

TAKE POST

THE JOURNAL OF THE TORONTO GUNNER COMMUNITY

Spring 2021 Edition 25

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This journal, "Take Post", is published under the authority of the Honoraries of the 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, letters, and articles to the "Editor" can be sent to HLCol Jeannette Chau at jchau@sympatico.ca

REGIMENTAL NEWS



Exercise PANACEA UBIQUE

The past year of COVID 19 has presented some unprecedented times for Canadians. 7th Toronto Regiment has been working hard to support the Government in the fight against COVID.

This has involved a number of significant changes in the way we do business, particularly in the areas of Operations and Training.

The Regiment was ordered to parade virtually on 16 March 2020 when the initial lockdown was announced.

The Canadian Forces generated about 900 soldiers in Ontario to assist with the fight against the virus (Op LASER), with secondary tasks to respond to spring flooding (Op LENTUS). Fortunately, it was a relatively dry 2020 and all efforts were put towards fighting the virus.

7th Toronto Regiment was proud to be able to support Op LASER with 43 members ranging in rank from Major to Gunner. Members were directly involved in the operational planning and support of Op LASER, with some of our soldiers being deployed to Long Term Care Facilities in the Greater Toronto Area assisting members of our elder community.

In person training resumed in September 2020, with priorities being placed on Individual Battle Training Skills (IBTS). An IBTS Cell was formed in 130 Battery, as soldiers were trained and tested on some of our individual weapons systems (C6, C7, C9, M72, Karl G, Pistol, Shotgun, etc).

Our training culminated with a Socially Distanced Personal Weapons Test (PWT) out in Borden in November 2020. This exercise attracted record numbers of shooters, as it was apparent that our soldiers missed being out in the field.

We were fortunate to get our November PWT shoot in, as early December saw us revert to virtual training under the control of the individual batteries.

For the first time in the history of the Regiment, our Annual Soldiers Festive Dinner was cancelled, and a Virtual Parade was held in order to promote deserving members and present the Annual Christmas present, which was a \$20 Tim Horton's gift card.

We were very fortunate to welcome Ms. Archana Patel, a Mental Health and Wellness Expert, who led us through a series of lectures designed to help ease the stress of operating virtually during the Pandemic.

The Regiment was led through a series of meditation and relaxation drills, which I know were well received by all, as our virtual training platform kept maxing out at 100 members (a problem which has since been addressed).

It appeared that we were starting to return to a state of normalcy as 9 Battery returned to in-person parading at Moss Park Armoury in order to prepare for Exercise PANACEA UBIQUE, which was a socially distant support arms exercise involving C6, C7, C9 and Shotgun live firing.

Again, soldiers came out in large numbers demonstrating their interests in returning to live field exercises.

Similar to our last exercise, we were lucky to get this in when we did, as we have once again returned to a virtual training environment as the province has been locked down again.



Regimental Summer Training continues to be a concern for the Regiment. Many of you are aware that Reserve Summer Training was cancelled during the summer of 2020. As a result we have 2 years worth of training backlog, which we need to clear.

The Artillery in 4th Canadian Division is working on a plan in an attempt to salvage Reserve Summer Training for 2021. The plan involves decentralizing the training across Ontario, allowing courses to be run in local armouries across Ontario allowing soldiers to return home to their residences at night, and remain socially distant during classroom/lecture settings.

Qualification shoots will be completed in Meaford, ON under the guidance of 48 Bty. This will help to reduce the number of soldiers congregating in Meaford during the summer, while allowing the Artillery to clear up some of our training backlog.

This method of training delivery also allows us to shift our instructors, from a full time Class B staff during the day, to a Class A part time cadre during the evenings. This enables us to have access to Class A staff who may not be permanently available to instruct for the whole summer in Meaford.

Members who are interested in either instructing, or completing a career course, should get in touch with their chain of command asap, as well as their employer, to ensure maximum time to course load, while allowing employers the chance to backfill your position for the summer months.

The situation with the virus will dictate how successful Reserve Summer Training will be in 2021. We can enforce success by remaining socially distant, and practicing healthy hygiene practices like wearing masks in public, along with frequent hand washing/sanitizing.

Stay safe and healthy.

UBIQUE!



REGIMENTAL ORDERS PART II

Honours, Awards, Promotions & Appointments

Promotions

Congratulations to those who have recently been promoted!

| Rank & Name |
|--|
| Bdr David |
| Bdr Massicotte (signed but not awarded in-person yet at time of Take Post writing) |



Bombardier David

Appointments

As of March 2021

| NAME | POSITION |
|-----------------------|-----------------------|
| <i>RHQ</i> | |
| LCol Grewal | CO |
| CWO Cooke | RSM |
| Maj Dean | 2IC |
| <i>9 Bty</i> | |
| Maj Roach | BC 9 |
| MWO Murray | BSM 9 |
| Capt Laxton | BK 9 |
| Lt Fa | GPO |
| Sgt An | BQMS |
| <i>15 Bty</i> | |
| Maj McBride | BC 15 |
| MWO Lombara | BSM 15 |
| Capt Henry | BK 15 |
| | GPO |
| Lt Cham | LUSAR TC |
| Sgt Harris | RECRUIT TROOP TC |
| <i>130 Bty</i> | |
| Capt Morningstar | ADJT |
| PO2 Watson | RC HRA |
| Sgt Wood | FIN NCO |
| Maj Graham | OPS O/RCPO |
| Sgt Bingham | OPS WO |
| Capt Radulescu-Galang | LUSAR SME |
| Sgt Noh A. | RQMS |
| Capt Clarke | PADRE |
| Lt Orellano-Castillo | FINANCE OFFICER |
| Capt Arrigo | DIRECTOR OF MUSIC |
| MWO Hicks | BAND MASTER MUSICIAN |
| 2Lt Malik | IBTS CELL TEAM LEADER |
| WO Etorma | IBTS CELL TEAM 2IC |
| MBdr Latta | RECRUIT OFFICER |

Some thoughts from HCol Mark Clearihue

Despite the effects of COVID-19, our Regiment continues to function effectively. While in-person training and exercises have been impacted, primary functions are being carried out and the use of technology has aided the ability to meet and communicate. While these are trying times, remaining true to responsibilities under difficult conditions is a high form of service. Congrats to the Command Team and all members for your dedication and professionalism.

