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### Editor:

J. Ron Stonier, CD  
stonier@live.ca

We plan to publish the WNSRRA Newsletter twice a year to keep Association members connected to the WNSR. If you have something of interest, send it to us for publication. We would enjoy your feedback.

### Contact us

<http://www.wnsr.ca>  
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and the Association**

WNSRRA  
PO Box 6, Paradise, NS  
B0S 1R0



## Report on WNSRRA Annual Reunion 14-15 Sep 2013

The 64th Annual WRSRRA Reunion was held in Kentville and Aldershot. Saturday's activities were focussed in Kentville, and Sunday brought us to Aldershot.

Saturday morning the Registration Desk opened in the main hall of the Kentville Legion for members to register and get ID badges, membership cards, and tickets for the banquet and free issue. Members could also check out the Association apparel, and the Unit Kitshop which was on hand to sell WNSR kit. The Legion bar was open and available for Reunion participants to socialize with friends from years ago. Such meetings happened throughout the day as members came and went until 1800 when the banquet began in the main hall upstairs.

The upstairs bar was open an hour before mealtime, and the hall was filled with smiles and laughter as members recalled good times from the past. The Ladies Auxiliary of the Legion prepared and served an excellent meal, and the new Brigade Commander, Col George Thomson, gave an after dinner talk about his 2012 UN deployment to Haiti. Col Thomson, late of the West Novas, in true DND style, gave an interesting talk, guided by a Powerpoint presentation with slides and photos of the eventful moments of his tour. When dinner concluded, many accepted the invitation to Borden Hall Combined Mess to enjoy the remainder of the evening.

Sunday morning began at Borden Hall where the Annual General Meeting began at 1000. You can find the Minutes of the 2013 AGM at [wnsr.ca](http://wnsr.ca). After the meeting, members assembled at the WNSR Memorial on the North side of the Large Parade Square where a solemn remembrance service was conducted after the Regiment was marched on carrying the Regimental Colour. That was followed by a reception back at Borden Hall where people took the opportunity to say their goodbyes after a great weekend.

## 36 CBG Skill-at-Arms Competition



*Reprinted from Army News -  
"Soldiers test tactical skills at  
competition" 28 Oct'13*

Camp Aldershot, Nova Scotia – Blood, sweat, and tears is one way of explaining this year's Infantry Skill At Arms Competition (ISAAC). Army Reserve Infantry soldiers from 36 Canadian Brigade Group participated in a grueling two-day tactical skills challenge which

involved three Infantry units from Nova Scotia. The 5th Canadian Division Training Centre Detachment Aldershot played host to the annual competition which took place October 4 to 5, 2013.

The competition was geared around tactical scenarios which emphasized strengthening core principles for Army Reserve soldiers such as leadership, teamwork and overcoming mental and physical obstacles. With only four hours of forced rest, the eight-man sections were assessed on their ability to complete a number of tasks ranging from assembling radios, conducting night navigation, rifle marksmanship, a six-kilometre march, section attacks, nuclear biological chemical warfare training, a threshold knowledge test, tent routine and weapons maintenance. The team that would accomplish these tasks in the shortest amount of time and with the fewest mistakes would be pronounced the winner. Master Corporal Cameron Morse from the West Nova Scotia Regiment said the competition taught him important lessons about "sharing risks, hardships and building camaraderie" within his section.

"Even for those teams who didn't win, they all got something out of it," said MCpl Morse (Now Sgt). "The level of challenge was at a good standard. I'm proud to bring back not just a trophy for our unit, but great memories I have shared with friends. I will definitely do it again next year!"

The Commander of 36 Canadian Brigade Group, Colonel George Thomson was on hand to offer his congratulations to all participants for their hard work and impressive performances.

"The idea behind this competition was to encourage team building in a demanding environment while testing core infantry skills," said Col Thomson. "The team that emerged victorious was the section from the West Nova Scotia Regiment."

Overall, teams were close to exhaustion particularly after completing a six-kilometre march or run with full fighting order in under one hour. A few injuries were sustained, but the cost of pushing the body did not outweigh the value of this memorable experience and feeling of accomplishment.

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## Canadian Patrolling Concentration



Led by Patrol Commander Sgt Chris Robinson and supported by OPS staff at WNSR: WO MacLaren, Sgt Martin, Sgt Chabot, and admin NCO Pte Machelski, the 36 CBG entry in the Canadian Patrolling Competition for 2013 consisted of team members: MCpl Wood, Cpl Cavanaugh-Dollard, Cpl Travis Jeffrey, Cpl Jonny Barkhouse, Pte Innocent, Pte Minion and Pte Owen.

