

WEST NOVA SCOTIA REGIMENT



2006

2016

EIGHTIETH ANNIVERSARY

THE WEST NOVA SCOTIA REGIMENT

Perpetuating the

69th 1st Annapolis Battalion of Infantry

72nd 2nd Annapolis Battalion of Infantry

75th Lunenburg Battalion of Infantry

112th Battalion of Infantry, C.E.F.

219th Battalion of Infantry, C.E.F.

HONORARY APPOINTMENTS

Honorary Colonel: Colonel the Honourable John G. Leefe, DCL

Honorary Lieutenant Colonel: Colonel Eric K. Meisner, CD

BATTLE HONOURS

THE WAR OF 1812

Defense of Canada 1812-1815

THE GREAT WAR

112th Battalion CEF : **ARRAS 1917, '18, HILL 70, AMIENS,**

HINDENBURG LINE, PURSUIT TO MONS

- 219th Battalion CEF: **ARRAS 1917, '18, YPRES 1917, AMIENS,**

HINDENBURG LINE, PURSUIT TO MONS

THE SECOND WORLD WAR

LANDING IN SICILY, Valguanera, Adrano

CATENANUOVA, Centuripe, Sicily 1943, Landing at Reggio, **POTENZA**, Gambatesa,

THE SANGRO, Castel di Sangro, **THE GULLY**, Cassino II, Gustav Line, Liri Valley,

HITLER LINE, Melfa Crossing, **GOTHIC LINE, LAMONE CROSSING, RIMINI LINE,**

San Martino-San Lorenzo, San Fortunato, Savio Bridgehead, Italy 1943-1945, Apeldoorn,

NORTH-WEST EUROPE 1945

POST-WORLD WAR TWO

Afghanistan

Motto: "*Semper Fidelis*" - "*Always Faithful*"

Headquarters: Bullock Armoury, Camp Aldershot, Nova Scotia

Quick March: "God Bless The Prince of Wales"

Slow March: "Garb of Old Gaul"

Association: The West Nova Scotia Regiment Regimental Association

Colours: Royal Blue, Gold, and Crimson

Birthday: 15 December 1936

AFFILIATED CADET CORPS

1714 Annapolis Valley Cadet Corps—Annapolis Royal, Nova Scotia

686 Bridgetown Cadet Corps—Bridgetown, Nova Scotia

2688 Bridgewater Cadet Corps—Bridgewater, Nova Scotia

2444 Kings County Cadet Corps—Aldershot, Nova Scotia

603 RCACC—Weymouth, Nova Scotia

ALLIED REGIMENT

Duke of Lancaster's Regiment

(Queen's Lancashire Regiment until 1 July 2006)

West Nova

80th Anniversary of the West Nova Scotia Regiment
Volume IV
December 2016

CONTENTS



The "West Nova" is published with the kind permission of Lieutenant Colonel TW Harris, CD.

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Messages from	
the Honorary Colonel	2
the Honorary Lieutenant Colonel	3
the Commanding Officer	4
the Regimental Sergeant Major	5
the President of the Regimental Association	6
“A” Company Report	8
EXERCISE SOUTHBOUND TROOPER.....	10
WNSR Soldiers Deployed to Afghanistan	12
Canadian Patrol Concentration 2013-2016	16
Good Reasons to Replace the Regimental Colour.....	17
Everybody Likes Photos	18
A West Nova Museum	21
For Years, We had a Grand Band	22
Colours of the West Nova Scotia Regiment	26
The Regimental Association in Times of Change	28
Royal Canadian Legion Online Database	32
In Memory of Fallen Comrades 2006-2016	33
In Memoriam for two who died in service	37
More than a Shiny Disc	39
Five West Nova Affiliated RCACC	41
2688 (Bridgewater)	42
603 (Weymouth)	44
2444 (Kentville)	47
686 (Bridgetown)	50
1714 (Annapolis Royal)	51
RA Offers Operational Deployment Certificate	53

The inside front cover lists information related to the heritage and affiliation of the West Nova Scotia Regiment

Message from the Honorary Colonel

Colonel the Honourable John G. Leefe, DCL



Eighty years is a very long time indeed. It marks the time from the beginning of Queen Anne's War to the effective end of the American Revolution, from the close of that conflict to the commencement of the US Civil War, and from the termination of that fratricide to the end of the Second World War. This year

marks the 80th anniversary of the union of the Annapolis and Lunenburg Regiments and procreation of the West Nova Scotia Regiment. Eighty years ago my parents didn't know each other existed and had it not been for Adolph Hitler, I wouldn't be here today. "Another disaster of the war," you say! Anyway, examples such as these serve to underscore how much history can be played out over four score years.

We know from Thomas Raddall's history of the Regiment, *West Novas*, how these two old colonial regiments were welded together and by two clergymen at that. We know from Major Thexton's memoir, *Times to Remember*, how the Regiment evolved into an effective fighting machine, blooded in Sicily, seasoned in the cauldron of the Italian mainland and brought to final fighting form in Northwest Europe.

We hear much today about diversity in Canada. The West Novas could have written the book on that phenomenon. Even a cursory review of the wartime Regiment reveals that its ranks included Mi'kmaq, Acadians, descendents of Loyalist refugees, New England Planters and Lunenburg Germans. In genealogy, it was a mixed bag of nationalities; in the field, it was a solid battalion that was proud to be called Canadian.

Less well known, however, is the post-war pedigree of the Regiment. The Reserve Army has morphed many times since 1945. While the Regiment has not served as

a unit in theatre, it has provided innumerable well trained and enthusiastic soldiers for the Regular Force who have served in Canada and abroad. Many West Novas have stepped up and volunteered to serve in domestic operations in service of the nation. Operations in Canada such as Swissair 111, Ice Storm 1998, and the Oka Crisis have been augmented by West Novas. Outside the country, many of the Regiment's soldiers have seen service in the maelstrom created by the collapse of the former Yugoslavia; others have been invaluable trainers in Africa. West Novas have served the United Nations in zones of conflict in the Middle East and places where natural disaster has struck. Most recently, approximately thirty served in Afghanistan, some volunteering for multiple deployments.

With the long overdue decision to provide women equal opportunity to serve in the Canadian Forces at the sharp end, the Regiment has been able to broaden its scope to advantage from the enthusiasm of highly skilled female comrades-in-arms. The entrance of women into the infantry has had significant positive results and undoubtedly will continue to do so.

It was an honour to be nominated for consideration as honorary colonel of the Regiment and a singular honour to be appointed to the post. Meeting formally and informally with serving members at Aldershot and on exercise, being part of the Regimental Association, and meeting Second World War vets has further enriched my life experience. Working with both senior and junior leadership has been rewarding. After many years away from Army Cadets and the Reserve Army, I have been able to fold into the Regiment consequent to fine tutelage from many West Novas, not the least of whom is Honorary Lieutenant Colonel Eric Meisner, CD.

Given the strong, imaginative direction and support from Ottawa and the Canadian citizenry at large, the Regiment has every prospect of continuing to grow and wax strong in the service of the Crown and Canada.

Happy Anniversary West Novas!
Semper Fidlelis,
John G. Leefe, DCL
Honorary Colonel, West NSR

Message from the Honorary Lieutenant-Colonel Colonel Eric K. Meisner, CD

In 2016 we commemorate the 80th anniversary of the West Nova Scotia Regiment, a regiment formed in 1936 with the amalgamation of the Annapolis and Lunenburg regiments. The roots of the Regiment date back nearly 300 years, as the unit is descended from the 40th Regiment of Foot raised at Annapolis Royal in 1717. The Regiment distinguished itself during the Second World War as one of the most outstanding and hard fighting regiments in the First Division.

My involvement with the Regiment for 48 of its 80 year history is a source of great pride to me. From September, 1968, when I was issued my first regimental uniform, I have served the Regiment in some capacity: as a junior officer and subsequently commanding officer, indirectly as an administrator from various higher headquarters, as a member of the Regimental Advisory Committee and the Regimental Association, as Honorary Lieutenant-Colonel for the past five years, and always as an ardent supporter.

Throughout my career, the Reserve Army has almost consistently faced the challenges of recruiting and retention, a shortage of training funds, varying standards of training, and the shortage of key personnel and equipment. Since the mid 80s, attempts were made to improve the lot of the reserve forces, with emphasis on having reservists insofar as possible train to the same standard as their Regular Force counterparts. Lack of training time for reservists and lack of modern equipment remain a challenge in this regard. Early in this century, as rotation after rotation of Canadian soldiers were deployed to deal with the Bosnian Crisis, it was soon realized that reserve augmentation was required to conduct this mission. For the first time, reserve brigades were tasked to provide formed sections for overseas deployment, rather than just individual augmentees. This requirement for reserve deployment continued throughout the war in Afghanistan – indeed, more than 20% of those Canadian soldiers deployed to this theatre were reservists, including 34 from our regiment. The Reserve Army rose to the challenge during these deployment periods and proved that the espoused “One Army” concept was indeed credible. To tackle current recruitment and retention issues and increase personnel numbers, our army is now beginning to implement a new directive entitled “Strengthening the Army Reserve”. This directive aims to firmly establish the role of the army reserve and mission tasks to guide the force generation of reserve capability for integration with the Regular Force, which will ultimately enable one



army ready to respond to Canada’s defence requirements. In order for this directive to succeed, equipment appropriate to the mission tasks must be made available for reserve training. With the proper implementation of this directive, in the near future the West Nova soldier should feel truly integrated into a one army system in Canada as never before.

While the Reserve Army in general has struggled with recruitment and retention issues in recent years, our Regiment has soldiered on and fared well. The Regiment is well trained and as solid as any other unit in the brigade. As I view training, it is easy to see the camaraderie amongst the soldiers – morale remains high, regardless of training conditions. The strength of the unit is in our individual soldiers, and I have no doubt that our current soldiers will strive to maintain the high standards of those they follow in the regimental tradition and that they too will remain “Ever Faithful”.

Colonel Eric K. Meisner, CD
Honorary Lieutenant-Colonel

TOWN OF
berwick

Congratulates the West Novas
on their 80th Anniversary.
Thank you for your service to Canada.

Message from the Commanding Officer

Lieutenant Colonel Todd W. Harris, CD



LCol T. Harris, CD
Commanding Officer

Greetings from the Regiment. For 80 years the West Nova Scotia Regiment has served both the country, and more specifically, the people of Nova Scotia, both domestically and abroad.

In the last ten years we have accomplished much, including being awarded two battle honours: DEFENCE OF CANADA – 1812-1815 and AFGHANISTAN. We have been given the permission to perpetuate six Units of the War of 1812, and we have started the process to be presented with a new stand of Colours, as the current ones have done their duty and are now due for replacement.

One thing has remained steady through the last ten years. We have set and maintained the standard within the Brigade for others to follow. Our field skills and administrative policies and procedures have been second to none and many of our procedures have been used as examples throughout the Brigade.

The Regimental history is full of the deeds of ordinary men and women of the Regiment who gave their all, be it in wartime or peacetime. We have sent soldiers into harm's way in many far off lands, the most recent being Afghanistan. We will be called upon shortly to send soldiers to many other hot spots in the world, possibly Eastern Europe, Africa, and shortly even the Middle East again.

I ask everyone reading this 80th Anniversary Magazine of the West Nova Scotia Regiment to think back about their experiences with the Regiment. Remember those who have gone and those who have spent their lives in service. Everyone who has worn the cap badge of the West Novas should be proud of their service and camaraderie and should also be proud of everything we have accomplished.



**If you're interested in joining
THE WEST NOVA SCOTIA REGIMENT
Today's the day to do it.**

- Eligibility Requirements:
- Minimum age of 16;
- Currently in grade 10; and
- Must be a Canadian Citizen

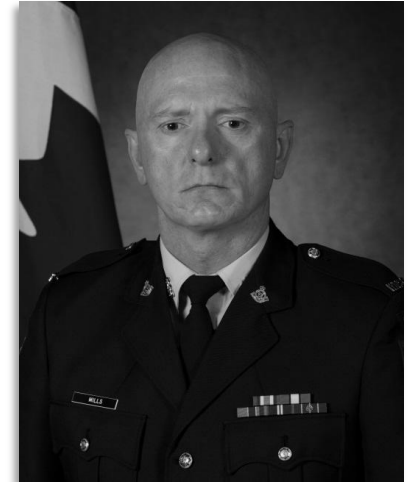
**Contact Sgt Matthew Morse at
(902) 678 7930 extension 2121 or
david.morse2@forces.gc.ca**

Message from the Regimental Sergeant-Major Chief Warrant Officer, J.R. Mills, CD

The year 2016 marks the 80th anniversary of our great Regiment. When I think of all the great men and women who have passed through its ranks, I am filled with a great sense of pride. Since 1936, members of the Regiment have been among the first to step up when Canada needed them. From the Italian and Northwest Europe Campaigns of World War Two, through various UN and NATO missions, to service in Afghanistan, West Novas were at the forefront. It wasn't just in expeditionary operations where members of the Regiment performed vital service, but also domestic operations at home, in particular the 1998 Swissair 111 search and recovery operation.

Today, the Regiment finds itself as one of the top units within 36 Canadian Brigade Group, if not the best unit. Based on the Regiment's performance of assigned tasks, for example the selection and training of 5th Canadian Division teams for the annual Canadian Patrol Competition, its performance during major exercises like STRIDENT TRACER and MAPLE DEFENDER, and the performance of individual members, a strong case could be made that the West Nova Scotia Regiment be ranked among the top units within 5th Canadian Division.

I am proud to be your Regimental Sergeant Major, but most of all I am proud to be a West Nova and to have had the opportunity to have served with some of the finest soldiers Canada has to offer.



Semper Fidelis
CWO J.R. Mills, CD
Regimental Sergeant Major



Kentville Police
Association
congratulates the
West Novas on their
80th Anniversary



The West Nova Scotia
Regiment and the
WNSR Regimental
Association thank all the
advertisers who helped
make this publication
possible



COUNTY of ANNAPOLIS
NATURALLY ROOTED

Congratulations
to the
West Nova Scotia
Regiment on its
80th Anniversary.
Thank you
for your service
to Canada.

Message from the President of the Regimental Association

Colonel (Ret'd) J. Ron Stonier, CD



On 3 December 2016, I had the privilege of attending the WNSR Soldiers' Christmas Dinner at Aldershot. The meal was excellent, turkey and all the trimmings, and the atmosphere was warm and friendly.

We were content in the familiar surroundings and customs of the Regimental Family. Toward the end of the ceremonies, I was

asked to speak on behalf of the Regimental Association, and I passed on the sincere wishes from the Association to all at the dinner for a safe and happy Christmas Season.

The important piece that I was missing was that earlier I had seen and spoken to Association members who had taken their time to get dressed and attend this traditional Dinner, but most of the serving soldiers didn't know who these folks were.

What an error of omission for me. I had missed out on the golden opportunity to introduce two of my good friends and Korean War veterans, Mike Ricketts and Arnold Burbidge, both of whom served with the PPCLI

in Korea and joined the West Novas after they came back. I missed the chance to introduce two former Commanding Officers who had come to dine with their Regiment: LCol William C. Goodwin who commanded from 1972 to 1974 and LCol John R. Bobbitt who was CO between 1998 and 2001; he's also the father of "A" Coy Comd, Captain MA Bobbitt. I also missed the rare opportunity to introduce Captain Hugh Sweeney and Captain Joanna Bishop, two former Directors of Music from the days when the West Novas had a fully functioning and very popular Brass and Reed Band. As well, we had two very recent Association members at dinner that evening, recently retired Corporal Robert Rowe, CD and Private Jessica Leopold who is currently serving.

This great mix of war veterans, former Reservists and serving soldiers shows the broad range of the membership in the modern Regimental Association. The current Executive Committee of the Regimental Association is proud of the progress we have made over the last decade, and we look forward to increasing our membership and continuing to achieve our primary objective of "*Serving the soldiers of the West Nova Scotia Regiment.*"

Congratulations to all West Novas on the occasion of the 80th Anniversary of the formation of the Regiment. We look back on the history of the Regiment with great pride, and we look forward with anticipation toward the excellent service to Canada yet to come.

Looking for WNSR Historical Artifacts

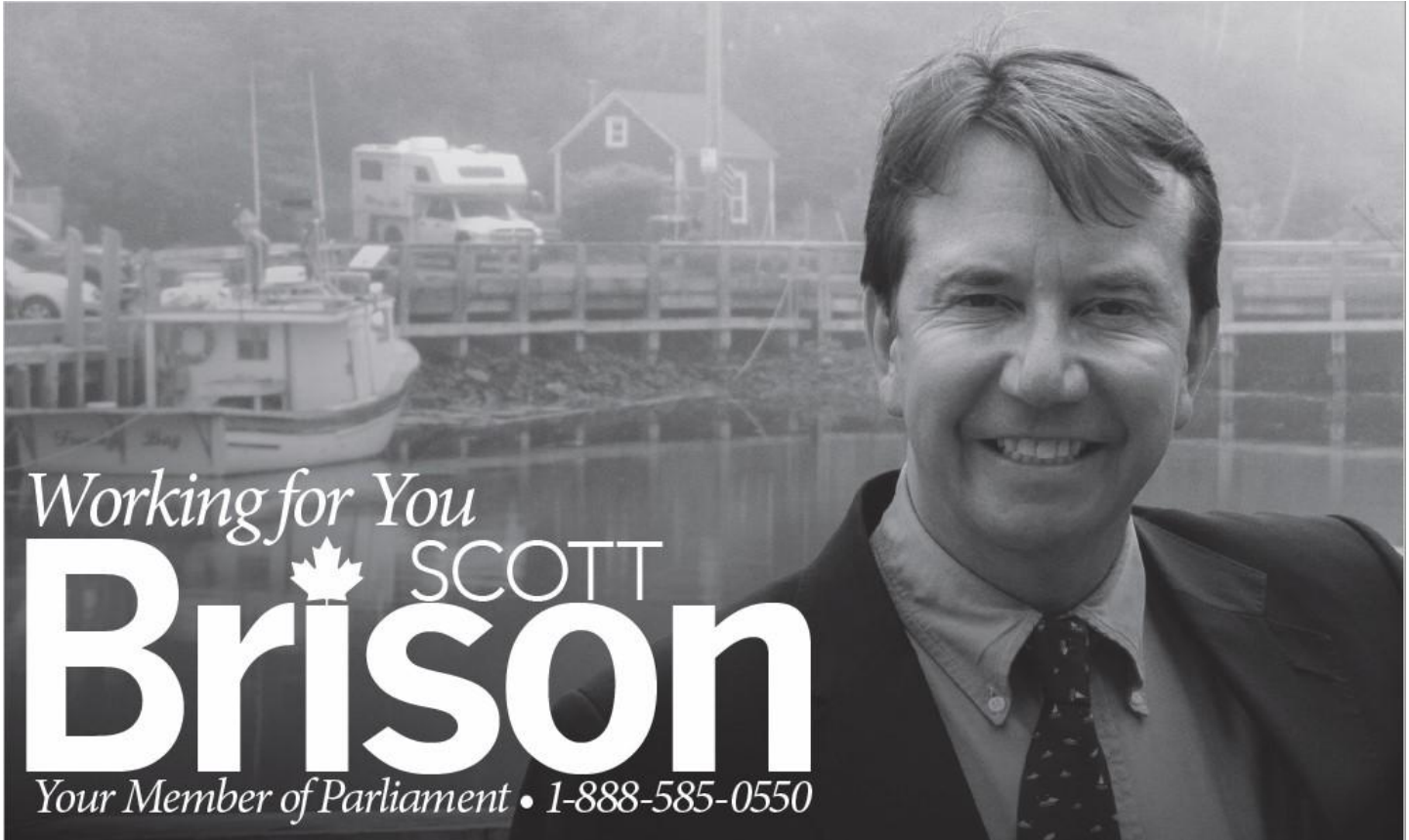
In an effort to better tell the story of our Regiment, we are searching for documents, photos, recordings and artifacts that would help to preserve the memories of those who have worn the uniform of the West Novas before us. Most of the veterans of the Second World War have passed on, and it becomes more difficult to preserve their stories.

