



# “Take Post”

## The Journal of The Toronto Gunner Community

### Edition 9, 18 January, 2016

#### THIS EDITION

- New Commanding Officer
- Change of Command Events
- Foundation Transformation
- WO Bankasingh – Top Reserve Sergeant in RCA!
- Read about the IODE
- How do you say: UBIQUE?
- And Much More!

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:  
[beno@kos.net](mailto:beno@kos.net)



## **Regimental Part II Orders**

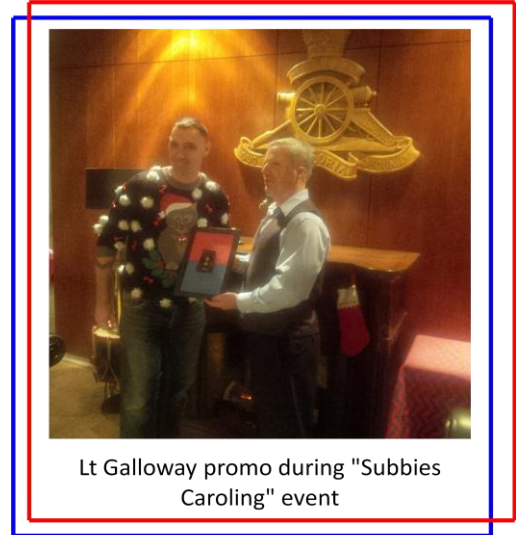
### **Honours, Awards, Promotions & Appointments**

- The following were awarded the 7th Toronto Regiment Commanding Officer Commendation:
  - 7<sup>th</sup> Toronto Ironman Team 2015
  - Maj Dean
  - Capt Ortiz-Sosa
  - WO Bankasingh
  - Sgt Wood
  - Bdr Yu
- The following was awarded the 32 CBG SNCO of the Year 2014:
  - WO Bankasingh
- The following was awarded the 32 CBG Jr NCO of the Year 2014:
  - Sgt Jackson
- The following was awarded The Royal Regiment of Canadian Artillery Primary Reserve Force Top Sergeant 2015:
  - WO Bankasingh
- The following was awarded the CWO Rosa Service Support Award:
  - MCpl Antonov
- The following was awarded the LGen Guy Simonds Best Communicator Award:
  - Bdr Park
- The following was awarded the Capt Lightfoot Award:
  - Bdr Klaver
- The following was awarded the Best Mortarman Award:
  - Bdr Chan
- The following was awarded the Best Tech Award:
  - Bdr Tenzin
- The following was awarded the SNCO Leadership Award:
  - WO Bankasingh
- The following was awarded the Gnr Joe Green Award:
  - MBdr Moniz
- The following was awarded the Best Gun Layer Award:
  - Bdr Opong-Akom
- The following was awarded the Best Detachment Commander Award:
  - Sgt Lalor
- The following was awarded the Best Bandsman Award:
  - MCpl Vallar
- The following was awarded the BGen Brown Award:

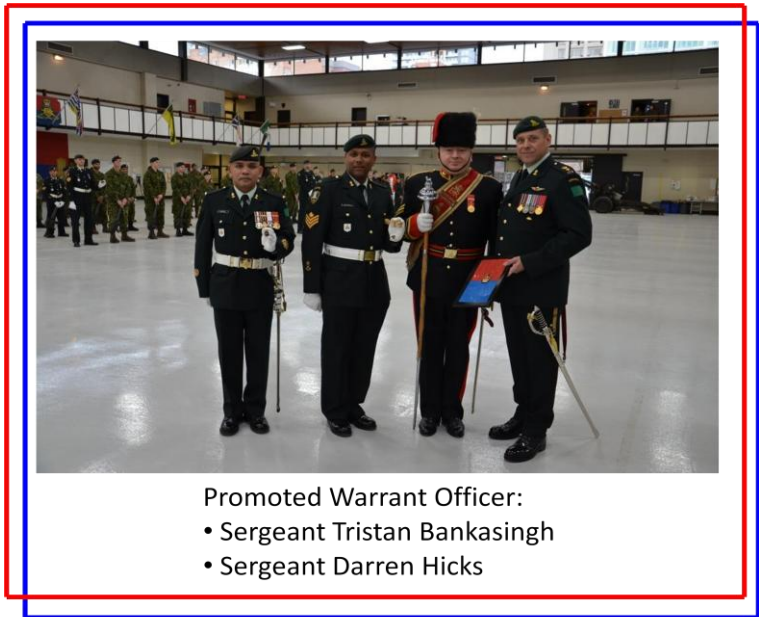
- MCpl Vallar

### Promotions

- The following was promoted to Lieutenant Colonel:
  - LCol Smid
- The following was promoted to Captain:
  - Capt Henry
- The following was promoted to Lieutenant:
  - Lt Galloway
- The following were promoted to Warrant Officer:
  - WO Bankasingh
  - WO Hicks
- The following were promoted to Sergeant:
  - Sgt An
  - Sgt Bhatti
  - Sgt Gawley
  - Sgt Jackson
- The following were promoted to Master Bombardier:
  - MBdr Browne
  - MBdr Buccella
- The following were promoted to Bombardier:
  - Bdr Gee
  - Bdr Klaver
  - Bdr Koufis
  - Bdr Litwin
  - Bdr Opong-Akom
  - Bdr Phillips
  - Bdr Sehdev
- The following were promoted to Gunner:
  - Gnr Broderick
  - Gnr Fong
  - Gnr Kwan
  - Gnr Tustin



Lt Galloway promo during "Subbies Caroling" event



Promoted Warrant Officer:  
 • Sergeant Tristan Bankasingh  
 • Sergeant Darren Hicks

## Regimental Family Calendar of Events

- 15-17 Jan - Ex Cold Start 1
  - 5-7 Feb - First Aid Course
  - 19-21 - Feb FTX Cold Start 2
  - 27 February, Junior Ranks Mess Dinner, Capitol Banquet Centre in Mississauga, 6345 Dixie Rd (Contact Bdr Allen Noh - [allennoh@yahoo.ca](mailto:allennoh@yahoo.ca) )
  - 4-5 Mar - CPX/OPX Cougar Spirit 2
  - 8 Mar - International Women's Day
  - 18-20 - Mar FTX Blackhand
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## Aiming Point – Commanding Officer

Welcome to 2016!

I sincerely hope that you were able to celebrate the holiday season with loved ones and that you had the opportunity for some rest and personal reflection. Entering this New Year, I am filled with optimism and hope that goals, both personal and collective, will be realized. I am excited to command such a storied Regiment and to be working with so many impressive individuals at every rank level. The coming year will be full of challenges but I know that this Regiment is capable of meeting them head on.

Our training schedule is busy with the Regiment conducting field exercises in February, March, and April. Simultaneously, we are supporting the Brigade Battle School with instructors and have commenced our own Regimental School by running a Recce Tech course. In May, Reserve Summer Training will commence in Meaford, ON which will see many of our soldiers working in 48 Depot Battery as staff, instructors, or students for the duration of the summer.

The summer will culminate with Exercise STALWART GUARDIAN in August that will see the Reserve Gunners of 4 Division integrate into the Second Regiment, Royal Canadian Horse Artillery (2 RCHA) for the duration of the exercise. The relationship that exists between the Regular Force and Reserve Gunners has never been stronger. 2 RCHA will be running two separate M777 conversion courses for our soldiers and is providing opportunities to attend their



Regimental School courses throughout the year. Additionally, 2 RCHA has welcomed participation in their exercises either as individuals or as detachments. The Division Commander's intent is for the Reserves to play a significant role in augmenting their Regular Force counterparts at the sub-sub-unit (ie Troop) level. This will be demonstrated at Exercise MAPLE RESOLVE in 2017.

The fall of 2016 will include Adventure Training (yes, I want to do something with horses!) as well as continuing Individual Battle Task Standards and a Battery level field exercise. We are also working on professional development activities and social activities for the entire Regimental Family. You will also note that we will be coordinating our activities with 56 Field Regiment to a much greater degree in the coming year in order to leverage equipment and training opportunities in an attempt to create greater synergy for the artillery in 32 Canadian Brigade Group.

We have great soldiers in the Regiment, we have the money in our budget to accomplish these goals, and we have the best support from the Regular Force that we have seen maybe ever. It is a great time to be a Reservist and it is a great time to be a Gunner!

Good shooting!

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

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### **Commander 32 Brigade – Colonel Andrew Zalvin, CD**



Colonel Andrew Zalvin (Centre) presides over Change of Command between LCol Szabunio (Left) and LCol Smid (Right)

A word I often use to describe the relationship between the 32 Canadian Brigade Group and its units is 'synergy' – which states that the combination of elements produces an effect that is greater than the sum of the individual parts. In many respects that is true of our brigade which draws its strength from the combination of its units. What does that mean for 7 Toronto Regiment? That I'm looking for your unit to continue to prosper because 32 Brigade as whole will benefit. So what exactly am I asking of you and your regiment?

**Accept the Leadership Challenge** - There has never been a better time to become a Master-Bombardier or Master-Corporal. So much of our Individual and Collective Training depends on this level of leadership for success. With this in mind, the Brigade Sergeant-Major and I have been encouraging soldiers to pursue their Primary Leadership Qualification (PLQ) this year. Details can be found in the attached poster. Strong numbers of junior leaders in our regiments will ensure the long-term health and independence of this brigade.

**Readiness Is Your Trade** - You may have already have heard about Op REINFORCEMENT, the deeper integration of the Regular and Reserve components of 4th Canadian Division. Now, I know that 7 Toronto Regiment has an excellent relationship with the gunners at 2 RCHA but to be a part of this experience you need to be ready and to be ready you need to be trade qualified. You need to be able to do the job you signed up to do. So if you've been procrastinating - make the time to complete your trade courses this summer.

**Be Prepared to Go the Distance** – There is a lot coming up for Reservists in the next couple of years. There will be some exciting opportunities. A big one will involve the Division moving into High Readiness in 2017 in preparation for a potential operational deployment. Reserve soldiers will be part of any Task Forces that goes out the door. Along the way there will definitely be some great joint training between gunners of the three Reserve brigades and 2 RCHA including cross-training on the M-777. We're entering an era in which the Army needs its Reserve so stay connected to your regiment.

