



“Take Post”

The Journal of the Toronto Gunner Community

Edition 19, 22 December 2017

THIS EDITION

- Promotions and Awards
- Hogtown Gunner FTX Series
- Remembrance Day Activities
- Invictus Games
- John McDermott Concert
- Ex Maple Resolve
- Children’s Xmas Party

This journal, “Take Post” is published 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





*Wishing all Gunners a Safe and
Happy Holiday Season!!*

*From a/CO Maj Nav Grewal, RSM CWO David Robinson and on behalf of LCol Ryan Smid,
Honorary Col Barry Downs and Honorary LCol Mark Clearihue*

Regimental Orders Part II

Honours, Awards, Promotions & Appointments

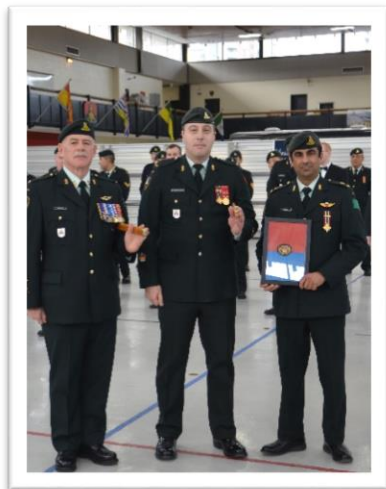
The following was promoted to Lieutenant

- Lt Fred Fa



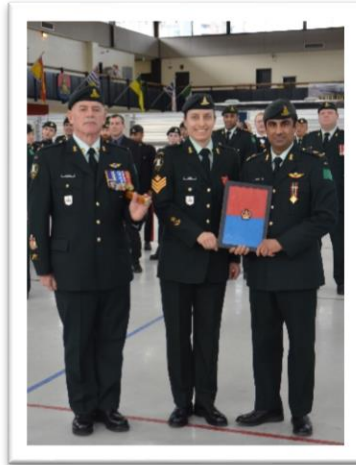
The following was promoted to Master Warrant Officer

- MWO Mike Bechmanis



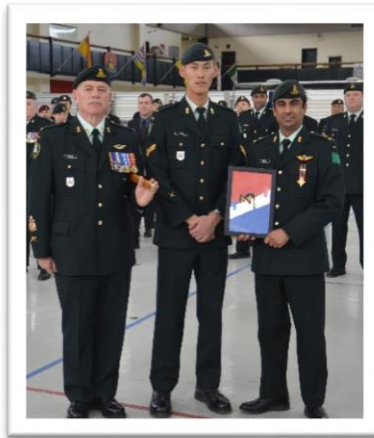
The following were promoted to Warrant Officer

- WO Jennifer Wood



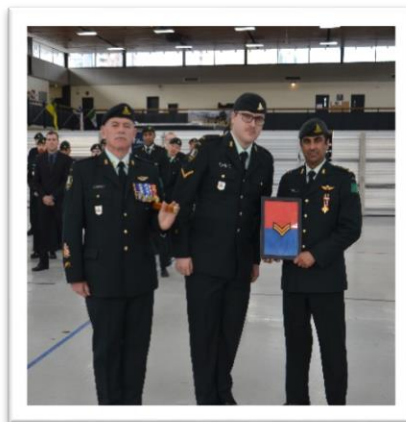
The following were promoted to Master Bombardier

- MBdr Dominic Chan



The following were promoted to Bombardier

- Bdr Mazzilli



Soldier's Holiday Dinner

Our annual Holiday Celebration culminates with the tradition dinner in which Officers and Sr NCO's serve the Jr ranks and is held mid-afternoon on a Saturday. With several of our members deployed overseas or deploying shortly there was a special feeling about the event as we, at home, took the opportunity to have fun and enjoy the season and camaraderie and the ensuing stand-down and time allotted to our family and friends that our fellow gunners won't have as they will be working through the season.

The day, as always begins with the lecture series put on by 130 bty. We then muster for a full dress parade for promotions and awards. Of note, BSM15 Michael Bechmanis was promoted to Master Warrant Officer, this is the first MWO that the regiment has developed in 10 years and is great news for the SNCO Cadre moving forward. Each mess had the bell rung as we also saw Lt Fa, WO Wood, MBdr Chan and Bdr Mazzilli promoted.

During the dinner the annual awards are distributed. There were 2 refurbished trophies issued this year and there will be some more repaired in the next few years paid for by a grant by the Toronto Artillery Foundation.

This year's winners

BGen Brown Trophy for Course Performance – MCpl M. Litwin (PLQ)

Best Signaller – Bdr P Devlin

RSS Trophy for Best Tech – Bdr J. Latta

Simonds Trophy for Best Det Cmnd – MBdr C Mikkola

Rosa Award for Service Support – MBdr A Dickinson

Best Mortarman – Bdr J. McCulloch

Sr NCO Leadership Award – WO J Lombara

Joe Green Award – Cpl J Yu

Tully Trophy for Best Gun Layer

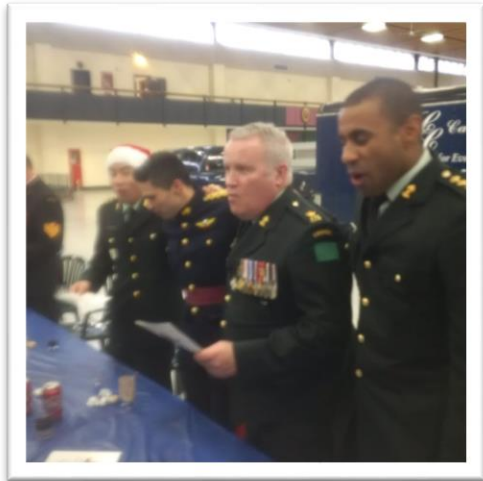
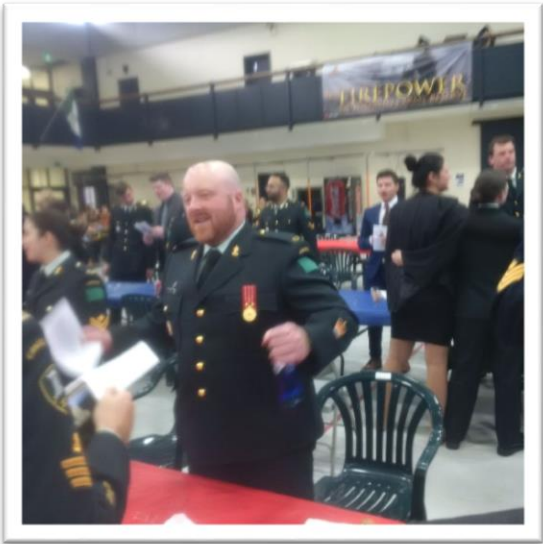
Best Direct Shot – Sgt K Noh

Carter Award for Best Musician – Cpl A Sandford

Cable Award for Best Associate Musician – WO (ret'd) Trow

The dinner was highlighted by a rendition of The Screw Guns and a Mbdr Noh read a rendition of *How the BSM Stole Christmas* which was adapted by Lt Fry and Capt Arrigo from the original *Grinch*. Cpl Rego took command of the band for the first time and did an admirable job.

