



# The Duke

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## "BCR VETERANS.... HOME FROM AFGHANISTAN"



Sgt Michael Hillman, Sgt Andrea Bond & their son Nicholas Cherry Edwin reunited, 17 March 2008.



Sergeant Michael Hillman arrives home 17 March 2008.



Corporal Stephen Clews arrives home, 17 March 2008.

Both men served in Afghanistan with "C" Squadron Lord Strathcona's Horse (Royal Canadians)

## Greetings from Kandahar,

I apologize in advance for the vagueness or lack of description in my updates but it's the usual security thing. Today I have reached my first month milestone. My "home" in the big city has a lot of the amenities you would find in your own communities and it's a nice oasis when we get back to camp for the day or two.

Some of you won't believe it (based on previous experience) however the handover with the Quebec team was superb. Even the vehicles were in good shape so I have nothing but praise for the Roto 4 guys. After completion of our in-theatre briefs we accompanied the outgoing teams to our FOB in the district (equivalent from Abbotsford to Burnaby). Our FOB is rustic but certainly not as rough as the POMLT detos so we think ourselves lucky. Most of our area is accessible by foot only so we find ourselves on nearly daily foot patrols (5-10km) in the villages. We live and work with our force protection and the Afghan Army (ANA) and Police (ANP) to coordinate our battle rhythm. The ANA are pretty good and are decently kitted out however the reports of the ANP are all true and I feel for my RCMP training colleagues (by the way, Bing arrived so we have an ex-Duke in Red Serge). A lot of the Mounties have previous military experience so they are finding the adjustment real easy. By the way, I've seen most of the Dukes in Convoy Escort Tp and they are doing well and working hard all over the Province.

After patrol duty, the rest of the evening is consumed in reports, briefs and meetings with both ISAF and Afghan colleagues which usually takes us to 2130hrs. The nice aspect of my job is I get to work on security, governance and development issues with both International and Domestic military and civilian organizations while simultaneously conducting dismounted ops which feeds the combat arms soul. I have excellent confidence in our force protection team and know we'll hammer anyone that wants to come out and play. We've had some activity in the area but as most of you know, "close or near" is all relative when you're in a counter-insurgency. Our "friends" from the border region have staffed up their coaches and players and are currently looking for the next vacation hot spot. In the meantime, they're content on testing the local security forces with either direct action or cowardly IED's and targeting infrastructure (e.g. cell towers to limit 911/TIPS access).



Sergeant Tony Harris



Sergeant Tony Harris, Corporal Scott Evans and Master Corporal Arnold Matibag

Kit-wise, there's no shortage of ammo and we test fire all systems regularly. Currently, there's some differences of opinions on issue versus personal kit so I am back to wearing the usual tac vest (not even allowed to mount commercial pouches on the rig – WTF!!). Don't even ask where I have to stow my extra mags....plus carry all the other required kit. I'm looking like a freak'n human jingle truck walking down the road. My only consolation in the kit department is I got issued a brand new Browning Hi-Power from war stock. Other than the 60 year old mags (which were replaced by commercial ones), the piece is nice and tight. Having to use and learn the issue Bianchi holster (made for the US Beretta 92) causes nothing but consternation. Hopefully common sense will prevail.

The days are long and run 7 days a week with maybe a half-day off a week but at least it makes the time go fast. Hope all is well back home and that you are all staying safe.

Gotta run. Living the warrior dream.

Ciao for now.  
Tony  
April 2008



## “WEARING OF THE GREEN”

Irish Eyes were really smiling on Saturday, March 15, 2008 at the Drill Hall. “Wearing of the Green” was the fashion for the evening.

We had forty-three converted Irishmen who all kissed the Blarney Stone courtesy of the Steacy family as they entered the Sergeants’ Mess.

At the meet and greet, we were joined by our own Regiment’s Pipe Band thanks to the President of the Pipe Band, Pat Connell and Bill Diamond.

We had the pleasure of meeting two distinguished pipers who served in the Royal Irish Regiment, Andrew Carlisle of Ballygowan, Northern Ireland and Pipe Major James Knox. They played a few tunes for us, and as you can see, some were up doing the Irish jig. Special notice: Terry Sawasy, a true blue Ukrainian, became an Irish dancer that evening but rumour has it that he will dance to anything and dance with anyone.



L to R – Terry Sawasy, Ellen McKenzie and Ozzie Hyland



L to R – Lorie Hyland, Archie Steacy, Gayle Hawthorne, Ozzie Hyland and Lynda Steacy



L to R – Roger Prouse and Tim Monchamp

After the meet and greet entertainment, we all proceeded to the Officers’ Mess for our Irish stew buffet complete with soda bread and Irish bread pudding.

Upon filling our faces with good food, we went back to the Sergeants’ Mess where our horses were waiting. Before the races started, I warned the bettors to know their limit and play within it. However, no one heeded my warning and the betting was fast and furious.



L to R – Jimmy Knox, Andy Carlisle and Jordan Seguin

The winners donated ten per cent of their winnings for a fund to be put towards a special care package to be sent to our Regiment’s soldiers in Afghanistan in the next two or three months.

I would like to thank all our volunteers for their help in setting up this gala event, including Carol, Lynda and Gayle, and a special thanks to all the helpers on the horse committee. Special thanks to Graydon and Sandra Young for the grooming of the horses, Jeff Aitken for procuring three new horses and Wane Banks for calling the races. Also, I would like to acknowledge Ted Hawthorne in his legal capacity as our bookie.

Our committee would like to pass along a very Happy 50<sup>th</sup> Birthday to Angie Bekesinski. Angie and Kim, due to family celebrations, could not make the party.

Ray Glover

P.S. – A special thanks to our good sport Tim Monchamp who kindly donated his “braid” and helped us raise \$200.00 for the Charitable Trust. Archie did the honours (one clean cut with the scissors) and the braid now awaits its place in the Museum?