32 Brigade has always been the strongest Reserve brigade in Canada. And it will be our leaders, our trained soldiers and our commitment to our Regiments and the Army that will ensure the future strength of this brigade. Steadfast!

Thanks for the opportunity to share this with the members 7 Toronto Regt.

**Colonel Andrew Zalvin**  
**Commander, 32 Canadian Brigade Group**

## 7<sup>th</sup> Toronto Regiment, Royal Canadian Artillery's Change of Command



Sunday 29 November 2015 marked a significant day for the 7<sup>th</sup> Toronto Regiment, Royal Canadian Artillery where the unit hosted a Change of Command ceremony at Moss Park Armoury. This military tradition is a formal event where it presents the unit's official change of leadership which occurs every three years. The ceremony hosted a large audience as friends and families were invited to witness the

departure of Lieutenant-Colonel Paul A. Szabunio, CD, and welcomed the new Commanding Officer, Lieutenant-Colonel Ryan Smid, MMM, MB, CD.

In addition, we acknowledged the departure of our Honorary Lieutenant-Colonel Thomas J. Bitove, O.Ont who continuously contributes to both the unit and the community. Mr. Bitove served as an Honorary Lieutenant-Colonel for the 7th Toronto Regiment since 2011.

The ceremony presented a fantastic turnout from the Artillery Regimental family where it had the support of its three Batteries (130, 15, and 9 Battery), the military band,



and 105 Streetsville Royal Canadian Army Cadet Corps. From 0900hrs, troops and officers went through long hours of practice and preparation for the Change of Command ceremony. As a result, the ceremony displayed a strong level of professionalism and talent from the Regiment.



Friends and family started to arrive at 1300 hrs where they gathered and seated around the armoury. The ceremony began at 1330hrs and provided a positive response from the guests as they were to witness a number of speeches, awards, and promotions. Standard incorporations of the ceremony included the inspection and review of troops, which were given from the reviewing party. For greater interest, demonstrations of Gun and Mortar drills were presented to the guests to understand the trade of an Artillery unit.

Gun salutes from soldiers and sword salutes from officers were given to both the outgoing and incoming COs. After the final salute, the ceremony concluded at 1600hrs.



However, the day hasn't come to an end. At the end of the ceremony, a warm reception was hosted in the 7<sup>th</sup> Toronto Regiment Officer's Mess. Light snacks and refreshments were served where friends and family mingled and celebrated with each other. It was a lively outing where we bid

our final farewell to Lieutenant-Colonel Paul A. Szabunio.



Lieutenant-Colonel Paul Szabunio has been with 7<sup>th</sup> Toronto Regiment for 11½ years. He lives in Toronto with his wife and son. He will be moving on to teach on the Army Operations Course from Kingston. Prior to becoming the new CO, Lieutenant-Colonel Ryan Smid was the 2IC of the Regiment and beforehand was the Battery Commander for 15 Battery. LCol Smid has a long career with the guns in both 1 and 2 RCHA as well as many staff jobs while in the regular force. He is married to Lisa with two daughters, Tatyana and Natalya and makes Fort Erie his home.

Sincere thanks to everyone who made this ceremony such a success and for those who continue support to the Regiment.

*-The author, OCdt Fred Fa is currently a Troop Leader with 15 Battery.*



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## **A Shot Downrange – Words from Honorary Colonel Ernest Beno, OMM, CD**



2015 was a great year for 7<sup>th</sup> Toronto Regiment, RCA, as all can see from this edition of Take Post. I am tremendously proud of the Regiment. I was also a year of significant change – change in tempo, change in Commanding Officer, and change in many rank levels. This is an active, vibrant and tremendously capable Regiment. Equally active and vibrant are the many components of the Regimental Family – the Band, the Cadets, Toronto Gunners, Limber Gunners, Toronto Artillery Foundation, IODE (read about this new part of our Regimental Family, below), and the many volunteers and friends of the Gunners of Toronto.

My efforts continue to be directed toward supporting our serving soldiers to the best of our ability. The priority of my effort in the first quarter of the year will be to transform our Foundation (officially: “The Toronto Artillery Foundation”). This is the part of the Regimental Family that connects with Canadians; networks with business leaders; and works hard to friend raise and fundraise. Why – so that we can help the Command Team in building cohesion, morale, esprit de corps and fighting spirit in our Regiment. To get, and show, community support to our troops - and, also to support the members of the larger and extended Regimental Family. Our Regimental Senate (former Commanding Officers and other select Regimental Family leaders) supports and guides the Regimental Family, and our Toronto Artillery Foundation raises friends and money to help do so.

Of course, there is much more to being Honorary Colonel than revitalizing the Foundation, but that’s priority one for me for the first few months of 2016.

Before signing off, I'd like to thank the many members of our Regimental Family who responded in a very generous way to my Honorary Colonel's Annual Appeal letter. Your personal and financial support is so critical to supporting our soldiers and their families, and making things happen in the Regimental Family. Thanks much.

Congratulations to Bombardier Allen Noh (PMC of the Junior Ranks Mess) and his committee for organizing the Junior Ranks Mess Dinner – 27 February. What a great initiative.

And lastly, a special thanks to Corporal Kai Chen for his absolutely wonderful photos. Cpl Chen, you are very talented, creative and professional. We all thank you.

We had a great year in 2015. Well done, all ranks 7<sup>th</sup> Tor and the greater Regimental Family of 7<sup>th</sup> Tor. Let's make 2016 an even greater year. I will do my best to continue communicating, facilitating, collaborating and celebrating. **Good Shooting! UBIQUE!**

Ernest Beno, BGen (Retired), Honorary Colonel

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### **Commander 4th Canadian Division Commendation Citation – Honorary Lieutenant-Colonel Thomas J. Bitove, O.Ont.**



*Hon Lieutenant-Colonel Tom Bitove,  
with his Daughter, Katarina*

The following is the citation for the Commander 4<sup>th</sup> Division Commendation, to Honorary Lieutenant-Colonel Thomas Bitove, O.Ont, presented 29 November, 2015:

*“Honorary Lieutenant-Colonel Thomas Bitove, O.Ont, of 7th Toronto Regiment RCA is awarded the Commander 4th Canadian Division Commendation for his outstanding achievements in garnering and providing support to the 7th Toronto Regiment, 4th Division and to the Army of Ontario. Through his leadership, outstanding example of community outreach, and generation of corporate and financial support for unit and Army initiatives he has made a great contribution to the Canadian Armed Forces and those who serve in the Greater Toronto Area. He has worn the Canadian Armed Forces uniform with*

*dignity and pride and has represented us with distinction in the eyes of the Canadians. It is with great pleasure that Honorary Lieutenant-Colonel Thomas Bitove is awarded the Commander 4th Canadian Division Commendation.”*

## Royal Regiment of Canadian Artillery Sergeant of the Year Award, 2015



The RCA is now in the third year of recognizing Sergeants for The Brigadier-General Ernest Beno Award for Leadership in the Rank of Sergeant (The RCA Sergeant of the Year Award). This year's recipients of this award are:

- Sergeant (Now WO) Matthew Flynn, (Regular Force) Royal Canadian Artillery School
- Sergeant (Now WO) Tristan Bankasingh, (Reserve) 7<sup>th</sup> Toronto Regiment, RCA

### The RCA Sergeant of the Year Award 2015 - Reserve Force Sgt (WO) Tristan Bankasingh, 7<sup>th</sup> Toronto Regiment, RCA

*Serving as the Battery Sergeant Major for 15 Battery, Sergeant Bankasingh's exceptional dedication and performance in both the field and garrison inspired his subordinates, peers, and supervisors alike. He consistently went above and beyond the duties and responsibilities expected of a Sergeant in his loyal service to the RCA.*



*Colonel Commandant RCA, BGen (Retd) James Selbie and CWO B.W. Gittens, RSM of 1<sup>st</sup> Field Regiment, RCA present WO Bankasingh with Sergeant of the Year Plaque*

**Congratulations to Warrant Officer Bankasingh from all members of the 7<sup>th</sup> Toronto Regiment and the Regimental Family**

## 7<sup>th</sup> Toronto Regiment, Soldiers' Christmas Dinner



On Dec 12<sup>th</sup> 2015, 7<sup>th</sup> Toronto Regt RCA held their Soldier Christmas Dinner. This Christmas Dinner was the first with LCol Ryan Smid as the Commanding Officer. This event is held annually and usually is accompanied by our Regimental holiday stand down parade. It is an opportunity for the entire regiment to spend some time recognizing accomplishments and promote holiday cheer. The following recognitions were issued during this the parade:

- CD for over 12 years of service awarded to Lt Dan Kim.
- Commission Scrolls were issued to Capt Clark, Lt Arrigo, 2Lt On, 2Lt Proner and 2Lt Lam
- Promotion from Gnr to Bdr to Bdr's Gee, Phillips, Klaver, Litwin, Sehdev, and Opong-Akom
- Promotion from MBdr to Sgt to Sgt's Bhatti, An, and Gawley.
- The Iron Man Team received a Commanding Officer's Commendation for their outstanding performance.

The dinner commenced shortly after the Parade concluded. In Regimental tradition, Gnr Lewis donned the CO's tunic as the Regiment's youngest member present and Bdr De Guzman donned the RSM's tunic as the Regiment's eldest Bombardier. Moss Park Armouries Parade Square rang with laughter, song, and various Regimental chants as the band played in the background.

