



## “Take Post”

### The Journal of the Toronto Gunner Community

Edition 17, 24 May, 2017 – Part A (1)

#### THIS EDITION

- New Senior Serving Gunner, Major General Simon Hetherington
- New RSM RCA – CWO Hoegi
- Pilgrimage to Vimy – 1 to 10 April 2017
- Change of Honorary Colonels
- Khalsa Day Ceremonies

This journal, “Take Post” is published bi-monthly under the authority of the Honorary Colonel, 7<sup>th</sup> 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](mailto:barry@partnersindemnity.com)



### The 7<sup>th</sup> Toronto Team – Gunner Pilgrimage to Vimy



## Regimental Part II Orders - Honours, Awards, Promotions & Appointments



Promotion from MBdr to  
Sgt – Sgt Adam Potts



Award of CD  
Sgt Karol Stradalowicz

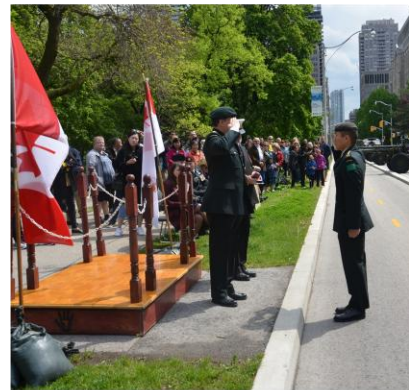


PO2 Donald Cleveland  
1<sup>st</sup> Clasp to CD

## Colonel Commandant Makes Presentations



Warrant Officer  
James Lombara - CD



Capt Jerry Ma – CD



RSM Dave Robinson – CD3



## Take Post, Edition 18

The next Take Post Edition 18 will be published by 21 July, 2017.

Articles to be submitted by 14 July, 2017 to: [barry@partnersindemnity.com](mailto:barry@partnersindemnity.com)



Regimental Family Calendar of Events		
22 May	Victoria Day Gun Salute & Regimental Stand Down	Final parade of the 2016-17 Training Season.
27 May	Two Centuries of Fire Power (Fort York)	Point of Contact: Major John Stewart
21 April – 31 August	Reserve Summer Training (RST) 2017	Summer Concentration taking place in Meaford.
14 June	Toronto Gunners Race Night – Woodbine Race Track	Point of Contact: David Burnett
25 June	7 <sup>th</sup> Toronto Regiment Band Canada 150 with John McDermott and Yorkminster United Church	Point of Contact: Capt Nick Arrigo
01 July	Canada Day Gun Salute	
07 August	Civic Holiday	
01 September	7 Tor Regt officially takes over TBG	
21 September	"Charge 7 Golf Tournament"	Point of Contact: Hon Col Barry Downs
05 November	Remembrance Service, St Clement's Church	
06 November	John McDermott Concert	Point of Contact: Hon LCol Clearihue
11 November	Remembrance Day	



## **Senior Serving Gunner – Major-General Simon Hetherington, OMM, MSM, CD**

### **“An Introduction and Some Thoughts for the Future”**

So who is in this photo? Well, on the left is the late, Right Honourable Roland Michener, former Governor General of Canada. On the right is a much younger version of me. And this picture was taken in the 7 Toronto Regiment Officers' Mess ....let's just say some time ago.



I am Major General Simon Hetherington and I am truly honoured to have been recently appointed as the Senior Serving Gunner in the Royal Regiment of Canadian Artillery. I am exceptionally pleased to have the opportunity to write an article for my old unit, 7 Toronto Regt, RCA.

Back in 1988, I was posted from 2 RCHA in Petawawa to serve as the RSS officer at 7 Tor. The two years I would spend with the Regiment would serve me well to this very day. I learned early on to appreciate the challenges reservists face with balancing military service, a civilian career and family; I learned of the commitment that reservists demonstrate through their service; and I learned that Gunners have set the standard across the Canadian Army for integrating our regular and reserve forces. On a personal note, I made friends in 7 Toronto with whom I keep in contact with 29 years later - one of those happens to be my former CO who is now the HCol of the Regiment, LCol (retd) Barry Downs!

In a recent edition of "Take Post", my good friend Major General Mike Rouleau introduced himself to you as the new Senior Serving Gunner. Please believe me when I say he wasn't fired! General Rouleau is also the Senior Serving Special Operations Forces Officer and he is currently the Commander of Canadian Special Operations Command. He described his career path in his great article, humbly explaining his incredible achievements as an assaulter and a commander at all levels in Joint Task Force 2. General Mike has graciously allowed me to take the torch from him as Senior Serving Gunner, not only because I have had a more traditional Gunner career



path, but because I am well positioned in the Army to speak to Artillery issues and communicate them across the Royal Regiment. On behalf of all Gunners : thank you General Mike for your leadership and we look forward to seeing you continue to take on positions of greater importance.

As for me, I've had the honour of commanding Gunners and soldiers at every level from troop to Division. I was also fortunate to have served as a Deputy Commanding General of XVIII Airborne Corps where I worked closely with our "Redleg" brothers and sisters in the US Army. My current job is that of the Commander of the Canadian Army Doctrine and Training Centre in Kingston. In short, I run training in the Army on behalf of the the Commander of the Canadian Army.



Getting rigged plane side for a jump into the National Training Centre at Fort Irwin, May 2015. Either I'm getting older, or loads are getting heavier!

There are three key themes that I want to share with you as what I, as your Senior Serving Gunner will be emphasizing during my tenure:

- **RELEVANCE,**
- **COMMUNICATIONS,**
- **UNITY.**

These are all themes that I would hope Gunner leaders at all levels to embrace and action to the best of their abilities. I'll briefly outline my intent as it relates to each of these.

**RELEVANCE** – The current and future security environments are, and will be, more complex than ever before. While there will always be a need for close support fires and fires coordination in mid to high intensity conflicts, emerging threats and operating environments demand that we keep relevant and actively seek to exploit our skills and adapt accordingly. The Targeting Enterprise is one such example. Already, we have Gunners that are doing remarkable work in this area. The capabilities that 4 GS Regt are beginning to deliver are already in high demand and will continue to be needed in greater quantities. Our inherent skills in integration, coordination and synchronization will serve us well as the need to work with our Joint, Interagency, Intergovernmental, Multinational and Public (JIIMP) partners increases. My message here is that we need to seek out those opportunities that showcase our skill sets and remain a valuable asset to the Joint Forces of which we will become a part.

**COMMUNICATIONS** – Great work is already being done by serving and retired members of the Royal Regiment to ensure that we communicate better, both internally and externally. To be honest, we have fallen short in this area over the last several years. Linked to the theme of relevance, we need to communicate what it is the RCA can deliver and how well we can deliver it. Internally, all ranks should be given the opportunity to contribute to the Regimental effort – operationally or from a family perspective. The various mediums available to us today can easily facilitate this. We also need to be able to communicate our strategic objectives and the way in which we'll reach them. I also acknowledge that on the personnel management side of things, we can do better on managing the expectations of our soldiers on career matters. I implore all of you to keep all your communication nets open and the information flowing as much as possible.



At the Canadian Manoeuvre Training Centre in Wainwright with soldiers from the Loyal Edmonton Regiment, July 2016.

**UNITY** – LGen (retired) Stuart Beare was fond of the phrase “unity of thought, purpose and action”. I like to think that as a Gunner, he was the one to have coined this. Regardless, this is the mantra we need to adopt to truly advance on all fronts. We need to speak with a common voice, not as independent units. Naturally, we need to all understand the common vision and messaging we wish to deliver and that, of course, is inextricably linked

to shared communications as I mentioned above. The Army needs to know that the Gunners are united and moving together to support Canada in whatever way we are asked to do so. I also consider this as a theme to bring Gunners together everywhere and anywhere. For me, this means seeking out Gunners as I travel the country and taking the time to speak with them as part of the Regimental Family. I implore all leaders to do the same. Introduce yourselves and strengthen the bonds that our hat badge and heritage provide. And be shameless about it! Be publicly proud to be a Gunner and make others feel the same.