If you have items that you think would help us preserve the history of our Regiment, we'd be very pleased to hear about them. We're talking about uniforms, headdress, helmets, equipment, photos, letters, etc. We are particularly interested in medal



groupings of West Novas who served in WWII or the Korean War. The medals would be displayed with the name of the soldier who earned them. Displaying artifacts such as these would help us to educate the public and to give a nod to the achievements of those who have gone before us.

The Regimental Association welcomes the contributions of any Second World War artifacts and stories you may have. We invite you to contact the Secretary of the Regimental Association at RASecty@gmail.com if you have questions or have any artifacts to donate or loan.



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SCOTIAN GOLD gives thanks to all the brave men and women who have served our great country with honor.

“A” Company Report

Captain Mike Bobbitt, Officer Commanding “A” Company

Per Monitor Mass (our tool for measuring all things) “A” Company is listed as 89 personnel. While this is a drop from our past manning, recruiting efforts continue to bring in significant numbers of good quality recruits. When deployed on exercise, “A” Coy fields an over-strength platoon, plus a Company Headquarters group.

Over the last decade, “A” Company has been involved in a wide variety of activities. For many years, we sent soldiers to Virginia for EX SOUTHBOUND TROOPER, which was briefly replaced with EX NORTHBOUND TROOPER, held in Labrador. We also participate in the annual exercise at the end of summer training in Gagetown each year. Previously called ARCON or MILCON, this exercise is now known as DIVCON – Divisional Concentration and is used to confirm the summer’s training and to provide units the opportunity to train at or above the Company level. We also participate heavily in all of the mandated training with the Territorial Battalion Group (TBG), often being tasked to provide key leadership roles and often contributing the largest contingent of soldiers from within 36CBG.

Platoon News

In October 2016, 1 Platoon saw completion of the Armoury renovation project. This multi-year effort has revitalized the Edward VII (1902) Armoury at Middleton to its historical 1908 appearance, while enjoying some modern upgrades and improvements.



This building is one of only a few Boer War era armouries left in Canada, and this restoration was long overdue. An official ceremony was conducted involving Lieutenant Colonel TW Harris, CO WNSR, Colonel P Thauberger, Comd 14 Wing Greenwood, his Worship

Calvin Eddy, Mayor of Middleton, and personnel involved in the construction project.

At the Aldershot location, 2 Platoon remains co-located with both the Company and Battalion Headquarters in the Bullock Armoury (Bldg 209) which has also recently undergone extensive renovation.

In Windsor, 3 Platoon continues to parade out of the Fort Edward Armouries. Remediation of the indoor range is now complete, opening significant space for use again. The Armouries have also been modernized with new Video Conferencing and office equipment, and this space is frequently used for unit or TBG exercises as an alternate HQ.

Growth in 4 Platoon has been slow but steady. Under Sgt Tyson Wood's supervision, our Bridgewater contingent has nearly doubled to roughly two full sections of dependable, high-quality soldiers. Recruiting remains strong on the South Shore, and we hope to see this pattern of growth continue. While there are some challenges still to overcome (such as the lack of a weapons vault), cooperation with 14 Airfield Engineering Squadron continues to grow.

Training News

To keep training interesting and exciting, “A” Company has conducted exercises in locations outside of Aldershot whenever possible. While these exercises require extra planning effort and travel time, there is significant benefit to be had. Not only do we have the opportunity to exercise outside our familiar training grounds, there is a feeling of pride at being able to operate amongst the public and showcase our capabilities. As well, these exercises provide the unit with the challenge of relocating their resources to the area where they are required for the operation at hand. Over the last few years, we have run exercises in several different locations such as New Germany, Middleton, Windsor and Annapolis to name a few. On the following page is a clipping from the front page of the 14 April 2014 edition of the Aurora newspaper at 14 Wing Greenwood which features one such exercise.

In 2006 Maj (now Col) George Thomson filed a Mission Company Report which focused on how things have both changed, and at the same time remained somewhat the same. This sentiment still rings true today.

The Bigger Picture

The world is a very different place than it was in 2006. Our mission in Afghanistan has ended, Russian aggression in Ukraine and elsewhere has escalated, and ISIS poses a new threat to peace in the Middle East and world wide. The attacks on CAF personnel on Canadian soil in 2014 have caused a subtle but indelible change in how we operate, how we view ourselves, and how we are viewed by the Canadian public.

These world events have an impact within “A” Company in that they shape and inform our training scenarios. Despite a world of change, our training priorities have not changed significantly over the last ten years. We focus on the same activities we always have, typically alternating focus between offensive and defensive operations. While the nature of future exercises and operations may change, the core skills of soldering – physical fitness, marksmanship, and fieldcraft – remain the pillars we build training upon.

The real change is the expectations placed on our personnel. I believe it is crucial that the soldiers of “A” Company stay current with the news and world events.

With new missions ramping up in Africa and Eastern Europe, it is more important than ever for our soldiers to understand the global geopolitical climate in which we live. It is a certainty that some “A” Company soldiers will be serving in these theatres over the next decade, and it falls on “A” Company to ensure they are prepared in every aspect possible. This includes the usual military training of course; soldiers must still know how to patrol, advance to contact, and prepare defensive positions. However, they must also know how they fit into the larger mission and how their individual actions – good or bad – affect the course of that mission.

The soldiers of “A” Company are being trained to understand that the skills and drills they practice on a Thursday night may be put into effect while on patrol on a UN mission, or while training allied forces near the Black Sea.

We look forward to meeting the challenges that lie ahead with well trained, well motivated and highly capable soldiers.

Semper Fidelis

14 WING • ESCADRE 14 GREENWOOD, NS

the **Aurora**

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WNSR takes training to town

It was a great weekend of training in Middleton March 28 to 30, as 50 soldiers of the West Nova Scotia Regiment occupied a portion of the Annapolis Valley town. The regiment was augmented with members from 84th Independent Field Battery in Yarmouth, 3 Military Police Detachment in Halifax and the Division Influence Activities Branch from Halifax, who all came together to conduct an exercise focusing on counter-insurgency operations, establishing an urban defense and urban patrolling. It was an excellent training opportunity to learn detailed detainee handling techniques and procedures from veterans in the Military Police. Operating off DND property, within the public sphere, also provided a unique and important experience, allowing the unit to practice coordination and cooperation between military and civilian authorities.

Sergeant Roger Chabot, a member of the Regular force working with the WNSR, helped coordinate the training, and mentored the younger soldiers on the exercise.

"I am hoping the unit can do more of this type of training in the future, because the soldiers get to know what it is like to train in a real-world environment while the community gets to know their soldiers," he said, adding how welcoming the town and its residents were during the exercise.

"The residents were impressed by the technical skills demonstrated by the soldiers, many of whom live or work in the town. The training also proved to be a good recruiting tool, as onlookers witnessed first-hand what it is like being a Reservist, and the kind of training being conducted by the infantry."

For information on the WNSR, contact Sergeant David Morse, 902-678-7930 local 2109.

Master Corporal Tyson Wood from 4 Platoon West Nova Scotia Regiment (Bridgewater) briefs his section prior to conducting a belligerent capture operation.

Lieutenant Bobbitt from 3 Platoon West Nova Scotia Regiment (Windsor) briefs 36 Brigade Commander Colonel George Thomson.

Sergeant R. Chabot, West Nova Scotia Regiment

Private Surette, from the Artillery Regiment in Yarmouth, being searched by soldiers West Nova Scotia Regiment during a prisoner capture at Middleton Regional High School.

EXERCISE SOUTHBOUND TROOPER

Fort Pickett, Virginia



Soldiers from the West Nova Scotia Regiment deployed annually for several years to Fort Pickett, Virginia to engage in EXERCISE SOUTHBOUND TROOPER (EX SBT), a seven day training exercise designed to provide Canadian troops realistic training scenarios incorporated with U.S. forces. They focused their training on military operations in urban terrain, improvised explosive device defeat, and air and infantry operations.

The series of exercises started over a decade ago in 2001, and the 36 CBG has been returning almost every year. The main attraction is that Fort Pickett provides access to equipment and facilities that soldiers would not have access to in Nova Scotia.

Air support at Fort Pickett during Ex SBT would see the soldiers of 36 CBG have access to UH-60 Black Hawk helicopters and their Navy equivalent, the Seahawk helicopters (like the one pictured here), and C-130 Hercules aircraft via the Blackstone Army Air Field. Rapid tactical movement on the modern battlefield is essential, whether it's for troop insertion or for medical evacuation, and it is often accomplished by helicopter. Ex SBT is a great opportunity for Canadian Reservists to gain this experience.

Training in that camp, they were able to complete a lot of Battle Task Standards, doing so with equipment and facilities they could rarely access in Canada. They trained with the other units of the Brigade and with a number of US Army and US Army Reserve units as well as US Navy, US Marine Corps, West Virginia Guard, Virginia Guard, Maryland Guard, and the New Hampshire Guard. While staying focused on Battle

Task Standards, they also utilized their time during the exercise to build on their international relationships, which prove invaluable during real world, international operations.



The focus of the exercises was to train sub-units at the lower levels. The training at Fort Pickett included everything from convoy operations, rappelling from helicopters, artillery operations, medical evacuation, to counter-IED, and force on force and airmobile operations. Going there resulted in multiple units plugging in to the Exercise, and it took on the appearance of a task force that might appear in Iraq or Afghanistan.

One of the valuable training venues among the available facilities included the MOUT (Military Operations in Urban Terrain) site which was a big draw. This site encompassed multiple villages which were used for clearing operations and other tactical manoeuvres. Various waterways were incorporated into the training area so that soldiers and leaders had to switch quickly from overcoming an urban threat to tackling crossing a water obstacle. As well, battle scenarios included the open savannah-type areas to add to the variety of terrain types encountered. The Infantry Platoon Battle Course, Urban Assault Course, and the "shoot house" were other facilities that helped to increase experience and combat awareness for the soldiers who completed the training.

The hospitality in Virginia was unquestionably second to none. Everywhere the soldiers went, they were shown respect and treated very well. Soldiers who have experienced the training in the SBT series of exercises miss not training in Fort Pickett, but our training focus and funding has changed and no longer includes those February trips to the United States facility.



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The West Nova Scotia Regiment's Preparation of Troops for the War in Afghanistan

*Contributed by Col (Retd) T.B. Stinson
Additional material provided by CWO J.R. Mills and
MWO (Retd) T. Tupper*



In early 2006 the West Novas received notification from its higher headquarters that the unit would soon be asked to provide volunteers to participate in the Army's contribution to the NATO mission in Afghanistan. This would evolve into Task Force (TF) 1-07, and would become the largest deployment of West Nova troops to a conflict area since WWII.

The first group of West Novas to step forward eventually numbered 19 bold, fit, and well trained personnel from across the unit. Getting them ready to go required a tremendous amount of effort not only on the part of the individuals themselves, but also from all the full and part time staff of unit Headquarters. It must be remembered that this was in addition to and concurrent with the normal unit training plan and summer taskings, which was usually enough to keep the staff fully occupied and out of trouble!

This is the story of how that preparation occurred.

It began at the end of a weekend exercise in Liverpool on 24 March 2006 where the unit had been practicing patrolling in urban areas. At the end of training, and just before getting on the buses, the RSM (CWO Doug Allison) put the word out that all personnel interested in deploying on operations in Afghanistan were to report for an initial information briefing and head count of who might be interested in deploying. Half a dozen people were expected to show up, but it shouldn't have been a surprise when over 25 arrived for the briefing. There were representatives from all ranks, but the majority were the units senior MCpls and Cpls, the regular paraders who were much of the back-bone of the trained soldiers from the unit's rifle company. Their absence from the unit to be on operations would have a

measurable effect on the level of training in the remainder of the company, and was just one of the factors that had not been initially considered.

Once the list of volunteers was confirmed and the number of vacancies allocated, the individual preparation of the troops began. This was initially largely administrative, ensuring that the soldiers' records were up to date and various forms filled out in order to be cleared 'Green'. The preparation of the West Nova volunteers required the additional paperwork, records management, kitting and medical checks expected of any deployment to an operational area, and was superbly well handled by the unit Orderly Room and Training Staff. Thank goodness the unit had the very competent and dedicated day staff that it did, and thanks go out to PO2 Steve Krueger, Sgt Margaret Evans, Sgt Tolson Clarke and Ms. Darcy Harrison.

One of the more challenging aspects was getting troops through medical screening as each individual had to receive a full medical and dental examination in order to be operationally ready. This was difficult because only the Regular Force support units at 14 Wing Greenwood and CFB Halifax could provide this, and they of course worked regular hours! Getting part-time soldiers from across the Annapolis Valley and the South Shore into appointments proved to be just one of the administrative hurdles. Nevertheless, medical and dental staff worked extra hours, and eventually everyone got through the 'sausage machine'.

During the evolving process of preparing Reserve troops for TF 1-07, the number of troops required and in exactly which position they would serve overseas caused recurring headaches. It was a 'chicken and egg' problem; how many Reservists were required to fill positions (this depended in part on how many Regular Force people were available, which changed as individuals were injured in training, promoted, posted or otherwise needed elsewhere when the Army was being stretched to provided its obligations) vs how many Reservists could make a full year commitment from their civilian occupation (which they couldn't do until they received that magic Tasking Number for whatever position they were to fill, be it in the National Support Element in Kandahar, the Theatre Support Element at Camp Mirage or on Operation ARCHER Roto 03 as part of the 2RCR Battle Group).

Eventually the wheels of Army bureaucracy turned their stately way, the numbers were confirmed and the various tasks assigned.

New challenges arose though, because it was soon determined that each soldier going to Afghanistan (not just those coming from the West Novas but everyone) had to receive refresher training and confirmation testing before proceeding to more advanced mission specific training. There were many opinions at every level of

headquarters over what this should entail, where it should take place, and who should conduct the training.

After much thinking and a frightening number of emails, it was decided that 36 Canadian Brigade Group (36 CBG) would receive the task of forming the 'Land Force Atlantic Area (LFAA) Battle School' during the spring and summer of 2006, and netting all those individuals in LFAA and elsewhere who needed initial training. This would turn into a nightmare for the stalwart staff at Brigade Headquarters, because there were many people coming from not only across Atlantic Area, but in some cases from across the country, and each one had a different training schedule and date to be in Afghanistan. In some cases, the units they would be going to would not even come into being until after their training has started! In other cases, their original tasked position had changed, and they were going to a different unit. There aren't many times that you can feel sorry for Headquarters, but this came close.

The Battle School (BSL) was run in Camp Aldershot from 1 May-18 August 2006, and many key leadership and staff positions were provided by the West Novas. This included the CO and RSM, as well as MWO (now retired) Tom Tupper, WO (now CWO) Richard Mills, MCpl (WO) Jeff Parker, MCpl (Sgt) Andrew Everett, Cpl Marc Piche and Cpl Gelinas-Galaise. Eventually 232 soldiers from all parts of the country and a host of different units would be sent to the Battle School. The sands and pines of Camp Aldershot rang out once again with the sounds and sights of troops preparing for overseas operations, and the West Novas were in the thick of it.

The school was organized into three sub-units, consisting of an infantry rifle company of three platoons (known as the Infantry Company/Reserve Company Group, Maj Vic Grandy, PLF, commanding), an all-trades company (titled Training Company/ B Battery, Capt John Stone, RCA, commanding) and a HQ including an administration platoon. Basically, each soldier was required to complete a three week course that covered basic refresher training in weapons handling and firing, navigation, first aid, communications and other similar topics, but also included was daily PT and Battle Fitness testing culminating in the 13 km march and the always popular casualty carry.

After this initial training was complete, the Infantry Company (including our 19 West Novas) conducted additional training to prepare its soldiers for the challenges of its particular role, including running an exercise in urban tactics in the town of Bridgetown, the first time this had ever been done in that location. The first platoon in Infantry Company was made up of four sections and would remain intact throughout its entire training phase and overseas operation, serving as the

Defence and Security (D and S) platoon at Kandahar airport. This is where the majority of the West Nova troops would serve.

The third platoon in Infantry Company would provide the majority of 42 Reserve infanteer augmentees going primarily to the rifle companies in 2RCR to bring their companies up to full strength for the operation. The platoon was broken up after initial training in Aldershot on 5 Jun 06 and sent to Gagetown for advanced training with 2RCR. Several West Novas came from this platoon including MCpl Darryl McCann, Cpl Anthony Bain, Cpl Jason Cress, Cpl Richard Price, and Pte Cory Withers.



Some of the West Novas who deployed with the Defence and Security (D and S) platoon at Kandahar airport.

Rear (L to R): Cpl J.R. Smith, MCpl G.W. Hill-Stosky
Front (L to R): Cpl B.A. Ward, Sgt R.J. Aston, Cpl J. Croft, Cpl J.H. Juurlink, Cpl S. G. Adams, Cpl R.A. Garrett

After the departure of the individuals in 3 Platoon on 5 Jun, the two remaining D and S platoons completed an additional period of training in Aldershot and live field firing in Gagetown. On 29 Jul 06 they deployed by air directly from Camp Petersville in Gagetown to Camp Wainwright in Alberta, where they underwent another period of training at the Canadian Maneuver Training Center (CMTC). This was a very demanding and realistic training scenario that involved weapons simulations kits and live actors in the villages and fields of Wainwright (representing Afghanistan), and also saw intensive evaluation by the experienced staff of Observer/Controllers from CMTC. It was some of the most advanced training that many of the Reservists had ever had the opportunity to participate in. After redeployment back to Aldershot on 28 Aug 06 the troops were given some well-deserved leave. The platoons thereafter moved to Gagetown and began their advanced

training prior to deploying to the ‘real thing’ in Afghanistan.

Regardless of which group they were in, by the end of the summer, the West Novas were fit and ready to go. Some individuals, such as Capt Brian Joudrey and WO Steve Currie (who at the time was from the RCR and the unit Regular Force Training NCO - he would later transfer to the Reserves and serve as a Capt in the West Novas) would also serve in important headquarter positions overseas.



Some West Nova soldiers deployed with the 2RCR Battle Group Afghanistan 2007 –

Front (L to R): Cpl Anthony Bain, Cpl Jason Cress -
Rear (L to R): Pte Cory Withers, Cpl Richard Price

While the troops were conducting their very eventful and exciting training, back at the unit there was some special behind the scenes preparations needed that would not normally have been done by a Reserve unit in the usual course of its annual training plan. One of the more pleasant tasks was conducting family briefings to friends and family of the troops. This gave the chain of command an excellent opportunity to meet the families and answer any questions they might have regarding what their son/brother/boyfriend/buddy would be doing overseas. These important meetings took place not only prior to the deployment, but continued throughout the time the troops were away and allowed the unit to stay in touch with the families, as well as letting the families stay in touch and support each other.