After the dinner we all retire to our messes for some revelry before the Subbies, wearing hideous Christmas sweaters, invite all those remaining into the Officers Mess for dinner (pulled pork sandies and perogies).



REGIMENTAL CALENDAR	
1 Jan	Levee – Moss Park - SNCO's Mess 11am
12-14 Jan	FTX Zero Kelvin 1
26-28 Jan	FTX Zero Kelvin 2
Jan – Mar	81mm Course
10 Feb	Officer's Mess Dinner
23 Feb	Garrison Ball
9-11 Mar	Co-Op Gunner CPX
22-24 Mar	Co-Op Gunner FTX

INVICTUS GAMES 2017

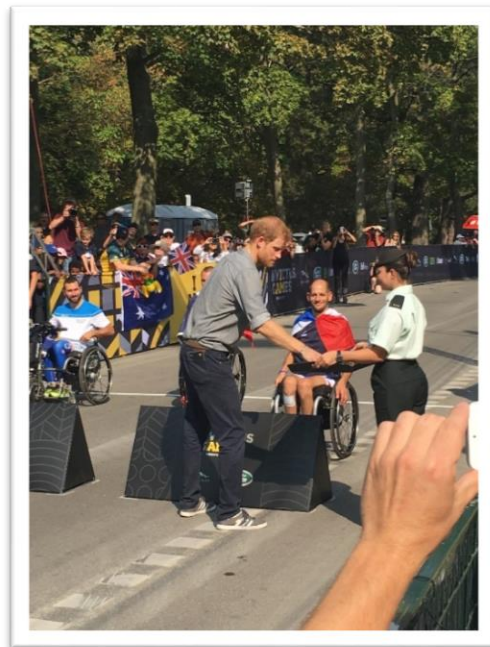
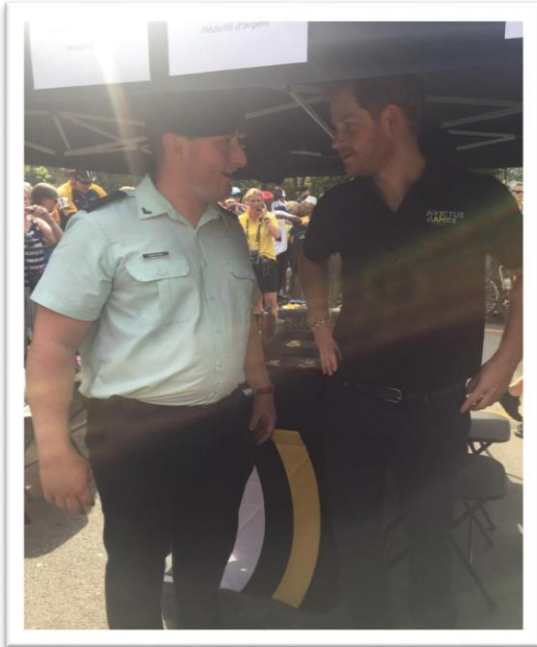
The Invictus games was an opportunity to show support for veterans from all over the world. 550 competitors from 17 nations competed in a series of sports on September 23rd to the 30th 2017. The Invictus games was founded and began in London, England 2014 by Prince Harry. He started this foundation to shine motivation on servicemen and women who have suffered physical and mental injuries during combat.

It was an honor for the members of the 7 Toronto Regiment to have participated in the games. The members of the 7 Toronto Regiment played significant roles in the games such as, medal bearers as well as escorts for the various dignitary's in attendance for the Invictus games. Members of all branches, army, navy and air force, were tasked to complete the medal ceremonies for the competitors who won in their respective sport. Professional dress and well deportment was displayed from these branches while the ceremonies were taking place.

Prince Harry, Justin Trudeau and Katherine Wynne are only a few Canada's important individuals who honored Toronto with their presences. They participated in the games by handing out medals to those who won gold, silver and bronze. Members of the 7 Toronto Regiment represented pride, honor and respect for the competitors as well as the medal givers during the games.

Celebrities, music stars, and special guests honored these games at the ceremonies. People from all 17 nations travelled to Toronto to pay respect and support for troops from their countries. Pride filled the Air Canada Centre at the opening and closing ceremonies, while music, inspiring speakers brought us all together as one in support of our troops and those who serve today, and for those who we have lost.

--written by MBdr Buccella Bdr Faccinni who are pictured below with HRH Capt (retd) Harry of Wales



As part of the Invictus Games on 21 Sept the 100 Women in Finance Triumph Gala (www.100women.org) hosted a handful of Invictus Games competitors as well as a rabble of 7th Tor Officers. We had a great time with these high achieving women and Former Service Women who have overcome their injuries and illnesses to represent Canada again. The event was sponsored by CIBC and was in support of the Invictus Games and the True Patriot Love Foundation.



Remembrance Day Gun Salute

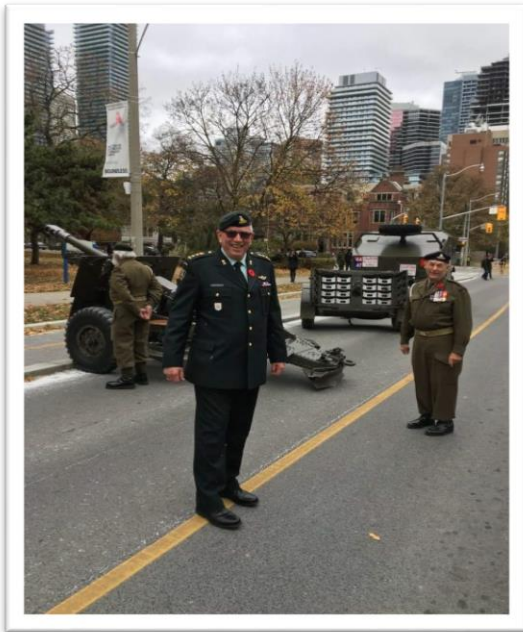
Every year on Remembrance Day, 7th Toronto Regiment and the Limber Gunners head to Queen's Park to conduct a 21-gun salute to honour the soldiers and veterans who have fallen in service to Canada.

In the morning at Moss Park Armoury, we performed our usual gun salute routine of hooking the guns up to their respective trucks and to transport them to Queen's Park with a motorcycle escort by the Toronto Police Service. Upon arrival to Queen's Park, we set up the guns in preparation for the 21-gun salute.

The Remembrance Day salute commenced with a Prayer of Remembrance by the padre, Capt David Clark. Afterwards, a single round was fired at 11:00am to mark the beginning of 2 minutes of silence for the fallen and it is then followed by a 21-gun salute fired by a four gun battery that consisted of two C3 105mm howitzers and two Ordnance QF 25-Pounders.

Once the gun salute was over, the public was invited to mingle with the troops and to examine the artillery guns. The crowd was slightly less than previously years and it is probably because we are missing our main audiences, which are the students of University of Toronto who do not normally have classes on Saturdays.

The day concluded with the packing of the guns and returning to Moss Park Armoury to clean the guns and to enjoy our provided lunch.



