies-assn.ca) know.

Health & Welfare

It would be appreciated if all members of The Regimental family would report births, marriages and deaths within our membership and their families. I am sure with such a young Regiment there will be lots of babies born. So please drop us a line if you know anything.

Are Your Dues Up To Date?

The Royal Westminster Regiment Association depends on your dues and donations. Yearly dues are \$20 and a Life Membership is \$200. Send in your dues today. Thanks.

What became of Kelly?

(Help us reconnect with former members)

Dave Delisle

James Hansen

James R Hudson

John Sanborn

Bob Jacobs

Shane Stearn