Throughout the dinner the following awards were presented:

CWO Rosa Service Support Award:	MCpl Antonov
LGen Guy Simonds Best Communicator Award:	Bdr Park
Capt Lightfoot Award:	Bdr Klaver
Best Mortarman Award:	Bdr Chan
Best Tech Award:	Bdr Tenzin
SNR NCO Leadership Award:	WO Bankasingh
Gunner Joe Green Award:	MBdr Moniz
Best Gun Layer Award:	Bdr Opong-Akom
Best DetComd Award:	Sgt Lalor
Best Bandsman Award:	MCpl Vallar
BGen Brown Award for performance on course:	MCpl Vallar

During the lectures and prior to the dinner, Capt David Vigor and Capt Deep Bains (25 fd Amb) in concert with Padre Capt David Clark had many soldiers volunteering to be bone marrow matches. The **“One Match program”** is a Division wide charitable initiative to form a database of potential donors. It just shows how willing our soldiers are to serve their country and its citizen in any way possible.



MBdr Fleet, Bdr Gee, Capt Henry, Pte Atchison, MBdr Browne and Mbdr Roodznant at the OneMatch donation drive



Sgt Aygun - filling out the paper work

After the dinner everyone retired to their respective messes. The officers have Subbies Carolling where the CO and other senior appointments cook comfort food for the junior officers who dress in atrocious Christmas sweaters. One last “out of dress” promotion was made to Lt Mike Galloway.

Congratulations to all.

*--the author – Capt Josh Henry is currently the GPO of 130 Battery*

## Saint Barbara's Day, 2015

A Commanding Officer in a Reserve Regiment truly puts his credibility on the line at a Dining In. It is one of the few times that Higher Commanders, VIP's and our own families get to be part of, what is a Social Exercise. When a Mess Executive receives instructions, date and intent for a Guest Night, they must apply battle procedure; it is just like anything else in the military, proper planning, coordination and the ability to adjust and be flexible within an existing framework will allow the team to meet the expected End State.

The annual St. Barbara's Day Special Guest Night was not unlike any other, however, this year it was triple-billed as the outgoing dinner for Commanding Officer LCol Paul Szabunio and HLCol Tom Bitove as well as paying homage to the Patron. Amongst the formidable gunner cast were the Colonel-Commandant BGen (ret'd) Selbie, 4 Div Deputy Commander BGen Patterson, Army G1 Col Tim Young, 4 Div CFLC Rep Col Bill Kalogerakis, LCol Erik Andresen and LCol Christopher. We were joined by prominent non-gunner officers 32 CBG Commander Col Andrew Zalvin, Col Dwayne Hobbs and BGen (ret'd) Julian Chapman. It was good to see some former Commanding Officers in attendance such as LCol Mike Gomes, LCol Bryan Sherman and LCol Barry Downs.



A Guest Night is unlike planning or preparing for a field exercise. In a field exercise, we are our own judges and most of our successes and shames stay within the Regiment. Sure, soldiers are exposed to visiting higher commanders and other dignitaries but Gunner are a different folk and much of what is happening on the gun line, in the box or at the OP is Greek to non-gunners. However, all Regiments have mess dinners and the success or failure of a mess dinner is open to much more direct scrutiny and praise.

The Officer's Mess Executive of Lt Nick Arrigo, Capt Ethan McBride, Capt Josh Henry and 2Lt Dan On did an excellent job in impressing upon those non-Gunners and even our own Colonel-Commandant that LCol Szabunio had trust in his subordinates by putting the right people in the right place to see him and HLCol Bitove off with style and a respect to tradition.



This year's event was too big to hold in any of the Moss Park Armoury messes and we had to move offsite to the Canadian Staff College, Armour Heights Officer's Mess. The Mess Executive had the added constraint of not having full control over the budget as the expenses were wholly dependent on the caterers and bar staff at Armour Heights. But PMC Lt Nick Arrigo was able to deliver a break-even event without having a ticket cost deterring attendance, which, was much appreciated by the more junior members of the Regiment.

As the festivities began and guests arrived at the Century-Old Bavarian Style Mansion in the



York Mills neighbourhood of Toronto, ladies were dressed splendidly in cocktail dresses or other formal attire and the officers in their scarlet waist coats complemented their surroundings in the very formidable Mess.

When WO Hicks of the Band sounded the trumpet for *Mess* and HCol Ernie Beno took over as MC for the evening, we saw the exchange of gifts and words between LCol Szabunio and HLCol

Bitove and the legacies over the years they leave to the Regiment is hard to sum up in a short words over one evening.

The guests and officers then amassed for a group photo before taking their seats. The Head Table was marched in to *The Roast Beef of Old England*, Padre David Clark gave the traditional artillery grace and we all sat down to dinner. The din of over 100 people chatting and the Band provided a brass quintet to serenade us through three courses before the passing of the port and the toasts. After the toasts; Capt David Clark read his abridged version of G.K Chesterton's *The Ballad of St. Barbara* and the Band played *Santa Barbara's Lament*; a pipe tune that Band Director Lt Nick Arrigo has arranged.

After retiring to the lounge and bar rooms, old stories were told and retold into the wee hours. It would only be a few hours until the active officers were to amass to in the morning to see LCol Szabunio and HLCol Bitove off on parade.

This year's Guest Night was a success in bringing together the Old Guard and New Guard, all their families, all the while showing off the Regiment to those VIP's. We hope that LCol Szabunio and HLCol Bitove felt the care that the Mess Executive put into dining them out and that all had a worthwhile evening.

- Capt Paul Thompson



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## 105 Royal Canadian Army Cadet Corps

We have had a busy first half of the training year, which concluded with our annual Christmas mess dinner. Keeping with tradition, the senior cadets, headed by our RSM organized the dinner.



With music provided by a quintet from the 7<sup>th</sup> Toronto Regimental Band, the night was a great success. LCol R. Smid and his lovely wife Lisa rounded out the regimental family at the dinner.





105 Staff - Officers, Civilian Volunteers with LCol Smid

This was a special dinner as Major Paul Preikschas; CD was awarded the 2015 RCSU(C) CIC Lifetime Achievement Award for his many accomplishments during his career.

The Citation reads, in part:

*“In recognition of many years of professionalism and dedication as a corps officer in various positions including Commanding Officer (of two corps). Your commitment and contribution to the Youth of Canada and the Canadian Cadet Movement serve as a solid example for fellow CIC Officers to emulate. BRAVO ZULU”*

Here are a few words from Major Preikschas’ acceptance speech:

*“Over the years, cadets I have worked with, have grown up, and some have joined up, to the Regular Force, militia Regiments, and others to the CIC.*

*I am proud to see that these young Canadians have decided to “Pay it Forward” and become members of the CF, to carry on a long tradition of Service Before Self. I am equally proud of those who became teachers, supervisors, and leaders in their community all of whom became better Canadians because of their experiences in the Cadet movement.*

*There have been many times that I have wondered if I could really do all the stuff I just said and then think what the heck did I get myself into. Through determination and commitment and*

*putting three words into practice “Improvise, Adapt, Overcome,” has been the secret to my success. I hope that my contribution has made a difference in this world even if it was only for a few people.*

*As I accept this award I would like to remind everybody that what we have been and are still doing today, is developing the youth of today for our future tomorrow.”*



*CIC Life Time Achievement Award presented to Major Paul Preikschas, CD, Commanding Officer 105 RC(Army)CC, by Maj David Forster – Regional Cadet Advisor presenting the award on behalf of LCol R. Evan, Commanding Officer, RCSU(Central) - Sunday December 13<sup>th</sup>, 2015*

Congratulations to the 105 shooting team for their great January 9th at the Tartan shoot at Moss Park Armoury! They placed 7th out of 41 teams and had a seasonal high score of 1308!



**105 RC (Army) CC Shooting Team - Tartan Shoot at Moss Park Armoury**

2Lt N. Harper, Gnr. T. Alfonso, Gnr. M. Szreder, WO A. Amoroso, Cdt F. Jin, Capt M. Tempeny, Lt B. Fung

The cadets are looking forward to our upcoming visit to the Regiment. This is a great time for the Regiment and Limber Gunners to showcase what they do and to plant the seed for new members!

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**NOTICE - Old Pictures:**

We are looking for photos from Days Gone By for our Website.

Digital Photos can be emailed to Captains Paul Thompson or Eric Laxton:  
[paethompson@hotmail.com](mailto:paethompson@hotmail.com)  
[elaxton@gmail.com](mailto:elaxton@gmail.com)

Hard Copies – address them to one of the above at the Orderly Room, or drop them off.

A Photo From Days Gone By!



**THE TORONTO ARTILLERY FOUNDATION**  
**(Established 1978)**



January 2016

First and foremost Happy New Year to all our Toronto Gunner Community Family.

2015 was a year in transition if not transformation for your Foundation from a rather old fashioned stereotyped charity organization to a more vibrant and pro-active one thanks to the vision of our Chairman and Honorary Colonel Ernest Beno.

2015 saw our first foray into fund raising for a specific project spearheaded by HCol Beno. For a number of Unit members the project was a combined educational military tour and attendance at events surrounding the Liberation of Holland 70th Anniversary. Utilizing the Foundation's capability to process short term gifts, a successful fund raising campaign raised some \$22,000.00 to support this event. Ten members of the Regiment got to experience the significance of the Liberation of The Netherlands and Dutch hospitality.



Additionally, the Foundation benefited both directly and indirectly, from last year's Toronto Garrison Officers' Ball, hosted by the Unit, with an infusion of some \$25,000.00 from corporate sponsors. This is being put to use for long term investment.

Actual long term gifts from new and existing members for 2015 amounted to some \$15,325.00 with a number of newly created Permanent Members and Benefactors being acknowledged in previous issues of the Take Post.

For the first time in a number of years the Chairman has instituted a general fund raising campaign specifically to increase the monies under long term investment so that the Regiment will benefit in the future with a more stable source of funding for ancillary costs not generally covered by direct government funding.

The Foundation is looking forward to a very busy year what with the re-instatement of the McDermott concert this Spring, fund raising to re-equip the Regimental Band with new ceremonial uniforms and working towards sending five Unit members to Europe in 2017 to attend the 100th Anniversary Commemoration of the World War I Battle of Vimy Ridge. As more events and activities proceed this year the Gunner Family will be provided with suitable notice through our various means of communication such as the Take Post.