Sikh Remembrance Day Ceremony

On 5 Nov 2017, Bdr. Klaver, Bdr. Chan, MBdr. Buccella, Sgt. Bhatti and Lt. Fry of the 7th Toronto Regiment participated in the Sikh Remembrance Day Ceremony during Veterans Week 2017. The annual ceremony commemorates the contributions and sacrifices made by Sikh soldiers, honouring WWI Canadian hero Pte. Buckam Singh:

“Wounded twice on the battlefields of France in WWI, Canadian soldier Pvt. Buckam Singh was one of only 9 Sikh soldiers allowed to serve with Canadian Forces in WWI. With the discovery of his war medal and military grave, the Sikh community has reclaimed a forgotten son and Canada has reclaimed the story of a hero”.

The Sikh Remembrance Day Ceremony and the story of Buckam Singh reflect the diversity and multiculturalism of the Canadian Forces.

-written by Bdr Klaver, a detachment member in 9 bty

Hogtown Gunner Field Exercise

9 Battery

On the weekend of October 20th-22nd, 9 Battery had the opportunity to get back into action during Hogtown Gunner I, their first gun exercise of the 2017/2018 training year. The exercise had a tactical focus on gunnery skills, battery SOP's and local defense. Training started immediately, as the battery conducted convoy drills from Moss Park Armoury to CFB Meaford. Arriving at CFB Meaford on early Saturday morning, the C3 Howitzers deployed directly to Caen Pad. With the guns recorded and ready to fire, AN missions began. At mid-day, dignitaries and gunners from years past visited gun line, where they watched the battery fire. After the last mission concluded, visitors were given the chance to interact with members of 9 battery over a plate of spaghetti. Some of the younger gunners got to hear about how things used to be done, and also had the opportunity to talk about some of the changes made over the years. Gunners young and old alike walked away richer from the experience and had a better understanding of gunnery. The afternoon brought more fire missions, with the guns and CP continuing to hone their technical skills. As the guns went silent for “cow hour” in Meaford, 9 Battery GPO, Captain Maynard, delivered solid local defense orders to both gun detachments. The battery remained hard at work once the orders were given with the deployment of listening posts, sighting of weapons and the development of a quick reaction force. With cow hour complete, and darkness setting in, detachment commanders Sgt Noh and MBdr displayed their technical and tactical competence by completing harassment fire tasks. With the fire missions concluded

for the night, it was time for the battery to focus back on local defense. Early Sunday morning, the defense plan was tested by way of an attack from 15 Battery, 7 Tor Regiment's dismounted mortar battery. The attack was repelled, depending on who you talk to, but batteries agreed it was a positive learning experience. After breakfast, members of 9 Battery conducted work up training for the load bearing march, and before long, the regiment was on its way back to Moss



Park Armoury. Hogtown Gunner I was an enjoyable experience and good training, and it laid solid groundwork for Hogtown Gunner II in November. UBIQUE!

--written by Lt Mike Galloway is a TC in 9 Bty

Thoughts from an Outsider

When I arrived at 7 Tor, I didn't know what to expect. I did know, however, that I was to be part of 15 Bty – the famed dismounted mortar element of Toronto's source of army firepower. A quick introduction to the Bty from a past member informed me that I'd be adopting several points of training from my infantry-esque past courses – dismounted movement, occupations by force (also dismounted) and a whole lot of walking with inordinate amounts of weight. As I had spent the majority of my career enjoying the luxury of mounted movement and towed howitzers, these tactics and SOP's seemed foreign to me.

I tried to hit the ground running. I relied on members of the Regt who had served in 15 Bty to bring me up to speed on what would be expected of me during the all-too-important first field exercise – Hogtown Gunner I. As it approached, I worked hard to become familiar with the nuances of the GPO position in a dismounted mortar context. No longer could I assume travel

time between positions as a minor factor in movement. It just wasn't the case anymore (as anyone who has worked in 15 Bty will tell you).

The exercise in itself was relatively simple: two occupations, a few fire missions and a dismounted march. On paper, you'd think there wouldn't be any issues. In reality, the lack of apparent complexity was wholly mitigated by the underlying obstacles presented by dismounted movement. Mortars and ammunition had to be tied down properly to rucksacks in order for the Bty to go anywhere. Even before, mortars and ammunition had to be properly organized before they could be affixed to anyone's rucksack. Map estimates needed to be completed. Risks needed to be mitigated. On the ground, without prior preparation, these minor tasks added up and made the simple plan into a careful and deliberate endeavour. Receiving move orders now required vigilant battle procedure, which I often been guilty of skirting over when moving in a mounted context.

The first position occupied was a shake-out opportunity for the Bty, which was performed well. However, the real challenge presented itself on the second move – a relatively simple march of 5km was compounded by poor route conditions, which had not been recognized prior to step off. On the fly, the Bty had to change plans. Five kilometers became six kilometers. Six then became ten. Not satisfied, ten eventually grew to twelve. When we finally reached the position, some three hours later, we were tired. The fifteen or so compliment of soldiers, carrying mortars and ammunition, were running on pride alone. However, that's what set them apart – pride. The comradery present among the soldiers of 15 Bty at the end of the march was a testament to their motivation, strong will and perseverance. They had made it and they were satisfied of their accomplishment. Although difficult and completely unexpected, 15 Bty had bested the challenge. From that point, the Bty remained static, fired missions and joked about how “great” of an experience they had just endured.

I am glad to have participated in Hogtown Gunner I and to have witnessed the Bty's morale at the end of the march. Although there were challenges in the exercise, some very difficult, the conclusion of the march was certainly a high point. It was an experience I never would have had, should I have not joined 15 Bty. It was an introduction to 7 Tor that I will not soon forget.



--Written by Capt Sean Lemna -- attach posted to 15 Bty as GPO from 30th Fd in Ottawa. Capt Lemna had previously served in W Battery after completing his studies at RMC. He will be leaving us again in the New Year to pursue his MBA at Queen's University. All the best Sean!

Exercise Maple Resolve

While committing an act of perfidy in an armoured ambulance, we pulled up behind a Dragoon Leopard tank in enemy lines oblivious to our role as friend or foe. Engage the Commander and crew with our gun, or maintain an element of subterfuge? That was the question the Squadron Commander and myself as BC OPFOR posed one another, when...rat-tat-tat-tat our gunner opened fire. The Leopard jockeyed into a position of fire while we maintained force protection with the latest and greatest M1A2 Abraham's tanks from the 2nd Bn / 116th Cavalry Bde - Idaho National Guard, then called in a break clean mission. We were far from home, out gunned and out manoeuvred by the mighty Tomahawk warriors of 2 CMBG. Task Force Tomahawk would go on to decisively defeat the COBRA OPFOR.

In international operations, the role of the reserve gunner is to augment, sustain and support deployed regular forces. In order to continue to represent approximately 20% of the total deployed force, reserve gunners must seize every opportunity to train with our regular force brothers and sisters in arms. The intensity, sustainability and calibre of regular force training, together with the professionalism extended to develop and refine reserve force skill sets, results in the successful integration of a capable fighting battery.

The Army is fortunate to benefit from the special relationship between 2RCHA and 7 Tor Regt. This mutually supportive relationship regularly sees 2RCHA provide excellent course qualification and training opportunities, while 7 Tor provides competent soldiers to augment

2RCHA operations to the same demanding standard. Indeed, no other branch achieves the same degree of interoperability as the combined firepower of Ontario's artillery regiments.

