

Cape Breton Highlanders Association

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We Hope Your Summer Is Going Well



Hello, and we hope your summer is going well. This issue, following closely on the heels of July's, will cover a couple of very significant events which occurred in the first half of this year. It will also serve as a reminder of the rapidly approaching 2007 Reunion, less than a month away. Also included is another segment of Reg Roy Remembers (early days of WW II), and John Clarke's Museum Musings. As was mentioned in last month's Newsletter, activities from Sep 06-Jun 07 didn't make it to the publisher/printer. Some were

included in last month's edition; this issue will cover the remainder. Also, as mentioned in the last Newsletter, the next issue will follow the Sep-Dec period, and be mailed out during January 2008. Subsequent ones will cover: Jan-Apr; May-Aug; Sep-Dec, etc. and will also be circulated on the month following the end of that quarter.



The Cape Breton Highlanders Association Memorial Scholarship



The Cape Breton Highlanders Association members Ian MacIntyre, Bob Kipping and Charles "Sharkey" MacDonald enjoy a reception with CBU President John Harker following the official gift agreement signing ceremony for the newly established Cape Breton Highlanders Scholarship.

and paper, this fund will truly perpetuate the memory of the Cape Breton Highlanders."

On 31 January 2007, the agreement between Cape Breton University and the Cape Breton Highlanders Association was formalized at an impressive signing ceremony at the Campbell Room of CBU. President Harker offered some appropriate words on the place of the University and the Military in the larger community. Several of his staff were on hand, most of whom had been involved in the project from its inception. Afra Kavanagh and her daughter were also in attendance. The following is an excerpt from the Cape Breton University's Alumni magazine (Spring/Summer 2007)

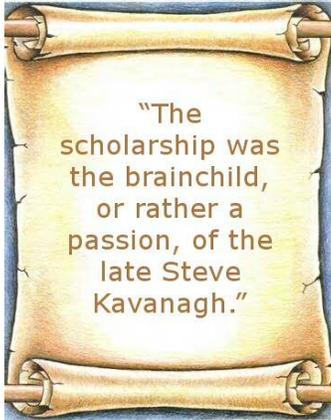
Award to Honour Military Veterans

Fundraising for this new award was initially spearheaded by the late Stephen Kavanagh (1945—2006), past CBU Dean, School of Business due to his long standing connection with the military as a reserve army officer who rose to the rank of lieutenant-colonel and commander of the 2nd Battalion, Nova Scotia Highlanders. Funds for this new endowment

The scholarship was the brainchild, or rather a passion, of the late Steve Kavanagh, to quote him again: "Your donations to this fund are really appreciated. We feel that, more than bricks and mortar or books

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The Cape Breton Highlanders Association Memorial Scholarship

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 were derived from contributions donated by CBU faculty, staff, local community members and the Cape Breton Highlanders Association.

Because the donors hold an interest in their community and education, their wish to establish an endowed scholarship at CBU was two-fold: to financially

assist future CBU students in their pursuit of a post-secondary education and to ensure that the story of the Cape Breton Highlanders (the only unit to carry the Island name) was perpetuated at the university which carries the Island's name.

The Cape Breton Highlanders Association Memorial Scholarship



Easter Basket Project Launched

"The Easter Basket project was successfully launched, on 5 April 2007, at Taigh na Mara, in Glace Bay."

As mentioned previously, the Easter Basket project was successfully launched, on 5 April 2007, at Taigh na Mara, in Glace Bay. With the kind liaison and assistance of the recreation coordinators, Carol MacLellan and Nick Dellavalle, the CBH Association presented 67 baskets to all the residents of the long-term care facility. It was a very enjoyable event and in 2008, will be expanded to include a Northside facility, which also houses a veterans wing. The project was a brainchild of *Sharky* MacDonald and became a reality through the efforts of him, Bob Kipping and Gerry MacNeil. Gerry, being the photographer, missed appearing in the pictures; that will be remedied for the 2008 photo-op.



Cape Breton Highlanders Association
Easter Bunnies

"Mission Accomplished."

