



THE GUARDS STAR

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- DECEMBER 2022 -

**Message from the GGFG Regimental Association
President**
Darren Fleming

It is with great honour that I once again take up the mantle of the president of this wonderful organization via appointment by the LCC and the board of directors. It is my intent to hold an AGM and call an election as soon as I've had a chance to complete a transition and get my feet under me. At this time, I have asked Major Gray Shanahan to act as acting CFO.

The regimental association is tasked with maintaining a link between our former members and the regiment and as such, I can only stand back and applaud at the sheer volume of volunteer effort expended to celebrate our 150th anniversary.

Parades, parties, coins, stamps, apparel, books, whisky, wine, and the best Guards Ball this guardsmen has ever attended. To all of you who shared so much of your free time, effort and money, when I'm sure you had several other potential commitments, thank you.

Up The Guards !



**Message from the Lieutenant-Colonel
Commanding**
LCol Vincent Quesnel, CD, AdeC

Fellow Guards,

We are now well into our 150th year, with the major celebration milestones behind us. We saw huge

success at our signature events: the Freedom of the City, our visit to Rideau Hall, and the Guards Ball. Many other projects were also undertaken to celebrate this special anniversary and some of which will come to fruition as the year closes. LCol Fran and the 150th Executive were instrumental in organizing, synchronizing and shepherding all the activity which has so far made this year a success. I want to make particular mention of LCol Nick C-R who doggedly pursued the production and delivery of nearly all the tangible mementos we now have to remember this year by. And, I wish to highlight the generosity of Honorary Colonel Bryan Brulotte, for without it we would not have achieved many of our successes. I wish to thank all those of you who made efforts to ensure that we celebrated this year in style, and there were many! I saw so many cases where you pulled together great plans and last minute amendments, which made our anniversary something truly memorable; thank you.

This September we lost our Colonel-in-Chief. It was with heavy hearts that the Regiment sent over a small contingent consisting of Capt Art McKenzie, CWO Greg Witol, Sgt Anthony Near, Cpl Benjamin Bailly and myself to participate in the Queen's funeral procession. Though the atmosphere in London was somber, we recognized the great honour of participating in such a significant event. Here at home, the Regiment was critical to the success of the commemorative events held in Ottawa. Maj Gray Shanahan led the Canadian contingent here at home, and our NCOs were specifically called upon to deliver the week of preparatory training that was conducted in Kingston for

the honour guard that was gathered from across the country. I am immensely proud of the Regiment's representation and performance in the events that marked the end of an era.

Now, our attention is turning to overseas deployments and the force generation activities of next year. It would seem that when it comes to deployment opportunities: when it rains, it pours; and there are now many operational positions that need to be filled. I'm very proud of the over 30 member of the Regiment who have already volunteered to suspend their civilian pursuits and deploy overseas. We expect many of them to deploy in the months of April and June as the Regiment contributes to Operation IMPACT, in the Middle East, Operation REASSURANCE, in Central and Eastern Europe and Operation UNIFIER in support of the Ukraine.

Last summer, the Guards provided well over a quarter of the instructors to the Brigade's summer courses, more than the other six infantry units combined! I am very proud of our leadership's commitment to training soldiers and congratulate them on their performance, which was second to none. I know this year we will again pull more than our weight when it comes to instruction. I also look forward to finally seeing a return of the Ceremonial Guard. Plans are forming for regular music performances during the summer months and return of daily sentries at Rideau Hall. More details will be communicated in the Spring edition.

As this calendar year draws to a close, I also would like to highlight the retirement of Reverend Canon David Clunie, Rector of St. Batholomew's, the Guards Chapel. Padre David has been instrumental over his 14 years at St. Bart's in rekindling the relationship with the Regiment. Padre David has graciously agreed to continue to support the regiment until we have a new chaplain. We wish him all the best in his retirement from his 'day job', and thank him for his continued service to the Regiment.

With the holidays upon us, I reflect on the fact that 2022 has been a huge success for the Regiment, and so I urge you all to take time, rest and celebrate with

your family and friends. I wish all of you the very best of the season and a very happy and prosperous New Year.

Up the Guards!