A Reason To Celebrate!



This year, 2021, marks the 150th Anniversary of the founding of the Royal Regiment of Canadian Artillery!

Back in 1871, Great Britain withdrew most of its remaining regular army units from Canada. In response, on 20 October, 1871, Canada's Militia General Order No. 24 authorized the formation of "A" and "B" Batteries in Kingston and Quebec City respectively. They were staffed by officers and men from active militia units and a

nucleus of instructors formerly of the Royal Artillery. They became gunnery schools as well as performing garrison duties. Thus, this date is considered the Royal Regiment of Canadian Artillery's birthday.

Between 1 April and 4 December, the RCA will use this anniversary to commemorate the Artillery's contribution to the defence of Canada. The 150th Anniversary of the formation of "A" and "B" Batteries will serve to strengthen the Regimental Family, promote and enhance the Artillery's contribution to the success of the Canadian Army and the CAF, and increase Canadians' awareness of the RCA and our presence in their communities.

So, how will this 150th celebratory occasion be marked? Originally, the RCA had several key physical gatherings scheduled across Canada as a way to celebrate. Unfortunately, the continued effect of COVID-19 has caused many of these get-togethers to be cancelled. So, the celebrations have pivoted towards unit activities and virtual events. Some highlights are:

- Participation in this year's Canada Army run, branded as U-150, which will be held virtually in September. HLCol Chau is organizing a 7th Toronto team entry along with Bdr David.
- A video contest among RCA Regiments. 7th Toronto was the first unit in the RCA to make its submission!
- Mounting the Queen's Guard at Buckingham Palace and Windsor Castle by 1 RCHA and The RCA Band.
- Rededication of the RCHA Memorial in Kingston to include the names of the fallen from Korea to Afghanistan.

- Visit to Canada of the Master Gunner of St. James Park.
- Proclamation of Alliances with the Royal Regiment of Australian Artillery and the Royal Regiment of New Zealand Artillery.
- Issuance by Canada Post of a custom-designed commemorative U-150 envelope.
- Wearing of UBIQUE 150 Patches on operational dress during the commemorative period. Patches available for purchase from CANEX.
- Commissioning by the Royal Canadian Artillery Association of a special UBIQUE 150 whisky from Glen Breton distillery.
- A coast-to-coast virtual toast open to all RCA members on 26 May. Details to come,
- Other events currently in the planning stage.

Your Command Team is aware of the significance of UBIQUE 150 and, despite the effects of the pandemic, we will find appropriate ways to mark this very significant year in the history of The Guns. Stay tuned for more information and check-out:

<http://rca-arc.org/heritage/ubique-150/>

In the meantime, please stay safe. If you need assistance of any kind, reach out to your colleagues, your chain of command, to the 7Tor support unit, or to your Honoraries. We are all family and in this together.

UBIQUE!

HCol Mark Clearihue

7 TORONTO RCA BAND



During the Pandemic, the band has been maintaining their skills and keeping up to date with distance Learning. Musical Projects have been virtual, as most things have become. This has been very complicated as technology does not allow for bands to play simultaneously over the internet, so virtual performances have been pieced together through available technology.

In September, as the first resumption of training began, we ventured to satisfy conditions to allow a return to rehearsing. Bdr Amy Sandford, Gnr Sarah Bland, Pte R Kyle McAllister, Pte Thomas Gaudet, MCpl Dillon Leong and myself built frames to protect our musicians. Unfortunately, the situation in Toronto made rehearsals dangerous and they were cancelled until the pandemic conditions improved.

Our projects to date have included a virtual performance in May 2020 of Voice of the Guns

(<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=K9F3kw4RGjo>) and in September 2020, we produced a recording of the 10 provinces (<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=fTn8SzbEsLM>). Both performances we edited by MWO Darrin Hicks.

Musical Projects on the horizon include a couple of combined performances. In

celebration of the 150th anniversary of the Artillery, we will be combining for a musical Artillery tribute with all the artillery bands across the country.

In the past year, Bdr Sandford, MBdr David Marshall, Pte Thomas Gaudet, and myself joined Op Laser. Pte Gaudet was sent up to Borden to the Territorial Battle Group 1 and was deployed into long term care homes. Bdr Sandford and MBdr Marshall were deployed in Toronto in preparation for deployment and they were tasked to assist on courses throughout the summer. I participated in the Command post as Duty officer and the TBG 1 as the Adjt in Borden for the end of the mission.

Members who attended courses during the summer include Gnr Sarah Bland, who completed BMQ and BMQ Land. She also complete music courses for RQ Pte. Pte Kyle McAllister completed RQ PTE and is now on BMQ on weekends. Pte(R) Aria Singh is currently on her BMQ on another serial of weekends. Bdr Nathaniel Jenkins, at the time of this article is on his last module of PLQ in Meaford and we look forward to having him back in Toronto.

