

Princess Patricia's Canadian Light Infantry

ASSOCIATION NEWSLETTER



November 2003

PRINCESS PATRICIA'S CANADIAN LIGHT INFANTRY ASSOCIATION

NEWSLETTER

An annual Newsletter, devoted to the interest of all serving and retired members of Princess Patricia's Canadian Light Infantry, is published as an official Regimental Publication by authority of the President of the Princess Patricia's Canadian Light Infantry Association.

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Past President: Mr. Jac de Bruijne, CD
National Secretary-Treasurer: Captain R.J. McConechy, CD



Founded October 1947

Incorporated September 1, 1953

In this Issue:

The National Executive Page 2
 Regimental Headquarters Page 2
 Branch Addresses Page 3
 President's Report Page 5
 Colonel of the Regiment's Message Page 6
 Editor's Observation Post Page 6
 RM's Corner Page 8

Special Interest

Farewell to Stu Graham Page 8
 MGen Stewart Appointed
 Colonel of the Regiment Page 9
 Korean War Statue Unveiled Page 9
 Rod Middleton Awarded MSM Page 9
 Our New National Secretary Page 10
 90th Anniversary Celebrations Page 10
 Mother Waits 21 Years for Silver Cross Page 11

Branch News

Atlantic Page 11
 Calgary Page 11
 Edmonton Page 13
 Fraser Valley Page 13

Manitoba & North Western Ontario Page 14
 Ottawa Page 14
 Southwest Ontario Page 15
 Vancouver Page 15
 Victoria Page 15
 Wainwright Page 16

Editor's Scrap Book

Regina Pats and PPCLI Page 16
 All Old Soldiers Page 16

Mail Bag Page 17

Help Lines

Medals - Obtaining, Wearing, etc. Page 18
 Obtaining Military service Records Page 18

Lighten Up Page 18

Last Post Page 19

Message of Condolence Page 20

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The above information was the latest available to the Editor at press time. Please notify the Editor and the National Secretary immediately of any errors or subsequent changes.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

By Rudy Raidt, MMM, CD

May I just say how privileged I am to lead the Association during the next two years. They will be busy two years to say the least, but I am sure we can meet the challenges ahead. While my report may read like a CEOs Report (maybe it should be), let me address the Newsletter and its purpose. Using the Newsletter to disseminate this report is critical – the Newsletter is the only effective means we have to circulate information from Patricias to Patricias and about Patricias -- communications amongst ourselves has always been a problem. As an old Patricia once told me, "When you have done your damndest to keep every one informed, you will discover that the man who works at your elbow did not get the word". So true! Information, however informative, must not only flow from top to bottom, but more importantly, information must flow from bottom to top. Only through effective communications can we assure an informed membership and, indeed, assure our future as a viable Association.

A few words on Regimental matters. A most heartfelt thanks to the outgoing Honorary Chairman and Colonel of the Regiment, General John de Chastelain. Despite his other commitments, he was a true Patricia who represented the whole Regiment in a most conspicuous fashion. For his service to the Association, General de Chastelain was appointed a Vice Patron. Last June we had a change of Colonels of the Regiment and we extend a warm welcome to our new Honorary Chairman and Colonel of the Regiment, MGen R.I. (Bob) Stewart. We look forward to working with our new Honorary Chairman as we face several important issues that demand our attention.

It is not always easy to thank a member who relinquished an appointment or had to step aside because the term of office expired. Yet, I must take this opportunity and thank Jac de Bruijne, our now Immediate Past President. Jac was an inspiration to many, and to be his Vice President was a pleasure indeed. Thanks Jac for a job well done!

What lies ahead? Thankfully, no one can predict the future. But look to the future we must, for in the future lie our goals and regrettably, too, our problems and challenges. Looking at the Association demographics, we do face a diminishing membership during the next ten years. Therefore, we must all become recruiters and encourage our serving brothers to join our ranks now or, certainly upon their retirement. I challenge our Membership Committee to do its best and design a membership program to achieve that goal.

I do believe that I have a reasonable grasp of the broad perspective of the Association's character and the overall direction the Association must go. During the last few years we made necessary changes to our objectives, policies, activities and programs. We have also changed our By-laws and procedures. I am pleased to say that our membership had its say throughout our efforts to implement the changes. At present we are addressing the corporate structure of the

Association and its governance role with that of the serving component. Members of Council, represented by the Branch Presidents, will become or are already engaged in the process, and will become more so in the future. Who said our work as members of Council is an avocation only?

Re: Fundraising. It remains my concern how we can sustain the financial obligations of the Association in the future. Our "Annual Donation" campaign to date raised approximately \$42,000, much less than anticipated. I have been persuaded to give it one more try this Fall (see the enclosed flyer). I appeal to all members, especially those who have yet to make a one-time donation, to support us one more time so we can raise another \$25,000. It should be easy: We have 800 plus members, and if every member would just make a donation of \$25, we could raise at least \$20,000. If, however, every member makes a donation of \$75 then the total would be \$75,000! Again, any amount over \$25 will be tax receipted. As I stated many times before, we need a capital of at least \$250,000 to sustain our financial obligations now and certainly in the future. I for ever remain optimistic that we can achieve our goal!

Re: Casino Operations. We expect to receive \$45,000 from the last casino held and operated by the Calgary Branch. The Calgary Branch has been operating casinos on behalf of the Association for 20 years. While our thanks and appreciation must go to every member of the Calgary Branch who volunteered over the years, we also recognize that the same volunteers are now 20 years older. I expect the next casino in 2005 may be the last for many of our members. This will be another challenge for the Association to over come. While casino proceeds are important in the overall financial picture for the Association, and indeed the Regiment as a whole, the time has come to re-examine other venues.

At the time of this writing, I take note with much sympathy the passing of many Patricias and, indeed, their family members. My full and abiding sympathy is felt for the surviving spouses and families.

Not enough is said about the excellent service we get from the staff at Regimental Headquarters. Even so we step on them now on then, they work assiduously to obtain the best service for us. Thanks to you all.

Now on the threshold of another new year, what new challenges await? I feel confident that with the team we have in place we can face any challenge in the future.

The Members of Council and the Staff

of the Association Secretariat wish

all Patricias and their Families

"A Happy Holiday Season"

THE COLONEL OF THE REGIMENT

*MGen Robert I. Stewart,
CMM, CD*



In June of this year I had the great personal honour to be appointed as your Colonel of the Regiment. It is indeed a great privilege to be given the opportunity to serve our Regiment and I look forward to the next three years.

Earlier in the summer, as I completed my handover with the outgoing Colonel of the Regiment, General de Chastelain, I witnessed the change of command of the First Battalion and the Loyal Edmonton Regiment (4 PPCLI). As well, the Colonel-in-Chief and I were able to officially open the Hamilton Gault Memorial Park adjacent to the G.G. Brown Building.

During the last few years our Regiment has been very busy and as we start the fall cycle we find for the first time in a very long while all battalions of the Regiment at home in Canada.

I recently visited 2 PPCLI in Bosnia as their tour of duty wound down and had the honour of presenting medals to the battalion for their service in Bosnia. As one would expect they have done a very professional and successful job and we can be proud of their performance. Over the past six years I have visited Bosnia five times and I have been impressed by the slow but steady progress in reconstruction and stabilization in the country. Our efforts have made a major contribution towards that progress and we can take pride in the part that the Patricia's have played in this success. The Second Battalion will now start the process of reconstitution and preparations for the move to Shilo in the summer of 2004.

In September I had planned to attend a First Battalion patrol exercise in the Ghost River country and was looking forward to reacquainting myself with living in a 'hoochy' for a few days. Unfortunately or perhaps fortunately for my old bones, the Battalion was deployed to BC for forest fire fighting duties. As any of you who have participated in this task know it is dirty and rough work. The battalion did yeomen service and I am sure the citizens of central BC are thankful of the service they provided.

The cancellation of the patrol exercise provided me with a useful opportunity to visit our Regimental Museum in Calgary and hold discussions with Rudy Raidt, the President of our Association. In particular we discussed the financial affairs of the Regiment and I would like to remind

all members that our 100th Anniversary in 2014 is only 11 years away. This may seem like a long time but if we are to be financially ready to underwrite the costs of the celebration then we must seriously commence the accumulation of funds. I encourage all to continue supporting Rudy Raidt's Millennium Fund program of annual contributions. By so doing we will over the ten year period allow funds to grow which will substantially ease the financial burden during the final run-up to the 100th.

The cancellation of the First Battalion exercise also allowed me to reorient and organize a visit to Land Force Western Area Training Centre in Wainwright. It was good opportunity to see how our new Patricia's are trained and to judge the quality of our instructors. I came away impressed by the dedication and skill of the WO/NCO instructors and the high quality of new soldier that they are turning out. The young soldiers are enthusiastic and eager to come to Regimental duty and I enjoyed the opportunity to present Patricia cap badges to a platoon that was nearing graduation.