I know specific to the readers of this fine publication want to know about reserve specific issues such as equipment, roles, mission tasks, etc. I apologize for not having that for you in this article, but it will come. The upcoming release of the Defence Police Review will be key in our mission analysis as the Royal Regiment charts its way ahead in support of our Army and, of course our great country.

Being part of 7 Toronto Regt as a young officer made an indelible impression on me. As we move forward as the Royal Regiment as part of our great Army, Under the leadership of LCol Smid, RSM Robinson I have no doubt that the entire team of officers, NCOs and soldiers continue to impress everyone with whom they come in contact; in the field, deployed on operations, or while conducting community outreach.

In closing, I need to acknowledge the tireless efforts that your outgoing HCol, BGen (retired) Ernie Beno has put forth in the name of 7 Toronto Regt over the last few years. He has been a role model for me for personally for my entire career and he continues to be, setting an incredibly high standard of dedication and commitment towards our Royal Regiment. Thank you, General Ernie.

Thank you for your service and a big thank you to your families for their support to you. We couldn't do what we do without them.

I look forward to serving the guns and our country alongside you.

**UBIQUE!**

**Simon Hetherington, Major General, Senior Serving Gunner**



**Appointment as Master Gunner St James's Park  
Lieutenant-General Sir Andrew Richard Gregory,  
KBE, CB**



Lieutenant-General **Sir Andrew Richard Gregory, KBE, CB** (born 19 November 1957) is a retired British Army officer who served as Chief of Defence People. General Gregory was commissioned into the Royal Artillery in 1981. As a Brigadier he served in Iraq. Promoted to Major-General in 2007, he was appointed Collocation Implementation Team Leader for the amalgamation of Land Command and Headquarters Adjutant-General at Andover which took place in April 2008. He became Director General, Personnel later that year, Military Secretary in February 2011 and Deputy Chief of the Defence Staff (Personnel and Training) with promotion to lieutenant-general in April 2013. This role has since been re-designated Deputy Chief of the Defence Staff (People). General Gregory retired from the Army on 16 August 2016. He was appointed Master Gunner, St James's Park from 1 May 2017.

**Our congratulations, Sir Andrew, from all members of 7<sup>th</sup> Toronto Regiment and our extended Regimental Family. We look forward to your visit one day in the not too distant future! Our thanks to General Sir Timothy Granville-Chapman, GBE, KCB, ADC Gen who served as our Master Gunner St James's Park from 2008 until this year, 2017. Good Shooting, Stand Easy!**





## **Our New RSM RCA – Chief Warrant Officer Garth Hoegi, MMM, CD**

Honorary Colonel Beno asked me to write a few words to introduce myself to Officers and Soldiers of 7<sup>th</sup> Toronto Regiment, RCA. Let me first state that it was an honour to be appointed as the RSM RCA on the 11<sup>th</sup> of May, after serving thirty-three years as a gunner this is truly the pinnacle of my career.



My time with the Royal Regiment has literally taken me across the country and to places overseas I would never have been, had it not been for my time as a Gunner. After starting my career in Shilo with 3RCHA I have had the opportunity to serve in 1 and 2RCHA respectively. I also spent 2 years with the 20th Independent Field Battery in Lethbridge, Alberta. The time I spent with the Reserve Battery was my first experience working that closely with our Reserve Gunners. I found the experience to be exceptionally rewarding and gave me an appreciation for the professionalism, hard work and dedication that our Reserve Gunners bring to the table every day. I have also had the opportunity to work closely with our Allies having spent two years in Fort Bliss Texas at the US Army Sergeants Major Academy before being appointed as the RSM of 2RCHA. The position of RSM has been the most fulfilling position I have held in my career.



Having the opportunity to mentor and coach NCOs that are the future of the Royal Canadian Artillery is an honour and I look forward to continuing my work with NCOs as the RSM RCA. I am currently appointed as the College CWO at Royal Military College of Canada where I have the pleasure of interacting with the future Officers of the branch on a daily basis.



In my new capacity as the RSM RCA, I will be taking on many new responsibilities. Some of my main tasks will include the career management of our SNR NCOs in the regular force. I will be working closely with the RSMs of the Regiments and the RCAS to develop recommendations for the Director of Artillery that will ensure healthy succession planning of our NCOs to ensure Gunner representation at the highest levels of the CAF. I will also be providing recommendations



on dress, customs and tradition from a Corps perspective to the Director as we look to re-establish some aspect of each that has been lost over the years.

I look forward in the coming months to working closely with Col Lafortune, Director of Artillery; LCol Mallally, Deputy Director Reserves; and CWO Brent Gittens, RSM RCA Reserves, to promote Gunner initiatives throughout the CAF. It is my hope in the upcoming year I have the opportunity to visit with 7th Toronto Regiment and see firsthand the great work your Regiment is accomplishing.



I wish to personally thank CWO Robert Beaudry for his hard work and accomplishments during his tenure as RSM RCA and wish him the best of luck on his upcoming tour.

**UBIQUE**

**CWO Garth Hoegi, MMM, CD, RSM RCA**



## Operation LENTUS – Flood Relief in Quebec

Sgt D'Cruz

Hurry up and wait, hurry up and wait. - after getting the call late in the evening arriving while participating on EX SHARPSHOOTER I, 11 members of the regiment assembled at 0700 Monday morning to join the 136 others within 32 CBG within Denison Armoury ready to deploy on OP LENTUS. Hurried there, the wait began - waiting all day to get the DAGs complete and the manning sorted - only leaving at 2130 the 11 men trimmed down to 9 upon departure.



*Front (Left to Right): Bdr Chan, Bdr Krulevich, Gnr Wight, Bdr McCulloch, Bdr Fong, Bdr Tenzin, Bdr Sadiasa, Gnr Kim, Sgt D'Cruz (Sect Comd). Rear: Lt Proner (2 Pl Comd).*

Bdr Fong was a late addition and met up with the other 7 Tor members towards the end of their rotation. Felt like our own little slice of 7 Toronto, we felt right at home.

Monday night - we arrived on base Kingston - used as a staging area on 1 hour notice to move we hurried into our rooms and waited - and waited, until finally on Wednesday, the call - we were going to Rigaud, QC, a town who's mayor had ordered an evacuation of less than 72 hours earlier. The only forced evacuation in the country.



Upon arrival we were put up in the local hockey rink - right in the arena, which were our sleeping quarters throughout OP LENTUS. We were briefed on the do's and do not's of the AO. Major Chevalier was very flow-chart minded and gave us a really good sense of what was expected of us and how the operation was going to unfold in the coming days. Knowing what was going on lightened the mood and allowed us to get a good night's sleep.



Then it started. Tasking after tasking, in the surrounding municipalities being led by Engineers building retaining wall after retaining wall, occasionally followed by a dike - 3 days of filling, shuttling and building sandbag structures. We were quickly turning into sandbag chain machines - helping the platoon to

move and utilize over 1,000 sandbags on the first day, working with a second platoon we moved closer to 4,500 the next day and a solid 3,000 the day after that. Overall our platoon alone helped to save 19 full-sized detached houses and one causeway leading to people trapped on the top floor of their homes. Lots of work and hugely rewarding, especially when the (largely francophone) people who lived in some of the less affected areas started to come out and thank us personally.

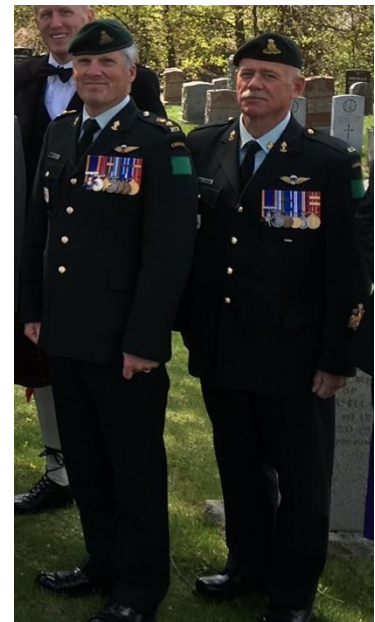
Overall Operation LENTUS was a tremendously rewarding experience. It was definitely worth staying DAG'd green for, a lesson that all soldiers in 7th Toronto Regiment should remember – stay fit and stay ready to deploy anywhere and everywhere - UBIQUE.



