



“Take Post”

The Journal of the Toronto Gunner Community Edition 17, 24 May, 2017 - Part B

THIS EDITION – Part B

- Victoria Day at Queen’s Park
- Change of Honorarys
- Artillery Family Day

This journal, “Take Post” is published bi-monthly under the authority of the Honorary Colonel, 7th Toronto Regiment, Royal Canadian Artillery. Take Post reaches out to all Gunners and those interested in being part of the Regimental Artillery Family of the Greater Toronto Area.

The purpose is to share information and strengthen the ties between serving members, retired Gunners, Gunner families, friends of the Artillery, and the Greater Toronto Community.

Notes and Letters to the “Editor” can be sent to: barry@partnersindemnity.com



7th Toronto Regiment, Royal Canadian Artillery – Lt Jeff Fry **Victoria Day Parade and Family Day**

UBIQUE. One word that bonds all serving and retired Gunners of the Royal Regiment of Canadian Artillery. Certainly a word most fitting for departing Honorary Colonel, Brigadier General (ret'd) E.B. Beno OMM, CD, as he made his final address to the 7th Toronto Regiment, RCA during the annual Victoria Day Parade at Queen’s Park. BGen (ret’d) Beno has honourably served the Royal Regiment of Canadian Artillery, the Army and, Queen and country for a remarkable fifty years.

The Commanding Officer of 7th Toronto Regiment, RCA, Lieutenant Colonel R.D. Smid, MMM, MB, CD, commanded the parade which formed up on Wellesley Street in front of Queens Park and included three 105mm guns from 9 Battery and a Second World War vintage 25 pounder gun from the Limber Gunner Association.

Although the Regiment regularly participates in the Victoria Day parade, this year in particular included some very special moments for the greater Regimental Family. With the departure of

Brigadier General (retd) Beno as Honorary Colonel, the Regiment welcomed Lieutenant Colonel (retd) B. Downs, CD as the incoming Honorary Colonel and also Mark Clearihue as the new Honorary Lieutenant Colonel.

Another milestone for the Regiment was made when three members were presented with the coveted maroon beret along with white maple leaf parachute wings, presented by Brigadier General (retd) Beno (also former Commanding Officer of the 1st Airborne Battery of the Canadian Airborne Regiment, Battery Commander of E Battery Para 2RCHA and the Commander of the Special Service Force). This is the first time in history that reserve gunners have been authorised to wear the maroon beret. The successful initiative to create a combined infantry and artillery capability, much like the regular army model, is thanks to a joint effort between the Regiment and the Queens Own Rifles of Canada.

Further testimony to the strength of the Regiment's exemplary members, was the award of a third clasp to Regimental Sergeant Major D Robinson's CD which represents an amazing 42 years of dedicated service in both the Regular and Reserve Army. Master Warrant Officer Robinson is also a very experienced airborne qualified soldier with over 160 jumps, having achieved the qualifications of Jump Master and Parachute instructor.

At 12 noon the Salute Troop Gun Position Officer, Lieutenant Proner, ordered the guns to fire a 21 gun salute, in celebration of Queen Victoria's birthday and the culmination of another successful year for the Regiment.

Upon return to Moss Park Armoury, the Regiment welcomed its extended family members for a fun filled afternoon generously organized by the IODE which included activities for children such as a bouncy castle, maze and a magician. Families were treated to hamburgers, poutine, ice cream and cake. As always, the Regiment was entertained by the very talented musicians of the 7th Toronto Regiment Band.

The 2016/17 training year certainly proved to be very successful, only to be made more memorable by such a fantastic day. The Regiment has not only been blessed with dedicated and talented Soldiers, Officers and Honoraries, but also with our extended Regimental families who, without their support and understanding, the Regiment would not be able to serve our country.

The very best of luck to Brigadier General (ret'd) Beno, good shooting, the Regiment thanks you for your service! Welcome to Honorary Colonel Downs and Honorary Lieutenant-Colonel Clearihue!

UBIQUE!



The Guns. Thank God The Guns!



