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New padre enjoying his work on Base. Page 4



RCA reunion pullout. Pages 7 - 10



Renaming ceremony emotional for daughter. Page 16




New 2PPCLI CO LCol Wayne Niven and the new RSM CWO Jim Smith (far left) march with their soldiers following a Change of Command ceremony held at the Korea parade square. Outgoing CO LCol Bob Ritchie and his RSM CWO Todd D'Andrade (inset) take their final march. For more on the new CO and RSM, see pages 2, 5, and 11.

Photos by Jules Xavier



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Army 'found' 2PPCLI's new Commanding Officer

LCol Wayne Niven initially interested in RCAF

Jules Xavier

Shilo Stag

With an initial interest in becoming a pilot with the Royal Canadian Air Force (RCAF), ultimately the Army found 2PPCLI's new Commanding Officer (CO).

"To be honest, the Army kind of found me. I initially joined the CAF as a pilot, and following an unsuccessful attempt at Primary Flight Training (PFT) in Portage-la-Prairie, I accepted an occupational transfer to the infantry," said LCol Wayne Niven, who took command following a Change of Command (CoC) ceremony from outgoing CO LCol Bob Ritchie. "The rest they say is history."

After graduating from RMC in Kingston, Ont., LCol Niven joined 1PPCLI at Garrison Edmonton. During his first regimental tour, he served as Platoon Commander, LAV captain and Company 2IC. After completing his advanced reconnaissance course, he was deployed to Bosnia during Op PALLADIUM Roto 11 in 2002-03.

Returning to Canada, he was posted to Land Staff, where he served in the Army G1 cell, responsible for Army Transformation Personal Plans (ATPP) and support to operations. Three years later, he arrived at CFB Shilo with his posting to 2PPCLI as the Training Officer (TO), tasked with planning Road to War training for the 2VP Battle Group, as part of Task Force 1-08 in Kandahar, Afghanistan.

In June 2007, prior to his deployment with the Battle Group, LCol Niven was selected to take up the post of Staff Officer to Commander Regional Command (South) in Afghanistan. From January to November 2008, he deployed to Kandahar, providing command support to then MGen Lesard, who commanded the 22,000 coalition soldiers within Regional Command (South).

In late 2008, LCol Niven returned to 1PPCLI to take command of Delta Company in preparation for deployment back to Kandahar with Task Force 3-09. In October 2009, he deployed with Delta Company as part of Task Force 3-09 Battle Group with 1PPCLI.

From that October to May 2010, the Delta Company combat team conducted partnered combat counter-insurgency operations in the Nakhonay region, Panjwayi District of Kandahar Province.

For his efforts, the new 2PPCLI CO was awarded the Meritorious Service Medal



Incoming 2PPCLI CO LCol Wayne Niven takes over the parade from outgoing CO LCol Bob Ritchie.

Photo by Jules Xavier

(MSM).

In July 2011, LCol Niven took over the G3 post of 1CMBG at Garrison Edmonton. Promoted to his current rank two years later, he was posted to the Canadian Joint Operations Command as J3 Expeditionary and J3 Middle East.

LCol Niven is married to Bonny Gardner of Amherstview, Ont., and the couple has two young daughters, Emiko and Mischa.

LCol Niven participated in a Q&A with the *Stag* prior to assuming his duties as 2PPCLI CO, telling us why he joined the Canadian Armed Forces (CAF) and what some of his plans for his new posting are once he's settled into LCol Ritchie's old office.

Shilo Stag (SS): Why did you pursue a career with the CAF?

Wayne Niven (WN): "I chose to join the CAF initially for the education benefits, but soon realized I enjoyed the challenge and that the people I was working with were amongst the best that Canada had to offer."

SS: What were your thoughts when you were informed you'd be taking command of 2PPCLI?

WN: "I was extremely honoured and excited to be informed I was taking command of 2PPCLI. As a young subaltern, I could not have imagined being selected as the CO of a PPCLI battalion. I know that the lineage of COs in 2VP is filled with extremely talented and professional officers ... I have much to live up to as I assume this hallowed post."

SS: What did you know about CFB Shilo and the history of PPCLI, and 2VP in particular, before arriving here?

WN: "This is not my first tour with 2PPCLI. I served here in Shilo from 2006 [to] 2008 as the unit Training Officer. As such, I am quite familiar with the Base and the surrounding communities. As for the history of the PPCLI, I have been a member of the Regiment since 1997, thus I am well versed in our heritage, customs and traditions."

SS: What is your approach when it comes to leading soldiers under your command?

WN: "I believe in empowering our officers, NCOs and soldiers. We will give them the tools to excel throughout our training which will allow them to succeed on operations, should the Government of Canada come calling."

See **STRONG** page 3

Pet of the Week

PURDY



Purdy is a 13-year-old Jack Russell Terrier who enjoys walks, car rides, chasing balloons and trying to figure out what makes a feline tick. Do you have a photo of your pet you'd like to share with out Stag readers? If so, e-mail it to stag@mymts.net



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New CO LCol Wayne Nivens is looking forward to his new military post, and with his RSM CWO Jim Smith, preparing 2PPCLI for "high readiness" next year.

Strong team dynamic key to commanding

Continued from page 2

SS: Describe your personality when it comes to soldiering – and when you are away from the job?

WN: "The citizens of Canada have entrusted us with their sons and daughters, and we owe it to them to provide the best leadership and training that we can. Unfortunately, I have lost soldiers during combat operations, and in this light, I take my responsibilities to those under my command extremely seriously, thus I work exceptionally hard to ensure they are prepared for whatever task awaits them. "Outside of work, I try to be a good father and husband to my family, but as many of your readers can attest, maintaining that balance is an ongoing challenge."

SS: What makes a good commander when it comes to dealing with the day-to-day 2PPCLI operations?

WN: "My philosophy on command is to create a strong team dynamic, and train your subordinates to work hard, be flexible, and to remember who we are, where we came from and what we stand for. As such, I intend on exploiting every opportunity to train the soldiers, NCOs and officers of 2PPCLI, as ultimately the highest praise a CO can receive is if he/she has prepared their unit to be able to operate effectively in their absence."

SS: What advice has outgoing CO LCol Bob Ritchie left you?

WN: "Bob and I have been friends for over 20 years, and he has provided me with an exceptional handover. His advice has been all-encompassing, but mostly that 2PPCLI is filled with talented and dedicated personnel, who simply need to be pointed in the right direction, given some left and right of arcs, and as is their hallmark, they will rise to meet any challenge."

SS: What are your objectives for the unit during your two-year tenure at the helm of 2PPCLI?

WN: "Given that the unit will be on the 'Road to High Readiness' for the next year, RSM [CWO Jim] Smith and I will be focussed on preparing the unit to take on any operational task the Government of Canada assigns. Beyond training, RSM Smith and I will look to continue and expand the excellent programmes initiated by our predecessors in the areas of support to soldiers, families and the local community."

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Deadline for submissions is the Thursday prior to the week of publication. Submissions can be sent to the Stag via email at stag@mymts.net, dropped off at the Stag office located in CANEX or via Inter-base mail.

Submitting articles and photos for print:

- Please submit articles as a MS Word Document.
- Include the author's full name, rank, unit and contact information.
- Include photos with your articles whenever possible, however, do not embed photos in word documents.
- Please submit photos as high resolution jpegs (if scanned 300 dpi), digital images or in hard copy format.
- With photos, include a caption that names the individuals in the photo; what is taking place; and the name, rank, and unit of the photographer.

