



Once a Black Cat Always a Black Cat

Ontario Regiment RCAC Association
Colonel R. S. McLaughlin Armoury
53 Simcoe St N, Oshawa, ON, L1G 4R9
Telephone: 905-721-4000, Ext. 4007
Association President: Leo P. Morin, 905-728-2881

NOVEMBER 2007



**ONTARIO REGIMENT CHANGE OF COMMAND PARADE
16 SEPTEMBER 2007**

Left – The Regiment marches past outgoing CO, LCol Dave Parry.
Right – Incoming Commanding Officer LCol Bob Brown assumes command.

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

We enjoyed another successful reunion on 15 September. We had 170 (association members, serving soldiers, officers and guests) sit down to dinner accompanied by the GGHG band. It appears everyone enjoyed the evening since as we have not had any complaints to date. I would like to thank our Dinner Chairman, Ian Golding, for his hard work in organizing the dinner. Thanks to the rest of the Executive and also serving members of the Regiment for assisting with the set up and tear down.



The reunion weekend was a busy one. The regimental family said goodbye to LCol Dave Parry and thanked him for his hard work over the last three years as Commanding Officer. We welcomed LCol Bob Brown as the new CO and wish him success during his tenure. Colonel Paul Scagnetti, Commander of 33 CBG officiated at the change of command parade on Sunday joined by Colonel Peter Hunter, Colonel Commandant of the Royal Canadian Armoured Corps. Our own Honorary Colonel, Bob Attersley was present as well. The weather was excellent and the fine performance by the GGHG band at the parade and Parkwood Promenade added to the pomp and ceremony.

On 23 September the regimental family had an additional change of command as our own 1913 Cadet Corps (the Junior Squadron as Col. Bob Smith referred to them) saw Major Debbie Olliffe pass command to Captain Mike St. John. Major Olliffe is continuing in cadets with the Hasty P's in Peterborough. Good luck to both officers in their future roles.

As I mentioned in the last *Cat Tales*, our Association Colours, which are housed in the Regimental Cenotaph on the Armoury drill floor, require replacement. We have started a fund and with a substantial donation from Brian and Laurel Hart, daughter of our late veteran Ross Humphreys on the night of the reunion. An order has been placed for a new Association Flag and National Flag. Our national colour in the current set is a Union Jack, so it is proper that it be replaced with the Maple Leaf. If any member or friend of the Association would like to donate to this worthy cause, please make out your donation to "**THE ONTARIO REGIMENT FOUNDATION**" stating that the donation is for the Association Colours. Remember: you will receive a tax-deductible receipt. Please forward your cheque to the Association and we will take care of the details.

As some of you may be aware, the Association was named in a lawsuit by Heather Globe in the fatality of Ken Globe at the Museum back in February 2004. We decided at the time of being served that we have an obligation to defend the Association since we could see that the Association did not have any involvement in the accident. Unfortunately, that litigation has put a severe drain on our financial resources and still has not been resolved with the insurance companies and the parties to the suit. It may go to court in spring 2008.

Carry on Ontarios!

In Comradeship, Leo Morin

A VERY WARM WELCOME TO OUR NEW MEMBERS

Active Member: Sgt Robert Cheeatow.

Associate Member: Lorne Goodman.

Social Members: Robert Arnold, Tim Lytle, Olive Mansfield, Ken Braithwaite, Janis Ryan, Wes Ryan.

Your Executive



Leo Morin—President, **Ian Golding**—1st Vice, **Henry Perry**—Past President, **Bill Davies**—2nd Vice, **George Blackmore**—Membership, **Lawrence “Knobby” Clark**—Sergeant-At-Arms, **Robert Gow**—Treasurer, **John Drygala**—Secretary.

General meetings are held on Mondays in the Junior Ranks Mess. The upcoming meetings are scheduled for 12 November 2007 and 10 December 2007.

Association members are encouraged to attend all general meetings!

Executive meetings are held on Tuesdays. The next two meetings are scheduled for 27 November 2007 and 18 December 2007 respectively.