## **7th Toronto Regiment, RCA**

### **Aiming Point – Commanding Officer and RSM**

The RSM and I would like to congratulate each of you on a tremendously successful year of training! From IBTS to Ex COOPERATIVE GUNNER, the Regiment has demonstrated its prowess in the field regardless of the season: summer or winter; rain or shine. This training has allowed us to force generate soldiers for deployment both in expeditionary operations and in domestic operations. I am extremely proud of this fact as it remains the raison d'être of the Regiment. But it takes a lot more than a few field exercises to develop the camaraderie and esprit de corps necessary to build the cohesion necessary for unit success.



Over the past year, many of you completed Individual Training whether at the Brigade Battle School, the Division Training Centre as part of Reserve Summer



Training 2016, or in our own Regimental School which completed the Command Post Technician's course, an M777 conversion course, and a Light Counter Mortar Radar course. The participation rate of our officers, senior non-commissioned officers, and soldiers as students, instructors, or staff continues to set the standard both within the Brigade and the Division.

Our collective training also went beyond our normal array of field exercises as we have commenced Territorial Battalion Group work-up training which included a Professional Development day for the staff and a weekend planning exercise hosted in our own Armoury. Both were highly successful and demonstrate the capability of our officers and non-commissioned members to work in a new environment and to provide leadership for those participants from other units within the Brigade. The Commander was very pleased with our performance and has approved us for activation, if necessary, during our window between 1 September 2017 and 31 March 2018.

While exercises contribute to building unit cohesion, this can also be done in other ways. I was extremely pleased with the inaugural performance of our unit indoor soccer team which played between October 2016 and February 2017. Clearly the foundation has been laid for future soccer success in our unit. The Regiment also fielded an Ironman Team for the third consecutive year with excellent results as our Team score was the best in the Brigade.

Espirit de corps was built socially as each of our Messes held a minimum of one, and often several, dinners throughout the year. The St. Barbara's Day Dinner and Dance saw participation from across the entire Regimental Family. Each Mess held other social activities for its members including attending a Blue Jays game and a video game competition to name only two examples.

The Regiment concluded its training year with the Victoria Day Family Day which included the annual Victoria Day Gun Salute as well as a Change of Honorary-Colonel parade reviewed by the Colonel Commandant, Brigadier-General (retired) James Selbie. We have been extraordinarily fortunate to have had Brigadier-General (retired) Ernest Beno as our Honorary-Colonel for the past three years. His efforts to reinvigorate our Regimental Family in order to benefit you, the soldiers of the Regiment, have been exceptional and have set the conditions for our success well into the future. I welcome Honorary-Colonel Lieutenant-Colonel (retired) Barry Downs and know that he will continue to provide the leadership required for our Regimental Family. Additionally, I officially welcome Honorary Lieutenant-Colonel Mr. Mark Clearihue who over the past eight months has already demonstrated his commitment to our Regiment.

It is appropriate, in my mind, that our last day before summer stand-down was spent together celebrating and enjoying each other's company while sharing this experience with our actual families. It's important that your family gets to see you in your work environment and learn about what you do. Without their support, you wouldn't be nearly as successful so take every opportunity to involve them in our Regimental Family.



***Honorary-Colonel Brigadier-General (retired)  
Ernie Beno and Commanding Officer 7th Toronto  
Regiment Lieutenant-Colonel Ryan Smid celebrating  
Victoria Day at Queen's Park***

Many of you will already be in Meaford when you read this either as students, instructors, or as staff at Reserve Summer Training. The RSM and I wish you all the best this summer as you work hard to develop yourself both professionally and personally. We hope that every member of the Regiment takes the opportunity over the summer to enjoy friends and family, and to get some rest! The Regiment has had another busy year so recharge your batteries and get ready for another one in September!

## **Ubique!**

RD Smid, MMM, MB, CD  
Lieutenant-Colonel, Commanding Officer

CWO D Robinson, MMM, CD  
Regimental Sergeant Major



## **M777 Conversion Course with 2RCHA**

By Gunner Brister

In February ten members of 7 Toronto attended a conversion course for the M777 howitzer hosted by 2 RCHA in Petawawa, alongside candidates from Pembroke's 42 Field Regiment. The course was organised under the context of Op Reinforcement, which seeks to use reservists to augment 2 Canadian Mechanized Brigade Group on its road-to-high-readiness. 7 Toronto demonstrated its fast-growing



capability to do just that, by not only providing eight motivated candidates but also two experienced instructors, including Sergeant Moniz, who had commanded a M777 detachment during last summer's highly successful Ex Stalwart Guardian, and Sergeant Gawley, who passed on his experience using this formidable weapon system in Afghanistan.

The course covered topics such as 155mm ammunition, manhandling, and the laying and recording of the howitzer. The course culminated in a two-day exercise, Frozen Gunner, which tested the ability of the new M777 detachment members to perform all the positions in action, including the role of det commander and 2I/C for Master Bombardier Mikkola. To emphasize the role of the Reservists in supplementing Regular Force gunners, the candidates (and instructors, who got to hone their skills as M777 detachment commanders) were dispersed over three guns and assisted by their 2 Horse counterparts.

Some highlights of the exercise included a hectic 19 round fire-for-effect and a morale-boosting bonfire at the end of the night. Also on the exercise were 7 Toronto gunners confirming their skills on the Light Counter Mortar Radar (LCMR), another critically in-demand skill-set. By bringing its members up to the standards of the Regular Force both on the gun-line and in the STA branch, 7<sup>th</sup> Toronto Regiment is more ready than ever to support 2 RCHA in any future deployments.

Photo Credit: Bombardier Nicholson, 2 RCHA





## Artillery Command Post Technician Course

By: Lt On



**Sgt Choi receives the “IFCCS” Award**

The Artillery Command Post Technician is a DP2 course for Artillery Non-Commissioned Members. The course was a total of 7 weekends, and 21 training days. 7 Tor Regt was the lead on this course, and had participating candidates from 11<sup>th</sup> and 56<sup>th</sup> Fd Regt. The course covered the job duties of an Artillery Command Post Technician, and how they play a crucial role in the production of gun data. The duties included a fire discipline refresher, how to use the Manual Artillery Plotting System (MAPS), and how to calculate gun dating using the Indirect Fire Control Computer Software (IFCCS). Command Post Exercises (CPX) were conducted to simulate fire missions from the observer, which allowed candidates to successfully pass their evaluations. Candidates filled the roles as a CPO, CP Tech, CP Sig and CPS. Fire planning was used to

allow candidates to thoroughly understand how communication and teamwork was essential in the success of a fire plan.

The course had a very condensed schedule, but after a total of 7 weekends, the course qualified 11 CP Techs, who were integrated into EX CO-OP GUNNER, a combined exercise with 11<sup>th</sup> Fd Regt, 7<sup>th</sup> Tor Regt and 56 Fd Regt that occurred 24-26 Mar 17.

Many of the newly qualified CP Techs were put in the command post for their very first time. The pressure of sending live rounds range is surely different than a CPX inside a classroom. This exercise was the first time that many newly qualified candidates fired live. The exercise consisted of both battery, and regimental level fire missions, which included a variety of high rate fire missions. Although visibility was poor due to weather conditions, a solid amount of training was successfully conducted.



## Vimy – Gunner's Battlefield Tour

By: MBdr Noh, Allen

I was one of the lucky few to be selected by my chain of command to go on a trip through France and Belgium. I was accompanied by MBdr Buccella, Bdr Chan, Gnr Sultan and MCpl Venturanza. We were all very excited as for most of us it was our first time travelling to Europe.

We departed Toronto on the 1<sup>st</sup> of April and arrived in Paris on the 2<sup>nd</sup>.