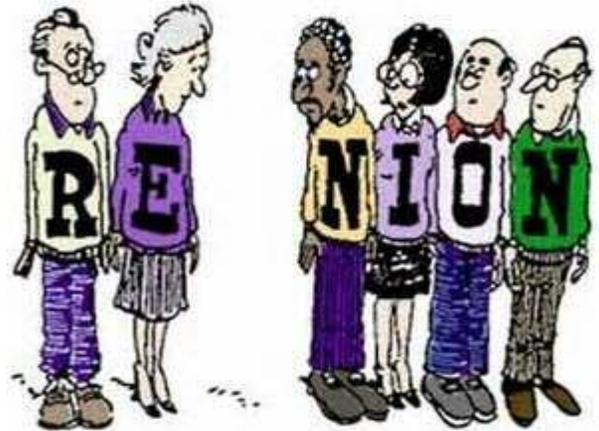


Bunny Jake Ryan, as usual, was a tremendous hit with the ladies

The Cape Breton Highlanders 37th Annual Reunion 14-15 September 2007

The 37th annual reunion will take place on the above dates. It will follow the usual format with registration on (Fri) 14 Sep from approximately 1330 – 1630 hrs at Coriano Bldg, Victoria Park, Sydney. The Memorial Service will be held at the CBH Monument on Kings Road, beginning at 1000 hrs on (Sat) 15 Sep; this will be followed by the annual general meeting (AGM) at the Officers' Mess and lunch. At 1900 hrs that evening, the annual dinner take place at the Warrant Officers' and Sergeants' Mess; both of these latter events are held at the Ogilvie Bldg., Victoria Park. The following day, our successor

unit, 2nd Battalion, The Nova Scotia Highlanders (Cape Breton) holds a Change of Command Parade with Lieutenant Colonel George Troicuk turning over command to Lieutenant Colonel Joseph Gillis. Also that weekend, 35 (Sydney) Service Battalion has also scheduled its Change of Command, thus it will be a busy weekend.



IT WON'T BE THE SAME WITHOUT U!!

Museum Musings

By far, one of our hardest working and most dedicated members is CWO (Ret'd) John W. Clarke, who has, over the years, voluntarily breathed much needed life into the perpetuation of the Unit's pictorial history, from its beginnings, in 1871, to the present. John has worked tirelessly in filling the museum and hallways with memorabilia and photographs from then and now. This is John's report for 2006, and with customary modesty, he plays down his contribution.

"This year saw a successful 37th CBH Reunion. It was the 135th anniversary of the founding of our Highland Battalion, in the service of Canada. The year 2006, also marked the 61st year since the end of World War II and without a doubt, this Nov 11th ceremony, at the Monument was one of the best attended ever. The Museum in a small way was also able to help in this success. It would be safe to say the Cape Breton Highlanders (legacy) is in good hands.

At the Museum we are pleased to be able to record, save and protect

what we feel is important, that is, our Military contribution to the people of Canada. History is a record of the past, and the events of today make tomorrow's history.

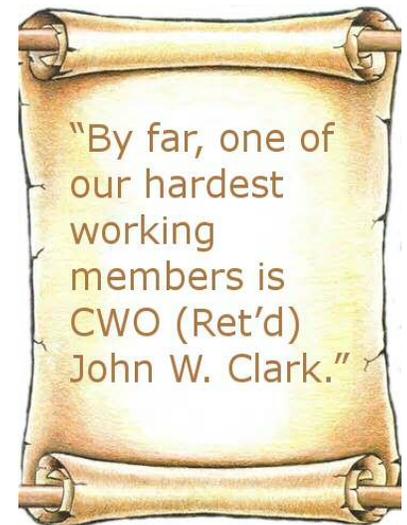
It's the little things that count when recording history: a dusty box, containing a ticket stub, a train schedule, a post card, advertisement to a show in London, a photo taken in Holland, a map with hand written directions, a photo of a grave with a name remembered only to us and to loved ones left behind.

It is these small and seemingly unimportant things that go unnoticed. Gather these small things together and they can tell a powerful story, a look into the past, a past that is remembered by fewer and fewer each year. Bright and shiny things on a Museum wall are nice, but can it compete with a family album, photos from overseas, a scrap book of old news paper clippings, a crumpled telegram...the families history of a

Highlander, this is what gives life to history.

When questions are asked, and those who were there can no longer answer, will there be silence? Hopefully not. With your help, we at the Museum will do our best to record the present, and the past, so all future generations may know of "The Cape Breton Highlanders" and what they were able to accomplish.

At the Museum we are able to display items in a safe location; we can also copy material and return originals, and we always give credit to the donor. Items can be donated or loaned for display, depending on the owner's wishes. We are very flexible, and able to fulfill most any donor's wishes. Please keep us in mind, no item is too small nor too large (with the possible exception of a Bren Gun Carrier-should anyone have managed to sneak one "home.") In the past few



"By far, one of our hardest working members is CWO (Ret'd) John W. Clark."