• • •

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New padre enjoying role with CAF

Sarah Francis
Shilo Stag

After encouragement from friends who are already serving as chaplains, Capt Troy Dennis left the small communities of Atlantic Canada to continue his career by supporting soldiers and their families.

"They always made it sound really interesting," explained Capt Dennis. "Then when our children were getting old enough it seemed like the right opportunity to be able to do that."

He says joining the Canadian Armed Forces (CAF) as a chaplain has offered the opportunity to be able to do things he loved to do in the civilian ministry as well as other aspects.

"That's being around people doing what they like to do best and providing what we would call in the chaplaincy, ministry of presence. That was really appealing, [plus] lots of adventure and travelling."

Capt Dennis spent 20 years as a civilian minister and pastor at churches in Atlantic Canada. He joined the CAF in July 2014 and has since been getting used to the differences in military and civilian culture, which acknowledged has been a learning curve.

"Military culture is a lot different from civilian culture. I'm certainly liking it a lot and liking life in the military," he said excitedly. "But there are some differences — getting to know how Chain of Command (COC) works and the different units working on Base and just knowing how best I can minister effectively with the troops."

It was a calling from God that led Capt Dennis to become a minister and eventually to his role as a chaplain in the military. Once his kids were out of high school he saw the opportunity and followed the calling.

"I don't know if ... I can't really call it the need to help, but wanting to help I guess and hoping I had some abilities to be able to do that. Certainly I'm not going to trumpet any great ability on my own part, but certainly I'm wanting to be able to help out," he said modestly. "I have an incredible admiration for our troops and what we do around the world. There's some really gifted and talented people."

He said he believes in what the military does and has always been supportive and wanted to be a part of it.

In his spare time Capt Dennis enjoys being outdoors to hunt or go canoeing. He's always been involved in outdoor activities and enjoys being able to get out onto the ranges with the troops and happily said, "Any day out of the office is a good one."

He grew up in PEI and his wife, who he met in college, grew up in Saint John. They now have two kids,



Capt Troy Dennis, the newest padre on the Base, has reason to smile now that he's done his basic training at CFB St. Jean. He's enjoying his new role working with soldiers and families at CFB Shilo. Photo by Sarah Francis

aged 21 and 19. He and his wife have made a home in Shilo and are enjoying their time and hope to be here for a while.

"I like it, I really do. It reminds me of small towns growing up in Atlantic Canada. To come out and see the small towns here, it's kind of like home in some ways, just a lot flatter."

He adds with a laugh, "It's a bit ... a lot colder. This is nice though. This is a lot better than home right now. They got 17 feet of snow this past winter."

After raising two kids one thing Capt Dennis believes he brings to the table is life experience and ability to listen. Something he believes translates no matter what you do and offers those experiences to anyone who may need help.

"I think there's a reason why we have two ears and one mouth. It's probably a lot harder to listen. But I've always been amazed that if you're just willing to listen, at what people will say, if you just keep your mouth shut long enough," he said with a laugh.

Although listening is a major component of his job, Capt Dennis sees himself as a frontline soldier when someone is in need.

He wants to always be accessible to help, acting as a fan-out point for access to other services such as mental health and being a key part in supporting soldiers at work and home.



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CWO Smith (inset) then received the pace stick from LCol Ritchie.

2VP RSM ready for challenges ahead

Sarah Francis
Shilo Stag

CWO James Smith has returned to 2PPCLI and CFB Shilo, but this time, as RSM.

The 45-year-old takes over from CWO Todd D'Andrade following a June 11 appointment held during 2PPCLI's Change of Command parade.

Born in Halifax, NS, he was raised in the small community of Barrington. As an avid sports fan, he enjoys golfing, NFL football as well as soccer and hockey. During the past three years he's been an assistant coach for a midget B hockey team.

The 25-year Canadian Armed Forces (CAF) veteran collectively has four children — Jillian, Trevor, Joelle and Vincent — with his wife Manon, who is serving in the CAF as a Logistics officer.

CWO Smith joined the CAF with PPCLI in Halifax on May 25, 1990. After completing his basic training in Cornwallis and Wainwright, AB, he was posted to 2PPCLI when it was in Winnipeg.

When he completed his French language training at 17 Wing Winnipeg, CWO Smith was posted to Canadian Forces Leadership and Recruit School in St-Jean-sur-Richelieu, QC, in 2003.

That followed with a posting in 2006, as the Unit Training WO and Squadron Quartermaster Sergeant in Joint Task Force 2 (JTF 2).

His next posting would see him return to 2PPCLI, but this time it was located at CFB Shilo. During this relocation in 2008, he was deployed to Afghanistan on TF 3-09 with Alpha Company.

CWO Smith has been on four other tours, all in the Balkans.

He was promoted to MWO in 2011 and later posted to Chief of Force Development as a strategic analyst for Capability and Structure Integration.

Two years later, he became the PPCLI career manager.

CWO Smith revealed why he joined the CAF, what he thinks it takes to be a good CWO and what he plans to achieve in his new post during a Q&A with the Stag.

Shilo Stag (SS): Why did you pursue a career with the Canadian Armed Forces (CAF)?

James Smith (JS): "Admittedly, I joined the CAF in order to obtain full-time employment that was not reliant on the East Coast fishing industry."

SS: What was your influence in choosing the army as your military career?

JS: "The recruiting video at CFRC Halifax was the main reason I chose the Army and in specific, the infantry as a career choice. At the time, the possibility of being posted to Germany with the PPCLI made my decision much easier."

SS: What were your thoughts when you were informed you'd be taking on the role of RSM?

JS: "I was extremely happy and honoured to be given the opportunity to be the RSM of Second Battalion. Professionally, I have served in 2PPCLI at all rank lev-

els; so naturally, this is the place where I wanted to be and I couldn't wait to return to Shilo."

SS: What is your approach when it comes to leading soldiers with the CWO rank?

JS: "I believe in the team approach and 'Leading from the Front.' We all work to achieve the same mission objectives or goals and this may include all ranks 'getting your hands dirty' when and where it's required."

SS: Describe your personality when it comes to soldiering — and when you are away from the job?

JS: "I'd like to think I'm the same person professionally and personally. At work, I'm dedicated, hard working, easy going and thorough. I'm demanding, as I expect the same level of professionalism from my subordinates. At home, I'm virtually the same."

SS: What makes a good CWO when it comes to dealing with the day-to-day military duties/operations?

JS: "Being honest and remaining confident and competent. Trust in the guidance provided and allow your subordinates to do their jobs. Each situation is different. However, sharing the work load and understanding the commander's intent is vital to our success."

SS: What advice has your outgoing predecessor provided you when it comes to the RSM job?

JS: "RSM D'Andrade reminded me to enjoy my tenor as RSM as the time will pass quickly. He had all confidence that the battalion will be well taken care of."

SS: What are your objectives for your job during the two-year tenure at the helm as RSM?

JS: "I have two main objectives: One ... Support LCol Niven in preparing the Battalion to become operationally ready for any potential Battle group tasks as part of TF 1-16. Two ... to reinstall the 'pay it forward' effect in regard to development of our senior and junior NCOs."

"It's not how effective [we] within the Infantry Corps can operate now. It's how effective we operate one, two, five years from now in whatever operation the Canadian government requires us to conduct."