***MBdr Noh & Gnr Sultan's first taste of France***

Throughout the 10 days we travelled all across France and into Belgium looking at old battlegrounds, memorial sites and cemeteries. On our tour we travelled backwards in time from Juno Beach to Vimy Ridge. There were a couple highlights of the trip that stood out for me. The first was at Beny-sur-Mer Cemetery where we placed Artillery flags at all the graves of fallen Gunners. It was a humbling moment that silenced many and it was hard to see how young many of these gunners were. Another moment was when we participated at the Menin Gate ceremony. Every single day there is a ceremony held at 8pm at Menin Gate to lay wreaths and remember the fallen. It amazes me that this is done daily and I felt privileged to be a part of one of the ceremonies.

There was also an Artillery Dinner held at a hotel in Lille.

It was a wonderful evening where I gave a toast to the queen and met numerous distinguished members of the gunner family. I was lucky enough to sit next to a British Colonel who told me a lot about his experiences. Lastly I could never forget the Commemoration of 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Vimy Ridge. It was a beautiful ceremony that was a once in a lifetime experience. It was also amazing to hear the guns fire on Vimy Ridge for first time in 100 years.

Outside of the tour we had most evenings for our own time to explore. I got to meet a many locals and experience a bit of France for myself. Their transit system is infinitely better than ours and they seemed to be a love for round-a-bouts in France. I got to enjoy a home cooked meal from a local, and spent a couple nights eating, drinking and dancing with some new friends I made. I loved the atmosphere of the night life in France and was very sad to depart from it.





I look back at this trip and feel extremely honoured that I was given such an amazing opportunity to learn more about the gunner history and experience some French flavours. I truly enjoyed myself and would recommend everyone to visit grounds filled with such history at least once in their life. **I am extremely thankful to all the people and the working parts that allowed me to be on this trip. I will never forget this outstanding experience!**





## A Shot Downrange – Words from Honorary Colonel Ernest Beno



Regimental Family – What a great Regiment. This is my last Take Post, and it's a big one. It reflects the many aspects of our Regimental life – the activities of a great Regimental Family. I will not dwell on all the things I said on the Change of Honoraries ceremony – but suffice it to say that I am incredibly proud to be part of 7<sup>th</sup> Toronto Regiment, the Regimental Family and all the Gunners and Friends of Gunners associated with 7<sup>th</sup> Tor.

**Army Reserve Training.** For info, Colonel Eppo van Weelderen, Commander 41 Brigade, and I produced this book on Reserve Collective Training. Many Gunners across Canada (including the Honoraries of 7<sup>th</sup> Tor and members of the Regiment) contributed to the writing of and production of this book, and we can send out copies should any unit or serving member wish to have a copy. Just contact one of us at:

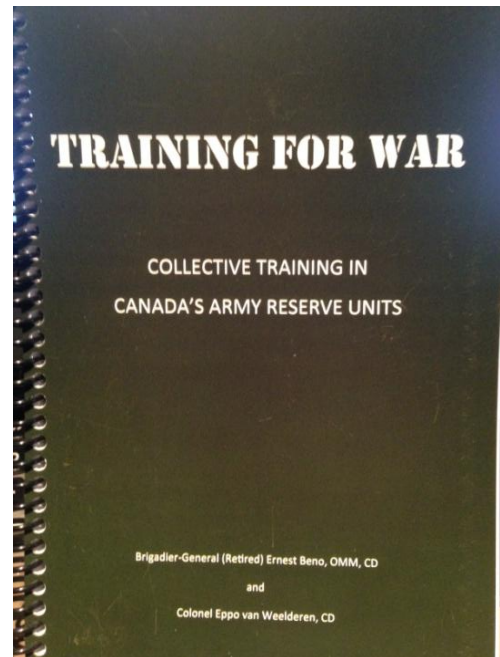
[beno@kos.net](mailto:beno@kos.net) or [eppo@fallingapplesolutions.ca](mailto:eppo@fallingapplesolutions.ca)

**Regimental Family Strategy.** Please note our 7<sup>th</sup> Toronto Regiment Regimental Family Strategy contained in the booklet that was distributed to all leaders in the Regiment and the Regimental Family. It sets out the main Lines of Operations



and goals and

objectives for the Regimental Family for the next five years – but it will be a “living document” in that it will be updated regularly. I ask that this strategy be embraced, at least as the “start-point” as the Regiment moves forward with determination and conviction.



### **Captain General's Photo with RCA Diamond Jubilee**

**Brooch.** Thanks to the efforts of Major John Stewart and a great friend of the Regiment, Honorary Colonel Geordie

Elms of the 48<sup>th</sup> Highlanders, we will soon have a photo of Her Majesty, Queen Elizabeth II, our Captain General, wearing the brooch produced by the RCA (under the leadership of Major

Stewart). The photos of Her Majesty were recently taken at Windsor Castle by Mr. Ian MacDonald of Toronto.

**Parting Shot.** I wish the Regiment well in the future. Keep up the high standards, great energy and Regimental pride.

**Good Shooting! UBIQUE!**

Ernest Beno, BGen (Retired), Former Honorary Colonel



## Reflections From The Ridge

By William F. Irving - Tuesday, April 25, 2017

In 1914 when the world went to war for the first time, Canada threw itself heart and soul into the war effort. In 1917 the Canadian Corps was tasked with taking Vimy Ridge in Northern France and on April 9, 2017 commemorative events were held across Canada and on Vimy Ridge to remember this victory.



***Thélus Artillery Memorial***

***William Irving (Right) with his father Hon Col John Irving and Uncle Dan McLeod***



Of the 170 000 soldiers on the Ridge, Saint John High Alumni were strongly represented by two New Brunswick raised units, the 1st Canadian Heavy Siege Battery (now 3rd Field Artillery Regiment) who supported the advance of Canadian infantry regiments, like the 26th Battalion (now the Royal New Brunswick Regiment). Graduates like Major Cyrus Inches, Commander of the 1st Canadian Heavy Siege Battery, left Saint John in 1914 and would not see his summer home in Westfield again until 1919. Greyhounds witnessed the horrors of modern warfare for the first time. Mud, rain, poor tactics and an enormous

19

learning curve resulted in heavy casualties for all sides of the war. On April 9th, 1917 radical tactical and logistical changes were put to the test by the Canadian Corps. These changes resulted in the successful taking of Vimy Ridge and were eventually used by the Allies to break through German lines in 1918 for the 100 Days Campaign.

One hundred years after hundreds of thousands of Canadians stormed the Ridge, it still bears the scars of battle. Trees grow on what was a barren land but while now grass, it still shows the craters and pockmarks of artillery shells. Most of the Ridge is restricted, not for preservation of the landscape, but for preservation of visitors as a large quantity of ordinance is still imbedded there. Tragically, many who entered battle were never seen again, simply vanished into the fields they fought over. As described by Ms. Maryanne Lewell, Class of '93 and Vimy Ridge tour guide during the 90th anniversary, "The place is really a graveyard and you can feel it when you stand there. It's eerie, you're surrounded by death." Now the names of the Greyhounds who did not see the end of the war live on outside our auditorium forever.

The greatest reminder of what transpired on the Ridge is the majestic monument which stands overlooking it, a testament to the sacrifice required to achieve peace. It is not a victory monument, but a penance to those who entered battle, and not only did not return, but simply disappeared into the mud. When standing at the top of Vimy Ridge, one looks around at what was an almost insurmountable task, and I was thankful it was not my duty to take the Ridge. There was a price to be paid one hundred years ago so we might enjoy the country we have today. In the sentiments of Lt. Col. John McCrae from failing hands, they threw the torch for us to hold. They, Greyhounds of Vimy, left a torch for us not to continue on in uniform, but to be able to grow as people, to achieve what we can and be proud of what we accomplish. They accomplished the goal they were set, leaving me to wonder what our greatest challenge will be and how we will rise to it. One hundred years after them, we continue their legacy in the same halls, same classrooms, one generation to the next, striving for Vita Vitalis.



