



# The Powder Horn

FALL 2003

## JUNO BEACH CENTRE OFFICIAL OPENING – 6 JUNE 2003



*Sky Hawks drop in with the Canadian flag.*

*Prime Minister Jean Chretien addresses the 2000-plus guests.*



*Queen's Own Honour Roll.*



*Queen's Own D-Day veterans at Bernieres-sur-Mer on 6 June.*

*(Top Photo) Queen's Own and Royal Winnipeg Rifles Buglers sound 'Last Post' and 'Reveille.' WO Ted O'Halloran (second from left) landed on D-Day with The Queen's Own.*



## REGIMENTAL SECRETARY'S REPORT

### **LCol (Retd) Bruce McEachern CD**

I am very pleased to announce, with the concurrence of our Honorary Colonel Don Pryer, that Chick McGregor has accepted appointment as Volunteer Editor of The Powder Horn as of this issue, succeeding BGen (Retd) Steve Andrunyk.

Chick is an experienced journalist, communications expert, and public relations fellow who lives in Whitby, Ontario. He has been a very solid supporter of the Toronto militia battalion for many years, and was appointed an Honorary Captain some years ago. He wears our Regimental patrols and mess kit with justifiable pride at our events and ceremonies.

It is an honour Chick has volunteered to step into the large shoes of Steve Andrunyk to edit this publication, and I welcome him to it. He is plugged into the electronic age – unlike our last editor! – so feel free to E-mail him at all hours of the day or night at [chickmcgregor@sympatico.ca](mailto:chickmcgregor@sympatico.ca). Don't try to phone him after 10 pm though, (unless it's an emergency) as he's an early-to-bed and early-to-rise kind of guy (4 or 4:30 am much of the time). Welcome Chick!

As for BGen Andrunyk, it will be impossible to replace him. For decades he has been one of a tiny core of faithful, loyal, discreet, and very reliable

volunteers at the centre of the Regiment's ongoing life. In his quiet and modest way, he accomplished an enormous amount, and everyone who knows of his work is deeply grateful. Indeed he wouldn't have been replaced if he hadn't carried through with his long-standing threat to resign!

Steve's tasks have been split amongst three new volunteers. I am now the Regimental Secretary, Maj (Retd) Tony Schultz is the Secretary to the Regimental Trust Fund, and Chick McGregor is editing The Powder Horn as noted above. As for the job of making appropriate (and sometimes pointed) observations about breaches of protocol, tradition, etc., I suspect no one can fully replace Steve in that department, and he may have to keep doing that job for the next few years!

I wish BGen Andrunyk well in this new phase of his retirement, and thank all members and supporters for their continued dedication to this Regiment. At different times, places, and circumstances it has made a big difference to us, and it has made a big and valuable contribution to Canada. I am proud of it and of its members like BGen Andrunyk for the example they have set and continue to set.

### **NEW EDITOR FOR POWDER HORN**

Capt. Charles (Chick) McGregor, the new editor of the Powder Horn, has spent his entire working life in the media and communications professions. He spent 18 years as a reporter, photographer and editor (three years at the St. Catharines Standard and 15 at the Toronto Telegram) before going into public relations in 1969. He owns his own public relations agency, based in Whitby, Ont. While his first involvement with the militia was in 1949 as a member of the now-disbanded 44th Field Regt (RCA) he was converted into an 'infanteer' by LCol Ed Rayment, in the 1980s, joining The Queen's Own as a volunteer officer to assume responsibilities as the Battalion Public Affairs and Public Relations Officer. He has also served as editor of The Rifleman, as well as Secretary, Vice PMC and PMC in the Officer's Mess. In his new assignment he welcomes hearing from readers (bouquets or brickbats) and is open to all (printable) suggestions.

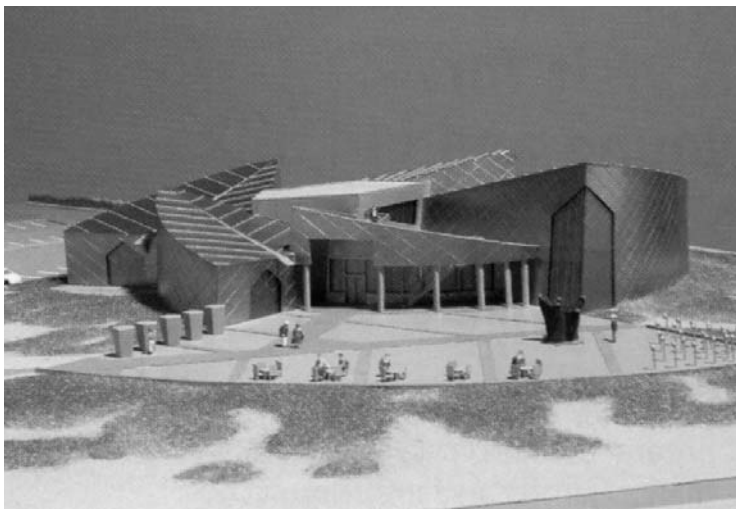
**E-mail: [chickmcgregor@sympatico.ca](mailto:chickmcgregor@sympatico.ca). Telephone: (905) 718-1377**