As the year goes by we await with interest the selection of a new Honorary Lieutenant Colonel to fill the shoes of the recently retired HLCol Tom Bitove. We are pleased to announce that Tom will be carrying on with the Foundation in his very successful and capable capacity as a fund raiser both for long term investment and short term projects such as Vimy.

Just a brief update on the Honorary Colonel's Foundation Annual Appeal for long term funding of the Investment Account - to date over \$5,000 has been received in response to this appeal. It is not too late to donate and still receive a CRA tax receipt for the 2015 tax year, but the window of opportunity is closing quickly.

Again all the best for a happy and healthy New Year.

## **Ubique**

Paul Kernohan, Treasurer, The Toronto Artillery Foundation



*The Colonel Commandant's  
Commendation*

*Mention élogieuse  
du colonel commandant*



*Lieutenant (Retired) Paul Kernohan*

Hereby commended for his outstanding contribution to the development and well-being of the Regimental Family of 7th Toronto Regiment, RCA. Since 1962, Lieutenant Kernohan has served the Guns with unwavering devotion as a Gunner, a Non-Commissioned Officer, a Commissioned Officer and a volunteer. He was a founding member, in 1979, of the Toronto Artillery Foundation and remains today its Treasurer and, frequently, its de facto Secretary, in which capacities he has worked tirelessly and diligently to maintain the Foundation's by-laws, records, reports and returns and to otherwise preserve and safeguard its corporate knowledge. He has similarly supported the Toronto Gunners Association and the Limber Gunners. In 1992, he co-founded the "Historic Gun Committee" that raised money for the restoration of the 25 Pounder Gun, Limber and Quad - which for decades have been a showpiece and the public face of 7th Toronto Regiment. His creativity has been essential to the continued vibrancy and relevance of the Foundation, the Association and the Limber Gunners. Indeed, all components of the Regimental Family have been grateful beneficiaries, down the years, of his energy, reliability and steadfastness in the face of challenge. Paul's 53 years of service, in all its forms, are a model and an inspiration for us all. What a fine example he is of our enduring adage, "Once a Gunner, Always a Gunner!"



Par la présente, nous soulignons sa contribution exceptionnelle au développement et bien-être de la famille régimentaire du 7e Régiment de l'ARC de Toronto. Depuis 1962, Le Lieutenant Kernohan a servi les pièces avec un dévouement inébranlable comme un artilleur, un sous-officier, un officier et un bénévole. Il a été un membre fondateur, en 1979, de la Fondation de l'artillerie de Toronto et demeure à se jours son trésorier, et régulièrement, son secrétaire de facto, rôle dans lequel il a travaillé avec acharnement et diligence afin de maintenir les règlements de la Fondation, les archives, les rapports et les comptes rendus à jours de manière à conserver une trace du savoir corporatif de l'organisation. Il a, de façon similaire, supporté l'Association des artilleurs de Toronto et les « Limber gunners ». En 1992, il a cofondé le « comité d'histoire de la pièce » qui a amassé des fonds pour la restauration d'un ensemble d'un obusier de 25 livres, qui a été pendant des décennies une pièce maîtresse et la face publique du 7e Régiment de Toronto. Sa créativité a été un élément essentiel du développement de la Fondation, de l'association et des « Limber gunners ». De ce fait, toutes les composantes de la famille régimentaire ont été des bénéficiaires, au cours des années, de son énergie, sa fiabilité et sa rapidité au regard des épreuves. Les 53 années de service de Paul, sous toutes ses formes, ont été un modèle et une inspiration pour nous tous. Quel bel exemple pour notre adage éternel : « artilleur un jour, artilleur toujours ».

Given under my hand  
The 4th of November 2015

Le colonel-commandant

Le brigadier-général (ret.) J.J. Selbie, CMM, CD  
Brigadier-General

Signé ce  
4e jour de novembre 2015

**Colonel Commandant's Commendation  
Captain (Retired) David Burnett, CD  
"Toronto Gunners" Association**

*Captain (Retired) David Burnett, CD of "The Toronto Gunners Association", is hereby commended for exemplary service, in a voluntary capacity, to the 7<sup>th</sup> Toronto Regiment, RCA and, to The Royal Regiment of Canadian Artillery at large. Since the late 1970s, Captain Burnett has been intimately engaged in the provision of non-public support to the well-being of his Regiment.*

*The current, and very active, Toronto Gunners Association, owes its creation to Captain Burnett's successful effort to amalgamate the former Officers' and Sergeants' Associations. Moreover, many of the Association's achievements have been due to his*



*leadership as President for the past twelve years. In this role, he has been a tireless friend-raiser and fund-raiser for the Regiment and a formidable champion of the interests and inclusivity of the Regimental Family. The monthly Gunner Luncheons he has organized over the past four years have been a most popular venue for the enjoyment of our distinctive Gunner camaraderie.*

*In 2015, Captain Burnett stepped forward to lead 7<sup>th</sup> Toronto Regiment's organization of the Toronto Garrison Officers' Ball – an annual highlight of the Toronto civil and military social calendar. The Ball was a great success thanks to his exceptional drive, imagination and planning skills and this reflected most creditably on the Gunner community as a whole. Captain Burnett is also a Founding Member and current Trustee of the Toronto Artillery Foundation and, an enthusiastic member of the "Limber Gunners" – a well-known artillery re-enactment group that contributes to the maintenance of the Regiment's high regional profile. At the national level, he has long been a dedicated supporter of the Royal Canadian Artillery Association. All of these undertakings, as demanding of his energy and attention as they are, he has managed in addition to directing a leading Toronto information technology company.*

*Captain David Burnett is a truly remarkable Gunner. His unsurpassed dedication to the Guns and steadily growing list of contributions to the welfare of The Royal Regiment stand as an inspiration to us all. He provides us no finer example of the adage, "Once a Gunner, Always a Gunner!"*

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## **IODE UBIQUE- Our Latest Addition to the Regimental Family!**



Most of us at some time in our lives have had the honour of encountering something truly special. These experiences come in the form of animal, vegetable, mineral, spiritual and of course, regimental and are often, whether we know it or not, life changing moments in time. A time when all the Planets align or something like that. A time when for the grace of God and other universal forces an event rises up to stir your imagination and bring that feeling of 'awe' into one's life. So too, the experience of growing an awareness of the needs of the environment around us and seeing opportunities in remarkable liaisons.

The IODE (*Imperial Order of the Daughters of the Empire*) appeared in a conversation with Major John Stewart. An observation about the love and commitment that not only he but the Royal Artillery have for each Brigade, Unit and soldier for each other. Their love of country and family and their efforts here and everywhere to keep alive and thriving the tenants of service and commitment. As partners and families what can we do to help. There used to be an "Auxiliary" in the past that would volunteer to support soldiers and families. How do we now make this current and how do we make the impact of the Regimental family felt and sustaining? All that in a car ride to the cottage.

His simple answer was why not try the IODE, an organization that is venerable, supportive and selfless. So I was off and running. Joining, speaking with incredible mentors and looking for like minded people who felt the same love for the regiment and see the amazing potential for growth and support in a creative way.

We are now proud to announce that, with the support of C.O. Ryan Smid we are about to have Chapter status bestowed on our little group, which we will be growing with members of the Regimental Family. A group of people who don't have to give all their time but certainly give of their heart in planning and implementing strategies to support the 7<sup>th</sup> Toronto Regiment and the surrounding community. The Bestowal Ceremonial Parade is at MPA on February 8, 2016 at 8pm.

I may have forgotten to mention that if you would love to join with us, we would love to have you. Everyone has gifts and as for the chosen name of our Chapter, we will be everywhere.

Please contact the following email for more information: [ubique.iode@gmail.com](mailto:ubique.iode@gmail.com)

Patricia Geoffrey, RN  
President, Ubique Branch, IODE



Imperial Order of the Daughters of the  
Empire - UBIQUE Chapter  
IODE Executive Left to Right, Mindy Parker  
Thompson, Patricia Geoffrey and Lisa Smid





## **Limber Gunners Artyfacts for November 2015**

By: Ron Paterson, Chair, Limber Gunners

The Limber Gunners had a very busy year in 2015 with 17 events - from the first salute fired at the Toronto Garrison Officers Ball on March 28<sup>th</sup> to the Remembrance Day Salute with the Regiment at Queens Park on November 11<sup>th</sup>. The Limber Gunners were very proud to take part in all these events.

I would like to thank all the members, from as far away as Port Huron and Windsor who participated in these events and salutes. I would especially like to thank Frank Moore who prepared all of the casings for the salutes, and he towed the 25pdr with his 5/4 ton truck for the Victoria Day Salute, Canada Day Salute and Remembrance Day Salutes.

The Limber Gunners were very proud when Dave Burnett and Paul Kernohan received the Colonel Commandant's Commendation and Frank Moore received the Honorary Colonel's Commendation for the outstanding work that makes a huge difference to the Toronto Gunners/Limber Gunners organization.

The Limber Gunners will be installing a modified transmission and upgrading the engine on the Quad during January to March 2016.

The Limber Gunners will be carrying out training throughout January to April 2016. The LG will be holding short administration meetings on the first Monday of each month followed by training, as follows:

- January 4<sup>th</sup> - Loading the 25pdr. casing with primer and black powder
- February 1<sup>st</sup> – Gunner Training
- March 7<sup>th</sup> – Gunnery Training and Stores update
- April 4<sup>th</sup> – Driver Training
- April 9 & 16 – Driver Training

The training is open to all members of the Regiment.

## Upcoming Events

- May 1<sup>st</sup> – the 17th annual Ontario Police Memorial Remembrance Ceremony Salute at Queens Park
- May 23<sup>rd</sup> – the LG will be firing 2X 25Pdr. with the Regiment's Guns for the 21Gun Salute at Queens Park for Victoria Day.

To the members of the Regiment that have retired, and you if you like the smell of the gun powder, driving a WWII Field Artillery Tractor, firing salutes with WWII Equipment, and taking part in an active tank day - join the Limber Gunners.

For info, the LG has located a second Limber and is in the process of negotiation with the owners of the Limber. The LG is still looking for a second Quad.

Joyce and Ron Paterson  
Asking Santa for a New Quad and Limber!