The band continues to meet virtually (Thank goodness for Zoom). In these meetings, we ensure each other's wellbeing and updating on the news from the Regiment. We look forward to the time that our rehearsals will become in person and then we can resume performances. Take Care.

Capt Nicolo Arrigo

VIDEO CONTEST

In 2021, we will be commemorating the 150th anniversary of the formation of A&B Batteries, which is acknowledged as the birth of the Royal Regiment of Canadian Artillery (The RCA).

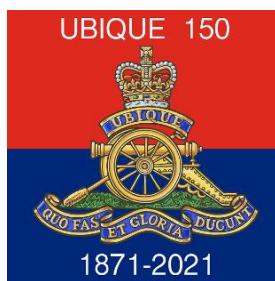
The RCA comprises 23 regular and reserve force regiments and independent batteries represented in 33 communities from Victoria to Yarmouth. 7th Toronto Regiment is one of them.

150 years is a significant amount of time and something to mark in a special way.

Artillery units across Canada are being challenged to create a video (can use just a smartphone) to help showcase the artillery and may be used for future recruitment or sources of pride for the units.

Topics:

- Why you should join the Artillery?
- The best part of the Artillery is...
- Why Artillery is an important part of the Army and the CAF?



UBIQUE 150 “Good Shooting” Video Contest

In conjunction with the commemoration of 150th Anniversary of A & B Batteries, The Royal Regiment of Canadian Artillery is pleased to announce a video production contest.

Prizes will be awarded to 3 winners:

1st place receives \$2,000

2nd place receives \$1,000

3rd place receives \$500

Important dates

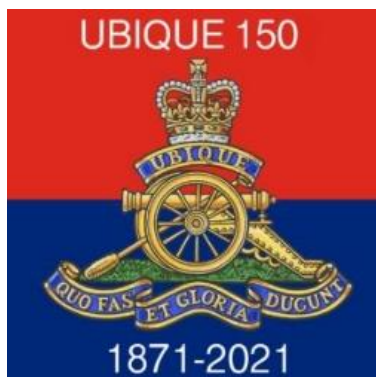
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|------------------------------|---------------------------|
| Submissions accepted between | 1 January – 30 April 2021 |
| Judging starts | 1 May 2021 |
| Winners announced | 26 May 2021 |

Eligibility

Submissions are open to **teams** consisting of **current and/or retired members of The Royal Regiment of Canadian Artillery**. Each team can submit more than one entry but only one prize will be awarded to any unit.

All details on the contest and a Webinar on how to edit a video are at
ubique150.org

UBIQUE 150 PATCH



This year marks the sesquicentennial of the formation of A and B Batteries.

As part of the Regiment's commemoration programme, UBIQUE 150, the Commander of the Canadian Army has approved all ranks of The Royal Regiment of Canadian Artillery, including gunners posted to extra-regimental employment positions, to wear the UBIQUE 150 patch on the No. 5B Operational Dress (CADPAT). In order to avoid confusion and recognize the indispensable role of non-artillery members of The Royal Regiment in allowing us to shoot, move and communicate, it should be understood that **all personnel in units of The Royal Regiment, regardless of trade, are welcome to wear the patch. The patch will be worn during the UBIQUE 150 commemorative period from 1 April to 4 December 2021 on the left sleeve below the Canadian Flag.**

These patches are an optional dress item, though all Gunners are strongly encouraged to wear it with pride. As with other Canadian Army CADPAT patches, CANEX has been selected as the provider and will be offered for sale in both the retail stores and online at CANEX.ca in the near future. The patches may be purchased by individuals, or if desired, units may purchase them using their Non-Public Funds at which time soldiers will be expected to wear them under CO's direction. Once a release date has been arranged, RHQ RCA will share this information via e-mail and social media. Only the patches manufactured and sold through CANEX are authorized.

UBIQUE 150 Patch is now available for sale through Canex at the following link and not through RCA Kitshop.

***Temporarily out of stock**

This Patch is available for purchase to the general public from Canex. Nothing precludes them from wearing them in a respectful manner.

Other commemorative items:

<http://rca-arc.org/heritage/ubique-150/ubique-150-commemorative-items/>

RESOURCES

FAMILY BATTLE BOX

The 'Family Battle Box' provides resources intended to inform and support Military and Veteran families. It includes support services and crisis services available 24 hours a day, 365 days a year and can be accessed at this link:

<https://my.stickyfolios.com/tgyzr1p41qdp>



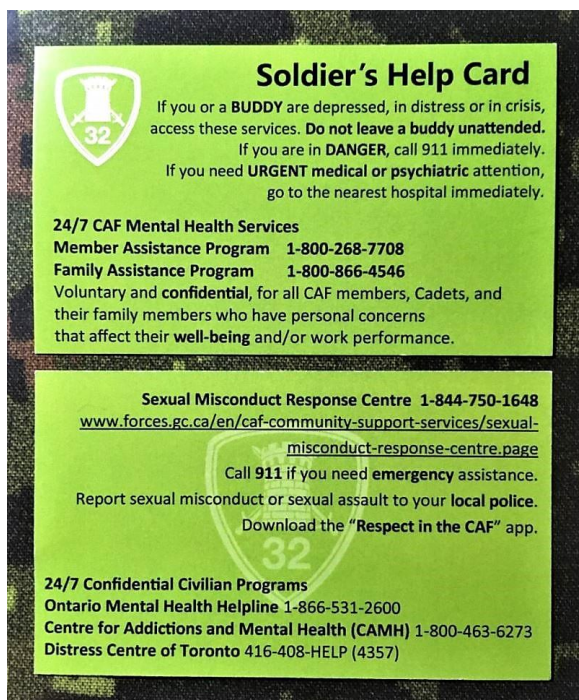
Any member, Regular Force or Reserve Force, or a member of their family may contact the Canadian Forces Member Assistance Program (CFMAP) for any reason. CFMAP counsellors will ensure that families are connected with supports appropriate to their unique situation.