In closing, I want express my thanks to the Association for their continued commitment to the Regiment. I look forward to seeing you during my travels and next year at the 90th Anniversary celebrations in Winnipeg or in Edmonton.
VP.

EDITOR'S OBSERVATION POST

By D'Arcy Best

Association Publications and The Patrician

I will begin by attempting to clear up some confusion that seems to exist regarding the nature and timing of annual publications distributed to Association Members. All paid up members receive three publications each year: the *PPCLI Association Newsletter*, the *PPCLI Association Spring Bulletin* and *The Patrician*.

The *PPCLI Association Newsletter* is published and distributed in the fall. It contains editorials, announcements of upcoming Association and Regimental activities, personal and historical notes and current affairs of interest to members. The Minutes of the latest Annual General Meeting (AGM) are enclosed. Branch write-ups include special events that have occurred during the past year, activity calendars for the coming year and any other information branches may wish to pass on to their own and other members. We also encourage individual members to contribute personal anecdotes and photographs.

The *PPCLI Association Spring Bulletin* is published as a supplement to the Association Newsletter. It contains updated National and Branch addresses, an editorial page, information on the next AGM and other upcoming events, updates to Branch Calendars, changes in Branch Officers and other reminders to Branches and members. It is distributed in March or April, ensuring that information on the Annual General Meeting information is passed on early enough for members to respond in time. As the *2004 Spring Bulletin* is to be distributed in March, I will need all submissions by **February 15**.

The Patrician is also distributed in the spring. It is our Regimental Journal, devoted to the interest of serving and retired members of the Regiment, and includes articles on the activities of our serving personnel, Association Branches and affiliated Cadet Corps over the past year. Submissions for publication in *The Patrician 2003* must be received at Regimental Headquarters by **January 31, 2004**.

Articles submitted by Branches to *The Patrician* should be 250-500 words in length with lots of photos. Hard copies of articles and photos may be mailed to RHQ or e-mailed in MS Word with electronic photos scanned at minimum 300 dpi in TIF or high quality JPEG format.

We hope Branches will not duplicate submissions in the *Association Newsletter* and *The Patrician* as Association members read both. In essence, the *Association Newsletter* announces what we are planning and *The Patrician* reports what we have done.

2003 Annual General Meeting

The Annual General Meeting in St Catharines, Ontario, during the weekend of 9-11 May should serve as a model for future AGMs. The event was carefully planned, superbly executed and – probably as a result of the early notice given to members across the country – well attended.

In addition to the usual housekeeping business, the members approved some minor (mostly cosmetic) amendments to the Constitution, elected a new slate of Officers and approved Honorary Memberships for widows of three former Vice-Patrons of the Association – Pauline Brown, Helen Sutherland and Betty Graham – and Mr. Dennis A. Anderson, who has provided auditing and financial service to the Regiment and Association for many years. We also approved the appointment of General (Retd) John de Chastelain to Vice-Patron of the PPCLI Association, effective upon relinquishment of his appointment as Colonel of the Regiment in June of this year.

Rudy Raidt, onetime Regimental Adjutant and National Secretary of the Association and more recently National Vice-President and Financial Chairman, was elected National President, replacing Jac de Bruijne who has stepped down after four years in office.

Bill Sutherland, Edmonton Branch, remembered by most members of the Manitoba & North Western Ontario Branch from his days as Commanding Officer of 2PPCLI, was elected National Vice-President. Harry Bloom, Ottawa Branch, was elected Vice-President (East), replacing Bruce Paxton who has also stepped down after four years in office. Tom Tyson, incumbent Vice-President (West), has another year to serve in his term. Captain Rob McConechy, replacing Captain Dale MacPherson as Regimental Adjutant, became National Secretary-Treasurer.

The membership also approved a resolution, presented by the Ottawa Branch, to become more actively involved in assisting serving and recently retired members of the Regiment. We will have more on his later.

Edmonton was announced as the location of the 2004

AGM, in conjunction with First and Third Battalions' 90th Anniversary activities during the weekend of 25-27 June 2004. Second Battalion will celebrate the 90th Anniversary in Winnipeg the previous weekend, 18-20 June, in conjunction with their Farewell to Winnipeg and Change of Command.

Following the General Meeting, Cpl Furlong, 3 PPCLI Sniper Section, treated members to an excellent presentation on sniper operations in Afghanistan with the American forces. I was very impressed by his account of their activities and amazed, not only at the capabilities of our sniper detachments and their top-notch equipment, but the responsibility they were given and handled so well. These were Master Corporals and Corporals operating on their own, for the most part, without Officers or Senior NCOs. No wonder the Americans thought so highly of them.

I was very pleased to see this AGM attended by BGen Glen Nordick, President of the Regimental Guard; LCol Mike Beaudette; Acting Chairman of the Regimental Executive Committee; and Major Ted Giraldeau, Regimental Major. Their presence was tangible evidence that the serving component of the Regiment and the Association are again coming together and moving on the same track.

Congratulations to Bruce Paxton, Morris Brause and all the unsung workers of the Southwest Ontario Branch on a memorable weekend.

Student Bursaries

Three bursaries of \$500 each have been awarded this year from the PPCLI Student Bursary Fund.

Mr. Trevor Lukaniuk of St Albert, Alberta, a member of the 2551 PPCLI Cadet Corps who has been attending the Vimy Ridge Academy in Edmonton, was awarded a Jack Cathie Student Bursary. He will be pursuing post secondary education at the University of Alberta.

Miss Lisa McLaughlin of St Albert, Alberta, daughter of Warrant Officer Helge Schmidt, 3 PPCLI, was also awarded a Jack Cathie Student Bursary. She is entering her final year of an undergraduate degree programme in Psychology at the University of Alberta.

Miss Jennifer Ryan of Winnipeg, daughter of Paul Ryan of the Manitoba & North Western Ontario Branch of the PPCLI Association, was awarded a Hamilton Gault Memorial Fund Student Bursary. Jennifer is enrolled at the University of Manitoba and will continue her studies in the field of Education.

The Other Forgotten War

Much has been said over the past year about the war in Korea. Ceremonies have been held all over Canada and in other countries marking the 50th Anniversary of the 1953 Ceasefire. Statues have been erected and dedicated in Ottawa, Calgary and other places honouring those who fought in that "Forgotten War".

Fair enough. Those who served in Korea should be recognized for their service and sacrifice. However, how

many Canadians remember this year is also the 60th Anniversary of another major event in Canadian military history?

On July 10th, 1943, the PPCLI and other units of the Canadian First Infantry Division along with our British and American allies landed on the beaches of Sicily. News of this event created a great deal excitement on the home front at the time but within a few months the media and politicians began to focus on the expected invasion of Northwest Europe. Replacement equipment and qualified reinforcements for the units in Italy became scarce, then non-existent, and by the time the Normandy Invasion took place in June 1944 the Italian Campaign had become the "Forgotten War".

Nearly 93,000 Canadians fought in the Italian Campaign and over 6,000 of them are buried in cemeteries from Sicily to Northern Italy.

The Benevolent Fund

Members are reminded of the Benevolent Fund that was established in 2000 with the aim of providing a means to financially support Regimental members, serving and retired, where no or inadequate assistance is available from other agencies. The objectives of the fund are to foster and maintain the welfare of all members and their families and to enhance esprit de corps in the Regiment.

The Benevolent Fund provides benevolent grants and loans as well as recognition of members who die on duty. Further details are available from the Association Secretariat and will soon be included in the soon to be revised Regimental Manual and the Regimental Web Page.

RM's CORNER

*By Major E.A. (Ted) Giraldeau
Regimental Major*

Greetings. Once again, I am pleased with having the opportunity to present a few of the RM's views in the Association Newsletter. I congratulate the Editor and the Executive with reviving and sustaining the Newsletter.

When first appointed as the RM in the spring of 2001, (wow over two years in the job already – where does the time go?), the then President of the Regimental Guard and Senior Serving Patricia, BGen Vince Kennedy challenged me to develop ways in which to support the Association, to attract new members and to strengthen the bonds between the serving and retired components. As I quickly found out, this is not so easy a task as it first may appear. Although I feel that progress has been made, I do not yet feel that I have completely met Gen Kennedy's challenge. There is still work that can be done.

I was heartened by the initiative and work done by the Ottawa Branch, particularly by John Hunter, with respect to developing a Benevolent Outreach program. The idea has great merit and potential. What really pleased me though was the fact that a branch had taken upon itself to think of

the role of the Association. It looked beyond the social aspect of the Association and examined the Association's reason for being. This is encouraging.