Museum Musings

(Continued from page 3)

months, we have received material from Reg Roy, Bill MacKeigan, and several others. We are indebted to these kind folks..... and these items are now a part of our display. I would like to thank all who have contributed over the years. Without your generosity, it would be very difficult to tell our story. As this year comes to a close, may the New Year bring good health to you and your families. May the honour and respect held by the community for the Cape Breton Highlanders never fade, nor its name be forgotten.

Siol Na Fear Fearail
John Clarke
Museum
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Reg Roy Remembers

(The following is excerpt 2 of *Reg Roy Remembers*. (1939 WW II preparations) continued from last month's Newsletter. In this segment, Reg's remarkable memory and sharp sense of humour are again very much in evidence.)

Apparently, the *powers that be* were looking around for a suitable building we could use until our barracks were built at Victoria Park. Their choice fell on a church next door to Central School on George Street (ed. note: Central School was located on the lot now occupied by the *Cape Breton Post* building.) The church was abandoned, it was large enough for the small size of the Unit, so a deal was made. The Officers' Mess was in a small building across the street where they had their own Mess, living quarters and all the rest of it.

The change from living at home to the "barracks" was made without incident. A kitchen was made in the basement and next to it was a dining room. Bunks were constructed out of two by fours and pelisses (ed note: basically, a cloth sack or do-it-yourself sleeping bag) were given to each man and it was his job to stuff it with straw for sleeping on. The bunks were double-deckers and the carpenters were kept pretty busy making them.

It was while we were in the church that we started to get the first dribble of clothing—shoes, shirts, *housewives* (ed. note: a soldier's nickname for an issued sewing kit), socks, and that sort of thing. The Company Quartermaster was his usual parsimonious self. One would think he had made everything himself. If you wanted something new, you had to turn in the depleted object, but it was good to get the material.

There were other changes too. We had started out with drilling and marching in *fours*. This changed to drilling in *threes*, and marching in *anti-aircraft* formation—that is, a section (ed. note: 6-9 soldiers depending on the numbers of available troops) on either side of the road for quick dispersal. The Tam (Tamoshanter) replaced the Glengarry as headdress, rifle oil and *pull-through* concealed in the butt of the rifles was common and we all watched eagerly the construction of the new barracks at Victoria Park which would be our new home. (ed. note: these buildings later housed the Army Reserve for over 50 years, until replaced by the current complex at Victoria Park.)

The icy wind blowing up the kilts of the sentries in the winter of 1939-40, made us wonder what the politicians in Ottawa had been doing in the late 1930s.

There were a couple of things about the old Unit which need explaining. There was a scattering of veterans in the Cape Breton Highlanders boasting medals, but these were few and far between. This is something, by the way, which amazed us once we got to England and the Americans started coming over. They were bedecked with ribbons, which is hard to believe. Not us; most of the majors and above were veterans of WW I, as were some of the captains. They were the people with experience; some of the NCOs (non-commissioned officers) were vets, but not too many.

When it came to instruction, all I can say is that

there wasn't a devil of a lot of it because we did not have much equipment. There was a lot of foot and arms drill, polishing brass (there was lots of that), lectures on administration, ranks, military law and that sort of thing. There were very few military manuals on the weapons we would use, but fieldcraft was practiced a fair amount.

I remember in Victoria Park advancing in a flat, open field next to the road running by the harbour, when the command would come "Enemy in Sight". The thing to do was to flop on the ground and level the rifle at the *enemy*. As one flopped, the kilt flew up on your back until you swept it down with your hand. This, for a moment, revealed who was or was not, wearing shorts. Some did, some did not. Girls walking on the road near the field thought this was marvelous sport and sometimes broke out with clapping.

The Association continues to foster its objectives and message and we are always open and pleased to enrol friends of the Cape Breton Highlanders and its successor:

2nd Battalion, The Nova Scotia Highlanders (Cape Breton).



Were on the Web!

www.capebretonhighlandersassociation.ca

Siol na fear fearail

Dues/Information/Change of Status/Change of Address, etc

As we are all aware, administration is a necessary evil, and we would greatly appreciate any and all assistance that can help us to better serve you the members. Any changes of address, or other pertinent information, may be sent to the Secretary, or any member of the executive, so that we may keep our files current. In the matter of dues, all members on strength prior to the 1990s, may continue to carry on as before. Bills have gone out to we later arrivals (post-1990s folks), and it would be most appreciated if remittances could be sent to the Treasurer at your earliest convenience. Thank you.



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Executive 2006-07

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