While both providing mental health supports, the key difference between CFMAP and the Family Information Line is that CFMAP provides referral to clinical counselling and mental health treatment services while the Family Information Line provides emotional support and counselling services. **CFMAP -**

Canadian Forces Member Assistance Program: 1-800-268-7708

Are you: a currently serving reserve force member whose issue is individual and NOT in the context of a family need or issue? We will help you find appropriate support. **Contact TMFRC Prevention, Support and Intervention Coordinator – Shara Claire,**
Shara.Claire@TorontoMFRC.ca

Are you: a family member of a regular or reserve force member; or a currently serving regular force or reserve force member and the issue for which you are seeking help is in the context of a family need or issue? Contact **TMFRC Prevention, Support and Intervention Coordinator - Shara Claire,**
Shara.Claire@TorontoMFRC.ca



Soldier's Help Card

If you or a **BUDDY** are depressed, in distress or in crisis, access these services. **Do not leave a buddy unattended.**
If you are in **DANGER**, call 911 immediately.
If you need **URGENT medical or psychiatric** attention, go to the nearest hospital immediately.

24/7 CAF Mental Health Services
Member Assistance Program 1-800-268-7708
Family Assistance Program 1-800-866-4546
 Voluntary and confidential, for all CAF members, Cadets, and their family members who have personal concerns that affect their **well-being** and/or work performance.

Sexual Misconduct Response Centre 1-844-750-1648
www.forces.gc.ca/en/caf-community-support-services/sexual-misconduct-response-centre.page
 Call **911** if you need **emergency** assistance.
 Report sexual misconduct or sexual assault to your **local police**.
 Download the "**Respect in the CAF**" app.

24/7 Confidential Civilian Programs
Ontario Mental Health Helpline 1-866-531-2600
Centre for Addictions and Mental Health (CAMH) 1-800-463-6273
Distress Centre of Toronto 416-408-HELP (4357)

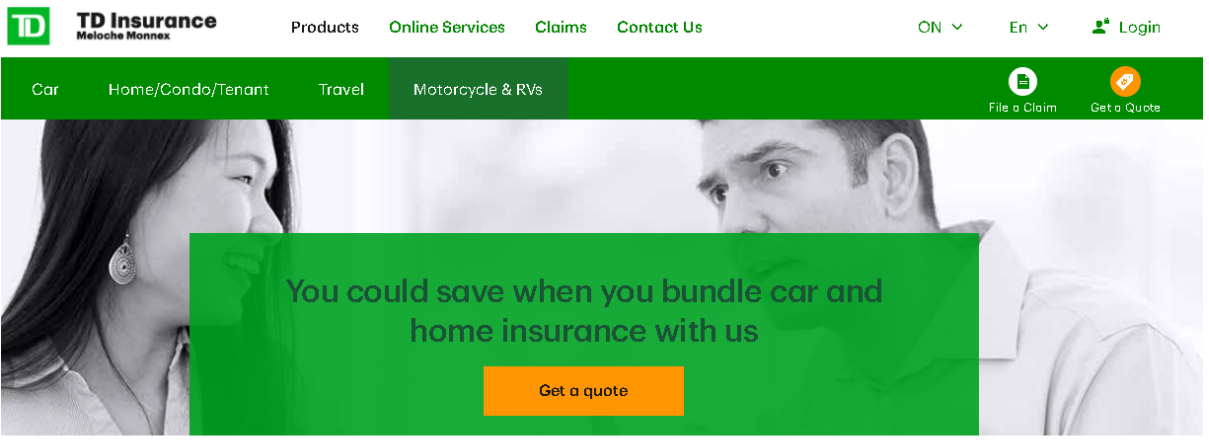
UNIT SUPPORT CELL

Reminder that the Regiment also has a Unit Support Cell for all members of the 7th Toronto Regiment. Should you feel you need to reach out to somebody during COVID 19, the following pers are available to receive your call:

- a) Maj John Dean, Second in Command
 Email: John.Dean@forces.gc.ca
 Phone: 647-649-7947
- b) MWO James Lombara, Battery Sergeant Major
 Email: James.Lombara@gmail.com
 Phone: 647-829-9844
- c) HCol Mark Clearihue, Senior Regimental Advisor
 Email: Mark.Clearihue@gmail.com
 Phone: 905-330-3072
- d) HLCol Jeannette Chau, Senior Regimental Advisor
 Email: JChau@sympatico.ca
 Phone: 416-697-9511

INSURANCE SAVINGS!

RCAA Members get Preferential Insurance Rates from TD Meloche.

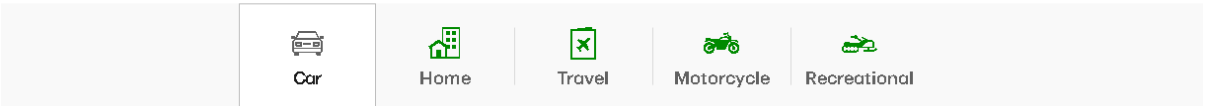


Coverage that fits your needs

Welcome Royal Canadian Artillery Association Members

Being a member means you have privileged access to the TD Insurance Meloche Mannex program, which provides savings through lower preferred insurance rates, plus enhanced protection that can be adapted seamlessly to your changing needs.

