

THE GLENGARRIAN

Newsletter of the Stormont, Dundas and Glengarry Highlanders



MAY 2017

FROM THE EDITOR

Spring has sprung and with it comes your latest issue of the Glengarrian. I hope you will enjoy this issue, which includes a couple of articles written by Jr NCO's of the regiment. It is always interesting to hear what is going on within the training and lives of our young soldiers. I hope this is just the start of more to come.

As highlighted in the last issue, "THE GLENS ARE RECRUITING". Since November a lot of work has been put in by the recruiting staff, which is really starting to have a positive effect on the growth of the regiment. Although things are going well, it is not time to take our foot off the gas pedal, as there is still a lot of vacant spots to fill. If you know of anyone age 17 or over, looking for an extremely rewarding opportunity, have them call Sgt Stoness at 613 936-9124 ext 264.

Although many of us are thinking of Canada's 150th anniversary at this time, as you will read in many articles, the Glens will be celebrating our 150th anniversary in 2018. More details will be released in the Fall issue, but plan now to attend the launch of our celebrations at the Regimental Family Levee on 6 January 2018. If you have never attended a Regimental Reunion, the 2018 reunion is already being planned and shaping up to be the signature event of our anniversary year.

Comments, questions and articles can be submitted any time to glengarrianeditor@gmail.com.

I wish to wish you all a great and safe summer. For all our soldiers going off for training, train hard but stay safe, and we hope to see you all back in September.

Roy Clarke
Editor

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Commanding Officer's Update



Salutations!

As the training year draws to a close, I would like to take this opportunity to give an update on the status of recruiting and enrollments as we quickly approach our 150th year. Sgt Shawn Stoness, our unit recruiter, has had the opportunity to take recruiter-specific training that will now allow the Regiment to complete all necessary steps to enrol potential candidates.

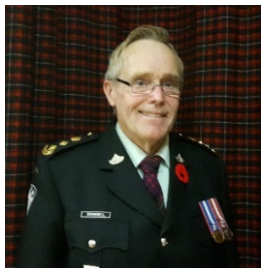
Soon we will have all of the last pieces in place, such as the Canadian Forces Aptitude Test material, so that we can achieve the Army Commander's intent of enrollment within three visits to an armoury. This is great news, but it actually gets even better!

At the last 33 CBG Commander's Conference held in Ottawa 21-22 April, the discussion of running a CO-OP course was raised. At this time there is little appetite for units to take on one of these. That said, nothing is precluding units from running their own Basic Military Qualification (BMQ) courses as long as the standards are met and regulations followed. Therefore, I have instructed the Unit staff to start the appropriate planning with the Brigade staff in order to begin our own SD&G BMQ commencing January 2018. Barring any unforeseen staff issues, we should be in a position to not only recruit and enrol, but to train a soldier up to BMQ all within the armoury in Cornwall (less the field and range work of course). For me as a Commanding Officer, I can work with this and told the Brigade Commander the same. However, I would offer that the Army cannot do much more for us now that we have the tools and policies coming into place – we need to help ourselves and finish the job!

In closing I would like to thank the unit staff for their tireless efforts in supporting me through my first eight months of command. As well, I wish to convey my gratitude to the Regimental support system, namely the Senate, Foundation, and Association, for continuing to back-up the soldiers and officers throughout the training year. Last, but certainly not least, I thank the soldiers and officers who continue to train hard and support the Regiment as we return to a position of increased strength. I look forward to continue to serve you all in the coming year.

Chris French
Commanding Officer

Message from The Honourary Colonel



As the Honorary Colonel of the Stormont, Dundas, and Glengarry Highlanders, and the co-chair of the SD&G Highlanders 150th Anniversary Executive Committee, I thought I would take some time to provide an update on what has transpired since my last report in *THE GLENGARRIAN* in November 2016. With my interest in the history and heritage of the community and regiment, I thought I would use some of my report in providing a little historical context concerning the regiment's early years, some 150 years ago.