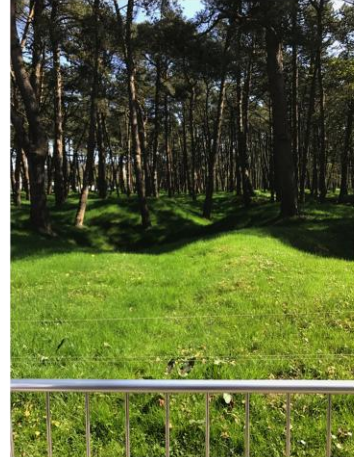
## Battlefields of World War I (Photos by Will Irving)



Vimy Ridge Crater



Beaumont Hamel



Vimy Ridge Trenches

**William Irving attends Saint John High School, Saint John NB. He was with the Gunners at Thélus, Hill 70 and Vimy.** *“Saint John High School opened in 1805 and is the oldest publicly funded high school in the British Empire, with a current population of 1,000 students. During the Great War approximately 547 Greyhounds answered the call of King & Country. Of those who went forth, 78, including a teacher, would never return home. When the world went to war for a second time, around 701 donned uniforms. 83 Greyhounds would be killed in action. The most recent Greyhound to fall in combat was 2007 when Pte. David Greenslade was killed during the Easter Sunday attack of April 8th near Kandahar. Their names live forever more in the main hall of the school at the top of our formal staircase, the Marble Stairs, written on plaques. Never to be forgotten.”*





## **Ex Co-op Gunner – 24-26 March, 2017**

### **Lt Juraj Proner**

Once a year, three artillery regiments (7 Toronto, 56 Field and 11 Field) congregate at Meaford under the auspices of a single ‘regiment’ and fire together under one command. The intent behind this is to develop and sustain interoperability, camaraderie, and relationships between regiments.

This year, 56 Field Regiment took the lead and formed the headquarters. 11 Field deployed one battery, and 7 Toronto deployed a howitzer battery as well as an 81mm mortar battery. The artillery wasn’t alone on this exercise: 32 Signal regiment came in support, providing communication equipment and expertise in technical matters. 2 Intelligence provided an intelligence summary to paint the tactical scenario of the exercise. With these additional elements in place, the soldiers participating got the impression that there were indeed ‘stakes’ involved with this exercise.

Upon arrival in Meaford on 24 March, all senior leadership gathered in the headquarters tent for orders. Final preparations were made, and the soldiers got some rest before an early morning deployment.

Saturday Morning was busy. After eating a quick breakfast, the troops made sure the howitzers were hooked in and ready to go, while leadership coordinated deployment of the batteries. Despite the treacherous spring time clay ground of Meaford (affectionately dubbed the “Truck eating muck”), the deployment of the batteries went much more smoothly than the previous year. This was due to all participant parties applying lessons learned from past exercises.

In the OPs, there was some anxiety over the amount of fog covering the impact area. Visibility was limited to maybe two hundred meters from where a FOO could deploy with their party. Nonetheless they went through their drills and prepared accordingly, having faith that providence would not allow the last gun exercise of the training year become a cruel jest. After a few tension-filled hours (as well as deploying and testing an MSTAR to shoot in spite of the terrible visibility), the area cleared.



***Sgt Kevin Noh commanding his detachment during a Regimental Fire Mission on EX CO-OP***

Once the batteries were deployed and the OPs got reprieve from the weather, battery level fire missions began. This served as both practice and a warm up for the regimental shoot, which was a more complicated type of mission used for large targets that was suppose to be shot that afternoon.

Overall, the batteries were successful in providing timely fire on targets. This carried over into regimental firing where all three batteries were coordinated onto a single target by the headquarters. In anticipation of poor weather striking again on Sunday, the majority of the ammunition was expended throughout Saturday night. . However, this strange weather pattern had consequences outside of the training area. Due to the low pressure caused by the impending storm, the sound of howitzers firing carried as far as 100 kilometers, leaving residents all over Ontario wondering where this “thunder” was coming from despite clear skies.

Luckily, the weather held up for the entire time that the amalgamated regiment was out there. The weather turned nasty with heavy freezing rain coming down the minute the batteries redeployed out of the field. Jokingly, rumour has it that the weather machine of Meaford had a poorly calibrated timing mechanism that was set off a day late.

Throughout this exercise, all levels from Gunners to Lt. Colonels faced issues that required quick, decisive solutions. The true value of a military exercise cannot be gauged from the number of problems that develop, since those are by nature largely unforeseen and unavoidable, but rather how the soldiers involved adapt and overcome them. Had the guns gotten stuck in the mud and their crews declared them immovable, or the OPs throwing their hands in the air with the advent of the ground-borne clouds, then any exercise would be a waste of time and effort. True to form though, all involved got busy with overcoming these problems and providing on-the-spot effective solutions. CO-OP GUNNER was a success, made so by the men and women involved.



## **7<sup>th</sup> Toronto Regiment – Regimental Band**

On April 29<sup>th</sup>, the 7<sup>th</sup> Toronto RCA Band performed their second annual Spring Concert at the Eastminster United Church in Toronto. The concert was “A Celebration of Canada” in honour of Canada’s 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary, and featured works by numerous Canadian composers including the legendary Howard Cable and Bobby Herriot. Capt. Nick Arrigo led the band through the exciting program of canonic concert works, folk songs, and jazz tunes. Cpl. Doriann Forrester was the Master of Ceremonies for the evening and provided insightful commentary throughout the concert. Every section of the band was featured throughout the concert, and numerous members of the band displayed their versatility on other instruments, with Cpl. Forrester doubling on

percussion, and several members exchanging instruments for microphones for the choral parts in the final piece. The fantastic soprano, Naval Cadet Barbara Hodder sang with the band in two pieces as well.



The concert also featured two pieces by the 7<sup>th</sup> Toronto Brass Quintet, an ensemble that performs extensively at mess dinners and other functions across 32 Brigade. The Brass Quintet has a rotating membership, but for the concert featured Cpl. Dan Howells and Cpl. Taryn Jackson on trumpet, Cpl. Amy Sandford on French horn, MCpl. Joanna Venturanza on trombone and Mscn. Zack Everett on bass trombone. One of the many highlights of the

evening was a set of three marches performed by the band with an accompanying slide show of pictures from the recent trip to France by members of 7<sup>th</sup> Toronto for the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the battle of Vimy Ridge. The celebration of Canada was an outstanding success, with its challenging and diverse program. Audience members commented on how much they enjoyed the performance, and how wonderful it was to hear such a well-executed and exciting concert for free!







*The trombone section of the 7<sup>th</sup> Toronto Artillery Band*



*Capt Nick Arrigo in action, leading the band*



The 7<sup>th</sup> Toronto Brass Quintet performed two pieces during the concert.



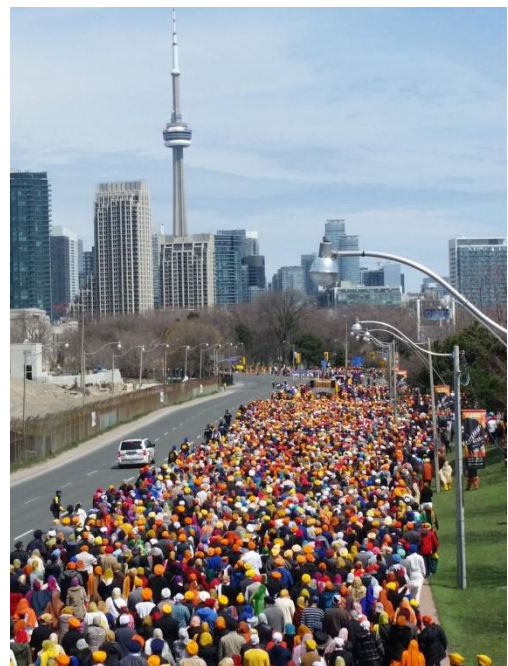
## Khalsa Day Parade 2017

By: Gnr Sultan, 7<sup>th</sup> Toronto Regiment



Lakeshore Blvd. in Toronto. Khalsa Day is held in commemoration of the Sikh New Year, the Khalsa order of Sikhism, and the end of Sikh heritage month. Tens of thousands joined in to celebrate such a remarkable event. Among the dignitaries who spoke included The Right Honourable Prime Minister Justin Trudeau, Premier

On April 30<sup>th</sup> 2017, members of 7<sup>th</sup> Toronto Regiment participated in the 39<sup>th</sup> annual Khalsa Day Parade along





Kathleen Wynne and Mayor John Tory. Many other organizations, such as the Toronto Police Service, participated in the parade showcasing its large Sikh community.

