

Princess Patricia's Canadian Light Infantry

**ASSOCIATION
NEWSLETTER**



November 2009

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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Founded October 1947
 Incorporated September 1, 1953

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The above information is the latest available to the Editor. Please notify the Newsletter Editor and the Association Secretary immediately of any errors or subsequent changes

The Colonel of the Regiment

BGen (Ret'd) J.E.L. Gollner, OMM, CD

Greeting All,

I trust that you all had a good summer and are now looking forward to the coming snow, hockey season, and Olympics too.

Given the Regiment's operational status I thought it might be useful if I provided you with a SITREP.

Any report on the Regiment will naturally include comments on our Associations as involvement and continuing support to the serving members. Rest assured this support is of vital importance to our entire Regimental family especially our wounded.

Our 1st Bn Battlegroup is currently deploying for another tour. The Battlegroup again has four rifle companies. The fourth rifle company as we know gives the CO a better tactical capacity. The fourth company is from 2nd Bn. Its main role is as the Provincial Reconstruction Team [PRT] operating out of Camp Nathan Smith. The PRT role is demanding. It frequently involves combat to facilitate provision of aid to the Afghan people and reconstruction activity.

The Battlegroup contains four rifle companies a recce squadron, a tank squadron, a medium artillery battery, an engineer regiment of three squadrons, a signals platoon, a medical platoon, and combat support services. Have no doubt this is a formidable fighting team. We now have helicopters in Kandahar too. These aircraft help us conduct operations and using helicopters reduces but by no means eliminates our need to use roads. Using roads requires vigilance because it exposes our soldiers to improvised explosive devices and suicide bombers.



Our soldiers are in the main deployed well outside of Kandahar Airfield that is the main NATO support base. Thus, continuous logistics operations are underway supporting our soldiers. This support comes from our National Support Establishment [NSE], which is our old equivalent of both 2nd and 3rd line support. The NSE, works out of the Kandahar Airfield. The soldiers of the NSE continuously work hard and often at considerable risk to resupply our soldiers. The resupply is usually by road because of the tonnages involved and on occasion involves hard fighting including casualties to get through.

The 1st Bn Battlegroup completed a comprehensive workup before departing. The collective training started in May in Suffield. In Suffield 2nd Bn, members having returned from Afghanistan last November constructed a series of field firing ranges and event oriented activities that provided realistic scenarios for all members of the Battlegroup. Part of the exercise saw the City of Medicine Hat with many of its citizens being actively involved. Our PRT members exercised right in the city itself, as they will do in Kandahar. Training in the city taught valuable lessons.

Our Colonel in Chief and I visited the Battlegroup in Suffield. While we were in Suffield, our Colonel in Chief presented to CWO Dan Palmer, the first president of our new Cypress Hills Branch, with the Branch's charter during a fine dinner evening. The addition of a new Branch to our Association is great news.

3rd Bn is deploying another Operational Mentoring and Liaison Team [OMLT] to Afghanistan to carry on with training the Afghan Army stationed in Kandahar province. Preparing an OMLT for deployment required a major effort on the part of 3rd Bn.; the OMLT consists largely of officers, warrant officers, and NCOs supported by signalers, medics, and support staff. To staff an OMLT requires, in rough terms, the leadership of one and a half of our battalions. The current 3rd Bn OMLT is about two hundred and fifty all ranks and is commanded by Colonel Shane Brennan one of our members.

The OMLT's role is to train four Afghan Army light infantry battalion and a service support battalion. Our soldiers live, train, fight, and sometimes die with the Afghan battalions. Our soldiers have respect for the Afghan soldiers who despite their problems are brave patriotic fighting soldiers. Soldiers prepared to serve and die for their country. Because of our approach and the respect we show for the Afghan soldiers our soldiers are also respected by their Afghan comrades. Virtually all combat operations in the Canadian operating area now have active involvement with the Afghan Army. The OLMT activity has and is making a significant contribution towards helping the Afghan nation develop.

3rd Bn is also converting from a light battalion to a LAV3 battalion. While it will maintain its airborne role for the battalions next tour in Afghanistan it must be LAV3 mounted. 3rd Bn will start on the road to war next summer with a view to deploying in early 2011. Our 3rd Bn was the first Canadian unit into Afghanistan and it might well be the last.

Meanwhile in sunny Shilo 2nd Bn besides having a rifle company in Afghanistan is the lead CF security unit for the 2010 Olympics. The battalion began its work up for this challenging role on 1 September with an exercise in Edmonton. An intense imaginative training programme has been developed to prepare the battalion for domestic operations. Given that the battalion is largely made up of combat veterans the transition should prove interesting. The CF role is to support the RCMP and in the process jointly provide a safe and secure Olympics.