Another sad but necessary duty was preparing a duty officer’s book that contained all the information of each soldier’s primary and secondary next of kin, their phone numbers, exact home address and detailed travel instructions, as well as the maintenance of up-to-date contact lists for the unit key leaders and higher headquarters staff. This was required so that, if in the tragic event of a soldier’s serious injury or death while on operations, the next of kin could be informed quickly and accurately.

The directions to the residence were particularly important for a rural Regiment where addresses could be spread across the length and breadth of the Annapolis Valley. Finding the right door in the middle of the night in a snow storm had to be done right the first time. The unit day staff conducted route reces and confirmed addresses, and the senior leadership (including the Padre, Capt Leonard Bednar) checked all the details to make sure the instructions were clear, even considering where the best RV’s might be when the CO had to come from the West, the Padre from the South and the Assisting Officer from the East. Like any good military plan, nothing was left to chance; ‘muddling through’ was not an option.

Another sad but necessary task was maintaining a list of potential Assisting Officers. Being tasked as an Assisting Officer was one of the most demanding roles a Reserve Officer might be asked to do, namely, helping a grieving family navigate the details of receiving their loved one home, giving the soldier a respectful memorial service or follow-up to a major injury and all the myriad of rules and regulations that have to be followed when settling a soldier’s estate or helping with rehabilitation. Special training by specialists from higher headquarters was given to potential Assisting Officers not only from the unit but from across 36 Brigade. Senior NCO’s could also become involved with assisting families and received special briefings, and had to be prepared.

These two ‘be prepared to’ tasks, that is, the Next of Kin Book and Assisting Officers training, may have been normal for a Regular Force unit but were unique to a Reserve unit in peacetime. There were many similar examples in other units in 36 Brigade and across the country of innovative, professional preparations that were completed by Reserve units, and demonstrated what Reserve units can accomplish when called upon.

Thankfully, in the end, the West Nova’s never had to use the ‘NOK Notification Plan’ or assign an Assisting Officer as all troops came back from their tour safe and sound.

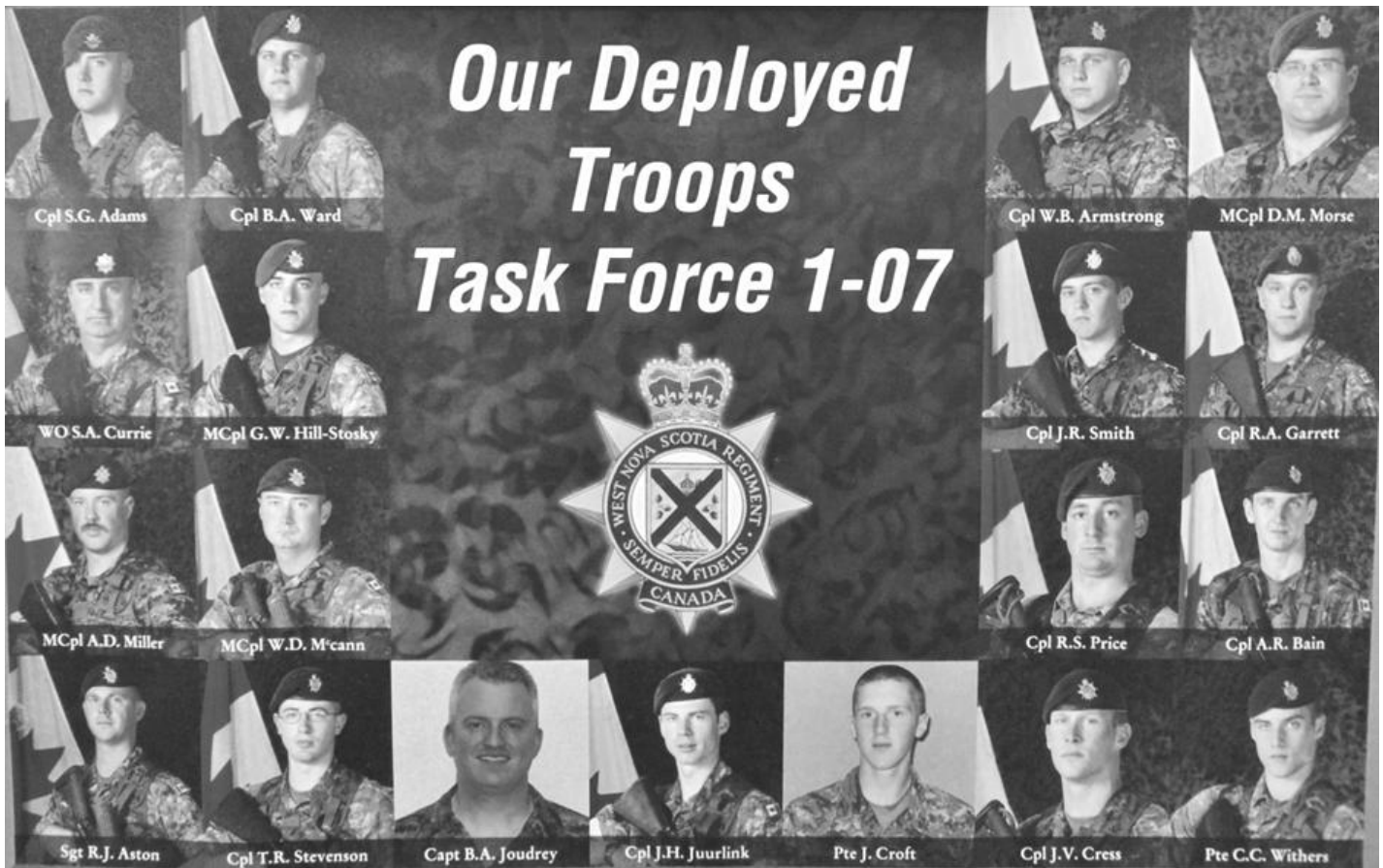
The story of the West Nova contribution to the mission does not end there, however. Some of these same troops would return to Afghanistan for multiple tours, and others would serve on later tours. In total, 34 West Novas would go on to serve in that theatre and earn our most recent battle honour: AFGHANISTAN

***Editors Note:** Collecting and editing information for this article created an interest in this extremely important chapter of the story of our Regiment. Much has been written about the deeds of West Novas in World War Two. Now we must gather the history of contemporary West Nova veterans to be added to our heritage. JRS*

Names of West Novas who deployed to Afghanistan

Sgt SG Adams	Cpl JV Cress	Sgt GW Hill-Stosky	Sgt WD McCann	Cpl JR Smith
Lt WB Armstrong	Cpl J Croft	LCol TW Harris	MCpl K Merrell	Cpl TR Stevenson
Sgt RJ Aston	Capt SA Currie	Cpl J Hebb	MCpl AD Miller	MCpl C Theriault
MCpl AR Bain	Pte Davis	Capt BA Joudrey	Sgt DM Morse	MCpl BA Ward
Cpl S Bond	Sgt A Everett	Pte JH Juurlink	MCpl C O'Dell	Maj J Wigmore
Cpl A Brittain	Sgt G Gallant	MCpl G Maddison	Cpl RS Price	Pte CC Withers
Cpl D Cox	MCpl RA Garrett	Maj G Marshall	Capt M Perry	

There were many more soldiers and officers who served in Afghanistan as members of other units, and they are too numerous to name here. Our Regiment is proud to have served our country in this way, and let there be no doubt that we would do it again if the opportunity arose.



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"Thank you for your dedicated service"

West Nova Tasks in the Canadian Patrol Concentration 2013-2016

On 6 Feb 2016 in Halifax, the Commander of the Canadian Army, LGen Marquis Hainse, presented the Canadian Patrol Competition (CPC) bronze pennant to 36 Canadian Brigade Group. The 3rd Annual Canadian Patrol Concentration took place in Nov 2015 with 30 teams drawn from the Canadian Army, the United Kingdom, Australia and the United States. Centred on a 40 kilometre patrol conducted in the most challenging of physical environments, it was a gruelling test of patrolling skills for all participants. The 36 CBG team



completed all assigned tasks achieving the highest placing Reserve Force (Res F) team earning a bronze standing due to a combination of excellent soldier skills, teamwork, resiliency and a competitive spirit.

Pictured (L-R) : HCol Blake Goldring; CWO Alain Guimond, Canadian Army Sergeant Major; Sgt Chad Wilkie; LGen Hainse, Comd, Canadian Army; MCpl Maverick Cowx; Cpl Alexander Ward; Cpl Duncan Coady; Cpl Kelly Minion; BGen Carl Turenne, Comd 5 CanDiv; and CWO Shawn Croucher, 5 CanDiv CWO.

Kneeling (L-R): Pte Rene LeBlanc; Pte Antonio Videla; Cpl Darian Bierworth; MCpl Lawrence Levangie; CWO Michael Egan, 36 CBG Sergeant Major ; and Col Shawn Hale, Comd 36 CBG. ©DND 2016

Photo: LS Peter Frew, Formation Imaging Svcs Halifax

The Canadian Patrol Concentration (CPC) is a grueling test of mental and physical fortitude. It requires soldiers to traverse complicated terrain over several dozen kilometers in a Long Ranged Recce Patrol (LRRP). The teams are tested intermittently throughout the conduct of the competition on a number of skills including casualty management, obstacle crossing, partisan linkups and most importantly the conduct of a recce, usually in the form of a point recce. GPS and other navigation aids other than map and compass are prohibited.

This competition is the premier test of LRRPs in Canada. It's similar in structure and length to the Cambrian Patrol held annually in Wales, UK.

The Canadian Movement Training Center (CMTC) in Wainwright, Alberta organizes and runs the CPC which is traditionally held in November. Harsh weather conditions at this time of year means that teams are often forced to adapt to adverse conditions that vary widely but have historically dropped well below -20°C.

Teams come from every Canadian Division to compete and historically teams from the United States, the United Kingdom, and Australia have also attended.

The scoring system calculates points based on performance to award contenders a bronze, silver, gold or participation certificate based on how each team does at the stands. To date only a handful of teams have achieved silver, and only two gold. Conversely, many teams fail to even complete this competition.

The Commander of 36 CBG has tasked the West Nova Scotia Regiment (WNSR) with training 36 CBG soldiers for this competition from 2013-2016. WNSR trained and had a total of 10 soldiers on the teams during 2013 and 2014. In the last two years, training was supported by the Div and 5 CDTC in Gagetown.


Additionally, this past year WO MacLaren, RSS at WNSR, has helped to train not only soldiers from 36CBG but also 37CBG and 4RGS (Gagetown) on behalf of the Div.

Training started in August with a week-long patrol camp. Later, followed a series of four leadership-training sessions with training culminating in a four week patrol camp from mid-October to mid-November.

This year's competition saw 5DIV back with two Bronze medals.

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Good Reasons to Replace the Regimental Colour

On 7 June 1959, Major-General the Honourable E.C. Plow, CBE, DSO, CD, the 22nd and serving Lieutenant-Governor of Nova Scotia, presented our Regiment with its first set of Colours after the Second World War. What a glorious day that must have been for all West Nova members, both retired veterans and serving soldiers and officers.

The Colours have served us well and have been paraded a good many times, sometimes in unfavourable weather conditions, especially the Regimental Colour which is paraded at least twice as many times as the Queen's Colour. The Regimental Colour is indeed beginning to show signs of wear and needs to be replaced after 57 years of service.

The timing of the replacement could not be better because on the 9th of May, 2014, the West Nova Scotia Regiment was awarded the Theatre Honour of "Afghanistan". The War in Afghanistan was triggered by the events of 9/11, during which 26 Canadians were killed. The role of the West Novas in this War would be as individual augmentees to Regular Force units as an important and ongoing source of manpower during what became the longest armed conflict in Canada's history. The War was officially ended in July 2011.

Twelve years of fighting in that far off location by the Canadian Army Battle Groups, including volunteer soldiers from our Regiment, turned out to be the largest deployment of Canadian soldiers since the Second World War. Over 40,000 Canadian Armed Forces members served in or around the region. One hundred and thirty-eight (138) members of the Canadian Armed Forces paid the ultimate price during the fighting.

In order to be awarded the theatre honour, "Afghanistan", units had to meet the criteria of having sent a cumulative contribution of personnel reaching a minimum of 20 per cent of their effective strength. Seventy-two Canadian Armed Forces units in total received the honour, including Navy, Army, Air Force, and Special Forces.

Additionally, the Regiment had been awarded another battle honour in 2012. This was for participation in the War of 1812 by units who served in Western Nova Scotia to earn the honour "The Defence of Canada 1812

- 1815", this brings the Regiments total to a very respectable 34 Honours in total.


As a result of these great achievements and due to the fact that the Regimental Stand of Colours require replacing, the Regiment has asked to have both the new battle honours from the War of 1812 and Afghanistan



THE WEST NOVA SCOTIA REGIMENT - REGIMENTAL COLOUR
THE WEST NOVA SCOTIA REGIMENT - DRAPEAU CONSACRÉ RÉGIMENTAIRE

emblazoned on the Regimental Colour. A representation of what the final product will look like is shown here.

The acquisition of two new battle honours is indeed a very special occasion which is another demonstration that once again, when the country calls, the men and women of this Regiment stand ready to do their duty, and to put themselves in harm's way to protect those in need.



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**Congratulations to the West Novas
on their 80th Anniversary**

Everybody Likes Photos



◀ Queen's Diamond Jubilee Medals for West Novas

Pictured here are West Novas who were awarded the Queen's Diamond Jubilee Medals on 8 Dec 2012 by Brigadier-General The Honourable J.J. Grant, CMM, ONS, CD (Ret'd), Lieutenant Governor of Nova Scotia.

Seated in the front row (L-R) are: CWO Baisley, Area CWO; BGen CC Thurrott, Comd LFAA, BGen Grant, Maj TW Harris, CWO RW Lawrence. Second row: MWO JR Mills, MCpl G Maddison, Sgt Keith, Cpl Mosley, Cpl D Cox, MCpl C Morse. Rear row: MCpl Wood, Cpl Hibbs, Sgt MacAulay, WO Predo, and Capt J Wigmore.

Regimental Watches for Veterans ▶

This was the first official presentation of WNSR Regimental watches to West Nova veterans. The watches were donated by the Nova Scotia Division of the Canadian Tire Corporation. The presentation was done at the Valley Memory Club Meeting at the Borden Hall Combined Mess in Camp Aldershot by the Commanding Officer with the assistance of the representative from Canadian Tire in New Minas. Seated in the front are WWII veterans Hubert Sullivan and Gordon Hansford. Behind (L-R) are John Schofield, Manager of Canadian Tire; Korean veterans Bob Schofield, Arnold Burbidge, and Mike Ricketts, and LCol Todd Harris.



◀ Two Generations of West Novas meet in Holland

May 5, 2015 marked the 70th Anniversary of the Liberation of the Netherlands by Allied forces in 1945. Two West Nova representatives went separately to attend the events in Holland. Corporal JLJ Draper of 3 PI was the official representative from those currently serving in the West Nova Scotia Regiment. Former Private Edmond Arsenault of Etobicoke, ON, veteran of the Italian and Northwest Europe campaigns, attended as the official representative of the veterans of the West Novas. The two met up at a point during the week-long festivities and made the important connection between two soldiers of the same Regiment.



◀ West Novas Show the Camp Flag in Afghanistan

At the left, we see several West Novas who found time to show the WNSR Camp Flag in the summer of 2012 at Camp Alamo, Kabul, Afghanistan. They were assisted by a two former West Novas, both MWOs in the Royal Canadian Regiment.

L-R are: Col Peter Williams (COS), MWO Wade Hunter, MWO Brad Rogers, Lt Will Armstrong, MCpl Kyle Merrell, Sgt Andrew Everett, Capt Jeremy Wigmore, CWO Bob Thompson (Camp SM).

"True North, Strong and Free" 25 Oct 2014



On 20 October 2014, Warrant Officer Patrice Vincent was killed when struck by a vehicle at St-Jean-sur-Richelieu, Que because he was a member of the Canadian Forces. On the 22nd of October, a violent attack was carried out in Ottawa where Corporal Nathan Cirillo of the Argyll and Sutherland Highlanders was shot and killed standing guard at the National War Memorial.

The nation was in shock after such brazen attacks. DND told all our servicemen and women to not wear uniform in public.

A number of veterans across the country took this assault on our nation and on our military as a challenge. The word quickly went out through social media and other means that we must show that we will not pull back at the threat of attack. These veterans dressed as they would for Remembrance Day and took up posts the next day at many War Memorials and Cenotaphs all across the country.

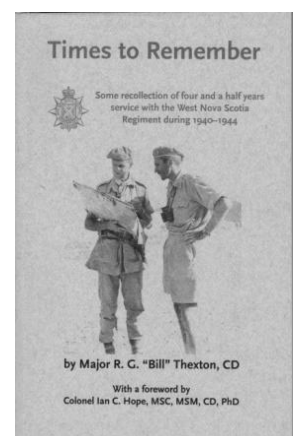
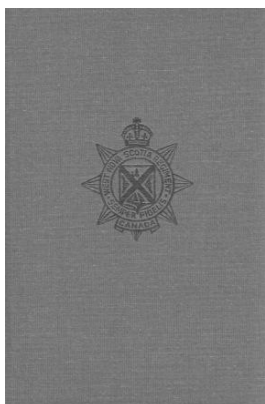
Kentville's Cenotaph was guarded. Local veterans stood guard with two West Nova soldiers, Travis Jeffery and Joseph Innocent. With a number of interested civilians who came to watch, they sang "O Canada" together. Those who stood guard that day included four West Novas Garry Randall, Terry Randall, Gerald "Duke" Davidson, and Donn Miles, and Jon VanZoost of the Royal Canadian Legion. Thank you, Gentlemen.

◀ West Novas

Times to Remember ▶

Over the last two and a half years, the two publications have been reprinted to provide information to assist people to know the history of the West Nova Scotia Regiment. On the left is the official history of the West Novas in WWII, by Thomas H Raddall. Due to a definite demand for the book, the Regiment printed 300 copies in 2014 of which about 40 remain available for sale at the Unit Kitshop at Regimental HQ in Aldershot or online at the Regimental Association Kitshop online at <http://wnsr.ca/catalog/24>

That's where you can also find copies of the memoirs of Major Bill Thexton, *Times to Remember*, shown at the right. There were 300 copies printed in 2016 to tell his story of "four and a half years with the West Nova Scotia Regiment between 1940-1945". Foreword by Colonel Ian Hope, MSC, MSM, CD.



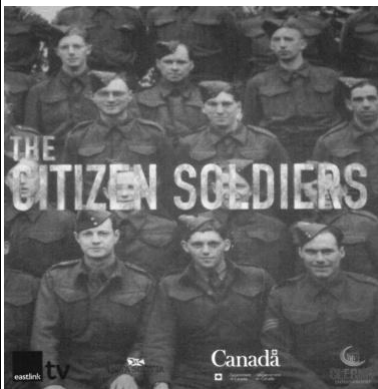
West Nova History Reprinted



This was the scene on a January morning 2015 at the Dalhousie University Library where the Honorary Colonel John Leefe presented Michael Moosberger, University Archivist, with a copy of the 3rd Printing of the Regimental history, *West Novas*, by Thomas Raddall. The Regimental association had been granted permission to go forward with the 3rd printing and printed 300 copies of the hard cover history. This presentation was made to Dalhousie who hold the rights to Dr. Raddall's works. In the photo, (L-R) are CWO JR Mills, HCol Leefe, Mr. Moosberger, Garry Randall, HLCol Eric Meisner, LCol Harris, and Ron Stonier.