As the road to high readiness confirmatory exercise, EX MAPLE RESOLVE represented the pinnacle of achievement for artillery interoperability. With 5000 soldiers, 1000 vehicles and four allied nations supporting, Task Force TOMAHAWK amassed awesome combat power - with guns representing the backbone of the fighting force.

Not only did Task Force TOMAHAWK depend on the guns to provide crushing fire support, but a robust Bde ISCC to detect and define targets for future engagement. With support from the 116th BEB MUAS Det, RQ-7B shadows identified then prosecuted OPFOR battle positions through encrypted video link.

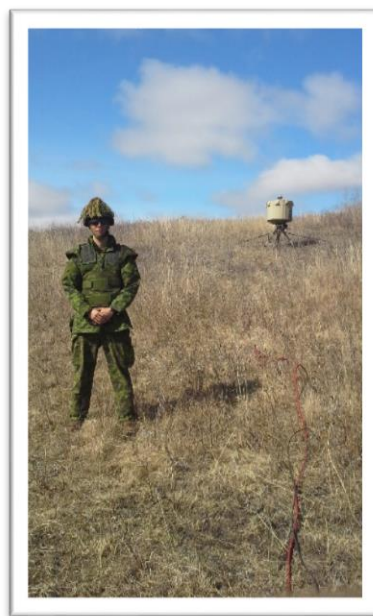
Moreover, as the brain of the HQ, the Bde FSCC coordinated, cued and synchronized fires to achieve decisive shock and awe to ensure mission success.

Throughout, soldiers from 7 Tor Regt augmented 2 RCHA in key positions to ensure fire support was readily available. Bdr Devlin lived in austere Wainwright conditions for months on end, supporting D Bty STA Operator. Similarly, Bdr Krushnisky held down the night shift at Bde HQ in the ISCC. Finally, Maj Graham was fortunate to work in support of OPFOR planning both ground and avn assault missions with the 1st - 224th Avn Bn from Maryland, double-hatted as OPFOR BC in the field.

Through participating in sustained multi-week exercises, requiring physical and mental fortitude, 7 Tor gunners develop a high degree of tactical and technical competence necessary to augment 2 RCHA operations. With 2 RCHA task to support NATO's FP Battle Group in Latvia w 4 x M777, the partnership to cement artillery interoperability has never been stronger.



Maj Graham worked in the OpFor Cell



Bdr Devlin worked with RCHA in the Counter Battery role

--written by Maj Scott Graham who is employed as the RCPO

The Band of the 7th Toronto Regiment, RCA

The Band has been extremely busy this season, beginning with the John McDermott concert and continuing past the Holiday Dinner. While they collect their breathe and thoughts a former CO LCol (ret'd) Colin Mouatt has contributed his History of the Toronto Artillery Bands.

A Brief History of the 7th Toronto Regiment Band

“No one, not even the adjutant, can say for certain where the soul of the battalion lives; but the expression of that soul is most often found in the band.” Rudyard Kipling



Led by Drum Major Darrin Hicks, The Band of the 7th Toronto Regiment, RCA under the Direction of Captain Nick Arrigo march the Regiment onto the Freedom of the City of Toronto parade September 2016.

"The performance of military bands has been a tradition in Canada since they were brought over by the British in the mid-eighteenth century. The role of these bands has been to boost morale amongst the troops and to act as ambassadors of the Canadian militia to the Canadian public. Following the British model for military bands during this period, Canadian bands have performed for parades, mess dinners, military ceremonies and public concerts."

Unfortunately, there is very little written history of our band. As stated in Report No. 47 Historical Section (G.S.) Army Headquarters dated February 6 1952 "[t]he research material available on the development of Canadian Army Bands contains many gaps. Few war diaries or regimental histories mention them. Many of the relevant A.H.Q. files became useless when the sewers backed up at Central Registry in 1947. Such information as is available indicates that there has been no consistent policy regarding martial music. Regimental bands have been encouraged or ignored according to the inclination of the commanding officer."

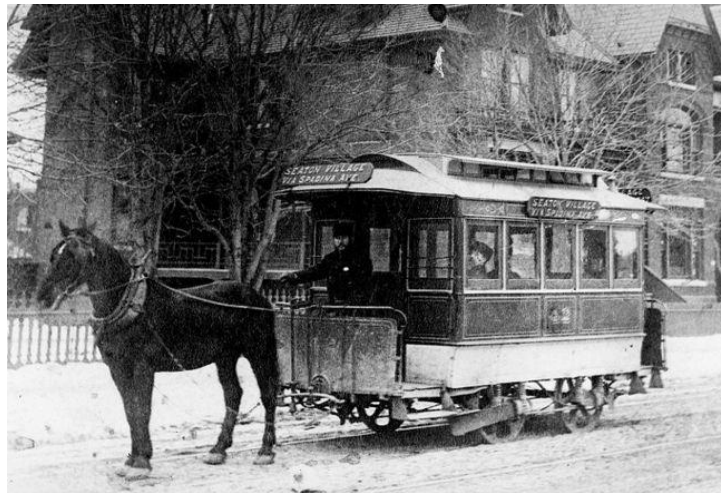


The Toronto Artillery Band was officially formed in 1922 under the Direction of Warrant Officer First Class (CWO), later Lieutenant, John D "Scotty" Wilson; but, like the history of the regiment itself, musicians have been a part of the gunner history from much earlier times.

In an article dated September 11th 1882 the Toronto Daily Mail reported "[i]t should not be omitted that during Saturday afternoon the Toronto Garrison Artillery Band, and during the evening the Band of the Toronto Grenadiers, played various selections in a creditable manner and to the pleasure and amusement of the large crowds who listened to them."; and, on September 6th 1883 the newspaper "The Irish Canadian" reported that the Band of the Garrison Artillery would be playing at the Toronto Industrial Exhibition on the evening of Friday, September 14th.

An article by Mike Filey (noted historian and brother of 7th Toronto Regiment's Captain Bob Filey) in the September 10, 2016 edition of the Toronto Sun contains the following:

"It was on September 10, 1861 that Torontonians got their first taste of a new municipal service, a modern (for the day) street railway. One of the side effects resulting from the opening of the new service too soon was the frequent derailing of the two cars. One of the cars had the Artillery band seated on the roof and every time that car derailed, the band members scrambled down, hoisted the car back on the rails and made their way up top where they kept playing jaunty military airs."

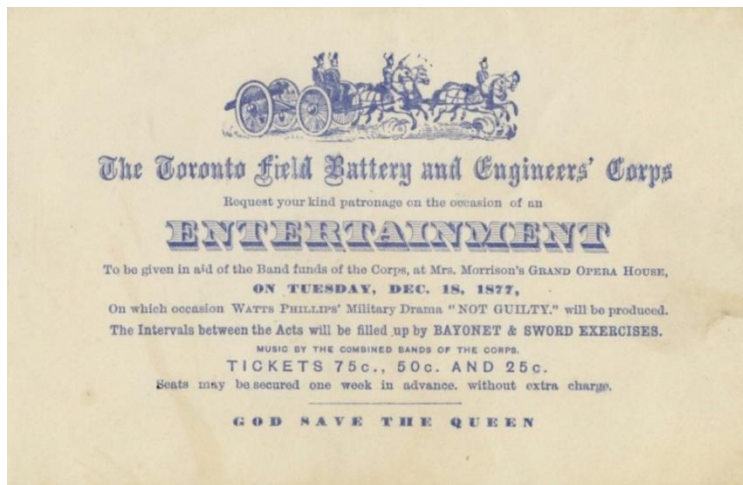


On July 6 1875, Lieutenant-Colonel D.T. Irwin, the Assistant Inspector of Artillery inspected the Toronto Field Battery at camp on the Garrison Common in Toronto. Irwin's report of the inspection included the following:

"The officers of this battery have been able to organize a very good mounted band of musicians, which doubtless contributes much to the esprit du corps."