Message from the Regimental Sergeant Major
CWO Greg Witol, CD

The Holiday season is once more upon us, giving us all (hopefully!) an opportunity to pause, take a breath, and reflect on the year so far. Moreover, we are halfway through our anniversary year, considering that we kicked it off just prior to our 150th with the Freedom of the City parade on 4 June. The actual birthday fell conveniently on a Tuesday night and lined up with our annual Smoker, which allowed for lots of former members to join the Regiment that night.

The death of Her Majesty was a shock to us all. Every serving member of the Regiment has only known life under Queen Elizabeth II, and so her passing, even in her advanced years, felt like a true end of an era. It was an honour to be part of the marching contingent in London for her funeral, and I know all of us who went over to participate were struck by the size, scale and effort to create this solemn but fitting tribute. Particular notice was taken of Sgt Tony Near's close encounter and discussion with the Princess of Wales, and the numerous media stories all showed a good shot of Tony proudly wearing his Regimental 150th patch on his CADPAT.

I won't touch on all the 150th-related events, as they are well-covered elsewhere in this issue. However, I do want to give a shout-out to all those who worked tirelessly and doggedly to pull off the spectacular 150th Ball. To all of you, it was a great night, and one to remember for years to come.

With about 6 months left before we turn 151, there are still ways to mark this special year. I know none of you will be surprised that I'll mention targeted physical fitness. The Sergeant Major's push-up challenge (150 push-ups/day for 150 days) is still in play, for those looking for a challenge. But regardless, let's all continue to strive and improve ourselves in all aspects of our service.

Importantly, take time to reflect, relax, and refresh over the Holiday season. The demands on the Regiment will continue to increase, particularly as 4 Division moves fully into high-readiness status. We will see many opportunities for deployments over the coming years, not just in the next rotation, so everyone will need to raise the game, either on deployment, or supporting the inevitable openings that come when one of us deploys.

To all of you, please accept my best wishes for the upcoming Holidays, and the best in 2023.

Up the Guards!



Mission Accomplished!
HLCol Mark A. Matheson, MSM, CD

I never cease to be amazed at the spirit of the regimental family, but was totally blown away by the generosity recently shown at the Guards Ball. Amongst all the fun and fellowship, the charitable campaign quietly accomplished a huge objective. Not only did we hit our fund-raising target for the GGFG Youth Achievement Awards (\$100K), we also hit our overall objective for the 150th Charitable Campaign (\$500K)! A huge thank-you goes out to our very own Museum Co-Curator Nicolas Petit, his wife Julie Legris & their daughters for pushing us over the top. Santa has certainly come early this year! As I joked with Nick & Julie at the time, the loud “thunk” heard just after the meal was my jaw hitting the floor when they pulled out their chequebook.

Thanks to the tremendous kindness of other generous benefactors, we had already secured sufficient pledges to be able to make the first awards early next year. This truly wonderful donation, however, secures the future of the Youth Awards for years ahead. Designed to recognize positive attributes and performance amongst youth aged 17-23 in the greater Ottawa community, the GGFG Youth Achievement Awards encourage the same characteristics we expect of the regiment’s soldiers:

- Pursuit of excellence;

- Going above and beyond;
- Overcoming adversity
- Drive and determination
- Pride of service to the community and country

While we hope to further enlarge that nest egg via a boxing tournament in the new year, this is truly a magnificent achievement that will reinforce the success of an already remarkable 150th anniversary.

I’ve always believed our regiment stands out for a number of qualities including being fierce warriors in the field, attention to detail and sharpness on the parade square and an unflinching commitment of service to both the Ottawa region and Canada as a whole. While Nick, Julie & the girls may not wear our cap badge anymore; they certainly embody our regiment’s esprit de corps, as well as the old adage “Once a Guardsman, always a Guardsman!” Please join me in extending a heartfelt thank you the next time you meet them. Up the Guards!