While much has been written and reported on the antecedent militia units of the present regiment, it is interesting to note that, at the time of the Rebellion uprising of 1837-38, the

military units were formed into battalions, under one regiment, “The Regiment of the Eastern District”. Officers of the ten battalions were very prominent men in the community, and they are listed below, along with their respective battalion units of the Eastern District:

- 1st Battalion Glengarry – Lieutenant-Colonel The Honourable Alex. Fraser (Twp. Charlottenburg)
- 2nd Battalion Glengarry – Lieutenant-Colonel Duncan McDonell (Greenfield) (Twp. Lancaster)
- 3rd Battalion Glengarry – Lieutenant-Colonel Alexander McMartin (Twp. Lochiel)
- 4th Battalion Glengarry – Lieutenant-Colonel John Sandfield Macdonald (Twp. Kenyon)
- 1st Battalion Stormont – Lieutenant-Colonel Donald Aeneas McDonell (Town & Twp. Cornwall)
- 2nd Battalion Stormont – Lieutenant-Colonel George Anderson (Twp. Osnabruck)
- 3rd Battalion Stormont – Lieutenant-Colonel Donald McDonald (Twps. Finch and Roxborough)
- 1st Battalion Dundas – Lieutenant-Colonel John Crysler (Twp. Williamsburg)
- 2nd Battalion Dundas – Lieutenant-Colonel George Merkley (Twp. Matilda)
- 3rd Battalion Dundas – Lieutenant-Colonel Peter Shaver (Twps. Mountain and Winchester)

In our community’s history, it is important that we recognize the evolution of its military history, and to remember the great sacrifices made by those in the community who held leadership positions and responsibilities. As we look over the above list of leaders, we cannot help but think of the many descendants of these men who continue to reside in our community.

In *Up the Glens, Stormont, Dundas and Glengarry Highlanders 1783-1994*, William Boss writes:

Also, shortly after Confederation, the 59th Stormont and Glengarry Battalion of Infantry, with headquarters at Cornwall, was organized under the authority of Militia General Order of 3rd July, 1868, by the amalgamation of Companies of Volunteer Militia as follows:

- No. 1 Company – 1st Rifle Company, Cornwall*
- No. 2 Company – 2nd Rifle Company, Cornwall*
- No. 3 Company – Infantry Company, Cornwall*
- No. 4 Company – Infantry Company, Lancaster*
- No. 5 Company – Infantry Company, Williamstown*
- No. 6 Company – Infantry Company, Dickinson’s Landing*
- No. 7 Company was formed on the 21st of August, 1868 at Dunvegan, County Glengarry, with Captain Donald McDiarmid in command, and No. 6 Company changed its headquarters from Dickinson’s Landing to Lunenburg in July 1868.*

The above has set the stage for the celebrations that will occur throughout the year in 2018. At the March 20, 2017 meeting of the 150th Executive Committee, there was a change in the leadership of the committee, with the withdrawal of retired CO Roy Clarke as co-chair, due to pressing family commitments. In his place, retired CO Brent Lafave has assumed the duties as co-chair, and he brings exemplary leadership to the planning table. With his vast knowledge of the military and the history of the regiment and community, Brent will be a valuable asset to the committee as we forge ahead.

As his first duty on the committee, Brent Lafave has agreed to organize the Regimental Family Briefing, where representatives of all the Regimental entities will be gathered. They will be asked to provide input and ideas for the celebrations of 2018, and it is hoped that they will provide the leadership to encourage others to get involved as we plan for the celebrations.

Following the Regimental Briefing, a press conference will be held, where media and community leaders will gather to learn about the plans for next year.

Progress on the 3rd edition of *Up the Glens* continues, and Brigadier-General (Rtd) William (Bill) Patterson has made steady progress to date. He has worked on much of the text for this newest edition of our regimental history, and he has been encouraged by those who have stepped to the plate to provide assistance. General Bill is appreciative of the help provided by Captain Michael Eamer in having copies made of many of the images now hanging in the galleries at the armoury. As well, he has expressed appreciation for the help being given by Brent Lafave, Rob Duda and Jim Brownell in providing proofreading and help with updating the content of the previous issues of *Up the Glens*.

While many of the dates for events in 2018 have not been cast in stone, the dates will definitely be outlined in the next issue of *The Glengarrian*. We do know that the 150th Anniversary events will be kicked off with a Regimental Family Levee on Saturday 6 January, on the parade square at the armoury. This will be our first opportunity to showcase this special year for our regiment, and it is hoped that all Glens, past Glens, family and friends will come out to this important event.