At this time, musicians were not part of the battery establishment; the volunteer band was privately funded by the officers, with supplementary funds being generated by the bandmen through concerts like that held at Mrs. Morrison's Grand Opera House. According to the

Illustrated Toronto – Past and Present, written by J. Timperlake in 1877 Mrs Morrison's Grand Opera House was located on Adelaide St just west of Yonge St. It was described as "one of the finest Opera Houses on the continent of America"



In 1877 the Toronto Field Battery fielded 5 officers and 74 N.C.O.s and men at its 12 days of annual drill in Whitby (1 officer and 1 man short of its authorized establishment). The battery took to camp a 21 piece band. For that year, Lieutenant-Colonel Strange, the Inspector of Artillery noted in his annual inspection report on the battery "the band of this battery is a very good one." Three years later, the inspection report noted "...many non-commissioned officers and men have left the district, but would probably return in case of emergency. This necessitated the band being placed in the gun detachments".

Advertisement from "The Globe" newspaper 1882.



June of 1885 was a busy time for the Band. The Stonemasons and Bricklayers Unions were on strike demanding a pay raise to 18 cents per hour. On the evening of June 25 the unions held a torchlight parade to Queen's Park. The following day the Toronto Globe reported "[t]he torchlight procession last evening was an entire success. The strikers formed at the City Hall and, headed by Mr. T. Webb, President of the Builders' Labourers' Union, mounted on a charger, proceeded to Queen's Park. The lively strains of the Garrison Artillery Band that accompanied them, the handsome banners of the Union and a number of transparencies formed a prominent feature of the procession.

Then, on June 30, 1885 the Garrison Artillery Band led a parade of Masons of Lodge No 339 to the site of the new Orient Lodge on Kingston Road, in the Eastern part of Toronto.ⁱⁱ

The Grand Lodge was opened in *ample form* in the Lodge Room of Orient Lodge, No. 339, at three o'clock, afternoon, by the Most Worshipful the Grand Master, who stated that the communication had been called for the purpose of assisting him in laying the corner stone of the new Hall, about to be erected for Orient Lodge, on the Kingston Road, in the Eastern part of the City of Toronto.

The Brethren then marched in procession, headed by the Garrison Artillery Band, to the site of the proposed building, and the front of the procession having reached the place, a halt was made, and the ranks opened, and faced inwards, when the Grand Master, supported by the Grand Officers, passed through to the Northeast corner, where a platform had been erected for their convenience.

Prayer having been offered by the Acting Grand Chaplain, the Grand Secretary read the following scroll :

In the name and by the favor of the

Glorious Architect of Heaven and Earth,

ON THIS 30TH DAY OF JUNE, A. D. 1885, AND OF THE ERA
OF FREEMASONRY. A. L. 5885,

With the exception of a few notices in local newspapers of concerts and parades there is little information relating to the "official" Band since its formation in 1922. This changed in the 1930's



7th Toronto Regiment Band – May 1934 (Source <http://westonsilverband.ca/our-history/>)

BANDSMEN'S CONCERT VARIED AND PLEASING

A perfect summer night was the ideal setting for the varied program played at the master bandsmen's concert in the University of Toronto stadium.

Most popular of the fifteen numbers was perhaps the potpourri entitled "Recollections," arranged and conducted by J. D. Wilson, bandmaster of the 7th Toronto regiment. Among the more serious numbers was the rendition of the hymn "Abide With Me," played the first time with the woodwinds, then with chimes, then with the full band.

Among the bandmasters were A. E. Davies of the Royal Naval Association; Sidney White, the Governor-General's Body Guard band; Albert Hartman, the 1st Battalion Canadian machine-gun corps, and W. J. Holden of the Originals club.

Toronto Star August 20th 1935

R.C.A. BAND OPENS CONCERTS AT 'SHELL'

First of Series Wednesday at
Exhibition Grounds

Toronto is to have a series of band concerts at the Band Shell in the Exhibition grounds beginning at 8.30 p.m. next Wednesday and continuing each Wednesday and Friday evening until the middle of July. The series will finish in a grand finale to be staged in front of the Exhibition grandstand.

For the first concert the band of the 7th Toronto Regiment, Royal Canadian Artillery, will be heard under the baton of Lieut. J. D. Wilson, its leader since it was founded in 1922.

A signal honor came to the Artillery band when it was chosen to play at the recent luncheon in Hart House before their majesties. On the same day, it played for their majesties at Christie Street hospital.

Toronto Star June 3 1939



Toronto Garrison Artillery Band 1939

World War II saw the majority of band members enlisting in the armed forces and the band ceased operations. During this period the Weston Silver Band became the official band of the Canadian Field Artillery.ⁱⁱⁱ

While the Artillery Band continued to represent the 7th Toronto Regiment, the 53rd Battery, which was undergoing mobilization training, decided to make music on its own. An October 13, 1939 article in the Toronto Daily Star reported "The 53rd's pet recreational project is a dance orchestra complete with clarinet, saxophone, piano, guitar, trumpet, violin and traps. Under the

leadership of Signaller A.W. Loveys who handles the clarinet and saxophone the boys are practicing away in preparation for their first public performance.



There were sometimes conflicts with the Musicians Union as to what constituted a military duty. During the Second World War, the band of the 7th (Reserve) Toronto Group, R.C.A., was to have played at a retirement dinner for Major General C.F. Constantine, a career Gunner and the District Officer Commanding, Military District No. 2. The union refused to recognize this dinner as a military parade and instructed the band to demand payment. There was some doubt as to whether the function was properly a mess dinner, as it was being held in a hotel. When the band refused to play without union pay, the

Officer Commanding ordered the band to turn in their uniforms. The suspension of the band resulted in the Toronto Star running the following headline on October 26 1943:

"Ralston to Settle Army Band Dispute. Reserve R.C.A. Musicians Refused to Play at Farewell Dinner Without Pay. [Ordered to] Give up Uniforms"

After some correspondence between NDHQ and M.D. 2, on December 4, 1943 the Deputy Minister sent a letter to the Secretary of the Toronto Musicians Protective Association stating:-

"It is understood that steps are under consideration to reform a band and attach it to one of the units of the group and that many of the musicians formerly employed will be carried in the new band."^{iv}

It is quite possible that this incident signalled the end of Lieutenant Wilson's leadership of the Artillery Band as the last recorded instance of his service was in August of 1942.