In spite of the on-going renovations to the Jr. Rank's Mess, all meetings will continue to take place there. All meetings begin at 1930 hrs.

Election of Executive for 2008

Nominations will be held on 12 November for 2008 calendar. Additional nominations will be taken at the Monthly Meeting on 10 December prior to the vote for the Executive for 2008. If you are interested in serving on the Executive, please be sure to attend either of these two meetings to be nominated.

Lost Trails

The following have had their *Cat Tales* returned by Canada Post. If any member has contact with these comrades, please advise the editor or a member of the executive. **George W. Becroft**, Guelph, ON; **Bill Gillies**, Niagara Falls, ON; **Sandy Harling**, Calgary AB.

Sick and Visiting

Philip A. Daniel is home and recuperating after a stay in the hospital. He is coming along. **Bill Clarke**, is home and doing fine. **Richard Burkhardt**, has just moved from the Carriage House in Oshawa to the Kingsway Arms in Bowmanville and is doing well. **Ken Hardy** is now a resident at Extendicare in Oshawa. **John Lowry** is home and getting care after recovering from his broken hip. **Arthur Martin**, has recovered from his hip replacement and waiting to have the other one done. **LCol Bob Schell** is receiving care at home. **Deborah Clarke** will be taking over the Sick and Visiting Report. (Email: debclarke@rogers.com or telephone: 905-576-1440).

Museum Update

Pat Dooley and the volunteer guides are coming to the end of another very successful year. From January to September 2007 the museum received 1,407 visitors. The Museum is open Easter to November 11 on Friday, Saturday, Sunday and holiday Mondays from 1:00 to 5:00 pm. Tours by appointment may be arranged over the winter months by calling Pat at 905-728-6199 (museum) or at 905-723-9930 (residence).

Volunteers Needed

Have you considered helping out at the museum by volunteering one day per month? With many guides we can make a big job a small one. We even have a husband and wife team in **Don and Christine White** who have done a stellar job over the past couple of years.

Don (former ONTR & RCD) and Chris, the owners of White's Home Hardware on Simcoe St. N., have given generously of their time. We hope to have some serving members of the Regiment give us a hand and attend in uniform. It takes more than one guide to look after the door, take receipts and assist the visitors with explanations of the artifacts and vehicles.

Don't forget to visit our Museum online at ontrmuseum.ca. Andrew Morin is the webmaster (email: webmaster@ontrmuseum.ca).

Recent editions of *Cat Tales* are available for download at ontrmuseum.ca.

REGIMENTAL CHANGE OF COMMAND - SEPTEMBER 2007

Outgoing Commanding Officer – Lieutenant-Colonel Dave Parry CD

Lieutenant-Colonel Dave Parry was born on 25 February 1954, the eldest son of George and Kathleen Parry. He was raised in Port Perry, Ontario and graduated from Port Perry High School. It was while attending Port Perry High School that he became interested in the Military. Army Cadets were compulsory in Grade 9 & 10 resulting with him becoming a member of the #41 Port Perry High School Cadet Corps where he attained the rank of Cadet Captain. His interest in the military continued resulting in him joining the Ontario Regiment (RCAC).

He was taken on strength on 5 March 1970. Throughout the next 19 years, he progressed through all non-commissioned ranks up to Chief Warrant Officer. Along the way, he was employed in such roles as Troop Sergeant/Warrant, Squadron Quartermaster Sergeant, Squadron Sergeant-Major, and was appointed the Regimental Sergeant Major in April 1989.



On 7 September 1993, Lieutenant-Colonel Parry commissioned to the rank of Captain. During his time as an Officer in The Ontario Regiment, he has held the positions of Battle Captain of the armoured squadron and Officer Commanding all three squadrons. He has also held the position as Regimental Second-in-Command both in garrison and on a Brigade level field exercise. As the Commanding Officer, he has overseen the completion of the ATV trial that the Regiment was tasked with, and has overseen the transformation of the Regiment into a fully trained reconnaissance unit from its former armoured role.