# JUNO BEACH CENTRE OFFICIAL OPENING – 6 JUNE 2003

## Capt. C.D. McGregor

For those of us privileged to attend the official opening of the Juno Beach Centre at Courseulles in Normandy this year it was an exciting and emotional event, doubly so for all those veterans in attendance who got there first, 59 years ago, on D-Day, 6 June 1944. Their ranks thinned and their steps slowed by the passage of time, their spirits obviously remain as high as ever, if their enthusiastic response to the arrival of the huge Canadian flag parachuted in by a member of the Canadian Skyhawks team is any guide. As well as their singing of 'O Canada' after the flag was raised and the pride they showed as they marched off behind the colours at the conclusion of the ceremony.

An estimated 2,000 veterans, their family members and other invited guests spent over two hours from time of arrival, under a (very) warm sun, until the curtain was rung down on the lengthy ceremony. In addition to the actual official ribbon cutting and opening, this included a pre-event



musical program by the combined Military Bands and Buglers of The Queen's Own and Winnipeg Rifles, various helicopter landings and take-offs as dignitaries arrived, remarks from nine different speakers, including the Prime Ministers of France and Canada, the laying of numerous wreaths, unveiling and dedication of the eight-foot bronze memorial sculpture "Renewal and Remembrance" and the Memorial Brick Kiosks, a choir selection, four low-level flypasts by a Spitfire, 'Last Post' and 'Reveille' sounded by Queen's Own and Royal Winnipeg Rifles buglers and the poignant drop from helicopter of more than 40,000 red poppies, representing each one of the Canadians who lost their lives in World War II.

The Queen's Own Rifles of Canada Association members, led by President Maj. Norm McCracken, on a 10-day tour of France and Holland, had already had

a busy day before arriving at the Juno Beach Centre site for this ceremony. That morning they, with the QOR Band and Bugles plus the QOR Guard of Honour, had attended the service held annually at 8 a.m. on 6 June at Bernieres sur Mer at The Queen's Own memorial, marking the time and the place where the regiment's members had stormed the beach and where many died or were severely wounded on D-Day. This was followed immediately by a nearby reception. In the afternoon there was a lengthy ceremony at the Canadian military cemetery at Beny-Reviers, again with the Veterans, the Band and Bugles and Honour

Guard in attendance. Following the opening ceremony there was a well-attended and well-organized champagne and finger foods reception to close out a long and exhilarating day.

Everyone had the opportunity to tour the Juno Beach Centre before the actual opening and generally

agreed those responsible for its being had done an excellent job. Located on the sea front surrounded by sand dunes with vestiges of the Atlantic Wall nearby, there are five rooms to visit: Courseulles, 6th June, 1944, which features a short film screened in an area which replicates a pitching and rolling landing craft; Canada in the 1930s; Canada Goes to War: Abroad and At Home; Roads to Victory; Some Came Back, Others Did Not. There are two other exhibits: Faces of Canada Today and Siquniq: Under the Same Sun (On loan from the Canadian Museum of Civilization until February 2004, it starts with a visit to the house of two Inuit children.) There is also a consultation room with internet access and reference works. Tours led by bilingual Canadian guides are available for groups of 20 or more.

## HONORARY LIEUTENANT COLONEL'S VISIT TO JUNO BEACH CENTRE

*Paul Hughes, Honorary Lieutenant Colonel of The Queen's Own Rifles of Canada since February, 2000, with his wife Beverley, was among an audience of 2,000 or more who attended the opening of the Juno Beach Centre in Courseulles-sur-Mer, Normandy, France. LCol Hughes was invited to describe the event at a presentation at the newly-constructed Colonel Belcher Care Centre in Calgary. The following is excerpted from his remarks.*

The three objectives of the Centre, which celebrates all aspects of the Second World War, are: 1.) To provide a tangible and fitting memorial to Canada's participation in the Second World War, much like the Vimy Memorial for the First; 2.) To remember and commemorate the sacrifices made by all Canadians who were part of the Allied victory in all theatres and at home; 3.) To educate the adults and children of today, and future generations, about the role of Canada and Canadians in preserving the freedoms we are privileged to enjoy today.

The Queen's Own made the deepest penetration on D-Day of any of the Allied units, driving seven miles from the beach. However, casualties were heavy. The Queen's Own came up against the following German divisions: 716th, the 21 Panzer and later the 12th SS Hitlerjugend. On D-Day fifty-six had been killed in action and a further seven died of wounds. Six officers and 69 ORs had been wounded and a further five had suffered other battle injuries. This was the heaviest total suffered by any Canadian unit on D-Day (about 20 percent, that is one in five, of the total landing on D Day.) Most of those killed are buried at a beautifully-maintained Commonwealth War Cemetery in Beny-sur-Mer (slightly inland from Bernieres) where there are buried: 2043 Canadians, 4 British and 1 French dead. This cemetery contains nine sets of brothers and one triple family bereavement. This was unknown in the British Army where after the experience in World War One placing men from one family in the same unit had been discontinued.