This kind of thought is exactly what the Association needs (in my humble opinion). All organizations need to reflect upon themselves, their roles and what they offer to their members and prospective members. Without self-reflection and follow-up action, an organization becomes stagnant and eventually dies. This is not the trail the Association should be following. I was reminded of a discussion I had with members of the Calgary Branch of the Burma Star Association. This group does not accept new members, as one must have served in Burma during the Second World War to be a member. When asked what would happen when only one member was left, the Branch President said that that individual would turn off the lights. I don't imagine that anyone wants to see the lights turned off on the PPCLI Association.

So . . . what can the Association do to sustain itself? What role could it take on which would inspire serving soldiers to join the Association upon retirement (or while serving for that matter)? Not easily answerable questions, particularly if only a few people in the Regiment are thinking about them. What is required is some thought, some creative ideas from all Branches of the Association. Maybe individual branches can come up with branch specific roles like supporting a local PPCLI Cadet Corps, veterans' centre or community project. Members of The RCR and Van Doo Associations are heavily involved in the management of Regimental funds and investments, and fundraising to sustain their Regimental museums. All serving soldiers of The RCR are automatically members of the Association upon joining the Regiment. This creates a link between the components right from Day One of a soldier's career. Perhaps that is something the Association wants to consider. I'm sure that if there is sufficient brainstorming and interest shown, the Association can come up with creative ways to reinforce its existence and guarantee its future.

So . . . what has been the purpose of my ramblings? I guess it's been to encourage some thought and discussion amongst Association members as to the continued viability of the organization. The Regiment depends upon the Old Guard to foster, maintain and promote its well-being and to achieve this; the Association must find ways to ensure its continued relevancy. I for one do not want to be the one who has to turn off the lights as the last man standing.

FAREWELL TO STU GRAHAM

Brigadier-General (Retired) Reginald Stuart Graham, Vice-Patron of the PPCLI Association and former Colonel of the Regiment, passed away peacefully in Qualicum Beach, BC on Monday, April 21, 2003 at the age of 83.

General Graham was a graduate of the Royal Military College. A professional soldier for 35 years, he served with

the PPCLI in England, Sicily, Italy and Europe during World War II, then with the Canadian Guards Regiment in Canada and Germany, and held a number of appointments in Canada, the United States and India. He served as PPCLI Colonel of the Regiment from October 15, 1987 to October 19, 1990, and was appointed Vice-Patron of the PPCLI Association on July 28, 1991.

A celebration of General Graham's life was held April 26, 2003 at St. Marks Anglican Church, Qualicum Beach, BC. General (Retd) John de Chastelain (Colonel of the Regiment), Maj Ted Giraldeau (Regimental Major), Chief Warrant Officer Forde (Regimental RSM) and PPCLI Association President Jac de Bruijne attended as representatives of the Regiment.

MGEN R.I. STEWART APPOINTED COLONEL OF THE REGIMENT

On 20 June 2003, CFB Edmonton was the site of a Change of Appointment Ceremony where Major-General (Retd) R.I. Stewart, CMM, CD succeeded General (Retd) A.J.G.D. de Chastelain, OC, CMM, CD, CH as Colonel of the Regiment.

General de Chastelain, who has completed his three-year term, had initially accepted the appointment on the understanding that his term would not be extended. He did so for two reasons -- the first being the fact that the Regiment is blessed with a number of retired General Officers and Colonels who should be given the opportunity to serve as Colonel of the Regiment and secondly, his responsibilities in the Northern Ireland peace process continue to demand a great deal of his time and focus.

MGen Stewart began his military service as a rifleman in the Regina Rifle Regiment in 1954. In 1956, he joined the Canadian Army Regular Force and served as a private soldier and non-commissioned officer with the Second Battalion Princess Patricia's Canadian Light Infantry.

In 1957, he was selected as a Regular Officer Training Plan candidate and attended the University of Saskatchewan graduating in 1960. He returned to the Second Battalion Princess Patricia's Canadian Light Infantry as a commissioned officer and served in various Regimental appointments until 1965. During 1965-66, MGen Stewart attended the Canadian Army Staff College and upon graduation was assigned as General Staff Officer (Training) to Headquarters 4 Canadian Mechanized Brigade Group in the Federal Republic of Germany. He rejoined the Second Battalion of his Regiment in Germany in 1968 as a company commander.

On return to Canada in 1969, he served with the Canadian Airborne Regiment first as Regimental Major and then from 1971 to 1972 as the Commanding Officer of 2 Airborne Commando. From 1972 to 1973 MGen Stewart held staff appointments in National Defence Headquarters and in Training Command Headquarters.

In 1974, he assumed command of the Second Battalion

Princess Patricia's Canadian Light Infantry in Winnipeg and in 1976 took the battalion to Cyprus. He commanded the Infantry School in Gagetown, N.B. from 1976 to 1977 and the following year assumed the appointment of Deputy Commander, 1 Canadian Brigade Group in Calgary. He attended the US Army War College during 1979 to 1980 and on completion assumed the duties as Chief of Staff Central Militia Area until July 1981.

MGen Stewart was promoted to Brigadier-General 1 July 1982 and took command of the Special Service Force at Canadian Forces Base Petawawa. He held this position until 8 August 1984, at which time he was appointed Commandant of the Canadian Land Forces Command and Staff College in Kingston. On 31 July 1987 he was appointed Canadian Forces Military Attaché, CDLS Washington. MGen Stewart was promoted to Major-General on 1 July 1989 and on 17 July 1989 assumed command of Land Force Central Area.

He retired in Sep 1992 and now resides in Victoria BC. He served as Colonel Commandant of Infantry from September 1998 to September 2001.

KOREAN WAR STATUE UNVEILED AT MUSEUM OF THE REGIMENTS

On 25 April 2003, a statue was unveiled at the Museum of the Regiments commemorating those Canadians who served during the Korean War.

In the spring of 2002, Calgary businessman Duncan McNeill approached Colonel (Retd) Ian Grey, the Museum of the Regiment's Executive Director, and offered to fund the creation of a bronze statue to commemorate the service to our nation and the world of those Canadians who served in the Korean War. Mr McNeill's brother Malcolm served in the Korean War with 2 PPCLI from 1950 to 1951.

With the assistance of the PPCLI Museum Staff, a suitable design was created and following approval by Mr. McNeill a one-and-a-third times life size bronze statue was born. The 'heroic' statue featured a soldier (with the likeness of Malcolm McNeill) dressed in the uniform of the day, complete with webbing, rifle, ammunition bandoleers, and grenades.

A photograph of the statue is displayed on the cover of this Newsletter.

ROD MIDDLETON AWARDED MSM

Rod Middleton of the Calgary Branch has been awarded the *Meritorious Service Medal (Civil)* in recognition of his outstanding service to the Regiment. BGen Vince Kennedy nominated Rod for the award last year and the Governor General's office notified Rod recently. The presentation will take place in Ottawa by the Governor General on some date to be designated. The MSM (Civil) is the civilian equivalent to the military MSM.

The supporting narrative for Rod's nomination reads:

"Maj (Retd) Rod Middleton is nominated for a Meritorious Service Decoration - Civil Division in recognition of his devoted and dedicated efforts to preserve and promote the heritage of his Regiment, and in doing so, the heritage of his community and country.

"Following a distinguished 27-year military career, during which he saw action in Korea, was wounded in battle, and later served in various command and staff positions, including several prestigious foreign postings, Rod continues to serve his Regiment and community. He has been an active member of the PPCLI Association and served as its National President from 1984 to 1989. From 1988 on to the present, he has been deeply and passionately involved in the preservation and promotion of the heritage of the Princess Patricia's Canadian Light Infantry. He is a volunteer member and the driving force of the PPCLI Heritage Committee and acted as its Chairman from 1999 to 2001. He was heavily involved in the design and planning of the PPCLI Museum and Archives as well as the layout, artefact acquisition, display, and fundraising for the exhibits. The PPCLI Gallery, as part of the Museum of the Regiments in Calgary, has developed into a world class facility and is now considered one of the best military galleries in Canada. Its status rivals that of the Canadian National War Museum in Ottawa. This reputation is due in great part to the commitment and extraordinary effort of Rod Middleton. Along with his duties with the PPCLI Gallery, Rod volunteered as the Acting Director of the Museum of the Regiments for several months during 2000. Despite spending upwards of 30 hours a week as a volunteer Gallery Host and on other significant heritage projects, Rod led a research team that provided invaluable service to the author and historian, David Bercuson, in his writing and publication of *The Patricias - The Proud History of a Fighting Regiment*. Rod's efforts at the Museum of the Regiment, the PPCLI Gallery and on several heritage projects has brought great credit to his Regiment, the Canadian Forces and, indeed, to the greater Canadian community in which he serves.