TORONTO'S OTHER ARTILLERY BAND

(The Globe and Mail November 12th, 1956)

CWAC Band Opportunity For Musicians

When some of the members of the Parkdale Lions Girls' Trumpet Band became too old for membership they found there were few opportunities in Toronto to continue their bandwork.

They were just about ready to give up their search for a sponsor of their band and sadly pack away their instruments, when the 42nd Medium Regiment, Royal Canadian Artillery, suggested that they form a reserve women's military band. Now some of them form the nucleus of the first trumpet band, staffed by CWAC, as recruiting gets under way.

Sylvia Greenidge, 18, is one of the most enthusiastic members. "I guess we'd never really thought of playing in a women's military band, but it's a wonderful opportunity to continue our music. We think there'll be more discipline and co-operation among older band members and we'll be able to play numbers which require more musical skill.

"However, we need more members to get our band up to the required numbers. If a girl is over 17 and able to pass all army standards, she may join the band and our instructors will teach her how to play the instrument she prefers if she can't already play it."

Sylvia is fully imbued with a love for bandwork. It all started when a couple of girls in her neighborhood joined a band and started playing the trumpet. Unlike the neighbors, she used to love listening to them.

She would also watch trumpet bands practicing at the CNE.

"And you know," confided Sylvia, "it isn't really hard to learn how to play an instrument. Sometimes I think it depends on the person. If she really wants to learn—well, she just will—quite easily. I couldn't even read music when I first started in the Parkdale band over five years ago, but after two months I was good enough to play in the Warrior Day Parade."

The band is in charge of Lt.-Col. John Keeffe.

While Sylvia and the first few recruits are looking forward to wearing dress blues and parading in the Garrison Parade in May, their main objective is winning the Dominion trumpet band championships.

DIRECTORS OF MUSIC

The Toronto Artillery has been most fortunate in being able to attract top quality directors to lead its band.

Following Scotty Wilson the Band came under the leadership of Warrant Officer 2nd Class (MWO) R.W. Bromby who served until 1947 when Warrant Officer 2nd Class George Swaddling took over. George provides a second connection to the Weston Silver Band as he served as its director from 1967 to 1969. In 1969 George joined the newly formed Salvation Army Staff Band as 1st Cornet.

From 1949 until 1955 WO 1 Guy Noakes served as Bandmaster. Guy had formerly served as the Bandmaster of HMCS Chatham (seen below 2nd from left at the opening of the Skeena Highway in September 1944).



From 1955 to 1966 the Toronto Artillery Band was under the capable leadership of Captain Maurice "Mo" Dunmall. Mo had joined the Imperial Concert Band in 1925 and three years later the Toronto Scottish Regiment Military Band. During the 1930's he was busy with several orchestras and played in The Queen's York Ranger Band. Between 1938-43 Mo was a member of the original RCMP Band in Ottawa and later became its associate Conductor. In 1943 he joined the RCAF Central Band and became the Bandmaster of the RCAF Women's Division Band and later the RCAF Station Band in Quebec. This was followed by conducting the North West Air Command Band. In 1955 he took control of the Toronto Garrison Artillery Band. Mo held the unique title of Honorary Member of the United States Navy Band and Honorary Life member of the Canadian Band Association.



RCAF Womens's Division Band

In 1966 Mo turned over leadership of the Band to Captain George McCrae. An accomplished trombonist, George had started his military music career during World War II. First joining the infantry and later being transferred to the Canadian Army Show as a trombonist and was assigned to the music arranging staff, where he arranged and rehearsed the complete musical score for several touring shows. For 37 years George headed the Music department of Malvern Collegiate. Under his direction, the Malvern Band performed at many high profile occasions including Grey Cup games, the opening ceremonies for Toronto City Hall, the Eaton Centre, and Roy Thomson Hall and leading the Blue Jays up Bay Street on their first appearance in Toronto. George joined the regiment's band in 1957 and as a Sergeant became the Assistant Conductor. Promoted Lieutenant in 1966 he took over as Director. In 1967 George led the band on tour as part of the Centennial Tattoo. George was promoted to Captain in 1970 and left the unit two years later. In 1990 George joined the 8 Wing Concert Band in Trenton and remained with them until 2013.



From 1972 to 1974 the band was led by Captain Peter Hughes. In 1974 Lieutenant Charles Kipper took over. Charles received his formal musical training at the Royal Conservatory and the Faculty of Music at the University of Toronto culminating with a Master of Music degree in 1974. Following his brief tour as Director of Music Charles went on to direct the Toronto Estonian Male Choir. An accomplished pianist and conductor, Charles has participated in numerous choral festivals in North America and Estonia. He has also composed for solo voice, mixed choir and male choir.



In 1976 a rather flamboyant Scotsman, Lieutenant Robert "Bobby" Herriot took over as Director of Music. Except for a brief hiatus in 1985-86 when Ian Cuthbertson was director, Bobby served as director until 1992. Bobby received his formal musical education at The Royal Military School of Music (Kneller Hall), Royal College of Music and Royal Academy of Music. Bobby served in the Regimental Bands of The Royal Dragoons and Royal Horse Guards before he accepted in 1957 an invitation to become the Trumpet Soloist for the RCAF Band, first in Edmonton then in Ottawa with the Central Band and later with the NORAD Band in Colorado Springs. After leaving the Air Force in 1966, Bobby performed in Vancouver as a freelance musician and lectured at UBC's School of Music. Always in demand as a conductor, adjudicator, clinician,



music arranger and renowned trumpet soloist, Bobby continued his successful musical career throughout Canada and the U.S. Moving to Toronto in the early 1970's. Along with the position of conductor of the 7th Toronto Regiment RCA Band, he managed to keep up personal performances, teaching, recording and publishing. Bobby is a past President of the Toronto Musicians' Association and a past Vice President from Canada of the American Federation of Musicians of the United States and Canada. Bobby is the recipient of many national and international music awards, including the Canadian Band Association National Band Award, recognizing his significant contributions to music, music education and the business of music. In recognition of his service to the Regiment, Bobby was appointed as its Honorary Lieutenant Colonel.



In 1992, long time band member and former Drum Major Mike Lawson took over as director. Born in Vancouver, Mike began playing the trombone at the age of nine, several years later he was selected in a Canada-wide audition to play in Montreal's Expo '67 band. Mike played professionally all over Canada, the Bahamas, England, Bermuda, and Switzerland. He was the long-time trombonist at Diamond Lil's at Toronto's Skyline Hotel, and has performed at the Royal Alexandra Theatre and the O'Keefe Centre. In 1979 Mike was an original member of Jim Galloway's Wee Big Band. Mike has also played with the Glenn Miller Band, and Peter Appleyard's Swing Fever. Mike went on to become the Director of Music for the 48th Highlanders Military Band.