SS: What are some of the highlights from your military career, including tours with PPCLI?

JS: "I have enjoyed my career throughout; not withstanding the current appointment as RSM, a few of my career highlights would include: PPCLI career manager; commanding a section in Bosnia; commanding the Silent Drill team during the 50th anniversary celebrations for the Battle of Kapyong; and the biggest highlight in my career are the friendships I have made and the camaraderie that I share with them."

SS: Finally, what goals have you set for yourself in this new posting as the RSM?

JS: "My goal is to ensure the continued success of the Battalion whether on exercise or on operations. The men and women within the Battalion are our biggest asset and they are the future of the CAF. It's my job to provide the guidance and expertise to assist them to succeed in their careers."

New RSM CWO James Smith looks on as outgoing 2PPCLI CO LCol Bob Ritchie takes possession of the pace stick from outgoing RSM CWO Todd D'Andrade during the Change of Command ceremony.

Photo by Sarah Francis



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Tryouts underway for teams preparing for regionals

Danny Hamilton
Stag Special

May and June are a busy time for the military sports program.

During this time we will be holding tryouts for golf, ball hockey, and soccer and slo-pitch for men's and ladies teams.

More than 600 personnel participated in the 10-kilometre run and 80 participants in the half-marathon

May 29 during the sixth annual Shilo Run.

The day of the run was just what the doctor would order for the competitive runners — nice and cool, but for the everyday runner, they might have described it as cold!

With a time of 39 minutes, 47 seconds, Capt Jay Hudson of 2PPCLI was the first male to cross the finish line in the 10-K race. Cpl Carmen Pietracupa of MPSS was the top woman again, with a 47:40 clocking.

The half-marathon winner also came from 2PPCLI. Lt Eric Henderson covered the course in one hour, 26 minutes and 20 seconds. Alex Bell was the top female, crossing the finish line in 1:33.43.

In other sports news, CFB Shilo last month sent two personnel — WO Jim Davidson (lebro) of 2PPCLI, and Pte Kyle Van Grenne (strong side) of 1 Field AM Det Shilo — to tryouts for the CISM men's volleyball

team which represented the Canadian Armed Forces (CAF) at the US Open volleyball championships held in Detroit, Michigan.

Reports from the CISM manager indicate both players have a strong chance on representing the CAF at the World Military Games later this year in Korea.

On the soccer pitch, the Base will be sending Cpl Tyler Van Uden (goalie) of 1RCHA to the CISM soccer camp being held in Edmonton later this month. Perhaps Cpl Van Uden will join WO Davidson and Pte Van Grenne at the World Military Games if all three earned spots on their respective CISM teams.

During the first full week in July, CFB Shilo will be hosting the Prairie Regional ball hockey championships. Action runs July 6 to 8 at Gunner Arena.

CFB Shilo's ball hockey team will be looking forward to defending its title after triumphing at last year's regionals hosted by 17 Wing Winnipeg.

Danny Hamilton is CFB Shilo's sports co-ordinator

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Honing soccer skills on pitch

PSP's minor soccer program keeps eight teams of varying age groups active during the evening session out on the Base soccer pitch. Divided into four quarters, soccer coaches put their young charges through the paces as the kids hone their basic soccer skills. Then it's time for scrimmages so the players can put what they learned in practice to the test.

Photos by Jules Xavier



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RCA reunion welcome from Chuck LaRocque

Chuck LaRocque Stag Special

Believe it or not three years have passed since the last Regimental reunion was held. So it is that time once again to gather together for the 2015 Royal Canadian Artillery (RCA) reunion at the Home Station of the Royal Regiment of Canadian Artillery at CFB Shilo in order to renew the close friendships and relive the fine and lasting memories we have forged during our many years of service to Canada and the Royal Regiment of Canadian Artillery.

I am also very pleased that our fellow Airborne Gunners have also opted to once again join us by holding their event June 25 in conjunction with the four-day RCA reunion.

The feeling of those attending the last reunion in 2012 indicated that another reunion in 2015 would be a welcome event. With that in mind, we have been working hard on making that happen. At the end of the last reunion we asked you how to make the reunion a better experience for those attending and we have listened to you.

As a result of your feedback we have made a number of suggested changes to the program and kept a number of things we added during the 2012 reunion which you told us you liked.

We have:



2015 RCA reunion chairperson Chuck LaRocque is looking forward to the arrival at CFB Shilo of former comrades and fellow Gunners.

Photo by Jules Xavier

- changed the golf tournament to Friday to allow more people to attend;

- kept the change from last reunion that had an adjusted fee schedule to allow those who only wished to attend the meet and greet to do so;

- kept the change from last reunion that has a menu for Sunday's departure to sandwich fare and road-type food for your convenience;

- maintained the free transportation service between CFB Shilo and Brandon;

- added a live firepower demonstration as part of the event;

- opened the RCA Museum free of charge to reunion guests;

- opened our messes for extended hours for the entire reunion;

- and not increased the registration fees.

Reunion organizers have a fun-filled and exciting reunion planned for you where you can meet old friends and maybe make some new ones as you reminisce about "the good old days."

As in the past, your 2015 RCA reunion organizing committee is made up of volunteers and it is my pleasure, as chairperson, to introduce them to you: (Hon) Col Rick Felstead vice-chairperson, Chuck Roeder secretary, Mike McEwan treasurer, Cal Gibson publicity, WO Don Simpson Sam's Trailer Park manager and

RHQ RCA rep, Sonny O'Donnell golf rep, Ken Wells Shilo and Region Service Club rep, and Paul Parsons Airborne Gunners rep.

You will be given a welcome package on arrival. You can also visit www.artillery.net/beta/canadian-gunner-associations/

The RCA reunion will be "hubbed" at the Community Annex L25, or better known in the past as the old drill hall. Most activity will take place there.

Something new this time on the Base is Sam's Trailer Park, with electric power, chemical toilets and water. Unlike past years, it is a new, permanent full-service campground which will be block reserved for the reunion. There are only 14 full-service sites so it will be first-come, first-served so book early to avoid disappointment.

General Strange Hall will be open for showers during normal operating hours.

What about dress? It will be discretionary "within the limits of good taste." Suitable civilian attire is requested at all functions.

There will be a memorial service June 28 at 10 a.m. to which medals may be worn.

Registration fees will cover the cost of barbecue supper June 26 at the meet and greet; banquet supper June 27; brunch at the farewell June 28; and coffee and tea service throughout the event.

The RCA Museum will be open daily, free of charge to all reunion guests. The RCA Kit Shop will be open during the reunion for members to stock up on regimental memorabilia.

In closing, I want to take this opportunity to express, on behalf of the Commander of the Home Station, LCol Stephen Joudrey, the 1RCHA CO LCol Stewart Taylor, your reunion 2015 committee and indeed all members of the Home Station community our sincere hopes your visit is a memorable experience.

Welcome from CFB Shilo BComd

Once again Base Shilo is pleased and honoured to host all of the visitors here for the Royal Canadian Artillery (RCA) and Airborne Gunners reunion. The reunion is a significant calendar event for Shilo every three years. I can assure you all that 1RCHA in particular, and the organizations from across CFB Shilo, put forth great efforts in ensuring the reunion's organizing committee is fully supported. We do this as we want all attendees to enjoy the best experience possible while they are here in Shilo.



We also do this because each of you has earned this through your service. As the Commander of the Home Station of the Royal Regiment of Canadian Artillery, I pass along my personal hope that you reunite with old friends, share some war stories and make new memories. UBIQUE!