As I write this report, the Annual Reunion for 2017 has not taken place, but we hope to use it as the catalyst for a great gathering of the regimental family in 2018. We hope that it will set the stage for at least 300 participants, and we also anticipate that a significant event will be held in conjunction with the 2018 Reunion. The presentation of New Colours, a Freedom of the Counties Parade, or a Church Parade at the Ruins of St. Raphaels, could form part of this 2018 event. Please watch for more information on these events.

Our Regimental Birthday for the 150th will be held on 3 July 2018, and it has been suggested that a Pub Night and Barbecue be held in the Officers' and/or Sr. NCOs' Messes. A July 3rd celebration comes at a time when many in the unit are out on exercises or other military duties, but we hope that community leaders and friends of the regiment will help to celebrate a very significant regimental anniversary.

A Glens' Tour to Europe has been confirmed, and retired CO Roy Clarke has taken the lead in this endeavour. While details have not been formulated as of this date, we do know that it will be organized by Jolly Tours of Cornwall. In the past, they have provided exemplary guidance and service, and this anniversary excursion will be a very special one. Please keep an eye on the future reports of this activity, whether through Jolly Tours or through reports in future issues of *The Glengarrian*.

As I conclude my remarks for this issue of *The Glengarrian*, I am pleased to report that work continues on a Canada Post stamp and envelope, a Regimental wine or calvados, and the traditional Mess Dinners that are held in our historic headquarters on Fourth Street East. I join with co-chair Brent Lafave in encouraging you to become involved in the planning for the 150th Anniversary celebrations and attending the events next year. It is shaping up to become a memorable year for our regiment.

Up the Glens!

Jim Brownell, Honourary Colonel

Padre's Corner

Commemorating the Battle of Vimy Ridge



This year, on Palm Sunday – April 9th, Canadians commemorated the battle of Vimy Ridge, which began on Easter Monday, April 9th, 1917 at 05:30, continuing to April 12th. By the end of the battle, in which the Canadians were victorious, 3,598 Canadians were killed, and 7000 injured – 10,000 casualties. Previous French attacks had failed with over 100,000 casualties. In a war that saw so much loss of life and limb, this was a Canadian victory. It was the first time the Canadian Corps had fought together as Canadians, with all four Canadian divisions, on that occasion, under the British

commander, Sir Julien Byng. The next defining battle for Canadians would be under the Canadian commander, Sir Arthur Currie, at the Battle of Hill 70 in August 1917.

MCpl Steven Latreille represented the S&DG Highlanders at Vimy, France. Joyce and Jim Lewis, of St. Andrew's United Church, Williamstown, were also in attendance at that national ceremony. At St. Andrew's United Church, Williamstown the SD&G Highlanders Regiment were hosted, for a local commemoration of the Battle of Vimy. which was integrated in the Sunday morning service.

The Glens and the Williamstown community experienced many casualties in WWI. Greg Pollard and David Anderson did some research, determining that three Glens died at Vimy, one of them, Pte Clifford William Mellor, being a member from the Williamstown community, and St. Andrew's Church. The other two Glens who lost their lives there were Private Edward Arthur Bromfield and Private George Oswald Harkin. MWO Richard Corneau (currently at Royal Military Colledge) spoke about the service and sacrifice made by Canadians at Vimy and in more recent deployments.



The 110th Royal Canadian Sea Cadet Corps band played splendidly from the balcony of the church, under the leadership of Lt (N) David Barkley, who also played the bugle for the Last Post and Reveille. Guest soloist, Kayleigh Styles, who sang at the St. Andrew's dinner, returned to sing again for the Glens.

Museum Curator, Leon Chamois, spoke with the children (and adults) about the WWI uniforms he had brought to display. The themes of bravery in the face of death, and placing mission before self, were reflected in the biblical story of Jesus approaching what would become a crucifixion, and in the story of the Canadians at Vimy.

The next WWI commemoration in Williamstown will be remembering the Battle of Hill 70, on August 13th at the Ecumenical Church Service at Centre Stage at 10:00 am at the Williamstown Fair. LCol Brent Lafave (ret'd) will be the guest speaker. His grandfather fought in WWI, and knew Lt Walter Tait Govan, son of the minister of St. Andrew's United Church (Presbyterian at the time, prior to Church Union in 1925). Lt Govan died in the Battle of Hill 70, and his medals are at the church.