## MUSEUM UPDATE

### By Jerry Couling

There really isn't much in the way of "News" to report concerning the Museum for this issue of the Duke. The Board members have been absorbed in planning how to reconfigure and or redesign our display space to make it more attractive and functional. As mentioned in our last report, this will involve spending money and time in designing and building better cabinets. We are hoping to have this done soon, in order to make the Museum, once again, available to you.

#### **Acquisition:**

No new acquisitions or donations since our last report.

#### **Membership and Work Parties:**

Thanks to those of you who responded to our request in the last addition of *The Duke* for new members. Your support, both financially and morally, is much appreciated. Some of you have even offered to help with our work parties, once we are able to reconvene them. We had hoped to do this early in January, planning to meet every 2<sup>nd</sup> Monday between 1900 and 2100 hrs, but other life activities took precedence. Once we have scheduled the work parties we will call those who have expressed interest in joining us, with the dates and times. Although not a formal work party, Ted Hawthorne, Archie Steacy, and I met one night to go through boxes of Bill Lane's regimental documents, notes, and reports, donated to us by Betsy Lane. A lot of the material, relating to Bill's years in the Regiment and especially those in Command, are valuable to the Regimental Archives. Because of the volume of material, we will likely need to dedicate a few more evenings to this task.

#### **Medal Find Program:**

A few years ago, in order to regain and retain ownership of medals within the Regimental Family, earned by past and present members of the Regiment and units it perpetuates, the Museum established a program to buy such medals offered for sale by public auction, on the understanding the acquisitions would be paid for by funds donated to the Museum for that specific purpose. Parallel to this, a request was made to members of the Regimental Family to consider donating such medals to the Museum, rather than offering them for sale to private collectors. Because of increased demand from collectors, especially for World War One medals (a trend we suspect will accelerate as the 100 year anniversary of the Armistice approaches) prices for medals of valour are going through the roof. Recently, a C-7 collection containing a DSO, DCM, and the trio was reported to being offered for sale at \$8,250. Another C-7 collection (trio + MC) was being offered at \$4,200. Just recently, Major Jack Worthington's medals and Mother's Cross were auctioned on E-Bay for \$3,305.00. As you can imagine at these prices, even with a cadre of generous contributors, the Museum is not in a position to secure these medals for the Regimental Family. Given this reality, we again appeal to any of you possessing such medals within your respective families to consider, at a time deemed appropriate to you and your families, donating them to the Museum. Through viewing them, the Regiment and the public will be able to regularly pay tribute to the dedication, and acts of courage and sacrifice displayed by the recipients.

## AGENT ORANGE

In June 1966 and June 1967, aerial test sprays were conducted at CFB Gagetown, New Brunswick. These sprays contained various herbicides including the substance known as Agent Orange. All current and former Canadian Forces members who think they may have a medical disability that is related to these test sprays or other military service should contact Veterans Affairs Canada at 1-866-522-2122 (English) or 1866-552-2022 (French) to make a disability pension application.

For more information about VAC's Disability Pension Program, Agent Orange, check their web site at [Http://www.vac-acc.gc.ca/clients/sub.cfm?source=services/pensions/orange](http://www.vac-acc.gc.ca/clients/sub.cfm?source=services/pensions/orange). Look for items regarding Agent Orange Salute- Special Supplement; Use of herbicides at CFB Gagetown – 1952 – Present; Base Gagetown and Area Fact-Finders Project and Media Centre.

If you were training at any time in CFB Gagetown from 1952 to date, have a medical problem that may be related to Agent Orange, contact VAC as noted above. **Don't hesitate!!!**



## "HOWDY FROM THE DESERT"

Well I've arrived at my new home, FOB Frontenac. It's very basic here. The FOB is still under construction. It's a massive open area with large defensive walls all around. I think the plan is to put a battle group here, maybe for the next rotation of troops. Everything is far away; at least the "Johnny on the spot" is close. Keith (my boss, two of us in a team) are sharing a half size atco sea container for living quarters. It has 6 bunk-beds in it, though we are the only two in it for now. Beds are rock hard. It has air-con too. Showers are avail but its wet yourself, water off, wash, repeat step one. Laundry is do it yourself by old fashion washboard. There's no white light after dark (gives them something to aim at). We also have a few phones & internet trailers' available too. Our office is sea can running off a generator, couple chairs, laptop, etc.

Our team is now attached to Charlie Company (2 PPCLI) which means we belong to the Battle group now. Were basically embedded with the combat troops, we go out on their missions & they do the protection for us when we need to go a see a village or inspect a project. Our team's job main role is still trying to get this country sorted out by helping them with Governance, Development & Security. Most of the villages I've been to are operating like they did thousand years ago. Most know nothing of their "governor" or District leader or care. They are only concerned with making till next week. 1 in 4 kids don't make to the age of 5, the average life expectancy is about 47 years. You look at a guy and think he's 40 but find out he's 25 or so. People here age so quickly. I've still yet to speak with an Afghan woman, when we go into a village they all run or are shoed into their homes. The men do not like us talked, looking or asking about their women. Our female soldiers are the only ones that search or talk to the women.



Sgt Ronald Leblanc



Sgt Tony Harris and Sgt Ron Leblanc. Gen Rick Hillier speaking to Sgt Leblanc.

Oh ya, we met the CDS (Chief of Defense Staff) General Rick Hillier just before I left Camp Nathan Smith. He's a huge Toronto Leafs fan & he brought the Stanley cup with him. Someone said to him the Taliban have now been closer to the cup than the Leafs ever will...