Colonel Commandant, BGen Selbie Takes the Salute from CO 7th Toronto Regt, LCol Ryan Smid



Victoria Day 21 Gun Salute



A Very Fine Regiment, Indeed!



Limber Gunners



The Regimental Family at Queen's Park



The Leaders of our Regimental Family



7th Toronto Band in All Its Glory!



Hon LCol Mark Clearihue Receives Commissioning Scroll



Hon Col Barry Downs Addresses the Regimental Family



A Few Words to The Regiment



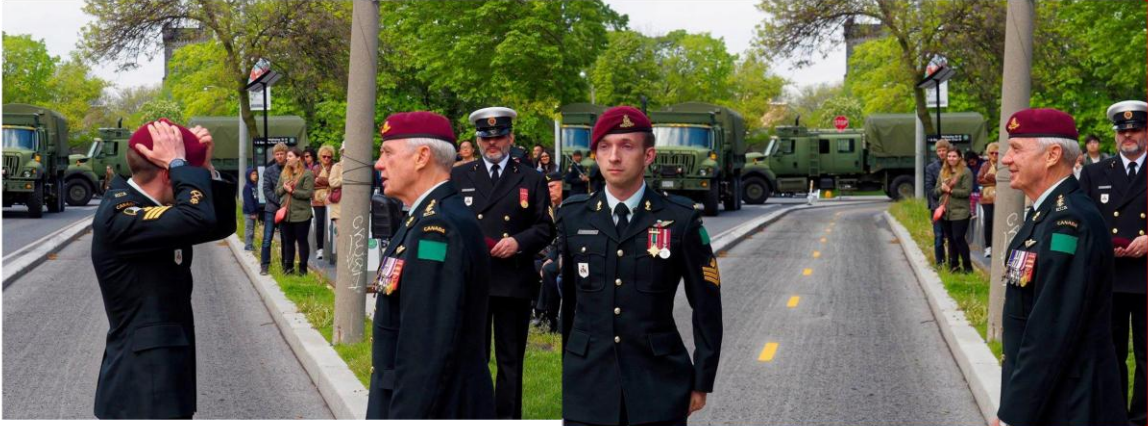
Maroon Beret Presentation



Capt Eric Laxton
Sgt Matt Jackson
Bdr Mystyslaw Litwin



Maroon Beret Presentation



Pocket Watches in Recognition of Outstanding Service



Regimental Family Gift to Hon Col



Collage from Limber Gunners For "I Love Me Room"



**7th Toronto Regiment “Hawkeye Trophy”
In Memory of Brig HE (Hawkeye) Brown
Awarded Annually for Best Shot**



**Enfield Short (Artillery) Rifle
Manufactured in 1872
Saw Service with Halifax Garrison Artillery and “A” Battery, Kingston**

Personal Thanks to LCol Ryan Smid



Regimental Family Day The Whole Family Was There



The Regimental Team that Helped the IODE Transform The Armouries



Happy Families, Happy Cadets



Brooke Timpson of IODE in Gunner Red Over Blue!



BMO Team With MGen Dave Fraser Supporting Our Regt Family



Great to Be Here!



Jodi Parps (IODE) after 8 Km Race Walks 10 Kms to get to Family Day



Fun with Families



Fun Food



Great Meal!



105 Cadet Corps at Family Day



Family Time





Musical Entertainment



Great People



Proud Limber Gunners



Brooke and Jodi of our
UBIQUE Chapter, IODE



“Rose Between Two Thorns”



A Great Artillery Day



Our New Honorary Lt Col



Our New Honorary Colonel



Marching Off



**OUTGOING HONORARY COLONEL ADDRESS TO THE REGIMENT
VICTORIA DAY, QUEEN'S PARK, 22 MAY, 2017
By: Brigadier-General (Retired) Ernest B. Beno, OMM, CD**

What a great Regiment we have! At the Armouries, in the field, on operations, at social events, and on trips such as The Netherlands and Vimy Ridge I am always impressed with the quality of all ranks 7th Toronto Regiment. You shoot well, you are ever so professional, you are highly motivated, and you are great citizens. I am proud of you, and proud to be part of this Regiment!