"With the Year of the Volunteer recently behind us, Rod's selfless dedication and willingness to give of himself provides an excellent example for others to emulate. His desire to preserve part of Canada's rich military heritage for the generations of Canadians to come is a commendable trait and his accomplishments in this regard are truly worthy of recognition through the award of a Meritorious Service Decoration."

OUR NEW NATIONAL SECRETARY

Captain Robert J. McConechy, CD enrolled in the Canadian Forces in 1982 in Winnipeg. Following a six-month Direct Infantry Training Course in Wainwright, he was posted to 1 PPCLI in Calgary.

During his tour in 1 PPCLI he attained the rank of

Sergeant. He was employed in B Coy as a Rifleman, C2 Gunner, Section Second-in-Command and finally Section Commander. During this time he completed a tour in Cyprus 1984.

In 1987 he was posted to 2nd Airborne Commando, Canadian Airborne Regiment in Petawawa, serving in a rifle platoon and in the Airborne Mortar Platoon of the Headquarters and Signals Squadron as a Mortar Fire Controller. During this period he completed the Advanced Mortar Course, Qualification Level 6B and the Senior Leaders Course.

Posted to 3 PPCLI in Esquimalt, he served as a Section Commander, Rifle Platoon Warrant Officer and Reconnaissance Platoon Warrant Officer. While in Reconnaissance Platoon, he completed a tour in Croatia in the winter of 1992-93.

In 1993, Captain McConechy completed Second Language Training, was posted back to the Canadian Airborne Regiment as a Platoon Warrant Officer in 2 Commando and completed the Airborne Pathfinder Course.

Upon disbandment of the Canadian Airborne Regiment he was posted to Edmonton to assist in formation of the PPCLI Parachute Company. He was employed as the Combat Support Platoon Commander until the stand-up of 3 PPCLI in Edmonton and then as the Mortar Platoon Warrant Officer.

In 1997, he was seconded to the Lord Strathcona's Horse (Royal Canadians) for a year as a Squadron Quartermaster, including a tour in Bosnia during the winter of 1997-98.

Upon return to 3 PPCLI he was employed as B Company Quartermaster until he was commissioned in 1999 and posted to 1 PPCLI. While with 1 PPCLI he completed Phase IV Infantry and was employed as Rifle Platoon Commander in A Coy, Course Officer in the Western Area Training Centre for a Qualification Level 2/3 Infantry Course, Assistant Adjutant and Officer Commanding Administration (Rear Party) during the 1 PPCLI tour in Bosnia in 2002-03. He currently holds the position of Regimental Adjutant and is the National Secretary-Treasurer of the PPCLI Association.

Captain McConechy is a mature student with the University of Manitoba (Canadian Forces Distance Learning Program) and is an avid civilian pilot. He lives in St Albert, Alberta, with his wife Shelley, their son Cameron and daughter Kaitlyn.

90th ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATIONS

The 90th Anniversary of the Founding of the Regiment will be celebrated across Canada in 2004. The primary sites for anniversary events will be in Winnipeg 18-20 Jun and Edmonton 25-27 Jun. All events will be local and there will not be a National Celebration or Reunion. This decision was based on the operational commitments of the Battalions, reconsideration of the viability of holding

regular five-year reunions and the desire to build momentum to the 100th Anniversary. The Colonel-in-Chief, Lady Patricia and her daughter, Lady Amanda will visit several locations in Canada to help celebrate the 90th Anniversary and her 30th year as the Regiment's Colonel-in-Chief.

Winnipeg 18-20 June: The 90th Anniversary will be celebrated in conjunction with the Second Battalion's "Farewell to Winnipeg" and their Change of Command. Activities will include a Sunset Ceremony on Friday evening, Freedom of the City of Winnipeg, Change of Command and a Battalion Social on Saturday and a Family Day and Barbecue on Sunday.

Edmonton 25-27 June: Activities will be the Association Council Meeting Friday afternoon, Meet and Greet Supper and Sunset Ceremony Friday evening, Freedom of the City of Edmonton Saturday morning, Association Annual General Meeting in the afternoon and a Dinner and Dance Saturday evening. There may be a Church Service on Sunday morning.

Tentative programs and hotel listings for both locations are included as inserts in this Newsletter. Updates will be included in the Association Spring Bulletin in March and at the Regimental and Second Battalion websites www.ppcli.com and www.2ppcli.ca. Enquiries may also be directed to Captain Rob McConechy, Regimental Adjutant, telephone (780) 973-4011 Ext 5453, e-mail mcconechy.rj@forces.gc.ca; or Fred Goldring, PPCLI Association Edmonton Branch Representative, telephone (780) 476-5472, e-mail fkgldrng@telusplanet.net.

MOTHER WAITS 21 YEARS FOR SILVER CROSS

21 years after her son's death, Alice Prins of Peterborough, Ontario has finally been acknowledged as a Silver Cross Mother. Her son, Private Alan John Prins died on September 26, 1982 while serving in Cyprus with 2 PPCLI.

On September 26, 2003, the 21st Anniversary of Prins' death, Colonel John M. Turner, acting on behalf of the Canadian Government, invested Mrs. Prins with the Memorial Cross, a memento of personal loss and sacrifice for those military personnel who have died in the service of the country while in a special duty area.

Mrs. Prins was also presented with her son's Canadian Peacekeeping Service Medal and United Nations Force in Cyprus Medal and, on behalf of the United Nations, the Dag Hammarskjöld Medallion, a memento to the families of those who have died while on UN service.

A good friend will come and bail you out of jail but a true friend will be sitting next to you saying, "Damn! That was fun!"

Any ship can be a minesweeper – once.

BRANCH NEWS

Atlantic

By Bill Minnis

The Atlantic Branch met for its AGM 19-21 September in St Stephen, NB. Hosted by Rev and Barb Earle, another enjoyable gathering was held. Rev had us up and at 'em early Saturday morning for the AGM, following a Meet and Greet the previous evening, which then left time for touring this very attractive part of our Country.

We were pleased to have BGen Ray Romses, Commander Land forces Atlantic Area, and his wife Carol, as our Guests of Honour. They were joined by LCol Chris Corry, COS 36 Brigade and his wife Robin. A Regimental and Army update briefing by Ray Romses followed a very enjoyable dinner at the Milltown Legion.

A new figure has joined our Branch; a new mascot named "Hammy" who will be a part of all future get-togethers. Hammy will serve to remind us, in an amusing way, of our past as a great Regiment and also remind us of the need to continue to celebrate this fact.

Exciting news: Contact has been made with Ernie Mugford in Newfoundland and planning is underway to expand our Branch to include a number of retired and serving Patricias in our sister province. Ernie has located a number of retired members and LCol Chris Corry has informed us of several serving members in the Province. Travel costs will prevent much travel between us, but ways will be found to expand our connections and strengthen our bonds. We hope to have a representative join us for our next AGM in Cornwallis NS, 17-19 September 2004.

I will serve again as Branch President but Norm Ray has retired after nine years as Secretary-Treasurer. Our new Secretary-Treasurer is:

Mr. Errol Monkley
9 Cambridge Drive
Charlottetown PE
C1C 1M6
(902) 629-1265
ecm@islandtelcom.com.

Calgary

By Bob Zubkowski

Plenty has happened since our last dispatch. In March, Hub Gray had his book published, "**Beyond the Danger Close**", a great read giving the background of the war in Korea, countries and units involved, leading to a real understanding of what took place during the tour of the 2nd Battalion. If you can't find it at your local bookstore, the book is available from Bunker to Bunker Books at the Museum of the Regiments.

March 17th was held at the Ogden Legion. This birthday gathering always has a large turn out with many new faces attending this year. Moose Milk was on hand which may have lead to several members thinking that they were still in the Mess.



Calgary Branch Better 'Ole

With heavy hearts we said good-bye to B.A.J. Franklin who passed away on the 13 of April. He is sorely missed.

On the 25th of April a statue of Malcolm McNeil, who served with the 2nd Bn in Korea, was unveiled at the Museum of the Regiments. The statue commemorates all who served in the Korean War. Rod Middleton put in many long hours with the Museum Staff in order to make this possible. The ceremony was well attended by members of the Calgary Branch along with representatives of the, KVA, Air Force, Navy, Minister of Veteran Affairs, the Calgary Korean Association and the community.

Mike Ritchie and his wife left us for warmer green pastures (in Mike's case green golf courses) in Summerland, BC. We wish them the best on their new digs.

Neil Gow of the Calgary Branch has produced a CD with all the bugle calls of the Regiment along with a few other selected tunes. "Oh Canada" is the name of this fine work. It's a must for the serious music collector, great for getting even with the neighbours who have late parties. It is available at Bunker to Bunker Books at the Museum of the Regiments.

Congratulations to Rudy Raidt of the Calgary Branch, who became the President of the Association, and to others who took office this year at the AGM.