See how TD Insurance coverage fits your needs



As members of the Royal Canadian Artillery Association (RCAA), soldiers of the 7th Toronto, RCA are eligible for preferential Auto and Home Insurance rates from TD Meloche.

“The Royal Regiment of Canadian Artillery <http://rca-arc.org/> – also referred to as “The Royal Regiment”, “The Regiment” or “The RCA” – comprises the Regular and Reserve units and personnel of the artillery branch of the Canadian Armed Forces.

In order to obtain these rates simply go to <http://rca-arc.org/the-rca-association/join-us/> click on the **Serving Members Join Here!** button and fill out your information. Your member fees have already been paid for by the Regiment.

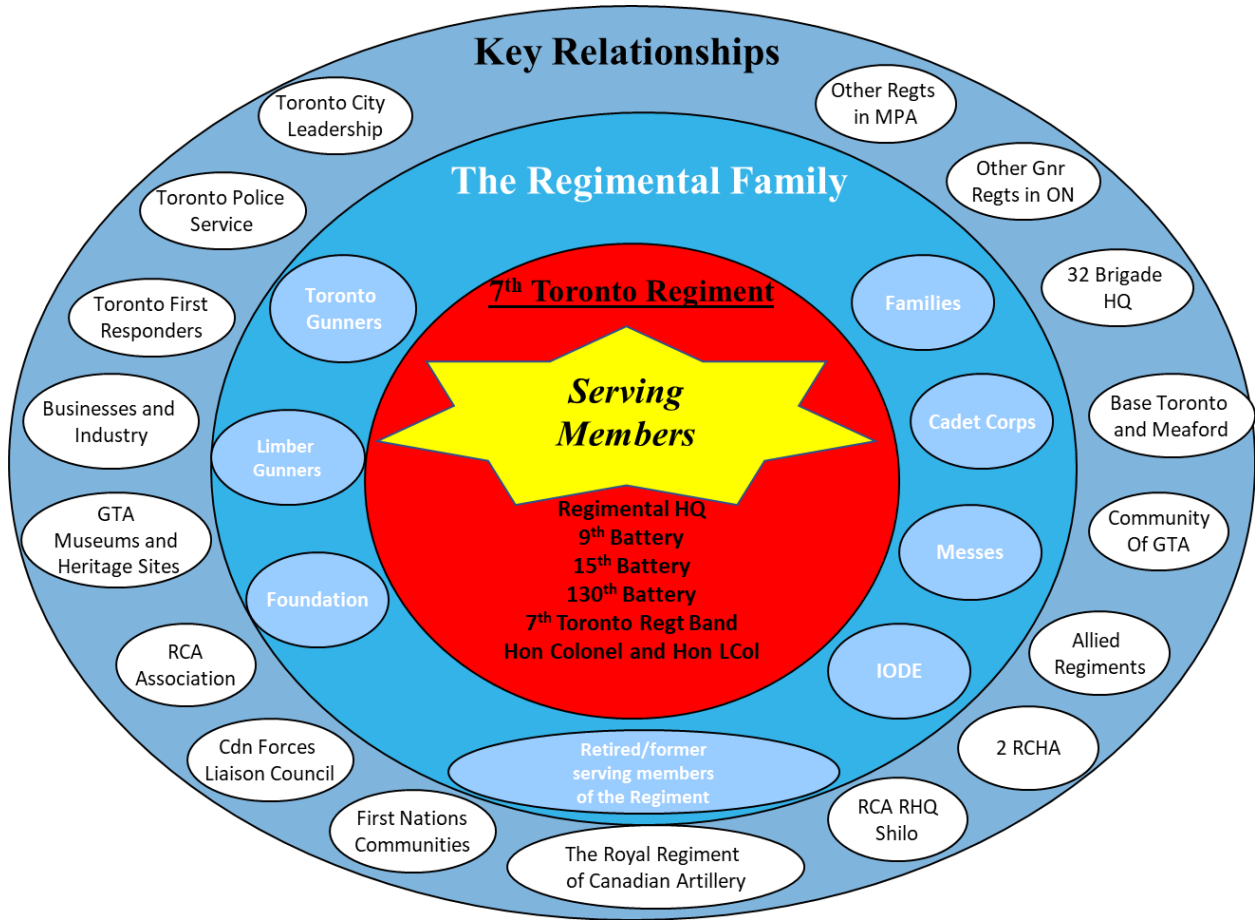
Once that is done you can contact **TD Meloche** by clicking on <https://www.tdinsurance.com/affinity/rca-aarc> or calling them at **1 877 777 7136**.

Be sure to mention you belong to the Royal Canadian Artillery Association and are seeking their preferential affinity rates. I recently signed up myself and the rates were quite competitive. Also, you are helping the RCAA and its support programs as they get a small contribution from TD Meloche.

Ubique!

B. (Bill) Kalogerakis, CD
Colonel (Ret'd)
Vice President, Royal Canadian Artillery Association, &
Former CO, 7 Toronto, RCA

NEWS FROM THE REGIMENTAL FAMILY



The Regimental Family consists of many components, all working together in support of the Regiment.

A REGIMENTAL FAMILY LEADERSHIP

meeting was held on March 17.

How to keep and maintain the relationships of the Regimental Family in face of the challenges caused by the pandemic was a topic of conversation.

Update on the status of the Regiment, UBIQUE150, changes due to COVID, proposed name change of the Toronto Gunners to Toronto Artillery Association, and the unit's video entry for UBIQUE150 video contest were also discussed.



LIMBER GUNNERS



25 pounders

Unfortunately the COVID19 pandemic has put a halt currently to many of the activities of the Limber Gunners.