Corporal Marc Asselin Represents WNSR in Sicily ►

A serving member of the West NSR for the last 20 years, Corporal Marc Asselin, CD, represented the Regiment on OP HUSKY 2013. This was a project of Canada Company organized to commemorate the 70th anniversary of the original OP HUSKY in 1943, the Allied Invasion of Sicily in which the WNSR played an important role. Marc took two week's leave from his job as a heavy equipment mechanic to travel to CFB Kingston for briefings by the Comd 1Can Div before the ten hour flight by a Govt of Canada Airbus to Catania, Sicily on 25 July. The 60 member Canadian Contingent felt the 30°C temperature as they boarded buses for US Naval Air Station Sigonella in sight of an active volcano, the famous Mount Etna. There was a parade/marching contingent for at least one ceremony each day. Some of the places included Piazza Armerina, Leonforte, Assoro, Adrano, Cataneuova, and the large Canadian War Cemetery at Agira where there was a 500 man roll call where participants answered the roll for the 500 soldiers buried there.



Two New DVDs on the History of the WNSR

In recent years, two new DVDs have been produced on the World War II history of the West Nova Scotia Regiment. They are *The Citizen Soldiers* (2015), by Clerisy Entertainment and *The Boys From Nova Scotia* (2004), by MINDmediaworks.

These are both excellent historical videos about our Regiment. Both are specifically focussed on the WNSR. Both contain personal interviews with West Nova WWII veterans. Both are professionally done by Nova Scotia production companies. Both are available online at the WNSRRA Kitshop at <http://wnsr.ca/catalog/24>



A Museum for the WNSR

The establishment of a West Nova Regimental Museum has been a recurring topic among West Nova leaders for a long time. Throughout the years, all agreed that a museum was, indeed, a very fine, if not a necessary, project. However, there were always two formidable roadblocks preventing the realization of our plan for a museum of our own, an appropriate venue and proper staffing.

In early 2014, the current Commanding Officer, LCol Harris, collected the unit's historical holdings and stored them at the Fort Edward Armoury with a view to assessing what was there and making decisions about what to do with what we will call the West Nova Collection. Several interested parties, including the Halifax Citadel Army Museum and the Atlantic Canadian Military History Association, plus a number of Regimental Association members who had an interest in matters historical, were invited to come and see the collection to offer comment and advice about what to do with the artifacts.

This initiated the formation of the WNSRRA History Committee who concluded that instead of establishing a Regimental Museum, we would create a temporary exhibit and offer it to museums in the historical locations where the Regiment had had a presence. This idea would establish a symbiotic relationship whereby we were able to exhibit parts of our collection and local museums would have relevant, new, interesting, and informative exhibits.

We had help and advice from curators Bria Stokesbury and Sherry Griffin of the Kings County Museum and the Annapolis Valley MacDonald Museum in Middleton, respectively. Garry Randall and Gerald "Duke" Davidson of Kentville, along with Joanna Bishop of Port Williams and Ron Stonier prepared for the exhibit and decided that the significant historical contribution of the Scout-Sniper Platoon was to be our theme.

The Exhibit was called "Sightings: Exploring the Scope of the Canadian Sniper", and it was displayed at the Kings County Museum from April until November



This exhibit explores the historic role played by Canadian Snipers through artifacts and personal stories.

Curated by the *West Nova Scotia Regiment History Committee* and hosted by the *Kings County Museum*.

2016. The museum staff report that the exhibit was very well received and has added significantly to their collection for the period it was there.

We are currently in the process of moving the sniper exhibit to the Annapolis Valley MacDonald Museum at Middleton where it will be displayed from April to November 2017. We'll have more room there, and we plan to expand our West Nova Display by adding an exhibit on the Regiment's role in the war in Afghanistan for which we have been awarded our most recent battle honour. As well, we plan to include other features in the exhibit which will recognize the service of West Novas who have served the Regiment and their country since World War Two.



For Years, We had a Grand Band

A Brief History of the West Nova Scotia Regiment Band

By *Captain (Ret'd) J.L. Bishop, CD*

The Band, like the Regiment, was formed in 1936 by joining the Annapolis Regiment with the Lunenburg Regiment. Like Noah's Ark, there were two of everything from LCol's to Bands. At this point, we need to define more clearly the composition of a military band.

Infantry Regiments in 1936 and to this day have what is called a Brass and Reed band, Rifle Regiments and Army Cadet Corps have Drum and Bugle bands, and Highland Regiments have Pipe and Drum bands. Ours was a Brass and Reed band. Many bands have been removed from unit establishments as the Reserve Army is made more efficient, but we still miss our marching music. Most bands in the Reserve Army now only exist at the brigade and division levels

The number of bandmen (musicians after 1966) in a band is called the 'establishment'. Infantry bands are established at 35 personnel. This includes: a Lt/Capt as Director of Music who directs the band; a CWO, Band Master, who assists with directing; and two WOs and six Sgts who are all musicians and section leaders. One Sr NCO acts as the Drum Major on parade, chosen from the available Sr NCO ranks. There are twenty-five Junior Ranks (Ptes/Cpls/MCpls) who are all musicians. The allocation of instruments is usually: 15 reed players (flute/clarinet/saxophone), 14 brass players (trumpet/trombone/euphonium/tuba), and five drummers (snare drum/bass drum).

The Valley has always produced a number of fine musicians. Prior to 1950, many towns had their own town bands such as; Lawrencetown, Middleton, and Kentville. In the early 1900s, there were also bands in Annapolis Royal, Bridgetown, Berwick, and Wolfville. Many of these were sponsored by local fire departments.

The South Shore is also known for its fine local musicians. The Lunenburg Regiment was able to draw on the resources of Bridgewater, Lunenburg, and Chester bands in 1936. At the start of WWII, there were seven bands in this geographical area. Again, these were town or fire department bands.

So, in 1936, the decision had to be made – will the WNSR band be taken from the Annapolis Regt, the Lunenburg Regt, or a combination of some personnel from each?

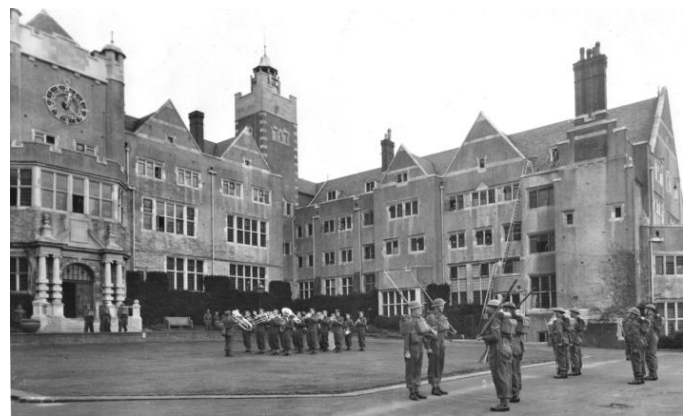
Verbal sources and old photographs tell us that the Annapolis Regt Band was under strength with many members near retirement age. However, the Lunenburg Band had young musicians and a young, energetic, and qualified director; therefore, they were chosen to become

the Regimental Band. The first Director of Music was Lieutenant R.H. Beck.

The Band trained in Lunenburg and, after mobilization for WWII, moved to Bridgewater with the Regiment and led their first wartime Church parade there on 10 Sep 1939. The Band moved to Camp Aldershot with the Regiment and went to England with them in December 1939, playing the troops aboard the Polish ship *Chrobry* as they embarked at Halifax.

Lt. Beck was a man of considerable musical ability who took an old English marching tune and adapted it as the Regimental march. The title was "Wesnosco". Mr. Beck apparently went to England with the Regiment shortly after WWII began. He may also have had a secondary duty as the Regimental Transport Officer after arriving in England.

All the musicians or bandmen, as they were then called, were trained in first aid because their duty in battle was to be the unit stretcher bearers. The band participated in many parades and concerts while the Regiment was stationed in England.



WNSR Band playing at Changing of the Guard at Rodean College, Sussex in early 1940s

Once the orders for Sicily were cut, the Band put its instruments into storage and left them behind in England. From now on, their job would be seeing to evacuation of the wounded.

One of the bandmen who was with the Regimental band before amalgamation, after the joining, and through WWII was the late Victor Hall. After the War, Victor was very active in the Regimental Association and was a great supporter of all things West Nova until the day he died. Those are his maps that hang in the lobby of the Aldershot Bullock Armoury (Bldg 209). They show the WNSR deployment through England, Sicily, Italy, and NW Europe.

During the 1939-45 period, the Regiment had three battalions. The 1st Bn which was on active duty overseas. The 2nd Bn was here in Nova Scotia and stationed at Camp Debert, and it had a 35 piece band. The members of that battalion were mostly married and a bit too old to qualify for immediate overseas service. To date the opportunity to learn about its members and history are still under review. (The author, Thomas H. Raddall, who wrote our Regimental history "West Novas", was a member of the 2nd Bn.) The 3rd Bn was the reserve battalion made up of young men just called up to serve in the war effort. It trained at Camp Aldershot and perhaps Wolfville. It is also believed to have had a band. Again, little is known about the structure or personnel.

After WWII the whole Canadian Army structure was reorganized. By 1950-51, the hunt was again on for a new band director and younger musicians. At this time, Wilfred Harvey was recruited as director, and his brother Charles Harvey as the bandmaster. Both were WWII veterans and accomplished musicians. The nucleus of the musician cadre was recruited from the Middleton Fire Department band at this time. They established a Band of 34 players from the Middleton and Kentville areas. The Band trained out of the Edward VII Armoury in Middleton.

At that time the Company trained on Thursday evenings when the Band did administration. On Tuesday evenings, the roles were reversed. This proved to be a very workable situation.

Several well-known families were represented - the Dodge brothers from Middleton, the three Kyte brothers and their three daughters and one son, the MacKinnon family of father and two sons, as well as solo cornet player Hugh Sweeney were all from Kentville.

Capt Harvey was the first to enlist female musicians in a Reserve Band and perhaps the Canadian Army. The Band reached a high standard of excellence and was often called upon to fill engagements if a Regular Force Army Band was not available.

Capt Harvey also ran the first combined band schools at the Brigade level at Camp Debert when units were on their annual summer concentration exercises. This involved unit musicians from NS, NB, and PEI. At those camps, all band training was done in the field under canvas.

Captain Harvey's highlight for the West Nova Band was the Presentation of the Colours when both the Queen's Colour and Regimental Colours were presented at Fort Anne, Annapolis Royal on 7 June 1959 by His Honour Major-General the Honourable E.C. Plow, CBE, DSO, CD, the 22nd Lieutenant of Nova Scotia. The Band was fully kitted in scarlet tunics and forage caps. At that time, the CO was LCol Charles Eaves, CD, and the RSM was WO1 LM Hamilton, CD.



West Nova Band at the Presentation of the Colours at Fort Anne, Annapolis Royal, 7 June 1959

In 1964, as a result of recommendations made by the "Suttie Commission," officially known as *The Commission on the Reorganization of the Canadian Army Militia*, the strength of the Regiment was cut by 120 personnel. This was the combined strength of "C" Coy at Deep Brook and the Band. It should be noted here that the Regiment was so upset at the sudden loss of "C" Coy that they have refused to this day to name a Coy by that designation.

As many of the musicians were reaching retirement age, the Band was to be taken off strength. Their final concert was held at Bridgetown Regional High School in March 1965. This concert was recorded by the Evangeline Broadcasting Company - with AM stations in Windsor, Kentville, and Middleton to be the opening concert of their new FM station to serve the Valley area. The managing director of EBC was Willard Bishop. Both he and his father Avard Bishop, founder of EBC, had played in the old Annapolis Regiment Band.

In the fall of 1965, Lieutenant Hugh Sweeney of the Horton District High School Cadet Staff was asked to form a new Regimental Band that would train at Camp Aldershot. They trained first at Bldg 61, a two story structure at the north-west corner of the Main parade square. After a winter with no heat, the Band moved to Bldg 22 (the old train station bldg)

As far as continuity goes, the Band retained about 6 of the personnel from Capt Harvey's band. The new musicians were mainly high school students from the Horton Cadet and School bands. Many of the musicians were female. By this point, unification and Integration of the three service elements had taken place and females were now also a part of Regular Force bands. The average musician in our Band then was about 18 years of age.

The Band was led by Capt Sweeney when the unit conducted the first Trooping of the Colours as part of the WNSRRA Annual Reunion in 1970 at Camp Aldershot. At that time, LCol Hugh Urquhart, CD was the CO, and

the RSM was CWO Joe Tidd, CD. The Regimental Colour was carried on parade by Lt Bill Hayward.



WNSR Band at 1970 Trooping of the Colours, Aldershot

In the photo above, you can see the Band is wearing the scarlet uniforms with a mix of the “new” CF Greens. The reason for this was that the Band, on that occasion was supplemented by musicians from CFB Greenwood for this special parade. At the left is the Drum Major; centre is Captain Sweeney, the Director of Music; and in the background is Building 61 which was used as a training location for the Band at one time.

“God Bless the Prince of Wales” was a quick march that had been used by Capt Harvey at times on long parades to replace “Wesnosco” as the latter was very short in length. “God Bless the Prince of Wales” was also the march past of our affiliated regiment the South Lancashire Regiment. Capt Sweeney carried out the change, and it became our official march past, and it made its official debut as our march past at the first Trooping of the Colours in 1970.

Capt. Sweeney remained with the Band until the fall of 1972. The highlights of his Band were the first Trooping of the Colours in 1970 and the opening of the new Provincial Law Courts building in Halifax.

So it was that in 1972, the CO asked MWO Donnie Currie to be Band Master and MWO Dave Blanchard to be Band 2i/c. Both these NCOs were from the Windsor area, and two near-by high schools had music programs and willing recruits. After its move to Windsor, the Band trained at several places such as the old WO’s and Sgt’s Mess on Water Street and the old garage/pizza parlor on the corner of King and O’Brien Streets. The former Armoury on Fort Edward Hill had burned in the early 1960’s necessitating temporary training facilities in several spots.

The Band performed many parades and concerts in the Windsor area. One highlight was their participation in the official opening of the new Royal Canadian Legion, Branch 009 building at the Fort Edward Mall location.

In 1978 Capt Sweeney rejoined the Band as Director when several of the Sr NCO’s reached retirement age. The musicians from Windsor were now in the work force, and new recruits were needed.

In 1980, the Band again moved to Camp Aldershot where it trained in Building 15 by the baseball field. At this time many musicians were from Acadia University School of Music, and more would join from the Middleton High School music program. The core of musicians followed the Band from Windsor.

About 1984, Richard Bennett, the Director of the Middleton Regional High School’s music program, played with the Band. In 1985, he was promoted to lieutenant and appointed as Director of Music. During his five years with the Band, he listed the Presentation of the Guidon to PEIR and a concert given at Middleton Regional High School in 1987, with Captain Harvey in attendance, as the high points of his musical career with the Band. As well, during this period, “Abide with Me” was chosen as the Regimental Hymn, a choice which was approved by both the Regiment and the Association.

In 1985 Lieutenant Bennett found that his school music program kept him too busy to continue as Director of Music with the Regimental Band. This is the point where Sergeant Mark Mumford became Bandmaster.

In the fall of 1988, Capt JL Bishop became Acting Director of Music. She had played with Capt Harvey’s, CWO Donnie Currie’s, and Capt Sweeney’s bands and later on as a volunteer with Lt Bennett’s Band. Also coming on strength with the WNSR Band as Band 2i/c was WO David Gibson. During this time, the official slow march of the Regiment was chosen and proposed to NDHQ by HCol C.R. MacLellan, MC, CD. This slow march is known as “The Garb of Old Gaul,” and the original was composed by an officer attached to the 40th Foot while he was stationed at Annapolis Royal in the early 1770’s.

In 1993 Reserve Army Bands were being phased out. Capt Bishop left the Band and the Regiment, and Lt. Guy Chute became Band Officer.

The WNSR Band was an important piece of our military heritage and the customs and traditions of our service lives. The musicians and leaders did their jobs well over the years and lent grace and dignity to many events within and outside the province. Musicians trained in the WNSR Band have made a substantial



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contribution to the Royal Nova Scotia International Tattoo for many years. Not only did they play at military events, but also at civic parades such as the Apple Blossom Festival Grand Street Parade, the Halifax Natal Day Parade, the Bear River Cherry Carnival, Sam Slick Days, and many more. The Band was a great link with the civilian community, and it gave many young musicians the opportunity to develop and expand their skills as musicians while serving in the Reserve Army.

The last WNSR Band musicians to wear the WNSR cap badge were Sgt Glen Ross and Cpl Donald Frail. They later transferred to the Militia District Band in Halifax. A former WNSR Band musician CWO Terry Mumford is now Band Master for the 36 Canadian Brigade Group Band.



WNSR Band in tan uniform at a Change of Command at Camp Aldershot 5 May 1990

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the soldiers of the
West Nova Scotia Regiment
on their 80th Anniversary.
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Canada.**


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THE COLOURS OF THE WEST NOVA SCOTIA REGIMENT

In military organisations the word "Colour" is used to describe both the regimental flags of infantry battalions and the flags of the Household Cavalry.

"Colours" are large brocade and embroidery flags, originally carried into battle so that soldiers of a particular unit could see where the rest of their unit was located at all times and used as a rallying point during the battle. Although Colours are no longer carried in battle, they constitute the symbol of the Regiments' honour and represent its devotion to duty. As such they are held in the greatest esteem by the soldiers and officers. They are brought out on important parades and regimental occasions and are escorted by a "Colour Party".

Infantry units of the British army each have two Colours: the Queen's Colour which symbolises the Regiment's loyalty to the Crown, and a Regimental Colour which has some of the unit's battle honours inscribed on it. Thus a 'stand' or pair of Colours for a regiment normally comprises:

A Queen's Colour: usually the Union Flag with a gold circle in the centre, within which the regiment's name (and sometimes initials or number) are inscribed.

A Regimental Colour: usually a plain flag in the colour of the Regiment's 'facings', with the Regiment's insignia in the centre. Battle honours are displayed on this Colour.

New Colours are occasionally presented to a Regiment by Royal or Vice-regal persons, often to mark a special anniversary or event in the Regiment's history. The special ceremony at which the new Colours are presented usually involves a parade and an inspection.

When the new Colours for the West Nova Scotia Regiment are ready, the Queen's Colour will be based on the Canadian Flag instead of on the Union Jack. The Regimental Colour will still have a blue facing, and our two new battle honours for the War of 1812 and Afghanistan will be embroidered on them.