**Join the Limber Gunners!**

**UBIQUE! Ron Paterson** [sevenartygunner@rogers.com](mailto:sevenartygunner@rogers.com)

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**Frank Moore demonstrates loading a casing with primer and Black Powder**

## **7<sup>th</sup> Toronto Regiment, RCA Band**

### **Christmas Party**

By Cpl Doriann Forrester, CD

On December 7<sup>th</sup>, 2015, the RCA Band held the gold standard of 32 Brigade Holiday Dinners - Most of the bands have a December holiday gathering of some description, but the Artillery is the only band that has an actual Dinner/Dance complete with Roast Beast Dinner and a 5 piece live band! For a mere \$55 per person, guests enjoyed cocktails with solo piano provided by Don Gwyn, a 5 course buffet dinner by Burch Anton of DT Classic Catering with the 5 piece band joining in with some of Toronto's best known freelance musicians: Debi Sander Walker (bandleader & vocals), John MacMurchy (sax, clarinet & flute), Bob DeSalle (drums & vocals), Phil Disera (guitar & vocals) and Don Gwyn on piano. Note: John MacMurchy and Don Gwyn played with the RCA Band during the Royal Winter Fair days, and Debi Sander Walker has performed with the Royal Regiment of Canada Big Band so there's a strong connection to the military reserve!



74 guests helped the band celebrate on December 7th

During dessert, the self-proclaimed committee of Sgt Trish Beck (ret.) and Cpl Doriann Forrester awarded our “Real Band Awards”. These include humorous incidents that happen throughout the year such as: the Drum Major having the Director of Music’s keys for 2 months; the Dance Award for the younger members of the band with two left feet; the Star Wars award with ear defenders given to those that have to sit beside the piccolo and in front of the brass section! Our final award was given to RSM Reyes & CO LCol Smid on how to pick up (or not) lost drumsticks during the Remembrance Day Parade. We all know that the RSM does the heavy lifting in the Regiment!! On a serious note, Bandsperson of the Year was awarded by Director of Music, Nick Arrigo and our Drum Major, Darrin Hicks. This year’s recipient was MCpl Katie Vallar.



Chef Tony Burch



Deputy Division Commander, BGen Dave Patterson joins the Band Party with CO and RSM

The final hour of the evening included a full dance floor with young and old enjoying themselves. A total of 74 guests attended including the Deputy Division Commander Brig Gen Patterson. We also welcomed back Maj Ron Paterson and his wife who show up the younger folk on the dance floor with their fancy footwork! Special thanks to retired officers who have always supported the band: Capt David Burnett, Lt Paul Kernohan and Maj Paterson. We were fortunate to also have our 2 former Directors of Music, Capt Mike Lawson and Capt Graz Brescacin in attendance. Thanks to serving officers who attended: CO LCol Ryan Smid, MWO Reyes, Maj Stewart, Maj Dean, Capt Ortiz-Sosa, Capt Thompson, Capt Laxton, Capt McBride, Capt Leslie and 2Lt Proner. Lastly, a huge thanks to all the band members who make the RCA Band the special group of people that it is. This party wouldn't happen

without the many people that work together to do decorations, sell tickets, move furniture both before and after the dinner, our bartenders and the RCA Sergeants Mess for the party venue. **Ubique!**

Cpl Doriann Forrester, CD



Capt Brescacin, Paul Kernohan, Capt Thompson, seen in the picture



Warrant Hicks, Lt Arrigo, and his wife Anne, Cpl Forrester, and Sgt (ret'd) Beck

**The RCA Band of 7<sup>th</sup> Toronto continues to be the most visible face of the Regimental Family and takes great pride in representing the 7<sup>th</sup> Toronto Regiment, RCA.**



## 2 Countries - 2 Armies – 2 Basic Military Training Experiences (One Full time – One Part time)

Soldiers have the fortune to experience different situations, mine is the opportunity to be part of two different armies in two different countries. I had the honour to be trained with the Colombian National Army (Ejercito Nacional de Colombia –or- Fuerzas Militares de Colombia “Colombian Armed Forces”) as an NCM Infantry MP (in Acolsure Military Academy – Batallon de Policia Militar N.2 “Ciudad de Barranquilla”) for four years; and I am currently going through the BMOQ to become a Logistic Officer for the 7 Toronto Regiment, RCA in the Canadian Army. In both, physical fitness is an important component within the instruction provided. From the beginning, it’s essential to ensure your body can resist while enduring other tasks. Both armies tend to believe in the “fit body, fit mind” doctrine.

### Colombian National Army Ejército Nacional de Colombia



### Military Forces of Colombia *Fuerzas Militares de Colombia*



One major difference encountered is the physical punishment. The Colombian Army is very “traditional” when punishing its troops by the higher ranks. Officers and Sub-Officers (the term used to relate to the NCMs and NCOs), are able to physically touch and provide corporal punishment (no causing harm) to the “reclutas” (new recruits) without being penalized. The Canadian Army is more progressive in this aspect, obtaining the same results by only raising the voice when given the instructions (or showing a very “tough” face when yelling). Nevertheless, I found the amount of desertion, even on weekends, higher in Canada than in Colombia during the basic training.

The Colombian army is big in size if compared to the Canadian Army (450,000 vs 119,000), but the level of discipline on both are very comparable in high standards and the amount of respect to our instructors and commanders is also high. Their knowledge is a real treasure of invaluable price.



Retaking the fitness subject, the same is based on the type of environment from each country; in Canada the type of physical fitness is fast paced in order to keep the body warm in a cold weather (fast reaction, major energy consumption). In Colombia the pace is slow enough to conserve energy under a very “hot” weather which provide resistant for long ruck marches (30 Km is the average under 32C to 38C in a normal day in the middle of a jungle or city with high standards of humidity). But

at the end, the main purpose of the different methods employed by both armies will provide is the same: Speed, strength, endurance, coordination and flexibility. Another main difference encountered is the way the military instruction is provided. In Canada the emphasis at the start of the courses are on the drills (which are repeated several times and could be considered as part of the physical routine. The movements are not complex, but there are many different movements for different actions), meanwhile in Colombia, drills are secondary as they are complex (I could say 75% more drill is taught in Canada), but this is based on the method the instruction is conveyed, we need to take into consideration the following; as as reservists, the Battle School is given only during the weekends, but the intensity on how this is provided makes a big difference; in only two days (weekend), the amount of knowledge given is very specific, right to the point in a very short time, with a high quality of knowledge.

The use of basic armament (referring to the C7 Rifle) is taught at very early stages, which encourages not only how to use it, but also how to use it safely. In Colombia, we are allowed to handle the Galil assault rifle after months of training and countless hours of safety lessons and requirements. As here, safety is not only a requirement, it is a must.

As most of the training will be imparted under the Canadian weather (winter – which is an afterthought in Colombia – there are mountains but not four seasons), I do really lack on how to operate under these conditions. My main goal is to gain that knowledge and complement the previous one received in Tropical rain forest, jungle and Close Quarter (Urban Ops) warfare (main military styles taught in Columbia).



Photo of 2Lt (then Recurta) Castillo with “La Mencha” HMG c 1995 while with the NAC

Some of the combat instructions given is quite similar to the experience lived; It is very refreshing to recall that knowledge again. With the different fire teams assigned, was easy to specify to my fire buddies how to move, to hide, the different firing positions and movements as a team.

Classes are given outside under any weather conditions anywhere the NCM or the officer decided is a perfect location in Colombia. The classes are taught on equal basis by the officers and the NCMs creating a sense of teamwork for all the platoon members. A clear example of this is the way the First Aid class is provided, in Canada by a civilian, meanwhile in Colombia is given by a Corporal with extensive knowledge in FA and supported by the Company and Platoon Officer. Still, the classes here are imparted within garrison, under the protection of the inclement weather.

At the end, this is a much enriched experience, not only due to the fact that I worked hard enough to be part of the army in my birth country, but also for giving back my time and service to my new country. I am very proud (and I said this to my wife countless times as she is my main support to keep moving forward) on now carrying the Maple Leaf flag on my shoulder and represent the Canadian Values not only here, but anywhere my country will require. Thanks Canada for this amazing new chapter in my life.



*Second-Lieutenant Luis Orellano-Castillo and Family*

*--The author, Second-Lieutenant Luis Orellano-Castillo, was enrolled in the CAF PRes in Oct 2015 and is currently completing phase training. As a logistics officer he will soon be employed as the Regimental Quartermaster.*

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## 7 Toronto Regiment Wins Silver at Basketball Tournament

Bdr Allen Noh

During late November, 7<sup>th</sup> Toronto participated in a 3 vs 3 Basketball Tournament hosted PSP at Denison Armoury. Similar to the Soccer tournament last month, the competition helped raise money for the United Way.

After finding a third place success in the soccer tournament, 7Toronto decided to create a team for the following basketball tournament. With such high interest we were able to create two separate teams for the competition. The first team was called “7 Peasants” and consisted of Bdr Noh (captain), Sgt Lalor, MBdr Choi, Bdr Sehdev, Bdr Macdonell and Bdr McCulloch. While the second team “7 Pheasants” consisted of MBdr Noh (captain), MBdr Browne, MBdr Roodzant, Bdr Maranan, Bdr Chan and Gnr Dos Santos. With such confusing names and great morale we all prepared for the games ahead!

The first portion of the tournament was a round robin style play in order to determine the top 4 teams to play in the playoffs. Both teams started off with difficulty losing their first game. The first victory for the Team 1 was against our fellow artillerymen in Team 2. While 7 Pheasants first and only win was in their last game against Ruthless. Both 7 Toronto teams played with lots of energy and determination however only team 1 was able to secure a spot in the playoffs.

There were four teams in the playoffs: 7 Peasants, Ruthless, DRDC, and CFEME. In order to reach the finals we had to defeat DRDC, a team we had lost to during the round robin. Our team was mentally prepared and knew we had the ability to win this time around. The beginning of the game started of evenly matched.