**From the Executive Director,
150th Anniversary Organizing Committee**
LCol Fran Chilton-Mackay, OMM, MSM, CD (Ret'd)

Well with our big two Anniversary weekends behind us I think we can justifiably say that our 150th celebrations have been an unprecedented success. Since the last Guards Star, members of the Regiment and Association participated in the CP Women’s LPGA Open at the Ottawa Hunt & Golf course (see separate article by Paul Keogh), had a wonderful Garden Party at Rideau Hall hosted by Her Excellency Mary Simon (see separate article by Maj Jamie Bell), and of course finished up with the Reunion weekend a few weeks ago (see separate article by Brad Hampson).

The Friday night Meet & Greet was a particularly fun evening. It was so great to see people reconnect with other fellow Guards they had not seen in a long time. A big shout out to Paul Keogh and his team of “Bearskins” who worked very hard to dress up the Drill Hall and put on a great event.

The Anniversary Ball at the Château Laurier will be one none of us will soon forget. A sell out crowd of

343 people, the ambience of the Ballroom, fantastic food, drinks and wine and our own Regimental Band who dazzled in so many ways created a magical evening for all. We had several sponsors who generously provided the VIP reception, an open bar during the cocktail hour, wine with dinner, and a framed keepsake photo of the evening for everyone.

All photos by Colin Schlachta



Below: LCC, New Mayor His Worship Mark Sutcliffe, RSM.





Above: the LCC addresses the crowd; below: Padre David Clunie says Grace.





Above: Sponsor representatives pose with the RSM, LCC and HLCol.

Below: CWO Bob Dodd (Ret'd) conducts his favourite march "The Standard of St. George".





Above: Our MCs - Capt Adam Orton and CSgt Julie Cook



To top it off the evening, attendees received a Guards 150 Commemorative coin. The committee, under the meticulous project lead scrutiny of LCol Nick Curcumelli-Rodostamo, reviewed 20 versions and 3 prototypes of this coin before approving the final design for production. The early "Cap Badge", shown on the reverse, has a six pointed star in the centre containing the initials of the six provinces that were in Confederation at the time of the formation of The Regiment, was never worn as a cap badge at all. In fact, to the best of our knowledge, its appearance on the GGFG 150th Anniversary Coin is the first time it has ever been rendered in metal. It was originally printed on letterhead used by LCol Thomas Ross and used by the band on sheet music until the 1930s.

Thank you, Nick, for your efforts in seeing this project through to the end, and for the many other 150 merchandise items you spearheaded. If you were not at the Ball and would like a coin, they are now for sale exclusively through CANEX.



Though we did not receive a full shipment of the commemorative book "The Guards at 150" in time for the Reunion weekend, the printer provided us with several copies for people to have a look at and place their orders. I am pleased to say that they have now been shipped. They will be for sale through CANEX and our kit shop. Come out on a Tuesday evening and pick up your copy, or for out of towners CANEX will ship. See the article by the Editor-in-Chief, Scott Taylor about the making of the book. Huge thank you to Katherine Taylor who painstakingly laid out all of the photos and text and did a superb job. There are over 275 images in this coffee style book, but it also contains a very concise

written overview of the Regiment, past and present, predominantly written by former Band Sergeant, and Chief Historian for the CAF, Dr. Stephen Harris. Thank you Steve, and the other contributors.

Thank you as well to all of you who provided photos for consideration. It was a very difficult task indeed to choose the photos for this book. I am pleased to announce that the winners of the photo contest are:

1st Place – WO Carolyn Percy,

Petawawa Militia Concentration, 1978



2nd Place – Major Jamie Bell

Op SAFARI, Sudan, 2010





They will each receive a complimentary copy of the book.

Finally, for those of you who participated in some or many of the activities over the course of this year, the Committee thanks you. We hope you enjoyed yourselves and found it worthwhile to attend. For the Committee members, I would like to give my sincere thanks for an amazing job well done. We held a total of 45 meetings, one every two weeks since September 2020. Our hard efforts have paid off and you should all be proud of what we have accomplished. Merchandise will still be for sale for the foreseeable future, so if you have not purchased any 150 memorabilia you are encouraged to do so.

Up the Guards!



