

Cape Breton Highlanders Association

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President's Message

I would like to open by wishing each and all my best wishes for

Best wishes for a happy, healthy and prosperous new year



a happy, healthy and prosperous new year. I am very pleased to serve as the President for the next while and sincerely hope that I can be at least half as successful as those who came before me, in particular the outgoing President, Gerry MacNeil. For the past several years Gerry has worked long and hard on our behalf's and has been a driving force in all recent Association activities. To Gerry, on behalf of everyone, "Ciad Mile Taing", a hundred thousand thanks.

I look forward to the coming year, and the years ahead. It is my hope that we can get together more often at events much like the recent Christmas Dinner held in December at the Swiss Chalet, and the recent

Burns Night held in January where we celebrated the Haggis and enjoyed a fare of a roast beef dinner. At that event, the Association, in concert with the Regiment, welcomed the Minister of National Defense, the Honorable Peter MacKay, and presented him with a Cape Breton Highlanders Kilt. This presentation was officiated by two WWII veterans Joe Burke and Bill MacKeigan. The Minister was instrumental with the Unit being renamed "The Cape Breton Highlanders" and the presentation was much in the way of a thank you to him for his efforts on our behalf. The Minister was elated and most appreciative of our intentions. All in all, it was wonderful evening.



The event was planned and organized by the Regiment and thanks go out to LCol John McEachern and his planning team for including us in the festivities. We look forward to future collaborative activities. As this is written, we are in the preliminary planning process for an event in April with a Battle of Vimy theme. Hopefully, it will go well. More to follow.

For the immediate future, I see the Association's objectives as supporting and assisting the Regiment as much as possible, preserving and



promoting the history and reputation of The Cape Breton Highlanders, maintaining the Monument at Kings Road, enhancing and growing the Scholarship fund (this fund is dedicated to providing some financial assistance to Cape Breton University students. Last year four student received CBH Scholarships.), as well as keeping the Association administratively and financially sound. To do this, we must look to ways and means of achieving these ends.

There is also a very active Museum Committee within the executive. This committee does invaluable work relating to the Museum and has recently applied for a significant grant to help with museum efforts. We are hopeful and confident that the grant will be approved. Another part of the executive has grasped onto a project to revitalize the Association's web page and to improve the Association's communications plan in general. A lot of work is being done. It's early, but preliminary planning has begun toward a group attending the Centennial Celebrations at Vimy in 2017. Additional information will be provided as the plot unfolds.

So you see, much is taking place,

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President's Message

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the organization is vibrant and the executive is dedicated to a first class effort to serve the Regiment and the membership well. As members I would ask that all do their part by keeping your dues current and supporting and participating in our activities. The membership is always open to new members and your support in proposing new members is welcome. As a final note, **this year's Reunion** plans are in progress and the **dates are 13-14 September 2013**, plan to attend, it will be bigger and better.

Sìol Na Fear Fearail,

George Troicuk
 President



The Last Post

These are the names of former CBH personnel, who have passed on since our last Newsletter. If anyone notices an omission, please inform the Secretary, and we will include the individual in the next issue. (This issue includes recent information on two members who were inadvertently excluded in previous Newsletters).

- Ralph Halliday** Sep 2010 Shelburne, NS
- Aubrey Spidle** Sep 2010 Mahone Bay, NS
- Ernie Dickson** Oct 2012 Halifax, NS
- Albert Burke** Jan 2013 Digby, NS
- Thomas MacAulay** Jan 2013 Port Morien, NS
- George McLellan** Jan 2013
- Reginald Roy** Jan 2013 Victoria, BC

Note: Secretary of the CBH Association is: Terry M. Mosley (Tele): 902-849-6379



"The funeral of the oldest surviving Cape Breton Highlanders Veteran, Albert Burke."

Funeral of Albert J. Burke

Last month, in the company of the CO and P/M, the writer had the occasion to attend the funeral of the oldest surviving Cape Breton Highlanders Veteran, Albert Burke. Albert, was a faithful attendee at Reunions, over the years, and you may recall celebrated his 100th birthday last year and was later a highlight at the Reunion and Coriano Night in September 2011. A previous Honorary Colonel, Alex Morrison, delivered a fitting eulogy, on behalf of the Regiment, followed by one of Albert's daughters providing some family memories, which were also poignant and a fine tribute to the man.