Fred Litchfield became a Grandpa on the 17th of May to a boy. I wonder if Fred will teach him all the things he

did when he was with the Battalion! We ended the month with a BBQ & dance, with over 60 members in attendance.

We planned this all wrong and started 1 June with our annual golf tournament. This well run event was through the hard work of Doug McNeil and Jerry Bowes. Thanks fellows for putting this on. This was well attended but will be better next year without a party the night before.

Several members attended the PPCLI Cadets Annual Inspection. We were briefed by the Cadets Liaison Officer who informed us that we are the last contact they have with the Regiment, so we are now taking a more active roll with the Patricia Cadets in Calgary.

Several changes took place at our last meeting before the summer. Joe Schulz took over the duties of Funeral Rep and George Arthurson is now the Sergeant-At-Arms. We thank to Bob Adams who had held both of these duties. Bob is finally taking a well-deserved rest. Also thanks go to George who has been our Entertainment Chairman for many years. Thanks to both of you for showing the true Patricia spirit.

Although we stand down for the summer members were here on July 26th and 27th to work a Casino. Over two long days we made a pile of money for the Museum and everyone agreed that it was well worth the long hours.

We could hardly wait for August and the 6th Annual RV - BBQ weekend at San-Ray Acres, home of Jack and

Sandi Rayner. We had a ball!!! Friday night was karaoke. We weren't sure who did the best, us, or the coyotes. Saturday started with a golf tournament. I was lucky to be with Fred Blackmore. Fred was well dressed for the game in white floppy hat, Patricia t-shirt, green shorts and black rubber boots (the boots were to keep the beer in while we golfed). Without him we may have gone dry. The afternoon was horseshoes. Poor Doug Hamilton had a terrible partner. After supper we had a few group pictures, a small rest, followed by entertainment by a young piper from the Drummond family who was a big hit with the crowd. Bob Finney (AKA Hose A) along with Lyle Saumer started playing guitars and singing around the campfire. This lasted way into the early hours. Sunday we said our goodbyes with a promise to return next year. There were over 50 people out this year including members of the Edmonton Branch, who we were extremely happy to see. Maybe we will see you there next year. Present were Jack & Sandi Rayner, John & Pat DeMerchant, Bob & Judy Finney, Bruce & Darlene Burton, Bob & Helena Zubkowski, Fred Litchfield, Ed & Debbie Laplante, Glen Arnold & Irene Pederson, Clarence Wilson & Mary Risdon, Don & Charlene Klassen, Fred Blackmore, Fred Goldring, Joe & Sharon Schulz, Bruce Nickel, Ken Smith, Gerry Molloy & family, Doug Hamilton, Barney Barnhart, Lyle Saumer, Rod Hunter, Keith & Mary Walsh, Ken, Sandi & Grandkids Gores, Darrel & Jeanne Brown, Russ Carolann & Family Drummonds, and far from last, Jacks Mom. While we were making merry Terry and Debbie Lauzon tied the knot on the same weekend. Congratulations you two.

We are pleased to hear that, Rod Middleton was awarded the, Meritorious Service Medal, Civil Division, in recognition of his involvement with the Patricia Gallery. This was announced 1Aug. Well deserved, Rod.

Bunker to Bunker Books in Calgary has a new book, "As Long As Faith And Freedom Last", written by Bob Zubkowski of the Calgary Branch. This is a collection of stories, anecdotes, letters and diaries of the World War One Patricia's in chronological order. It gives a view of what the soldier in the trench lived through from their perspective.

If you are in Calgary please give us a call. Remember, we have a Happy Hour the last Friday of each month and a breakfast meeting the last Saturday of most months. We will see you in the funny papers.

Edmonton

By Fred Goldring

Well, another summer has come and gone and here we are almost at the end of another year. 2003 is just about history and 2004 is waiting just around the corner.

We have had a good spring, summer and fall here in Edmonton, with the highlight of the year so far being the hosting of a luncheon with our Colonel-in-Chief in June during her visit to the 1st and 3rd Battalions. Over 80 attended the function with attendees from Calgary and Victoria in addition to our local members. During this

luncheon the Countess presented our own Lady Patricia, Patricia Monroe, with a token our appreciation from the Edmonton branch for all her past work, involvement and dedication to the branch. Our membership has increased almost 10 percent and we are slowly getting larger in numbers. We lost an old comrade, Roy Ellison.

We have changed our meeting dates in an effort to get more of our still-working retired Patricias to attend and not interfere with their day jobs. We have just started a couple of trial days/nights/Saturdays mornings to determine the best time to get the maximum number of our members out so for now we have no set meeting dates or times. If you are in the area and would like to attend one of our meetings or brunches just give me call at 1 780 476 5472 or email me at fkgldrng@telusplanet.net.

It has been quite a year for the military and especially the Patricias, but life must go on. We will never forget the past and our fallen comrades but we also must look toward tomorrow.

2004 will see the 90th Anniversary of the Regiment with celebrations in Winnipeg June 18-20 in conjunction with the Second Battalion's farewell to the city of Winnipeg and here in Edmonton June 25-27 in conjunction with the city's 100 birthday. The Edmonton Branch of the PPCLI Association will also be hosting the 56th Annual General Meeting of the Association. Make plans to attend while you are here in Edmonton.

I am told the PPCLI web site will be updated soon with information regarding registrations and happenings for each site as well as other pertinent information. The registration forms should be in the Newsletter so make plans to attend either Winnipeg or Edmonton or both.

Our branch wishes all Patricias both serving and retired a pleasant festive season and we hope to see as many of you as possible in June in Winnipeg, Edmonton or BOTH!! All of you snowbirds enjoy your winter in the sunny south or Okanagan!

Fraser Valley

By Matt Brown

The Fraser Valley Branch held their elections in October. The new President is Matt Brown, a founding member of the branch. Mark Benjamin is the new Vice President. Hope Chatry, Harold Groulette and Bill Wilkinson are remaining on the executive for the new year. Harry Chatry has expressed his appreciation for time he spent as President and is now looking forward to his retirement.

Chilliwack is celebrating a special event in October. With the encouragement and support of Branch 4 and Branch 280, Royal Canadian Legion, a statue of Piper James Cleland Richardson, VC, will be erected on the lawn of the Museum at the Spadina Avenue-Yale Road intersection. Members of both Legions, the PPCLI, Airborne and Korean Veterans branches in the Chilliwack area will assist in the celebrations.

The memorial to Richardson is taking the form of a life-sized bronze statue. Richardson will be shown in battle dress, holding his pipes. The unveiling is planned for October 11, 2003, the anniversary of Richardson's action, which helped him win the Victoria Cross.

World-renowned sculptor, John Weaver, a resident of nearby Hope, was commissioned to create the statue. Weaver's incredibly detailed and realistic work can be found in many locations throughout North America and Europe.

A major fund raising campaign is being undertaken to cover the costs for erecting the \$80,000 statue and landscaping the grounds around it. Although Piper Richardson was briefly honoured at the conclusion of WW1, his story and life were soon forgotten by most members of the community. In 2002, Barry Penner, Chilliwack's local member of the legislature, learned the story and began a campaign to permanently recognize Piper Richardson's memory.

A detailed history of Piper Richardson can be found at www.barrypenner.com/view_page.php?id=13&/.

Manitoba & North Western Ontario

By D'Arcy Best

We have finally decided upon a new home for the Branch when Second Battalion moves to Shilo. During the spring and summer of this year, a special committee inspected several Legion and ANAF branches and the 17 Wing WOs & Sgts Mess, and the most suitable venues were presented to the branch members for a vote at a Special Meeting in September. The members chose **Charleswood Branch No. 100, Royal Canadian Legion, 6003 Roblin Boulevard, Winnipeg.**

We held our first "Fourth Wednesday" bull session at the Charleswood Legion on October 26 and will hold these monthly sessions there from now on so our members can get acquainted with the place. However, we will continue to hold other functions at the 2PPCLI WOs & Sgts Mess as long as we can.

The Manitoba & North Western Ontario Branch meets on the *fourth Wednesday* of each month (except July, August and December) at the **Charleswood Branch No. 100, Royal Canadian Legion, 6003 Roblin Boulevard, Winnipeg**, at 7:30 PM. Most of these meetings are informal "bull sessions", however, the January meeting is the Branch Annual General Meeting and Election of Officers.

Branch Calendar

2PPCLI Jr Ranks Christmas Dinner: Thursday, December 11, 2003, at 11:00 AM. Kapyong Barracks Drill Hall.

Branch Annual General Meeting and Election of Officers: Wednesday, January 28, 2004, Charleswood Legion, 7:30 PM.

Ladies Day: Sunday, March 14, WOs & Sgts Mess, 2:00 PM.

Kapyong Day: Sunday, April 25. To be confirmed.