The Limber Gunners held a virtual meeting on March 1st.

An update on the legal status of the 25 pounders was given. Positive strides have been made and we look forward to the guns being able to fire alongside the regiment once again.

105 ARMY CADETS UPDATE

It's been a full year since 105 has been able to meet in person and over that time much adapting has been done in order to facilitate the continuation of the Canadian Cadet Organization (CCO) training. As a branch of the Forces, the CCO was subject to the same restrictions as all other components of the Forces which meant the suspension of any in person activities.

The CCO Units are solely Training Units that youth participate in for the training, activities and camaraderie it provides. What that means for the directing staff of CIC Officers, Civilian Instructors (CI) and Civilian Volunteers (CV) is that we must make the program interesting, captivating and geared to youth development while following mandated training. Otherwise, they will choose to leave the program.

Hence the challenge the CCO has had that other branches of the Forces have not encountered. Further to that challenge, where almost everything is done virtually, the youth spend their day in front of a computer "at school". "Screen fatigue" has been a factor in the development of this year's Training Plan.

Much of the credit to reduce that fatigue goes out to my DCO (and former TrgO), Lt Shannon Pecore, for creating this year's Training Plan and being a driving force in ensuring that Cadet engagement remained high, mitigating attrition. The virtual environment also allowed my RSM, C/CWO Caleb Tang, to be able to lead the Unit from post secondary school in Waterloo, a situation that would never have occurred during the in-person training.

In March of 2020, 105 RCACC had 105 Cadets registered (between the ages of 12 through to 18).

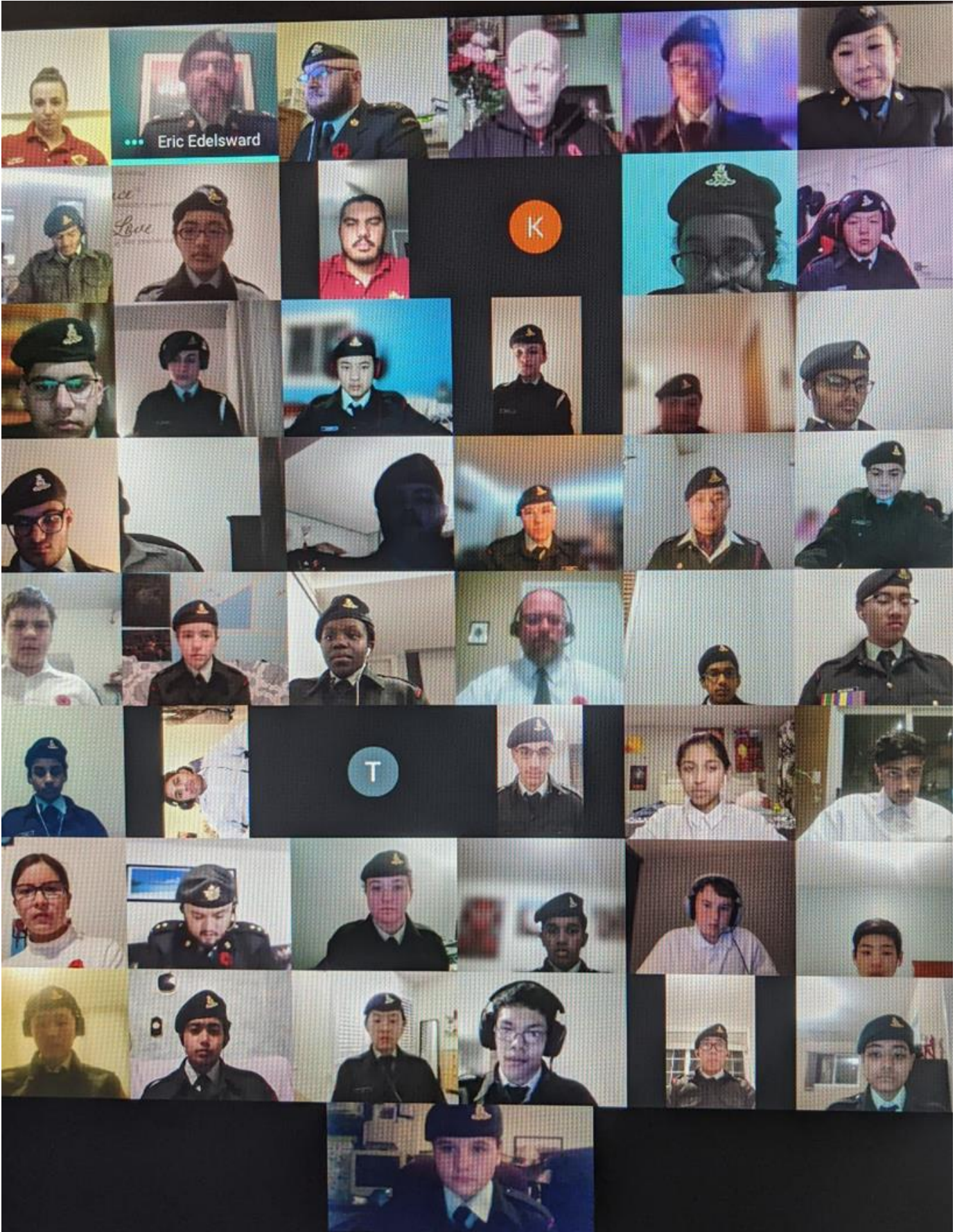
As of today, our number of Cadets is 81. This is due to both cadets aging out of the program and the inability to enroll new members in person. Since resuming in October, we have managed to keep most of our enrolled cadets engaged and have only had 9 cadets choose not to return. We have a weekly virtual engagement average of over sixty-five of the eighty-one registered.