On a more celebratory note, Hon Col Jim Brownell will be the guest speaker at the 9:30am church service at St. Andrew's United, Williamstown, on July 2nd, celebrating Canada's 150th anniversary. Members of the Regiment and friends of the Glens are also invited to attend the June 25th church service that marks the conclusion of my 20 year ministry at St. Andrew's United Church, Williamstown.

Captain Andrea Harrison
Regimental Padre

Unit Training

Adaptation

As the regiment enters a period of growth, bolstering its numbers with the hope of parading more than 100 troops in the near future, the soldiers of 1 Platoon, Amiens Company are reminded of the importance of taking their training seriously. Always honing our skills in preparation for the next exercise, whether that means storming “glass houses” repeatedly until our urban operations drills are immaculate or confirming basic knowledge of the various weapon systems used in our trade, we strive for excellence in everything we do.

With smaller numbers than we've seen in the past, training has proven difficult. Short on hands but full on work, we've truly put into practice the idea of teamwork; members at every level must fill their assigned role and then some. Assaulting a two-story house-sized building may seem simple on the surface, but you quickly find that sheer manpower is required to do so effectively, requiring on-the-fly problem solving and adaptation.



A member of 1 Platoon, A Coy, SD&G Highlanders prepares to fire the C6 General Purpose Machine Gun (GPMG) on the Sustained Fire kit as his number 2 watches where the rounds land

One example of the effectiveness of our training was seen recently in Fort Drum, New York. Over the course of a weekend, we put into practice our knowledge of a number of heavy weapon systems such as the 84mm Carl Gustav recoilless rifle, M72 Light Anti-Armour Weapon (LAW), and M203 grenade launcher, in addition to more typical small arms. That weekend we proved that the fundamental principles of marksmanship apply to any weapon, as grenades and rockets alike landed on-target from hundreds of meters away. For many this was their first time firing these weapons, which proved a very beneficial experience and a strong validation of the lead-up training carried out at home. As time goes forward, this kind of knowledge and experience will become increasingly important as information gets passed-on to the next generation of soldiers.

With numbers expected to rise in coming years we will face different kinds of challenges.

Many of today's riflemen may soon become instructors and Section Commanders, taking on much needed leadership roles that they might find unfamiliar. The dynamic of our training will have to change, as might the context, but the Glens will continue in excellence. We will continue to adapt.

Pte Włodarczyk, A.M.
Amiens Company

If We Rest We Rust

Just a few words from your Regimental Museum before this year's Regimental Reunion. We have some very good financial news. For the third year in a row the United Counties of Stormont, Dundas and Glengarry have donated monies to us so that we can acquire artefacts. You may recall from previous years that DHH does not allow us to use their funds to purchase artefacts. We will use part of this year's money to pay off the debt we owe the S.D. & G. Historical Society for all the military artefacts that they sold us. They also gave or loaned us all the rest of their military holdings.

You may also remember that last year we lost one of our greatest benefactors. M. André Gibeault passed away after a courageous battle with cancer. A true gentleman and gentle man, M. Gibeault had given us some truly remarkable pieces, including our scout car and our 2 Harleys.

His son has decided to honour his father's wishes and is giving us more firearms from his late father's personal collection. Some of these pieces are truly remarkable. We thank his son Eric for his decision.

We look forward to seeing all of you during the first weekend of May. We'll try to have the Museum looking presentable.

Léon J. Chamois
Museum Curator

Regimental Foundation

The members of the SD&G Regimental Foundation elected a new board of Directors at the Annual General Meeting on Saturday April 8, 2017. The following members were elected to the Board: Rob Duda, Rick Mclauchlan, Sandra Julien, Roger Laplante, Ron Fox, Bill Masson, Helena Shaeffer-Stevens, Matt Eamer, and Brent Lafave.

The Directors then elected Rob Duda as President, and Rick Mclauchlan as Vice president. The president then appointed each director as chair of a subcommittee.

Bill Masson, Past Foundation President

Unit Hockey Team

From the 7th to the 9th of April the Glens took part in the annual Sgt Rick Foldeak Hockey tournament in Brockville Ontario. As per usual each unit in the area puts in a team in their respected divisions.