Now, let's go back to the present and the Juno Beach Centre. The Queen's Own supplied a guard and the Regimental Band for the ceremonies in Normandy. The band, in addition to holding several concerts for the locals, on 06 June, 2003, participated in a cere-

mony at The Queen's Own memorial on the beach at Bernieres, the cemetery at Beny-sur-Mer and the opening of the Juno Beach Centre itself. Quite a hectic schedule when suffering from jet lag, as I am sure they were.

My wife and I had the privilege of touring the facility the day before it opened. Although some exhibits weren't completed the centre was chock full of displays depicting the contributions Canadians at home and abroad made to the war effort, the net effect of which was that the planners certainly met the three objectives stated earlier. It will stand as a lasting memorial which will educate future generations of the efforts and sacrifices made by their forebears.

The centre was opened by a group which included Jean Chretien, the PM of France, Jean-Pierre Raffarin and Ernie Eves the Premier of Ontario. The ceremony was capped off by a helicopter dropping 60,000 poppies over the site. The centre was funded with donations from 14,000 individuals; 6,000 of whom bought titanium bricks to commemorate loved ones who participated in WW2. The Federal government contributed \$3M, the French \$2M, Ontario \$1M, BC \$1M, Alberta \$100K, Wal-Mart Canada \$1M along with countless other Legions, cities, towns and even school children.

During WW2 Canada's population was 11.5 M and yet by 1945 we had over a million men under arms, hundreds of planes in the RCAF and the RCN was the third largest in the world. It would seem logical therefore that if this were any other country in the Western World this memorial to the sacrifices of the forces would have been completed 40 or 50 years ago rather than 59 years after the event. By way of comparison the Vimy Memorial was dedicated by Edward VIII in 1936 a mere 18 years after the First World War. However, I guess better late than never.

The JBC, like the facility we are now in, wouldn't be possible without the vision and perseverance of one man. Garth Webb was an artillery subaltern on D-Day. He had a vision to create a lasting memorial to the Canadian veterans of WW2. He and his team raised over \$8M and saw the project to completion. Like the volunteers who created this structure, my hat goes off to them. True visionaries in a world where this type of vision is often lacking or non-existent.



## QOR Tour to Normandy and Holland and the Juno Beach Centre Opening

### Maj. Norm McCracken CD

There was excitement in the air at Terminal 3, at the Martinair check in, on 2 Jun 03 as veterans including Orville Cook, Charlie McNabb, Gene Bell and Charlie Cadieux, welcomed each other with great enthusiasm. Capt. Arendz, with media in tow, sought out those vets for interviews. We met up with John Jones of Vancouver and some Cold War vets were there as well, including Ivan Hill and Norm McCracken.

We were met at Schipol airport in Amsterdam by LCol Steve Brand and by late afternoon we were checked in and enjoying dinner in France. At each point of lodgings our bus driver, Robert (a truly veritable CQMS), gave us our instructions, wake up calls, baggage info, breakfast times, etc. There were many highlights on this trip, which involved a total of more than 120 people, including the CO LCol John Fotheringham and his lady, Kim Mathieson, the Hon. LCol Paul Hughes and Beverley, plus the Band and Bugles.

On June 5th, The QORC tour group had a special preview tour of the Juno Beach Centre and the QORCA made a presentation of a framed ink sketch of the Maison de Queen's Own Rifles (on the beach at Bernieres-sur-Mer) to the Centre's director. This sketch was done by WO Gerry Senetchko's son and given to the association for this presentation. A similar drawing was presented to the Hoffer family who own the house and who hosted an excellent reception there in the evening following a concert conducted by the QOR Band and Bugles in the square at Bernieres that afternoon.

At sunrise, on D-Day, June 6th, the special fifty man guard, which included several QORC members, the Band and Bugles of the Regiment, and the vets, paraded to the pill box at Bernières sur Mer where a Remembrance Service was conducted. As the guard, band, and vets marched, a significant number of local residents warmly applauded them. A reception was held afterwards where a gentleman from Wons, Holland presented a framed collage of pictures along with coloured pictures proudly done by the children of Wons. (There is a Queen's Own Memorial Plaque at Wons commemorating those members of the Regiment who were killed there during the liberation.) By afternoon the day was blistering hot as a Remembrance Service at Beny-Reviere Cemetery was held. It was exciting as thirty-six paratroopers landed across from the cemetery.