Barbecue and Casino: June - August. To be arranged.

Annual Golf Tournament: August 2004. To be arranged.

Annual Dinner: Saturday, October 16, 2004, Charleswood Legion. Cocktails 6:00 PM, Dinner 7:00 PM.

Remembrance Service, All Saints Church: Sunday, November 14, 2004, 10:50 AM.

Ottawa

By Harry Bloom

The year for the Ottawa Branch really kicks off on 11 November when we hold our Annual Remembrance Day Service at Lansdowne Park where the Regimental Cairn is located. Last year we had a really good turnout of Patricias, both retired and serving, family members and guests. Some 125 people were present. Our membership drive started here as well and again we sit at 57 paid up members. This year the branch was not able to hold its 17th of March dinner as the numbers just were not here to justify the outlay of money. Hopefully, for 2004 we will have a better response. The Annual General Meeting for the branch was held on the 8th of May and the current Executive was voted in by acclamation. The branch lost a few members this past year with Lou Barbeau and Kent Foster moving to Victoria and John Noonan, a staunch Patricia, passing away. This year also saw the deaths of two Patricia wives, Mrs Anna Hamilton and Mrs Anne Bridgen.

On 2 September, the Korean War Memorial was unveiled in Ottawa by the Prime Minister, the Minister of Veterans Affairs, the Heritage Minister and the Ambassador for the Korean Republic. Over 110 Patricias took part along with over 1,000 others from all parts of the Services. Two of our members – Don Reiben and Pat Dillon – played a key roll in making this day a success. A well-deserved "thank you" to both of them.

The current Minister of Heritage, Sheila Copps, has put the cat amongst the pigeons by declaring that she does not support the erection of statues of Canadian Heroes on the plinths of the bridge by the War Memorial but rather the erection of a Wall of Heroes, which would depict the heads only. The difficulty with this proposal is that the Wall of Heroes would go into the area that is currently occupied by the statue of Hamilton Gault. The removal of the statue is not supported by the National Capital Commission and could very likely result in permanent damage to the statue. We will keep abreast of this proposal and keep the Regiment and Association informed of any new developments.

The Ottawa Branch submitted a proposal at the 2003 Annual General Meeting of a Benevolence Outreach Program. This proposal with its various updates has been sent to all branches for comment. Hopefully, it will receive support and that implementation after full discussion can take place in the not too distant future. I think it is extremely important that the Association has something tangible to offer to the younger retirees and to its current membership. We hope that both the Regimental Guard and the Regimental Executive Committee will discuss this

proposal at their fall meetings here in Ottawa. We have to increase our membership in the Association if we are not to just fade away. The aim should be to have 2014 paid-up members in our Centennial Year 2014.

In closing, I would like to thank the members of the Southwest Ontario Branch for hosting such a wonderful Annual General Meeting. The accommodations, venue for the meeting and the evening activities were excellent. A well deserved "Bravo Zulu" to Bruce Paxton and his merry band of warriors.

Here endeth the lesson. Best regards to everyone and I hope to see a good number of you in Edmonton at the 90th and maybe in Winnipeg as well for the closeout of Kapyong Barracks.

Southwest Ontario

By Bruce Paxton

Our Branch enjoyed hosting the 2003 annual General meeting of the Association. It was great to see so many people from other Branches and in particular it was nice to see folks from both coasts of Canada.

Because our Branch membership is so spread out we do not enjoy being able to have monthly gatherings and so normally only hold one General Meeting each year. As usual it will be held in May in St Catharines at the Howard Johnson Hotel (the weekend before the Victoria Day weekend). Other than that we will in all likelihood hold a small gathering of some sort on or close to the Regimental Birthday in March 2004.

Vancouver

Branch Calendar

Annual Christmas Party: Sunday, December 14 2003 at 3:00 PM [tentative] at the home of Jenny and Don Urquhart in Richmond. Anyone visiting in the area at that time is welcome to attend. For catering purposes, please contact the Branch Secretary if you're planning to attend. There may be a small charge but usually it's by donation at the bar. Plus we of course welcome donations toward the raffle.

Branch Annual General Meeting: Sunday, January 11 or 18, 2004, depending availability of meeting place. 2:00 PM. Discussion on upcoming line-up of Officers for 2005.

Annual Regimental Luncheon: Sunday, March 14, 2004, 12:00 PM for Meet'n'Greet and 1:00 PM for Luncheon. We hope to have it, as usual, at the SH of C Armoury but there is a problem with the kitchens right now so that will be confirmed at a later time.

Any further details on Branch Activities or Members can be obtained at any time by contacting the Branch Secretary, Thelma Holland, at [604] 941-4023, or e-mail Tholan@aol.com.

If you can read this, thank a teacher. If you are reading it in English, thank a soldier.

Work is good, but it's not that important.

Victoria

By John Tolley

The Victoria Branch continues to hold its meetings at the Langford Legion. Our next meeting will be on the 29th of October, and our Annual General Meeting will be on the 29th of January 2004.

Because our Regimental Birthday falls on a mid-week Wednesday we have yet to determine if our Annual Dinner will take place on the 17th or perhaps the preceding Sunday. Our next meeting will decide the issue.

Our branch has been asked to participate in fundraising for the new Victoria Arena. This will entail soliciting funds at local shopping malls. The background to this is that the old arena has been demolished and a new one is being built. The old arena was built after WW2 and dedicated to military veterans, hence the name Memorial Arena, and there was a large display in the lobby to this effect. The sum of \$50,000 needs to be raised to repeat the display in the new arena, and all the veterans groups in the Victoria area have been asked to help. The Victoria Branch will do its part in this worthy cause.

The branch will lay a wreath at the Esquimalt war memorial on November 11th as usual. Our members are spread throughout the greater Victoria area and attend ceremonies at their local locations, but Esquimalt is the main focus for many of the old Work Point hands. It may not be known by the older members of the association, but during the 70s and 80s members of the 1st and 2nd battalions often referred to the 3rd battalion as "the Beach Ball Battalion", presumably on account of the battalion's location on the sunny shores of the Pacific.

We have an ongoing project at the Base Museum. Some time ago the museum, which naturally has a mainly Navy theme, gave a room to the QOR of C and us to set up an army display. The main idea was to focus on Work Point Barracks, which our two regiments occupied for a considerable length of time. The project is therefore a joint venture with the QOR and we have been able to get generous donations from the Langford, Esquimalt and Gorge Road Legions. These funds have been used for the purchase of paint and lumber for the construction of display cases etc. Volunteer labour is putting it all together. Our Museum Committee consists of Herb Pitts, Bruce Dickey and Russ Murphy.

As usual the Branch Executive were unable to find replacements for their positions at the last AGM so Victoria soldiers on with Punch Westfall at the helm, Bruce Dickey as vice, Larry Davies as Treasurer and John Tolley as Secretary.

*Be careful of the words you say
Be sure to keep them soft and sweet.
For you never know, from day to day,
Which ones you'll have to eat.*

Wainwright

By Bert Scott

The Wainwright Branch has had a quiet summer. However, a number of activities have been interesting for the members. We have been involved in Graduation Parades for new Patricias as members of the Old Guard, welcoming them to the Regiment and presenting them with their Patricia hat badges and the trophy for the Most Improved Candidate. The COR paid a visit to Wainwright 15-17 September and attended a barbecue with a number of members followed by a barbecue the next day at the Sgts Mess. The COR was happy to see and talk with a few of his running mates in the persons of Larry Lemieux, Don Rithaler and Bill Miller, and the rest of the branch members.

The Wainwright Branch meets on the last Tuesday of each month at 1900 hrs, except July, August, September and December, in Land Forces Western Area Training Centre WOs & Sgts Mess, Wainwright. Some meetings will be held at the Worthington Branch Legion.

We are all looking forward to the 90th in Edmonton.

Branch Calendar

Tuesday, 4 November: **Branch Meeting.** Legion, 1900 hrs.

Tuesday, 11 November: **Remembrance Day.** Legion, 1000 hrs.

Thursday, 20 November: **Graduation Parade (Old Guard), Rimini Line, (Dress Rehearsal).** Tommy Prince Drill Hall, 0930 Hrs.

Friday, 21 November: **Graduation Parade (Old Guard), Rimini Line.** Tommy Prince Drill Hall, 1030 Hrs.

Saturday, 22 November: **Branch Christmas Dinner.** Legion, 1900 hrs.

Thursday, 11 December: **Men's Christmas Dinner.** Bldg 614.

Tuesday, 16 December: **Graduation Parade (Old Guard), Northwest Europe, (Dress Rehearsal).** Tommy Prince Drill Hall, 0930 Hrs.

Wednesday, 17 December: **Graduation Parade (Old Guard), Northwest Europe.** Tommy Prince Drill Hall, 1030 Hrs.