Lieutenant-Colonel Parry joined the Durham Regional Police Service in 1975. He completed numerous courses ranging from police management, criminal investigation and explosive ordinance disposal. He recently retired from the Oshawa Criminal Investigation Bureau as a Detective.

Lieutenant-Colonel Parry is married to the former Christina Pawluczek. They are the proud parents of their son Steven who married Tracey Hanson and now have two children, Lily Beatrice 2 years and Oscar 8 months. In his spare time, Lieutenant-Colonel Parry enjoys hunting, fishing, and training Labrador Retrievers. ■

THE ONTARIO REGIMENT RCAC
REGIMENTAL MUSEUM ontrmuseum.ca

Incoming Commanding Officer – Lieutenant-Colonel Robert Murray Brown CD

Lieutenant-Colonel Bob Brown was born in Oshawa Ontario in 1954. He attended Sinclair and Dr Robert Thornton Public Schools in Oshawa. He completed his secondary school education at Anderson Collegiate and Vocational Institute in Whitby and it was during this time that he developed a keen interest in the military.

He started his military career in 1968 when he became an Air Cadet with the 151 Chadburn Squadron. In May 1971, after three years cadet service he joined The Ontario Regiment (RCAC) as a trooper. In 1972 he was selected to attend Exercise Pegasus in Germany and served as a Centurion gunner in B Squadron, Royal Canadian Dragoons.

LCol Brown was promoted through the Non Commissioned Officer ranks and served in every NCO position within all four squadrons of The Regiment. He was awarded the Royal Canadian Armoured Corps Certificate of Merit in 1984 for meritorious service to his Regiment and Corps. He completed his Master Warrant Officer Course at CFB Gagetown in 1986. He then immediately joined The Regiment in the field for the annual Militia Concentration at CFB Petawawa where he not only received a “field promotion” to MWO, but earned the unit’s Top Tank Troop Leader award. LCol Brown left The Regiment in 1989 for a number of reasons, but this gave him an opportunity to spend more time with his son Robert. He found this to be an incredibly enriching time as both he and Robert joined the Port Perry Cubs. He continued in the Scout program and as a Troop Leader found his learned military skills of great value when he assisted with the organization and conduct of a winter camping expedition to Algonquin Park.

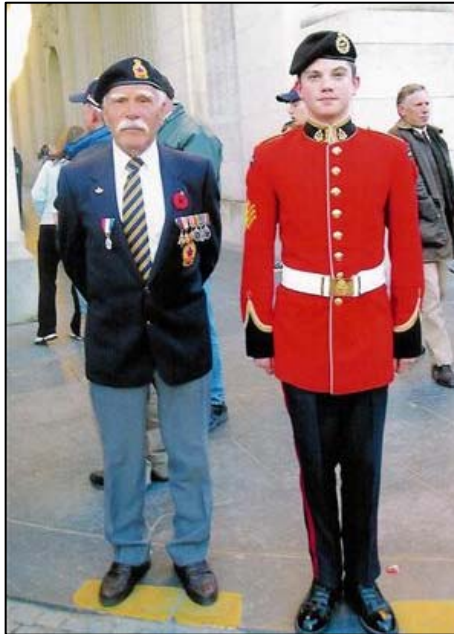
LCol Brown returned to The Regiment in January 1996 and was appointed Regimental Sergeant Major. He was selected from all the Reserve Armoured Chief Warrant Officers in Ontario to be the Regimental Sergeant Major of the Trillium Armoured Regiment. This regiment was formed from the six Reserve Armoured Regiments in Ontario and took part in the two week field training Exercise “Trillium Phoenix” at CFB Petawawa in August 1996. Upon completion of a successful term as RSM he commissioned as Captain in December 1999 and was appointed Officer Commanding HQ Squadron. He served as OC B Sqn, the unit’s field squadron in 2001, was promoted to Major in 2002 and appointed Regimental Second in Command in 2004. In 2006 he was selected from all the majors in 33 Canadian Brigade Group to act as the Deputy Commanding Officer for Task Force 33-06 during Exercise Vigilant Guardian held in CFB Petawawa during August 2006.