Since December of 2019, we have gained two new Officers to our Unit. A transfer from another Unit, Lt Muhammad Ali, who was just appointed Training Officer on 5 March 2021. As well as our newest Officer Cadet Brad Hovenden, who was sworn in on 1 Dec 2020. We are currently at full staffing levels.

My headquarters staff (adults and Senior Cadets) have worked hard to create a dynamic and experiential program. Please stay tuned for a more detailed recap of what we were able to do in the June issue.

I also encourage you to also take a look at our website: <http://www.105armycadets.ca/>

Major Eric Edelswärd
Commanding Officer,
105 Royal Canadian Army Cadet Corps (RCACC)
Eric.Edelsward@cadets.gc.ca / Tel: 416-577-37



A breakdown of the appointments, staffing profile and Cadet engagement is listed below:

Maj E. Edelswärd is the Corps' CO

Lt S. Pecore is the Corps' DCO, and Unit and Area UPAR

C/CWO C. Tang was the Corps' Regimental Sergeant Major until his birthday on 05 Mar 21

C/MWO D. Metha is the Corps' Regimental Sergeant Major and former Drill Sergeant Major

Lt M. Ali is the Corps' Training Officer, Silver Star Level Coordinator and Recruiting Officer

Lt B. Fung is the Corps' Virtual Training Lesson Coordinator, Standards Officer, RSO, Camp Coordinator,
Master Cadet Level Coordinator and Marksmanship Coach

Lt N. Harper is the Corps' Administration Officer and RSO

Lt M. Petruzzi is the Corps' Green Star Level Coordinator

OCdt B. Hovenden is the Red Star Level Coordinator and Adult Staff PMC.

Pte K. Dang is a Red Star Level Officer

CI L. Worsley, is the Corps' Band Officer / Director and Assistant Administration Officer

CV B. Clark is the Corps' Supply Officer / Corps Quartermaster Stores and Adjutant

CV D. Perez is the Corps' Gold Star Level Coordinator, Sports Officer

CV M. Weir-Cotnoir is the Corps' Fire Warden / Safety Officer, COVID-19 Safety Officer, Assistant Supply
Officer and Green Star Level Officer

C/CWO N. Brotohusodo is the Corps' Training Sergeant Major and a Corps Cadet Correspondent

WO T. Maitland is a Regional RSM Committee Member (one of three Cadets selected in the Province) and
Cadet Mess PMC

WO K. Nayiga is a Corps Cadet Correspondent, a member of the NGTA Senior Cadet Advisory Council and the
Cadet Mess Secretary

Sgt M. Haidry is a member of the NGTA Senior Cadet Advisory Council

Sgt E. Lee is a Corps Cadet Correspondent

Sgt A. Newall is a Corps Cadet Correspondent and the Cadet Mess VPMC

MBdr E. Cummings is the Cadet Mess Treasurer

CV R. D'Souza is the Corps' Support Committee President

CV N. Patterson is the Corps' Support Committee Treasurer and IT Networks Coordinator

CV W. Xavier is a Corps Support Committee Secretary

CV T. Hoang is the Corps' Canteen Coordinator and a Corps Support Committee Director

CV C. Thomas is a Corps Support Committee Director

CV C. Xavier is a Corps Support Committee Director

CV F. Capuano is a Corps Support Committee Member

Mr. K. Pecore is the Corps' Webmaster

FORMER CO RETIRES

COL KALOGERAKIS RETIRES AFTER 40 YEARS

By LCol (Ret'd) Robert Christopher

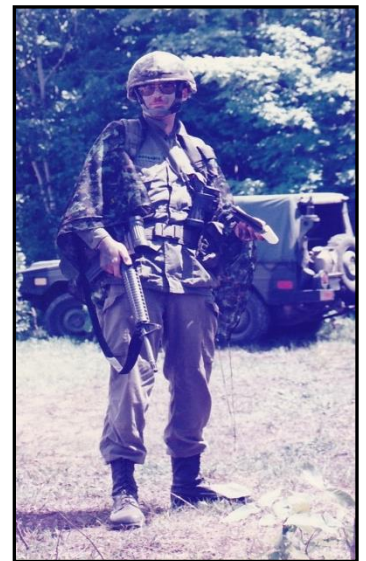
After serving in the Canadian Armed Forces (CAF) for 40 years, Colonel Basilios (Bill) Kalogerakis has retired. It is a spectacular accomplishment, and an admirable demonstration of tenacity, dedication, and determination. I have known Col Kalogerakis throughout his 40-year career, given we both started as artillery Reservists at 2nd Field Artillery Regiment, Royal Canadian Artillery (RCA), in Montreal. Back in 1980 he was a new recruit, and I was a Bombardier and instructor on his Basic Military Qualification Course. I have a vivid memory of seeing him in the ranks as I gave drill instruction, as he was one of the tallest recruits there, and he stood out. Many years later Col Kalogerakis and I would both be Captains, and fellow students, on the artillery Battery Commander's Course at the Artillery School at Canadian Forces Base Gagetown. Col Kalogerakis later went on to command 7 Toronto Artillery Regiment, RCA (7 Tor), and I went on to command 56 Field Artillery Regiment, RCA. The close friendship resulted in our having a strong spirit of cooperation and support for each other and the Guns, which created synergies that made the artillery units we commanded more robust and capable. Here is his story.