Our Regimental Headquarters [RHQ] and Museum are also active. RHQ focus today is providing support for our approximately two hundred recovering wounded and the families of the fifty-three we lost in Afghanistan. While the CF over the last three years has made great progress in the care of our wounded there remains a few gaps in the evolving system. Our Casualty Care Cell team works closely and cooperatively with the CF teams. Their mission is to try to ensure our wounded do not fall into

the gaps and thus receive the best support and care. This work is both challenging and vital. Fortunately, we have two good men WO Shultz and MCpl Robson assigned to this task. WO Shultz, I am pleased to tell you, recently received the Star of Military Valour [SMV] from our Commander in Chief for his gallantry and leadership in a sharp action last year. As an aside the Star of Military Valour ranks one below the Victoria Cross in our gallantry awards.

Also in RHQ, we have stood up our 100th Anniversary cell. MWO Butters will be soon be joined by others. The 100th Anniversary cell is responsible to the Regimental Executive Committee [REC] and Regimental Association Executive Committee [RAEC]. The role of the 100th Anniversary Cell is to take the masterful conceptual plan developed over several years by BGen [Rt'd] Vince Kennedy in cooperation with the REC and RAEC and turn it into reality. This activity will require the closest cooperation of all elements of the Regimental family. To say we face challenges with the 100th is an understatement. Given the operational situation, we are and will remain hard-pressed to find the time and resources to commit to our 100th. However, we have an agreed 100th anniversary concept plan. A plan based on three focal points. Edmonton where the main celebration will occur, Ottawa where there will be a combination of ceremonial and Regimental events, and Frezenberg where we will rededicate our monument.

Our museum is in good shape thanks in no small measure to the continuing volunteer and financial support of Calgary Branch. Their support is pivotal to our museum's continue success. We, collectively, all owe Calgary Branch our gratitude. Besides the volunteers from Calgary Branch, we have a dedicated team of serving members in the museum. This team under direction of Captain Richard Dumas, MMM, CD, the Regimental Adjutant and Museum Officer and day-to-day guidance of WO Towers, SMV, CD are doing good work too. Plans are being prepared to manage our archives better, to

improve our displays, and maintain the museum to the standard it deserves.

All up, it is fair to say the Regimental family is both busy and in good shape. The serving members are committed to operations both at home and abroad. Our Association continues to provide active support to our recovering wounded members. It also continues to look after our older members, supporting our museum, operating our scholarship programme, and a host of other activities. In short, our Association is a vital part of our extended Regimental family. Rest assured all members of the family recognize your contribution.

In closing one final note, WO William MacDonald, SMV, CD of 3rd Bn is the VIMY Award winner for 2009. This national award is the first to a non-commissioned member of the CF. As such the award recognizes the contributions of all non-commissioned members to the Afghan campaign as well as marking WO MacDonald's personal gallantry and outstanding service career.



WO W.K. (Willy) MacDonald, SMV, CD Receives Prestigious Vimy Award

13 August 2009. Ottawa. The Conference of Defence Associations Institute (CDA Institute) is pleased to announce that Warrant Officer William Kenneth MacDonald has been unanimously selected as the recipient of the Vimy Award for 2009.

Warrant Officer MacDonald epitomizes the best of today's soldier and is a living example of one who puts service before self. The Award will be presented on Friday, 20 November, at a mixed gala dinner in the LeBreton Gallery of the Canadian War Museum, Ottawa.

Warrant Officer MacDonald joined the Royal Regina Rifles at age 16. He completed Basic Military Training in 1990, and rose to the rank of Master Corporal and served in Bosnia-Herzegovina on Operation CAVALIER in 1994, before transferring to the Regular Force.

A veteran of numerous operational tours, he has served on two tours in Bosnia-Herzegovina, in Kosovo, and recently in Kandahar, where he was

employed as a Reconnaissance Section Commander with First Battalion, Princess Patricia's Canadian Light Infantry Battle Group (Task Force ORION), and was involved in numerous engagements with insurgents. For his heroism in Afghanistan



the Governor General of Canada, in 2008, announced that Warrant Officer MacDonald would receive the Star of Military Valour with the citation that reads "On August 3, 2006, amidst chaos and under sustained and intense enemy fire, (then) Sergeant MacDonald selflessly and repeatedly exposed himself to great peril in order to assist his wounded comrades. Despite the risk, he ensured that his men held on until reinforcements arrived and that the platoon's focus remained on holding the ground that they had fought so hard to secure."

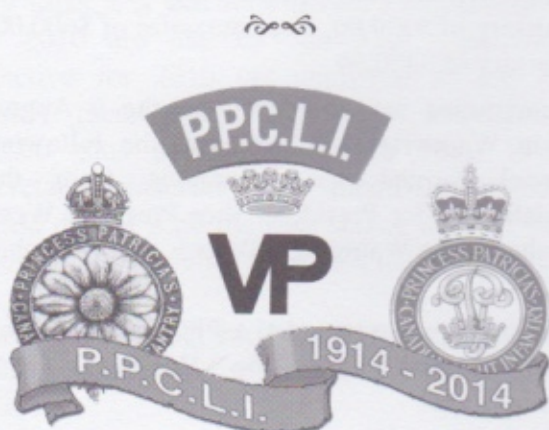
Promoted to his current rank in 2006, Warrant Officer MacDonald was posted to Land Force Western Area Training Centre, where he has been employed on training duties and Acting Company Sergeant-Major for Basic Company. He has been invited to speak of his experiences in Afghanistan at numerous venues, including a RCMP Detachment Commander's Seminar, at Reserve Force Armouries, high schools, and police seminars on leadership in combat.