In civilian life LCol Brown has been employed by Duplate Canada Ltd and PPG Canada Inc since 1972 and has received great support for his military activities. His time here has somewhat mirrored his military career. He spent 15 years as an hourly employee operating every machine in the plant and was then promoted to a production and warehouse supervisor after completing the company’s stringent Supervisor Assessment Program. Currently he is the Warehouse/Plant Cleanup Supervisor, Hourly Production Staffing Scheduler and the Plant General Stores Supervisor.

LCol Brown has been married to the former Louanne Popow for the past 33 years. They are the proud parents of son Robert and his partner Maureen O’Shea. ■



NOTES FROM MEMBERS



From Hedwig Codron

Left: Snapshot taken after the Last Post Ceremony at the Menin Gat in Ypres on 7th April 2007 with Cadet WO Anderson of the 1913 Ontario Regiment Cadet Corps.

Right: A photo of myself at the Vimy Ridge Memorial. I was part of a group of 76 people who took a trip called “Road to Vimy”. In London, France and Belgium we visited many military cemeteries and memorials and finished up at the Vimy Ridge Memorial rededication ceremony.



From Phil Pritchard

ONTR Sgt Phil Pritchard (*left*) — prior to his sudden death later this fall — and ONTR Major Earl Kennedy (*right*) taken in Charlottetown, July 2007.

While vacationing in PEI this summer, the two comrades met for the first time in 62 years. Phil and Early first met aboard a ship off Halifax in 1942 and went on to serve together in Sicily, Italy and Holland.

Both men made contact a few years ago through the *Cat Tales*. They enjoyed a wonderful reunion in July, reliving their Regimental days.

ONTR CADET GARRISON

Major L. (Knobby) Clark CD
Garrison Staff Officer



Well September rolled around and once more and it's back in the saddle for our Staff and cadets.

The year started well with most of the corps showing a good return on recruiting, we get lots initially but then the discipline get to some of them and they drop off pretty quick, it seems if we can get them past the 6 week mark and issue them uniforms and kit we have them then for a year or two at least. The whole system has been hit by the education system doing away with Grade 13, we used to keep cadets until their 19th birthday as they went through that grade, now we are losing them as early as 17 as they go of to work, college or university after Grade 12. We were kicked into high gear very quickly this year to get our corps ready for the Regimental Change of Command on September 16th, most of the garrison only had a week or so to prepare for this event but in true Ontario Regiment fashion came through and had good attendance for the parade.

1913 (Oshawa) Royal Canadian (Army)
Cadet Corps
CO Capt. Mike St. John

Our current strength is approximately 110 at the present time. We had 8 cadets participate in the Orienteering Competition on October 27th, and 78 cadets participated in the York Durham Garrison exercise held at Blackdown Training Centre at Base Borden October 19th – 21st. We will have 12 senior cadets standing vigil at the Oshawa Cenotaph from 7pm on November 10th until after the Remembrance Day parade on November 11th. On November 7th, RSM K. McBride was presented with his Master Cadet medal; also Long Service Medals were presented to MWO Paille, MWO Stam, and MWO Kester. We welcome our newest member of the 1913 Officers - Officer Cadet Donna Stam. We will wind up 2007 with our Barrack

Room Dinner on December 19th which will be held on the floor at the Armoury.

41 (Port Perry) Royal Canadian (Army)
Cadet Corps
CO Capt. Chris Pittens CD

Nothing to Report

76 (Uxbridge) Royal Canadian (Army)
Cadet Corps
CO Capt. Phil Matthews CD

Nothing to Report

2525 (Pickering) Royal Canadian
(Army) Cadet Corps
CO Capt. Josh Gleiberman CD

Recruiting this year so far has increased our strength from 35 to roughly 55 so far. This accounts for us losing several senior cadets to aging out and some joining the work force or off to college. So far this year we have conducted a Field and Map & Compass training day for our new cadets to give them a flavour for outdoor living. On the weekend of October 19th to 21st we participated in a York Durham Garrison exercise for the first time. There were approximately 300 cadets and 35 staff in attendance.