The leadership on camp are very welcoming to us & treat us great. I guess it's because Keith & I each carry 1.5 Million afgani (\$30,000 Can), we can solve problems fast. They tell us we are going to be busy. The day we arrived here we received orders & went out on a mission the next day, for 2 days. For a change we didn't have any major dramas. One of the villages we were at brought out a guy they wanted us to look at. They said he needed a "head doctor". This guy had both hands chained to one of his feet! I asked "why is he chained?" I guess he throws rocks & attacks people for no reason, he was the second "crazy guy" as they call them here I've met. I told them we didn't have a doctor with us, so I gave his "handler" 2 red smarties & told him to take them both right away. They

were so excited. I doubt he's any better. In the same village the kids were all hanging around listening to the meeting we were having with the elders. At the end one on the kids gestured he wanted a pen, I threw him one & nearly caused a riot between the kids. Next thing I knew 20+ kids were all doing hand signs for pens. Anyway, I think we have a day to get unpacked & settled in.

Bye for now.....  
Ron

P.S. we each received a bag of mini Easter eggs & a completely melted chocolate Peter Rabbit the other day!  
March 2008

## On Patrol in Afghanistan



## Canadian Citizenship to Be Granted to Last Known First World War Veteran

John Babcock, the last known First World War Veteran who served Canada, is to be granted Canadian citizenship in recognition of his military service to Canada and his expressed desire, at age 107, to become a citizen of the country where he was born.



The Honourable Greg Thompson, Minister of Veterans Affairs, toasts John Babcock.



# The British Columbia Veterans Commemorative Association

## Update by Jerry Couling

BCVCA has a few new initiatives in the works that will help commemorate the contributions made by Canadians while wearing their country's uniform. They involve the following:

- The replica of the Canadian War Museum, and the
- RCAF Memorial.

As mentioned before, any "Duke" interested in joining this worthwhile organization is certainly welcome. Our membership is broad based and includes veterans from all services as well as civilians sharing our interest in commemorating the contributions Canadians in uniform have made and are making in protecting our country and its allies. The annual cost of membership is only \$10.00. An application form can be downloaded from our website.

### ***The Canadian War Memorial Replica***



L to R – Premier Gordon Campbell, Sharel Fraser, Archie Steacy, Ted Hawthorne

This valuable symbol of Remembrance was restored and structurally strengthened a year ago. Some of the work was donated by the artists involved in the restoration with the remainder being funded through a Veterans Affairs grant. In the past the scheduling, storing, and administrative support duties were largely provided by Veterans Affairs, under consultation with BCVCA. Recently, BCVCA assumed responsibility for all of the above duties. Fortunately for BCVCA, Bob Mugford, a retired 15<sup>th</sup> Field officer, has agreed to set up and run our War Memorial Replica program. It is our intent to make it available through out BC for appropriate public events and in particular, to those commemorating the contributions of past and contemporary members of Canada's Armed Forces in keeping our Land free and safe. BCVCA will certainly advise those members of the BC Government involved with planning B.C.'s 150<sup>th</sup> Birthday celebrations of the Replica's availability. Commemorative Events and the involvement of the Replica will be posted on BCVCA's website ([www.bcveterans.org](http://www.bcveterans.org)).

### ***RCAF Memorial (Jericho Beach)***

Many of the "workers" on BCVCA's Veterans' License Plate Committee, chaired by Archie Steacy, are also members of the RCAF Officers Association (Vancouver Branch). That latter group requested BCVCA's support and assistance with its initiative to rebuild a monument commissioned by Hon Col Clarence Wallace in 1944 to honour his four sons, all who served in the RCAF during WW2. (One of Clarence Wallace's sons was killed in action). The Cairn was located at the south end of a sports field, paid for by Col Wallace named Wallace Field, a site currently occupied by the Jericho Beach Rugby Club. It was dismantled by Vancouver Parks Board while raising the level of Wallace Field during the 1980's with its brass plaque placed in storage at Brigade. With the passage of time, the plaque became derelict and in great need of refurbishment. Through Archie's direction, BCVCA arranged and paid to have the plaque restored. Archie also referred the matter to Mr. Al De Genova, Parks Commissioner who is supportive of the plan to relocate the plaque to a suitable public location in North Jericho area. In conjunction with the planned re-dedication, all of the Army Units which served in North Jericho during the period 1947 – 1969 will be recorded on an appropriate companion plaque, to be donated by the 12<sup>th</sup> Service Battalion that perpetuates all the Army Service Units that were located in North Jericho.

There are other ideas, in the discussion and development stage, being worked on by BCVCA on its own and in concert with other organizations, to be reported on in future articles.



## REGIMENTAL RIFLE TEAM



L to R - Steve Clews, Ian Millar, Sean Marr, Terry Haigh, Kyle Rodier, William MacKeigan, Ryan Steacy and Tyler Laidler

We are indeed proud to advise you of the success of the Regiment's Rifle Team Members competing in the 78<sup>th</sup> Annual British Columbia Service Rifle Championship 2008, conducted 31 May to 01 June at the Major General Chris Vokes Range, Chilliwack, B.C.

Led by Master Corporal Ian Millar, the following Dukes participated with typical BCR fervor and élan: Corporals Stephan Clews; Terry Haigh; Tyler Laidler; Kyle Roder; Ryan Steacy and Privates Sean Marr and S. Williams.

### **Individual Competition:**

For the twelfth consecutive year, Corporal Ryan Steacy won the BC Service Rifle Open Championship. He was presented with the Champion

Gold Bullion Badge; the Wiswell Bowl and Gold Bullion Badge; and the Cramer Trophy scoring 521 with 24V Bulls out of a possible of 600.

Cpl Steacy also won the following matches: The Zwolak Trophy, 200 Meter Snap Shoot, scoring 48 -3V Bulls out of a possible of 50. The BC Regiment Trophy, scoring 49 – 6V Bulls out of a possible of 50; The McKinnon Trophy, Aggregate scores from Matches 1 to 8 Incl., scoring 349 – 19 V Bulls out of a possible of 400: The Col G. M. Letson Trophy, Aggregate scores of Matches 2, 4, 6, 8 and 10 Snap Shooting, scoring 233 – 16V Bulls out of a possible 250: The Lt Col A. Steacy Trophy, Aggregate scores of Matches 4, 8 and 12 Fire & Movement, scoring 127 – 8V Bulls out of a possible of 150; The Captain C. Dodd Tankard for the BC Reserve Force Championship Aggregate – Highest Canadian Forces Personnel in the BC Open Aggregate, scoring 521 – 24 V Bulls out of a possible of 600.