April 1995 saw Lt Graziano "Graz" Brescacin assume leadership of the Band. Promoted to Captain in 1998 Graz was Director of Music until his retirement from the Canadian Forces in 2014 having completed a 42 year career as a military musician, 19 years as Director of Music of the 7th Toronto Regiment Band (second only in tenure to the first D of M Scotty Wilson). As an instructor, he taught conducting, flute, and clarinet classes at Canadian Forces School of Music at Canadian Forces Base Borden. From 2004 to 2014 Graz also served as the Staff Officer of Army Bands for Land Force Central Area. Graz Brescacin was granted a Bachelor of Music (honours) degree in performance from the University of Ottawa and later continued his studies at Humber College and the University of Toronto, where he earned a Bachelor of Education degree. He has been a freelance woodwind specialist since 1970. From 1981 to 2005 Graz taught band, strings, choir, and keyboard classes for the Toronto Catholic District School Board and from 2005 to 2015 he was the school board's Instrumental Music Resource Teacher where he was responsible for all instrumental music programs in the 200 Elementary and Secondary schools and coordinated many special music projects.



Nick Arrigo had been a clarinet and alto saxophone player with the regiment's band for 26 years when he got his call to take over the director's position in March of 2014. Nick earned his Bachelor of Music and Bachelor of Education from the University of Western Ontario and his Honours Specialist from the University of Toronto. As a member of the Music Department of King City's Country Day School he was instrumental in assembling the School's first jazz band in 1993. In addition to directing the regimental band, Nick has been conductor of Mississauga's Malta Band and in 2015 became the Conductor of the Richmond Hill Concert Band.



Former Directors of Music at an event celebrating the 60th Anniversary of the Band
Front row left to right: Mo Dunmall, Peter Hughes, Scotty Wilson, Guy Noakes, Bobby Herriot
Rear George McCrae, Charles Kipper

¹ Jack Kopstein and Ian Pearson, *The Heritage of Canadian Military Music* (St. Catharines: Vanwell Publishing, 2002),

¹ Proceedings of the Grand Lodge of Ancient, Free & Accepted Masons of Canada,

¹ <http://westonsilverband.ca/our-history/>

¹ Report No. 47 Historical Section (G.S.) Army Headquarters dated February 6 1952

Cadets Honour Local Veterans through Cemetery Service

This Remembrance Day, following their annual parade, cadets of the 7th Toronto Regiment, 105 Battery, Royal Canadian Army Cadet Corps (105 RCACC) began a new service to honor our veterans. Cadets marched over to the local Streetsville cemetery just before noon to pay their respects to local fallen soldiers and deceased veterans with the laying of poppies. This experience, although brief, highlights a meaningful relationship between cadets of 105, and the community around them.

Traditionally, the Remembrance Day parade concludes with citizens returning home for a day of reflection; this year, however, the 105 RCACC instead marched to the Streetsville Cemetery. With poppies in hand, each cadet stood before and laid their poppy at the base of the grave of a serviceman or servicewoman. After this act, Last Post was played as cadets experienced a moment of reflection before marching back to the Branch 139 RCL.

Remembrance Day is dedicated to all Canadian who serve, however we often overlook that many of those soldiers who lived in our communities. This cemetery service was directly devoted to those veterans of our Streetsville community, many of which were grandfathers or grandmothers to those around us today.

"I think that it's important to honor our local dead because they're so often overlooked by our community," commented C/WO Fairhead after the service.

Each year, cadets at the 105 RCACC take part in a multitude of Remembrance events, including parades, an overnight vigil, and this new addition of a cemetery service.

Let us never forget the sacrifices made by those in uniform, in service to our communities and country.



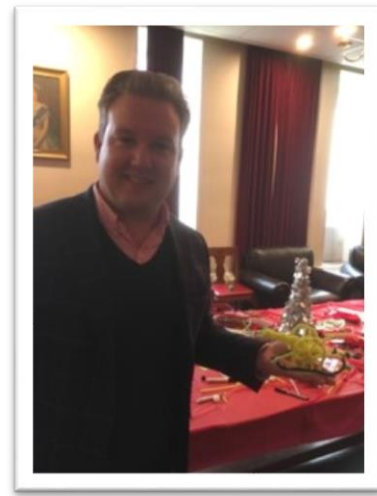
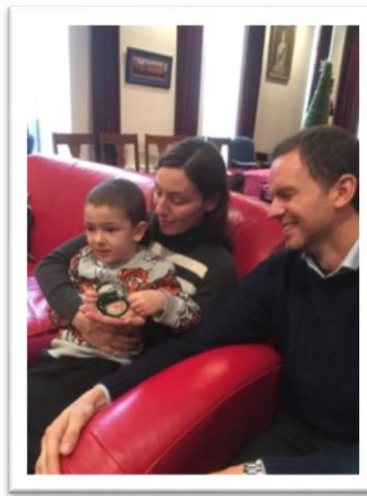
--written by C/Sgt Lee & C/WO Lu

IODE -Ubique!



The Imperial Order of Daughters of the Empire, Ubuque Chapter, held its first Children's Christmas Party with about 50 people all-ages from all parts of the Regimental family attending. It was a lot of fun. Santa visited early and left some gifts for the Regimental Family's children. There was lots of support from our volunteers and we were very happy to have volunteers from

IODE, Ubuque meets the first Monday of every month at 7:30pm at Moss Park Armoury. We would love to welcome you to our group. If you wish to receive information about IODE or you wish to become a member, feel free to contact us at any time at ubique.iode@gmail.com.



ArtyFacts – The Limber Gunners

I would like to thank the Members of the Toronto Gunners and Limber Gunners for helping to make the events that we participated a success.

The Limber Gunners and Toronto Gunners were pleased that we could provide a Bar-B-Que for the Gunners on their return back to training with the Regiment. The LG /TG wish LCol Ryan Smid a successful UN tasking and look forward to a speedy return to the Regiment. I would like to thank all the members that made this Bar-B-Que a great success; Jeannette Chau, Miquel Ortiz, Steve Singh, Jackie Coleman, Jim Hubel, Dave Anderson, Ian Farquharson, Gord Kowalishen, Joe McCormack, Bill Wallace, Dave Rae, Don MacGillivray, Ray Mikkola, Brian Higgins, Paul Kernohan and Ron Paterson. A special thanks to Jackie Weeks who came from Calgary to support the LG.

Saturday, October 14th Oshawa Regiment Museum Tank Day

The Limber Gunners found the Tank Day very exciting taking part in a Firing Movement with WWII Tanks. There was a very turn out of spectators. I would like to thank Ken Foster, Dave Rae, Otto Skerlan , Frank Moore and Ron Paterson for helping make the day a success.

Saturday, November 11th Remembrance Day

The Regiment and the Limber Gunners took part in firing a 21 Gun Salute at Queens Park for Remembrance Day for our fallen comrades. There were many spectators for this event. I was very pleased with the turnout from the Limber Gunners. Jeremy Cameron, James Kupresak, Frank Moore, Ron Paterson, Sandy Burnett, Steve Singh, Jeannette Chau, Brian Higgins and Peter Tiido were well turned out in Battle Dress and Blues and Greys. Sandy Burnett came from Windsor to support the Day.

The first meeting for the TG/LG monthly meeting will be on Monday, January 8th in the WO's and Sgt's Mess

The Limber Gunner's will take part in First Aid Training in the 1st Saturday of February. The 3rd Saturday will be the alternate. Jeremy Cameron is following up on the First Aid Training. I encourage all members to attend this training.

