



**Vancouver Artillery
Association News**



RUSI News
Vancouver

Van Arty Assoc and RUSI Van Members News Feb 26, 2013

Wednesday Lunches

Lunches in the 15th Field Officers Mess continue with Mrs Lum cooking at home and bringing the food in. The decision has been made to renovate the upstairs (Mess) kitchen at an estimated cost of \$30-35,000. Fundraising efforts have been started, with a whiskey tasting event scheduled for March. (see below)

Remember to drop your lunch ticket in the bowl when you pick up your soup/salad.

And finally, PLEASE DO NOT PARK IN THE VEHICLE COMPOUND!!

Lunch speaker - Wednesday February 27

RCMP SCHOONER ST. ROCH – WORKHORSE OF THE NORTH

Retired RCMP Staff Sergeant Dan Lemieux will tell the story of the RCMP Schooner St. Roch, built in 1928 at Burrard Shipyards at the foot of Lonsdale Avenue, North Vancouver. The schooner was used until 1948 to supply detachments in the Arctic. It had a special hull which prevented it from being crushed when frozen in the ice. During 9 months of winter, it became a working detachment.

You will learn about survival in the north and how police officers learned to work and live with the Inuit. Inuit guides assisted while police made month long patrols, enforcing laws, settling disputes, taking census, rendering first aid, and investigating murders and other offences. This presentation will also discuss global warming, the plight of the polar bear and the sovereignty issue as to who owns the Arctic.

In 1939 Sgt. Henry Larsen was instructed to take the St. Roch from Vancouver to Halifax through the North West Passage. The trip took over 2 years. It was the first vessel to travel from west to east through the passage. In 1944 it return to Vancouver by a more northerly route and completed the trip in 82 days, making it the first vessel to sail through the passage in one season. In 1954 it sailed to Halifax through the Panama Canal, making it the first vessel to circumnavigate North America.

Dan's power point presentation will cover such items as Inuit popcorn, frozen bum, the dangers of blizzards, the ice bucket and the ice palace and other humorous incidents. It will also

describe problems the officers had while wearing Inuit clothing, making igloos, and learning to drive dog teams. You will learn the true story of the Inuksuk.

Dan Lemieux has been lecturing since 1952. He is a Life Member of the Canadian Association of Chiefs of Police, Past President and Life Member of the International Association of Arson Investigations and the Canadian Association of Fire Investigators. He is a Serving Brother of the Order of St. John Ambulance and is currently the Guard Coordinator of RCMP Veterans. He wrote the Hot Pursuit Column in the North Shore News and has lived in North Vancouver for 45 years. He is a Special Events docent and speaker for the Vancouver Maritime Museum.

Whiskey Tasting Fundraiser

The 15th Field Artillery Regiment RCA and the 78th Fraser Highlanders welcome you to attend a Fund Raising and Whisky Tasting event at our Armoury. There will be food, draw prizes, and music from the BC Regiment (DCO) Irish Pipes and Drums.

Tickets are \$55.00 per person for those sampling a selection of six excellent Whiskeys selected by the Officers of the Mess, or \$25.00 if you are only having beer, wine, or soft drinks from our No-Host Bar.

Only 50 tickets will be sold for the full whisky fleet!

Dress is business casual. Kilts, of course, are welcome.

DATE: March 23rd, 2013

TIME: 1800 hrs – 2300 hrs

LOCATION: 15th Field Artillery Regiment RCA
2025 West 11th Ave Van BC V6J 2C7

TO RESERVE YOUR TICKET CONTACT:

LCol James Barrett

Cell: (604) 916-1766

E-Mail: barrettjd007@gmail.com

All profits will go to the 15th Field Regimental Society to be directed towards the kitchen renovation fund.

Tax receipts will be issued for all donations.

Depleted Uranium and Canadian Veterans

Ottawa - The Honourable Steven Blaney, Minister of Veterans Affairs, today released a report by the Scientific Advisory Committee on Veterans' Health on the issue of depleted uranium titled: *Depleted Uranium and Canadian Veterans: A Review of Potential Exposure and Health Effects*. The report addresses the subject of the potential exposure of Canadian soldiers to levels of depleted uranium that could be harmful to their health and the overall potential health effects of depleted uranium exposure.

"As some Canadian Veterans continue to be concerned about this issue, I asked the Scientific Advisory Committee on Veterans' Health to look at the scientific literature and assess the information available on the effects of exposure to depleted uranium," said Minister Blaney. "I wish to thank the Committee for this sound and in-depth report, and the members for their continued commitment to examining issues of concern to Canadian Veterans."

Over the past year, the Committee completed a thorough review of the international scientific literature, and listened to expert witnesses and Veterans on this topic. The report was independently reviewed and validated by international experts. The Scientific Advisory Committee on Veterans' Health is an independent committee that comprises five experts with collective expertise in scientific, medical and military matters. Two of the members are Veterans, including the Committee Chairman, Major-General (ret'd) Pierre Morisset, MD.