Warrant Officer MacDonald's personnel file is filled with letters of appreciation from many organizations and grateful parents. He epitomizes the 21st Century Canadian Infantryman. Reliable, knowledgeable, professional, fit and highly articulate, Warrant Officer MacDonald is what every soldier aspires to be.

The CDA Institute is dedicated to increasing public awareness of Canada's security situation and the vital role that is played by the Canadian Armed Forces in our society. The Institute is the sponsor of the Vimy Award. Since 1991, the Award recognizes one Canadian who has made a significant and outstanding contribution to the defence and security of our nation and the preservation of our democratic values.

(WO MacDonald is the first NCO to receive this award)

The Vimy Award Selection Committee was composed of Dr. John Scott Cowan as Chairman, and, as Members the Right Honourable Beverley McLachlin, Général (Ret) Raymond Henault, Dr. George A. Lampropoulos, Monsieur Richard Bertrand, Lieutenant-General (Ret'd) Richard J. Evraire, Lieutenant-General Andrew Leslie, Major-General (Ret'd) Tom de Faye, and Mr. Dan Donovan.



RHQ 100th DESK OPENS TO FANFARE!

After several years of work by various members of the Regimental Executive Committee and others, the 100th Anniversary Desk in Regimental Headquarters Edmonton is now open for business. The regiment has successfully hired Major Sean Moran as the Regimental Secretary whose principle focus will be the 100th Anniversary preparations. Major Moran recently retired from active service and will be working initially out of Minto Armouries in Winnipeg. He will be ably assisted in Edmonton Garrison by the Anniversary Sergeant-Major (ASM), MWO Jim Butters. ASM Butters is a long service soldier with excellent organizational and communication skills who plans on being in this post right through 2015. Both can be reached at 100.ppcli@forces.gc.ca. The pair of these soldiers will have access to the clerical and financial accounting support of RHQ in their duties.

The Anniversary Desk will be working on major issues such as fundraising and fundraising support, further developing the plan and readiness initiatives to make sure that we are able to open a full Anniversary registration website in 2012. They will add more content to the anniversary pages at www.ppcli.com, and will link to the www.ppcli100th.wordpress.com site until it is no longer needed. Communications will be a high end goal for the Desk – trying to reach every single Patricia and convince them to get to the National Reunion and the Ottawa Commemoration. Search entries will appear in the Legion magazine in the next few months.

The Anniversary Desk will be taking control of the Plans Committee for the regiment and the transition to the new state will be complete well before Christmas. Welcome aboard to the Anniversary Desk!

BRANCHES AND THE 100TH ANNIVERSARY

In the last while I have been able to brief several Branches on the 100th Anniversary, and one goal has been to answer the question: What should this Branch do? It is important, because the 100th is not just about the triad of major activities that RHQ is going to coordinate – it is also about what Branches can and might do to support those and to share the 100th within their community. This is part of the aim of the plan for our celebrations of the 100th Anniversary.

The first thing Branches can do is to be ready to help advertise the Centennial. RHQ has in the plan to send out core stories about the 100th to Community newspapers in 2013. Branches would help if they establish a small writing team to use the same core stories to place 100th articles in local papers and newsletters, so that every possible retired Patricia or surviving spouse or family member reads about the Centennial and sees the website address, and the timeframes for the National Reunion and the Ottawa Commemoration.

Another way to help is to hold a Branch Tea – break out those old silver trays and nice cups, and those pieces of regimental memorabilia – and they can be a nice touch in a high tea organized by a Branch – whether that would be in City Hall in your City, or at a Legion, Church or some other suitable venue. The members and their ladies make some tea and sandwiches, serve it all up nicely in a public place and invite the Mayor and his/her partner, or other dignitaries, and the press. The object would be to provoke news coverage through a local story.

Branches should also consider their own unique 100th Project. Some Branches have a major role to play in one of the triad events, but many do not. You could sponsor a dedication plaque in a rest stop on your section of the Canada Trail, make a donation to a veterans' facility in a local hospital, erect a tablet outlining local Patricia involvement in the military history of the city/town/area, secure rights to plant a "Patricia Wood" on a piece of land immediately along a public highway or in a park – and plant one maple tree for every Patricia from your province or area who is on the Roll of Honour and erect a sign! There are many possibilities. Each one, especially if timed for late 2013 or early 2014, offers a chance for the Branch to draw public attention to the Regiment's 100th, and to perpetuate the regiment's service in the public mind. Once you have a project in mind, raise your intent to the Association Council and to RHQ for coordination.

