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Editor: J. Ron Stonier, CD  
stonier@live.ca

## Internet Links

### Contact Us

<http://www.wnsr.ca>

### WNSRRA

PO Box 6, Paradise, NS  
B0S 1R0

### Like us on Facebook

[www.facebook.com/wnsrra](http://www.facebook.com/wnsrra)

**WNSR page on Facebook is called: West Nova Scotia Regiment**

**If you got your newsletter by mail, we don't have your e-mail address. Please help us save paper, printing and postage costs by sending the editor your e-mail address. Thanks.**

## 2016 Reunion Outlook

By all reports, our recent Annual Reunions have given members what they want. A reunion provides opportunities to reunite with friends from years ago. You meet with people who share common experiences, learn about the experiences of others, or tell them about yours. It's a great chance to catch up on what's been happening in the lives of friends. We intend to continue to provide opportunities to meet with the old gang or even just that one best friend with whom you may have lost contact.

One clear way we improve the association is by increasing our numbers. You know what they say, "The more the merrier." The more people who come, the greater your chances of making a very satisfying connection. With that in mind, we ask you to think of one or two other West Novas whom you haven't seen at the reunions in Aldershot and give them a shout, and forward the newsletter. Let them know that this is "our" reunion, and they'd be welcome for all, a few, or even one of the events during the weekend of 16-18 Sep 2016.

The BBQs will be warmed up for Friday evening, most likely with some highly skilled staff on hand to cook your burger to perfection. Helen will be there offering an opportunity to win the WNSRRA Raffle. The kitshop will be available, and you can update membership or pay registration as well.



## Memories from 2015 Reunion

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## Worried about staying overnight?

Don't contact Captain Obvious, Trivago, or Expedia. Stay at Camp Aldershot. By the way, if you haven't been to Aldershot for a while, things have changed considerably for the better. Here's how to get accommodation at the Camp.

Limited accommodation may be available at Aldershot on a first-come first-served basis. To book a room, please call Garry Randall at 902-678-6899. Arrangements for payment can be made through Garry.

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## Regimental Watches for WWII and Korean War Veterans

So far, the Commanding Officer, Lieutenant-Colonel Harris, has presented nine Regimental Watches to surviving Second World War or Korean War veterans, and we hope to be able to make about a half dozen presentations at this September's reunion. No detail at this time as to when and where specifically, but the reunion would be a great opportunity.

For those who don't know, Canadian Tire Corporation, Nova Scotia Division, has donated 20 West Nova watches for distribution to these Canadian soldiers who fought in those two wars.

The most recent presentation is pictured at the right when Lt-Col Harris presented a watch to West Nova WWII veteran Jean-Baptiste d'Eon at Veterans Place at the Yarmouth Regional Hospital on 04 June '16. Earlier on the same day, the CO made a similar presentation to another West Nova WWII veteran, Glidden Cromwell in Weymouth.

By all reports, the recipients were totally delighted with their gifts and were grateful for having been selected. The Regiment is appreciative of the donation by CTC and is pleased to be able to commemorate the service of these veterans.



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## WNSRRA Kitshop Online

Here's your chance to demonstrate your Regimental Pride by supporting the RA Kitshop and getting some kit emblazoned with the WNSR Crest.

Have a look online, and maybe you could let us know the item and size you want. We'll have it reserved and ready for you at the Reunion. If you want it right away, we can mail it to you.

- The RA Kit shop is online at [wnsr.ca/catalog/24](http://wnsr.ca/catalog/24) and you can order kit at any time. Many members attend the Reunion in the proper RA Kit (Blue blazer with crest, white or light blue shirt with Regimental tie, and gray trousers with black shoes).



- We also have coffee cups, pens, golf shirts, brass cap badges, ball hats, licence plates, key chains, lapel pins, jackets, and more.



The Kitshop operates online in a hassle-free, convenient way to get the kit you want. All items we have in stock are included with photos and descriptions.

**Go online and order your kit today.** [wnsr.ca/catalog/24](http://wnsr.ca/catalog/24)

- If you're interested in knowing more about our history our helping your children or grandchildren to learn about your Regiment, we have a selection of books and videos which will do the job.
  - *West Novas*, by Thomas Raddall
  - *Times to Remember* by Bill Thexton
  - *The Citizen Soldiers* produced by Clerisy Entertainment and Eastlink TV
  - *The Boys from Nova Scotia* produced by Mike Dobson.