GGFG at the LPGA CP Women's Open

Paul Keogh

As part of the 150th Regimental Anniversary activities, the Governor General's Foot Guards partnered with Golf Canada in the production and presentation of the CP Women's Open at the Ottawa Hunt and Golf Club August 22 – 28, 2022. The CP Women's Open is Canada's premier professional golf championship and the only stop of the LPGA Tour in Canada. The history and link between the GGFG and the Ottawa Hunt and Golf club runs deep and is very



distinguished. The founding father and first president of the Ottawa Hunt and Golf Club was LCol James Woods who was also the Commanding Officer of the GGFG from 1910 – 1917. LCol James Woods' portrait, in Guard Order tunic, trousers and bearskin is proudly displayed in the clubhouse of the Ottawa Hunt and Golf Club. It was therefore only fitting that the GGFG play a big role in this celebrated event in our 150th year.

The GGFG's role in the CP Women's Open was prominent and varied in a number of areas. Firstly, through the CP Women's Open Adopt-a-Golf-hole, the GGFG was awarded and assigned as exclusive Marshals programme for hole #5 for the entire CP Women's Open. Almost 20 current & former serving Foot Guards, along with friends of the Regiment volunteered for early morning, afternoon and late evening shifts, each day of the tournament. This was an incredibly exciting and fun tasking as the GGFG "marshals" and our Colours were front and centre as the world's best golfers played their rounds in front of record breaking crowds.



Additionally, the GGFG provided a sentry in Guard's Tunic to tend the flag on the 18th hole during the Tournament's Sunday final round. The 18th finishing hole at the Ottawa Hunt and Golf Club is a majestic par 5 with a green surrounded by an amphitheatre where thousands of fans watched and cheered on the finale of the tournament. This final hole was an awesome site on Sunday's final round. The weather was perfect, the Women's golf was amazing and the excited crowds circled the entire green. The 18th hole pin on this Sunday was adorned with a Canadian Flag. As each group made its way on to the green, the 18th hole pin was handed to the GGFG member who stood at attention while the players putted out. As each player finished their round, they personally made their way over to the GGFG sentry holding the pin and acknowledged their presence and service. This ceremonial element was highly publicized on media and television and gratefully acknowledged by the tournament and fans alike.

Lastly, but certainly not the least, the GGFG assisted in the pageantry of the CP Women's Open Champion's trophy ceremony. The trophy presentation ceremony is a prestigious, highly coveted ceremonial duty. Appropriately, it was assigned to the GGFG to highlight our service to community and country, our history with the Ottawa Hunt and Golf Club and in recognition to our 150th Regimental Anniversary. Two GGFG serving members in Guards Tunic and Bearskins paraded the Champion's trophy on to the 18th green for presentation to this year's winner Paula Reto of South Africa, accompanied by the professional music of the GGFG Band Fanfare team. Along with being attended to by the thousands of fans around the 18th green, the



trophy presentation was televised by Canadian and US networks.

The participation of the Governor General's Foot Guards at the LPGA CP Women's Open was an unheralded success and a very proud moment for the those who participated. It will no doubt be added to the many significant events this year and in our Guards' history. Former and current serving members who volunteered at the tournament and members of the GGFG Regiment who participated in ceremonial duties are gratefully thanked, acknowledged for their dedication and professionalism.



Her Excellency the Governor General of Canada at the GGFG 150th Anniversary Reception

Maj Jamie Bell, CD

As part of the 150th Anniversary activities, Her Excellency the Governor General of Canada and GGFG Colonel-of-the-Regiment, Mary Simon hosted all ranks for an Anniversary Reception. With the help of the Governor General's Aides de camp, the event took place as a garden reception on Thursday, 22 September, 2022 from 1100hrs to 1400hrs. Members of the Regiment attended dressed in full dress, and together with Her Excellency enjoyed a beautiful sunny afternoon in the garden, entertained with music from the GGFG Flute Ensemble and Saxophone Ensemble. With a full buffet and refreshments provided, it was truly generous and welcoming. Promptly at 1400hrs Her Excellency and spouse Mr. Whit Fraser were escorted to the upper terrace of the garden and met by LCol Quesnel, the Lieutenant-Colonel Commanding as they joined the reception. Her Excellency provided brief welcome remarks, noting her very recent travels to London to attend the Funeral of the late Queen Elizabeth, II and the importance placed by the GGFG on the Sovereign.