As the 100th draws closer, every Branch is asked to positively encourage their members to get to the National Reunion and the Ottawa Commemoration. The two are very different events. Ask for a briefer from RHQ to come to your AGM in 2012 or 2013 – and to review the detail for you of what is in the plan. Consider gathering some monies to assist one couple or more who may need some financial support to get to these events – and/or sponsor one couple on the Private Returns plan to Frezenberg in 2015.

There is a lot that Branches can do – it will just take some ideas and a little bit of time and

resource to help make the 100th Anniversary a national success! Please be part of it.

Vince Kennedy



PPCLI ASSOCIATION STUDENT BURSARY REPORT 2009

There were twelve applicants this year and six bursaries were awarded; one bursary of \$1,000.00, one bursary of \$900.00, three bursaries of \$600.00, one bursary of \$300.00.

The committee was convened on the 6 August 2009 in Wainwright, Alberta and the following personnel formed the committee from the Association: Vice President, Vice President West, a member of the Wainwright Branch and a Member at Large.

The following were awarded a PPCLI Association Student Bursary from the Hamilton Gault Memorial Fund:

Mr Mike Rogers – a retired Patricia who served with 3 PPCLI and with Joint Task Force II for over 10 years; Mr Rogers is pursuing an education in dentistry at The University of Western Ontario; (Bursary in the name of Dr Jack Cathie);

Miss Dallas Buhr – a Cadet Master Warrant Officer with the RCACC 2701 PPCLI Cadet Corps in Winnipeg, MB since 2004, Miss Buhr is pursuing an Art degree with the University of Winnipeg. (Bursary in the name of Lady Patricia);

Miss Patricia Johnson – daughter of Mr William Johnson, MB, CD a member of the SW Ontario Branch. Bill, a Patricia, served the Regiment from 1973 to 2002; Ms Johnson is pursuing an education in Science (Physics) (perhaps in Defence Research), at the University of Waterloo, Ontario;

Mr Byran Guscott – son of Captain William Guscott a retired Patricia; Mr Guscott is pursuing an education in Engineering at Mount Royal College in Calgary, Alberta;

Miss Sarah Komadina – granddaughter of Chief Warrant Officer Wally Komadina, CD a retired Patricia; Miss Komadina is pursuing an education in Broadcasting at Northern Alberta Institute of Technology (NAIT) in Edmonton; and

Mr Nathan Polowick – is pursuing an education in Engineering with Grant MacEwan College in Edmonton, Alberta.

Robert J. McConechy
Secretary/Treasurer
Hamilton Gault Memorial Fund



Membership Chairman

Hey folks it is that time again, membership fees for 2010 are due by Jan 31st. Remember effective for 2010 (as approved at the 2008 AGM) membership fees have increased to \$30.00 plus applicable branch fees. Branch Secretary/Treasurers and members at large, please do not send the lists and/or dues to RHQ. Check this newsletter for Rob's mailing address.

Our 2009 membership was 814. Let's do some local recruiting and try to get to 900 by the end of 2010.

Fred Goldring



Gerry Wharton Presented Minister of Veterans' Affairs Commendation

In April, 2001 Her Majesty the Queen approved the design of a special bar to be worn with decorations to be known as the Minister of Veterans Affairs Commendation. The Governor General issued a Warrant creating this award, and the governing policies call for it to be "...awarded to individuals who have performed commendable service to the Veteran community and /or individuals who represent commendable role models for their fellow Veterans."

Gerry Wharton, a long-time member of the Ottawa Branch of the PPCLI Association, was presented the Minister of Veterans Affairs Commendation by the Honorable Greg Thompson, Minister of Veterans Affairs, in a ceremony in Ottawa on 21 April, 2009. The Veterans Affairs release which accompanied the announcement of the award outlined some of his many accomplishments:

"Mr. Wharton is a retired Canadian Forces Veteran with 32 years of military service. Following his retirement he joined the Department of Public Works as the manager of Ceremonial and Protocol Services, responsible for countless commemorative ceremonies in the National Capital Region. During this time, Mr. Wharton was an integral member of the committee responsible for the creation of the Tomb of The Unknown Soldier. Mr. Wharton is



Minister Thompson presents
Commendation to Gerry Wharton



Commendation Medallion

currently Honourary President of The Army, Navy and Air Force Veterans in Canada (ANAVETS). As a member of ANAVETS, Mr. Wharton's volunteer contributions include: a re-write of the Association's Manual of Dress, Ritual and Ceremonies to ensure all members represent the Association in a professional manner; representation on the Veterans Affairs

Canada's Cenotaph/Monument Restoration Program External Review Committee and an activist in encouraging the members of ANAVETS to participate in restoring cenotaphs in their respective communities. He has represented ANAVETS at a number of Senate and Parliamentary Committee hearings as well as the Association's Dominion President on numerous commemorative occasions. Mr. Wharton is a member of The Royal Canadian Legion's Honors and Awards Committee. He is a participant at regional Veterans Affairs meetings to ensure his members are kept abreast of the work being done in the area of Veterans' services."