The training weekend consisted of abseiling (rappelling), .22 caliber ranges, confidence (assault) course, orienteering and biathlon training. All in all a good weekend enjoyed in the exceptional fall sunshine. Our next big event will be a visit to Fort George in Niagara on the Lake where the cadets will adopt the uniforms of the period and go through some of the drills as practiced back then. They will be billeted in the original barrack style and be fed with traditional soldier grub of the day. All in all it should be a great weekend for the cadets. We then have the corps 2007 Barrack Room Dinner to be held on Dec 13th in Branch 606 Royal Canadian Legion. Then it's on to cold weather training on the January 24th weekend. ■

A SOLDIER DIED TODAY

He was getting old and paunchy and his hair was turning fast
And he sat around the Legion, telling stories of the past.
Of a war that he had fought in, and the deeds that he had done
In his exploits with his buddies; they were hero's every one.
And tho' sometimes to his neighbours, his tales became a joke,
All his Legion buddies listened, for they knew whereof he spoke.
But we'll hear his tale no longer, for old Bill has passed away
And the world's a little poorer, for a soldier died today.
He will not be mourned by many, just his children and his wife,
For he lived an ordinary, quiet, and uneventful life.

Held a job and raised a family, quietly going his own way;
And the world won't note his passing, though a soldier died today.
When politicians leave this earth, their bodies lie in state,
While thousands note their passing and proclaim that they were great.
Papers tell their whole life stories, from the time that they were young,
But the passing of a soldier goes unnoticed and unsung.

Is the greatest contribution to the welfare of our land
A guy who breaks his promises and cons his fellow man?
Or the ordinary fellow, who in times of war and strife,
Goes off to serve his Country and offers up his life?

It's so easy to forget them, for it was long ago,
That the old Bills of our country went to battle, but we know,
It was not the politicians, with their compromise and ploys,
Who won for us the freedom, that our country now enjoys.
Should you find yourself in danger, with your enemies at hand,
Would you want a politician, with his ever shifting stand?
Or would you prefer a soldier, who has sworn all to defend
His home, his kin, and country, and would fight until the end?
He was just a common soldier, and his ranks are growing thin,
But his presence should remind us, we may need his ilk again.
For when countries are in conflict, then we find the soldier's part
Is to clean up all the troubles, that the politicians start.

If we cannot do him honour, while he's here to hear the praise,
Then at least let's give him homage, at the ending of his days.

Perhaps just a simple headline, in a paper that would say:
"Our Country Is In Mourning, For A Soldier Died Today"

HIGH HONOURS

The Government of France recently presented BGen (ret'd) EAC (Ned) Amy, a former WWII ONTR officer with the Legion of Honour, the country's highest honour.

Ned was commissioned into the Regiment and served with the Ontarios in Italy. He went on to command the Canadian Grenadier Guards in combat (he was wounded during the Battle of the Hochwald Forest). He has also served as Colonel Commandant of the Royal Canadian Armoured Corps.



The late Pte Henry Shaw of the 116th Bn (WWI) – the only other ONTR to have received the honour – received his award in 1999 but died in 2000 at the age of 104. A true soldier's soldier, Ned remains one of the Regiment's most-loved comrades.

LAST POST

Philip Louis Pritchard **d. September 11, 2007**

Peacefully in his sleep at home on Tuesday, 11 September 2007, Philip Louis Pritchard in this 86th year. Beloved husband of Beulah (McDougall) for 61 years. Philip will be greatly missed by all his family and many friends. Phil served with The Ontario Regiment in WWII in Sicily, Italy and Holland. Phil was a proud member of the Royal Canadian Legion, Victory Branch #317.



David Hoig Lander **d. July 16, 2007**

In his 90th year, David Lander entered into sleep on Monday 16 July 2007 and never awakened. He had just enjoyed a week in one of his favourite settings, the family cottage on the shores of Lake of Bays. The weekend just past saw him in good health, surrounded by his immediate and extended family, all of whom paid tribute to family members who had passed on previously. David was a lifelong upstanding resident of Oshawa. He served proudly served Canada during WWII.