The LCC thanked Her Excellency for her welcome and hospitality, and presented her with a gift of an umbrella, in Brigade of Guards pattern, noting it was not a tie as usually presented, but instead a practical and stylish gift, that could also receive much use. A hard copy of the Regimental History was also presented.



Once remarks were concluded, Her Excellency graciously posed with all present to have a group photo taken to record the event and lovely afternoon party. Afterwards, she spent much time in a relaxed manner, moving about the group interacting informally with

many members of the regimental family. A very lovely day was had by all present, the reception provided an excellent addition to our calendar of events to mark the 150th Anniversary year, and after two years of cancelled Ceremonial Guard tasks, a tremendous opportunity to reconnect with Her Excellency and Rideau Hall.



Message from the GGFGRA Reunion Committee
Brad Hampson & Chris Renwick

2022 has been an eventful year of 150th celebrations for the GGFG, but the 18th to 20th November arguably packed more into 3 days than our old MRE's used to in days of old (meals ready to eat). Included in this jam-packed weekend were 3 events which were the responsibility of our GGFG Regimental Association Reunion Committee, led by our VP, Paul Keogh. Planning started in the Spring of 2022, and by September was in full swing, with Committee leadership organizing 3 main events under our umbrella. These included the Friday night "Homecoming" at the Drill Hall, Saturday's Canadian War Museum guided tours, and Sunday's tours at the home of Her Excellency, our Colonel of the Regiment, at Rideau Hall. So many



returned to the fold to renew acquaintances with the “Old Guard” and reminisce, while celebrating the Regiment’s sesquicentennial anniversary.

Old Guards travelled from near and far, arriving for the Friday night event at Cartier Square, and were greeted with a Drill Hall full of displays, memorabilia, merchandise, food (Pork & Beef from Prestige Catering), and drink. Display stations included: CAF memorabilia old combat uniforms and kit from the 70’s to 90’s (thanks to WO Ed Storey, ret’d), the 150th Anniversary Whiskey table, a Unit Weapons Display, CANEX Merchandise (150th GGFG), Photo Area with Colours Stand, GGFG Cadets table (merchandise fundraiser), the GGFG Museum Display, and the Regimental Band Stand. Lastly, loaned to us for display that evening was an 1883 Gatling gun from the War Museum (an original whose duplicate was used in the Northwest Rebellion 1885, where the GGFG won their 1st battle honour at Cut Knife Hill – very appropriate). This item was very popular and a great group photo was taken at this still operable gun. It was quite a process removing the solid brass barrel for storage, following the event, and placing it in the weapons vault (a true old style working party). I would be remiss not to mention the wonderful music performed during the evening by our Regimental Band, who performed several sets, including our Regimental Quick March “Milanollo”. Of course the room stood to attention as in days of old, for this one. Lastly our LCC provided a welcome to all, with news of some of the events of 2022, and leading the contingent through a Unit memorial service including the “Last Post” and “Rouse” by the Regimental Trumpeter.

The well-attended Saturday afternoon visit to the Canadian War Museum was another highlight of our Regiment’s 150th weekend celebrations. The museum were gracious hosts who gave us VIP status, including professional tour guides whose knowledge of Canadian armed conflict was most informative. No matter the



number of previous visits to the museum, one always learns some new perspectives, particularly with guides of the calibre and passion that we experienced on our visit.

The tours started in the Memorial Hall with highlighted points of interest stops to educate on Indigenous warfare, the war of 1812-14 which formed our nation, and, dear to our hearts, a stop at our GGFG Sherman tank “Forceful III”, along with a powerful talk on our Regiment’s contribution to the liberation of Europe in World War 2. Several group photos were taken at this point surrounding our tank.



Canadian War Museum Tour group poses in front of "Forceful III"

Finally, after a small church parade held Sunday morning at our regimental chapel, St. Bartholomew's on McKay, several guided tours were provided by the staff at Rideau Hall through our most magnificent Government house, where so many of us spent a significant amount of time during our tenures with the Guards. The Guard house adjacent to the front entrance of Rideau Hall is still present and in use by the Regiment when Ceremonial Guard is active, and for special parades or events requiring sentries at the House. Once again tour guides provided much trivia and history regarding this old home, which has a significant combined history with the GGFG over the past century. In return, many guides learned some interesting trivia through the stories provided by some of the "Old Guard" on the tours. Even our special guest, Coldstream Guards Regimental Adjutant Col. (Ret'd) Simon Vandeleur, provided excellent insight for the group. Once again several group photos were taken.