Members of the Association join his many colleagues in congratulating Gerry on the award of this significant honour.



95th ANNIVERSARY REPORT

The 95th anniversary of the regiment was held the weekend of May 8 – 10, 2009. The number of attendees 245, was a bit less than what was expected, nevertheless those who attended at a very good time. Despite the military commitments of the Bns, 135 members of the 1st Bn attended the Friday afternoon festivities. The Patricia who came the furthest was from Nagasaki, where he was teaching English as a second language. A number of usual attendees to our anniversaries saw fit to not attend ours, but chose to attend the Retired Snr NCOs club in the Okanagan. Only 10 of the usual 60 or 70 or more usually attend the Regiments' anniversaries. This affected the attendance also.

Those in attendance were greatly entertained by the band which played music from the 50's, 60's and 70's. The Colonel in Chief was taught how to line-dance and was introduced to the Regimental drink.

A good time was had by all, and many were talking already about the 100th coming up in 5 years.

We were granted the pleasure of the attendance of the Edmonton Police Pipe and Drums and a RCA bandsman for the Battle of Frezenberg commemoration. The observance of the 94th anniversary of this battle was greatly enhanced by their presence and participation.

More details will appear in the 2009 Patricia.

Fred Goldring



APPOINTMENT OF MR. DON CHERRY AS AN HONORARY PATRICIA

Our soldiers have often said that Don Cherry should be a Patricia. They admire and respect Don Cherry's unabashed pride of being a Canadian, his unstinting public support of the Canadian Forces, especially since the beginning of the Afghan campaign, and his recognition of the families of Canadian Forces members. They like his unmatched hockey knowledge too. They feel that Don Cherry shares many common values with us and as such is worthy of being a Patricia.

Earlier this year acting on our soldier's behalf I asked our Regiment's Commanding Officers to discreetly poll their units to see if the proposal to make Don Cherry an Honorary Patricia was widely held.

Additionally, senior members of the Regiment and our Association advice were sought. Across the family the results were clear; make Don Cherry an Honorary Patricia. I asked Don and he agreed to join our Regimental family. We are all pleased and proud of having him as a member of our Regimental family and look forward to welcoming him into our family.

J.E.L. Gollner
Brigadier General (Ret'd)
Colonel of the Regiment



PPCLI REGIMENTAL CALENDAR

The Regimental Major, Major Jeff Bird, would like to include branch activities, regular branch meetings and branch AGMs on the Regimental calendar.

Please forward any information on your branch that you wish to be included in the calendar and for the Association webpage to JEFF.BIRD@forces.gc.ca.



BRANCH NEWS

Edmonton Branch

by Fred Goldring

Another year has just about come and gone. It is almost time for our snowbirds to take off again. Our membership stayed about the same as Mother Nature and Father Time took a couple of our members, a disgruntled member joined another branch but we recruited a several new members. We have had another productive year. A detailed report will follow in the 2009 Patrician. We still meet at the Kingsway Legion on Kingsway at 11:00 hours of the 4th Saturday of each month except December which this year is 2 weeks earlier. Drop in if you are in the neighborhood. The Branch members wish all a Merry Christmas and a Great 2010.

Fred Goldring

S.W. Ont. Branch

by George Ledwon

In March our Branch Reps met with WO Shultz to discuss the welfare of our area Patricia's that were injured in Afghanistan. He updated us as to their statues and we discussed how our Branch could further assist as Bruce Paxton has already been in contact with some on a regular bases. On the 17th March we celebrated our Regimental day at Betty's restaurant in Niagara Falls with dinner and 95th anniversary cake. We had approx 30 in attendance and every one enjoyed themselves and it was a good opportunity for a get together after a long winter. Our AGM was held at our usual location the Days Inn in St Catharines on the first weekend in May. We had a good turnout and our special

dinner guest was a schoolteacher and his wife. The Branch presented him with a Regimental Plaque as a thank you for the generous donation the school made to our Branch. Ed MacDonald visits this school yearly during November to do a veteran's presentation for Remembrance Day; this teacher has organized a special school sports competition to raise monies, which are yearly presented to a veteran's organization to support their needs. This all came about after Ed's first presentation where the school raised enough money to send Ed and his wife back to Korea for a visit. The idea was born



27 July 2009

From left to right; Lou McLean, Bob Maginn and Paul Rochon

and now each year this event continues, we were picked this year thanks to Ed to be this year's recipient.

In August Bill Chrysler entertained us by holding a BBQ at his home. The food was great with a large variety to choose from and Romeo Daley did a great job as our BBQ chef. As this was a potluck event we all had an opportunity to experience some great dishes. Although it did rain some, that did not dampen anyone's spirits and in true Patricia style everyone had a good time and went home content, discussing plans to make next year bigger and better. We are hoping to get some of our events dates into the Spring newsletter and invite any of you who may be in our area, please join us you are always welcome. We will also post a contact email and phone number so you can get hold of one of us and we can than pass on the location of the event with directions.