(At this point I'd like to make the very strong suggestion that people organizing events on trips like these take the veterans into consideration. The ceremonies at Beny-Reviere were far too long, conducted, as they were on a hot day. The same applied at the Juno Beach Centre opening later that long day, with too many speakers and no mention made of the regiments involved in the landings or credit given to the QOR Band and Bugles which performed for at least 30 minutes prior to the official opening and then stood for two hours during the ceremonies while the politicians talked and talked and the veterans baked in the sun. I could say more but, in the interests of keeping the peace, I'll leave it there and move on.)

On June 8th, we saw Passchendaele and attended the funeral of three WW 1 soldiers identified to be QOR. Our Padre, Capt. Craig Cameron, led the service and procession to the burial site. In the procession, pallbearers marched slowly, bearing the caskets containing the remains of those riflemen of WW1. The Guard fired the salute, flowers were laid and we quietly left.

The guard, the band, and the tour group, seized opportunities

to have group photos taken. As we gathered around, the CO, LCol Fotheringham, said a few words and introduced two generals, Richard Rohmer and Charles Belzile. General Rohmer recounted his connection with the regiment as he was flying a Typhoon over Juno Beach as the Queen's Own stormed 59 years ago. General Belzile was in the regiment in the sixties and transferred to the Vingt-Deux when the regular force Queen's Own was de-activated. Both generals are on the advisory committee for D+60 in 2004 and would welcome any suggestions for this recognition of 60 years ago.

Afterwards the CO, myself and others attended a reception in the town hall where the recovered artefacts of the soldiers were displayed. These were turned over to the CO for the regimental museum. While the CO and myself waited for the bus, we took the opportunity of quaffing a beer at the local pub where we met the men who recovered the remains of the soldiers and had a most interesting conversation.

We visited several cemeteries where we conducted remembrance services. At the grave of Lt John McCrae, the recitation of "In Flanders Field" by veterans Margaret Ackroyd and Bill Ross added much emotion to the service. McCrae was a Rifleman in the QOR while attending medical school at the University of Toronto before WWI. At St Martins, the lone grave of Rfn "Dusty" Rose was remembered and Charlie McNabb recalled memories and final days of his friend.

On our way to the airport we stopped at Holten in Holland. The vets honoured several of their buddies who were buried here. It was here I realised that I had just completed an immersion course in Remembrance. Each member of the tour laid a rose at the Cross of Sacrifice as each remembered the sacrifice of these young men. Vets placed flags and roses on the graves of friends who died that day.

In Rha, Holland, again the people of Holland awed us with their commitment NOT to forget the sacrifice made by their liberators. Here a fierce battle was fought by 16 platoon of the QORC. One of the farm houses was the centre of the action. In the basement was the family. We met a lady who was a little girl in the basement at that time. This little community erected a large stone on which are the names of those Riflemen who died that day. It was awesome to hear the vets talk about the day Aubrey Cosens, VC, died and see the fields where it happened.

Bus travel seemed eternal but while some of us visited the war museum in Bayeux, others went to see the Bayeux Tapestry. As well, we saw the cemetery where the Americans have remembered their fallen, including the 1500 + whose remains were never found. We saw Vimy, Dieppe, Dunkirk, Pegasus Bridge, Mesnil Patry, Oostburg and the Switchback Museum, the QOR Clubhouse of the Re-enactors, and many other things which would make this article even longer.

Great credit must be given to the Band and Bugles who represented Canada and the Regiment extremely well despite the unenviable situations with which they had to cope, and to those serving members, all ranks, who participated as members of the guard and the para jump. Thanks also to Padre Cameron and the camaraderie of the tour group members who kept watchful eyes out for one another.

We enjoyed the trip and we would go again.



## COMMANDING OFFICER'S REPORT

### LCol John Fotheringham, CD

Serving soldiers and members of the Regimental Band and Bugles were honoured to accompany our veterans on the June trip to Normandy for the opening of the Juno Beach Centre ([www.junobeach.org](http://www.junobeach.org)) and to Belgium for the burial of three 3rd Toronto Regiment soldiers recently discovered on the Passchendaele battlefield ([www.diggers.be/N/Ezine/2002/canada\\_140ENG.htm](http://www.diggers.be/N/Ezine/2002/canada_140ENG.htm)).

The official DND 50-soldier guard was led by QOR Captain Peter St. Denis, MSC, CD, along with Sergeant Jeff Johnston, CD and eleven other riflemen. The Band and Bugles were the lead band at the opening of the JBC and provided support to all regimental functions throughout the tour.

Several riflemen, including Lieutenant Pat Slack and Warrant Officer Mark Shannon, are currently in Petawawa on pre-deployment training with the RCD for Op Palladium Roto 13 to Bosnia in September. Captain Ray Taylor, QOR Regular Force Cadre, is currently in Afghanistan with Op Athena, and Sergeant Dave Harmes will be deploying soon as part of a CIMIC team.