Corporal Tyler Laidler placed 2<sup>nd</sup> scoring 480–14 V Bulls; Private Sean Marr placed 3<sup>rd</sup> scoring 428-15V Bulls; Corporal Kyle Roder placed 6<sup>th</sup> scoring 418-5 V Bulls; Corporal Stephen Clews placed 7<sup>th</sup> scoring 400-16V Bulls; Master Corporal Ian Millar placed 8<sup>th</sup> scoring 389-8 V Bulls; Corporal Terry Haigh placed 10<sup>th</sup> scoring 241-5 V Bulls and Private S. Williams placed 11<sup>th</sup> scoring 175-7 V Bulls.

Corporal Ryan Steacy achieved first place in the Soldiers Trophy, open to the highest 30% competitors of the McKinnon Aggregate. 400 to 100 Metre Fire & Movement , scoring 49 7V Bulls out of a 50 possible and Corporal Tyler Laidler placed 4<sup>th</sup>, scoring 39 5V Bulls and Private Sean Marr placed 9<sup>th</sup> scoring 34-3V Bulls.

MCpl Ian Millar placed 16<sup>th</sup> in the Combined Service Pistol and Rifle Championship.

### **Team Matches:**

Infantry Association Team Match – Winner – BCR Black Team scoring 111.  
Corporals Ryan Steacy; Kyle Roder; Terry Haigh and William McKeigan- 5<sup>th</sup> Field Regiment, RCA (fill-in member).  
3<sup>rd</sup> Place, BCR Silver Team scoring 83.

Wilkerson Shield Team Match – 2nd Place- BCR Silver Team scoring 1697; 3<sup>rd</sup> Place-BCR Black Team scoring 1639.



BC Reserve Team – Canadian Forces Members only – Winner, BCR Silver Team scoring 1697. Master Corporal Ian Millar; Corporals Tyler Laidler; Stephen Clews; Private Sean Marr; 2<sup>nd</sup> Place-BCR Black Team scoring 1639.

PPCLI Service Trophy (Falling Plates Match) – Winner, BCR Black Team in 29.59 seconds. Team Members Corporals Ryan Steacy; Kyle Roder and Terry Haigh; 5<sup>th</sup> Place, BCR silver Team in 44.64 seconds.

The Moving Man Team Match-300 to 200 Snap Shoot, BCR Black Team placed 2<sup>nd</sup> and BCR Silver Team placed 5<sup>th</sup>.

Master Corporal Ian Millar and Corporal Stephen Clews entered the BC Snipers Competition as Tyros. Their first try landed them 5<sup>th</sup> place out of eleven teams of long standing snipers. Congratulations to you both.

Corporal Ryan Steacy won a position on the Canadian Forces Bisley Team 2008 based on his performance at the Canadian Forces Small Arms Competition 2007. The CF Team spent two weeks in CFB Gagetown and is presently in Bisley engaged in practicing and getting used to the various ranges. The actual competition will be completed on 13 July. You can follow the daily team activities and competition, etc., by netting onto the following weblog: <http://cfst2008bisley.blogspot.com/>.

Well done Dukes ... we former Dukes congratulate you all for continuing the Regiment's long outstanding commitment and high standard of skill and achievement in rifle competitions. We are all very proud of you all.

## **28<sup>th</sup> CANADIAN ARMoured REGIMENT (BCR) VETERANS LUNCH VERNON, BC**

The BCR (Appleknocker's) Annual Veterans Lunch continues with attendance of Veterans from the Okanagan, Kootenays and the North Thompson as well as a group from Vancouver and Lone Butte, B.C.

The lunch was held at the Blue Heron Pub overlooking Okanagan Lake at Okanagan Landing on 26 April, a beautiful sunny day.



Many thanks to you all, for supporting this longstanding most meaningful commemorative activity. Its always a great pleasure to have the company of members of the Regimental family.

## BURSARIES 2008

The Regimental Association, represented by Ray Glover and Ted Hawthorne, was honoured to present this years Bursaries at the CO's Parade held on March 26, 2008.

The five members of the Regiment who received the bursaries of \$500.00 each were:

- Tpr Tim Chi Lee
- Pte Charles Kwok
- Pte Andres Alejandro Rios
- Pte Kameliya Zarkova
- Tpr Trevor Hugh Inglis

Mr. Cam Cathcart, representing the CBC Pensioners' Association, was also in attendance to present a bursary to Pte Alan Fitzpatrick.



## NEW IDENTIFICATION OF MISSING AUSTRALIAN SOLDIER IN ZONNEBEKE-FLANDERS

In Flanders-Belgium the remains of another unknown Australian soldier, killed in September 1917, have been identified. The remains were discovered in September 2006 by a team of the Memorial Museum Passchendaele 1917 together with the remains of four others near the hamlet of Westhoek in Zonnebeke. Two of them were already identified by historical deduction and comparative DNA research, carried out in both Belgium and Australia. The 'Zonnebeke five' were officially reburied on 4 October 2007 with an impressive service at Buttes New British Cemetery in Polygon Wood (Zonnebeke). The ceremony was attended by the Governor-General of Australia, the Prime Minister of New Zealand and the families of the identified Sergeant George Calder and Private John Hunter. The name of the third identified missing soldier will only be communicated after the relatives have been informed. The identification of newly discovered remains of WWI soldiers by extensive historical research and DNA technology opens important perspectives for future discoveries of remains.

Memorial Museum Passchendaele 1917, Ieperstraat 5 Zonnebeke 8980 Belgium.

Submitted by Gauthier Hebbelynck, European Field Officer, The BC Regiment (DCO) Association.