With the C3 105mm Howitzer leading the way during the parade, Gunners from the 7<sup>th</sup> Toronto Regiment were joined by soldiers from various other units and environments including the Lorne Scots and the Royal Military College. Starting the parade at the CNE grounds and ending in Nathan Philips Square, an abundance of hospitality, including cultural food and drinks, which are all free, along with welcoming citizens lined up along the entirety of the route to welcome the parade precession. Once arriving in Nathan Philips Square, 7<sup>th</sup> Toronto Regiment set up an interactive static display which included dropping a dummy round into the 81mm mortar, information boards about the C3 Howitzer and various equipment and vehicles, and opportunities to try on personal kit including rucksacks, tactical vests, and helmets.

This event speaks volumes of the type of country Canada is when it comes to diversity and the inclusion of everyone's beliefs and celebrations. We as the Canadian Armed Forces make it our priority to reflect the values Canadians believe in. It is at these events that we are able to show Canadian citizens that their military too is a diversified and equal opportunity community that is open to all.

By: Gnr Sultan, 7<sup>th</sup> Toronto Regiment

**CAF participants in Khalsa Day pose for a group photo after enjoying samosas and chai**





**There's a mod tent under that cam net. The static display setup by 7 Tor gunners at Nathan Phillips Square during Khalsa Day**



## **105 Battery – 7<sup>th</sup> Toronto Regiment, Royal Canadian Artillery, Royal Canadian Army Cadet Corps**



**An Introduction to the Officers, Senior Cadets and Volunteers of the Cadet Corps.**

105 RCACC is one of the two Cadet Corps that belong to the 7<sup>th</sup> Toronto Regiment's family. Located in Streetsville (Mississauga) Ontario, the Cadet Corps currently boasts a total of ninety-seven youth members. As a Training Unit, our objective within the Cadet Organization is to develop life skills for Canadian youth. This cannot be done without a dedicated staff. I would like to take this opportunity to introduce my staff and volunteers.

Unlike other branches of the Forces, much of the running of a Cadet Corps is dependent upon the dedication of unpaid Civilian Volunteers who come out every Tuesday evening Parade night to mentor, instruct and develop the youth members in the mandated Training syllabus, as well as coming out every Thursday evening and many weekends, to run optional activities such as our drill team, Band, Orienteering Team, Marksmanship program and biathlon programs, just to name a few.

Much of what we do is not funded by National Defense nor the Canadian Armed Forces. The Parent Support Committee is integral in fundraising to pay rent and utilities of our Local Headquarters, as well as supplemental activities and bussing. Without their generated revenue streams, we could not operate.



Currently there are thirteen volunteers and six Officers dedicated to making this program educational and challenging for the youth members, and I thank every one of them for their service. I couldn't do it without them!

Capt Edelswärd is currently the Commanding Officer of 105 RCACC, taking over Command from Major Paul Preikschas on 31 January 2017. Commissioning into the Forces in March 1991 with 709 Toronto Communications Regiment, he spent eleven years, holding various appointments, culminating as CELE qualified Captain. While in the Sigs, he participated in two domestic Operations – RECUPERATION and ABACUS.

In November 2000 he was attach-posted into 105 RCACC and shortly afterwards completed a transfer into the CIC. He has held every appointment within the Corps, Commanding from May 2003 through to May 2006. In his civilian life, he has been a Scout leader for over sixteen years and volunteers with the Sovereign Order of St. John. He expects to retire from Canada Post Corporation, Operations after thirty-three years of service this coming February. He and his wife Susan have three children, Scott, 36, Tyler, 22 and Ellen, 20.

Lt Bianca Fung has been working with 105 RCACC since 2012. At 105, Bianca is currently the Training Officer, Unit Cadet Conflict Management Advisor and Deputy Commanding Officer. She is in charge of overseeing that all cadets receive their star level training effectively and succeed in meeting their performance checks throughout the training year. Bianca also works closely with the adult star level instructors to ensure that the instructional standards are met. She is also the coach for 105's competitive marksmanship team. Although training stands down in June, during the summer, she works at Connaught Ranges full time as the head coach for the National Rifle Team. Bianca coaches cadets from all across Canada and Great Britain using the C12 target rifle, shooting from distances between 100 to 1000 yards. She has led two Canadian cadet teams over to Bisley, England, in 2013 and 2016. This summer Bianca has stepped back from coaching the army cadets, as she has earned a spot on the Canadian Senior



Rifle Team to compete over in England. She has her sights set on a future Commonwealth Games. In her civilian life, she is a grade 7 teacher.



My name is Nicole Szpulak, and I am currently a civilian volunteer for 105 Streetsville. I was a cadet myself for 6 years and am currently in the process of enrolling into the CIC. I had the opportunity to work directly with three star levels this year; I ensured all of the necessary lessons and assessments were completed at a high standard. Currently, I am the Corps Gold Star & Master Cadet Level Co-ordinator. I also coordinate physical and rifle training for biathlon competitions in the program. I look forward to facing new challenges as an Officer Cadet.

Civilian Volunteer Marissa Weir-Catnoir is the Corps' Silver Star Level Coordinator. The military has always had an integral role in my life as my father was in the Navy out on the East coast. She grew up on a military base where the east coast and military community was home. After moving to Ontario, I missed that community and closeness that I had down east and went in search of something that brought to me that sense of community back. I found that in the Cadet program. I began volunteering with 105 in 2014 and have taken on the role of Green Star (first year Cadets) Coordinator and this year moved to work with the Silver Stars (third year Cadets).



2Lt Kelvin Chu is the Corps' Red Star Officer, PAFFO, RSO and Webmaster. Currently an Assistant Training Officer, 2Lt Chu has been with 105 RCACC since 2013. He worked two summers as the Public Affairs Officer at Connaught Cadet Training Centre, and will be joining the 7 Toronto Regt, RCA as an Artillery Officer coming 2017-18. In the civilian life, he is currently a Campus Police Officer at University of Toronto.

OCdt P. Tran is the Corps' Asst AdmO and Projects Officer. He started in 2010 as a volunteer, after two years of service, the CO at the time, Major Lorraine Van Ooyen, offered him a position as a Civilian Instructor for the band. June 22nd 2013, OCdt Tran was sworn in as a CIC Officer. Since then he has been through various roles from training staff to admin Officer. 105 has been a home from home from the age of 12 until now at age 27. It is difficult to go a week without cadets.



Lt Neil Harper is the Corps' Recruiting Officer, Standards Officer and RSO. The Canadian Cadet Organization has given me many opportunities and skills throughout the total of fourteen years being involved. Starting in September 2003 until November 2009 were the years I was a young cadet at the age of thirteen. After retiring from the CCO, I became a Civilian Volunteer learning the role of Band Officer until moving on to Supply.

In June 2012, I was attested into the Canadian Armed Forces as an Officer Cadet in the Cadet Instructor Cadre Branch. Since wearing the uniform for the first time over the years of being an Officer. I have been given advice and learnt from many other Officers, NCM's, and Adult Staff in different areas of the CAF and the Canadian Cadet Organization. The past few summers I have been a Platoon Commander at Blackdown Cadet Training Centre and at the 105 Royal Canadian Army Cadets in Streetsville have been an Instructor, and a Star Level Training Coordinator.