*From left to right:*

*Bdr Macdonell, Sgt Lalor, Bdr Noh, Bdr Sehdev, MBdr Choi*

As the game progressed Bdr Sehdev got into a strong rhythm with his teammates Sgt Lalor and MBdr Choi. Carrying this rhythm, the members of the 7 Toronto team attained a large lead over the opponents. This led to a very defensively played final minutes in which 7 Toronto was able to take the win and proceed to the finals.

The finals were against CFEME, a team was currently undefeated. For this game the team had lost Bdr McCulloch as he had left for OP Provision. With a man down we continued ahead and prepped for our final match. The game started at a very fast pace and with a high number of fouls. As the game progressed we found ourselves behind the opposition, fighting an uphill battle. 7 Toronto played hard, working together with every pass and pressing forward with every shot. Unfortunately our team was unable to close the gap in score and lost the game.

Although 7 Toronto had settle for a second place finish it was still a great success. It was the first time our unit had ever participated in this tournament and coming second only shows what we were capable of. We are all looking forward to another tournament next year and will be aiming for gold.



## 7<sup>th</sup> Toronto Regiment



Sergeant Jackson



Captain Henry



# 7<sup>th</sup> Toronto Regiment



Bdr Opong-Akom



Sgt An



Sgt Gawley



# 7<sup>th</sup> Toronto Regiment



MBdr Buccella



Bdr Gee



Bdr Litwin



Gunner Sehdev



Bdr Klaver



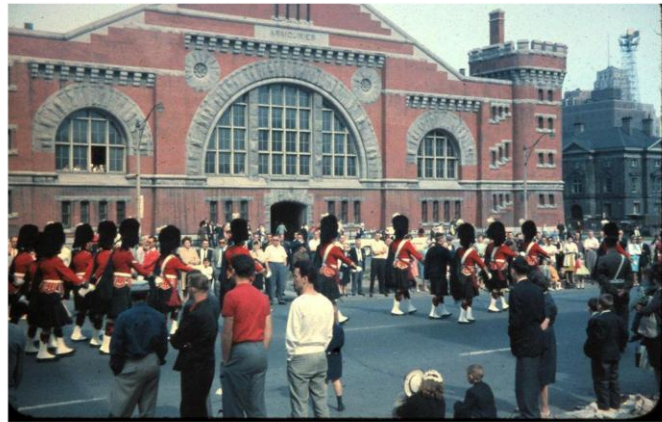
Lt Kim Receiving his CD



# Fragments of our Past



42<sup>nd</sup> Medium Regiment  
Petawawa, 1959



University Avenue Armoury, 1963



Diamond Jubilee Medals Awardees



Lieutenant Governor  
The Honorable Elizabeth Dowdeswell,  
OC, O Ont - On the Guns



Brig-Gen Brown with  
Gens Jeffery and Leslie



## Fragments of our Past



A Group of 9th Toronto Battery NCO's in 1898.

A Group of the 9<sup>th</sup> Toronto Battery NCO's  
in 1898



Who is this with the  
beret?



## 7<sup>th</sup> Toronto Regiment This is our Future!!!????



Capt Laxton, Lt Ma and Capt McBride at  
the RCMI

## Take Post, Edition 10

The next Take Post Edition 10 will be published by 18 March, 2016. Articles to be submitted by 11 March, 2016 to: [beno@kos.net](mailto:beno@kos.net)



**Good Shooting!**

**UBIQUE!**

## Annex A to Take Post Edition 9

### UBIQUE!



**Rudyard Kipling**

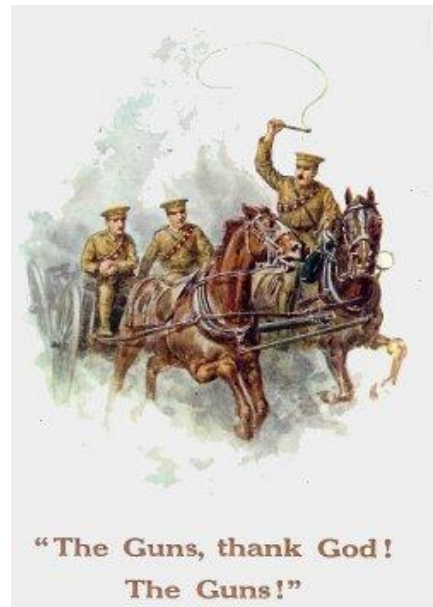
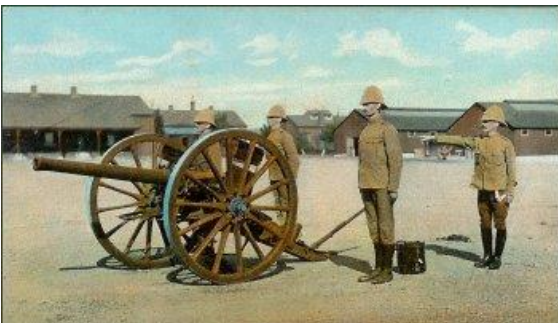


*Ubique* is a poem by Rudyard Kipling about the Boer War. Its title is derived from the Motto and Battle Honour of the Royal Regiment of Artillery, however the opening lines are attributed to the lack of knowledge of Latin within the ordinary ranks of the Gunners. *Ubique* is pronounced "Ooh-Bee-Kway", but is generally pronounced as "You-Bee-Kway".

*Ubique* ('everywhere' in Latin) is the motto of the Royal Artillery and the Royal Engineers. It was given to them by King William IV in 1832 and in 1833 it was further granted as a battle honour to the Royal Artillery in place of all former and later battle honours they could receive.

#### *Background*

A few months before the outbreak of the Anglo-Boer War, the Royal Artillery was reorganized, to bring it into line with



changes in Continental armies. On 1 July 1899, a Royal Warrant established the Royal Garrison Artillery as a separate Corps, to man Coast Defence units and Mountain, Heavy and Siege Batteries. The remainder of the Royal Artillery was designated either Royal Field Artillery (RFA) or Royal Horse Artillery (RHA), the latter to be manned by selected personnel posted from the RFA. This arrangement lasted until 1924, when

the three amalgamated once more, although the RHA kept its elite status.

The poem, in the voice of a Gunner, celebrates the work of the artillerymen whose task it was to do much more than just serve the guns during the Anglo-Boer War. It is the Gunner's boast that while they have carried out that role in extreme conditions, they have also successfully taken on other military roles imposed on them.

## Ubique

*There is a word you often see, pronounce it as you may –  
“You bike,” “you bykwee,” “ubbikwee” – alludin’ to R. A.  
It serves ‘Orse, Field, an’ Garrison as motto for a crest;  
An’ when you’ve found out all it means I’ll tell you ‘alf the rest.*

*Ubique means the long-range Krupp be’ind the long-range ‘ill –  
Ubique means you’ll pick it up an’, while you do, stand still.  
Ubique means you’ve caught the flash an’ timed it by the sound.  
Ubique means five gunners’ ‘ash before you’ve loosed a round.*

*Ubique means Blue Fuse, an’ make the ‘ole to sink the trail.  
Ubique means stand up an’ take the Mauser’s ‘alf-mile ‘ail.  
Ubique means the crazy team not God nor man can ‘old.  
Ubique means that ‘orse’s scream which turns your innards cold!*

*Ubique means “Bank, ‘Olborn, Bank – a penny all the way” –  
The soothin’, jingle-bump-an’-clank from day to peaceful day.  
Ubique means “They’ve caught De Wet, an’ now we shan’t be long.”  
Ubique means “I much regret, the beggar’s goin’ strong!”*

*Ubique means the tearin’ drift where, breach-block jammed with mud,  
The khaki muzzles duck an’ lift across the khaki flood.  
Ubique means the dancing plain that changes rocks to Boers.  
Ubique means mirage again an’ shellin’ all outdoors.*

*Ubique means “Entrain at once for Grootdefeatfontein.”  
Ubique means “Of-load your guns” – at midnight in the rain!  
Ubique means “More mounted men. Return all guns to store.”  
Ubique means the R.A.M.R. Infantillery Corps.*

*Ubique means that warnin’ grunt the perished linesman knows,  
When o’er ‘is strung an’ sufferin’ front the shrapnel sprays ‘is foes;*



*An' as their firin' dies away the 'usky whisper runs  
From lips that 'aven't drunk all day: "The Guns! Thank Gawd, the Guns!"*

*Extreme, depressed, point-blank or short, end-first or any'ow,  
From Colesberg Kop to Quagga's Poort – from Ninety-Nine till now –  
By what I've 'eard the others tell an' I in spots 'ave seen,  
There's nothin' this side 'Eaven or 'Ell Ubique doesn't mean!*

