



Van Arty Assoc and RUSI Van Members News Dec 3, 2013

Wednesday Lunches

Note: Christmas stand down for local units has been set and the Armoury will be closed through that period. Last lunch (**see note below**), which is always a Ladies' lunch, will be **Dec 11th** and the first lunch of 2014 will be **Jan 8th**.

Guests and visitors are always welcome. People these days, especially civilians, don't think about dress much and, if not pre-warned, will show up in very casual dress so, to avoid embarrassment, please make them aware of the dress requirements (suit/blazer and tie, equivalent for ladies) before they come.

Upcoming events at 15 Field Regiment

CO's Christmas Tea- The annual Tea will take place on Sunday, Dec 15th at 1400hrs. Always a great event - cost **\$20pp**, Mrs Lum's fantastic hors d'oeuvres are featured and the Band is sending the Quay Winds to give the event some class. This event is Semi-formal so Suit/Blazer and tie required for the men, cocktail dresses for the ladies.

NOTE: *Mrs Lum needs a good idea on numbers attending the last lunch and the Tea so we have put a sign-up sheet at the bar and ask that anyone planning to attend these events put down their name and the number in their party. If you won't be in to sign up before the event, please email me the details and I will put you on the list*

New Year's Day Levée Messes open to receive visitors at 1100hrs. A light lunch will be served starting around noon. Many of our retirees drop by to say hello – a good day to renew contact with old comrades.

A Purse for Mrs Lum

Every year in December, we collect from lunch attendees to create a 'purse' for Mrs Lum. This is traditionally presented on the last lunch of the year. She has worked extra hard this year because she has had to prepare all the meals at home and bring them in to serve. A lot of extra work – and expense – to maintain her high standards. Anybody wishing to contribute can see me in the Mess and sign a Christmas card, to be presented to her with the purse.

Legion of Honour- Battle of Normandy Veterans

On June 6, 2014, Canada will mark the 70th anniversary of D-Day and the Battle of Normandy. Many activities will take place to honour those who lost their lives in the service of Canada and to preserve the memory of their sacrifices and achievements. The Government of France would like to pay special tribute to Canadian Veterans who were part of that campaign by appointing them to the Legion of Honour, the highest honour conferred by the Government of France. The Department of Veterans Affairs has agreed to support this initiative, and we encourage you to participate by nominating candidates for this prestigious decoration.

The Embassy of France is looking for candidates who took part in the battles and military operations surrounding the landings and the campaign to liberate France between June 6 and August 31, 1944. The decorations will be awarded in recognition of outstanding achievements in military or civilian life.

A nomination form and the accompanying letter from the Embassy of France describing their initiative can be obtained by emailing bob.mugford@shaw.ca . Please note that all nominations must be received no later than December 31, 2013, at the following address:

Veterans Affairs Canada
Commemoration Division
Attention: Christian Glauninger
66 Slater Street
Ottawa, Ontario
K1A 0P4

We are tremendously indebted to those who served Canada and fought to protect our rights and freedoms. I invite you to take this opportunity to express your gratitude by nominating a candidate.

Sincerely,
Andre Levesque
Director General, Commemoration
Veterans Affairs Canada - Anciens Combattants Canada

Changes In RCAF Rank Structure In 2014

– Just In Time For the Air Force’s 90th Birthday?

December 1, 2013. • By David Pugliese_Defence Watch

“Recommendations for RCAF Rank and Insignia are currently being studied and will soon be proposed to the Chain of Command,” the RCAF told **Defence Watch**. “No timeline has been set for a decision.” Not much information...as usual for RCAF public affairs. But I noted that this makes it sound like the changes are already worked out but the question(s) remains when

they might be approved and then unveiled? The changes are likely to be approved, since the Harper government wants them to be approved. The suggestion was that the changes might be announced, linked to the anniversary of an historical event.

One **Defence Watch** reader had this suggestion about what that event might be: “Perhaps they are waiting for April 1, 2014. The Canadian Air Force was incorporated into the DND in 1923 and granted royal sanction on April 1, 1924 by King George V. This might be the appropriate date.