The Limber Gunners will carry out driver training this spring . The driver candidates are Jeremy Cameron, Otto Skerlan, Don MacGillivray and Richard Wong

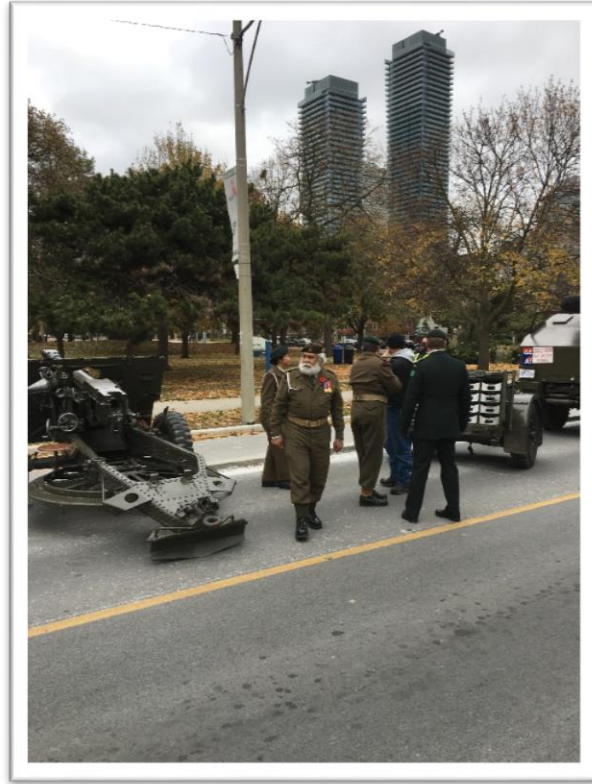
The Limber Gunners will start measuring up for the Canvas Apron and, acquiring tires and painting the 2 RCHA Limber after Remembrance Day.

The LG is also looking for another Quad.

UP COMING EVENTS

- Saturday , April 28th the Limber Gunners are looking forward to support the Moss Park Air Cadets and the 105 Battery of Army Cadets with combined training at Moss Park Armory

To the members of the Regiment that have retired ,and you if you like the smell of the gun power, driving a WWII Field Artillery Tractor and firing salutes with WWII Equipment and taking part in an active tank day Join the Limber Gunners and meet some of your old Friends





THE TORONTO ARTILLERY FOUNDATION (Established 1978)

December 2017

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year

30 June 1978 to 30 June 2018

Yes that's right ! The Foundation will soon be celebrating our 40th Anniversary.

Congratulations are in order for the Foundation and to those who, in 1978, had the vision to create it.

More history to follow in future editions of the Take Post.

Foundation Annual General Meeting - 17 October 2016

Along with the usual administration matters dealt with, this year's meeting featured a number of positive initiatives and changes to insure the Foundation will be a viable organization well into the future. Appropriate minutes of this meeting will be sent out electronically to Members in the near future.

One new Trustee was confirmed at the meeting along with some other changes to various Committees and appointment of Honorary Trustees.

Therefore, your Board of Trustees make up now consists of the following:

Chairman - HCol Barry Downs

Vice Chairman - HLCol Mark Clearihue

Commanding Officer - LCol Ryan Smid
Immediate Past Commanding Officer - LCol Paul Szabunio
Regimental Second in Command - Maj Nav Grewal
Serving Officer - WO James Lombara
One other Former Commanding Officer - LCol (Ret'd) Mike Gomes
Six Foundation Members - Capt (Ret'd) David Burnett
 - Capt (Ret'd) Jeanette Chau
 - Col (Ret'd) Bill Kalogerakis
 - Lt (Ret'd) Paul Kernohan (Treasurer)
 - Capt Eric Laxton (Assistant Secretary)
 - Maj (Ret'd) Ron Paterson
Honorary Trustees - BGen (Ret'd) Ernie Beno
 - HCol (Ret'd) Tom Bitove
 - Lt (Ret'd) Tony Keenan
 - LCol (Ret'd) Don MacGillivray
 - Capt Paul Thompson
 - Mr. Keith Wright

With the success of events such as The Two Worlds of Charlie F, the McDermott Concerts and various other fund raising appeals such as the HCol's Annual Appeal Letter, the Foundation has been able to fulfill its mandate and provide annual funding to the Regiment of some \$7,800 +/- this last fiscal year from the proceeds of the investments held by the Foundation. It is expected that this amount will increase in future years as the account grows with new fundraising initiatives and gifts from individuals.

For those Permanent Members who feel that they may be closing in on the Benefactor level do not hesitate to contact the Treasurer to verify your status of donations and consider becoming a Benefactor of the Foundation.

And for those wishing to become a Permanent Member do not hesitate to do so. The Foundation is open to all ranks and small donations will be accumulated until you reach the \$1,000.00 mark at which time your name will appear on the Foundation Plaque located permanently in the 7th Toronto Regiment RCA, Officers' Mess as a Permanent Member.

Lest We Forget John McDermott Remembrance Concert - 6 November 2017

If you missed this year's McDermott Concert be sure not to miss next year's!

That's right ! John McDermott has expressed a willingness to do a third concert to benefit the Foundation next year.

As a result of the work done by the concert committee, we were basically able to double the size of the audience at the event this year and realized a profit of some \$45,000 to be put to use by the Investment Committee to increase our funds under investment for the benefit of the Regiment and ultimately its Unit members.

Don't forget that the proceeds of these investments all go to the Regiment to support such things as Regimental Barbeques, the annual Regimental Christmas Dinner, our Regimental Band and other miscellaneous events not directly supported by DND

We will be looking to start up the preparations in the New Year for this next concert with further communications with the Gunner Family as information becomes available. We will be looking for dedicated volunteers to augment the committee to build on the success of this year's concert.



Foundation Plaque Update & Reconstruction

Due to the funding raising activity generated during the recently retired HCol's tenure, we have now run out of space on the Foundation Plaque located in the Officers' Mess for both classes of membership and as such it will be undergoing a redesign in the near future.

The current configuration dates from 2010.

The Plaque was assessed and it was dismantled in early September.

Although it took longer than anticipated the Plaque was completed and re-hung in the Officers' Mess by mid-December.

We already have a number of new names to put on it, both as Permanent Members and Benefactors.

Pictures of the Plaque will follow on in the next edition of the Take Post.

Honorary Colonel's Annual Appeal - 2017

Just a brief update on the Honorary Colonel's Foundation Annual Appeal for long term funding of the Investment Account which was mailed out recently.

To date \$2,350.00 has been received in response to his appeal.

It is not too late to donate and still receive a CRA tax receipt for the 2017 tax year but the window of opportunity is closing quickly.

Foundation and Regimental Inventory

The project has certainly taken much longer than we would have expected as more items were discovered/uncovered which I think most of us were unaware of in the various areas already catalogued.

Recently, we discovered that the RQM had on the unit DA an inventory of the shell casings and projectiles which have been kicking around in the messes for years.

The inventory is on hold for the holidays and will restart in early January 2018.

Upcoming Foundation & Regimental Events

Please keep the following meaningful dates on your horizons:

- New Year's Levee - 1100 hrs. - 7th Toronto Regiment, RCA Moss Park
Armoury Warrants' & Sergeants' Mess
- Regimental Special Guest Night - 10 February 2018

Ubique

Paul Kernohan
Treasurer
The Toronto Artillery Foundation