Sincerely,

*S.D. (Stephen) Joudrey
Lieutenant Colonel
Base Commander*



1RCHA fire power demo

As part of the 2015 RCA reunion, former Gunners have an opportunity to take part in 1RCHA's family day held out on the training range June 27. Buses will transport reunion goers to the fire power demo starting at 10 a.m. from L25.

Photo by Jules Xavier



2015 Artillery Reunion



What's Going On

CFB Shilo promises to be a busy one for several hundred serving and former members of the Royal Regiment of Canadian Artillery. The RCA reunion kicks off June 25 and will run with a full range of events until June 28. Here's a summary of the planned reunion events for the information of anyone who may be planning to attend.

June 25

1300 - 1700 hrs Registration desk open at the Community Centre Annex, L25
1800 - 0100 hrs Airborne Gunner meet and greet at club rooms of the Army, Navy and Air Force Veterans in Canada, Unit 10, 31 - 14th St, Brandon

June 26

1000 - 1700 hrs Registration desk open at the Community Centre Annex, L25
1000 hrs Golf tournament at Shilo Country Club. Golfers should be there by 0900 hrs
1800 - 0100 hrs Meet and greet barbecue at the Community Centre Annex, L25. Wristband required for dinner or pay at the door.

June 27

1200 - 1600 hrs Registration desk open at the Community Centre Annex, L25
1000 - 1400 hrs 1RCHA firepower demonstration as part of Gunner Family Day. Busses depart from Community Centre Annex, L25
1800 - 0100 hrs Banquet and dance at the Community Centre Annex, L-25. Wristband required for dinner or pay at the door.

June 28

1000 - 1030 hrs Memorial Service at Artillery Park
1100 hrs Light lunch, good-byes and departures
This schedule of events will be updated, expanded and re-issued at the registration desk each day of the reunion. Free admission daily at the RCA Museum. Messes open daily. Drop by William Cook Building and visit 1RCHA lines. Visit online www.artillery.net/beta/canadian-gunner-associations/

RCA reunion goers will enjoy an excellent meal during the June 27 banquet, followed by a dance. L25 is the venue.

Firepower demo well-received by reunion goers

Jules Xavier
Shilo Stag

Being part of the Royal Canadian Artillery reunion committee, Chuck LaRocque knows what it takes to organize an event that happens every three years.

Keeping the event going since the inaugural RCA reunion in 1985, he believes becoming involved is vital.

"I think it is important we make an effort to encourage all members of the Gunner family to become involved in the events and activities and fund-raising for those things that are important to us," he explained. "This is an opportunity to do that."

As the 2015 reunion chairperson, LaRocque enjoys his part on the committee, as well as being part of the reunion itself.

"It keeps us in touch with each other and rekindles those relationships that we had allowed to lapse over time," he said, pointing out that the 2012 RCA reunion was his first, "but will certainly not be the last that we attend."

Now retired from the Canadian Armed Forces (CAF), and enjoying life in the Westman area, LaRocque made some observations when it comes to being part of the 2012 reunion:

- "Virtually everyone at the reunion wanted to be there. I know this is not surprising, but certainly lends to the overall success of the event."

- "Everything was very well planned and the event went off with out a hitch. Even the parking lot campground received fewer grumbles than I had anticipated."

- "L25 is a perfect venue for an event like this, given its proximity to Royal Avenue, size and the fact that the Shilo and Region Service Club resides there to provide assistance with bar, setup etc."

- "I was pleasantly surprised at the number of people who had travelled considerable distances to be here."

- "Very positive that we were able to include the Airborne Gunners reunion."

- "There were relatively few officers at the event, or at least those who started their career as officers. There were quite a number of guys who had commissioned from the ranks (CFR)."

- "Relatively few younger retirees or serving Gunners."

What feedback did he receive from those who attended in 2012, and he had an opportunity to cull some ideas from during his many conversations?

"Pretty much all was positive," he said. "Most thought there was a good balance between activities/events and 'downtime'."

He acknowledged the firepower demo by 1RCHA was extremely well-received, with reunion goers having the ability to see the weapons effects and to get close to the equipment and soldiers manning the guns.

When it came to highlights from the 2012 reunion, LaRocque said meeting people he had not seen in some cases for more 30 years tops the list. This included a sergeant-major and his wife.

"We caught up on all their goings on, where their kids were, where they retired to," he said. "They were our neighbours when we served together. My wife

really enjoyed catching up."

The genial Gunner also enjoyed camping on the parking lot adjacent to Base headquarters. The 2015 reunion now boasts a 14-unit site near the golf course with water and electric hook-ups.

"Who knew ... amazing the number of people who stopped by to chat," he said of his trailer guests. "We spent considerable time visiting back and forth. Don't get me wrong. A bit of grass and 30-amp service would have been welcomed, but most accepted the situation with good humour. And the wake up call at 0700 hrs each morning was just great! Not!"

With others also camping out in the parking lots, LaRocque said this developed a sense of community among the reunion campers.

"I would certainly do it again as it gave my wife a place to go once she tired of all the guy stuff being talked about," he said.

LaRocque sees the benefits of holding reunions, especially for those who served their country proudly as RCA members.

"What a great way for us to reconnect with others belonging to the Gunner family," he said, adding "It's not terribly onerous since it's held only every three years."

Looking back on his inaugural RCA reunion, LaRocque conceded he would like to see more officers in attendance, but also wants to get the word out to a younger generation of Gunners so that perhaps they would attend. The RCA reunion after all is not just for retired Gunners.

"We need to do other things to encourage more participation [in the reunion]," he said.



2015 Artillery Reunion



Buses are leaving L25 starting at 10 a.m. for the 1RCHA firepower demonstration which is part of the Gunner's family day out on the training range.



1 RCHA FAMILY DAY
Saturday, 27 June

- BBQ
- Zip line
- LAV Rides
- Paint Ball Sniper
- Teddy Bear Hospital
- Live Fire Power Demo
- Kiddie Commando Course

Meet at Bldg N133 (1 RCHA) at 0920 to depart.



Memorial Service

On the final day of the four-day RCA reunion, Artillery Park is the venue for a memorial service featuring all Gunners. The ceremony starts at 10 a.m., with a light lunch served afterwards at L25 starting at 11 a.m. This will give reunion goers an opportunity to say their farewells before packing up and returning home.

Archive reunion photos by Jillian Driessen



2015 Artillery Reunion



Reunion allows former Gunners to swap stories

Jules Xavier
Shilo Stag

As I recall, it had the feel of a high school reunion, with former teachers and pupils catching up in a social atmosphere.

But this reunion had a twist.

The men swapping stories and catching up since they last met three years earlier were actually taking part in the four-day Royal Canadian Artillery (RCA) reunion during the summer of '12.

"Why do we come back?" asked LCol (ret'd) Rick Wilson while watching RCA alumni gather for the meet and greet held at the old drill hall, or better known now as L25. "It allows us to relive the old days, rekindle friendships and recharge."

He added, "I have lots of good memories of my days here on the Base. Anything bad, well that is long forgotten by me."

Part of the organizing committee for that 2012 RCA reunion, Wilson said he has come full circle when it comes to his attachment to CFB Shilo. He did his basic training on the Base in the early 60s, then retired here after his stint as Base Commander from 1996 to 2001. He now calls Kingston, Ont. home. He chose a military career for a simple reason when asked about his chosen career path.