Hopefully someday, WW I BCR Fallen, with no known grave, will be found, identified and given an appropriate resting place.

Thank you Gauthier,  
Archie

## ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Please note that the Notice of Meeting is attached to this edition. The Meeting is to be held on Thursday, August 14, 2008.



## Prince Andrew's Northern Canadian Canoe Trip The Canadian Forces Modest Involvement

In 1977 I was a major in the Canadian Forces working as the Senior Operations Officer at Northern Region Headquarters in Yellowknife. It was my third year at the job and during my northern stay had many opportunities to canoe the lakes and rivers around Yellowknife. It was therefore a pleasure when my superior, Brigadier General Ken Thorneycroft, asked me to look after the insertion of the canoes and equipment for a party of young canoeists from Lakefield Boys School in Ontario and he added that Prince Andrew would be one of the students participating. I knew that Lakefield was a school that believed in young men experiencing the Canadian wilderness and I knew that the Prince's father believed in a rugged education for his sons. One of our Twin Otter aircraft from 440 Squadron based in Yellowknife was to ferry the canoes and equipment to the lake where the trip would start. I believe it was Point Lake at the headwaters of the Coppermine River. I asked if Bob Clark, the Command Sergeant-Major could accompany me, which the general agreed to.

Prince Andrew arrived in Yellowknife a day or two ahead of the trip and was feted by Commissioner Stu Hodgson and there was a round of parties and BBQs that he attended with the sons and daughters of RCMP officers and officials from other Government departments. Meanwhile, Bob Clark and I flew in with the first canoes and set up our camp on an island and awaited the various flights bringing in the remaining equipment. I had reasoned that we couldn't just cache all of the equipment unattended and so we intended staying overnight to ensure that the canoe trip got off to a good start. I was determined that there would be no problems on my watch.

Eventually all of the canoes and equipment were on site and we watched as our aircraft, the good and very reliable CF802, taxied out onto the lake for the short flight back to Yellowknife. We waved farewell as the plane became airborne and then set about organizing all of the gear and setting up camp. In the north one never goes anywhere without being prepared and so Bob and I hauled out our fishing equipment and decided to test the waters. Naturally we used the Prince's canoe as we needed to ensure that it was worthy of its royal paddler. I should add that the canoes had been rented by the school from the Hudson's Bay Company and were of the aluminium variety with the HBC livery painted on the side. In truth therefore we didn't really know that we had used Andrew's canoe until we saw the party depart the following day. We spent many hours out on the calm lake fishing under the hazy northern light of a summer's day without end. We caught enough for the pan the next morning, as well as a few to take home. Back in our campsite Bob and I toasted our good fortune with a wee dram and talked into the night.

We were up-and-at-'em the next morning as the aircraft were to arrive at about 10:00. We moved the canoes into position close to the waters edge and ensured that there were no fish guts remaining in Prince Andrew's canoe, (*Thank God for infantry sergeant-majors*), and awaited their arrival. Soon we heard the drone of the aircraft approaching and we waved as they passed overhead. They soon landed and arrived at our camp and a crewman secured the aircraft to the shore. Although Bob and I were in our combat clothing, being good soldiers we diligently polished our boots and brushed the dust from our berets. When Andrew stepped out we gave him our best salute paying a soldier's respect even in this distant sub-arctic location. I introduced myself and introduced the sergeant-major and then the remainder of the Lakefield party exited the planes and set about their work. I have photos of these moments taken by Bob Clark. There were a few press photographers on one of the planes who took the opportunity to get shots of Andrew and his young colleagues preparing to leave. Recently I was looking at the photos that Bob took and there is no mistaking Andrew's smile even as a lad of 16.



Prince Andrew Arrives at Point Lake, July 1977



*Prince Andrew and Lakefield Schoolmaster unload their gear*

Bob and I watched the students get their gear loaded and soon they were on the water. We waved as they departed and watched the sun glint of the paddles rising and falling from the water. As Bob and I had both done some canoeing ourselves we knew that they would experience pain, pleasure, wonder and excitement and we knew that these young men, at journeys end, would know more about themselves and their capabilities as well as the country they had travelled through. I wonder if Andrew has moments in his life when he recalls setting off from Point Lake full of apprehension about the waters ahead and of his abilities to meet the challenge. The

Coppermine River is not an easy paddle and not for the faint of heart but I know they had good experienced teachers with them to guide and

encourage them. One thing I'm sure he remembers are the hordes of mosquitoes that accompanied them as their journey progressed down the river.

Bob and I were to return to Yellowknife on the Canadian Forces aircraft and so we shouldered our rucksacks, stepped onto the floats of Twin Otter CF802 and within a short time we were back on the streets of Yellowknife. I was retiring from the Army later that the summer and so this was a nice last official duty to perform before becoming a civilian. I continued living and working in the North until 1986 and my wife and I had many fine canoe trips in both the NWT and the Yukon but I will long remember that evening on a northern lake, fishing in Prince Andrew's canoe.

David Sproule  
Vancouver, BC  
June 29, 2006



*Students preparing their gear for the trip*



## **General Hillier**

I have chosen to retire from the Canadian Forces and end my tenure as your Chief of the Defence Staff in July of this year.

I accepted the leadership of the Canadian Forces in February 2005. My goal was to set the conditions for our sailors, soldiers, airmen and airwomen to succeed in our critical and often dangerous tasks in defence of Canada, Canadians, and Canadian interests and values.

We have achieved those key objectives, and reached the critical milestones I originally set out for us to reach by the end of my time as CDS. We have moulded our culture to one which recognizes that operations are our *raison d'être*; that our efforts, all of them, must concentrate on achieving the missions and tasks given to us by the Government of Canada, on behalf of all Canadians.

We have transformed how we recruit, train, equip, command, deploy, employ, bring home, recognize and care for our operational forces and our families, focused on achieving a strategic effect for Canada. We have done so while growing the Canadian Forces, re-equipping it, and while carrying out intense combat and peace support operations overseas and demanding, essential security tasks here at home.