WEST NOVA SCOTIA REGIMENT

BATTLE HONOURS

WAR OF 1812

Defense of Canada 1812-1815

WORLD WAR I

ARRAS 1917-18	HILL 70
YPRES 1917	AMIENS
HINDENBURG LINE	PURSUIT TO MONS

WORLD WAR II

LANDING IN SICILY	Valguenera
Adrano	CATENANUOVA
Centuripe	Sicily 1943
Landing At Reggio	POTENZA
Gambatesa	THE SANGRO
Castel di Sangro	THE GULLY
Cassino II	Gustav Line
Liri Valley	HITLER LINE
Melfa Crossing	GOTHIC LINE
LAMONE CROSSING	RIMINI LINE
San Martino-San Lorenzo	San Fortunato
Savio Bridgehead	Italy 1943-1945
Apeldoorn	NORTH-WEST EUROPE 1945

POST WW II

Afghanistan

*Battle honours in capitals appear on the Regimental Colour

*"A moth eaten rag on a worm-eaten pole,
It does not look likely to stir a mans' soul,
'Tis the deeds that were done 'neath the moth-eaten rag,
When the pole was a staff, and the rag was a flag."*

Sir Edward Hamley on seeing some old Colours of the 32nd Foot in Monmouth Church

The Regimental Association in Times of Change:

WNSRRA 2006-16

by J. Ron Stonier, CD

In 1970, the WNSRRA Reunion was in Kentville, and the Memorial Service was held in "The Pines". This is the parade going up the hill toward the old Officers' Mess, making a left wheel into the Pines area.



BACKGROUND

In the years immediately following the War, a group of West Novas got together and decided to form a Regimental Association. One of their first decisions was to organize an annual reunion which became the focal point of their activity. The idea was quite successful, and many of the veterans and their wives came annually to the location where the reunion was being held.

In order to provide everyone an equal opportunity to attend, the location changed from year to year and included such locations as Aldershot, Bedford, Bridgetown, Bridgewater, Lunenburg, Charlottetown, Truro, Sydney, Kentville, Dartmouth, and Digby. These reunions were quite popular and, as a matter of fact, the membership of the regimental Association never dropped below 200 until 1994.

However, the level of membership would change significantly. In particular, the years from 1990 to 2009 saw a steady decline in the membership of the WNSRRA. The reasons could be many, but the primary reason was that the greater majority of members were World War II veterans who went to Europe to fight the Nazis. That meant that most of them were getting to an age where they were having health concerns, either naturally occurring or caused by wounds, that prevented them from attending the annual reunions. Others had perhaps just lost interest in the annual get-togethers. The decline in numbers was dramatic, from a membership of

241 in 1990 to only 34 active members in 2009. (See the chart on the next page)

Something had to be done to revive the Regimental Association (RA) or it just wouldn't survive. There was little opportunity to recruit other WWII veterans because they were all of a similar age group, so that wasn't an option. For years, small delegations of RA members had come to the Regiment at different times during the years and had spoken to the serving members about how important it was to keep the RA alive. That method appears not to have been very successful. Reservists, with very few exceptions, did not join the RA, neither during the time they served nor after leaving the Regiment because it was seen primarily as a WWII veterans organization.

THE PLAN

Around late 2009, it was decided that the time had come to do something to reverse this serious decline in membership. Efforts were begun by the RA to attract the interest and participation of former reservists who had served in the West Novas earlier in their lives. They had to get people interested in joining and participating in the RA by attending RA functions including the annual reunions. We determined that the old organization had been exclusively serving the needs of the WWII veterans and paying little attention to the needs and desires of the hundreds of soldiers who had served the Regiment in the Reserve component since the war. The RA turned its focus to modernize itself and to make those hundreds of

former West Nova Reservists aware of the fact that we were there to serve *them* and make the organization more attentive to their needs and desires.

TECHNOLOGY

The modernization of the RA was a process that saw a turn toward the 21st Century world of technology in several ways. Two Facebook pages for the West Novas existed. Through some negotiation, the memberships of the two pages were merged to be united as one; it exists today as a Public Group on Facebook called *West Nova Scotia Regiment*, and it had over 500 members as of November '16. We also established a FB page called *West Nova Scotia Regiment Regimental Association*. Then we established a presence on the Regimental page (wnsr.ca) where people could obtain information about the RA and how to join. People could download a membership application, fill it out and mail it in with a cheque, or they could complete the PDF fillable form and send in their annual dues using PayPal. They could even establish an automatic payment so that they wouldn't forget to pay their annual RA dues.

So, we've moved into the digital age. There's more. Previously, the RA Secretary would mail out a newsletter and information about the annual reunion to the paid members to keep them in the picture on what was happening in the Regiment. We moved into the digital age on that front as well. Now, we send out an

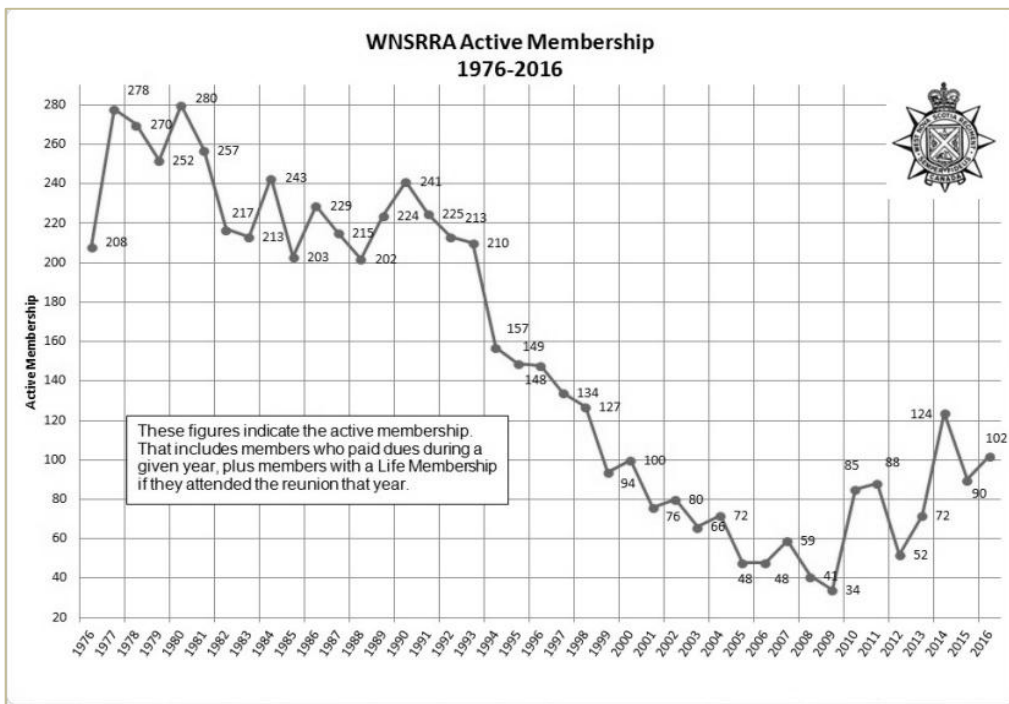
electronic newsletter twice a year via email, and it's a longer, more detailed and colourful publication. For those members who don't have email, it goes out in hard copy to help keep the members up to date on happenings within the Regiment, the Association, and the five WNSR affiliated Army Cadet Corps.

Another innovation implemented is the establishment of an online kitshop. We've tried to collect items that might be of interest to or be required by our membership, and we made them available online through the RA Kitshop at wnsr.ca/catalog/24. We have Regimental ties and hat badges, DVDs and ballcaps, T-shirts and coffee mugs – all for the convenience of our members, and we'll mail it to you if you pay the postage.

REMEMBER THE VETERAN

The RA has also taken on other projects which help to perpetuate the memory of those who have gone before us and developed an outstanding reputation for our Regiment.

The Book There were requests from numerous members on the Facebook site about the availability of copies of the regimental history, *West Novas* by Thomas Raddall. The only copies that could be found on the internet were priced at \$200+. An RA committee formed and set about the process of getting permission from the Raddall family to reprint Dr. Raddall's book. Long story short, we got 300 hard-cover copies printed and

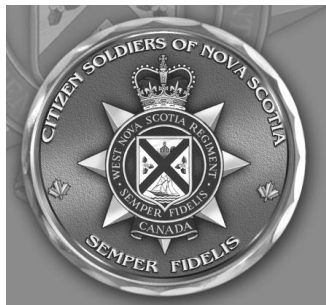


available for the 2014 Reunion. The RA took 150 and the Regiment took 150. Within two years, the RA sold all the books they had and are now selling some of the 40 remaining copies at the unit.

Times to Remember This is a project that the RA took on in the early part of 2016 to reprint the memoirs of Major Bill Thexton, WWII company commander and devoted RA member and leader. Within nine months, we had taken the book from a larger coiled format to a regular novel size and inserted dozens of relevant photos. These are the wartime recollections of the West Novas in England, Scotland, Sicily, Italy, the Hitler Line, the Gothic Line, Ortona in winter, and the Foglia River Crossing. Major Thexton tells how our Regiment played an important role in the successful Italian Campaign that helped to win the Second World War.

We were fortunate to be able to have Colonel Ian Hope, a former West Nova officer, write the foreword to the book. He did so from Rome where he was posted as an instructor at the NATO Defence College. Ian is a well-know PPCLI officer who commanded a Canadian Battle Group in Afghanistan.

The Regimental Memorial Coin The RA undertook another project which would help West Novas and the public remember and respect the 359 West Novas who died during the Second World War. We created a Memorial Coin with the regimental cap badge on one side honouring citizen soldiers of the Regiment. On the other side is a depiction of the West Nova Memorial Cairn beside Regimental HQ in Aldershot with the badge of the Lunenburg Regiment on the left and the badge of the Annapolis Regiment on the right. At the base of the cairn is information which identifies a West Nova killed in WWII. We thought that this was a great way to identify each coin as unique and to remember the supreme sacrifice made by each of these soldiers. There are also coins identified with a simple three digit serial number beginning at number 360 with space to engrave the name of a West Nova who has died after the war. As well, there is a variant of the coin which pays tribute to the West Nova Army Cadet Corps.



Another side to this project is that we've been able to make contact with the families of some of the soldiers memorialized on our coins, or the families have made contact with us. This has occurred to date for the families of 17 soldiers killed overseas where the families now have the Memorial Coins of their relatives who made the supreme sacrifice.

The Museum Project The establishment of a West Nova Regimental Museum has been a recurring topic among West Nova leaders for a long time. With co-operation between the unit and the Association, we were able to establish a WNSR History Committee which took on the project. The committee arrived at a solution by creating temporary exhibits that would be displayed at various local museums where the Regiment had had a geographical or historical connection. This would show the public our history which was the objective in the first place. The project is described in greater detail in another article in this issue.

WHERE DO WE STAND

All of the projects and the attempts to modernize the RA were geared toward attracting the interest of the WNSR reservist soldiers. These are the RA reinforcements we need to keep this important organization alive and thriving. In the graph on the next page, you can see how membership decreased steadily as members aged and died.



Some of those who attended the 2015 Reunion at Aldershot. They all look like A Coy pers.

Since the low point of 34 active members in 2009 membership never dipped below 52 members; however, it rose to a high of 124 in 2014 when the Memorial Coin was introduced, and at the end of the 2016 reunion, we

stand at 104 paid up members. The chart earlier in this article (WNSRRA Active Membership 1976-2016) shows the statistics in regard to active RA membership for the last forty years.

Because of the recent constant increase in attendance at the annual barbeque which is the opening event for our reunions these past few years and the increase in the number of members and guests at our Reunion Banquet, we feel that our efforts thus far have been successful. With the further support of West Novas, both serving

and retired, we can ensure that the Regimental Association will have a bright future.

If you're not a member, you might consider joining. If you're already a member, think of those missing out on the chance to be back in the Regimental Family. Tell them how to get in touch with us. It's easy to join online at the WNSR website; just go to wnsr.ca/ra/docs and fill out the online application. "Together, we're stronger."

The Town of Kentville is proud to support the West
Nova Scotia Regiment & Regimental Association



The Town of Kentville Twins with Castel di Sangro Italy

A project from the spring of 2016 resulted in the twinning of the Town of Kentville and the city of Castel di Sangro, Abruzzo, Italy, a community liberated by soldiers of the West Nova Scotia Regiment during WWII. Much of the work to accomplish the twinning was done by Alessandro Teti, an Italian engineer who co-ordinated this venture through the WNSR Regimental Association and the Administration of the Town of Kentville.

After arranging for translators to be available, Signore Teti made an official visit to the WNSRRA's annual reunion in Kentville in mid-September where he visited with actual West Nova veterans who fought to liberate his home during World War II. He was hosted at a reception by the Mayor and town officials before his return to Italy with agreement to establish the twinning which was finalized by both towns in late 2016.

Signore Teti was extremely impressed by the welcome and hospitality displayed to him during his visit by the West Novas, Town Council, and the good citizens of Kentville. Many local merchants displayed welcome signs in their windows showing the Regimental Flag of the West Novas and the Italian flag as well. Well done, Kentville.

Records of West Novas Included in Royal Canadian Legion Online Database

Amongst the many other worthy efforts of the Royal Canadian Legion is a database found on their website at <https://legionmagazine.com/en/last-post/> which contains the names of West Novas who passed away between 1985 and 2016. The database is just part of a much larger record which is based on names published in the *Legion Magazine* section titled Last Post, and represents the Legion's efforts to digitize its files. As stated by the Legion, "Since 1928, *Legion Magazine* has honoured those Canadians who have served their country by publishing in print short death notices for Royal Canadian Legion members with military backgrounds, Canadian war veterans and Legion members with police service."¹ The database allows you to search by personal information such as name, military service or Legion Membership.

Although input and work on the list continues by the Legion, and is dependent on the Legion receiving notification of the death of individuals, it already contains 769 names of West Novas (not including ten records that are duplicated, including one that has five entries!). The names listed are mostly veterans of WWII, but there are also those who served the Regiment in Korea, the Gulf War and Afghanistan, and/or were members of the Legion. When one considers that most of the names are WWII veterans, it is a very large number of individuals who survived the war and made it back to their homes and families, and carried on in civilian life. How many of those were members of the Association we don't know, but likely quite a lot given the size of the Association and its various Branches after the war.

Each entry includes basic information about the soldier, including surname and given name(s), initials and service number. (With that basic information you access the Veteran Affairs website and other online sources and do more digging about the individual.) Also included in the Legion database is the rank of the individual (if known), period of service (usually given as

'WWII' or 'Korea'), other units served with and date of death.

Some examples of those included in the honour roll are such interesting entries as Lt G. Ross Guy, winner of the MC, who died on December 30, 1996, aged 78, and Chief Warrant Officer 1st Class Donald Currie of Windsor who passed away on the 18th of July, 2008 at the age of 81. There are also names such as Private Joseph E. Hartling, who served first with the Pictou Highlanders before joining the West Novas. Each entry tells a story, and each name deserves to be remembered for their service. Well done to those on the Legion staff who have taken on this important task.

Most of the entries in the following article, "In Memory of Fallen Comrades 2006-2016" were researched in the Legion Database to identify or confirm service in WWII or the Korean War. Access to this resource has helped to make our tribute more complete and accurate.

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¹ Legionmagazine.com

In Memory of Fallen Comrades

2006-2016

As part of the regular agenda at the Regimental Association Annual General Meetings held at each reunion, we take time to remember those who have passed away during the year between reunions. The annual lists have been maintained by our faithful Secretary, LCol (ret'd) WC "Bill" Goodwin, CD, The available content of those lists has been reproduced here in tribute to our Fallen Comrades of the last ten years up to mid September 2016. Efforts have been made to make this list as complete and accurate as possible. We realize that there may be some mistakes, but we wanted to offer the best tribute we could with the information we had. Please accept our apologies if we have erred. If you have a correction to offer, please send it to the RA Secretary at RASecty@gmail.com



2006

Lance Corporal Alex Salter -- WWII veteran -- Died Jan 2006
Lieutenant Colonel Charles A Eaves, CD -- WWII veteran, CO 1957-60 -- Died Jul 2006
Major Edis A Flewelling -- WWII veteran -- Died Sep 2006
Carl D Joadrie -- WWII veteran -- Died Sep 2006
Emery Landry -- WWII veteran -- Died Sep 2006
George Wm Ritchie -- Died Oct 2006
Curtis N Nickerson -- WWII and Korean War veteran -- Died Nov 2006
Ronald T Sly -- Died Nov 2006
Malcolm Elliot Coldwell -- Died Dec 2006
Layton H Fisher -- WWII veteran -- Died Dec 2006
Sergeant Edgar LeRoy Sabean -- WWII veteran -- Died Nov 2006
Wendell L Thompson -- Died Dec 2006

2007

Carl A Dickie -- WWII veteran -- Died Jan 2007
Merrill Byron Latham -- WWII veteran -- Died Jan 2007
Harold Cecil Ripley -- Died Jan 2007
Brigadier Francis Martin Reardon, ED, CD -- WWII veteran -- Died Jan 2007
William J Wilson -- WWII veteran -- Died Jan 2007
Richard M Doucette -- WWII veteran -- Died Feb 2007
Arthur Dalton Titus -- WWII and Korean War veteran -- Died Feb 2007
Harry Floyd Williams -- WWII veteran -- Died Feb 2007
Corporal Leland T Connell -- WWII veteran -- Died Mar 2007
Richard Hebb -- Died Mar 2007
Joseph T Jamieson -- WWII veteran, 1stSSF -- Died Mar 2007
John Jeffery Pelrine -- WWII veteran -- Died Mar 2007
Captain E Gordon Romkey -- WWII veteran -- Died Mar

2007

John Neil Turnbull -- Died Mar 2007
Robert Frederick Brown -- WWII veteran -- Died Apr 2007
Jerome Forrest Garden -- WWII veteran -- Died Apr 2007
James Thomas Walsh -- WWII veteran -- Died Apr 2007
Sergeant Henry Wm Ferguson -- WWII veteran -- Died May 2007
Jack Munroe MacKenzie -- WWII veteran -- Died May 2007
Irvin St.C Murphy -- WWII veteran -- Died May 2007
James Edward Worthylake -- WWII veteran -- Died Jun 2007
Donald Francis Surette -- Died Jun 2007
Carl Russell Mosher -- Died Jul 2007
Gordon A Salzman -- WWII veteran -- Died Jul 2007
Corporal Daniel Adamson -- WWII veteran -- Died Aug 2007
Carl Marshall Bowlby -- WWII veteran -- Died Aug 2007
Hugh Gillis MacInnis -- WWII veteran -- Died Aug 2007
Gerald Joseph Walsh -- WWII veteran -- Died Aug 2007
James W Bruhm -- WWII veteran -- Died Sep 2007
Albert J D'Eon -- Died Sep 2007
Lance Corporal John H Morrirt -- WWII veteran -- Died Sep 2007
George P Munroe -- Died Sep 2007
Raymond A Smith -- WWII veteran -- Died Oct 2007
Graham Ashe -- WWII veteran -- Died Nov 2007
Alvin Barkhouse -- WWII veteran -- Died Nov 2007
John Alfred Searle -- WWII veteran -- Died Nov 2007
James Joseph Surrette -- WWII veteran -- Died Nov 2007
Reginald Trites -- WWII veteran -- Died Nov 2007
John Hugh Campbell -- WWII veteran -- Died Dec 2007
Captain Max Forsythe-Smith, CD -- WWII veteran, HLCOL 1996-2005 -- Died Dec 2007