There are four other books about the West Novas in Italy of which we don't currently have copies.

- *March to Etna: Memories of the West Nova Scotia Regiment in Sicily* by Susan M. Cameron
- *Through the Gates of Hell and Back: the private war of a footslogger from 'The Avenue'* by John Bentley O'Brien with Devonna (O'Brien) Edwards.
- *Through the Hitler Line: Memoirs of an Infantry Chaplain* by Padre Laurence F. Wilmot, MC
- *Official History of the Canadian Army in the Second World War, Volume II, The Canadians in Italy 1943-1945* by Lt-Col GWL Nicholson, published by the Queen's Printer . It's available in a pdf online and is a very detailed account of the Italian Campaign.

## 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the dedication of 112th Battalion Colours

On 11 June, a very dignified service was performed to commemorate the 100th anniversary of the dedication of the colours of the 112th Infantry Battalion -- Canadian Expeditionary Force. Colonel John Orr, Reverend David Curry and VanEssa Roberts did an outstanding job of taking this from a concept to a brilliant service. Kel Hancock was the lead from the WNSRRA, and he did a fantastic job of coordination to bring it all together.

The event took place at Christ Church in Windsor and was attended by His Honour Brigadier General JJ Grant, CMM, CD, Lieutenant-Governor of Nova Scotia accompanied by Her Honour Mrs. Joan Grant and his ADC Lt-Col Dale Warner. West Nova attendance was quite good, including HCol John Leefe, HLCol Eric Meisner, Major J Wigmore (Acting CO), RSM JR Mills. Several Association members attended including President Doug Allison, VP Ron Stonier, Secretary Bill Goodwin, with Donn Miles, Duke Davidson, Gord Johnson, and Terry Randall performing duties as ushers. Former RSM Dave Blanchard was there as well as a Colour Party from the Royal



Canadian Legion, Br.No.9. Others included representatives from local and provincial government. Headmaster Joe Seagram from Kings-Edgehill School took part in the program as did an Honour Guard of cadets from the school's cadet corps 254 RCACC (Kings-Edgehill) under the direction of their CO, Captain Keith Hines.

To commemorate the event, a large brass West Nova Cap Bage was presented by Association President Doug Allison to Reverend Curry to be mounted near the Colours. The badge was mounted in a frame by the Association's go-to guy for this sort of thing, Duke Davidson.

## Sniper Exhibit at Kings County Museum

Don't wait for the Reunion. If you're in Kentville, be sure to stop in to the Kings County Museum to see the WNSR WWII Sniper Exhibit. For years, the Regiment has been talking about having a Regimental Museum, but our efforts have always fallen short.

We have created an exhibit which tells our story, or a small part of it, and we've offered local museums the chance to display this part of local history. They get a new and interesting exhibit to draw people to their museum, and we get to display our memorabilia and to tell our story. It's a win-win situation.

If you have some extra time after seeing the Sniper Exhibit, the Kings County Museum is also displaying a temporary exhibit called, "A Brief History of Underwear, 1880s-1950s". You can check out their website before you arrive - <http://kingscountymuseum.ca/exhibits/>

 A promotional graphic for a sniper exhibit. On the left is a detailed illustration of a soldier in a green camouflage uniform, wearing a beret and holding a sniper rifle. To the right is a target symbol with a crosshair. Text elements include:
 

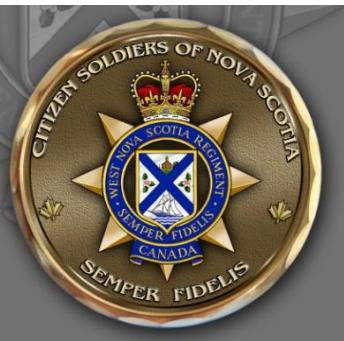
- sightings** (in blue, stylized font)
- Exploring the Scope** (in red, curved text)
- Of the Canadian Sniper**
- KINGS COUNTY MUSEUM**
- 37 CORNWALLIS STREET, KENTVILLE**
- APRIL TO NOVEMBER 2016**
- The West Nova Scotia Regiment** (with the regiment's crest below it)

## Regimental Memorial Coin Families Found

One of the most satisfying things that has come out of the Regimental Memorial Coin Project is that we have been able to connect with families of WNSR soldiers killed in action. On the back of the memorial coin is a picture of the WNSRRA Monument at Aldershot, flanked by the hat badges of the Annapolis Regiment and the Lunenburg Regiment, the two units from which the WNSR was formed in 1936. Below the monument on each coin is the name, rank, regimental number, date of death and age of a Fallen Comrade, killed during WWII.