Obituary of Reg Roy



Today (28 January 2013), the writer was informed that another illustrious Cape Breton Highlanders veteran passed away, last Tuesday, in Saanich, BC. The writer had exchanged numerous Emails, with Reg, over the years, and he had kindly furnished extensive memoirs (as *Reg Roy Remembers*), which were included in previous Newsletters. We will continue to include those excerpts in future; for now, some highlights of this amazing individual are included here:

One of Canada's leading chroniclers of military history...died Tuesday in Saanich at the age of 91. A veteran of five European theatres of war, Reginald

Roy spent 30 years as a history professor at the University of Victoria and helped to write the official Canadian history of the Second World War. He authored twelve books and was "the pioneer at UVic for veterans' oral history", a project that ensured veterans' memories - recorded in their own words - would long outlive them." Reg was born in New Glasgow, NS, in 1922, and joined the Cape Breton Highlanders at the age of 16 as "Boy Roy", and those early days of his military have been featured in previous Newsletters over the past number of years, with his kind permission. He was commissioned from the ranks (CFR) in 1943, and saw service in England, Italy, France, Belgium and Holland. Following the war's end, Reg moved to and settled in BC. He resumed his education and received a BA degree in 1950 and an MA the

following year. Reg had an equally productive educational and military historian career, working as an archivist for both federal and provincial agencies. In 1958, he became a member of the University of Victoria's history department in 1958, obtained his PhD, 10 years later and continued at the university until retirement in 1988 (while still teaching part-time, for several more years). Reg authored 12 books and dozens of articles on military and defence issues. Unfortunately, space restrictions don't allow for a proper list of this amazing individual's contribution and to his continued interest in the Cape Breton Highlanders. Reg's obituary is available at the CBHighrs Museum, for a more complete story.

Museum Musings



As we wind down the second month of 2013, it's a good time to reflect on activities since the last Newsletter in August. Things seem to run slowly, that is, until you look at the activities over the last 6 months or so and here are some of the activities the Museum covered since the beginning of the summer of 2012.

(1) Supported the Old Sydney Society with their Queen's Jubilee Royal Tea. We supplied 5 Military dressed manikins, which remained all summer during the tourist season. This function was very well attended by the community, with the CBC in attendance

(2) The Museum remained open for 35 out of 60 Cruise Ship visits from

May to Oct, and although this did not bring recruits to the Regiment or artifacts to the Museum, it did produce a small revenue and spread the name CBHighrs around North America.

(3) For Nov 11th we supplied a number of artifacts for displays around the community

Including Taigh Na Mara veterans Home

(4) A table with cloth covering and flags etc was set up for the Signals Reunion Parade

In the Armouries

(5) Lt Governor Military Ball proved to be one of the largest contributions over the year. For the first time it was held in our building. This made it easier to move items to the Ball Room and made for more effective viewing

(6) In addition to material support we were able to photograph the following for the Museums Photo Albums

(A) Cape Breton Highlanders Reunion

(B) Peace Keepers Parade

(C) Nov 11 ceremonies at the CBH Monument

(D) The Garrison Memorial Nov 11

Parade Service

(E) Recruit Course and Regiment Promotions and awards throughout the year

(F) Garrison's Queens Silver Jubilee Medals presentations

(G) The above mentioned Lt Gov Military Ball

(H) The Cape Breton Highlander Christmas luncheon

(J) Garrison Levee on Jan 1st 2013

(K) Signal Corp Parade

(L) The Robert Burns Dinner with the MND attending in January of 2013

Also we must not forget the large number of E Mails and other inquiries we get every week from people doing family research, and book research etc.

On closing I must not forget to mention our Museum Assistance Bombardier Adam Boutilier who for this past year has worked 2 half day a week. Adam is on medical leave from the Regular Army due to a enemy action injury while serving in Afghanistan

On closing may I wish everyone a Happy and healthy 2013 and hope to see all at this year CBH Reunion

Commanding Officer's Corner

Greetings from the Commanding Officer's corner. Since the last Newsletter, the Regiment has been very busy indeed. We started in the fall with the CBHighrs Reunion and All Ranks Dance and then stepped solidly into training with our annual gun camp in Gagetown. As well, we were tasked to conduct the Brigade Infantry Skill at Arms Competition in Aldershot. It was the first time the Competition had

been run in 19 years. I am proud to tell you that the CBHighrs Section acquitted themselves well and won the competition (and bragging rights for the next year). The "Iron Mike Trophy" now resides in Unit lines and I encourage you to drop in and have a look at it. That the Section did so well speaks volumes to the skill of our NCOs and the drive and determination of our soldiers...they are a great lot and equally I encour-

age you to come into the Armouries and visit on a training night.

The RSM and I have been appointed as Garrison Comd and Garrison RSM as of 1 Jan 13. *Commander* is probably not the best term, since we don't have any authority; we more or less coordinate activities across the Garrison that affect all the units. I really don't see much change in how we do business other than the RSM

"As we wind down the second month of 2013, it's a good time to reflect on activities since the last Newsletter in August."

"Cape Breton Highlanders win the Brigade Infantry Skill at Arms Competition in Aldershot."