Colonel Commandant – thanks for being here, and thanks for all that you do for the Royal Regiment. Your tireless efforts are remarkable, and 7th Tor for one Regiment, recognizes and appreciates all that you do.

Regimental Family – thanks for turning out on Victoria Day, on a long weekend. Gunners on Parade, Cadets, Foundation, Toronto Gunners, Limber Gunners, Band and Imperial Order Daughters of the Empire (IODE), serving and former members of the Regiment, families – It is great to see all of you.

To previous Commanding Officers and Honoraries – thanks for all you have done to keep this great Regiment alive, vibrant and operationally relevant - and, for keeping the spirit of the Artillery alive in Toronto and the GTA - and for supporting them, my thanks to their friends and families.

I have known your incoming Honorary Colonel, Col Barry Downs, for decades, and he has known the Regiment for eons. Barry, I am pleased to hand off to someone as dedicated, supportive and caring as you. I know that you'll be a great support to and supporter of the CO and the Regiment – as you have been all of your adult life.

I had the great fortune to have Hon LCol Tom Bitove for a couple of years. Behind the scenes this man has done so much for the Regiment, the Foundation and men and women of 7th Tor. He has sponsored many an activity and has initiate and helped nurture our great relationship with John McDermott. I would like to thank Tom today, and let him know how thankful all of us are for his continued engagement and help.

I cannot say enough positive about your Honorary Lieutenant Colonel. Hon LCol Mark Clearihue has fitted right in with the Regiment, the Regimental Family and our soldiers. He looks pretty smart, eh – credit to Lt Jeremy Lum! Mark is a great Canadian, totally dedicated to the men and women on parade here today. He and his lovely wife Judy are already working on the next John McDermott Concert – and they will be encouraging you to be there, and bring families, and sell tickets. Their mantra is: “Alright you folks - We want bums in the seats!!!” Mark and Judy, today is your official welcome to 7th Tor – and Mark, keep up the great work!

I want to personally recognize some outstanding members of the Regimental Family – not just because of them as individuals, but because of what they represent - they are the leaders of the key components of our Regimental Family:

- **Major Ron Paterson** – Battery Commander of the Limber Gunners. I have known him longer than anyone here. Even before Mia!! Yes, Militia Summer Training at Northview Heights Collegiate 1960, and 42nd Medium Regiment, University Avenue Armouries. Thanks to you, Ron, and the Limber Gunners for the great work representing the Regiment and Gunners of Canada. The Limber Gunners have almost as many deployments annually as the Regiment – and they are always in the public eye. They are our face in the public. Thanks and Good Shooting.
- **Lieutenant for Life** and Treasurer of the Toronto Artillery Foundation for Life – **Paul Kernohan**. Thanks so much for all that you do. The Foundation keeps this Regiment going, and Paul keeps the Foundation going. He has a storage bank in his head that is

greater than a computer, and a heart to go with it. Thanks Paul for your diligence, hard work and decades of service.

- **Captain Nick Arrigo**, Director 7th Toronto Regiment Band, PMC of the Officers' Mess, and the man to go to when you need to get things done. I am presenting a gift to Nick as a person, but also as the key representative of our Band. He, and Warrant Officer Hicks, and the whole team are splendid. They too represent us everywhere and so eloquently. So Nick – my thanks to you and to the 7th Toronto Regiment Band for such outstanding representation of Gunners and our Regiment.
- **Captain David Burnett, represented today by Hon LCol Clearihue.** Captain David Burnett was in on the creation of our Foundation and the Toronto Gunner Officers Association, and now the Toronto Gunners – our Association. Through tireless efforts and leading many events (such as the Garrison Ball three years ago, Gunner Luncheons, annual Racetrack, and so on) he has kept the extended Regimental Family together. Mark, would you please present this to David for me on his return from Europe.
- **Major John Stewart.** For two thirds of my time Major Stewart was Regimental Major. He recruited me, educated me, he gave me lists of things to do, he inspired me, and he then gave me more to do. This man's love of tradition, Regimental spirit, doing what's right, and giving of himself is wonderful and remarkable. In addition to a high pressure job on Bay Street, he maintained a pace in the Regiment that was incredible – in garrison and in the field. And he cared about each and every soldier, and our customs and traditions. And I will say that there is no Major in the Royal Regiment of Canadian Artillery, Regular Force or Reserve, that has done more for the Regimental Family of the whole of the RCA than Major John Stewart. For example: The Captain General's Diamond Jubilee Brooch, and soon a photo of our Queen wearing that brooch – and so many other initiatives. This man loves the Army. This man loves this Regiment. This man loves the Artillery. John, thanks for your great service to me, the Regiment and the RCA.