When we are contacted or find a family member, we try to get the coin to the family. Sometimes the coin has already been issued to an association member. In every case so far, the coin in question has been readily offered to the family, and the member's coin is replaced. So far, we have united 16 coins with their families, and three of those coins had already been issued to association members.

Every member of the Regimental Association receives a Regimental Coin as part of his or her membership. However, you can also purchase coins for friends and family for \$25 each without joining the Regimental Association.



There are three variants of the coin: Memorial, Blank, and Cadet. To date, we've purchased 252 engraved coins to commemorate the sacrifice of West Nova soldiers who died during WWII. Those soldiers include surnames from "Alcorn to McLaughlin". We will have the remaining names engraved as soon as funding will allow. If there is a special soldier whom you wish to honour by the purchase of his Memorial coin, you can send a request by email to [bertf@eastlink.ca](mailto:bertf@eastlink.ca). Our plan is to order the requested coins when we place our next order. Memorial coins will each be one of a kind; that is, a soldier's name will not be used a second time. Additional coins may be purchased by any member.

Of course, all former West Novas are encouraged to join the Regimental Association to help support soldiers who have served or are serving. To join, go to [www.wnsr.ca/ra/docs](http://www.wnsr.ca/ra/docs), complete and send the application.

## Looking for WNSR History Items

In an effort to better tell the story of our Regiment, we are constantly looking 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 are interested in documents, letters and postcards, newspaper and magazine clippings, books, pictures, stories, items of uniform, badges, etc. We are particularly interested in the medal groupings of West Novas who served in WWII. The medals would be displayed with the name of the soldier who earned them. It 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 the public may have, but we're becoming more interested in items of interest since the War as well. We need to put some focus on the post-war history of the West Novas. We invite you to [contact us](#) if you have any artifacts to donate.



Actual size 1 $\frac{3}{4}$  inches



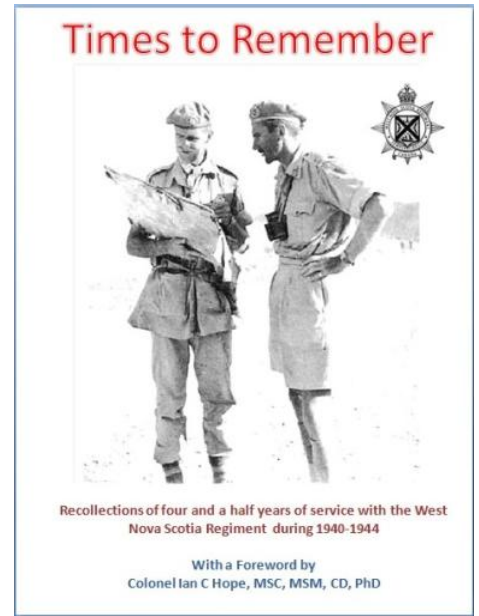
## Thexton Book

*Times to Remember* is a book written by a West Nova WWII veteran, Major Bill Thexton. An officer with the WNSR throughout his time in the war, Bill served as a PI and Coy Comd in active combat in the Italian Campaign.

His outstanding memory comes into play when he writes this book about his experiences and those of other West Novas from 1940 to 1944. These are true stories, told by a man who was there. It's an eye witness account which tells of the successes and hardships of West Novas during years of training in England and Scotland to years of sustained combat in Sicily, Italy, and later Holland.

After the war, Bill served in the Canadian Army, retiring from the famous Canadian Guards to Wolfville where he worked for 20 years as Business Manager at Acadia University. He was a faithful and active member of the Regimental Association and served as President. Bill printed a limited number of copies of his book for friends and family in 1996.