Commanding Officer's Corner

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and I will be working hard to put the Park in the spotlight by using the facilities as much as possible for public events and getting more public contact. To that end, Capt O'Rourke will be organizing the Kilts for the Cure run this summer, which will be open to the public. In the fall, in conjunction with the Reunion, the PMC of the Officers' Mess will be organizing a Meet and Greet which will also be open to the public (by invitation) and include local VIPs, prominent business persons and politicians. We will be looking to run a much larger Garrison Levee in 2014. Equally, through regular Garrison meetings, we will strive to coordinate and de-conflict across all units. One thing that is on the table, especially with the reductions coming to training budgets, is to optimize training opportunities to include all units in the Garrison. While it is not approved yet, it is likely that the CBHighrs will be the lead for a major DQMOPS (Domestic Operations) Ex, to be held in Sydney and surrounding areas.

With respect to our renaming and all things Highland...Gen Thurrot and Col Camself have come through for us and recently a sum of 40K was deposited to our trust account. Capt Jim Ferguson is working on getting the Kilts made, and hopefully by the end of the year we will be *good to go*. Unfortunately, with the soldiers departing for summer training and with limited production we will not have everyone in Highland kit for the Reunion, and not likely by Nov 11 either.

On the social side of the house from all accounts Capt Doyle and Lt Boudreau did a fantastic job running the LGov Ball in the Armouries. There were a few issues which we

will sort out for next year and I have spoken to all the Garrison Command teams and all units will be taking a bit of ownership. We intend on running it again this year in the Park with some changes to the setup, meal, and entertainment. We have tentatively set the date as 16 Nov depending on the LGov's schedule.

I should mention something of which I am sure most are aware. Budgets are getting tighter and we are being closely monitored to account for any expenses not directly related to training. There are now numerous checks and balances and approval levels for any event not considered training. For example, a treasury Board form must be filled out accounting for all costs for such things as parades, Changes of Command, Recruiting etc. These changes should not affect the Reunion; however, the All Ranks Dance will have to be carefully managed. I have received our allocation for the FY 13/14, and to be frank there are no major changes to the amount for training and putting soldiers on the Armoury floor....however there is no "slack" built into the system so individual training will be the clear focus, followed by Collective training, only if funding becomes available. It could be quite a challenge in the upcoming year. What will definitely be affected is the support we receive from CFB Halifax through the Det. The Base Commander in Halifax has some pretty steep cuts to deal with, so everything is on the table for cuts from cleaners to Commissionaires. As well, the maintenance budget has been sharply reduced, so getting things repaired for other than safety or security reasons will be a non-starter.

A few dates for your calendar

17 Mar-Open House and official opening of the new Armoury in Porthawksbury

11May -Change of Command 36CBG

25 May -Open house at the Park for sponsors of the LGov Ball (everyone welcome to attend the HHR at the Offrs' mess 1600hrs).

13 Sep -Meet and Greet Offrs' Mess 13/14 Sep- CBHighrs Reunion

16 Nov- LGOV Ball

6 Dec-Garrison Xmas Dinner

1 Jan 14- Garrison Levee

It certainly has been a busy year and looks like 13/14 will be equally challenging. I look forward to soldiering with you all for another year and doing some tough and imaginative training. On behalf of myself and RSM Samson, all the best and hope to see each and everyone of you at some time in Victoria Park. You are all part of the Regimental Family and always welcome at any time in the Unit lines.



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Haggis Dinner January 2013

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At the Haggis dinner in January 2013, the Honourable Peter MacKay, Minister of National Defence posed for a picture with John Leonard and Lieut John Boudreau. The backdrop was created and donated to the Cape Breton Highlanders, by the elder Boudreau, a member of the CBH Assn

America's 2012 Multinational Exercise

The Cape Breton Highlanders, along with its sister regiment, the Nova Scotia Highlanders formed a platoon, making up the Canadian contingent for the America's 2012 multinational exercise.



This past September, The Cape Breton Highlanders was selected to send a full platoon to participate in The Partnership of America's 2012 multinational exercise. The 13-day training exercise took place Fort Blanding, Florida, and was led by the United States Marine Corps. Other national forces which participated were from the following countries: Argentina, Brazil, Canada, Chile, Colombia, Ecuador, Paraguay, Peru, and Uruguay. The Cape Breton Highlanders, along with its sister regiment, the Nova Scotia Highlanders formed a platoon, making up the Canadian contingent for the exercise. This platoon was the backbone of a

multinational company, with platoons from Uruguay and the United States Marine Corps. Everything about the company was multinational, with a Canadian Officer Commanding, Marine Corps First Sergeant and Cape Breton Highlander Second in Command. The Multinational Company faced many challenges along with the exercise scenarios. Spanish being the first language of most of the soldiers, the members of The Cape Breton Highlanders worked hard to communicate with their counterparts and soon were trading stories, kit and tactics.