In closing as the festive season is fast approaching we would like to wish all of you from our Branch to yours a happy and safe holiday season.

Fraser Valley BC Branch

by Marc Gagne

The PPCLI Fraser Valley BC Branch was initiated 1991 in Chilliwack BC by several ex-PPCLI members who had retired in Fraser Valley area.

Many of our members have since departed to join a higher power. The Fraser Valley BC Branch has members from all over the Fraser Valley (29) members in Local areas and members(13) from outside of the Valley; and (06) Honorary members, who were attached with the PPCLI at one time or their surviving dependents.

Thanks to Royal Canadian Legion Branch #280 Golden Vedder for allowing our small Association to gather in there premises for meetings and Social events.

Although, small in numbers, our association has fully supported the Regimental Association in all major gatherings. For example over 60% of our members attended the 60th anniversary of the PPCLI Association in Calgary 2007.

The Fraser Valley BC Branch holds monthly meeting at our local Legion Branch # 280 from January through to May. Our luncheon meetings are held on the first Thursday of each month starting at 11:30am. During the summer months of June, July and Aug we generally shut down for the summer holidays. We resume normal operation again in September through to December.

Generally we gather for the 14th March Regimental Birthday, mid-May we have our annual BBQ, held at a members home and on the 11th Nov for the customary wreath Laying Ceremonies at the Cenotaph at the former CFB . Our year is generally capped off with a yearly Christmas Dinner for members and friends. We welcome anyone wishing to settle in the Fraser Valley to join our Branch.

Vancouver Branch

by Tom Holland

Upcoming Events:

Xmas Party 2009: To be held on Sunday, December 6 2009. At the home of Jenny Urquhart in Richmond. Start time 3pm.

Annual General Meeting: To be held March 14 2009. [Place and time to be decided at Executive Meeting being held December 6 2009.]

Patricia Regimental Day Luncheon: To be held on the Sunday closest to March 17th 2010. [Time & Place confirmed at Executive meeting in December.]

Annual BBQ: Usually held the last Saturday of August. [will be discussed at Branch AGM]

As usual nothing is written in stone, so if you wish further information please contact the Branch Secretary at the above contact points mentioned. We are always happy to welcome visitors & their guests to our functions.



Mail Bag



FORMER RIFLEMEN - LOOK TO YOUR FRONT!

The Queen's Own Rifles of Canada Celebrates its 150th Birthday in April 2010:

Victoria - 19-21 April

Calgary - 21-23 April

Toronto - 24-26 April

Our Colonel-in-Chief - Princess Alexandra will be here to acknowledge her 50 years of duty.

For more information contact:

Victoria - Ed Titus 250-478-6426, cetitus@telus.net

Calgary- Bob Titus 403-251-0056, rfmtitus@shaw.ca

Toronto - Bill Dyson 416-621-7231

GET ON PARADE !

YOU'RE GONNA ENJOY THIS ONE!

MARRIAGE AFTER AGE 60 OR RETIREMENT

A pensions advocacy group, called "Spousal Pensions Advocacy Committee" (SPAC) has been formed in the Sidney and Victoria, BC area. It's mandate is to lobby for the removal of the marriage date and age-related clauses from the five Superannuation Acts.

It will be extremely helpful to determine how many people are in this situation in order to mount an effective letter writing campaign across Canada. We are also hoping that similar groups will be created in other geographical areas.

If you or anyone you know is affected by this clause, please contact:

Nancy Goodman
nancysgood@shaw.ca

REQUESTS

GOT ANY OLD PPCLI PHOTOS?

Private Bradley Anderson, Second Battalion's Webmaster, is updating their History Photos database and is looking for photos of Patricia's and events of bygone days. This is not restricted to Second Battalion veterans. Photos depicting members and events from any PPCLI unit are welcome.

Photos should be accompanied by a brief description, i.e., date, location of the event and names of personnel in the photos, if possible.

Electronic copies may be sent to BRADLEY.ANDERSON3@forces.gc.ca. If you do not have e-mail, send your photos to:

Pte Bradley Anderson 665
Cbt Sp Coy/Webmaster 2 PPCLI
PO Box 5000 Stn Main
Shilo MB R0K 2A0

Once they are copied, the original photos will be returned to senders.

Search for Photos

The search for photos for Fred Goldrings' albums and subsequent donation to our museum still continues. Check out those old barrack boxes, and

basements for recruit depot photos, jump course at Rivers photos, Jnr NCO Courses at Wainwright, Bn tours in Germany 1 Bn 55 - 57 and 63 - 66 as well as 2nd Bn 66 - 69 as well as any nominal rolls etc. The "Depot DVD" is almost at the production stage from what has been compiled. It looks good. More details to follow in the Spring Newsletter. If you have any photos and such get a hold of Fred at 780 476 5472 or email fkgldrng@telusplanet.net.