### Some Explanations:

- [Stanza 2] **long-range Krupp** long range field gun produced by the German Krupp company. Both the Orange Free State Artillery of the Boer forces, commanded by a German gunner, Major FWR Albrecht, and the Transvaal Artillery, were based on German artillery and used German weapons.
- **Low-range hill** The Boers also used German artillery tactics, including the use of indirect fire where the guns fired from behind cover controlled by an observer. This had not yet been adopted by the Royal Artillery.
- **you'll pick it up ... five gunners' 'ash** at the sound of the Krupp firing you'll pause to listen and so make yourselves into a target. Five of you will be killed before you've fired a single round of ammunition from your own field gun; 'to settle a person's hash' is to do for them, to finish them off.
- **Caught the flash and timed it by the sound** because light travels faster than sound it is possible to determine how far away a gun is by noting the length of time which elapses between seeing the flash of its discharge and hearing the sound of its report. This establishes the rough range to a gun where only the flash can be seen.
- [Stanza 3] **Blue Fuse and make the hole that sinks the trail** British field guns of the day were designed for direct fire against an enemy that could be seen from the guns, which was the practice up to the middle of the 19th century. This only required a maximum range of 5000 to 7000 yards, which could be achieved with a maximum elevation of some 16 degrees. The 'long-range Krupp' had a range of some 10,000 yards, so to achieve the same range and fire from behind cover, the RFA guns had to be given extra elevation by sinking the 'trail' into a hole in the ground. (The trail is used in hauling the gun.)
- Almost all field gun ammunition was shrapnel, a shell case carrying a large number of lead balls that were ejected from the shell in flight to fly forward onto the target. The ejecting charge was initiated by a time fuze. For a long time of flight at long range, a slow-burning fuze was required. These were identified by a blue painted band.
- **the Mauser's 'alf-mile 'ail** the Mauser rifle, used by the Boers, had a range of about 1500 yards but early in the war the RFA deployed at about 800 yards, or half a mile from the enemy, and the RHA even closer.
- **crazy team** of terrified horses.
- **'orses's scream** of wounded horses. Thousands of horses died in this war.
- [Stanza 4] This stanza and Stanza 5 deal with the pursuit of Boer commandoes in the later guerrilla-war phase of the war.
- **Bank, 'Olborn, Bank** many of the horses used by the Field Artillery in this war were ones that had been drawing London buses. As a joke, columns would greet Field Artillery on the march with the cries of London bus conductors.
- **De Wet** Christiaan de Wet (1854-1922), a Boer general exceptionally talented in guerrilla warfare, who consistently evaded capture with his commando.
- **beggar** polite substitution for 'bugger'.
- [Stanza 5] **Drift** ford
- **breech-block(s)** the moveable steel block by which the breech end of the barrel is closed behind the loaded shell and cartridge.
- **Khaki muzzles** possibly meaning that artillery muzzles were painted brown as camouflage, but taken in conjunction with 'khaki flood' more likely to mean that, like the breechblocks, they too were fouled with mud.
- [Stanza 6] This stanza hints at what the Gunner would consider 'being messed about'. Put the guns – and horses and ammunition wagons – on a train for Grootdefeatfontein, a made up name, parodying Afrikaans formations like 'Bloemfontein', the name of the capital of the Orange Free State. It implies that the order

which sends the gunners is in response to some defeat but is then countermanded and they have to unload the train.

- **'Infantry'** a compound of 'artillery' and 'infantry', possibly Kipling's coinage, subsequently taken up by others.
- [Stanza 7] This stanza now makes clear how dangerous such misuse could be if the 'perished linesman', the suffering foot soldier, did not get the Artillery support necessary to bring relief to infantry by supplementing their fire with shrapnel, forcing the enemy to keep under cover.
- There were a number of occasions when infantry were pinned down by Boer rifle fire for hours at a time, the worst being at Magersfontein on 10 December 1899 when the 3rd (Highland) Brigade was pinned down after a failed attack before the Boer trenches all day, partially protected by artillery from Boer fire but, having been initially cold and wet, suffering badly under a scorching sun. They lost 700 men that day.
- **Extreme, depressed, point-blank or short** A jumble of artillery commands:
  - **Extreme** – range; discussed above.
  - **Depressed** – with the barrel pointing below the horizontal; necessary only on very high positions, but coupled as it is with Extreme, perhaps it also reflects how the Gunner may be feeling about his treatment.
  - **Point-blank** – at a very close target.
  - **Short** – shrapnel shell fired with a very short fuze to burst just in front of the gun.
  - All of the above are exceptional artillery situations and when coupled with 'End first' or 'any'ow' (any how) they reflect the Gunner's feeling that there has been no limit to the things he has been asked to do, however irrational. His conclusion is that throughout the war 'Ubique' for the Gunner has meant not just 'Everywhere' but 'Everything' as well – more than just ubiquitous.
- **Quagga's Poort** on the west of the Cape, near Sutherland.
- **Ninety-nine** the Anglo-Boer War began on October 11 1899.

## Annex B to Take Post Edition 9



### The Annual Gunner

by Capt Paul Thompson

**Note:** *This article has been submitted for publishing in the “RCA Annual Gunner.” We provide it here because not all members of the 7<sup>th</sup> Toronto Regimental Family receive the Annual Gunner. This article provides a great overview of the tremendous accomplishments of the Regiment in 2015.*

As usual, the past year in 7<sup>th</sup> Toronto Regiment, RCA has seen much of the same and much different. The Regiment has maintained two independent firing sub-units. Both 9 Battery (105mm) and 15 Battery (81mm) deploy concurrently with their own manoeuvre arms element. After taking the 4 Div Artillery lead for the 2 week Ex STALWART GUARDIAN 15 in which, the Regiment was exposed by 2 RCHA to a fully functioning Service and Support battery, the Regiment is looking to develop a similar capability within 130 HQ and Service Battery.



This also has marked the final year under the leadership of LCol Paul Szabunio, CD. He has dedicated an immense amount of thought and effort in utilizing the local Artillery Associations and confirming the Regimental Family concept. His efforts have been expertly augmented by HCol (BGen retd) Ernest Beno, OMM, CD and HLCol Tom Bitove O.Ont; all of whom have developed the Regiment's Senate into a strong advisory board for the Commanding Officer with the backing of the Toronto Gunners Association and the Limber Gunners Association. This partnership provided fruit in March at the Toronto Officers Garrison Ball. Led by Captain (ret'd) David Burnett and working closely with Regimental Major, Major John Stewart and other stakeholders; the ball was a tremendous success. The event had the theme of VE Day +70. The wait staff was dressed in 1940's attire, the 800 guests entered the dining room under an arch of burlap sandbags. Each garrison sub-unit and the HMCS York were invited to provide a display from their respective museums. In the artillery tradition, there were no speeches during the dinner resulting in the dancing and after party starting at least 90 minutes earlier than anytime in living memory of the annual event. There were no VVIP's and everyone, including Her Honour Elizabeth Dowdswell, Lt-Gov of Ontario and Mayor John Tory, paid for their own ticket thus keeping the prices down to allow junior officers and their significant others not to be put out by ticket cost. The only Guests of Honour were the families of 4 local soldiers who lost sons in Afghanistan. We will remember them.

The Ball, as an extension of the Regiment, was a great success and the significant proceeds were funnelled to the Toronto Artillery Foundation (TAF), which acts to benefit the Regiment, its members and artillery heritage at large in the Toronto AOR. This was felt immediately when the TAF and Regimental Senate were able to raise money to send a group of officers, Sr NCO's and junior ranks on an all-expenses paid trip to The Netherlands in the spring to trace Gunner's path's to victory 70 years prior.

The outward and inclusive personality that the Regiment has taken on was again displayed as Maj John Stewart led the "200 Years of Firepower" at Old Fort York during *Open Doors Toronto* in May. The Band serenaded picnickers, while soldiers flipped burgers and other Friends of the Regiment provided baked goods made with recipes from the Fort's 19<sup>th</sup> Century Cookbook. Maj Stewart stood in as GPO and fired two salutes that day that echoed from 1812. The unique five-gun battery was made up of a 6-pounder, manned by the Fort's Guard, a 9-pounder manned by 2 RCHA in full dress, a QF 25-pounder manned by the local Limber Gunners in Korea War period battle dress, a C3 105mm howitzer manned by 7 Toronto and finally a M777 manned by 2 RCHA in CADPAT. It was a memorable event for Gunners and civilians alike.

The Regiment changed command on 29 November from LCol Szabunio to LCol Ryan Smid, MMM, MB, CD. LCol Smid had been with 7<sup>th</sup> Toronto Regiment for parts of three years before taking command of the Regiment. He had previously served with 20<sup>th</sup> FD Reg't RCA, 1 RCHA,

2 RCHA and a number of other staff and command formations. Most recently he was the Regiment's DCO and in both 2014 and 2015 was the Battery Commander of 48 Battery at RST in Meaford.

The Regiment also saw the posting of WO Robert Morningstar, CD who had been with the Regiment as the RSS Ops WO for almost 4 years. WO Morningstar remains in the area as he is taking Second Language Training at CFB Borden with hopes to rejoin 2 RCHA shortly. His amicable disposition and work ethic will be missed but the mentorship he provided the junior leaders and technicians of the Regiment will ensure his legacy remains in years to come. He is replaced with the very capable WO Nathan Sylvester, CD who comes from 2 RCHA by way of the CF Recruiting Group. We look forward to the impact his vast expertise in the OP's will have on the Regiments shooters.

December 7, 2015 will mark the handover of 9 Battery Commander from Maj John W. Dean, CD, AdeC to Capt Miguel Ortiz-Sosa, CD. Maj Dean was appointed Battery Commander in May 2013. The Battery has undergone significant change over the last 2 ½ years. Originally a Gun and Mortar Battery, it now operates as an independent 105 mm C3 Howitzer Battery. Training culminated in March 2015 during EX BLACK HAND, which saw 7th Toronto Regiment fire regimentally in Meaford, ON. 9 Battery enjoys a healthy competition with 15 Battery in Garrison as well as the Field. This training year has seen a lot of success, including the completion of Personal Weapons Tests, Individual Battle Task Standards Training, Parade of Remembrance up Yonge Street, Remembrance Day Salute, Gun Displays at Cdn Forces Staff College and Chanukah Festival, and of course Gunnery training in Meaford. 9 Battery soldiers remain in fierce competition for positions on the Basic Parachute Course, Ironman Competitions and the Niagara Marathon. 9 Battery currently has soldiers working in support of Operation PROVISION with the Auxiliary Security Force in Trenton supporting of the arrival of permanent residents with refugee status from Syria. We are also fortunate to welcome Captain Erica Leslie, coming in from 30th Field in Ottawa, welcome Capt Leslie! The Battery is busily preparing for the Christmas season, and looking to 2016 which will bring Basic Winter Warfare Training, more live fire exercises in Meaford, and Ex BLACK HAND 2016 where we will welcome 56 Field Regiment to fire with us.

Meanwhile in 15 Battery, two members were deployed on Operations in 2015. Bdr Tenzin was handpicked for Op RENNAISANCE, the DART response after the earthquakes in Nepal and Battery Commander Maj Scott Graham deployed in the fall as a targeteer on Op IMPACT, the coalition fight against the so-called ISIL.