"We are not suggesting that these concerned Veterans do not have health problems," said Dr. Morisset. "However, we firmly believe that whatever health problems they do have are unlikely related to depleted uranium."

"It is imperative that our approach to Veterans' concerns be based on science to ensure our Veterans are receiving the best and most appropriate support and treatment," said Minister Blaney. "The work of these experts will add another layer of assurance that the Government of Canada is using the most up-to-date research and analysis in considering Veterans' health issues."

To read the report *Depleted Uranium and Canadian Veterans* or for information on research activities, benefits, services and programs at Veterans Affairs Canada, visit veterans.gc.ca.

Military reserve units being slashed

in apparent defiance of PM's explicit direction By Christie Blatchford, Postmedia News February 15, 2013



Canada's army reserve units are facing deep budget cuts that appear to fly in the face of Prime Minister Stephen Harper's explicit direction to stay away from front-line reductions. Across the country, despite public assurances to the contrary from military leaders, reserve budgets have been slashed between about 16 to almost 25 per cent from last year. Worse, it appears that most of the \$330-million supposedly destined for 19,000 part-time reserve soldiers is in fact still going to reservists working full-time on what are called Class B contracts in various headquarters in such places as Ottawa, Kingston, Ont. and Edmonton. True reservists are part-time soldiers and, with units located in more than 100 towns and cities from coast to coast, they remain the military's most visceral and enduring connection to civilian Canada.

Canada's reservists bore an enormous share of the war in Afghanistan, where they filled out regular army units, did exactly the same jobs as their regular-force mates and paid the same price in casualties and injuries. The prime minister's unusually detailed instructions to Defence Minister Peter MacKay were revealed in a June 15, 2012 letter that was leaked to The Canadian Press, whose reporter, Murray Brewster, reported the story last October. In the letter, described as unusual because of the extent to which Harper detailed the sorts of cuts he wanted to see, the PM warned MacKay that his initial budget proposals were too light on the administrative side of the Department of National Defence. He reminded MacKay that "avoiding budgetary reductions that impact on operational capabilities, the part-time reserves, training within Canada" was key. Yet it is precisely those areas that are disproportionately hit in the new fiscal year, which kicks in April 1. And it is the bloated administrative side — the various

headquarters that appeared to be Harper's target — which remains sacred.

In the reserves, the budget covers mostly soldiers' pay — for training, usually one or two nights a week and weekends “on the armoury floor” as it's called. That means that any funding cut automatically impacts on the reserves' front line in a way that simply doesn't happen in the regular or full-time army, where soldiers are paid regardless of whether they are training or not.

On paper, the “funding model” for the army in recent years has called for reserve units to be funded for 45.5 days of training per part-time soldier per annum. In practice, though, the units have rarely received more than an average of 35 days. But in the coming year, Postmedia sources say, units on the West Coast will be funded only to the tune of about 27 days, while in Central Canada — Ontario and Quebec — regiments will receive about 30 days a year. The only additional funds reserve units receive, and it is a much smaller piece of the \$330-million total, is for “operations and maintenance,” money that is used to pay for such things as meals and travel (usually bus rentals and the like) for longer, out-of-town exercises.

But at the same time, regiments also have been told that they won't be able to replace all those soldiers who leave as part of normal attrition or move on to the full-time army: With fewer soldiers and smaller units, the budget inevitably will shrink in successive years. As one senior officer put it, “They're starting to screw with the establishments, to gradually choke the units.” While reserve leaders took comfort in the federal government's March budget, which referred to maintaining the size of the reserves, “monitoring reserve strength is not something DND does well,” as Steve Letwin told Harper in a letter last fall.

Letwin, who like the reserve soldiers he champions has a full-time job and thus a foot in both military and civilian worlds, is the new chair of Reserves 2000, a lobby group formed in 1994 to fend off massive cuts to the militia. He is also the president and CEO of IAMGOLD, a Toronto-based gold producer. As a former honorary colonel for a Calgary reserve regiment, Letwin has been firing off letters for months now, as reserve leaders' suspicions hardened as they received the actual numbers. “What is absolutely critical is training,” Letwin told Postmedia in a recent phone interview. He said it's inevitable that reservists will be sent into danger, and “the biggest concern I have is that we will be under-trained and we will be putting people at risk. We've seen that in the past, when we didn't have the right equipment.” He said that while he believes “the prime minister has a really good sense of the value of the militia,” he is disturbed that the message doesn't seem to have reached defence planners.

As one source told Postmedia, “It's a shell game. The poor reservist on the floor is getting screwed.” Indeed, just last month, a retired top commander whose report on transforming the army called for the front-line forces to be “insulated” from possible cuts, told the CBC the same thing. “There's an obvious disconnect between what's actually being said in terms of guidance and direction to DND and what's actually happening,” retired LGen Andy Leslie told Evan Solomon, host of CBC Radio's The House. LGen Leslie told Solomon he was drawn out from “the sidelines” of retirement by news that DND's budget for professional services, which includes consultants and contractors, is up by \$475-million while the army's budget over all has been slashed by 22 per cent.