Tuesday, 27 January: **Branch Meeting.** Legion, 1900 hrs.

Tuesday, 24 February: **Branch Meeting.** Legion, 1900 hrs.

Wednesday, 17 March: **Regimental Day.** TBA.

Tuesday, 20 April: **Annual General Meeting, Elections New Committee.** Legion, 1900 hrs.

25-27 June: 90th Anniversary of the Regiment, Edmonton.

If you woke up breathing, congratulations! You have another chance!

Politicians and diapers have to be changed regularly -- and both for the same reason.

EDITOR'S SCRAP BOOK

Regina Pats and PPCLI

From articles in the Regina Leader-Post, December 31, 2002 and January 28, 2003.

The Regina Pats Hockey Club is the oldest major junior hockey franchise in the world, first stepping on the ice in 1917. As a result, the organization carries with it a deep history for which it is very proud. One important part of this 86-year history is in the team name and how it was acquired.

The Pats took their name from both Princess Patricia, granddaughter of Queen Victoria and daughter of the Duke of Connaught, Canada's Governor-General at the time, and the Princess Patricia's Canadian Light Infantry (PPCLI) regiment, which was organized at the outbreak of World War I in 1914.

The PPCLI was the first Canadian regiment to see action in the war. The Regiment began with nearly 1,100 officers and men, most of whom were born in Britain and immigrated to Canada. Many of these men were living in Regina and vicinity when the war broke out. Princess Patricia, the first Colonel-in-Chief of the Regiment, was born on St Patrick's Day in 1886. She was popular in Regina, having officiated at the opening of the new Legislative Building in 1912.

The fame achieved by the Regiment during the war led the junior hockey team to honour them by taking the name "Patricias". The hockey club went by that name until 1923 when it was shortened to the "Pats".

In 2002, the Regina Pats adopted an alternative jersey to herald the 85th Anniversary of junior hockey's oldest franchise. It is similar to the NHL's Toronto Maple Leafs and features patches on each shoulder that recognize the team's affiliation with Princess Patricia's Canadian Light Infantry.

The Regina Pats Website has a very interesting article on the founding of the Regiment. Go to their Home Page at www.reginapats.com, enter the site and click on the PPCLI hat badge.

All Old Soldiers

By Marie Schnerch

I have a black and white framed poster of the Three Stooges that I purchased at a garage sale this summer. It is hanging in my hallway and makes it impossible to pass without a smile. I not only grin because it is a funny picture but because it reminds me of my Dad.

Dad grew up when times were tough not only in Winnipeg but the whole country and world in general. He never had much of a childhood, working hard to survive the ugliness of poverty and joining the Princess Patricia's Canadian Light Infantry when still a teenager.

Like so many other young men, he left his sweetheart and his mother on the cold platform at the CP station one December day in 1942 and was delivered to the ship that

would carry him overseas to England. Eventually Dad would be dropped into the thick of the invasion of Sicily where in the little town of Agira, his skull would be shattered by a sniper's bullet. After a stint in a field hospital in North Africa, withering to a mere 95 pounds and coping with heat, flies, fevers and Malaria, he was sent home to Winnipeg.

Dad suffered through a series of operations and therapies that enabled him to live a relatively normal life for someone who's left arm and leg were paralysed.

He spent hours in the basement building unrecognizable objects with his collection of mismatched power tools, growing mushrooms and among other things, making wine so dry, it turned to dust in the bottles. He taught marksmanship to air cadets most Friday nights for over twenty-five years and loved to spend time with his old veteran buddies at the Patricia Club. When speaking of WWII, he only told of the good times like when he and his comrades attended live shows in London or when they would happen upon a cache of wine in a captured Sicilian town. He seldom took anything seriously.

One of Dad's favourite haunts was Goofy's Bazaar, a joke and novelty shop in the Exchange District. He spend many an hour there, scouring the shelves and choosing articles to be set about our home in wait for the unsuspecting visitors Mom had invited to large family gatherings or even small soirees and card games with friends. Hands turned red from the innocent looking bar of soap he would leave in the bathroom and no party was complete without rude signs planted in the medicine cabinet and Mom finding a spot of rubber puke beside the toilet or between the sheets as she crawled into bed, exhausted at the end of the day.

As Dad grew older, the metal plate in his head bore down on him with debilitating headaches and the limbs on his left side became withered and frail. He took falling down and tripping over the most innocent looking surfaces in stride and no matter how crumpled or dishevelled he became in the accident, he carried himself away, straight and proud like the old soldier he surely was.

My Dad is gone now but there are still some of those old soldiers from WWII who are alive and living in our communities. They carry a fierce pride for their country and to them, we should be thankful. I am sure, if the need be, they would do it all over again.

I would like to thank all the old soldiers and those who are still endeavouring today to answer the call, in the hopes that one day, we will all live in peace.

Editor's Note: *The subject of this article is the late PSM (WO3) Henry W. (Harry) Sharpe, P22105.*

I signed up for an exercise class and was told to wear loose-fitting clothing. If I had any loose-fitting clothing, I wouldn't have signed up in the first place

Don't take life too seriously; no one gets out alive

MAIL BAG

Hemer Kids Wanted

I hope my letter finds you well.

I am currently in the process of putting together an extensive email listing of Hemer kids, no matter the age or when they were in Hemer, and was hoping you might have some email addresses or street addresses that you could forward to me. I will personally contact each person explaining my intentions. I would appreciate any help that you could offer. Or if you could pass this letter on, I would appreciate.

It is a shame that we put in so much work to find everyone for the 1991 reunion only to lose touch in 12 short years.

There is a great website at www.ruhrmemories.ca -- check it out!

Once I have the spreadsheet completed, availability information will be posted on the above website. It will be available from me only as a pdf file. Staying in touch via email seems to be a lot easier than by phone or post.

I already have over 180 names on the contact list. You can also contact me at ed.hood@amec.com.

Thanks for your help.

Ed Hood

112 Gleneagles Terrace

Cochrane AB T4C 1W6

Phone: (403) 851-4607

Email: ehood@shaw.ca

Editor's note: *Ed Hood is the son of the late Jim Hood who served with the Regiment for many years in Edmonton, Germany and Winnipeg, retiring as Master Warrant Officer.*

Korean War Memorial Dedication

The moment that I decided to make the journey from Elliot Lake to Ottawa to attend the Dedication Ceremony to the Canadian Fallen, it felt right and it just kept getting better. The meet and greet was as it should be. It was all mind boggling to me, as this was the only "reunion" as it were, that I ever attended since 1952. There was not one face that I remembered. Faces may change but the names of the Korean hills do not, nor do the names of the fellow Patricians.

The pride started the moment I saw the three very sharp Patricia Lieutenants with the Colours. We lined up on them in threes and I was immediately behind the Colours. As you know this was a Brigade event and a huge one. However I must first say that I was never more proud of my Regt, fellow Patricians or myself on the march past. We were over 170 strong, the largest contingent attending. The Patricians marched as one.

As we marched into the main spectator area where the unveiling took place the crowd took over. I heard and saw a father tell his teenage son, "Here come the Patricians". The kid saluted me as I passed. I could honestly see the pride in the lad's eyes. I could write more about the event but I had to

get that of my chest. That moment will remain with me forever.

Recruits should be made aware that the appreciation and respect of the Canadian people have for the Canadian Military is out there and getting stronger. Let there be no doubt.

I also cannot get over the warmth and appreciation from the spectators of what the Canadian military did in Korea. I feel it getting stronger each Remembrance Day.

As to the precise moment that the Prime Minister unveiled the monument, I ask a question; who or what power caused the sun to break for approx 20 seconds whilst this was taking place. That did in fact happen on a completely overcast day. Coincidence?

The Korean elementary school choir and band sang and played. It really brought that "lump" when they sang that *Ar de dung???* Song. I could see Billy Fowler (Pte) KIA Mar 52. C Coy. We went through Basic at Currie Barracks and ended up together in C Coy 1 Bn. I would do it all again.

Dennis Moore.

HELP LINES

Medals - Obtaining, Wearing, Replacement, etc.

Information on obtaining or replacement of medals, order of precedence, etc., can be obtained from the office of the Governor General of Canada as follows:

Honours Information Officer
Rideau Hall
1 Sussex Drive
Ottawa ON K1A 0A1

Phone: 1-800-465-6890 (toll free) or (613) 993-2569.
Fax: (613) 998-1664. E-mail: info@gg.ca.

Obtaining Military Service Records

Service records of relatives may be obtained from:

Personnel Records Unit
National Archives of Canada
Ottawa ON
K1A 0N3

Phone 1-866-578-7777 (toll free) or (613) 995-5138.

If you have access to the Internet, check out the National Archives of Canada Website at www.archives.ca.