"Some 200 Canadian soldiers are participating in the first annual patrol skill concentration organized by the Canadian Manoeuvre Training Centre in Wainwright, AB from November 15 to 25.

The Canadian Patrol Concentration 2013 is a competition to test soldiers' tactical competence using a realistic scenarios in challenging environment, including insertion in enemy held territory, managing a battle casualties and overcome obstacles."

Our section patrol, led by Sgt Chris Robinson (now WO) placed 3rd among all reserve units in Canada. Well done! An outstanding performance from the members of one of the best Regiments in Canada, today. These soldiers are extending the excellent reputation of our Regiment on into the 21st Century.



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## Upcoming Reunion - Kentville 13-14 September 2014

Planning has begun for the 65th Annual Reunion of the Regiment in Kentville and Aldershot for 13-14 September of this year. We are looking forward to increased numbers as the WNSRRA is growing every year. We need to grow to fill the vacancies left by WW II and Korean veterans who have passed on. Yes, we have Korean veterans who served in Korea and later joined the West Nova Family. The younger members are the reinforcements to ensure that the WNSRRA survives well into the 21st Century.

This year's Reunion will be similar to last year's with a Saturday evening banquet and a Sunday service at the monument in Aldershot, but we'll have a contingent from *The Atlantic Canadian Military History Association* for Saturday. There has also been serious talk of a Friday evening barbeque and the introduction of a new Regimental Coin. We'll send our usual Reunion Joining Instruction in early July as we've done in the past; however, we'll be sending it electronically wherever possible to save costs on paper and postage. Keep your eye on the Inbox. We'll also post information on the Association portion of the WNSR website ([www.wnsr.ca/ra](http://www.wnsr.ca/ra)) as well as at the West Nova Scotia Regiment page on Facebook. We currently have about 330 members in the Facebook group and are looking for more interested people to join. It's easy and, by all reports, those who belong are enjoying it.

If you are not a Regimental Association member, you can join by completing the application at [www.wnsr.ca/ra/docs](http://www.wnsr.ca/ra/docs) and sending it to the Secretary with your annual dues. If you are already a member, you can pay your annual dues online at [www.wnsr.ca/ra/docs](http://www.wnsr.ca/ra/docs) where it says JOIN THE WEST NSR ASSOCIATION



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## Major (Ret'd) Robert G. "Bill" Thexton, CD passes away in Wolfville



Major Bill Thexton appears in the photo at the left, taken at a reunion. Bill was President of the West NSR Regimental Association for ten years and was an extremely strong supporter of all Association and Regimental activities. He was also very active in the WNSR Valley Memory Club in Kentville where he was a frequent speaker on military history, specifically WNSR history. He had a remarkable memory for detail and often spoke of combat engagements of the Second World War with great confidence. He passed away 19 Nov '13 at the age of 95.

Bill served with the West Nova Scotia Regiment during WW 2 in England, Scotland, Sicily and Italy where he was severely wounded. After the war he served in Holland and Germany with the Royal Winnipeg Rifles; in staff appointments in Halifax, Fredericton and Oakville; as an instructor at the Royal Canadian School of Infantry, Camp Borden; with the NATO Brigade in Germany; and with the Regiment of Canadian Guards in Camp Petawawa. On his retirement from the army, he

was employed for twenty years as Business Manager at Acadia University.

Keenly interested in genealogy and military history, he wrote his family history "The Thextons of Cavan" and recently completed his wartime memories "Times to Remember".

The funeral service was held at St. John's Anglican Church Saturday November 23 at 2 pm, Rev. Sandra Fyfe and Rev. Dr. Bruce Matthews officiating. The Regimental presence at the funeral included HCol the Honourable John Leefe, HLCol Eric Meisner, Commanding Officer LCol Todd Harris, and over a dozen members of the Regimental Association.

Always a gentleman, we will remember him as a truly remarkable West Nova.

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## WNSR Corporal Marc Asselin in Sicily to commemorate OP HUSKY

A serving member of the West NSR for the last 20 years, Corporal Marc Asselin, CD, was selected to represent the Regiment on OP HUSKY 2013. This was a project of Canada Company organized to commemorate the 70th anniversary of the original OP HUSKY in 1943, the Allied Invasion of Sicily in which the West NSR played an important role. Canada Company is a charitable, non-partisan organization that serves to build a bridge between business and community leaders and the Canadian Military.

Op HUSKY 2013 was intended to honour those who fought and those who fell in the Invasion of and Battle of Sicily.