Why individual gifts, you might ask? Together we have accomplished much, but these folks led the way without me asking for their support. They represent your extended Regimental Family. They were always on target, on time! Now, you may open your presentations – a RCA Birk's pocket watch.

I understand that “timeliness” is tremendously important to your Commanding Officer. Let this be a reminder!

Lieutenant Colonel Paul Szabunio – Paul was my first CO at 7th Tor, and no doubt he was behind John Stewart in recruiting me for this “job.” 7th Toronto has been blessed with a

succession of great Officers and especially Commanding Officers! But this one here is incredible. This is an outstanding leader with vision, charisma, determination, energy and passion. Through his tenure he brought the Regiment to a new high standard and he set the Regiment up for continued success. Paul, (supported by Anna and Hudson) – thanks for your vision, personal example, hard work and inspiration. This man doesn't need a watch – he is always way ahead of us all!! He makes me tired just watching him in action!!

Lieutenant Colonel Ryan Smid – Ryan, I'd like to make it widely known to all that you have made 7th Toronto Regiment a Regiment worthy of recognition. Operationally and as a Regimental Family you have built on the past and set new high standards – for shooting, fitness, operational readiness, sports, and family fun, and so on. Few (if any) Reserve Regiments, Gunner or otherwise, in this town or across Canada, are as capable and ready as ours. It has been a great pleasure soldiering with and working with you and the fine Officers and Soldiers of 7th Tor.

Our Soldiers – the women and men of 7th Toronto Regiment. I want you to continue to strive for excellence. I want you to remember our proud history. I want you to respect tradition. I want you to remember that you are soldiers first - and the greatest mark of good soldiering is Marksmanship. I am presenting to the Regiment an 1872 Enfield Rifle that saw service with the Halifax Garrison Artillery and “A” Battery Kingston. This rifle is almost as old as Canada, and the Artillery will also soon be 150 years old. So, it has been around almost as long as the Regular Force Artillery of Canada. And, it still works, it still fires, so respect it, look after it, and try to win the Best marksman every year. I will get this rifle properly mounted in a glass case, to be on display in the Regimental lines.



It will be the Regiment's trophy for the Best Marksman of the year – and the name of the best Marksman year after year will be installed for all to see. It will be called “**The 7th Toronto Regiment Hawkeye Trophy**” in memory of Brigadier-General HE (Hawkeye) Brown, OBE, ED, CD, BA. He was one of the most renowned members of this Regiment, ever.

With that, I'll call it “End of Mission.” 57 years ago, this weekend, on this very spot, I fired my first 21 Gun Salute. I think that I will now “Stand Easy!” Good Shooting to all of you!!

UBIQUE - Ernest B. Beno, OMM, CD, BBA, MPA, Brigadier-General (Retired), Hon Col



Good Shooting!

UBIQUE!



***The Toronto Artillery Foundation
Wants Your Old Militaria!***



**Do you have boxes of surplus from your active days?
Do you have collectibles or souvenirs that you don't
want to throw out but just collects dust?
Whether Canadian, British, U.S., antique or
anything --Give it a good home!
The TAF is collecting artefacts for The Regimental
Museum and its on-line Yard Sale Project**

Proceeds from any sales will go to the Toronto Artillery Foundation, the charitable arm of the Regiment Family which raises and invests money to support Gunners and Artillery Heritage in Toronto and across Canada.