We have remembered how to grieve; to never forget our comrades and dear friends who have died in the service of Canada. Their sacrifice, and that of their families, deserves our unwavering commitment to ensure their loss is not in vain.

We have been strengthened, immensely, by the vocal and visible support of millions of Canadians who have demonstrated that they recognize, understand and honour your service, and the sacrifice of your families.

Leadership in the Canadian Forces is not the role of one single person; it is the responsibility of all who wear the Canadian Forces uniform. I believe you will now be best served by the invigoration of new leadership, with the vision, energy, and strength to lead you through the challenges that will lie ahead. For we have not finished evolving. We must continue to adapt, and improve our Forces to accomplish the tasks Canadians need us to perform in the complex, dangerous security environment before us.

It is with great confidence that I await the selection of the senior leader who will take my place. I will continue to serve as your CDS until relieved of my duties by my successor, to be named in due course by our Prime Minister.

My wife Joyce and I thank you for the rewarding years we have shared with you, and look forward to many years ahead as part of the Canadian Forces family.

You are Canada's greatest credentials, our national treasures, and I am so very proud of you. It has been my honour and privilege to be your Chief of the Defence Staff.

R.J. Hillier General Chief of the Defence Staff

## **MARK YOUR CALENDARS!**

On Saturday, 11 October 2008, a Regimental Gala will take place at the Drill Hall in recognition of the 125<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of The BC Regiment (DCO). All are welcome to attend this special dinner/dance featuring Dal Richards and his band.

As the Regimental Gala is the major event for this fall, our annual Regimental Association Reunion in November will not be held.

Further details will be available shortly.

## CHANGE OF COMMAND PARADE

The following article is published with the permission of "The Listening Post." Our many thanks to CWO Floris van Weelderren, RSM, and members of the Warrant Officers' and Sergeants' Mess.

(Originally published in The Listening Post, Volume 11, Issue 2 (Vancouver: BCR Sgts' Mess, June 2008)

On the sunny Saturday afternoon of the Victoria Day Weekend (17 May 08), the Regiment began the Change of Command Parade at exactly 1350 hours with RSM Floris van Weelderren's command of "BUGLER, SOUND - MARKERS". Sgt Michael Hillman, CD and Sgt Huf Mullick, CD marched on No. 1 and No. 2 Guards respectively. Shortly thereafter, at LCol P.W.W. Bell's command, WO Dwayne Snow, CD escorted by Sgt Kevin Baker, CD and MCpl Kamlesh Dayal marched the Guidon onto the Parade Square.

Col G.W.J. Richmond, CD Commander 39 Canadian Brigade Group presided over the ceremony wherein LCol P.W.W. Bell, CD relinquished command to LCol D.B. Kadonoff, CD in front of over 150 spectators gathered in the Drill Hall on that Victoria Day weekend. In accordance with tradition, the outgoing CO, LCol Bell returned the Guidon to the Honorary Colonel, W.E. Ireland, QC who subsequently entrusted it to LCol Kadonoff. This was followed by the presentation of the CO's Sword by LCol Bell to LCol Kadonoff and a framed CO's Pennant by LCol Kadonoff to LCol Bell. As the Reviewing Officer, Col Richmond also took the salute as the Regiment marched by in column of route. At the conclusion of the ceremony, LCol Bell was piped off the parade square by Pipe Major Sequin.

Afterwards, the Regiment conducted a drive past on Beatty Street with LCol Bell and his family taking the salute from the dais located in front of St. Julien Square. Twenty two vehicles participated in the drive past including:

- ✓ A Ferret Scout Car
- ✓ A Lynx Command and Reconnaissance Vehicle
- ✓ 17 G-Wagen Command and Reconnaissance Light Utility Vehicles Wheeled
- ✓ A MilCOTS Light Utility Vehicle Wheeled
- ✓ Two Medium Logistics Vehicles Wheeled (Cargo)
- ✓ A Heavy Logistics Vehicle Wheeled (Wrecker)

A total of 112 Dukes were on Parade including:

- ✓ RHQ - 5 all ranks
- ✓ Escort to the Guidon - 3 all ranks
- ✓ No. 1 Guard - 26 all ranks
- ✓ No. 2 Guard - 27 all ranks
- ✓ No. 3 Guard - 24 all ranks
- ✓ BCR Brass and Reed Band - 14 musicians
- ✓ BCR Irish Pipes and Drums - 13 musicians



WO Dwayne Snow, CD carries the Guidon while Cpl Jonathan Welycki drives the Lynx during the Drive Past on Beatty Street (Photo: Ms. Amy van Weelderren)



The Regiment advances up Beatty Street: from left to right – The Adjutant, Capt Paul Linsday in a G-Wagen; The Guidon, WO Dwayne Snow in a Lynx; the new Commanding Officer, LCol Bruce Kadonoff in a Ferret; No 1 Guard Sergeant Major, Sgt Michael Hillman in a G-Wagen, Escort to the Guidon, MCpl Kamlesh Dayal in a G-Wagen; and the Regimental Sergeant Major, CWO Floris van Weelderren in a G-Wagen. (Photo: Sgt E. Dixon, Department of National Defence)



## THE VETERAN ON OUR TEN DOLLAR BILL

If you look at the back right-hand side of a Canadian \$10 bill, you will see an old veteran standing at attention near the Ottawa war memorial.

His name is Robert Metcalfe and he died last month at the age of 90.



That he managed to live to that age is rather remarkable, given what happened in the Second World War.

Born in England, he was one of the 400,000 members of the British Expeditionary Force sent to the mainland where they found themselves facing the new German warfare technique - the Blitzkrieg.

He was treating a wounded comrade when he was hit in the legs by shrapnel. En route to hospital, his ambulance came under fire from a German tank, which then miraculously ceased fire.