Marc took two week's leave from his job as a heavy equipment mechanic to travel to CFB Kingston for briefings by the Comd 1Can Div, MGen Jim Ferron, and CWO Andre Brideau before the ten hour flight by a Govt of Canada Airbus to Catania, Sicily on 25 July. The 60 members of the Canadian Contingent felt the 30 °C temperature as they boarded buses for US Naval Air Station Sigonella which would be the location of their accommodation for their stay in Sicily in sight of an active volcano, the famous Mount Etna. They would be a parade/marching contingent for at least one commemoration ceremony, each day. Some of the places where they paid tribute to the 562 soldiers who lost their lives in OP HUSDKY included Piazza Armerina, Leonforte, Assoro, Adrano, Cataneuova, and the large Canadian War Cemetery at Agira.. At the Agira ceremony, there was a 500 man roll call where participants answered the roll for the 500 soldiers buried there.







It wasn't all work; evenings were often spent under the starry Italian skies enjoying Italian food, drink, and music as well as the company of Canadian comrades from all services. We should also mention the significant contribution of military music provided at the ceremonies and sometimes in the evenings by Pipes and Drums of the Seaforth Highlanders of Canada. Commenting on the significance of OP HUSKY 2013, Marc said, "I feel very privileged I was able to take part in such an important but otherwise not well known piece of history. It is hard to describe the feelings I had as we were told stories from some of the vets of the the campaign and marched down the exact routes the soldiers took."

After his return from Sicily, Cpl Asselin was asked to be guest speaker at the WNSR Valley Memory Club where he gave an excellent presentation and displayed dozens of photos recording the events of OP HUSKY 2013.

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## Notable West Novas

### Local Woman Named Miss Nova Scotia International

By Jennifer Vardy Little [jlittle@kingscountynews.ca](mailto:jlittle@kingscountynews.ca) KingsCountyNews.ca 30 May 2013

A Coldbrook native has a sparkly new piece of kit.

Lisa Misner, who now resides in Halifax, was named Miss Nova Scotia International on May 19 at the Miss Maritime International Pageant in New Brunswick.

"It's amazing – it hasn't really sunk in, it's only been a few days," said Misner.

The competition ranged from participating in a photo shoot to a talent competition, where Misner sang a country tune.

"I thought it was very Valley-appropriate," she said.

She also participated in the voluntary bathing suit competition.

"That was very intimidating – there were lots of beautiful girls there," Misner said. "It was optional, but I thought I'd do everything held as part of the contest."

During the week, she also had the opportunity to raise funds for Lupus, a cause close to her heart.

"That was my favourite part of the week – helping raise money for charity and promoting Nova Scotia," she said, adding that many people were familiar with the Annapolis Valley when she identified her home community.

"It's unbelievable to be able to represent a community that has made me what I am."

Misner, 23, is a graduate of Central Kings Rural High School and attended Acadia for three years. She is now finishing her Bachelor of Arts, where she is majoring in sociology and minoring in psychology, through Athabasca University. Currently, she works full-time at the Canadian Forces Recruiting Centre in Halifax. By trade, she is an infantry soldier from the West Nova Scotia Regiment, something that garnered support from the judges.

"It's nice to see an army girl compete in a pageant," said judge Sylvie Guimond during the competition.

In her free time, Misner is a volunteer co-ordinator for the Op We Care Program at the Military Family Resource Centre, assistant director for the Apple Blossom Festival Children's Parade and volunteers for Hearts On Ice and Life Cycle, the Children's Wish Foundation and for the Canadian Breast Cancer Society. She plans to further involve herself in these volunteer efforts with her new title.

The next step for Misner is to continue training for next year's World Beauty Fitness and Fashion Inc. competition and run the Harvest Half Marathon.



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## The WNSR Regimental Coin

The plan for the Regimental Association to produce a new Regimental Coin is underway. All members of the Regiment will be eligible to own a Regimental Coin. This will include members of the Unit who have successfully completed BMQ or the equivalent training and members of the WNSRRA.

The Association Executive, in consultation with the Unit, is considering several designs to arrive at an attractive and symbolic solution for a first-class Regimental Coin for a first-class Regiment. There are many Regimental and commemorative coins in circulation these days, and we want ours to be one of the classiest coins available.

Preliminary discussions lean toward the obverse (front) of the coin resembling the Seaforth Highlanders coin pictured above. It would have the coloured WNSR crest in the centre, protected with a durable plastic coating and have the name and motto of the Regiment in the outer circle. There are several options under discussion for the design of the reverse (back) of the coin. It is hoped that the first run of the coin will occur prior to this year's reunion so that it will be available to those who attend that event in Kentville in September.