REGIMENTAL HISTORY

A CANADIAN SOLDIER HONOURED BY THE ENEMY

Harry Cochran was a First World War hero of a different kind. Unlike Manitoba's Billy Barker, Cochran did not shoot down the Kaiser's planes. Instead, he saved a German child from drowning, and for that the enemy decorated him.

No other Canadian can claim that honour.

A private with Princess Patricia's Canadian Light Infantry, Harry Adolph Cochran was a farm boy from Carman, Manitoba. He joined Princess Patricia's Canadian Light Infantry as a reinforcement from 3rd McGill Company on 21 January 1916. During the Battle of Sanctuary Wood on 2 June 1916 German stretcher bearers found him gravely wounded in a shell hole.

He'd been shot through the left lung, near his heart, and had been lying in a pool of water in that hole for days. Barely alive when taken prisoner, he was sent to a military hospital near Munich. He recovered and was moved to a Prisoner-of-War Camp in Bayreuth where he was forced to work as a farm labourer at Heilsbronn, Germany.

On a bitterly cold day in January 1918, Cochran heard children screaming. He ran to where the children were and discovered that a child had broken through the frozen surface of a pond and had slipped beneath the ice. Cochran crawled onto the ice and made his way to the hole where he was able to pull the child out of the water and resuscitate her. She certainly would have died had Cochran not taken action.

When the authorities learned of what Cochran had done a reward was suggested. The guidelines for any reward were governed by resolution from the Bavarian Ministry of War dated 12 October 1915, which stated prisoners of war would be commended in one of four ways: a letter of commendation from the Minister of War, free choice of work duties, permission to write three instead of two letters per month or a cash award. Cochran's employment and pay did not warrant a cash award and he was already allowed to write three letters a month. He did not want any other job. Accordingly, Cochran was given the following letter of commendation:

"The Ministry of War acknowledges the courage and resolve shown by British POW Harry Adolph Cochran from the POW Camp in Bayreuth in saving a 3-year-old child by the name of Gugel from drowning in the Birnbaum Pond in Helsenbronn, District of Ansbach, in January 1918."

Surprisingly, Cochran was also awarded the Bavarian Cross of Military Merit, 3rd Class. He was therefore decorated by the enemy, the only Canadian soldier to have received such a distinction.

Cochran almost made it home. He was released from the POW Camp after the Armistice was signed and, in a letter of 24 December 1918, he notified his mother that he was free and in a military hospital in France. However, his condition worsened due to complications from his 1916 injury and he died from a lung ailment on December 28 at age 23. He is buried in a Military Cemetery in Montebello, France.

Private Harry Cochran's Bavarian Cross of Military Merit and 1914-1915 Star are on display in the Princess Patricia's Canadian Light Infantry Gallery in the Alberta Military Museum, Calgary.