The Battalion is preparing for this August's summer concentration, in which the QOR has been tasked to spearhead a 120-soldier parachute assault, with the force comprised entirely of Reserve soldiers from LFCA. Sixteen members of the German 26 Airborne Brigade will be participating in the exercise as guests of the QOR.



## VANCOUVER ISLAND BRANCH Queen's Own Rifles Association

### Various Members

We were delighted to have Colonel Paul and Beverley Hughes as our Guests of Honour at the 143rd Regimental Birthday Dinner on 26 April at the Wardroom in Esquimalt. An outstanding success, the dinner was sold out at 210 tickets (Fire Marshal's restriction) and the place was packed! It was very encouraging to see so many old friends having such a great evening together. We had attendees from Newfoundland and all points in between. Organizers are finding the event becoming so popular that an alternative venue may have to be found !! Thanks for this stellar evening must go to the committee.

At the Annual General Meeting held at the Wardroom on 18 January, 2003, our Executive was acclaimed for another year. Returning were President Harold Drinkwalter, Vice-President Fred Mercer, Past-President Gord Hryhoryshen, Secretary John Tolley, QM Winston Spurr, Membership/Treasurer Jim Carroll,

Museum Jim Schulz and Dave Stones. It was confirmed that the Branch wanted to schedule the same number and types of events for our Members which all had enjoyed the previous year. All agreed membership was robust and growing with a number of projects on our agenda.

The strength of the Branch stands at a total of 223 Ordinary, 1 Life, 19 Honorary and we anticipate growth as the year progresses and as the 2004 Birthday approaches, if past experience is a guide.

The three major undertakings by the Branch which occurred since the last report were: 1) -- the enhanced display in the Base Naval & Military Museum; 2) -- the completion of The Trans Canada Trail Pavilion plaque commemorating service of both 1st and 2nd Battalions in the Victoria area; 3) -- the raising of \$2,400 towards the Regiment's Juno Beach Centre Kiosk. Some Branch funds and donations by many individuals made all these undertakings possible. Space precludes naming everyone (they will be named at the Museum!!) but special mention must be made here of the financial support from Bill Mountain, Geoff Costeloe and Tom Martin. The "labourers" include Kolbe, Carroll, Walsh, Schulz, Ratz, Kinnersly and Stones whose sweat has stained the entrance to the Museum display area after many days of moving, painting and constructing. I don't recall all this "volunteering" going on when we were in uniform but maybe we didn't ASK in those days!!

Golf is beginning to attract some members in April, May, June and October. We now get six to eight foursomes out

There are regular lunch and coffee gatherings of the the Branch to which former or serving members of the Regiment are welcome. We meet just before noon on the last Wednesday of each month at the Pro Patria Legion on Gorge Road. On the first Tuesday of each month we gather at 1000 hours for coffee, followed by lunch at the MGM Cafe in Nanaimo. For further information on the former call Peter Kolbe (250-384-5316), on the latter call Bill Brayshaw (250-754-6647).

Here are some upcoming events that you should mark on your calendars. The annual Happy Hour will be on 18 October. Happy Hour 2002, held at the Wardroom in Esquimalt for Members and their ladies on 11 October, 2002 was well attended and enjoyed, affording an opportunity to bring members up to date on events and plans as they affected our Branch. Also, the Annual General Meeting is scheduled for 17 January and the Birthday Dinner will be on 24 April 2004.

If you have questions call Jim Carroll at 250-727-2064 or e-mail at [tigerlily.sask@shaw.ca](mailto:tigerlily.sask@shaw.ca). Our Membership Dues go up to \$15.00 (from \$10.00) effective 1 Jan/04 until further notice. This was approved at the last AGM and is still the best deal around. Keep in touch !! See you on Parade!



## CALGARY BRANCH Queen's Own Rifles Association

**Capt (Retd) Ralph E. Ridley CD**

**BIRTHDAY CELEBRATION:** The Queen's Own Rifles of Canada Association Calgary Branch was forced to cancel the 143rd Regimental Dinner/Dance in late April due to inclement weather, principally due to heavy snow accumulations that made roads impassable. It was decided instead to stage a Candlelight Dinner at No. 264 Royal Canadian Legion in September.

**COLONEL BELCHER CARE CENTRE (CBCC):** The newly-constructed CBCC, located about one km west of the Foothills Hospital, NW Calgary, welcomed the first of its residents between 12 May-16 May and was officially opened on June 3, 2003. The road leading to the facility has been named Veterans Way and the residence address is 1939 Veterans Way. The facility will accommodate 76 veterans with some space available for other area residents. On 1 April the Calgary Regional Health Authority took over the new building and in May a "close-out" ceremony was held at the previous site. A service will be held at the dedication of the "Wall of Honour" in September. Legacy Brick donors will receive a personal invitation to attend, along with their family members. The Wall of Honour is composed of 3045 inscribed bricks which were designed as a fundraising venture for purchase by relatives and friends to pay tribute to special people.