If you have anything that you would like to donate, contact Capt Paul Thompson at paethompson@hotmail.com



Merit Travel and Fields of Fire Tours

Passchendaele Centenary & Remembrance Day Battlefield Tour 3-12 November 2017



- Attend Remembrance Day ceremonies in Ypres, Belgium
- Visit important battlefields in the Ypres Salient from 1915 and 1916 and Vimy
- Pay tribute to Canada's war dead
- Attend the Passchendaele 100th Anniversary ceremonies
- Visit monuments and Commonwealth War Cemeteries
- Locally (12-16 members) organized and personalized service

For more information contact Merit Travel Kingston
at BCruickshank@merittravel.com, or call 613-549-3553

Passchendaele Centenary Tour: Itinerary

Day 1 – 3 November ... Depart Canada for Brussels.

Day 2 – 4 November ... We arrive in Brussels, Meet our bus and then drive to Ypres where we will visit the Cloth Hall Museum, Essex Farm cemetery (where John McRae wrote *In Flanders Fields*).

Day 3 – 5 November ... Today we will start with the 1915 battles around Ypres. We will visit St Julian and Langemarck German cemetery as well as Kitcheners' Wood.

Day 4 – 6 November ... We will look at the 1916 battles in the Salient with visits to Mont Sorrel (Hill 62), Hooge Crater, St Eloi and Hill 60.

Day 5 – 7 November ... We will make an early start from Ypres to visit Vimy Ridge and the area around the famous battle site. Tours of the tunnels and the memorial will highlight our day.

Day 6 – 8 November ... Back in the Salient of Ypres we will examine the early stages of the battle from July to October 1917 that include the massive mines under Messines Ridge.

Day 7 – 9 November ... This day will be devoted to touring the Canadian battlefields of Passchendaele: Bellevue Spur, Crest Farm and Vindictive Crossroads. We will also visit Tyne Cot cemetery, the largest Commonwealth cemetery in the world.

Day 8 – 10 November ... After a morning off, today will be devoted to the ceremonies commemorating the battle culminating with a torchlight parade to Crest farm..

Day 9 – 11 November ... We will attend remembrance day ceremonies in Ypres.

Day 10 – 12 November ... We will depart early to make flights from Brussels that will return us to Canada



Tour Price (Toronto departure)
CAD \$2600 – (per person, Double occupancy)
(single supplement: \$650 – limited availability)



Departure costs from other major airports (Montreal, Vancouver, Calgary, Halifax, etc.) will be determined based on demand

\$500 per person deposit required by 1 July 2017

Price includes:

- breakfast and boxed lunch daily
- all travel by coach bus
- accommodation at the Park Hotel Kortrijk
- services of historian/guides

Not Included:

- travel insurance
- dinners
- items of a personal nature such as beverages

Note: limited single room availability – “first come, first served”

The Toronto Artillery Foundation

Charge 7 Classic Mark 1

Golf Tournament

Take a shot at this!

Try something novel!

Thursday, September 21, 2017
Cedar Brae Golf Club



Award winning private 18-hole course located at 55 Mac Frost Way, Scarborough, ON (Hwy 48 & Steeles)

Registration: 7 am

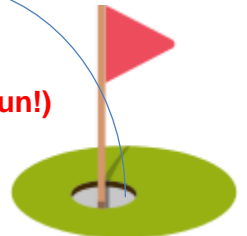
Continental Breakfast: 7-8 am

Shotgun Start: 8:00am

(via Artillery Support Provided by the Foundation's 1943 - 25 Pounder Gun!)

BBQ Lunch: 1 pm

Please wear proper golf attire



Golf prizes! Raffle!

WIN - chance to fire Historic 25 Pounder Gun/Howitzer!
- John McDermott Concert tickets

Interact with troops and Canadian Forces Artillery Technology

Cost: \$185.00 per person

Proceeds raised are in support of the Toronto Artillery Foundation – helping our troops!

Payment due on/or before September 14, 2017

Please make cheques payable to "Toronto Artillery Foundation" at
10 Adelaide Street East, Suite 400, Toronto, Ontario, M5C 1J3

To reserve your foursome or individually R.S.V.P. no later than Friday,
September 8, 2017 to Barry Downs at: barry@partnersindemnity.com or (416) 366 - 5243

Presenting Sponsor



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