Also, there is still the question of when operational aircraft will receive the markings modifications to reflect the new RCAF. The only aircraft sporting the RCAF/ARC markings are the Snowbirds Tutors (under wings) and the VIP Polaris aft of the rear door.”

US National Veteran’s Art Museum

On Memorial Day 2001, the museum added a stirring and spectacular new exhibit to its already highly praised fine art collection. The work of art, an immense 10 x 40 foot sculpture entitled *Above and Beyond*, is comprised of imprinted dog tags, one for each of the more than 58,000 service men and women who died in the Vietnam War. *Above and Beyond* is the first new permanent Vietnam War memorial, other than The Wall in Washington, DC, to list all those killed in action. *Above and Beyond* at the National Veterans Art Museum is a singular



honor for Chicago. It was even the subject of a question on the TV show, Jeopardy, on Jan. 10, 2011.

Photo courtesy of Jeanine Hill-Soldner

When visitors first entered the museum’s original location on South Indiana Avenue, they heard a sound

like wind chimes coming from above them and their attention was drawn upward 24 feet to the ceiling of the two-story high atrium. They saw there above them, tens of thousands of metal dog tags, spaced evenly one inch apart, suspended from fine lines that allowed them to move like a living thing with the shifts in air currents.

Suicides Among Reservists Not Included in Canadian Forces Data

November 30, 2013. Defence Watch Posted by: David Pugliese

OTTAWA – Despite the suicides of three Afghan war veterans this week, a military psychiatrist says there has not been a recent increase in suicide rates among Canadian Forces members. But the numbers of soldiers dealing with the effects of post-traumatic stress disorder are expected to rise within the next decade as the stress of combat takes hold in those who have returned from the fighting in Afghanistan, Col Rakesh Jetly said Friday.

That is a troubling prospect as the military grapples with the latest rash of suicides, which are shining a spotlight on the programs the military has available for dealing with cases of PTSD. Critics have also questioned how the Canadian Forces tracks suicides among its members, and whether the numbers paint an accurate picture.

The military doesn't include suicides among reservists in the data, even though it keeps tabs on them, leading to speculation that the actual rates may be much higher. "We track them, we have them, we do investigate. If a Class B reservist (completes a suicide) we'll do an investigation there as well." Jetly told a teleconference Friday. "The problem is, it's been very, very difficult for us within the organization to actually accurately capture reservists," he explained. "We're just afraid that if we just sort of start trying to tabulate them that the numbers will be misleading."

Sending Up The Count

This is a 'cut & paste' from Facebook's CF group - it's a post from Sgt (r) Brian Harding, in response to recent, terrible events in our family. I think he's got a brilliantly simple idea, and it's worth sharing. Whether it's old tour buddies or just people from days of old that it would be good to reconnect with, this could make a difference that someone needs. Please pass it around.

RE: "Send up the count" - Checking up on tour buddies

Most of you have seen the news today. Two soldiers connected to Shilo killed themselves. Another in St Jean was in an armed standoff with police. There will be more, and soon. Others are losing battles with operational stress injuries, addictions, collapsing relationships, or whatever. Afghanistan veterans are sleeping on the streets....

Many of us have deployed. Most of us have kept in touch with some of our buddies from tour. But there are plenty who have fallen through the cracks. Maybe it was the social retard most people were able to tolerate but nobody really liked. Maybe it was that guy who was full of himself. Whatever- it is irrelevant.

On fighting patrols we periodically 'send up the count' to make sure that everyone in the order of march is still accounted for. This is what I want to see happen as a grassroots, no bullshit, no agenda, no politics initiative by individual soldiers and leaders. I've initiated this with my old platoon from my tour in 2008; my goal is 100% verification that everyone who was in that platoon is good to go, or if they're not, that they're receiving needed help and have someone to talk to. There are a lot of systems and mechanisms in place officially; most seem damaged or

broken right now. So it falls on us to look after the men and women to our left and our right.

Get in touch with your old platoon, particularly the leadership. Dig up an old nominal role if you have one. Facebook, DWAN, text message, whatever- make sure that every single person in your platoon/troop/det on tour is asked by someone "How're you doing? What are you up to these days? Do you need anything?"