**ANZAC DAY-- 25 APRIL 2003:** An outdoor ceremony was held on the evening of 25 April at the Calgary Cenotaph, Memorial Park, to honour Australians and New Zealanders who were among the 30,000 volunteers in two Divisions who landed at Gallipoli Peninsula at dawn on 25 April, 1915. Also honoured were their countrymen who served and died in the cause of freedom and service to the Crown during the Sudan, South African War, World Wars I and II, the Korean and Vietnam Wars as well as campaigns in Malaya, Borneo, East Timor and Peacekeeping Operations around the world. Guest speaker at the event was Lt. Col Mark Harnwell, Defence Advisor, Australian High Commission, Ottawa. The Sergeant at Arms was John Cresswell, QOR of Canada Association, Calgary Branch. The event was followed by a reception at No. 264 Legion.

**JUNO BEACH CENTRE:** Paul Hughes, Honorary

Lieutenant Colonel of The Queen's Own Rifles of Canada, his wife Bev, and Barry and Carol Ashton, represented the Calgary Branch at the official opening ceremonies of the Juno Beach Centre at Courseulles, France, June 6, 2003 and by all accounts had a marvellous time and thoroughly enjoyed the evening in the company of D-Day veterans from all across Canada, including QOR. The regiment was well-represented, not only with veterans, but also with the Regimental Band, a Quarter Guard and a number of Association members, their wives and friends on a motorcoach tour which began in Holland on June 2nd and concluded on June 14th.

**REGIMENTAL HISTORIAN:** Congratulations to LCol Frank Mulrooney on his appointment by the Senate as Regimental Historian. One of his major aims is to develop and organize a Historical Committee to take charge of writing the History of the Regiment's third half century, 1960-2010. Most members will realize the magnitude of this undertaking and recognize that its success is largely dependent on contributions from those who served at the Depot, 1st Bn and 2nd Bn from the 50s to the disbandment of the active/regular component in 1968. Contributions are welcomed and can be sent to LCol Mulrooney at RHQ - Moss Park Armoury, 130 Queen St. E., Toronto, M5A 1R9; or contact the writer, Ridley R.E. at 403 242 3947.

**QUEEN'S JUBILEE MEDAL:** It was reported in the Glen Eagle News (nr. Cochrane, w. of Calgary - home of Jim and Dorothy Taylor) that Jim was awarded the Queen's Jubilee Medal for a variety of military and civilian achievements. Jim's son, Ray, who lives with his family in Moose Jaw, received the same award. Both Jim and Ray served with The Queen's Own and both retired as LCol. Recognition of the outstanding contributions of this father-son combination may be 'one-of-a-kind' in Canada. A truly unique honour. Jim received his medal from Alberta's Lieutenant Governor Lois Hole.

**EXPANSION: MUSEUM OF REGIMENTS:** A must for visitors to Calgary is a trip to the Museum of Regiments in the former area of Currie Barracks' PMQ's (now re-named Garrison Woods.) Several war paintings are being displayed during the summer and fall months, adding to the excellent and extensive display depicting Canadian Army history from the Boer War to the present day. Plans are underway to move the naval museum at Tecumseh to the Museum of Regiments. The RCAF has established its own museum near the International Airport, however information on its future is not presently available.

**FIGURE: QOR SERGEANT:** Davlyn Enterprises, Beachburg Ont., have done a very creditable job in producing a 9" poly-resin figure on a circular base of a Queen's Own Sergeant in rifle green patrols. MGen Lewis MacKenzie has heartily endorsed its excellent, accurate quality. To order one at \$60, plus \$5 postage and handling, contact Ken Barrett, accoutrement member on the Executive of the Calgary Branch Association at 403 259 2760, or e-mail to j.k.p.c.@telus.net.

**IN OUR THOUGHTS:** On behalf of all members of the extended family of The Queen's Own Rifles of Canada we offer sincere condolences to Colonel Richard L. (Dick) Cowling, in the passing of his wife, Eileen, in London, Ontario in June. Contributions to the Canadian Cancer Society in Mrs. Cowling's memory would be greatly appreciated by Col. Cowling and family members. . Also, word from Major Art and Joyce Creighton that they visited Phil and Lena Jacques in Ottawa and report that Phil is in ill-health, living in a nursing facility. We wish both our very best. The Creightons operated the Salvation Army Hostel in Hemer, Germany, in the early 60s.



## REPORT FROM OTTAWA Queen's Own Rifles

**LCol (Retd) B. Grahame Baskerville CD**

Last December a small group of Riflemen gathered at The Army Officer's Mess in Ottawa for the presentation of a framed print of the painting depicting the landing of the QOR of C on D Day, 6 June 1944. Grahame Baskerville made the presentation to BGen M.G. MacDonald, DGSL on the Land Staff at NDHQ, the Commanding Officer for the Army Mess. The presentation was made in recognition of all those members of the Regiment who have served at the HQ. The print hangs in the Infantry Room of the Mess among other artwork depicting exploits of Canada's Infantry Regiments and corrects an obvious deficiency.