The tournament was well organized and was executed very well. For the first time in a long time the Glens managed to put in a team consisting of unit members only. From skilled players to first time skaters who needed gear just to play for this event. “ It was really cool to see these guys come together and it makes you appreciate the regiment and the comradery along with it.” (Said MCpl Lafleche.)

The Glens laced up for a total of three games losing two and drawing one. Their first game was a 3-1 loss against the Toronto Scottish Regiment, followed by a 4-4 tie with 33 Combat Engineer Regiment from Ottawa and finally a 6-2 loss against the Govener Generals Foot Guard also from Ottawa. Even though the Glens didn't manage to pull out a victory they still played exceptional hockey considering half the team only plays once a year and even some whom have never laced up skates in their lives. Cpl Kyle Villeneuve, one of whom laced up for the first time, said “Sure I may not of known exactly what I was doing out there, but what an experience this was and the fact that the members who have never played before where still encouraged and invited to join the team is just another reason why this regiment is great.”

All in all the Foldeak Hockey tournament is yet just another yearly tradition the Glens are happy to put on their calendars.

Cheers' MCpl Lafleche



Front Row (L to R) Cpl Patrick Dubeau, Cpl Kyle Villeneuve, Pte William Loos, Cpl Justin Bazinet, Recruit Rielly Tondreau Engineer Officer Andrew Tondreau
2nd row Cpl Conner MacCulloch, WO Joe Dupuis, Capt James Borer, MCpl Jacob Lafleche, Cpl Chris McCoy, Capt Denis Tondreau, MCpl Owen Stevens.
Missing from photo, Bench Staff Capt Mike Eamer and Sgt Shawn Stones

Promoting Our History

The Robin Morris Memorial War of 1812 Seminar and Dinner was held on Saturday April 1st at St. Clare's Anglican Church near Winchester. This event is organized by the Friends of the Crysler Farm Battlefield in an effort to promote the history of the War of 1812 in general and the Battle of Crysler Farm as well as other local sites of interest from the War of 1812.

Seminar speakers were John Austin and Patrick Burger. Austin, a resident of Upper New York State, provided an interesting and informative presentation on Spies and Traitors along the Northern Border during the War of 1812. The second seminar was on the Battle of Chateaugay provided by Patrick Burger from Avonmore presenting on The Battle of Chateaugay.



After a delicious dinner, *Glens Past Honorary Colonel William Shearing* took the dinner guests on an 1812 Road Trip in the United Counties of Stormont Dundas and Glengarry, providing an interesting commentary to the excellent power point presentation he had prepared. For many present it allowed a return to the commemorations of the War of 1812 bicentennial a few years ago and reminded us of our responsibility to ensure that this part of our local history is preserved, protected and promoted.

Article and photo courtesy of Carolyn Goddard

From Across The Pond

As noted in the Dec 2015 Glengarrian, the Westlake Brothers Souvenir Association is a group of students from the Caen area of Normandy, France who visited Cornwall in August 2015. They were hosted by the Glens Association at the Armoury and also held a ceremony at the Cornwall Cenotaph before having lunch at the Legion. Since that visit they have been busy conducting ceremonies and paying homage to the Canadians who fought and died during the liberation of France in WWII.

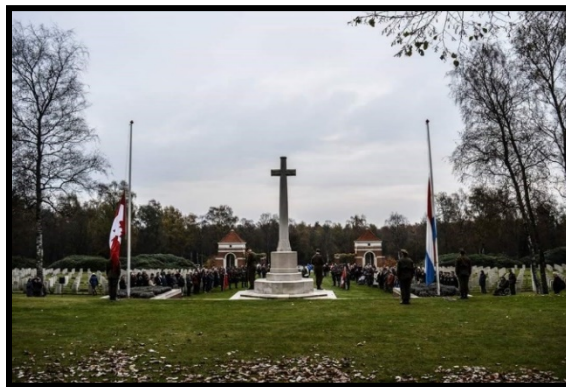
On May 13, 2017, they will be conducting another service at the Glens Memorial in Caen, France.

Below is a selection of photos of events they have conducted over the last year.

Candlelight Service at Beny-sur-Mer Canadian War Cemetery.



Holten Canadian War Cemetery,
Photos curtesy of Wouter van Dijken



Bretteville sur Laize Canadian War Cemetery
Photos courtesy of the Westlake Brothers Souvenir Association