You may be the person who makes the difference and saves the life of a Canadian soldier or veteran. If not, you will have reconnected with old buddies, and your time will NOT be wasted.

Supporting Veterans and their Families Across Canada

November 28, 2013

Ottawa – The Honourable Julian Fantino, Minister of Veterans Affairs, today issued the following statement:

"Our Government is dedicated to ensuring Veterans and their families have the support they need, when and where they need it, from coast to coast to coast. "In order to support Canadian Veterans in their communities, Veterans Affairs Canada delivers a number of personalized benefits such as home visits by a registered nurse or case manager, in addition to grass cutting, snow clearing and home cleaning services. "We have also made improvements such as increasing the number of case managers in the regions where Veterans need them most, and opening and maintaining 17 operational stress injury clinics and 24 integrated personnel support centres near Canadian Armed Forces bases and in major city centres right across Canada. As well, we recently expanded the reach of Veterans Affairs Canada by partnering with Service Canada to offer assistance to Veterans at close to 600 points of service in every region across the country.

"That partnership is being further strengthened: in regions where underused area offices will be winding down operations as of January 31, 2014, a Veterans Affairs Canada employee will be working out of the nearest Service Canada location to assist Veterans with their benefit applications, answer their questions and help them get access to services. This change means that a Veterans Affairs Canada client service agent will be assigned to Service Canada offices in Kelowna, British Columbia; Saskatoon, Saskatchewan; Brandon, Manitoba; Thunder Bay, Ontario; Windsor, Ontario; Sydney, Nova Scotia; Charlottetown, P.E.I.; and Corner Brook, Newfoundland and Labrador. "This enhancement is being made to ensure that strong support remains in place for Veterans and families in communities where the change in service is taking place. It will assist with the transition, and is in addition to all the other ongoing services and support already provided, including home visits for Veterans who are seriously injured, the toll-free service offered through our National Veterans Contact Network and the range of payments provided to Veterans going through rehabilitation and transitioning into civilian life.

"We are committed to serving the men and women who have served Canada, as well as their families. We will continue to make improvements to ensure they receive the very best assistance possible."

Who is it?

Last Week. This photo appears to have been taken at Albert Head and features members of the 43rd MAA Regt. From R-L Vic Dryer (later became Mr Justice Victor Dryer of the Supreme Court), Bob Lamb, Doug Elsdon, Graham Blyth. The chap without a beret is Jack Northfield. All (including the NCO, who is probably the RSM) are wearing a gold wire beret badge with Queen's crown (and King's crown rank badges), putting the years 54-55.



This Week's picture



We are taking a break from all that khaki this week and showing a photo from our collection of slides left to us by Vic Stevenson. Many of Vic's slides were his, but some were given him by others, and this is probably one of those because it is not one of his usual Kodachromes, but an Anscochrome, which tends to fade faster. We don't know where the photo was taken but, as you can see, it features a beautiful young lady being chatted up by a handsome young Artillery officer cadet, dressed in his attractive blue patrols, one

of my favourite uniforms and one which I wish the Canadian Army would get back to wearing in a more general manner. Dark colours hide any excess weight one might have gained over the years! Anyway, we think the date might be in the early 1950s, both from the lady's dress and makeup, and from the style of slide mount. What do you think? Are you of a vintage to recognize the young lady and her companion? Maybe you are one of this fashionable couple! Answers and ideas can be sent to the editor or to John Redmond, john.d.redmond@telus.net, the author of this little column."

From the 'Punitentary'

A successful diet is a triumph of mind over platter

Murphy's other Laws

Circumstances can force a generalized incompetent to become competent, at least in a specialized field.