LAST POST

<u>Name</u>	<u>Service</u>	<u>Date</u>	<u>Place</u>
Bill Lock	Korea, Regular Force	18 Mar 2008	Nelson BC
Paul Haugen	Korea	18 Aug 2008	Flin Flon MB
William (Billy) McHattie	Korea (2PPCLI)	30 Jan 2009	Toronto ON
Rudolph Klemm	WWII (RR of C and PPCLI)	2 Feb 2009	Edmonton AB
John (Jack) Edward Hewitt	Regular Force (RCAPC att PPCLI)	9 Feb 2009	Chilliwack BC
Rudolf Victor Benediktus Adamek	WWII (Polish Army), Regular (PPCLI)	12 Feb 2009	Victoria BC
Raymond J. Johnson	WWII	12 Feb 2009	Winnipeg MB
William Robert (Bob) Casement	WWII (SSR), Korea, Regular (PPCLI)	14 Feb 2009	Vernon BC
James Geoffrey Costeloe, CD	WWII (Brit Army), Korea (3PPCLI), Regular Force (QORC)	22 Feb 2009	Victoria BC
Dagmar (Jo) Cosford	Widow of Lorne (Bing) Cosford	22 Feb 2009	Arborg MB
Lloyd Allan (Bob) Tuttle, CD	Korea (2PPCLI), Regular Force	23 Feb 2009	Victoria BC
Frank Robert McGuire	WWII (H&PER), Korea, Regular (PPCLI)	24 Feb 2009	Victoria BC
Frank Charles Woods	WWII	26 Feb 2009	Victoria BC
Ronald James Campbell	Regular Force (Mid 1960s)	11 Mar 2009	Victoria BC
Bill Greenshields	Regular Force (PPCLI & CAR)	12 Mar 2009	Edmonton AB
G.N. (Gerry) Osborn	Regular Force	13 Mar 2009	London ON
Jack Thompson	Korea (1PPCLI), Regular Force	15 Mar 2009	Lacombe AB
Herman G. Guttormson	WWII	17 Mar 2009	Saanichton BC
Gerald William Phillips	Korea, Regular Force (2PPCLI, 1950-53)	18 Mar 2009	Winnipeg MB
David James Campbell	Regular Force	Mar 2009	Toronto ON
Carl Norman Ray	Korea, Regular Force	24 Mar 2009	Halifax NS
Timothy Jaye Bludd, CD	Regular Force	25 Mar 2009	Pembroke ON
Edwin Melvin (Mel) Canfield, CD	Korea (2PPCLI), Regular Force	28 Mar 2009	Chilliwack BC
James William Carroll, CD	Regular Force (QORC & PPCLI)	28 Mar 2009	Victoria BC
Brigitte (Kitty) King	Wife of Leonard F. King	8 Apr 2009	Winnipeg MB
Donald Russell Blair, CD	Regular Force 1961-93 (PPCLI & 3 Mech Cdo)	10 Apr 2009	Trail BC
Murray (Dunc) Gordon Duncan	Regular Force, Korea	22 Apr 2009	Cobble Hill BC
Stanley Gordon Smith	Regular Force	26 Apr 2009	Victoria BC
Jim Preston	WWII (SHofC), Korea, Regular Force (PPCLI)	29 Apr 2009	Penticton BC
Sgt Shane Anthony Gordon Schofield	Regular Force (2PPCLI)	29 Apr 2009	Wawanese MB
Joan Kitty Price	Widow of Frank (Drummy) Price	29 Apr 2009	Saanich BC
Marwin A. (Ben) Kelter	WWII	8 May 2009	Belleville ON
John McTague	Regular Force	8 May 2009	Lindsay ON
LCdr Michael Joseph Brown, CD	Regular (Navy), 2PPCLI Chaplain in 1990s	14 May 2009	Ottawa ON
Norman (Brooke) Leonard Claxton, CD	WWII & Korea (RCR), Regular (RCR & PPCLI)	17 May 2009	Calgary AB
Robert (Bob) Gerald White	Korea	18 May 2009	Calgary AB
Ian Jardine Hunter	Regular Force, Korea	19 May 2009	White Rock BC
June Patricia Barrett	Wife of Ken Barrett	20 May 2009	Calgary AB
Gregory William Rushworth	Regular Force (1 & 2 PPCLI 1967-80)	22 May 2009	Winnipeg MB
Brian McKenzie Munro, CD	WWII (COTC), Reserve Force (Wpg Gren), Korea (2PPCLI), Regular Force	3 Jun 2009	Victoria BC
John Altham Jackson, CD	Pre WWII PF, WWII (PPCLI & C Pro C), Regular (RCAF Band), Militia (LER)	13 Jun 2009	Edmonton AB
MCpl Donald Kevin Pike	Regular Force (1PPCLI)	16 Jun 2009	Edmonton AB
James H. Johnston	WWII	16 Jun 2009	Winnipeg MB

Continued on next page

LAST POST

(Continued)

Lawrence Alex Black, CD	Regular Force	22 Jun 2009	Petawawa ON
Pte Nathan Van Smeerdyk	Regular Force (3PPCLI)	26 Jun 2009	Winnipeg MB
Nelson Thibodeau	Regular Force (2PPCLI)	29 Jun 2009	Aylmer QC
Jeane McDonald	Widow of RC (Bob) McDonald	1 Jul 2009	Stony Plain AB
Cpl Nicholas Ashley Bulger	Regular Force (1 & 3PPCLI, 2000-09)	3 Jul 2009	Afghanistan
Neil Borden McKinley	Regular Force	6 Jul 2009	Saanich BC
Cpl Daniel Camille DeCorby	Regular Force (3PPCLI)	16 Jul 2009	Edmonton AB
Edward Albert Zwolak, CD	Korea, Regular Force	19 Jul 2009	Kelowna BC
Alec Kohuch	WWII, Regular Force (RCAMC)	24 Jul 2009	Nanaimo BC
William Ernest Ismond	Korea, Regular Force (PPCLI & R22eR)	28 Jul 2009	Calgary AB
Charles Sydney Frost	WWII	6 Aug 2009	Toronto ON
George E. Miller	WWII, Regular Force (QORC & PPCLI)	7 Aug 2009	Victoria BC
Joseph Applebaum	Korea	10 Aug 2009	Kirkland QC
Larry McKenzie	Regular Force	15 Aug 2009	Camrose AB
MCpl David Lawrence Smith	Regular (RCHA, 1 & 3PPCLI) (Cook)	16 Aug 2009	Edmonton AB
Wayne Lewis Barclay	Regular Force	22 Aug 2009	Calgary AB
William Donald Sutton, CD	RCN, RCHA, RCEME (att 2 PPCLI)	7 Sep 2009	Fort Frances ON
Alfred George Arnold	Regular (Regina Rifles in 27 CIBG, 2PPCLI)	11 Sep 2009	Regina SK
Patrick Douglas Joseph McLean, CD	Regular Force (PPCLI & 3 Mech Cdo)	18 Sep 2009	Calgary AB
Earl Morison Halstead	WWII	21 Sep 2009	Roland MB

"We will remember them"