2008

Murray Weldon Burns -- WWII veteran – Died Jan 2008
Lorne Richard Marsman – Died Jan 2008
Master Warrant Officer Michel Philippe Frechette, CD –
WNSR Chief Cook - Died Feb 2008 while during
Exercise Southbound Trooper VIII
Nelson M Pick -- WWII veteran – Died Feb 2008
Lance Corporal Harold Ellsworth Cromwell -- WWII
veteran – Died Mar 2008
John Daniel Stultz -- WWII veteran – Died Mar 2008
Norman Percy Blanchard -- WWII veteran – Died Apr
2008
Clement Russell Hiltz -- WWII veteran – Died Apr 2008
Ernest Clyde Mosher – WWII veteran – Died Apr 2008
Peter D Sampson -- WWII veteran – Died Apr 2008
Warrant Officer 2nd Class Alfred GE Jordan – Korean
War veteran – Died May 2008
Manson Cohen -- WWII veteran – Died Jun 2008
Robert K Edwards – Died Jun 2008
Caleb Guy Rushton -- WWII veteran – Died Jun 2008
Raymond David Veinot – Died Jun 2008
Chief Warrant Officer Donald Currie, CD – WWII
veteran -- Died Jul 2008
Edward A Munroe -- WWII veteran – Died Jul 2008
Donald Everett Smith -- WWII veteran – Died Jul 2008
Ronald Graham Leighton -- WWII veteran – Died Sep
2008
Albert Martell Clyburne -- WWII veteran – Died Nov
2008
Bruce Alden Rhodenizer -- WWII veteran – Died Nov
2008
Howard D Weeks -- WWII veteran – Died Nov 2008
Scott G Arsenault -- WWII veteran – Died Dec 2008
Homer Keith Ernst – Died Dec 2008
Frederick Gordon Lloyd – Died Dec 2008

2009

Joseph W Leblanc -- WWII veteran – Died Jan 2009
Herman Clayton Spence -- WWII veteran – Died Jan 2009
Sergeant Major Everett K Wile -- WWII and Korean War
veteran – Died Jan 2009
Floyd E Singer -- WWII veteran – Died Feb 2009
Gerald Patrick Keast -- WWII veteran – Died Mar 2009
Sergeant Ralph E Rafuse -- WWII veteran – Died Mar
2009
Lawrence Bollivar -- WWII veteran – Died Apr 2009
Stanley A Huskins -- WWII veteran – Died Apr 2009
Clifford W Cameron -- WWII veteran – Died May 2009
Wilson A Smith -- WWII veteran – Died May 2009
George Wilkens Atwood – Died Jun 2009
Arnold E Cook -- WWII veteran – Died Jun 2009
Donald Roscoe McAvoy -- WWII veteran – Died Jun 2009
William Edgar Vergie – Died Jun 2009
Sergeant Carl Joseph Saulnier -- WWII veteran – Died Jul
2009
George Alton Tracey -- WWII veteran – Died Jul 2009
Ronald Ervin Vidito -- WWII veteran – Died Jul 2009
Gordon F Naugler -- WWII veteran – Died Aug 2009

Perley Oikle -- WWII veteran – Died Aug 2009
Major James F Slade -- WWII veteran – Died Aug 2009
Gordon Saunders Veinotte -- WWII veteran – Died Sep
2009
Garnet Edward Adams -- WWII veteran – Died Oct 2009
Warrant Officer Keith A Allen, CD – RQMS – Died Oct
2009
Major Donald Alexander Campbell, MC, CD -- WWII
veteran – Died Oct 2009
Sergeant George W Cox -- WWII veteran – Died Oct 2009
Theodore Sabeau -- WWII veteran – Died Oct 2009
Lieutenant Colonel Frank E. Hiltz -- WWII veteran, CO -
Dec 44-Apr 45 – Died Nov 2009
Irving Ralph McDonough -- WWII veteran – Died Nov
2009
Paul W Smith -- WWII veteran – Died Nov 2009
Murray Clarke Best -- WWII veteran – Died Dec 2009
Alphonse Joseph Peters – Died Dec 2009

2010

Murray E Corbin -- WWII veteran – Died Feb 2010
Captain Ricky E Dykens, CD – Died Jan 2010
Sergeant Abel Joseph LeBlanc -- WWII veteran – Died Jan
2010
Thomas A Mapplebeck – Died Jan 2010
Major Robert Charles Dale, CD – Died Feb 2010
Otis E Morgan -- WWII veteran – Died Feb 2010
Lester Mosher -- WWII veteran – Died Feb 2010
Robert Rhino -- WWII veteran – Died Feb 2010
James F May -- WWII veteran – Died Mar 2010
George A Brimicombe -- WWII veteran – Died Apr 2010
Oren S Foster, BEM -- WWII veteran – Died Apr 2010
Philip Smeltzer -- WWII veteran – Died May 2010
Charles Francis Bouttier -- WWII veteran – Died Jun 2010
Alexander MacInnis -- WWII veteran – Died Jun 2010
Reginald Avery Boates -- WWII veteran – Died Jul 2010
Sergeant Marilyn G Herber, CD -- Fin Sgt – Died Jul
2010
Lieutenant Colonel C. Roger MacLellan, MC, CD --
WWII veteran, CO 1960-62, HLCOL 1988-90, HCOL
1990-2002 – Died Jul 2010
William F Legge – Died Jul 2010
G Everett Matchett -- WWII veteran – Died Jul 2010
Raymond Vincent Forgeron -- Died Aug 2010
James C Fox -- WWII veteran – Died Aug 2010
Stephen J Francis – Died Aug 2010
William R Kenny – Died Aug 2010
Brenton Alexander Taylor -- WWII veteran – Died Aug
2010
John F Turner – Died Aug 2010
Arthur Raymond Bourque -- WWII veteran – Died Sep
2010
Sergeant Joseph Vernon Earle -- WWII veteran – Died
Sep 2010
James Theodore Evans -- WWII veteran – Died Sep 2010
Fred G Spicer, CD – Died Nov 2010
George W Sampson -- Died Dec 2010

2011

Albert B McCormack -- WWII veteran – Died 2011
Daniel Francis Merlin -- WWII veteran – Died Jan 2011
Walter Leo Oakley -- Died Jan 2011
Sanford Lewis Redden -- WWII veteran – Died Jan 2011
Hector G Boudreau -- WWII veteran – Died Feb 2011
Captain Robert Leo Fox -- WWII veteran – Died Mar 2011
Paul Eugene Falt -- WWII veteran – Died Apr 2011
Lloyd L Brown -- Died May 2011
Corporal Charles Clarke -- WWII veteran – Died May 2011
Michael L Green -- Died May 2011
Hugh McIntosh -- WWII veteran – Died May 2011
Vernon Mons Baker -- Died Jun 2011
Alan Herbert Brannen -- WWII veteran – Died Jun 2011
Ralph Eugene Fox -- WWII veteran – Died Jun 2011
Charles Clarke -- WWII veteran – Died Aug 2011
Nelson Cromwell -- WWII veteran – Died Aug 2011
John Floyd Tidd -- Korean War veteran – Died Aug 2011
Claude Norman Anderson -- WWII veteran – Died Sep 2011
William Gibson Clements -- WWII veteran – Died Sep 2011
Victor D'Eon -- WWII veteran - Died Sep 2011
Harry Edward Kidd -- Died Sep 2011
Millard Clarence Rector -- WWII veteran WNSR, CBH, 1st SSF – Died Sep 2011
Murdock W Enman -- WWII veteran – Died Nov 2011
Chief Warrant Officer Murray Rodney Aalders, CD -- Died Dec 2011
Wayne Austin Cress -- Died Dec 2011
Thelma P Hawkins -- Died Dec 2011

2012

Wilbert M Hiltz -- WWII veteran – Died Jan 2012
Charles Robert O'Neill -- WWII veteran – Died Jan 2012
Truman Gabriel Croft -- Died Jan 2012
Corporal Frank McLaughlin -- WWII veteran – died Jan 2012
Jack Clement Holley -- Died Mar 2012
Ronald H Feindel -- WWII veteran -- -- Died Mar 2012
Captain Frank Allen Harvie -- Died Mar 2012
Sergeant George Bryce Lincoln -- WWII veteran – Died Apr 2012
Clarence R Dorey -- WWII veteran – Died May 2012
Honorary Colonel the Honourable JJ Kinley, ONS, CD -- WWII veteran, NS LtGov 1994-2000, HCol 2002-05 – Died May 2012
Chief Warrant Officer FJ "Dick" Moore, CD –RSM 1976-80 – Died May 2012
Robert L Turple -- WWII veteran – Died May 2012
Clifford A Boyles -- WWII veteran – Died Jun 2012
Corporal Roswell Percy Crowell -- WWII veteran – Died Jul 2012
James Clarence Arthur -- Died Jul 2012
Harold Frederick Wolfe -- WWII veteran – Died Jul 2012
Thomas W Laughlin -- WWII veteran – Died Sep 2012

Garfield H Minnick -- WWII veteran – Died Oct 2012
Delmer F Muise -- WWII veteran – Died Oct 2012
Ernest Selig -- WWII veteran – Died Oct 2012
Staff Sergeant Gerald L Crouse -- WWII veteran – Died Nov 2012
Sergeant Gordon E Holden -- WWII veteran – Died Nov 2012
Randall M Myrick -- WWII veteran – Died Nov 2012
Lieutenant Edward MS Fisher -- WWII veteran – Died Dec 2012
Frank Herbert Phillips -- WWII veteran – Died Dec 2012

2013

Collie Basker -- WWII veteran – Died Jan 2013
Eric Veinot -- Died Jan 2013
Andrew Nelson Eisner – Died Mar 2013
Charles D "Dick" Vidito -- Died Mar 2013
Cecil J Heisler -- WWII veteran – Died Feb 2013
Ronald MacDonald -- WWII veteran – Died Feb 2013
Charles A Crosby -- WWII veteran –Died Mar 2013
Noel Ritson Durling -- WWII veteran – Died Mar 2013
Corporal Maurice Percy Grant -- WWII veteran – Died Mar 2013
William Edmund Dexter -- WWII veteran – Died Apr 2013
Sergeant Arthur Joseph Doucette -- WWII veteran – Died Apr 2013
W Earl MacLeod -- WWII veteran – Died Apr 2013
Archie D MacEachern -- WWII veteran – Died May 2013
Major Conrad "Connie" MacNeil – WWII veteran – RQ – Died May 2013
Ronald Naus - WWII veteran – Died May 2013
Corporal Thomas W Cleveland -- WWII veteran – Died Jun 2013
A Harold Ernst -- WWII veteran – Died Jun 2013
Ronald E Mailman -- Died Oct 2013
Struan George Wadden -- WWII veteran – Died Oct 2013 – age 101
Major RG Bill Thexton, CD -- WWII veteran – Died Nov 2013
Morton Patrick "Dunkirk" Beazley -- WWII veteran – Died Nov 2013
Chief Warrant Officer George Doucette -- WWII and Korean War veteran – Died Dec 2013
Bruce Oxner -- WWII veteran – Died Dec 2013
Major James R Wilcox -- WWII veteran – Died Dec 2013

2014

Maurice L Lightfoot -- WWII veteran – Died Feb 2014
Sergeant W Barry J Pitcairn, CD -- RSS – Died Feb 2014
John R Barlow -- Korean War veteran – Died Mar 2014
Robert R Bailey -- Died May 2014
Warrant Officer Ernie L McMurrer, MMM, CD -- RQMS – Died May 2014
Lieutenant Colonel Daniel R Bobbitt CD -- Afghanistan veteran, WNSR Officer 1988-90, and CO 2 RCHA – Died May 2014
Master Warrant Officer Murray C Myles, CD -- RSS

Chief Clerk – Died May 2014
Pearlie E Whynott -- WWII veteran – Died May 2014
Thomas J Keefe -- WWII veteran – Died Jul 2014
Captain Dianne Thompson-Sheppard, QC -- Died Jul 2014
Robert F Bond -- WWII veteran – Died Aug 2014
Frederick M Todd -- Died Aug 2014
Alexander Malcolm Stevens -- WWII veteran – Died Sep 2014
Lieutenant Colonel Daniel L Harlow, CD -- CO 1962-65 and Korean War veteran – Died Oct 2014
Sergeant Malcolm L Dodge -- Died Nov 2014
Frank Bernard Sanford -- WWII veteran – Died Nov 2014

2015

Donald Kitchener Sisk -- WWII veteran – Died Jan 2015
Warrant Officer 1st Class / CWO Joseph H Tidd, CD -- RSM 1965-72 – Died Jan 2015
Warrant Officer Stan Whynott, CD -- RSS – Died Jan 2015
Murray Huntley -- WWII veteran - Died Feb 2015
Garnet Raymond Burns -- WWII veteran – Died Mar 2015
Frank Hartlen -- WWII veteran WNSR and 1st SSF – Died Mar 2015
Robert R Sears -- WWII veteran – Died Apr 2015
Robert H Huntley -- WWII veteran – Died May 2015
Major EL “Tony” Larkin, CD – Korean War veteran – Died Jun 2015
Sergeant Albert Arthur Smith -- WWII veteran - Died Jun 2015
Sergeant Kenneth Keith Wilson, CD-- Died Jun 2015
Lloyd Naugler -- WWII veteran – Died Jul 2015
Duncan Malcolm Ferguson -- WWII veteran – Died Aug 2015
Stewart N MacMillan -- WWII veteran - Died Aug 2015
Marshall M. Fleet – WWII veteran – Died Sep 2015
Sergeant John A Rafuse -- WWII veteran – Died Nov 2015
Lieutenant Connie (Smith) Durcsak, CD – Died Nov 2015
George Mosher -- WWII veteran – Died Dec 2015
Carl Floyd Williams -- WWII veteran – Died Dec 2015

2016

Major Fred J MacEachern, CD -- President WNSRRA 2006-07 and WWII veteran – Died Jan 2016
Edison Raymond Corkum – WWII veteran – Died Feb 2016
Russell Wayne McIsaac – Died Feb 2016
Joseph Ernest Fougere -- WWII veteran - Died Apr 2016
Franklin Albert Hawkins -- WWII veteran - Died Apr 2016
Lieutenant Colonel John C Himmelman, CD -- CO 1990-94 – Died Apr 2016
Glenn A Joudrey – WWII veteran – Died May 2016
Aleide Jean-Baptiste d’Eon -- WWII veteran – Died Jun 2016
Captain HA David Morrison, CD -- RCACC 2444 – Died Jun 2016
MCpl Harold McBurney, CD -- Died Jun 2016
Osborne Allen Brewster -- WWII veteran - Died Jul 2016
Russell Clinton Langille – WWII veteran – Died Oct 2016

William Clyde Rooney – WWII veteran – Died Oct 2016
Major Peter Howard Taylor – Korean War veteran – Died Oct 2016
Everett Hartley Connell – WWII veteran – Died Nov 2016

At the 67th Annual Reunion of the WNSRRA at the Monument in Camp Aldershot on a windy and potentially wet Sunday morning, Padre Major (Ret’d) Everett E Hill, CD conducts the Memorial Service. This is the second consecutive year for Padre Hill to conduct this service for RA members, veterans young and old, as well as widowed war brides who faithfully attend the reunions annually.



In Memoriam 2006-2016

West Novas who died in the line of service

Lieutenant Colonel Daniel R Bobbitt, CD 1971-2014



Lieutenant-Colonel Dan Bobbitt joined the West Nova Scotia Regiment in 1988 as a private soldier and served two years as a rifleman and later Pl Comd. In 1990 he transferred to the Regular Force, becoming an Artillery Officer. Over 23 years of service, he held a variety of command, staff, and instructor positions. Seven of those years were in the 2nd Regiment, Royal Canadian Horse Artillery, starting as a Troop Commander and subsequently Gun Position Officer, Forward Observer, Battery Captain and finally Battery Commander. Other postings included the Royal Canadian Artillery School, 2CMBG HQ, Canada Comd, and the Chief of Programme. He was twice deployed to Bosnia, in 1998 as a civil-military liaison officer with the 1st Bn RCR Battle Group and in 2001 as the Range Liaison Officer for Glamoc Range. In 2007 he commanded D Battery (The Dragons) on operations in Kandahar, Afghanistan as part of the 2nd Bn RCR Battle Group.

LCol Bobbitt, 43, of Garrison Petawawa, was killed in a tragic training accident at CFB Wainwright 21 May 2014. He was the beloved husband of Monica Bobbitt (nee Ward); loved and cherished father of Connor, Elizabeth, and Katherine; dear son of LCol (Ret'd) John and Maureen (nee Lowe) Bobbitt WNSR, RCR, Cornwallis, NS; and dear brother of Capt. Mike Bobbitt (Annette) WNSR, Port Williams NS. He is sadly missed by his nieces and nephew Sarah, Max and Rachel. Son-in-law of Robert and Hazel (nee Zinck) Ward and brother-in-law of Gregory, Shawn and James Ward, all of Kentville NS.



MWO Michel P Frechette, CD 1959-2008



Master Warrant Officer Michel Philippe Frechette - 48, of Windsor, Hants Co., passed away on Wednesday, 13 February 2008, in Nottoway, Virginia. Born on September 3, 1959, in Montreal, Que., he was a son of the late Fernand and Therese (Caron) Frechette. Michel served 29 years in the Canadian Navy, 10 as a submariner. Upon retirement in 2006, he joined the reserves. In his spare time, Michel loved to garden with his grandson Tylis, and he loved to cook. Mikey was an all around loving person, husband, father and friend to all. He always left his mark and will be missed by all.

Michel was a member of the West Nova Scotia Regiment, and the Land Force Atlantic Area chief cook and was in Virginia as part of the advance party for EXERCISE SOUTHBOUND TROOPER VIII, the largest annual exercise for soldiers of 36 Canadian Brigade Group. Mikey as he was known, was a dedicated family man and extremely professional in his duties, and was highly regarded by his military colleagues. He was the loving husband, soulmate and true love of Caroline Vigneault and proud father to daughter, Tanya Verge (Corey Lucas), Halifax; son, Kevin Verge; grandfather to Tylis Verge; brother to his sisters, Denise Frechette and spouse, Sharon Walker; Marie Frechette (Daniel); Francine Frechette; Sylvie Frechette and husband, Marcel Matte, all of Montreal, Quebec; his only brother, Pierre and wife Sylvie Frechette, Montreal, Quebec; uncle to numerous nieces and nephews. Michel was predeceased by his parents, Fernand and Therese (Caron) Frechette.



We are proud supporters of the
Canadian Armed Forces,
and we wish the
West Nova Scotia Regiment
congratulations on their
80th Anniversary.

390 Main St., Kentville, NS



395 Main St., Kentville, NS



NLCC William Hall V.C. #67

This Navy League Cadet Corps has been in operation since 1958. Teaching the Youth of Hants County (9-12 yrs) about the Arts of Small Boat Seamanship while instilling in them a strong sense of Self-Reliance and Self-Discipline. No fees to join or participate. Uniforms are free.

What kids gain from Navy League Cadets:

- SELF CONFIDENCE
- SELF DISCIPLINE
- SELF ESTEEM
- LEADERSHIP
- INTERACTION WITH OTHER KIDS AT CAMP AND OTHER FUNCTIONS
- PREPARATION FOR SEA, ARMY OR AIR CADETS



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More than just a Shiny Disc

The WNSR Memorial Coin was a project of the Regimental Association in early 2014. The concept was simply to design and produce a regimental coin. However, we wanted to strike a coin of which every West Nova could be proud, a first-class coin recognized as more special than the coins of other regiments.