Family members have easier access to war records at the Archives than outsiders as they are seeking information about their personal history and heritage.

The service number is very important as the records are filed by service number. If you don't know the service number, provide as much of the following info as possible:

- The person's full name
- Basic personal info such as place and date of birth
- Period of service, e.g., World War Two, Korea, etc.
- Unit(s)
- Where served, e.g., UK, Italy, etc.

LIGHTEN UP

Barbara Walters of 60 Minutes (USA) did a story on gender roles in Kabul several years before the current Afghanistan conflict. She noted that women customarily walked about ten paces behind their husbands.

She returned to Kabul recently and observed that the men now walked several paces behind their wives.

Ms Walters approached one of the Afghani women and said, "This is marvellous. Can you tell the free world just what enabled women to achieve this reversal of roles?"

"Land mines," responded the woman.

Letter from a farm kid at the Marine Corps Recruit Depot in San Diego:

Dear Ma and Pa:

I am well. Hope you are. Tell Brother Walt and Brother Elmer the Marine Corps beats working for old man Minch by a mile. Tell them to join up quick before maybe all of the places are filled. I was restless at first because you got to stay in bed till nearly 6 a.m., but am getting so I like to sleep late.

Tell Walt and Elmer all you do before breakfast is smooth your cot and shine some things. No hogs to slop, feed to pitch, mash to mix, wood to split, fire to lay. Practically nothing. Men got to shave, but it is not so bad, there's warm water.

Breakfast is strong on trimmings like fruit juice, cereal, eggs, bacon, etc., but kind of weak on chops, potatoes, ham, steak, fried eggplant, pie and other regular food. But tell Walt and Elmer you can always sit by the two city boys that live on coffee. Their food plus yours holds you till noon when you get fed again. It's no wonder these city boys can't walk much.

We go on "route" marches, which the Platoon Sergeant says are long walks to harden us. If he thinks so, it is not my place to tell him different. A "route march" is about as far as to our mailbox at home. Then the city guys get sore feet and we all ride back in trucks. The country is nice, but awful flat.

The Sergeant is like a schoolteacher. He nags some. The Captain is like the school board. Majors and Colonels just ride around and frown. They don't bother you none.

This next will kill Walt and Elmer with laughing. I keep getting medals for shooting. I don't know why. The bulls-eye is near as big as a chipmunk head and don't move. And it ain't shooting at you, like the Higgett boys at home. All you got to do is lie there all comfortable and hit it. You don't even load your own cartridges. They come in boxes.

Then we have what they call hand-to-hand combat training. You get to wrestle with them city boys. I have to be real careful though, they break real easy. It ain't like fighting with that ole bull at home. I'm about the best they got in this except for that Tug Jordan from over in Silver Lake. He joined up the same time as me. But I'm only 5'6" and 130 pounds and he's 6'8" and weighs near 300 pounds dry.

Be sure to tell Walt and Elmer to hurry and join before other fellers get onto this set-up and come stampeding in.

Your loving daughter, Gail.

LAST POST

Those whom this list commemorates served King and Queen, Country and Regiment.

*At duty's strident call, they left all that was dear to them, endured hardship and
faced danger so others might live in peace and freedom.*

Not all soldiers die in battle or glory, but they too served the Regiment.

Let those who follow ensure their names are not forgotten.

<u>Name</u>	<u>Service</u>	<u>Date</u>	<u>Place</u>
Harold Wake	Korea, Regular	October 27, 2002	Red Deer AB
Dennis M. Langley, CD	WWII, Korea	November 21, 2002	London ON
David H.J. Farhall	WWII	November 25, 2002	Winnipeg MB
Earl MacMurdo	Korea, Regular	November 30, 2002	Calgary AB
Evan Bromley Halbrook Griffin	UK	December 9, 2002	Manning AB
Samuel George Bear	Korea, Regular	December 20, 2002	Winnipeg MB
Edwin O. Roberts	PF, WWII, Korea	December 21, 2002	Coquitlam BC
Glen (Robbie) Robson	WWII	January 8, 2003	Winnipeg MB
Duncan C.M. McDonell	PF, WWII, Regular	January 18, 2003	Edmonton AB
Victor Omer David	WWII	January 31, 2003	Winnipeg MB
Albert Henri Joseph Pelland	WWII	February 1, 2003	Powerview MB
George Lewis Douglas Vanstone	WWII	February 11, 2003	Winnipeg MB
Alexander Jackson Kabel	Korea	March 16, 2003	Winnipeg MB
David Bernard	WWII	March 24, 2003	Victoria BC
Harry Manning	Korea	April 10, 2003	
James Moffatt	Korea, Regular	April 11, 2003	Drumheller AB
Berkeley A.J. (Badge) Franklin, CD	WWII, Korea, Regular	April 13, 2003	Calgary AB
Fred L. Berry		April 13, 2003	Kamloops BC
Clayton Hutchings	Korea	April 14, 2003	Cornerbrook NL
Allan Forrest Davies	WWII	April 16, 2003	Brandon MB
Wilfred James Favel	Korea	April 18, 2003	Winnipeg MB
Reginald Stuart Graham, CD	WWII, Regular	April 21, 2003	Qualicum Beach BC
William John Douglas (Billie) Wyatt, CD	WWII, Korea, Regular	April 21, 2003	Kingston ON
Augustus (Percy) Cook	Korea	April 27, 2003	Nanaimo BC
William Herbert (Herb) McDonald	WWII	April 30, 2003	Brandon MB
Gordon Keith McCartney	Korea	May 2, 2003	Winnipeg MB
Allan W. Redmond	Regular	May 2, 2003	North Delta BC
Arthur Woodley	Korea, Regular	May 5, 2003	
Dean F. Smith, CD	WWII, Korea, Regular	May 7, 2003	Victoria BC
Rod (Howie) Howitt	Korea	May 10, 2003	Trenton ON
Edward McMahon, CD	WWII, Korea, Regular	May 14, 2003	Ottawa, ON
Frank Leggett, CD	Regular	May 19, 2003	Trenton ON
Frank J. Gray	WWII	May 23, 2003	Winnipeg MB
William JB (Speed) Forsyth	PF, WWII	May 26, 2003	Duarte, California
Dmytro Stetz	WWII	June 6, 2003	Gimli MB
William (Bill) Hladiuk	WWII	June 7, 2003	Winnipeg MB
James (Jimmy) Charles Coutts, CD	PF, WWII, Korea, Regular	June 9, 2003	Victoria BC
Dennis Simmons	Regular	June 11, 2003	Airdrie AB
Harold Lewis Houghton	Regular	June 15, 2003	Calgary AB
Matthew Small	WWII	June 22, 2003	Winnipeg MB

"We will remember them"

(Last Post continued on next page)

LAST POST

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<u>Name</u>	<u>Service</u>	<u>Date</u>	<u>Place</u>
Andrew J. Kralej, CD	Korea	July 5, 2003	Calgary AB
Cpl Jamie Dennis Vermeulen, CD	Regular	July 6, 2003	Croatia
William H. Engen		July 18, 2003	Regina SK
G.M. Butcher	WWII	July 18, 2003	Keremos BC
Walter Anthony Mann	Korea	July 25, 2003	Toronto ON
Gordon C. (Skip) Schamehorn, CD	Korea, Regular	August 10, 2003	St Albert AB
Pius Alonzo Hurley	Korea	August 15, 2003	Badger NL
John D. Noonan, CD	Regular	August 16, 2003	Nepean ON
George Dearle	WWII, Regular	August 26, 2003	Port Alberni BC
Edward (Joe) Walushka, CD	WWII, Korea, Regular	August 30, 2003	Victoria BC
Donald Clifford Denison, CD	WWII, Regular	September 1, 2003	Halifax NS
Bruce Lloyd, MMM, CD	Regular	September 4, 2003	Camrose AB
Richard Conner		September 19, 2003	Edmonton AB
Frank S. Drysdale	Korea	September 21, 2003	Calgary AB
Alfred James Sauve	Korea	September 30, 2003	Medicine Hat AB
John Mackay Sealy	WWII	October 7, 2003	Huxley AB
Alfred Albert Gustav Machel	WWII	October 8, 2003	Beausejour MB
William Bert (Sharkie) Kilbourne	WWII	October 18, 2003	Portage la Prairie MB
James (Jimmy) Ham	WWII, Korea, Regular	October 22, 2003	Boyle AB
Alfred J Rooke	WWII	November 4, 2003	Winnipeg MB
James Wyman	Korea	2003	Ottawa ON

"We will remember them"

A MESSAGE OF CONDOLENCE

To our Comrades in
The Royal Canadian Regiment
and the Families and Friends of

Sergeant Robert Alan Short
and
Corporal Robbie Christopher Beerenfenger

who lost their lives in Afghanistan
October 2, 2003

Our deepest sympathy