Evacuated from Dunkirk on HMS Grenade, two of the sister ships with them were sunk.

Recovered, he was sent to allied campaigns in North Africa and Italy.

En route his ship was chased by the German battleship Bismarck.

In North Africa he served under General Montgomery against the Desert Fox, Rommel.

Sent into the Italian campaign, he met his future wife, a lieutenant and physiotherapist in a Canadian hospital.

They were married in the morning by the mayor of the Italian town, and again in the afternoon by a British padre. After the war they settled in Chatham where he went into politics and became the warden (chairman) of the county.

On his retirement he and his wife moved to Ottawa.

At the age of 80 he wrote a book about his experiences.

One day out of the blue he received a call from a government official asking him to go downtown for a photo op. He wasn't told what the photo was for or why they chose him. 'He had no idea he would be on the bill,' his daughter said.

And now you know the story of the old veteran on the \$10 bill.

## REGIMENTAL WEBSITE

Please check out the Regimental website at [www.bcregiment.com](http://www.bcregiment.com) and click on "Association." You will be pleased to find current and past issues of "The Duke", general information, Membership Applications and Regimental Challenge Medallion Applications.

## ASSOCIATION DIRECTORS AND OFFICERS

Achim Lorenz H. Bekesinski  
Raymond Robert Brickell - Treasurer  
Andrew Paul Conradi  
Raymond Ernest Glover – Vice-President  
Edwin Arthur Hawthorne - Secretary  
Archie Martin Steacy - President  
Graydon Young

## ASLEEP

**K37411 Trooper Frank McCann**, served with the 28<sup>th</sup> Canadian Armoured Regiment (British Columbia Regiment) during World War II. He passed away on 29 December 2007. Frank and his family resided in Vernon, B.C.

**N63344093 Sergeant Eric Mathias**, served with the Royal Hong Kong Regiment (The Volunteers), and the British Columbia Regiment (DCO). He passed away on 18 January 2008. Eric and family resided in Vancouver, B.C.

**K38507 Corporal Maxwell Carne**, served with the 28<sup>th</sup> Canadian Armoured Regiment (British Columbia Regiment) during World War II. He passed away on 22 Feb 2008. Max, Mary and family resided in Nelson, B.C.

**L84588 Corporal Mirosław (Morris) Yurashak**, served with the 28<sup>th</sup> Canadian Armoured Regiment (British Columbia Regiment) during World War II. He passed away on 28 May 2008. Morris, Jane and family resided in Medicine Hat, Alberta.

**K804533 Sergeant John (Andy) Phaff**, served with the 16/22 Saskatchewan Horse and the 28<sup>th</sup> Canadian Armoured Regiment (British Columbia Regiment) during World War II. He passed away in May 2008. Andy and Irene resided in Red Deer, Alberta.

**Fusilier, Sapper and US Army NCO Harold Douglas Lovatt**, served with the Irish Fusiliers, 6<sup>th</sup> Field Squadron, Royal Canadian Engineers and the United States Army, serving two tours in Vietnam, passed away 30 May 2008. He was an ardent rifle and pistol competitor who spent many years coaching and shooting in competition with BCR Teams. Doug resided in Surrey, B.C.

**We Shall Remember Them.**

## A TRIBUTE TO RSM JOHN GILMARTIN

Lieutenant (Ret'd) William Whalen, now a sergeant in the RCMP, gave permission to include this message reflecting the impact RSM John Gilmartin had on his life and career.

Thank you Bill, Archie

Colonel,

I received my copy of "The Duke" a few days ago and casually put it aside. As I scanned it today, I was saddened to read about the passing of RSM Gilmartin. For the past number of years I have enjoyed running into him as the Remembrance Day Parade marshaled near Victory Square. We would shake hands, and ever the professional, he would say "Hello Sir". He was a retired CWO and I was now a mere Constable but he was very kind. I missed him this year and wondered how he was.

I owe a lot to RSM Gilmartin. After graduating the Armoured school in 1984 I returned to the Regiment and was assigned my first troop. My first troop Warrant, I was told, was new to the Regiment, a career Regular Force Warrant. Needless to say I was pretty intimidated, especially after we met and he informed me that his daughter was a year older than me!

I remember that he drove a fabulous Lincoln Town Car, metallic blue with gold accents, that he kept immaculate. It was a real "Man's car". Well, we got on famously. As any good troop warrant does, he pushed me out in front of

the men, and let them think I was running things. He taught me an awful lot, but most importantly, he taught me to respect the men, at all ranks, for the efforts they put forth. I use the lessons he taught me and the example he set to this day. I'll miss him next year.

Yours,  
Sergeant Bill Whalen  
Royal Canadian Mounted Police

## **MINISTER OF VETERANS AFFAIRS COMMENDATION**

The Minister of Veterans Affairs Commendation was sanctioned by the Governor General to recognize and honour Veterans, who continue to provide in an exemplary manner, outstanding service in the community. Commendations are awarded annually to Veterans (and on rare occasions, citizens) who have significantly contributed to the care and well being of Veterans, fellow comrades, citizens and communities.