15 Battery took the lead in organizing a running and marching team for the 32 CBG Niagara Ultra Marathon. Under the leadership of Sgt Amber Kase who put together a team made up soldiers from the entire Regiment, she planned and organized training sessions and participated in the marching team as well. Keeping up the dismounted mortar spirit Sgt Kase also helped mentor the Regiment's Army Ironman team alongside Capt Ethan McBride who was the Team Captain. She again planned and organized team training sessions and accompanied the team to Petawawa where every team member completed the race in a respectable time. Her leadership and continuing contribution and that of BSM WO Tristan Bankasingh (RCA Sgt of the Year!) allow all with an interest in the Regiment to rest assured the future is in accomplished hands.

Our bond with the Queen's Own Rifles of Canada has continued to grow as the Battery sent two members on their Jump Course this summer, Capt Eric Laxton and Sgt Kase. Since becoming qualified jumpers both have been on jumps with QOR this fall.

Maj Graham shifted the battery's training focus from technical skills to dismounted tactics, which was displayed during FTX COUGAR SPIRIT in October. In Maj Graham's lieu Maj Nav Grewal, CD has stepped in to fill the role of BC and since has seen the battery provide support to 56 Fd Regt, RCA during their dismounted mortar exercise, FTX AUTUMN MORTAR. A contingent of 8 soldiers which consisted of a complete Mortar Detachment, and Observation Post Detachment Commander and Signaller, and a Recce Officer. Not only were we able to provide perspectives based on our dismounted mortar experience but were able to see how a different unit deploys in this capacity as well. It was a great training exercise and an opportunity to build combined training between our Regiments.

The Regimental Band and 130 Training, HQ and Service Battery have been led by Capt Ortiz-Sosa for much of the past 2 years. The Band has performed their normal, busy and diverse musical performance across the Toronto area and sent many soldier-musicians to the Ceremonial Guard in Ottawa as well as the RCA Band in Edmonton. Also, bandsman MCpl Katie Villar was able to top the 2015 PLQ course at CFB Petawawa, a course run for all trades. The Battery, which provides mostly support and untrained soldiers, still sent MCpl Sasha Shvetsov on OP REASSURANCE in Poland and Ukraine and Bdr Ginelle Espeut on OP PROVISION. 130 Battery ran an in-house OP Det Member course in the spring as well as maintaining a Troop of BMQ soldiers and a Troop of pre-PLQ soldiers.

Looking forward to 2016, the Regiment will observe the 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the founding of a permanent militia Artillery presence in Toronto. We look to build our relationships with our Regimental family as well as other Golf call signs within the Division and the manoeuvre elements in 32 CBG. We will be respecting old traditions and building new ones and, as always, remain *Ubique!*

--Compiled by Capt Paul Thompson

**WE ARE ALL RECRUITERS!  
ENCOURAGE YOUR FRIENDS AND RELATIVES TO  
JOIN!**

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**TELL THEM WHAT A GREAT REGIMENT WE HAVE, IN A GREAT  
BRIGADE  
TELL THEM WHAT ITS LIKE TO BE PART OF THE TEAM!  
STRONG, PROUD, READY!**




**PLQ  
2015-16**

<b>PLQ ARMY REG</b>	<b>PLQ DL</b>
18 Jan - 11 Mar 16	25 Apr -27 May 16 (3 Serials)
29 Mar - 20 May 16	<b>RST PLQ ARMY</b>
2 May - 24 Jun 16	25 Apr - 17 Jun 16
30 May - 24 Jul 16	(2 Serials)
2 Aug - 26 Sep 16	20 Jun - 12 Aug 16
26 Sep - 21 Nov 16	
<b>PLQ INF REG</b>	<b>RST PLQ INF</b>
23 Jan - 7 Apr 16	4 Apr - 3 Jun 16
9 May - 18 Jul 16	6 Jun - 12 Aug 16

**APPLY THROUGH YOUR CHAIN OF COMMAND**

**STRONG. PROUD. READY.  
FORTS. FIERS. PRÊTS.**

 National Defence / Défense Nationale

**Canada**



**Sign Up For:**  
**7 Tor Junior Ranks Dinner – 27 February 2016**  
**Capitol Banquet Centre in Mississauga**

Bdr Allen Noh, PMC, 7 Toronto Junior Ranks Mess

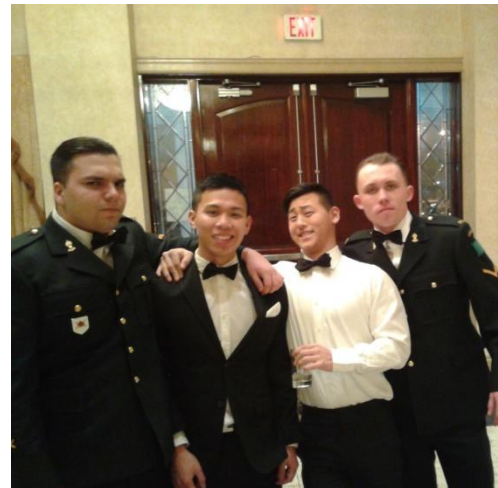
One year ago the 7 Toronto Junior Ranks Mess Committee hosted a very successful and eventful mess dinner. This committee will once again be hosting a dinner this year on the 27<sup>th</sup> of February 2016. This year 7 Toronto has invited all the artillery units from 4 Division. This includes 2 RCHA, 11, 30, 42, 49, 56, as well as any guests of a Junior Rank member. The mess dinner will be located at Capitol Banquet Centre in Mississauga, 6345 Dixie Rd.

The Dinner will begin at 1900 with a cocktail hour precursor at 1800. At only \$65.00 per person, this dinner will include a three course meal, music, tradition and an open bar. The dress for military personnel will be mess kit or DEU with white shirt and bowtie. For any guests and members without DEUs the dress will be formal attire.

There will be transportation from Moss Park Armoury to the Banquet Hall and back by means of shuttle runs. The JRs Mess back at the armoury will be available to use as sleeping quarters. If you do not wish to end the night early we have set-up a deal for discounted rooms Four Points Hotels located nearby.

There will be many VIPs at the dinner function, ranging from Honorary Colonels to the CO and RSM of the each respective unit. During the Dinner we will also be graced by the music of our very own 7<sup>th</sup> Toronto Band's Brass Quintet. This will be followed by a repeat DJ appearance by Sgt Lalor of 7<sup>th</sup> Toronto.

The mess dinner is a formal function in which we enable the brothers and sisters we work alongside to share a night of festivities and camaraderie. We are expecting over 100 members across 4 Division and look forward to seeing each and every one of you. For any member interested in attending or any questions, please speak to your unit's Junior Ranks PMC or contact Bdr Allen Noh - [allennoh@yahoo.ca](mailto:allennoh@yahoo.ca) .



*Photo from Last Year's Dinner  
Gnr Quattrociochi, Bdr Maranan,  
Bdr Noh, Gnr McCulloch*

## ST BARBARA'S DAY PHOTO

On November 28th, 2015 7th TORONTO RCA held its St Barbara Day Dinner and celebrated the dining out of LCol Paul Szabunio and Honorary LCol Tom Bitove.

Over 100 guests attended the event and we would like to offer a commemorative photo of the group. The print is a beautiful panoramic (7in X 19in).

The Cost is \$75.00

Proceeds will go to the Toronto Artillery Foundation.  
Orders can be made by email to Lt Nick Arrigo ( [nick.arrigo@yahoo.com](mailto:nick.arrigo@yahoo.com) )

Please make cheques payable to The Toronto Artillery Foundation.

Orders must be made on or before January 31st, 2016.

Pictures will be picked up at Moss Park Armouries and notifications will be made when the pictures are ready



*Toronto Garrison  
Officers Ball 2016*

*Saturday, April 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2016  
Hosted by 32 Signal Regiment*



*AllStream Centre*

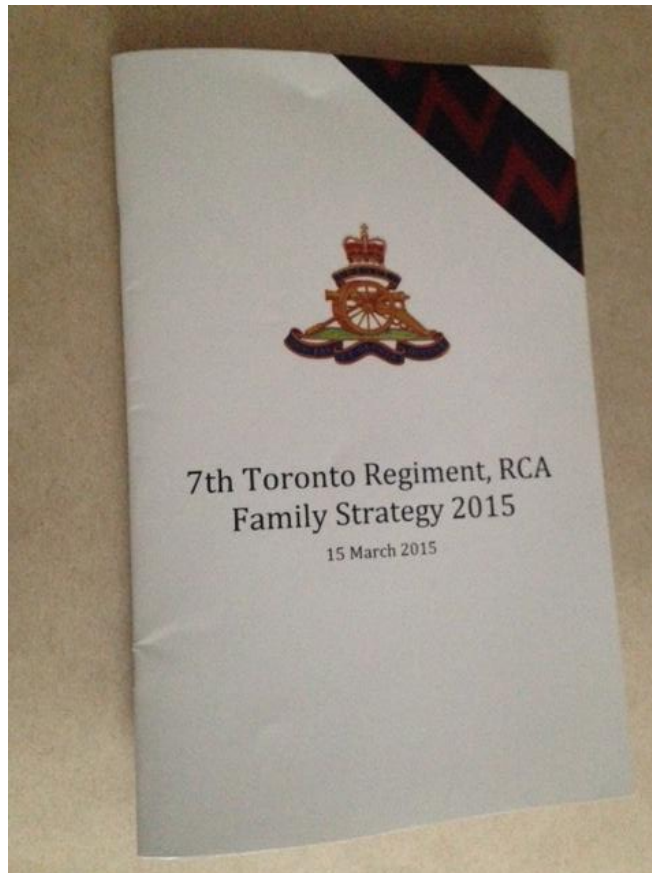
*Exhibition Place, Toronto*

*[www.torontogarrisonball.ca](http://www.torontogarrisonball.ca)*

*Tickets on sale now!*

**Reminder**  
**Read up on the Regimental Family Strategy:**  
**(Soon on our Website)**

***Mission***  
***To foster a credible, relevant, cohesive and valued 7<sup>th</sup>***  
***Toronto Regiment***



***Centre of Gravity of 7<sup>th</sup> Toronto Regimental Family***  
***People – the right number of the right people doing the right***  
***things for 7<sup>th</sup> Toronto***