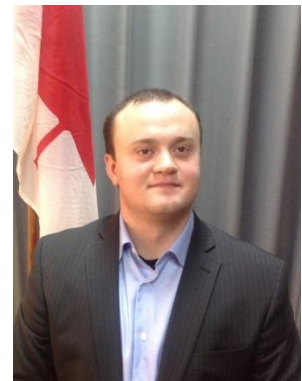


OCdt Shannon Pecore is the Corps' AdmO, Duke of Ed Coordinator, Asst Sports O and Unit Legion LO. My name is OCdt Pecore, and I became an Officer January 31st 2017. I have been with 105 for the past three years and am looking forward to continuing on with the Corps as an Officer and the current AdmO.

I was an Army Cadet as a youth and have been involved with the program on and off over the past twenty years in various capacities. I have worked at Blackdown Cadet Training Centre as the Recreation Officer for a summer. I love mentoring the youth and seeing them grow and mature into the leaders of tomorrow. The opportunities that the Cadet Program offers our youth are amazing and I look forward to continuing to promote it and give the cadets of 105 every opportunity to

reach their goals.

I am OCdt M. Petruzzi. I joined 105 Army Cadet Corps in January of 2014 as a Civilian Volunteer. I was given the pleasure of working in the Quarter Master Stores. As the Supply Officer I make sure the new recruits are given a uniform in a timely manner. As the Cadets are growing teenagers, they all eventually require new uniform pieces because they have grown out of the current size. Of course, when the Unit hits the field, I make sure when we go out on Exercise that we have the proper items for the cadets and staff to have a successful weekend. I am a proud to work within 105 RCACC, being able to know that that I was able to help them with the uniforms the cadets are wearing on parade and when cadets are needing training aids to successfully complete the given tasks. I was just sworn in to the Canadian Armed Forces as an Officer Cadet in the CIC on the sixteenth of May.



Civilian Volunteer Brian Clark is the Corps' Assistant Supply Officer and Adjutant and joined the 105 Cadet Corps team in August 2016. He currently works in the QM as the Assistant Quarter Master. As a Secondary Duty, Brian is the Corps Adjutant. A former soldier, he served with 2 RCHA, D Bty, as the BSM's Driver and as an Ammo Driver in the Air Defense Troop from 1978 through to 1981 at CFB Petawawa. In civilian life Brian worked in Film Industry and long haul trucking.

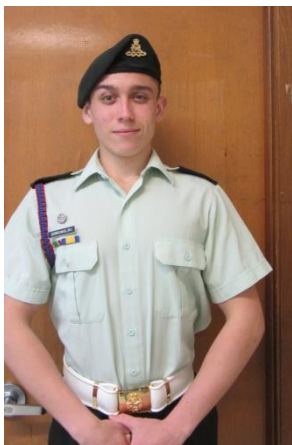
Civilian Volunteer Linda Worsley, is the Corps' Band Officer. When my daughter joined 105 Streetsville Army Cadets I helped out where ever I could. Ten years later, she has long ago aged out and I am still there. I have volunteered in many different areas but enjoy being The Band Director. Watching the cadets advance and grow is wonderful. I have been offered a position as a Civilian Instructor (CI) by the current CO and have submitted the required documentations and am just waiting for the word! I look forward to many more years with 105.



Our RSM, C/MWO Diego Perez, will be attending the Leadership and Challenge Course in the Rocky Mountain National Cadet Training Centre this year. He has in previous years participated in Regional Expeditions and this is a great experience for him. We wish him much luck and great fun!



C/MWO Robert Dobrowolski, our DSM, will be staffing at Blackdown Cadet Training Centre this summer. It will give him a chance to flex his organizational muscles and help the staff there. In previous years C/MWO Dobrowolski has attended Regional Expeditions and the Rocky Mountain National Cadet Training Centre Leadership and Challenge Course. We wish him much success this summer.



C/Sgt Andrew Fairhead is the Drum Major for 105. In past years he has attended the drill and ceremonial instructors course at Blackdown Cadet Training Centre he hopes to staff this summer at Blackdown Cadet Training Centre. We wish him the best of luck this summer.





MWO Adam Amoroso will be heading to Europe as part of the National Rifle Team this summer. He will be competing for three weeks at Bisley Shooting Ranges in England, with competitors from all over the world including his marksmanship coach and Corps Training Officer, Lt. Bianca Fung. Afterwards he will be on an exchange and visit Vimy Ridge and other places in Europe for one week before returning home. The previous two summers MWO Amoroso attended Connaught Cadet Training Centre in Ottawa taking Fullbore Marksman Phase One and Phase Two courses. The summer of 2016 he won a spot on the National Rifle Team competing against thirty cadets for eighteen spots. Well done! We wish him much luck and hope he brings home some medals!!

Battery Commander C/MWO Kendrick Fu will be heading to Europe this Summer to attend the Army Cadet Voyage in History Battlefield Tour. It will be an amazing experience for C/MWO FU to travel back in time and stand in the place where our history was shaped. IN previous years, C/MWO FU has attended Regional Expeditions and also the Rocky Mountain National Cadet Training Centre Leadership and Challenge Course. We wish him a fantastic adventure!!



The Support Committee of 105 is a dedicated group of parents who we could not do without. They help with fundraising which is crucial to our Corps and recruitment of Cadets. They also have participated in our FTX's, Remembrance Day overnight vigil and parade, community parades such as Streetsville Santa Claus parade and Bread and Honey parade, community clean ups, Legion Fish Fry and many more activities. They are a constant presence at the Corps on a weekly basis. The cadets have come to know them well! They work well with all staff at 105 aiding in any way and whenever needed. We have two parents who are in charge of our canteen - Barbara and Tulio Perez - who are invaluable in keeping our cadets well nourished!!





***The Committee members, in the photo above are:***

***Seated, Left to Right: Mrs. Viola Amoroso – Parent Support Committee Chairman, Mrs. Barbara Perez – Parent Support Committee, Canteen and Mrs. Shazia Atif – Parent Support Committee Secretary  
Standing, Left to Right: Mr. Roy D’Souza – Parent Support Committee Vice-Chairman, Mr. Andrzej Dobrowolski – Parent Support Committee Treasurer, Mr. Tom Cook – Parent Support Committee Director and Mr. Tulio Perez – Parent Support Committee, Canteen***

Additional individuals who provide us with support from our sponsors are:

Lt Juraj Proner - 7 Toronto Regiment, Royal Canadian Artillery Unit Liaison Officer  
Sgt Jason D’Cruz - 7 Toronto Regiment, Royal Canadian Artillery Unit Liaison NCM  
Mrs. Marika Booten – Branch 139 Royal Canadian Legion Liaison Officer

**Former Mississauga Mayor Hazel McCallion's 96th birthday celebration on Feb 14th, 2017 (the date of her birthday) with the 105 Royal Canadian Army Cadet Corps, Streetsville cadets.**

Hazel was a big supporter of the Streetsville cadets and they sent a small contingent to congratulate her and pay their respects. There were a lot of people at the event, but she made special time to talk to them separately and spent a while with them.



*Right hand Photo: Capt Eric Edelsward, C/WO Shimul Desai, Former Mayor Hazel McCallion, RSM Jameson Ellis, and C/MWO Adam Amoroso*



*The Cadets, Officers and Corps Sponsoring Committee of  
105 – 7th Toronto Regiment RCA (Streetsville)  
Royal Canadian Army Cadet Corps  
requests the honour of your presence at the*

## ***42<sup>nd</sup> Annual Review and Parade***

***Saturday 10<sup>th</sup> of June 2017***

*at Moss Park Armoury*

*130 Queen Street East, Toronto, Ontario*

### ***Reviewing Officer***

***Lieutenant-Colonel Ryan Smid, CD***

*Commanding Officer of the 7th Toronto Regiment RCA*

*Guest seating: Guests are requested to be seated by 13:15 hrs*

*Markers Called at 13:25 hrs*

*Reception to follow*

*Dress: Military, Police, Fire: No. 1s with medals; Civilians: Business*

*Please R.S.V.P by June 6<sup>th</sup> 2017*

***R.S.V.P. to: [Eric.Edelsward@cadets.gc.ca](mailto:Eric.Edelsward@cadets.gc.ca)***

*105 (Streetsville) RCACC is proud to be affiliated with 7th Toronto Regiment RCA*

To learn more about the 105 RCACC, visit [www.105armycadets.ca](http://www.105armycadets.ca).