Quotable Quotes

Seeing a murder on television can help work off one's antagonisms. And if you haven't any antagonisms, the commercials will give you some. *Alfred Hitchcock*



THE BRITISH COLUMBIA REGIMENT (DCO) ASSOCIATION

You are invited to the

2013 Annual Christmas Fundraiser

When: Thursday, December 12, 2013

Time: 11:30 AM – Doors Open

Lunch: **Served from 12:15 to 12:30 PM**,
followed by Silent Auction and Raffle

Where: The Drill Hall
Home of The British Columbia Regiment (DCO)
620 Beatty Street,
Vancouver, BC

Tickets: \$35.00 if confirmed by Dec 5, 2013
\$40.00 if confirmed Dec 5- 12, 2011
Please note, cancellations after December 5 will be invoiced

Menu: Turkey - With all the trimmings!

- Silent Auction!
- The usual valuable lucky prize draws!
- If you can't attend, a donation is welcomed.*
- Funds raised help us to fund Association Bursaries, Commemorative events and numerous other projects of The BC Regiment (DCO) Association Charitable Trust.
- Enjoy great company, good food & have fun while helping a worthy cause.



RSVP by Thursday, December 5th, 2013 to: Gayle Hawthorne 604-421-1521 or e-mail to: ghawthorne@shaw.ca. * Please send any cheques to: The BC Regiment (DCO) Association Charitable Trust, c/o #208, 1899 Willingdon Avenue, Burnaby, B. C. V5C 5T1

NADEN BAND CHRISTMAS CONCERTS 2013
In support of The Salvation Army Toy Drive
- PLEASE BRING AN UNWRAPPED TOY -



Join in the fun and excitement as 35 professional musicians take to the stage to entertain and get you into the holiday spirit. The Naden Band of the Royal Canadian Navy, Canada's West Coast Navy Band, presents its 35th annual Christmas concert series in Victoria, and the 12th in Vancouver, as a community fundraiser for The Salvation Army Toy Drive. The musical program - a potpourri of festive music - will include original works and holiday favourites for the entire family. Audience members are asked to bring a new, unwrapped toy on the night of the performance.

VANCOUVER

12 December – 7:30PM

Vogue Theatre
918 Granville St, Vancouver, BC

Tickets available 12 November
at the Vogue Theatre Box Office

Phone: 604-569-1144

Toll-free: 1-855-551-9747

Tickets are \$10

Tickets can be purchased in person, by
phone, or online at
www.voguetheatre.com

VICTORIA

16,17,18 December – 7:30PM

Royal Theatre
805 Broughton St, Victoria, BC

Tickets available 12 November
at the Royal or McPherson Box Offices

Phone: 250-386-6121

Toll-free: 1-888-717-6121

Tickets are \$10

Tickets can be purchased in person, by
phone, or online at
www.rmts.bc.ca



VANCOUVER WELSH MEN'S CHOIR

2013 Christmas Concerts

Fri, Nov 29th, 7:30pm *White Rock*

with *Johnston Heights Secondary Senior Choir*
White Rock Baptist Church
1657 - 140th Street, Surrey

Sun, Dec 1st, 2:00pm *New Westminster*
with *Winter Harp**

Massey Theatre
735 - 8th Avenue, New Westminster

Thur, Dec 5th, 7:30pm *Downtown Vancouver*
with *Collingwood School Senior Choir*

Christ Church Cathedral
690 Burrard St at Georgia, Vancouver

Fri, Dec 6th, 7:30pm *Shaughnessy*
with *Magee Secondary Chamber Choir*
Shaughnessy Heights United Church
1550 West 33rd Avenue, Vancouver

Fri, Dec 13th, 7:30pm *North Vancouver*
with *Argyle School Choir*

Centennial Theatre
2300 Lonsdale Ave, North Vancouver

O Holy Night



\$25 **\$22** **\$10**
ADULT **SENIOR** **STUDENT***

\$3 per ticket quantity discount on blocks of 10 or more tickets to any concert, except December 1st at Massey Theatre* where prices are \$30, \$25, \$22 for assigned seating.

Free Tickets: For Children under 12, if accompanied by an adult, except December 1st at Massey Theatre*

Where to Buy Tickets:

Online: vwmc.ca (no surcharges or handling fees)

In person: from any choir member

By phone: 604-878-1190 or

E-mail: tickets@vwmc.ca

Order by mail: VWMC, P.O. Box 2978,
Stn. Main, Vancouver, BC V6B 3X4