To celebrate the Regimental Birthday on Saturday 26th April 2003, a reception was held at the CourtYard Restaurant in the Byward Market area of Ottawa. About 30 persons, regimental members and spouses, joined together for this occasion organized by Larry Diebel. We had members present who had served in 1st and 2nd Battalions in the early 1950's to those who joined the Regiment shortly prior to the disbandment of the Regular Force component. We were pleased to see Maurice Whiting, who came in from Metcalfe, now part of rural Ottawa; Pat Dillon who had just returned from travels in South America; and Eileen Munro who came up from Kingston for the occasion. Charlie Belzile said a few words and proposed the Loyal Toast. Roy Bruce

made the Toast to the Regiment. Everyone was pleased to see Andre (Andy) Gauthier and his wife Francoise. Andy, who ended his career as the head of the Military Police and is now a well known sculptor of military subjects and memorials, served on attachment with the 1st Bn in Calgary in the early 1960's.

In late May, of this year, Roy Bruce underwent major surgery to correct an abdominal aneurism (actually three) in the main artery leading to the legs, which added some plastic plumbing to his system. He made a great recovery and really appreciated the get well messages he received from old QOR comrades.



## SANDYCOVE VETERANS' SOCIAL CLUB

**LCol (Retd.) Ivor MacLeod, MM, CD**

Regimental greetings from Sandycove Acres, Innisfil, Ontario, only 8 miles from Barrie, the latest 'posting' for Patricia and I. Within two weeks of our arrival I found myself being 'volunteered' to the position of VP, the Sandycove Veterans' Social Club, which is mighty active and constantly organizing a whole gamut of activities, from dances and other social events to regular Vet's Club breakfasts (where I am OIC scrambled eggs.) Pat's on a twice-weekly PT and line dancing schedule and along with that continues her instructional classes in advance sewing.

We are also happy to be in a community which boasts a good complement of Riflemen -- namely ex-WWII Sergeant 'Hank' Antrobus and Dorothy, Cliff Ashdown and Diane and Bob Charman and Elizabeth. Both Cliff and Bob are current members of the QOR Regimental Band (in Cliff's case some 40 years!) Cliff, Past President of the Vet's Club, who has played Last Post at Vimy Ridge, maintains a superb and very interesting and commendable 'mini QOR' museum at his home -- books, historical pictures, prints -- the lot! The QOR certainly sets the tone for Sandycove! Pat and I also attend the regular monthly meetings of Huronia Branch, Canadian Airborne Forces Association at Branch 147, RCL, Barrie. Pat is very active with the Ladies' Support Group while I am incumbent PRO.

Our January meeting was highlighted by having Branch Patron Major-General (Retd.) Lew MacKenzie present the Queen's 50th Jubilee Medals and a Peacekeeping Medal to a number of 147 Branch members. General Lew's remarks were, as usual, sharp and to the point and full of praise for the continuing solid efforts of the Canadian military valiantly operating within the current political climate. Treasurer Bob Hill will be remembered for his formidable hockey prowess when he and then Lieutenant Herb Pitts played for 1 QOR in Calgary. Bob and I have had the pleasure of taking part in The Queen's Own



Invitational Golf Tournament at Circlad Pine GC, CFB Borden in a foursome with Major-General Herb (on his annual trip 'down east') and Brigadier-General Steve Andrunyk. We're hoping to do the same this year.

Other QOR visitors from the west (Kimberley, BC) were Charlie and Mary Park who spent a day with us. Great to see them and be reassured that Charlie will never change! I continue my firearms training work and am pleased to supply DND with the plastic Shot Hole Markers which I designed in the mid-80s -- and they still work 100 per cent. 2002 saw the completion of 22 years service as an Aide de Camp to five successive Lieutenant Governors of Ontario, a position and activity which Pat and I enjoyed very much. For good measure, I am also a member of the Grey and Simcoe Foresters, whom I joined in 1948 when I came to Canada. At that time they were anti-tank (with 17-pounders) and as a result of my British Army service I was made a Bombardier ... 55 years ago. How time flies when having fun! Finally, best Regimental good wishes for 2003 and beyond.

## **IN MEMORIAM**

### **QOR members who have died in 2003**

Sgt Dick Ayton

Major James E. C. Beatty

Lieut William Brown

Sgt Bill Burridge, (Band)

Sgt Clay Cameron

Major William A.C. Crew

Rfn Donald J. Forestell

Sgt George Gardiner

Cpl Alfred Missons

Rfn Bruce Taylor

Sgt Harry J. Ward

MCpl Howard Wilson (Band)



## **Regimental Trust Fund Supports Regimental Family**

Your Regimental Trust Fund continues its support of key elements of the Regimental Family. In this past year the Trust Fund has allocated funds to the Regimental Museums, at Casa Loma, Calgary and Victoria, The Band, The Rifleman Journal and The Juno Beach Centre while at the same time ensuring the funding of Regimental Headquarters [RHQ]. The Powder Horn is the main communication of your RHQ and as such allows me, as President of the Trust Fund, to tell all members of the Regimental Family how much we appreciate your ongoing interest and, in particular, your generous and meaningful financial support.