“This has a direct impact on our troops,” he said in that interview. “It’s going to have an impact on part-time reserves, the lifeblood of the army.”

As Letwin told Harper’s principal secretary, Ray Novak, in a furious Dec. 12 letter last year, “Many of our supporters see the evidence of preparation to reduce militia funding next year as direct defiance of the will of the government by defence officials.” Letwin said that Reserves 2000 “has no quarrel” with reducing the overall reserves budget, because in recent years it included the salaries of reservists who volunteered for temporary full-time deployment in Afghanistan. “Our concern,” he said, “is for the part-time reservist the prime minister so correctly identified in his letter to the minister.” Part of the problem is that the Byzantine army pay system — it isn’t even centralized — makes budgets hard to track. As well, Letwin told Postmedia, because the reserves don’t have their own separate budget — their slice of the pie comes from the overall army budget, it’s “difficult to tell” exactly what and how much planners are cutting.

“It won’t be for six months from now,” he said, “that we realize, ‘Gee, Mr. Harper made the request’ ” but it was impossible to know it was being thwarted. “If you can’t measure it,” Letwin snapped, “You can’t manage it. Maybe we do need to get an audit” of DND spending. “It’s that important to us.”

As another reserve officer who served in Kandahar told Postmedia, “With financial mismanagement, bloated headquarters and the F-35s (scandal), the higher command is pissing away the goodwill with the Canadian public earned with blood, sweat and tears on the battlefield.”

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2013 Military Ball



Vancouver Garrison Officers Society

The Military Ball



We invite everyone to attend our

68th Annual Military Ball

to be held at the

Hyatt Regency Hotel

on

April 6, 2013

For information about the event and ticket orders please contact us at:
bcmilitaryball@gmail.com Tickets - \$110pp

Mark your calendars now for the **6th of April 2013** to attend the Annual Vancouver Garrison's Military Ball, scheduled once again to be held at the Vancouver Hyatt Regency Hotel. The tariff to attend the Vancouver Military Ball remains unchanged for 2013 at \$110 per person - Tickets must be purchased in advance. To purchase tickets send an email to the address on the poster above to have an order form emailed back to you. We look forward to seeing you there.

Want to book a room at the host hotel for the Military Ball? The Hyatt has again offered a special room rate for our guests and the reservations link is pasted below. The rate is **\$149.00!** As per last year, this rate is *only available by booking on-line via this link*. You will not be able to find it if you call the Hyatt 1-800 reservation phone number or try to book via Hyatt.com.

On line reservation: <https://resweb.passkey.com/go/mball2013>

DUES 2013

It's time to pay dues again:

Vancouver Artillery Association – Dues are \$75/yr. Make cheques payable to the Vancouver Artillery Association and send to the Vancouver Artillery Association at the address below.

15 Field Regt Officers Mess – Dues are \$60/yr. Make cheques payable to 15RCA Officers Mess and send to the Associate Members Representative at the address below.

Association and Mess dues to: 2025 West 11th Ave, Vancouver, BC V6J 2C7

RUSI Vancouver – dues are \$25/yr. Make cheques payable to RUSI Vancouver and send to Keith Freer, 524-666 Leg-in-Boot Square, Vancouver, BC V5Z 4B3

Website

We are still looking for someone in our membership to act as our Webmaster. If someone on our list has the necessary skills, please contact me ASAP at bob.mugford@shaw.ca

From the 'Punitary'

A hangover is the wrath of grapes.

Murphy's Rules of Combat Operations.

Military Intelligence is a contradiction in terms - so is "Light Infantry"!

Great Truths

The most important social element in modern computer game development is probably still beer.

Curry Lunch - China



Hosted by:
*The British Columbia
Regiment
Officers' Mess*

Coordinated by:
*The BC Regiment
(DCO) Association*



- Date:** Thursday, February 28, 2013
- Time:** 11:45 am - 1:30 pm
(bar opens at 11:45am)
(welcome at 12:15pm)
(lunch starts at 12:20pm)
- Location:** Officers' Mess - The BC Regiment
620 Beatty Street, Vancouver, BC
- Dress:** Business Attire (jacket & tie, ladies similar)
- Price:** \$30/person (\$5 discount for those that confirm attendance by February 22, 2013)
- RSVP:** For more information or to register, please contact Bill Diamond at Bill@DukeaBear.com or 604.618.3607 (Please advise of any dietary needs with your RSVP)

Payment by cheque or cash will be accepted at the door
Cheques are payable to: The BC Regiment (DCO) Association
No cancellations after February 22, 2013

NEXT LUNCH: Thursday, February 28, 2013