"I looked at it as a challenge," he recalled. "The military had just started peacekeeping in '63 in Cyprus. Looking back, for me, there's a sense of satisfaction with being part of the Afghan operation, seeing the military take steps to keep up with changing times, by adding a weapon like the M777. When I look back to what we were storing in Europe, that was dumb

ammo ... it was not sophisticated when you fired it. Your shot just came down somewhere."

With changing technology, and today's weapons, like the M777, Wilson said the Gunners can reduce collateral damage with more pinpoint accuracy.

Looking back on this role as CFB Shilo's BComd, Wilson acknowledged running a Base had its challenges because of what was happening in Canada.

"It was different times for sure ... the military was downsizing. With our budgets there were tough times. The government was not interested in finding funding for us. That was our military of the day," he offered.

Wilson drew on his own creativity, and ingenuity, to come up with solutions for operating CFB Shilo under his watch.

"Our operations were tailored to what you could afford to do," he recalled. "The system was unforgiving when it came to overspending."

At 68, Wilson recalled having four stops on the Base, including the last as its commander. Being part of the reunion allowed him to run into one of his former instructors, then 82-year-old Saskatchewan-born Hank Walker, who had a 35-year career in the Canadian Armed Forces.

"I started in '56 with an anti-aircraft battery in Picton [Ontario]," offered Walker, who grinned mischievously when asked what it was like teaching soldiers the art of artillery during the Cold War when Canada was better known as peacekeepers. I came to Shilo in '62 to instruct, where I first had Rick as a student. You had to be tough so they would be able to handle what they were learning."

There were no kid gloves used for students under

Walker's tutelage.

"I guess I did a good job instructing, when you see where Rick Wilson ended up in the military," he said. "I pride myself in what I accomplished in the military, from going to CFB Gagetown in 1970 to the combat school, to what my students took away from their instruction."

The 2012 RCA reunion brought alumni from as far away as Lahr, Germany, with Ken Gardiner making the trip to the middle of Canada. Don Welsh arrived from Durham, Ont. British Columbia residents included Bill Armstrong from Chilliwack, and Bill MacMillan from Qualicum Beach on Vancouver Island. Reg Sugg left Moncton, New Brunswick for the reunion, while Dennis McCarthy arrived from Cold Lake, Alberta.

Retired sergeant Harold Oake, then 77, called Fogo, Newfoundland home. He recalled fondly his days with 3RCHA J Bty since his retirement in '76.

"These reunions are a lot of fun," he said between sips on a cold beverage, while looking at the majestic M777 on display inside L25.

"It was only natural I'd go into the military when I think back on it. I had family in the RCAF and army during the Second World War, while my grandfather's dad was in a forestry unit in the First World War."

Oake recalled his basic training in '55 as though it was yesterday, and remembered an instructor who he emulated years later.

"We had a sergeant there who had a big influence on me in my own career," he said. "He was a fair guy when he dealt with you.

So I took that from him and used it in my own military career."



Harold Oake

There was plenty of pomp and ceremony during the 2PPCLI CoC parade. Outgoing Colonel of the Regiment LGen (retired) Ray Crabbe (below) received a hug from Adrienne Clarkson, PPCLI Colonel-in-Chief. The ceremony included the march on of the 2PPCLI colours, inspection by 1CMBG CO Col Trevor Cadieu and a march past.

Photos by Sarah Francis



Manitoba unveils 'Support Our Troops' specialty licence plate

Stag Special

Manitobans can now show their pride and support for men and women currently serving in the Canadian Armed Forces (CAF) by purchasing a special licence plate unveiled June 8 by Healthy Living and Seniors Minister Deanne Crothers, special envoy for military affairs, and Attorney General Gord Mackintosh, minister responsible for Manitoba Public Insurance.

"This licence plate is exceptional because it allows motorists to show their support for Canadians who serve this country as members of the Canadian Armed Forces," said Crothers. "By purchasing this plate, Manitobans will know a portion of each sale will go directly to educational scholarships for qualifying military members, their spouses, partners or children who wish to study here in Manitoba."

Crothers noted Manitoba has a strong tradition of supporting the Canadian military and many Manitobans have served with honour in two World Wars, Korea, Afghanistan and in numerous peace-keeping and peace-time

missions around the world.

"We introduced a special licence plate to honour serving members of the army, navy and air force," said Mackintosh. "We know that Manitobans are proud of the dedication and sacrifices made by members of the military, and we expect this new specialty plate will be well received."

The eye-catching plate displays the yellow Support our Troops ribbon, accompanied by a camouflage background. The plate went on sale June 8 and costs \$70, with \$30 of that being used to fund scholarships

to qualified applicants.

CFB Shilo and area individuals interested in the Support our Troops licence plates can purchase it at any of more than 300 Autopac agents, including the venue in CANEX.

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Wasn't that a party? L25 was a hive of activity for the 12th annual Lobsterfest, this being the final one for BComd LCol Stephen Joudrey prior to his departure at the end of July. More than 1,000 lobster and steaks were consumed during the soldout event.

Photos by Jules Xavier



12th annual Lobsterfest

Shilo Military Family Resource Centre *Employment Opportunity*

Prevention, Support and Intervention (PSI) Co-ordinator

This is full-time (37.5 hrs/week) position under the direct supervision of the executive director that requires the employee to perform responsibilities in the area of counselling and support programming.

Required Qualifications:

Post-secondary degree in social work or related field with a minimum of two years continuous experience in counselling services orientated to family issues. Professional certification with a registered body that monitors quality of service/ ethics etc (example: Guidance and Counselling Association, College of Registered Psychiatric Nursing Association, Manitoba Association of Social Workers etc). Strong foundation of brief intervention therapy or solution focused therapy. Knowledge of evaluation procedures. Preference may be given to candidates with experience in evaluating programs, services, and organizations. Knowledge of the unique challenges of the military lifestyle.

Desired Assets:

Experience working with self help groups; Experience instructing workshops and courses relating to family and personal issues; Ability to work as part of a team as well as independently; Other certification/ courses and skills related to children/youth (example: Applied Suicide); Intervention Skills Training (ASIST); Non-violent Crisis Intervention (NVC) certificate; First aid/CPR; French a definite asset; Computer and Internet skills with the ability to research relevant information; Willingness to work flexible hours.



General Statement of Responsibilities:

The counsellor/co-ordinator provides short-term counselling and referral services to civilian members of military families. The counsellor/co-ordinator also provides preventative education and training and is required to network with military and civilian community resources. The PSI co-ordinator ensures yearly professional development training to upkeep skill sets, and maintains certification with registered body.

For a complete job description contact us at the address below. Terms of Reference: *Salary: \$25.82 - \$30.21 hourly*

Anticipated start date: ASAP Deadline for applications: June 22, 2015 at noon.

Submit resume to: Executive director Willemien Van Lankvelt, Shilo Military Family Resource Centre, PO Box 5000 Station Main Building T114, Shilo, MB R0K 2A0 Or e-mail willemien.vanlankvelt@forces.gc.ca

We thank all applicants. However, only those selected for an interview will be contacted.