The WNSR Regimental Association feels that this book needs wider distribution and decided, with family permission, to reprint Bill's excellent book so that as many West Novas as possible can have their own copy. The book will be available for purchase at the 67th Annual Reunion in Aldershot and Kentville 16-18 Sep 2016.



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## Video Sources of WNSR History

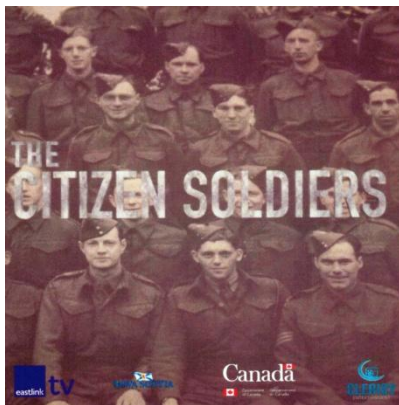
Over the past two years, the WNSR History Committee has been working on ways to perpetuate the most honourable history of the West NSR and the brave soldiers who have served so well while wearing that famous hat badge. To anyone interested in broadening their knowledge of their Regiment, we'd like to recommend the following two videos and three books.

The two videos here will be available for sale at the WNSRRA Kitshop online or at the 2016 Reunion.



**The Boys from Nova Scotia**, produced and directed by Mike Dobson of Lunenburg, is a very well done, locally produced 43 minute documentary of the West Novas in Italy. Produced in 2004 and published on YouTube in 2016, it's available at [www.Youtube.com](http://www.Youtube.com). It has great footage and photos from WWII and features interviews with many West Novas including Art Doucette, Oren Foster, Gordon Romkey, Harold Wolfe, Bill Thexton, Carrol Pothier, Max Forsyth-Smith, Alex McGuinness, Leo O'Meara, Ralph Rafuse, and Abel LeBlanc.

Mike has also had DVDs made and will sell them at cost plus shipping because his goal is to tell the story of these brave men of the WNSR. Contact him at 902-766-0126 or at [mindmediaworks@yahoo.ca](mailto:mindmediaworks@yahoo.ca) to order. Copies will also be available for sale at the kitshop at the 2016 Reunion.



**The Citizen Soldiers** is a professionally produced hour long documentary on the West Novas in the Italian Campaign. It was made by Clerisy Entertainment in Dartmouth and Eastlink Television and was produced and directed by Dale Stevens, our guest speaker at the 2015 banquet.

These are true stories told by West Novas who were there. West Novas interviewed include Victor Dukeshire, Hugh Cuvelier, Doug Strickland, Sydney; and Major Harry Eisenhower, who took the Regiment back from England in October 1945.

The documentary showed first on Eastlink TV in January 2016 and is still available "On Demand" for those with Eastlink cable service. The newly produced DVDs are available on the [Kitshop website](#) and will be available for \$10 at the 2016 Reunion.

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## WNSR Army Cadet News

The Annual Ceremonial Review season for the West Nova Affiliated Cadet Corps was brief this year. There are five affiliated corps; 2688 Bridgewater Corps held their ACR on 29 May, and other four their ACRs on the afternoon of 04 June. In spite of the compact schedule, Lt-Col Harris attended and reviewed the combined 1714/603 Annapolis Royal/Weymouth parade at Weymouth; Association VP Ron Stonier attended the 2444 ACR with HCol Leefe and the 2688 ACR with HLCol Meisner. The 686 Bridgeton ACR was attended by HCol Leefe, Association Treasurer Bert Fitzgerald, and Secretary Bill Goodwin, as well as by former Corps CO Bob Bohaker.

It's great to see the unit and the Association support the cadet corps; they wear the same cap badge and learn the history of the West Novas. Many successful military men and women have had their first uniformed experiences in Sea, Army, or Air Cadets. Unquestionably, the Cadet Movement one of Canada's top youth programs, and it's free. If you know a young person between 12 and 18 who could benefit from some additional direction in their lives, maybe you can suggest the Cadet Movement. It could be a tremendous positive difference in someone's life.



Not in the 2015 memories?  
Be part of the 2016 ones.