The Trust Fund relies on regular contributions from regimental members in order to fund numerous continuing obligations and, as is evidenced by our work this past year with the Juno Beach Centre, special projects that we believe are important to the maintenance of our place in history and our heritage. To this end we appeal to you to make your contribution to your Trust Fund as soon as you can. Receipts for income tax purposes will be provided for donations of \$10 or more.

Please don't delay; make out your cheque today and mail it to:

The Queen's Own Rifles of Canada  
Trust Fund  
C/O Regimental Headquarters  
Moss Park Armoury  
130 Queen Street East,  
Toronto, ON  
M5A 1R9

In Pace Paratus  
Adam Hermant, Captain  
President



## Reminiscences of a Life in The Queen's Own Rifles of Canada

### **MGen (Retd) John Sharpe CD**

*MGen John Sharpe, now retired and living in British Columbia, has gathered a number of reminiscences of his life and his comrades in The Queen's Own and we will be sharing these with readers of the Powder Horn in this, and subsequent issues.*

Having commenced my Regular Force service with the Queen's Own – and very much benefiting from the opportunity – I have nothing but fond memories of the Regiment. As a new Regiment (in the Regular Forces), we were blessed with officers and senior non-commissioned officers who understood they had a very important role to play. And that was to identify, train and groom the future leaders of the Regiment. Many had previously served with the PPCLI. Some came by choice, some were chosen, but regardless of how they arrived at the Queen's Own – the majority were determined to make this an excellent Infantry Regiment.

Had I first gone to the Patricia's, I suspect that the outcome for me would have been quite different. Resting on their laurels, which were not insignificant and very much deserved, too many senior Patricia officers failed to understand the need to develop and promote their best. Proof of that came in the early 1970s shortly after 1 QOR of C rebadged to 3 PPCLI in Victoria. All three Patricia battalions were commanded by officers who, until 1970, were Queen's Own officers. They were LCol John Sharpe (1 PPCLI), LCol Jim Allan (2 PPCLI) and LCol Dick Cowling (3 PPCLI). As difficult as it was to leave one's Regiment, the situation was made palatable by the fact that we already knew many of the Patricias and by the warm and sincere welcome by all ranks. MGen (Ret'd) Cammie Ware, Colonel of the Regiment of the PPCLI, spoke with eloquence and sincerity in his inspection of the rebadged 1 QOR of C on the Monday following the Battalion's final parade at Work Point Barracks in Esquimalt. His example was thereafter emulated by all.

### **Germany - 1 QOR of C - early 60s.**

When LGen Geoffrey Walsh, Chief of the General Staff, was inspecting 1 QOR of C in Germany, our self-assured WW2 company commanders and CO were almost reduced to babbling idiots through their absolute fear of the General.

Walking down the road with his entourage he pointed to a building that they were passing and not inspecting. Walsh stopped and demanded, "What's in there?"

Before a Major or the CO could reply an older and absolutely unflappable Captain immediately replied, "Everything we don't want you to see, Sir." As a grin slowly came on Walsh's face he said, "Very well, let's go to the Mess and have a drink!" And the inspection was over. And, of course, the building did contain much of what the Battalion had squirreled away from the general's eyes!

### **Same Route as the Last Two Years. Germany - 2 QOR of C - Jan 1960.**

I arrived in Germany as a reinforcement officer on 6 Jan 1960. Within less than a week of my arrival, the Battalion's vehicles were assembled on the parade square in preparation for the move to the Putlos Training Area which is located on the Baltic Coast north of Hamburg - a day's drive away from Deilinghoffen.

I was to command a packet of vehicles and reported to the parade square to hear the briefing by the Battalion Transport Officer. With what looked like a large scale map of Europe mounted on an easel, the TO briefed us on the route. He was brief and to the point and essentially said, "Same route as last year except the lunch halt will be north of Hamburg and not South as it was last year. Any questions?" I had not been issued a road map. I had not been issued a route letter. And I had absolutely no idea how to get to the autobahn to start our journey. With some hesitation, as no one else felt the need to ask a question, I raised my hand and asked, "Which way do I turn outside the Main Gate?" Laughter broke out as the officers concluded that this new guy Sharpe is going to be all right ... he has a great sense of humour. Before I could say any more, my Platoon Sergeant quietly approached and said, "It's OK Sir, we'll get there." Having learned to trust my Platoon Sergeants I didn't pursue the matter any further with the TO - and we did get to Putlos, reasonably directly. There is, of course, an important moral to this story. Don't presume that all leaders have the same knowledge and experience.