CFB SHILO JOBS

PSP Fitness & Sports Instructor CFB Shilo Full-time Position

Under the supervision of the Fitness Coordinator, the Fitness and Sports Instructor prepares and instructs physical fitness training sessions and conducts physical fitness evaluations for the General Strange Hall in accordance with NPF regulations and policies. He/she advises military personnel in accordance with the CF physical fitness program standards. He/she also performs lifeguard duties, inspects and maintains physical fitness equipment, as well as provides assistance with regional sports programs and administrative support for physical fitness and evaluation programs.

Salary \$17.21/hr - \$21.48/hr
Start date July 6 Application deadline June 20
Competition # SHI-15-47

PSP Fitness Leader CFB Shilo Temporary Full-time Position The anticipated term of this position July 6 - Oct. 6, 2015

Under the supervision of the Fitness Coordinator, the Fitness Leader instructs physical fitness training sessions for an apparently healthy military population. He/she assists with the delivery and administration of physical fitness programs and evaluations, and assists with the preparation and distribution of promotional physical fitness materials. The Fitness Leader assists in the organization, delivery, coaching or officiating of local Base, regional, national and international sport competitions. She/he also maintains and performs minor repairs to fitness training and sports equipment.

Salary \$15.45/hr - \$19.17/hr
Start date July 6 Application deadline June 20
Competition # SHI-15-46

PSP Regional Adapted Fitness Specialist CFB Shilo Full-time Position

Under the direction of the Personnel Support Programs (PSP) Fitness and Sports & Recreation Manager, the Regional Adapted Fitness Specialist conducts adaptive physical fitness programming, motor skill development, evaluation protocols and exercise prescriptions for ill or injured Canadian Armed Forces (CAF) personnel participating in the return to work program within a Joint Personnel Support Unit (JPSU) region. He/she performs fitness assessments and provides recommendations to Return to Work Coordinator for inclusion within the injured or ill military personnel's return to work plan. The Regional Adapted Fitness Specialist manages the delivery of practical and theoretical adaptive physical fitness clinics, conferences, seminars, specialty courses, and workshops for military personnel, their families, fitness staff and community groups. She/he also promotes active participation of injured or ill CAF personnel in Soldier On program activities, such as the Soldier On SportFit Camp, Soldier On Challenge and Soldier On Day.

Salary \$62,870 - \$73,980
Start date Aug. 10 Application deadline June 20
Competition # SHI-15-48

CANEX Supermart Home & Electronic Sales Clerk CFB Shilo Permanent Part-time Position

Under the supervision of the Canex Manager, the Sales Clerk, Furniture and Electronics prepares furniture and electronics for purchase. He/she maintains inventory and costing lists, and receives payment by cash, cheque, credit card or automatic debit. He/she responds to general enquiries as well as provides information on merchandise.

Salary \$12.14/hr - \$14.64/hr
Start date ASAP Application deadline June 21
Competition # SHI-15-43

Submit all resumes to NPF HR office via e-mail quoting competition # to npfhrshilo@cfmws.com OR for more detailed information related to qualifications and experience requirements on the jobs above visit: www.cfmws.com

MFRC can assist with Manitoba job hunting

Christine Helgason MFRC Special

New to Shilo? Interested in finding a job? Here are some tips to get you started.

Once you have finished unpacking — found where to shop for groceries, get your oil changed, hair done and have lined up a doctor for your children — now what about your career?

First things first. Apply for Employment Insurance by visiting www.servicecanada.gc.ca

When you get to the home page, follow the links for "apply for EI." You will need a copy of your Record of Employment (ROE), banking information to set up direct deposit, your mother's maiden name (to identify you) and your Social Insurance Number (SIN).

Once you have all your documents ready and start the online application, the process will take about 30 minutes. Remember, "relocated for partner's employment" is your reason for leaving your last position.

Next, make sure you have your marketing tools updated and ready to go. Is your resume current? Does it reflect your skill sets? Does it market you the way you want it to? How about your cover letter? Does it represent you well? Is it polished? Do you have an interview outfit picked out if you get a call back from an employer? How well do you market yourself dur-

ing an interview?

If you need assistance with developing a new resume or updating an old one, there are many resources available including myself at the Shilo Military Family Resource Centre.

Set up an appointment with me to review your resume, discuss your cover letter and even to practice being interviewed.

There are also many resources available at the Services Canada website www.servicecanada.gc.ca

Or check out the numerous links on the MFRC website www.familyforce.ca under the employment tab.

If you are satisfied with your resume and cover letter, it's time to familiarize yourself with the local labour market.

Who are the employers at CFB Shilo? What sectors are hiring in Brandon? What are the communities around Shilo where you could find work?

Again, help is just a phone call or e-mail away through the employment and education program at the MFRC. As well, there is information available on the Service Canada site.

Check out the resources available to you and remember, if you would like to talk to someone about the process, drop by the Shilo MFRC and ask for me or fire off an e-mail to christine.helgason@forces.gc.ca

Christine Helgason is the Shilo MFRC employment counsellor

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June 25 at noon

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Services



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Sunday school & nursery
Padre Lee - ext 3088
Padre Neil - ext 3090
Padre Olive - ext 6836
Padre Costen - ext 3381

**Our Lady of Shilo
Roman Catholic Chapel**
Sunday 10:30 a.m.
Wednesday 12:05 p.m.
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1RCHA soldiers hone more than artillery skills

A Bty OC keeps training interesting

Jules Xavier
Shilo Stag

There's a never a dull day when your OC is thinking up ways to engage the soldiers of 1RCHA A Bty.

That's why Maj Joe O'Donnell had some soldiers with A Bty learn how to survive falling into a frozen lake following training with Dr. Popsicle. Or when he brought in former Mantracker star Terry Grant to teach tracking skills.

While 1RCHA soldiers continue to hone their artillery skills out on the Base's training range, being introduced to other skills only makes a soldier better at their job, acknowledged Maj O'Donnell.

Capt Matthew Delvo of A Bty concurred when asked why offer A Bty a training exercise such as the recent Ex TRACKING GUNNER.

"The intent of this exercise is to challenge soldiers in an escape and evasion exercise with co-operation from local canine police forces such as the RCMP and the Brandon Police Service, along with the expertise of Terry Grant," he said.

"Conducting this exercise in Riding Mountain National Park allows soldiers to be challenged in unfamiliar ground, with the added stress of being chased by canine teams and trackers."

There was another reason why A Bty soldiers were asked to hone tracking skills, and apply it as part of regular army training.

"A Bty is currently designated as the first follow-on company for the Immediate Reaction Unit (East) that may be tasked at any given time to provide assistance to local authorities," offered Capt Delvo.

"In the past, calls for assistance have asked for military personnel to conduct search operations for miss-



1RCHAA Bty soldiers honed their tracking skills with help from former Mantracker star Terry Grant.
Photo by Jules Xavier

ing persons. The focus on being able to track persons in the woods then became a training requirement, and hence a search for experts who are known to provide this training began."

He added, "The idea for [Terry] Grant came along with this search, and hence my Battery Commander, Maj O'Donnell focused his efforts to have Grant come in to do the training for the Battery."

Observing Grant at work as part of the training process with soldiers and police dog handlers alike gave Capt Delvo a new appreciation for what it takes to find someone lost in the wilderness.

"[He] provided unique methods to read the ground which involved looking for disturbances to the ground that is uniquely human made," he said.

"He also mentioned very specific anecdotes from the show that assisted him in tracking down his 'prey' such as having a profile on who he is looking for to predict how they may try to evade him."