## 2016 Reunion Schedule

**WNSRRA 67<sup>th</sup> Annual Reunion**  
Kentville and 5 Cdn Div TC Det Aldershot - 16-18 September 2016

**Registration** Borden Hall, Camp Aldershot  
 Royal Canadian Legion Br. 006  
 36 River St, Kentville - 678-8935  
 Borden Hall, Camp Aldershot

Fri 16 Sep 1900-2100  
Sat 17 Sep 0930-1200 and 1300-1730  
 Bar will be open for general get-together  
Sun 18 Sep 0830-0930

**Fees** Annual Dues .....\$30  
 Registration for Members..... \$20  
 Member's spouse or Guest.....\$20  
 WNSR Widows.....No Charge

These fees can be paid online  
 at *Reunion 2016* on [www.wnsr.ca](http://www.wnsr.ca)  
 by Paypal, using a credit card, or  
 debit card

**\*\*\* Please let us know you're coming by sending **RSVP** online \*\*\***  
 Before 1 September -- <http://wnsr.ca/ra/2016/rsvp>

**Have a good Reunion  
 and Travel safe**

**Reunion Committee** - Ron Stonier - Bill Goodwin - Bert  
 Fitzgerald - Peter Bailey - Garry Randall

Time	Activity	Place and Details
<b>Friday - 16 Sep</b>		
1900-2330	Barbeque and Social Hour Registration and prize draw	Borden Hall, Aldershot (Open bar, food costs extra)
<b>Saturday - 17 Sep</b>		
0930-1200 1300-1730	Registration and general get-together	Kentville RCL Br. 006 Pick up nametags, membership cards, and Regimental Coins Check out the Regimental Kitshop Legion bar will be available for socialization
1730-1930	Reunion Banquet	Legion Main Hall - Turkey dinner with all the trimmings Bar will be available 1630-1930 Guest Speaker: Mike Conway, nephew of Lt. JA Blanchard, KIA at Castel di Sangro, 23 Nov 1943
1930-2359	Social time	Borden Hall <u>or</u> Legion Dance ( <i>State preference in RSVP no later than 1 September</i> )
<b>Sunday - 18 Sep</b>		
0830-0930	Registration	Borden Hall, Aldershot Kitshop open - Free coffee available
0930-1045	Annual General Meeting	Borden Hall, Aldershot All members are encouraged to attend. Your chance to have a voice in the WNSRRA.
1100-1130	Memorial Service	WNSRRA Memorial – Aldershot All members are encouraged to attend. Your chance to honour your fallen comrades - West Novas who died in WWII and since. Colour Party available for the service, Wreaths laid at Memorial
1130- departure	Happy Hour and Farewell	Borden Hall, Aldershot Sandwiches, sweets, tea/coffee available Bar will be open 1130-1330

**Please remember to RSVP at <http://wnsr.ca/ra/2016/rsvp>  
by 1 September (it helps us reduce costs)  
You can also pay dues and registration in advance through PayPal.**

### Stay Overnight at Aldershot

Limited accommodation may be available at Aldershot on a first-come first-served basis. To book a room, please call Garry Randall at 902-678-6899. Arrangements for payment can be made through Garry.

## Join the WNSR Regimental Association

The Regimental Association is more active than in previous years as we attempt to preserve the past, support the present, and prepare for the future. We can do this together, and the task will be easier with greater numbers.

Many former West Novas don't receive this newsletter and don't know what their Association is doing. If you know of someone, forward the newsletter and encourage him or her to join the Regimental Association.

Even if you're not able to attend the Annual Reunions, you can help support the projects of the RA to preserve the memory of soldiers of the West Nova Scotia Regiment by joining the WNSRRA and paying your annual dues of \$30. Go to [www.wnsr.ca/ra/docs](http://www.wnsr.ca/ra/docs), complete the application if you're not already a member, and pay your dues online. New members receive a Regimental Memorial coin upon joining.

**Membership** is open to former members of the WNSR, serving members of WNSR, personnel attached to WNSR, serving or former members of the CIC in WNSR affiliated RCAC corps, or former cadets in WNSR affiliated RCAC corps. Associate membership is available to people related to serving or former members of the WNSR (see online application for details).

Looking forward to seeing you at the Reunion in Aldershot or on our next updated Nominal Roll.



*Semper Fidelis*