Training included several ship-to-land methods, military operations in urban terrain (MOUT), and the multi-

ple live-fire ranges, all the while the temperatures hovered in the mid-thirties for the exercise. The fast attack boats, along with the firing of some American weapon systems, were only some of the many highlights of the exercise. The exercise saw the Cape Breton Highlanders learn many new traditions while we passed some of ours along to the other nations. The Marine Corps Commanding Officer was presented with a Cape Breton Highlanders cap badge along with a Cape Breton Flag signed by all members of the platoon. This exercise was a highlight of the year's training schedule.



The Cape Breton Highlanders selected for America's Multinational Exercise

The 25th Lieutenant-Governor's Military Ball



The 25th Lieutenant-Governor's Military Ball

The Sydney Garrison Lieutenant Governor's Military Ball was held at Victoria Park on 17 November 2012. This year's patron, His Honour, Brigadier-General The Honourable J.J. Grant, CMM, DNS, CD (Ret'd), the 32nd Lieutenant-Governor of Nova Scotia, welcomed the event to the Garrison for the first time in its 25 year history. The Cape Breton Highlanders organized the black tie

event which saw 180 guests attend.

The Military Ball this year was a departure from previous years focusing on the Garrison. The Coriano Building Drill Hall was transformed into an elegant Ball Room. The Cape Breton Highlanders Regimental Museum was figured prominently with large displays greeting the guest with

past such events and highlighting the history of the Garrison and The Cape Breton Highlanders. A four-course meal was served, with entertainment provided by the 36 Canadian Brigade Group Brass Band and the Pipes and Drums of the Nova Scotia and the Cape Breton Highlanders. An enjoyable evening of socializing and dancing was had by all.

"The 32nd Lieutenant-Governor of Nova Scotia, welcomed the 25th Lieutenant-Governor's Military Ball to the Garrison for the first time in its 25 year history."

The Cape Breton Highlanders' Toast to the Regiment

You may recall having heard the Regimental Toast during the last All Ranks Dinner, 13 October 2012. The Toast was written by CSM Joe Oldford, DCM (who also served as Unit RSM in the 1950s, and is fondly remembered by the writer, former President MacNeil and Sect'y Mosley, all of whom served with this excellent soldier).

The Toast was officially adopted

by the Association on 31 January 1993, and since our name was restored in 2011, the time was ripe to re-introduce it; and eloquently introduced it was, by CBH WW II veteran, and former Honorary Colonel, Ted Slaney.

We have the proud honour of having served with a battalion that, in my opinion was born and seasoned on the same day. When this Battalion went into action on

17 January 1944, it marked the first time in history that a battalion from Cape Breton Island, faced an enemy on 'foreign soil'. The Birth of a Battalion!

When the day was over, I think we hitched up our belts, pulled back our shoulders, stood a little taller and set out with grim determination to finish a job. The Seasoning of a Battalion. "

From that day onward, this

The Cape Breton Highlanders' Toast to the Regiment



The Cape Breton Highlanders' Toast to the Regiment

Toast to the Regiment



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battalion, having been given a task, never failed to take its objective, and having taken its object, never, ever gave up an inch of ground. A feat, ladies and gentlemen, that few battalions in the history of any nation can claim.

When our Gaelic motto was chosen in 1915, by Colonel Murray (then Premier of Nova Scotia), he chose it well "Sìol Na Fear Fearail" - "The Breed of Manly Men"



Cap and Collar Badges

"The illustration is representative, not only of our cap and collar badges, but the background is that of the WW II, 5th Canadian Armoured Division."

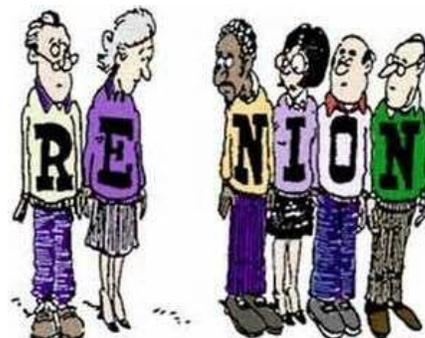


The illustration is representative, not only of our cap and collar badges, but the background is that of the WW II, 5th Canadian Armoured Division, of which the Regiment was a part, and formed the 11th Infantry Brigade along with the Perth Regiment and the Irish Regiment of Canada.

Annual Reunion (13-14 September 2013)



2013 REUNION



IT WON'T BE THE SAME WITHOUT U!!

**THIS YEAR'S REUNION WILL BE BIGGER AND BETTER
COME AND JOIN US FOR A GREAT WEEKEND**

Were on the Web!

www.capebretonhighlandersassociation.ca

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.



Sìol na fear fearail

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Keltic Lodge

The peaceable Keltic Lodge sits in the rugged terrain of Nova Scotia's
Cape Breton Highlands



"Home is where the heart is."
Cape Breton