Taking the tracking lessons, the second day of the 1RCHA A Bty exercise saw other soldiers brought in

"They identified key choke points along the ground where they highly suspected the runners will be found."
— Capt Matthew Delvo

from the Regiment to be part of a search and capture event near Clear Lake in Riding Mountain National Park. Capt Delvo said soldiers were initially briefed that they were simply to conduct a patrol to a particular point within the wilderness without the stress of being chased, or caught.

"The search and evasion exercise started off with the soldiers who are designated as the 'runners' being informed the tactical situation changed, and they are now being hunted down by canine teams and the trackers," he explained.

"If captured, the runners [were] be subjected to the POW (prisoner of war) cage. Naturally, the soldiers quickly got out

and began to run to the designated safe zone, which is about 40 kilometres away from the start point."

Both Maj O'Donnell and Capt Delvo received valuable feedback from the exercise participants.

"The runners and the trackers all had a very positive view of the training that was afforded to them during Ex TRACKING GUNNER," said Capt Delvo. "The challenge of an escape and evasion exercise was thought to be very exciting, added with the stress of trying not to get caught. The police dog-handlers were able to integrate seamlessly with the tracker's plan, and were highly effective as a tool in the search for the runners."

There was plenty of map work and preparation by the tracking teams as well as the police dog-handlers in order to co-ordinate their search of the vast wilderness where the soldiers went off to evade capture.

"The trackers initially conducted a detailed study of the ground by using the maps provided to them," explained Capt Delvo. "They identified key choke points along the ground where they highly suspected the runners will be found."

"They briefed their initial plans to Maj O'Donnell, and afterwards were quickly transported to their start points. As soon as they tracked down a fresh set of tracks, they contacted the command post in order to send the canine teams to enhance their ability to find the runners."

While being chased on foot by trackers, alongside the dog-handlers and their canine partners, it was no easy task for some of the evading soldiers. Others, however, did find ways to avoid being detected, especially when it came to the sensitive noses of the dogs.

"The evaders [who] had the most success were able to navigate well, made plans to get deep into the woods, avoided park trails and travelling along the main highway," said Capt Delvo. "Most teams were caught because they used the park trails and travelled along the highway where most of the trackers had set up observation."

Capt Delvo said the Mantracker star figured some of the soldiers would evade capture because they did the same to him during tracking of military guests on the television reality show.

"[He] was impressed with the scope of the exercise, especially with the determination shown by the runners in avoiding capture," said Capt Delvo. "He mentioned that military personnel have a very decent chance of being successful in this type of training due to their ability to navigate with a map and compass."

Having the previous day to learn tracking skills from Grant was instrumental in helping those soldiers involved the following day in Ex TRACKING GUNNER.

According to Capt Delvo, "The trackers definitely used the expert advice provided to them by Grant. The tool that was best used was profiling their prey. The trackers knew how soldiers would naturally react to being hunted down. As such, they used this knowledge to get a step ahead of them and [were] able to predict possible routes that they would take to get to the end point."

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'Daddy' honoured with 2PPCLI building name

Sarah Francis
Shilo Stag

Unwavering spirit and respect from those he served with is why a man called "Daddy" is being honoured by 2PPCLI.

Born in Cornwall, England, RSM WO1 Les Grimes immigrated to Canada and joined the Canadian Army in 1931.

He transferred to the British Army two years later and served on the Northwest Frontier in India.

His service during the Second World War brought him to the Middle East and Northwest Europe before he retired in 1946.

However, that retirement didn't last long.

WO1 Grimes re-enlisted in the Canadian Army with the newly formed 2PPCLI in 1950.

He became RSM after former RSM, WO1 Jim Wood, died in a training accident.

His confidence and skill in the position earned him respect and he was much loved by those he served with. The younger troops gave him the nickname, Daddy.

Within a year's time he would find himself defending Hill 677 from Chinese forces at the Battle of Kapyong April 24 and 25, 1951.

WO1 Grimes leadership during the battle was described as being with an unwavering spirit and calm. His actions inspired the men during their resistance leading them toward success despite overwhelming odds.

Later, he would become the RSM for the Canadian Armed Forces' Middle East staging area in Naples, Italy in 1976.

He retired to Cornwall, England and named his cabin, Kapyong.

WO1 Grimes reflected on his years served, when he was in poor health at the age of 85.

"I sometimes look at these old legs of mine that have walked over the rocky wastes of India's Northwest Frontier," he wrote. "Slogged through the sands of the desert, marched the breadth of Germany and over the hills of Korea, fighting for freedom and saying, 'was it worth it?' And the answer is YES, it sure as hell was."

This spirit will continue to be honoured in the WO1 L.F. Grimes building as part of Kapyong Barracks. Many of his family came to recognize the naming of this building, with a number travelling from England.

His grandson Matthew Malek said it's a surreal experience seeing his grandfather's name on the outside of the building.

"You hear stories when you're growing up with your family about the service, but to hear it from the actual Army itself and for it to be in such an official capacity is such a great honour for our family," he said. "We all are so happy to be here."

Malek said he can't explain how great of an honour it is, but he does have an

Soldiers respected their colonel at Kapyong

Sarah Francis
Shilo Stag

Col James Riley Stone joined as a private — in what was then called the Edmonton Regiment in 1939 — when the Second World War broke out.

The 31-year-old private had natural leadership and was fast-tracked for officer training.

His reputation as an aggressive, tactically skilled officer with exceptional regard for the lives of his men stems from his time in Italy. It was there in 1943 where he first fought, through mountain terrain as well as urban combat in Ortona. Col Stone has been described as a highly-regarded infantry commander who led from the front. After the war he returned to Canada and received the Military Cross and twice received the Distinguished Service Order (DSO).

When the Special Force was being created for the Korean War in July 1950, Col Stone became the obvious choice to command what would become 2PPCLI.

Col Stone took particular interest in overseeing the screening and training of its members. 2PPCLI was deployed February 1951 for a UN response to a Chinese and North Korean Spring Offensive.

Col Stone left nothing to chance while defending Hill 677 during the Battle of Kapyong. He surveyed the ground and adjusted defensive positions. B Coy was moved to cover his eastern flank as the Third Battalion, Royal Australian Regiment faced the enemy the morning of April 24. This intuitive response to the quick changing battlefield was crucial for 2PPCLI to maintain their position and fend off Chinese attacks. Despite heavy fighting, Col Stone gave clear orders over radio and remained calm. This inspired confidence in his men, even while ordering indirect fire on his own position and refusing to leave Hill 677.

It's said that his sound judgement and leadership is what led his men to accomplish their mission.

He retired in 1960. Col Stone died in 2005 at the age of 97. His leadership during the Battle of Kapyong has been recognized with the renaming of building C106 in honour of Col Stone. His son, Michael Stone, said this recognition is an honour for the family.

"As my sister says, we continue to bask in the reflected glory of our father," said Stone with a laugh.

Stone said his father credits much of the success to the other men on the hill.

"He was quoted when he won his DSO for Kapyong, that it wasn't for anything that he had done,"

idea of what his grandfather would say.

"He's quite a humble gentleman," said Malek. "I think his reaction would probably be, 'What are you guys all on about? What are you doing?' Even growing up with his four daughters, he never really spoke in great detail about his achievements or anything like that. He would almost play it down. When you come to this ceremony, you come to realize how important it really was."

Malek said it's fantastic to see people being recognized in this way. He added that commemorating history and the people who were part of it is important.

"What a great honour knowing my grandfather was one of those individuals," said Malek.