Bdr Kalogerakis, 2Fd Regt RCA circa 1981

Col Kalogerakis was born in Montreal in 1963. After spending three years in 811 Royal Canadian Air Cadet Squadron, he joined the 2nd Field Artillery Regiment, RCA, in his home town in 1980 as a Gunner. He subsequently trained as an Artillery Officer and had the opportunity to attend the 1987 REFORGER exercise in West Germany as an Umpire. In September 1996, as a Captain, he transferring to 7 Tor. A couple of years earlier I too transferred to 7 Tor from 30 Field Artillery Regiment, RCA, Ottawa, and so Col Kalogerakis and I again worked together, but as Captains.

At 7 Tor he held all the major unit positions and was appointed Commanding Officer in November 2005. In June 2009 Col Kalogerakis relinquished command of 7 Tor and was appointed Assistant Chief of Staff at 32 Canadian Brigade Group (CBG) Headquarters. During August 2010 Col Kalogerakis deployed to the high arctic as the Land Component Commander for OPERATION NANOOK, a multi-agency multi-national sovereignty operation along the Northwest Passage. In January 2012 he was appointed Deputy Commander 32 CBG and in June 2012 he completed the Canadian Forces College's Joint Command and Staff Program. In September 2013 Col Kalogerakis was appointed Reserve Advisor and Senior Staff Officer, Artillery, at 4 Canadian Division Headquarters in Toronto.



Capt Kalogerakis, BC9, 7 Tor, 1999.



Col Kalogerakis in Estonia, 2019.

In July 2014 he was promoted to the rank of Colonel and appointed Regional Liaison Officer to the Canadian Forces Liaison Council where he and his team assisted civilian directors promote the value of military Reservists to employers. In September 2017 Col Kalogerakis was appointed Director International Reserve Outreach (DIRO), part of the Vice Chief of Defence Staff's Chief Reserves and Employer Support group. As DIRO he represented Canada on the Council of the Inter-allied Confederation of Reserve Officers (CIOR), a NATO affiliated agency tasked with advising the alliance on Reserve issues and promoting Reserve Officer professional development. Col Kalogerakis retired from the army in December 2020, ending 40 years of service. Col Kalogerakis has since accepted the position of Vice President of the Royal Canadian Artillery Association, where he will continue to serve the Guns.

In civilian life, Col Kalogerakis has been employed in the mining industry for all of his career, both in technical and equipment sales roles. Col Kalogerakis has a Bachelor of Science degree, Specialization in Analytical Chemistry, and a Masters of Business Administration degree from Concordia University in Montreal.

Col Kalogerakis is married to Nikki, a former 2 Fd RCA and Toronto Scottish officer, and they are the proud parents of Alex and Greg, both of whom are Reservists in the Queens Own Rifles of Canada. They live in Whitby, Ontario, and in his spare time Col Kalogerakis enjoys reading and cycling.



Congratulations to Col Kalogerakis for his distinguished 40-year career serving the Guns, and his country. He is twice the citizen. As they say in the artillery when a fire mission has been successfully completed, for Col Kalogerakis its "Rounds Completed, Fire Effective, End of Mission!" Ubique!

DID YOU KNOW?

Did you know that the sword that is carried by BC9 on parade belonged to the late LCol Jim Cook, CD who served the guns in north Africa and in Europe during the Second World War?

Capt (retired) David Rumball, CD, one-time BC130 back in the 1990s with 7RCA and now in Peterborough, was sorting through some old papers the other day that came to him from the effects of the late LCol Jim Cook, CD whom he had befriended in the 1980s until his passing about 20 years ago.

David took the time to write to Take Post to say hello to the regiment and tell us about that memory.

LCol Cook presented his sword and miniatures to the unit in the early 2000s at a Mess dinner that he and Capt Rumball were attending.

The sword is carried by BC9 on parade.

Also amongst Jim's papers that David had kept was a poem written by the late Col John R. Matheson (1917-2013), who served in 1RCHA during the same war as LCol Cook. They were friends for several years.

The poem is entitled "UBIQUE" which David remarked comes as no surprise.

The editor notes that another gunner, John McCrae, wrote the famous poem *In Flanders Fields*. It seems we have very thoughtful, poetic gunners.

Thanks, David, for sending this personal piece of history to us.

From David Rumball, Capt(ret'd), CD:

UBIQUE

Col John R. Matheson (1917-2013)

*St Peter met me at the gate
After a sobering long wait
He wanted to know where I had been
In an ugly world so full of sin
"Gagetown, Lahr and then Larkhill
The Congo and Egypt - with no ill will
Cyprus and Shilo, near Brandon way
Just about everywhere, Ubique.*

*"By God, you're a gunner!" Peter said
And with his arm he gently led
Me to St Barbara's house of peace
Where seasoned warriors find release.
Peter remarked as he went away
"We will palaver another day
Some men follow where duty calls -
Kindly fellows with iron balls."*

(excerpt from Wikipedia)

John Ross Matheson, [OC CD QC FRHSC](#) (November 14, 1917 – December 27, 2013) was a Canadian politician, lawyer, and judge who helped develop both the national flag of Canada and the [Order of Canada](#).

Military career

Matheson served as an officer with the 1st Field Regiment, [Royal Canadian Horse Artillery](#), [1st Canadian Infantry Division](#) in Italy during [World War II](#). He was the only officer in this regiment to survive the war.

Matheson participated in the [Battle of Ortona](#), where an air bursting German shell sent shrapnel into his head and caused damage similar to a stroke. He was left paralyzed from the neck down and unable to speak. He recovered after returning to Canada, but never regained the use of his right leg. His injuries caused him lifelong pain, and afterwards, he usually walked with the assistance of a cane.

Good shooting!

UBIQUE