## **818 Falcon Squadron, Royal Canadian Air Force Cadets –**

On April 9, several cadets of 818 Squadron proudly paraded with our friends at Branch 10 of the Royal Canadian Legion. The parade and ceremony at the East York Civic Centre commemorated the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Battle of Vimy Ridge. Our cadets had the honour of carrying flags for the Legion as well as laying a wreath on behalf of Air Cadets.



***818 Sqn cadets march with Branch 10 Legion flag party at East York Vimy parade.***

More recently, twenty-six cadets of 818 Squadron finished up the last of their formal training for the 2016/17 year at our spring field training exercise, Operation Blue Falcon. Held at the Blackdown Cadet Training Center at CFB Borden over the May 13/14 weekend, this exercise covered required training in field skills for all cadet levels. First and second level cadets focused on basic survival skills including survival psychology, building improvised shelters, basic fire building and signal fires. Level three cadets focused on advancing their map and compass skills while level four cadets learned about knots and lashings, snares, alternate ignition sources and how to use GPS to mark and navigate to waypoints. These senior cadets also employed their leadership skills, leading taskings and teams in a final orienteering competition.



***Where there's smoke, there's fire!***



***Caution: Objects on the map are farther away than they appear!***

We are all looking forward to our annual ceremonial review, to be held at 1400hrs, Sunday, June 4<sup>th</sup> at Moss Park Armoury and the summer break. Several very happy cadets are looking forward to summer training courses. See you in September.



## **A Master Bombardier's Night**

By: MBdr Noh, Allen

On the 18<sup>th</sup> of March I attended my very first Master Bombardier's Night. It is a dinner hosted by the Snr NCOs to thank the MBdrs in the regiment for their hard work as well as provide a little introduction to mess etiquette.

When I arrived everyone was dressed in their DEUs and a seating plan had already been pre-arranged. There was a cocktail hour in which the MBdr and the Snr NCOs could grab a drink and mingle with one another. It was an atmosphere that felt very inviting and it was a great time had by all. Then we all took our



**MBdr Potts, MBdr Espeut, MBdr Dickinson**

seats, gave toasts and ate until the food had come and gone. We then spent the remainder of the night filling our bellies with more drinks and conversing some more. I had a lot of fun and definitely spent enough change supporting the Snr NCOs bar. Looking forward to attending many more for years to come.



## The Guns Return to Vimy

Bdr McCulloch

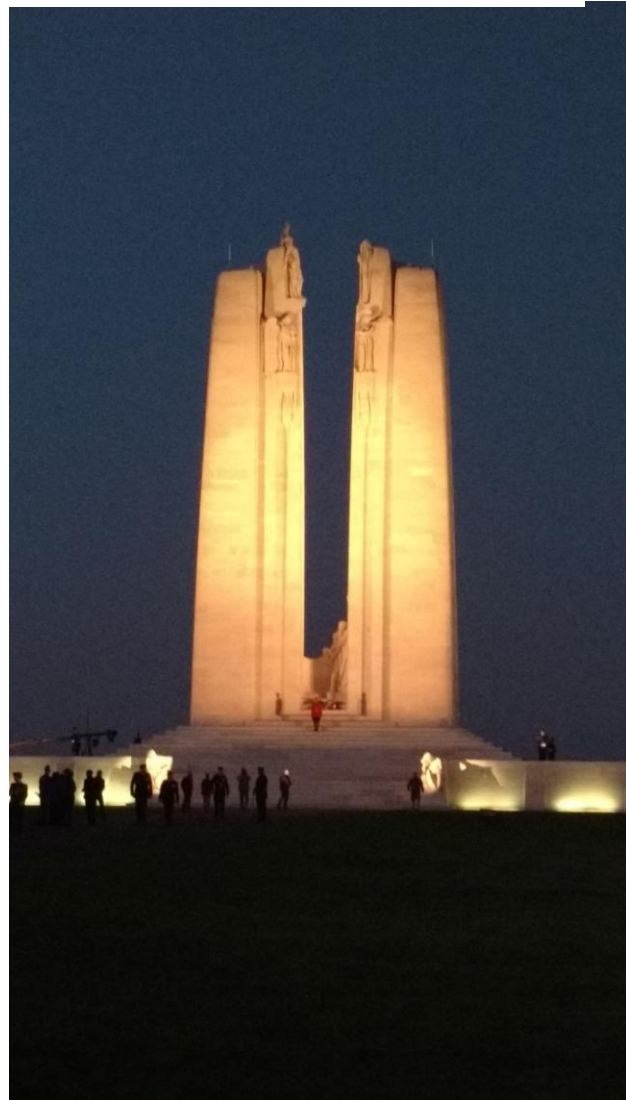
When the regiment told me that I was loaded to go to Vimy Ridge for the commemoration of the 100th anniversary I was ecstatic. Not only was I at the Vimy Ridge commemoration, I got to be on a L5 pack howitzer with 2RCHA as a loader for the sunset ceremony and the 100th anniversary of Vimy Ridge commemoration salutes.

My great grandfather served in WW1 at the battle of Ypres and at Vimy Ridge. The experience was that much more special to me considering I could have been standing somewhere my great grandfather was during the battle.

Once we arrived in Mons, Belgium, where we were staying, the next day some of us went on the battlefield tour of Vimy Ridge. The historians showed us the whole front of the Canadian corps and where each of the 4 divisions were located during the battle. He showed us a number of cemeteries of Canadians, French, and German soldiers. The magnitude of fallen soldiers in the cemeteries was unbelievable. Its one thing to read statistics of the fallen from the battle of Vimy Ridge but to see it with your own eyes is a completely different understanding of how many sacrificed their lives on both sides.

We visited a German gun position that had 3 gun platforms that were big concrete bunkers. The historian said the Germans probably were using 12 pounders in these bunkers. When I stepped inside one of the bunkers all I could think about was how loud it must have been along with the intense concussion. I'm sure they didn't even have any ear protection so one can only imagine how devastating that was to their ears.

When we visited the Vimy Ridge Memorial the most memorable thing for me was the massive amounts of craters that scarred the land from the shelling and mines from fighting tunnels. There wasn't any flat ground at all. We went through the preserved trenches and he





showed us how far the German front was from the Canadians after we took the ridge. The two fronts were literally a stone throw away. They were so close you could make out facial features in the opposing trench. We then went down into the subways where the allies used during the battle to run supplies, messages and replacements back and forth in relative safety. They also used them as a element of surprise when H hour hit so they could be right on top of the Germans. Inside the subways we stood where Canadian troops waited for hours upon hours for H hour in a cramped, dark, damp space with only the sound of thunder from the continuous and persistent shelling.

We couldn't enter the fighting tunnels because they were much deeper and smaller than the regular subway tunnel. The fighting tunnels were primarily dug by Polish miners who had to be near silent in order to avoid detection from German geophones. And since the Germans were doing the same thing it was very much a game of cat and mouse.

The sunset ceremony took place at sunset the day before the 100th anniversary of Vimy Ridge and we fired a 9 round gun salute. This was the first time a artillery piece fired a round at Vimy Ridge in 100 years! I was fortunate enough to be a loader for the first round. That's something I will never forget.

The Vimy Ridge 100th commemoration ceremony was unbelievable with 25,000 by standers watching the whole ceremony. It was something else. We fired a 21 round gun salute for the arriving dignitaries as they approached the monument.

All in all, an experience like that only happens once in a lifetime and I am very fortunate to have been a part of that. From the little things like seeing every house in the town of Vimy sporting a Canadian



flag to fully understand how important it is to never forget what these brave soldiers did and the sacrifices that were made. I want to say thank you to the regiment and to everyone who helped make this experience happen to me and the other soldiers in the regiment. I will never forget this experience for the rest of my life and really appreciate what the regiment has done for me.

**UBIQUE  
QUO FAS ET GLORIA DUCUNT**



**GO TO TAKE POST 17, PART A (2)**