Family and friends are reflected in the framed portrait of WO1 Les Grimes which now hangs in the maintenance and transport hangar which now bears his name following a 2PPCLI ceremony.

Photo by Jules Xavier



Michael Stone converses with Battle of Kapyong veteran Ronald W. Shephard following the renaming ceremony for his father Col James Stone.

Photo by Jules Xavier

recalled Stone. "I think [it] speaks to the respect that he had for the men on the ground, all ranks on the hill that fought."

He added, "I think he would be very proud, because he was always proud to be a Patricia."

Honouring Pte Wayne Mitchell emotional for daughter

Sarah Francis
Shilo Stag

"Although wounded, he refused to leave his Bren gun and was a source of inspiration to the remainder of the platoon."

The above words were from a dispatch regarding the fighting exploits of Pte Wayne Robert Mitchell, who had enlisted with the Canadian Army on Aug. 13, 1950. The Virden-born soldier joined 2PPCLI and soon found himself in Korea.

It was there, during the Battle of Kapyong, that he would demonstrate his mettle and decades later have a building which is part of Kapyong Barracks named after him.

During the Korean War, Pte Mitchell's foxhole was overrun during the attack on B Coy's position through April 24 and 25, 1951. His actions earned him the longest citation for bravery that night on Hill 677. Pte Mitchell's valour while being attacked by 100 Chinese soldiers has been described as the stuff of legend. Despite the odds against him, the 19-year-old soldier held his ground.

"Using his Bren light machine gun to inflict maximum casualties on the enemy," the citation stated. "He was largely responsible for repulsing this attack and was wounded in the chest during the course of the battle. Although wounded, he refused to leave his Bren gun and was a source of inspiration to the remainder of the platoon."

He carried a comrade who had been wounded with him to safety, after being ordered to report to Platoon headquarters to have his injuries tended to. By the time midnight arrived, the Chinese had overrun two sections of 6 Platoon and were turning their attention to Platoon headquarters.

He saw his Platoon sergeant with six wounded men pinned down by enemy fire.

"Without regard for his safety, he rushed toward the



enemy firing his Bren gun from the hip thus allowing the wounded to be moved to safety," stated the citation.

He was then wounded by an enemy grenade. An hour after midnight the Platoon commander ordered his men to withdraw. However, Pte Mitchell fought on.

"During the withdrawal," the citation continued. "He exposed himself again and again, moving from fire position to fire position where he could best engage the enemy to cover the withdrawal. At 3 a.m., after the fourth attack has been repulsed Pte Mitchell had his wounds dressed by the Company medical assistant, but refused to be evacuated and stayed at his Bren gun post for the remainder of the night."

By morning Pte Mitchell was unable to stand because of blood loss. For his bravery under fire, he received the Distinguished Conduct Medal (DCM) for his actions that night.

Pte Mitchell retired for short while in 1952 after returning from Korea, before re-enlisting with 1PPCLI.

He served at Fort McLeod in Hemer, Germany in 1956 during Canada's Cold War effort before retiring in 1957. He died in 1999.

His family, including daughter Patricia Mitchell, was present during the naming ceremony. She beamed with pride and was teary-eyed as she described how it felt seeing her father's name on the wall.

"It's a great honour," said Mitchell. "I'm very proud of him and what he's done and what the Princess Pats have done ever since. [I'm] very proud of them."

As far as having his name mounted on the building, Mitchell said her father was a modest man.

"He would be shocked because he always thought he never did anything special."

She explained how her father always said he was just doing his duty.

"He did what he did best and he never made any bones about it. It was an honour for him to serve ..."

A Korean War veteran attending the ceremony came over and wrapped an arm around her and said, "You're looking the wrong way kiddo!" when she was distracted while speaking.

That veteran, Ronald W. Shephard, fought with her father at the Battle of Kapyong.

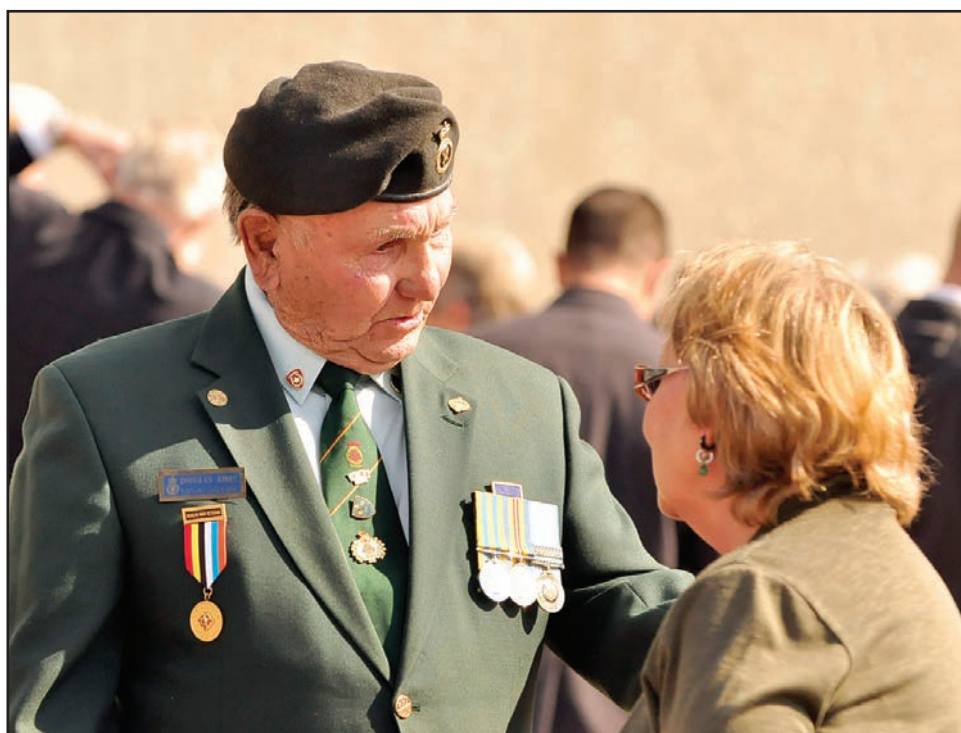
Shephard said it was important for him to attend the naming ceremony out of respect for all three men being honoured that day.

"Not only for [Pte Wayne Mitchell]," said Shephard. "But for [WO] Pappy Grimes — that's a nickname we had for the RSM — and for [Colonel James] Stone. It's something very special. It's not easy trying to put it into words."

He knew Pte Mitchell and said there was a lot to be said about that great man.

"Oh, a lot," said Shephard. "He is the best and very far in between."

Patricia Mitchell also met up with another Battle of Kapyong veteran following the ceremony. She shared a few words with Brandon's Doug Jones, who at 75, said he does not talk about the days of fighting that saw 2PPCLI maintain its vital position in the brigade defence while at the same time inflicting heavy casualties upon the enemy. Canadian casualties were 10 killed, and 23 wounded.



ABOVE: Patricia Mitchell looks over the copy of framed artwork which hangs on the wall inside the building named after her father Pte Wayne Mitchell.

LEFT: Battle of Kapyong veteran Doug Jones of Brandon met up with Patricia Mitchell following the 2PPCLI morning ceremony where three buildings were renamed.

RIGHT: It was an emotional moment when Patricia Mitchell was introduced to Battle of Kapyong veteran Ronald W. Shephard, who fought alongside her father.

Photos by Jules Xavier



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