In browsing various designs, we saw the Seaforth Highlanders coin where each one was identified using the particulars of a Seaforth soldier killed overseas instead of using the usual three or four digit serial number. We adopted this excellent idea to identify our coins. We decided to call it the Memorial Coin to avoid confusion with WNSR coins produced in the past.

Each WNSR Memorial Coin is identified by the particulars of a West Nova who died during World War II. The information is displayed toward the bottom of the reverse of the coin. Also on the reverse of the coin is a depiction of the WNSRRA Memorial Cairn at Camp Aldershot. On the left is the Lunenburg Regiment badge, and on the right is the badge of the Annapolis Regiment, the two regiments from which the West Novas were formed. The obverse shows a striking WNSR badge and shows that this coin is dedicated to the Citizen Soldiers of Nova Scotia. Coins are gold-plated and are 1¾ inches (45 mm) in diameter. For comparison, a Canadian loonie is 26.5 mm.



The real story about the Memorial Coin is that in researching the background of the soldier engraved on their coins, some soldiers have discovered living family members and have united the Memorial Coin with the family of the soldier whom the coin commemorates. In other cases, family members of specific soldiers whose names appear on the coins have contacted the Regimental Association and inquired about their relative's coin. We have been able to unite 17 coins to their families so far. In some cases, the coins had already been issued to another West Nova who gladly made an

exchange to ensure the coin got back to the family. This is truly an extremely satisfying project which helps to recognize the service and sacrifice of those West Novas who died in the service of their country.

OTHER WNSR COINS

In 1996, a Sixtieth Anniversary Coin was struck using pewter. Many West Novas still carry this challenge coin in their wallets. If you met another West Nova in a bar or Mess, he could produce his coin and expect you to show yours. If you showed your coin, he would be obliged to purchase a drink for you. If you could not produce the coin, then you were expected to treat him likewise. This coin was struck during the term when LCol Serge Asselin was CO, and CWO Peter Bailey was RSM. Coins are pewter grey in colour and are 1¾ inches (35 mm) in diameter. Each one is engraved with a three digit serial number.



In early 2014, LCol Harris had a Regimental Coin struck, prior to the making of the RA Memorial Coin. The project was headed by Capt. Mike Bobbitt and the coin was procured from AFPP-International, the same company where the WNSR Memorial Coin was made.

The Regimental Coin is an extremely attractive gold-plated coin approximately 45mm in diameter. It bears the WNSR hat badge on a black background on the



obverse with an oval platform for the three digit serial, and it has the Regimental Battle Honours listed on the silver coloured centre of the reverse of the coin.



*Congratulates
West Nova Scotia Regiment
on its 80th Anniversary*

*Thank you
for your service*

**THE MUNICIPALITY OF
CHESTER**



Colin Fraser

Member of Parliament for
West Nova/Député de Nova-Ouest



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Five West Nova Affiliated RCAC Corps

For 75 of our 80 years, Army Cadets have been an important part of our West Nova Regimental Family. Currently five active corps wear the West Nova hat badge, shoulder flashes, lanyards.

These corps are:

603 RCACC Weymouth
686 RCACC Bridgetown
1714 RCACC Annapolis Royal
2444 Kings County RCACC
2688 RCACC Bridgewater



Recognized as Canada's oldest youth program, there are approximately 21,000 army cadets in about 450 corps across the country. The Cadet Program in Canada is not a military organization; it's a citizenship organization. Although cadets wear uniforms and use a military rank structure and practise foot drill, they are not a part of the Department of National Defense, but their training and activities are supported by DND, especially by the units with which the individual cadet corps are affiliated.

Membership in the Army Cadets is open to Canadian youth from 12-18 years of age. The dynamic cadet program offers leadership, drill, marksmanship, biathlon, sports and fitness, field training, expeditions (local, within Atlantic Canada, national, and even international!), summer training, travel and more! Best of all, the cadet program is FREE (including uniforms)! All they ask in return is the cadet's time and commitment. They aim to build confidence, instill and develop leadership, teach life skills, promote physical fitness, and stimulate an interest in the Canadian Armed Forces.

Cadets are led by members of the Cadet Instructor Cadre (CIC) composed of Primary Reservists who receive leadership and organizational training as well as basic military instruction. When basic training is complete, they sometimes get specific training which helps them to deliver training to cadets. CIC officers can serve until age 65, and they receive Primary Reserve rates of pay for their respective ranks. If you have military experience and you want to become involved in the Cadet Program, perhaps there's a vacancy for you in the local cadet leadership cadre. It costs nothing to make an inquiry.

Corps also often have Civilian Instructors (CI) who are civilians engaged in instructional, organizational, or administrative duties at a given cadet corps.

Cadet corps must have a sponsoring organization who provides financial support as well as quarters for training of cadets and storage for their equipment. Frequent sponsors are branches of the Royal Canadian Legion or various service clubs, such as Lions, Rotary, Kinsmen, or Kiwanis clubs to mention a few.

Each corps operates a clothing stores for uniforms (dress and combat) and training stores. The staff in stores secure equipment used for training, such as air-rifles, training aids, camp stores, etc.

The Army Cadet League of Canada has branches in each province which provide advice and assistance as well as some financial aid to Army Cadet Corps within their province. The goal is for each Army Cadet Corps to be assigned a director from the League to act as liaison between the League and the corps.



2688 BRIDGEWATER KINSMEN ARMY CADET CORPS

*Submitted by Captain Heather Wharton, CD,
Commanding Officer 2688 RCACC*

Bridgewater Army Cadet Corps was originally formed 22 Sep 61 under the sponsorship of the Hebbville Consolidated High School Board and affiliated with The West Nova Scotia Regiment at the same time. Sometime in 1973 the Bridgewater Kinsmen Club assumed the sponsorship of the corps. There is no record of the Corps asking for new designation.

Effective 1 Sep 83 the Corps officially assumed the designation of Bridgewater Kinsmen Cadet Corps. It also changed to an open corps.

Although it is not documented when they moved from Hebbville to the Airfield Engineering Squadron (AEF) presently known as Construction Engineering Flight (AEF) building in Pine Grove, the corps parades there every Tuesday evening from 1830 to 2100hrs.

Over the past 10 years the Bridgewater Kinsmen Army Cadet Corps has seen many youth come through their doors and achieve so many great accomplishments, and grow into well rounded, self-disciplined young men and women.

2688 has seen cadets win scholarships to RMC, with one of the cadets graduating with distinction. CWO Dylan Allan took the "Para" course in Trenton, Ontario and trained with the military skydiving. He earned his wings and proudly wore them on his cadet uniform.

Many cadets from 2688 have spent their summers receiving or delivering training at the Cadet Training

Centre at Camp Argonaut at CFB Gagetown. However others have completed summer training in more distant places such as Rocky Mountain Cadet Training Centre in British Columbia and Whitehorse Cadet Training Centre in the Yukon. In 2014 Cadet CWO Tristan Butts travelled to Scotland for his summer training. This year, Cadet Sgt MacKenzie Corkum won a spot on the National Rifle Team and will travel to Bisley, England to compete in 2017. We have had cadets travel to Goose Bay to take part in the annual Cold Weather Winter Expedition for survival training in that challenging environment.

Medals have been won by many cadets such as the ANAVET, Lord Strathcona, and the Legion Medal of Excellence, as well as Cadet Long Service Medals for up to six years in the program. In 2015, two cadets, Cadet WO Michelle Cheeseman and her brother James were presented with bravery awards for saving their neighbour's life when his barn collapsed on him due to the heavy snow.

Over the past 10 years there have been changes within the corps and program. The restructure of the program was phased in by one level a year taking 5 years to complete. The COs and staff have changed a few times. Capt Gordon Peveril (1998-99), Capt Bryan Riddle (2000-07), Capt Amanda Gaul (2008-11), Capt Tracy Williams (2012-14), and Capt Heather Wharton (2014 to the present). The Kinsmen still sponsor the Corps, and the Bridgewater Legion has played a big role in sponsoring an annual traditional Mess Dinner for us.

After leaving the corps Gordon Peveril became our League Representative, and every year at our final parade he stood proudly recording the parade. As the saying goes "all good things must come to an end"; this year we sadly had to say farewell to Mr. Peveril when he retired as Army Cadet League Director for 2688.



Congratulations to the West Nova Scotia
Regiment on its 80th Anniversary.
Thank you for your service to Canada.

Proud to honour those who served for us!

**BERNADETTE
JORDAN**

MP South Shore–St. Margaret's

129 Aberdeen Rd., Suite 106,
Bridgewater, NS, B4V 2S7
Phone: 902.527.5655
bernadette.jordan@parl.gc.ca

A black and white portrait of Bernadette Jordan, a woman with short blonde hair, wearing a dark top and a light-colored blazer, smiling at the camera.

Bridgewater Teens Receive Cadet Commendation

News / May 11, 2016 by Lieutenant Charles Huntley

Cadet Sergeant James Cheeseman and Cadet Warrant Officer Michelle Cheeseman of the 2688 Bridgewater Kinsmen Army Cadets in Bridgewater, N.S. received Cadet Commendations this week for their efforts to save the life of a fellow neighbour last winter. The incident took place back on March 27th 2015, when the two noticed their neighbour was in distress and came to his aid.

James and Michelle were walking along the road near their bus stop when they heard a loud noise and witnessed their neighbour's shed roof collapse. James ran to the shed to verify if anyone was in the building when he heard Mr. Kenneth Bruhm yelling for help. Through quick thinking and decisive actions, the two were able to contact emergency response services and, through the help of their father, secure the falling shed enough for Mr. Bruhm to breathe and eventually be safely retrieved and receive medical attention.

"I am very thrilled for them. I am glad to see them receive credit for what they have done and its well deserved. It's a proud moment for all involved," commented Captain Heather Wharton, Commanding Officer of the 2688 cadets.

am full of pride and I feel great for stopping that day to help him," said Cadet Sergeant James Cheeseman.

James was glad they were nearby that day; they weren't sure what could have happened if they didn't help their neighbour. It took a lot of physical and mental ability to stabilize the collapsed shed. He was also glad his father and sister were there to help them.

"I was really scared when I saw this happening, I wasn't sure of the outcome. Now, looking back on what me and my bother did, I am very proud and full of excitement. I am happy to be recognized for what we did that day," said. Cadet Warrant Officer Michelle Cheeseman.

Cadet Commendations are very hard to receive. The Commanding Officer of the unit must recommend those cadet(s) to their respective League. From there it is sent to the National Defence Headquarters where the Canadian Cadet Movement (CCM), National Honours and Awards Committee reviews the application. In this case in December 2015, Brigadier General Kelly Woiden, Commander of the National Cadet and Junior Canadian Ranger Support Group signed the Canadian Cadet Organizations National Honours and Recognition Committee's recommendation for these cadets.

The Canadian Cadet Program is offered to youth ages 12 to 18 who can become members of the Royal Canadian Sea, Army or Air Cadets. The Cadet Program promotes teamwork, leadership, mentorship and a healthy active lifestyle.

Lieutenant Charles Huntley (2444 RCACC Kentville) is the Assistant Training Officer for 2444. He previously worked as a Unit Public Affairs Representative (UPAR) for the Debert CSTC in Debert, NS.



Regional Cadet Support Unit Atlantic (RCSUA) Commander Tom Aquanno presented the commendations to the cadets. James and Michelle were pleased to be acknowledged for their hard work that day and are justifiably proud of what they did.

"When I reflect on what happened, it was shocking. I was amazed to see that this could happen to someone. I



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Congratulations to the
West Nova Scotia Regiment
on your
80th Anniversary.



603 Royal Canadian Army Cadet Corps - Weymouth, NS

Captain Robert Sweeney, CD, Training Officer and DCO of 603 RCACC

Just a few historical facts to begin to bring you up to speed on a special youth organization in the community of Weymouth. 603 RCACC originally opened on 30 March 1915. At first, the corps staff consisted primarily of school teachers and staff filling the primary officer roles. This was the routine type of leadership present in most cadet corps of that era. The history of the corps is not a continuous unbroken stream; several times during our history, the corps has been disbanded and re-formed:

<u>Formed</u>	<u>Disbanded</u>	<u>Years In Service</u>
30 Mar 1915	14 Sep 1920	5 Yrs, 5 Mos
30 Jan 1922	05 Jan 1924	1 Yr, 11 Mos
16 Oct 1931	13 Sep 1934	2 Yrs, 10 Mos
29 Oct 1942	08 Dec 1943	1 Yr, 1 Mo
15 Aug 1992	Still Open	24 Yrs, 2 Mos

Total Corps Service Time:

All in all, 603 RCACC has been operating in Weymouth for 36 years and three months as of the 80th Anniversary of the West Nova Scotia Regiment.



On 27 Mar 1961, the corps re-opened under the corps number of **2676**. At the time, it was still affiliated with the WNSR, but an official disbandment date is unknown, but it is prior to April, 1971.

When the corps re-opened on 15 Aug 1992, it was to be assigned the previous corps number of **2676**, but research was done by the new commanding officer, and we were assigned the original corps number of **603**. Our original sponsor was the Kiwanis Club and our original support base was CFB Cornwallis.

Since 1992 our sponsor is the Royal Canadian Legion, Branch #67 in Weymouth, NS, and our support base has been switched to CFB Greenwood.

Corps Strength and Activities

603 RCACC Weymouth parade an average of 18-25 cadets per parade night. We emphasize the citizenship portion of the cadet program such as Knights of Columbus Food Bank Drive & Fire Wood Drive, and we have assisted the Muscular Dystrophy Foundation with their fund-raising activities. Our cadets and the corps are

heavily involved with our legion and assisting our veterans every Remembrance Day. The corps has taken on a significantly large role during the service by entirely comprising all positions on the color party, and have assumed all wreath laying and family/veteran escorting duties for the service. Our cadets from the first-year recruit straight through to the Regimental Sergeant Major and even the officers, happily perform this service as a sign of respect to our veterans. The corps is also responsible for sending cadet representation and servicing two other legions in communities where our cadets reside - the Royal Canadian Legion, Br#52 in Saulnierville and Royal Canadian Legion, Br#92 in Freeport.

Our corps actively participates in bushcraft and outdoor survival activities. The corps trains locally early in the training year, and then typically participates in a second training weekend with our neighbor corps. We



also participate in marksmanship, public speaking, physical fitness/sports training and a customized professional development program developed for senior cadets of 603 RCACC.

Each summer our corps actively participates in summer training programs offered at the Argonaut Cadet Training Center at CFB Gagetown, NB. Numerous cadets apply for and take courses ranging between two and six weeks in all areas of cadet training such as General Training, Expedition, Drill & Ceremonial, Fitness & Sports Instructor, and Military Band-Pipes & Drums. These cadets return home at the end of each summer with a set of specialist skills they can use to help guide and teach the younger and new cadets.

Over the recent years, 603 RCACC was moved out of the Weymouth Consolidated School, their long time HQ, and moved to a private building attached to the school, where we were offered surplus space by a local owner. When that company ceased operations, they sold the building and the corps was required to move again to a building owned by the village of Weymouth. The corps is currently actively looking for a larger and more suitable home.

Notable Corps Awards

In 2016, Commanding Officer Captain Eben Sabean was awarded the Sovereign's Medal for Volunteers by



His Excellency the Right Honourable David Johnston, Governor General of Canada. This was the first time the new medal authorized by Queen Elizabeth II for volunteerism had been awarded. Captain Sabean was recognized for his volunteer efforts with cadets, boy scouts and many years of service as a volunteer firefighter.

In June, 2016 Cadet Warrant Officer Peter Doucette was awarded the Lord Strathcona Medal by Lieutenant Colonel TW Harris, Commanding Officer of the WNSR at the Annual Ceremonial Review at Sissiboo Landing. This is the first time since the corps has re-opened in 1992 that this medal has been awarded. In June, 2015,



Cadet Lance Corporal Kenzie Crocker was awarded the Royal Canadian Legion Medal of Excellence for her volunteer work in her community in and around Tiverton, NS. This is also only the second cadet from 603 RCACC to be awarded this medal since 1992.

In February 2011, 603 RCACC was awarded the Lindsey Award for being the Most Improved Army Cadet Corps in Nova Scotia by the Army Cadet League of Nova Scotia. In 2012 603 RCACC was runner-up for the same award.

The following officers and civilian staff comprise the complement of 603 RCACC:

Commanding Officer: Captain Eben Sabean (CD)

Training O/DCO: Captain Robert Sweeney (CD)

Administration O: Lieutenant Tracy Cormier (CD)

Supply O: Civilian Instructor Melissa Muise

Asst Supply O: Civilian Volunteer Laverne Manzer

603 Commanding Officers

Lieutenant Ken Ford (1992-1993: 1 year)

Captain Garry Gignac (1993-1998: 5 years)

Captain Eben Sabean, CD (1998-Present: 18 years)

Being from a small rural community, we often get the chance to see our former cadets once they have left the program and moved in to adult life. Many of them return to the corps with stories of the accomplishments, career advancements and overall life successes. It seems that they all attribute who they are and what they have achieved to lessons they learned and experiences they had while in the cadet program. Once in a while we are fortunate enough to get a former cadet who wants to get back into the program to give back to it by becoming a staff member.

603 RCACC Weymouth

Every **Thursday** from **6:30-9:00 pm**

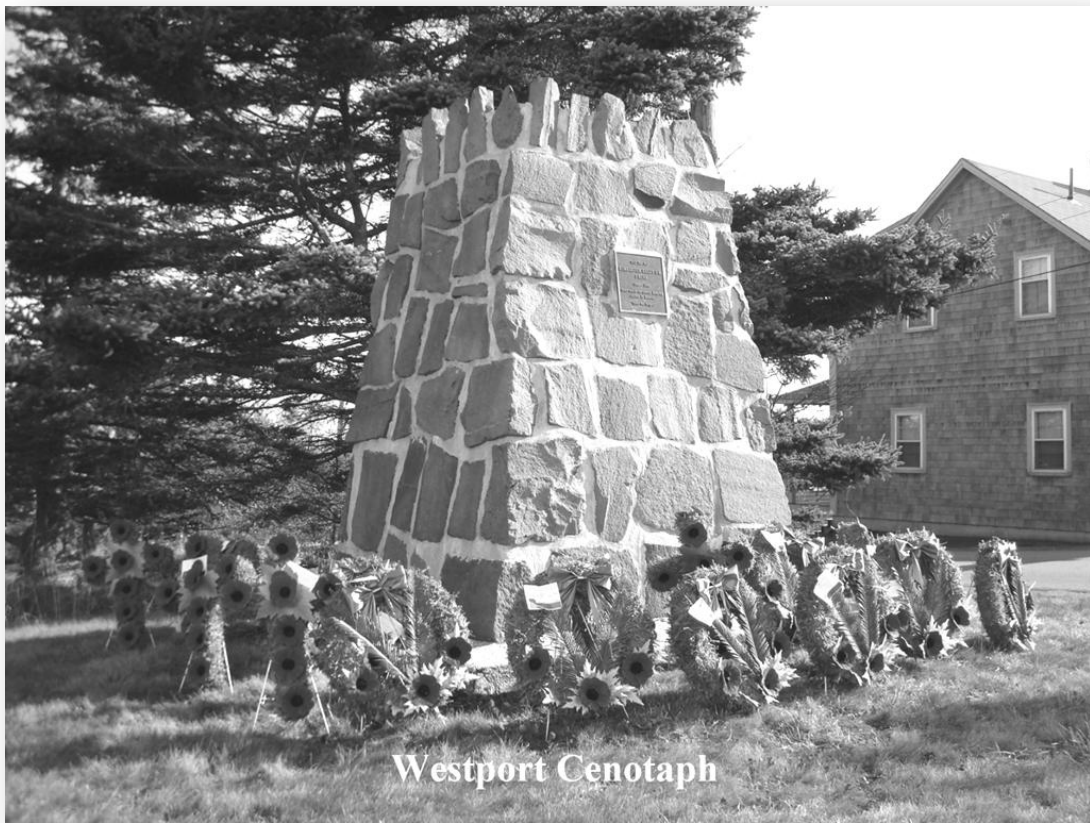
If you know someone who would enjoy or benefit from being an Army Cadet or a member of the leadership staff, please get in contact with us.