### **2008 Commendation Recipients**

Albert Aldrich, Winnipeg, Manitoba  
John Babcock, Spokane, Washington  
George Boatman, Salmon Arm, British Columbia  
Michael Cook, Surrey, British Columbia  
Louis Cuppens, Nauwigewauk, New Brunswick  
Thomas Faulkner, Winnipeg, Manitoba  
Bruce Ferguson, Sooke, British Columbia  
Thomas Finn, Surrey, British Columbia  
Raymond Glover, Delta, British Columbia  
Christina Gregoire, Tide Head, New Brunswick  
Joanne Henderson, Surrey, British Columbia  
Arthur Hughes, Vancouver, British Columbia  
Linda Jones, Burnaby, British Columbia  
John Keilly, Winnipeg, Manitoba  
Amanda Lavallee, Winnipeg, Manitoba

Donald Mackey, Winnipeg, Manitoba  
Gordon Marsh, Kamloops, British Columbia  
Robert Maxwell, Peachland, British Columbia  
Douglas Miller, Yellowknife, Northwest Territories  
Douglas Munro, Victoria, British Columbia  
Victor Nordquist, Port Coquitlam, British Columbia  
Aurele Rousselle, Tacadie Sheila, New Brunswick  
Josephine Selkirk, Prince George, British Columbia  
James Sidel, Victoria, British Columbia  
Bishop John Sperry, Yellowknife, Northwest Territories  
Elizabeth Spry, Victoria, British Columbia  
William Thompson, Charlie Lake, British Columbia  
Andrew Turnbull, Cambridge Narrows, New Brunswick  
Gerry Vowles, West Vancouver, British Columbia  
Elsie Wayne, Saint John, New Brunswick

The foregoing article is published with the permission of The BC Veterans Commemorative Association (originally published in the Summer 2008 edition of "Our History...Our Heritage")

## **ASSOCIATION SPECIAL PROJECTS**

The Association continues to support, through its Charitable Trust, various annual initiatives such as our Bursary Program for serving members of the Regiment and our dinner for the homeless in the month of December. In addition, the Charitable Trust supports various projects which assist in maintaining our link with the history of the Regiment (i.e. commemorative ceremonies, dedication of memorial plaques and support of our four Cadet Corps). A special thank you to all of those members who support the Charitable Trust!

We are presently creating a photo collage portraying Dukes who have served in Afghanistan. We will be asking for the assistance of the members in the design of the collage for each rotation to Afghanistan.

A special thank you to all of those members who support the Charitable Trust! Your generosity has made it possible to accomplish many of the commemorative projects your Association has undertaken.



The following advertisements have been paid for by the advertiser to The BC Regiment (DCO) Association to help offset the cost of our newsletter and we thank them for their support.

**K.R. Parkes Goldsmith & Hand Engraver**

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## NOTICE OF ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

**NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN** that the Annual General Meeting of the Members of THE BC REGIMENT (DCO) ASSOCIATION (the "Society") will be held at #208 – 1899 Willingdon Avenue, Burnaby, British Columbia, on Thursday, the 14<sup>th</sup> day of August, 2008 at the hour of 7:30 o'clock in the evening, for the following purposes:

1. To receive and approve the report of the Directors of the Society and the financial statements of the Society for the period ended the 31<sup>st</sup> day of March, 2008.
2. To determine the number of directors.
3. To elect directors for the ensuing year.
4. To appoint Accountants for the ensuing year and to authorize the directors to fix their remuneration.
5. To fix and determine the annual membership dues.
6. To ratify, confirm and approve all acts, deed and things done by the proceedings of the directors and officers of the Society on its behalf since the last Annual General Meeting of the Society.
7. To transact such other business as may properly come before the Meeting or any adjournment or adjournments thereof.

DATED at Burnaby, B.C. this 3<sup>rd</sup> day of June, 2008.

BY ORDER OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Per: E.A. Hawthorne  
Secretary



## The British Columbia Regiment (DCO) Association Annual Dues – 2008

Dear Duke,

Thank you for your continued support of the Regimental Association's goals and commemorative activities.

Please complete the information section enabling the maintenance of our membership data base. Please ensure your military service information has been forwarded to us in order to provide the information to the Regimental Museum Society's archives for historical purposes. We want you and your military service remembered.

Please provide us with your e-mail address if you possess a computer.

**NOTE: Please return the form for filing. Do not tear-off any portion of the form.**

Thank you.

### Personal Information Up-date:

Service Number \_\_\_\_\_ Rank \_\_\_\_\_

Surname \_\_\_\_\_ First \_\_\_\_\_ Initial \_\_\_\_\_

Spouse/Partner Name \_\_\_\_\_ First \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_ City \_\_\_\_\_ Province \_\_\_\_\_

Postal Code \_\_\_\_\_ Telephone \_\_\_\_\_

E-Mail Address \_\_\_\_\_

Please print your e-mail address clearly.

### Donations to the BC Regiment (DCO) Charitable Trust

The primary responsibility of the Association is to serve its members, support the Regiment, our four Army Cadet Corps, provide bursaries opportunities for our soldiers, ensure community links and commemorative activities are maintained and that peace and wartime service is respected, remembered and honoured. To fulfill these obligations, the Association's Charitable Trust needs your support.

1. Annual Dues: \$30.00 \_\_\_\_\_

2. Charitable Trust Donation \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Please note: If you wish to make a donation, please enclose a separate cheque from your dues, and make payable to BCRA Charitable Trust. Tax receipts will be provided. Thank you for your support and thoughtfulness.

Up the Dukes.





## The BC Regiment (DCO) Association

### The New Regimental Tie

The new Regimental silk tie is designed to reflect the Regiment's Irish connection. The connection is acknowledged by the addition of a 1/16" wide red stripe immediately adjacent to and below the 1/16" silver stripe.

### Order Form

1. To purchase a new Regimental Tie, please complete the following:

Surname \_\_\_\_\_ First \_\_\_\_\_ Initial \_\_\_\_\_  
Address \_\_\_\_\_ City \_\_\_\_\_  
Country \_\_\_\_\_ Province \_\_\_\_\_ Postal Code \_\_\_\_\_  
Telephone (    ) \_\_\_\_\_ E-mail \_\_\_\_\_

Number of ties ordered \_\_\_\_\_ x \$35.00 = \_\_\_\_\_

Handling & mailing (if applicable \$2.00) \_\_\_\_\_

Total cost \_\_\_\_\_

**Please enclose your cheque/money order.**

2. Mail to:    The BC Regiment (DCO) Association  
                  The Drill Hall  
                  620 Beatty Street  
                  Vancouver, BC V6B 2L9

Thank you for supporting the Regimental Mufti Order of Dress.

Up the Dukes.