Rideau Hall Tour group poses in the Tent Room

All these events surrounded the Regimental Ball on the Saturday night at the Chateau Laurier, and will be the subject of another story.

A warm thank you to all those who attended the Drill Hall, followed by the tours at the Canadian War Museum and Rideau Hall, especially those who brought their children along to experience our regimental history and the importance of family, similar to our own regimental family. This Regimental Family is indeed

intact and strong as ever in this 150th, and we have had one spectacular birthday year.

Bravo Zulu to all the Reunion Committee and all the 150th Committee for a splendid and successful birthday celebration.

“UP THE GUARDS!”



Making History: The Regiment at 150 Scott Taylor

It was an honour for Esprit de Corps Magazine to be selected to produce the commemorative book in celebration of the Governor General's Foot Guards 150th anniversary. From the outset it was the vision of Honorary Colonel of the Regiment, HCol Bryan Brulotte CD that this was to be an illustrated historical overview of the Regiment's service to Canada. It is also by-and-large a Governor General's Foot Guards' collective effort that brought this ambitious project to fruition.

We were blessed to have the talents of regimental alumni and esteemed historian Dr. Stephen Harris, employed as the book's principal author. With some production guidance from Esprit de Corps, LCol Fran Chilton-Mackay, OMM, MSM, CD, (Ret'd) ably chaired the book committee, as she successfully coordinated a volunteer team through the ambitious challenge of assembling a book which included several planned anniversary events that were yet to occur. The flexibility of this crew even allowed for inclusion of the unanticipated regimental participation in the funeral of Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II.

Special thanks are due to Captain Neal Porter, CD, Regimental Sergeant-Major Greg Witol, CD, Master Warrant Officer Marty Lane, CD (Ret'd) and Captain Gordon Tait for their dedicated efforts in shaping the construction and contents of this book. Also of note are the contributions of Estelle Lane for her detailed and thorough copy editing of the text and the written submissions of Major J. R. Milne, OMM, CD,

Master Warrant Officer Stephane Marleau, CD 2Lt T. S. H. Lee, and Anthony Kellett.

The concept was to produce a visual tribute to the Regiment and in this regard the end product is a resounding success. This is in no small part due to the artistic talents of Katherine Taylor. In addition to rendering the original cover montage, Katherine Taylor was also involved in every aspect of the book's design and page layout.

I believe that this commemorative book is something which every serving member and alumni will be proud to share with friends and family. The powerful images contained within its pages portray a distinguished history of one of Canada's most storied regiments. A catalogue of dedicated service and professionalism which is perpetuated by the Governor General's Foot Guards to the present day.



LAST POST

Thomas Jeffrey (Jeff) Kilcollins

17 July 1965 – 4 December 2022

It is with heavy hearts, the family of Jeffrey Kilcollins announce his passing, with his family at his side, at the Ruddy Shenkman Hospice Care Kanata at the age of 57. Jeff was loved and cherished and will be missed by many, including his wife of 31 years Tracy (Towell), his daughters Shelbi and Sierra, mother Charlene and brother Rodney. They will all treasure the

many memories they created together. Also survived by his sisters in law Wendy, Donna and Bonnie. Jeff will be fondly remembered by his many friends too numerous to mention. He is predeceased by his father Gary Kilcollins.

Jeff was born in St. John, New Brunswick and moved to Ottawa to go to university. After graduation he became a member of the Ottawa Police services for 31 years; with 20 of those years spent with the Tactical Team. Jeff was an avid outdoorsman who loved to fish, hunt and golf. He was also an active member of the Stittsville Shooting Range and IPSC, as well as an active Referee with the CPMHA.

Donations to the Ruddy Shenkman Hospice; 110 McCurdy Dr. Kanata, ON K2L 2Z6 would be appreciated.



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