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Join the team





Westport Cenotaph

The Municipality of the District of Digby thank all veterans for their sacrifice and valour on the battlefield, with particular distinguished acknowledgement given to the West Nova Scotia Regiment for their service to this country for the past 80 years. - Warden Linda Gregory



A Good Decade for 2444 Kings County RCACC (Dec '06-Dec '16)

Captain Mandy Forbes, CD, Commanding Officer



The unit has seen significant growth increasing from approximately 25 cadets to a peak of 80 cadets in 2013. We currently have a complement of 65 cadets. This size of corps has proven to be a comfortable number that allows the cadets and staff to work closely and focus on delivering a program where all cadets get to participate and experience leadership roles. We are always seeking new cadets and looking to continue to grow and succeed.

Over the last ten years, 2444 has had two Commanding Officers: Capt. PJ Henneberry, CD (Jun 05–Jan 08) and Capt. ML Forbes, CD (Jan 08 to the present) Cadet leadership, in the form of the Corps RSM, is an extremely important and responsible role. The following cadets have been appointed RSM:

- C/CWO A Fournier (06-07 and 07-08)
- C/CWO T Everett (08-09)
- C/CWO A Wilson (09-10)
- C/CWO L Wilmott (10-11)
- C/CWO D Henshaw (11-12)
- C/CWO L Morse (12-13)
- C/CWO J Jordan (13-14)
- C/CWO K Perry (14-15)
- C/CWO L Hoskins (15-16)
- C/CWO S Richardson (16- present)

Outstanding staff or student stories –

In the past 10 years several former cadets have moved on to successful careers in the reserve and regular forces. Caitlyn Cavanagh-Dollard graduated from RMC, William Hoskins is currently in his second year at RMC to be an infantry officer, and Todd Everett attended Acadia through ROTP and is now doing very well in his

role with the artillery. We have several who have pursued the NCM path in various trades and elements as well.

One former staff member transferred to the reserve force while attending university for his master's degree. Captain Jake Rideout is now holding the position of Operations Officer for Aldershot, and is also a successful entrepreneur in Wolfville.

Two staff members were chosen as recipients of the Queen's Diamond Jubilee medal in 2013. Capt. Gregory Deveau and Capt. Mandy Forbes were both chosen by the Regional Support Unit (Atlantic) for this honour.

We have had cadets successfully complete the CF Basic Parachutist course in 2010 (Dillon Henshaw), 2013 (Kirklan Huntley), and 2016 (Skyler Richardson). These cadets have all placed well within the top performers of their respective courses. C/CWO Richardson was recommended for consideration as the course MWO in 2017. This is very difficult to earn and is only offered to an outstanding cadet who is eligible to return the following summer.

The unit sends cadets on each of the regional expeditions each year. The summer expedition in Aug has the cadets participate in sea kayaking along the coast of Nova Scotia. The winter expedition has the cadets brave the cold conditions as they snow shoe and camp around Goose Bay, Labrador. The spring expedition has the cadets hike the highlands of Cape Breton. We have sent cadets on the national expeditions in the NWT (2010), BC (2013), and Cape Breton (2015 and 2016). The unit is active in marksmanship and biathlon and has sent cadets to the provincial competitions each year and

nationals on occasion. The success at the unit level in marksmanship has also led the unit to send cadets on to national level summer training courses in Ontario. Cadets have increased their skills from air rifles to small bore rifles on those courses. Two cadets have performed among the best in the country and were selected to be members of the national rifle team that competes in Bisley England. These cadets were Mark Houston in 2010, and Dillan Rigby who will be participating in 2017.

Awards

The unit has been selected by the Army Cadet League of Nova Scotia as the top army cadet unit in Nova Scotia three times (2010-11, 2011-12, 2012-13). The photo on the previous page shows the Corps after presentation of the Stadacona Trophy for the 2012-13 year. The unit was also selected as Most Improved Unit in 2008-09.

The Army Cadet League of Canada selects 1-2 cadets per province to receive the MGen Howard Medal as the top performing army cadet in that province each year. This unit has had 4 cadets receive this award.

Caitlyn Cavanagh-Dollard – 2009

Dillon Henshaw – 2010

Logan Morse – 2011

Skyler Richardson - 2015

Major Events

The unit has been the host unit for the Regionally Directed Activity annually for the past 8 years, and

during that time, we have tried to strike a balance of activities that meet the aims of the cadet program. Weekends consist of sporting events, orienteering, SAT range, abseil, and drill. The RDA in 2015 saw the Regiment send troops to host displays on weapons, radios, and vehicles, as well as the SAT range. The Regimental Association held an informative session with each group of cadets on the proud history of their Regiment. This zone has all 5 units affiliated with the WNSR.

The unit participated in the provincial drill competitions both years it was held. In 2009 there was a top team selected per element and 2444 RCACC was the top army unit team. In 2010 there was a top team per element and a top team overall and 2444 RCACC repeated as provincial army champions and were the top performing team overall.

Corps future 5-10 years

The corps has strong leadership at both the officer and cadet levels, and the unit has a history of former senior cadets returning to work with the unit as civilian volunteers or enrolling into the Cadet Instructor Cadre. This consistency helps the unit stay a strong course and maintain history and traditions. The unit's success helps draw more youth into the program because of its solid reputation. Well positioned to continue its growth in the future, 2444 will continue to pursue excellence in all areas of training and earn the Lord Strathcona Trophy back again.

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John Lohr
MLA Kings North



Phone 365-3420
401A Main St.
Kentville NS



Kentville Teen is Jumping for Success

By: Lt Charles Huntley, 2444 RCACC



Cadet Master Warrant Officer Skyler Richardson, from 2444 Royal Canadian Army Cadet Corps in Kentville became one of 48 cadets who earned their Basic Parachutist Course Wings during the summer of 2016 at CFB Trenton.

The Basic Parachutist Course is one of the hardest courses for any Army Cadet to complete. It is probably the most physically and mentally demanding course in the Army Cadet Program. Since he first joined Army Cadets at the age of 12, Skyler wanted to take this course; it was one of his personal goals. Even though the standards for this course are very demanding, 2444 RCACC has sent three cadets from their ranks to the para course and all three were successful.

Every cadet who takes part in the course must excel in the Army Cadet Fitness Test and must be able to pass the Pre-parachutist Course before starting the course at CFB Trenton. Each year hundreds of Army Cadets apply for the course, but only 49 are selected from across Canada. Skyler says, "Preparation is key to completing the basic parachutist course, if you don't train or do the necessary

research, you will never make it, even to the pre-para course."

This is a difficult course, and some cadets make the mistake of underestimating how hard it can be. Skyler was ready and willing to take on that challenge both physically and mentally. He commented, "I was satisfied that all of the rumors I heard about the course being hard were true. It was the challenge I was looking for, and I would do it all over again."

Physical fitness, leadership, team work, and developing an appreciation for a healthy active lifestyle are some of the key principles of the Army Cadet program. Youth involved in the program have the opportunity to take part in multiple interesting and challenging activities such as expeditions and summer training all free of charge. Army Cadets is open to all Canadian youth aged 12-18. To find a local unit near you visit www.cadets.ca and click "find us".

Since completing this course, Skyler has been promoted to Cadet Chief Warrant Officer and has been appointed RSM of 2444 Kings County RCACC.





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From 686 RCACC Bridgetown to the Canadian Army

Lieutenant Annie L. Kerr, Canadian Armed Forces

Growing up in a family with a military background, I was exposed to the forces lifestyle early on. Pursuing a military career was not really in my plans until my older sister and brother joined the Black Watch Cadet Corps #2497 in Montreal, Quebec. Later, when my family moved to the Annapolis Valley, we were all introduced to #686 RCACC Bridgetown, affiliated with the West Nova Scotia Regiment.

Initially, being a cadet did not pique my interest, as I was outgoing, maybe a bit stubborn, and therefore didn't necessarily enjoy following orders. What I didn't realize was that this was all part of the progression and necessary requirements in fulfilling a leadership position in my later years at the corps. Throughout my time at 686 RCACC, I learned about and received qualifications by instructing navigation skills, general field-craft, marksmanship, drill and ceremonial, first aid, and most importantly, leadership skills. Not many programs for youth these days offer the opportunity to be placed in a leadership role in the same way the Cadet Program does. I progressed from Cadet to Chief Warrant Officer of the corps, being the top cadet in charge of approximately 40 others.

In high school, I took part in extra-curricular activities and sports where I held key positions,

such as team captain. These opportunities provided me some leadership experience but did not require full responsibility for, younger cadets as well as those of my own age.

My brother was a year ahead of me and attended the Royal College of Canada (RMCC). Still unsure of my career path, I applied as well. Having general military knowledge from my cadet background allowed me to feel more at ease throughout my four years at RMCC. Upon my commissioning as a Canadian Armed Forces officer, I completed my trade training in Army Logistics and was posted to 2 Service Battalion in Petawawa, Ontario.



So far, I have been a Pl Comd within Transportation Company, and soon will be the Transport Officer for the Battalion. Often in situations where I'm expected to set the example, especially on FTX, my cadet experience with navigation, field-craft, and leadership in demanding situations has truly been appreciated.

My position as an Army Officer is due in part to early exposure to military life through the Cadet Program. Challenging experiences in training at 686 provide young Canadians the chance to experience leadership situations and to personally grow and develop into active and responsible members of their community. Wherever life takes you, skills acquired and built upon in the Cadet Program will always be useful.

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Bridgetown 686 Cadet goes to Outward Bound Scotland 2014

Contributed by Mariah Drever

The summer of 2014 is personally memorable because of exhilarating adventure across the Atlantic. I was one of the few selected to attend the Outward Bound Scotland training course. This trip was a once in a life time achievement for me, and the fact that I can claim a Scottish heritage makes it even more thrilling.

My trip began with a flight from Halifax to Ottawa where I trained at the Connaught cadet camp. The beginning included meet and greets, interviews, touring Ottawa, and fitness courses, as well as conquering challenging obstacle courses. Now, we were ready for our Trans-Atlantic flight to the land of my Scottish ancestors.

Wasting no time after arrival, we were immersed in learning weapons handling and cleaning, safety, and rifle drill, as well as mastering field formations -- all in the first week. The second week saw us outside for adventure. Our platoon was formed into groups for rock climbing, sea kayaking, and inland kayaking which was my group. During this time we travelled all ends of Scotland, learning to surf, kayaking right into Loch Ness and we even managing to kayak with dolphins!

During our third week we returned to more conventional training. Sleeping in fields with the sheep, section attacks, skeet shooting, and drill were our primary tasks. Competing against the Scottish cadets even resulted in our winning the drill competition.

On the fourth and final week in the UK, we finally reached our tourism section. Travel destinations included London and various locations in France where we were privileged to tour European battlefields including Beaumont Hamel, holy ground for the Royal Newfoundland Regiment and Vimy Ridge, probably the most famous of the Canadian victories of World War One. In Nova Scotia, you have to search hard to find a castle, but we visited many in Scotland, as well as numerous memorial sites, and heritage areas.

I'm sharing my experiences of Outward Bound Scotland because I had a great time but also because I'd like to make other cadets and their parents aware of such tremendous opportunities for the trip of a lifetime. It was through the Cadet Movement that I was able to enjoy this fabulous trip, and I encourage others to apply for similar opportunities.



Mariah Drever is a former 686 RCACC cadet (2008-15) C/CWO of 686 RCACC

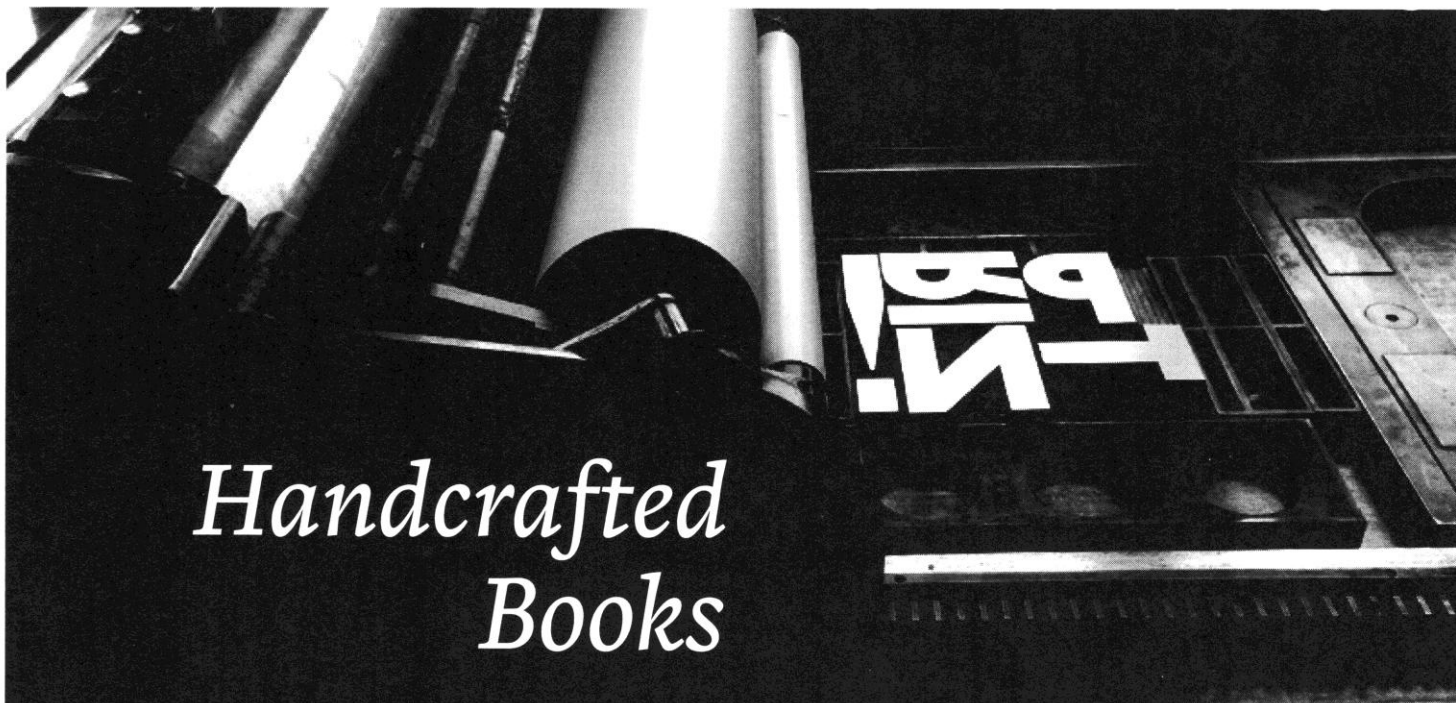
1714 RCACC

Celebrates 75th Anniversary *submitted by 1714 RCACC*



On 20 November 2015, 1714 Annapolis Royal Regional Academy RCACC achieved a great milestone. Cadets and staff were proud to celebrate the Corps 75th Anniversary. 1714 RCACC is the oldest affiliated West Nova Scotia Regiment cadet corps. In true 1714 fashion, cadets and staff had an anniversary BBQ in the field along with a wonderfully decorated commemorative cake. The Commanding Officer, Capt William Wallace, provided cadets with old photos, scrap books and a depiction of the unit's history. Fellow staff, who were all former Annapolis Cadets, passed on their proud memories from their time as

cadets. 1714 RCACC shares a long and proud history; even the current CO of the West Novies and some serving members can honestly say they had played a part.



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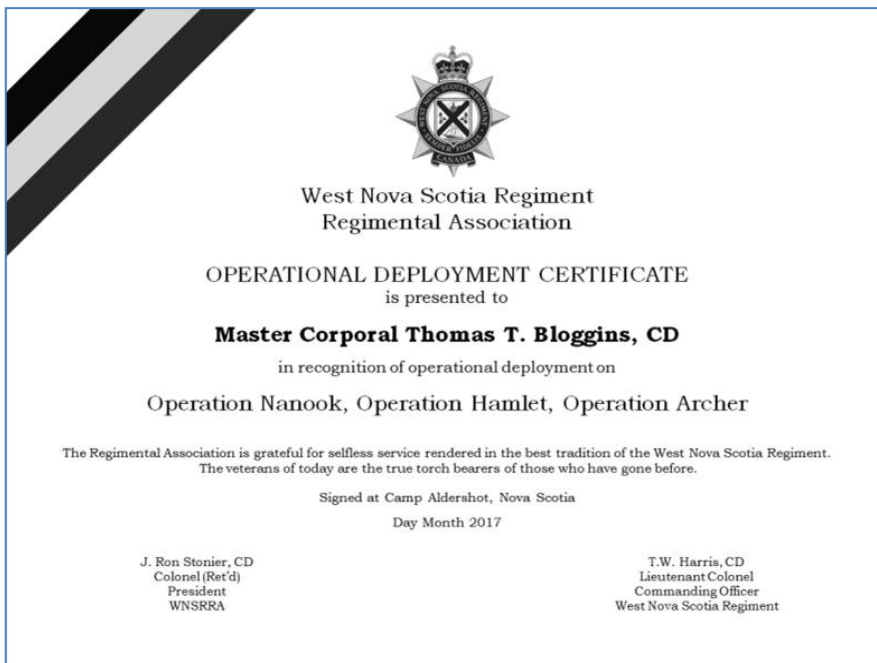
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Canada

Domestic Operations

Regimental Association Offers Operational Deployment Certificates



At the last of the Regimental Association AGM in September 2016, Honorary Colonel John Leefe moved to establish an “Operational Deployment Certificate” to be issued to qualified West Novas. It was decided that either international or domestic operations would be included as well as service in The Second World War and the Korean War. The motion as amended passed unanimously. Qualifying service may be completed prior to, during, or after service in the West Nova Scotia Regiment. Personnel attached to the WNSR would also qualify for the certificate. Consideration for award of the certificate starts when the soldier completes the application form.

- Application form provides us with your contact information and information on operations served
- Only one certificate will be issued per soldier
- Certificate will show all qualifying operations
- Certificated will be personally presented to qualified soldiers at Regimental or Association function at the earliest opportunity
- If presentation is not possible, certificates may be mailed to the recipient
- Certificate is 8½ X 11” in colour and will be similar in appearance to the sample

- The Operational Deployment Certificate is a small gesture made within the Regimental Family to show that we recognize the service provided to the Nation by the veterans of our Regiment.
- The statement on the certificate reads: *“The Regimental Association is grateful for the selfless service rendered in the best tradition of the West Nova Scotia Regiment. The veterans of today are the true torch bearers of those who have gone before.”*
- Find more information and an application form at <http://wnsr.ca/ra/docs> or contact the Association Secretary at RASecty@gmail.com



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