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## Internet Links

### Contact Us

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*Like WNSRRA on Facebook*  
[www.facebook.com/wnsr](http://www.facebook.com/wnsr)  
*We only have 464 "Likes", but you can change that.*

*WNSR page on Facebook is called: West Nova Scotia Regiment*

**If you got your newsletter by mail, we don't have your e-mail address. Please help us save paper, printing and postage costs by sending the editor your e-mail address. Thanks.**

## 2017 Reunion Outlook

### 15-17 Sept at Camp Aldershot and Kentville Legion

It's amazing how quickly a year rolls around. I guess when a person is busy, time seems to pass faster. If you haven't already done so, it's time to mark the weekend of 15-17 September as your chance to return to Camp Aldershot and meet with some of the greatest, or at least interesting, people from your past.

Things will be a little different this year as we're not located in Borden Hall for our events. This year, events normally held in Borden Hall will happen in the Camp Drill Hall. That will give us plenty of room if we have a great increase in our membership numbers. Don't laugh – this could happen if even half of the current membership brought along a new member, a West Nova that you know who'd like to renew his or her ties to our Regimental Family. Think about it; you'd really be helping us to continue to grow. See the Reunion Schedule at the end of this newsletter.

Don't hesitate to forward this newsletter to anyone you know who might be interested in attending. The wider the information is spread, the better the chances of helping grow our association. Let them know that this is "our" reunion, and they'd be welcome for all, a few, or even one of the events during the weekend of the 68<sup>th</sup> Annual WNSRRA Reunion.

The BBQs will be warmed up for Friday evening, most likely with some highly skilled staff on hand to cook your burger to perfection. Helen will be there offering an opportunity to win the WNSRRA Raffle. The kitshop will be available, and you can update membership or pay registration as well.



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## Worried about staying overnight?

Don't contact Captain Obvious, Trivago, or Expedia. Stay at Camp Aldershot. By the way, if you haven't been to Aldershot for a while, things have changed considerably for the better. Here's how to get accommodation at the Camp. Limited accommodation may be available at Aldershot on a first-come first-served basis. To book a room, please call Garry Randall at 902-678-6899. Arrangements for payment can be made through him.



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## Updates on some Regimental Projects



<b>Regimental Watches for WW II and Korean Veterans</b>	It should be noted that the Regimental Watch Project was initiated by the Unit and was supported by the Regimental Association. All 20 watches donated by Canadian Tire (NS) have been distributed to West Nova WWII and Korean War veterans of whom we were made aware. We have received many positive responses about this project, both from recipients and from people who have heard about the project. Some watches are still available for purchase at <a href="http://www.timeisticking.ca/">www.timeisticking.ca/</a>
<b>Operational Deployment Certificate</b>	The Operational Deployment Certificates that were voted on at the 2016 AGM are ready for distribution, and we'd like to present some during the 2017 Reunion in September. You must apply to be eligible for the certificate. Service on Canadian Forces operations, either domestic or international will make you eligible for this certificate. Further information can be found at <a href="http://WNSR.ca/ra/docs">WNSR.ca/ra/docs</a> . Look at the article in newsletter V4, No. 1, plus get a copy of the application at the same page. Applications can be sent by regular or emailed to <a href="mailto:RASecty@gmail.com">RASecty@gmail.com</a> . To be ready to present certificates on the Reunion weekend, we need your application before 01 Sep 17 so that our volunteer staff can do the necessary work.
<b>WNSR 80th Anniversary Magazine</b>	Your magazine is ready for distribution at the Reunion Registration Desk. The magazine covers stories from the Regiment, the Association, and the Cadet Corps over the last ten years. Copies have been distributed to the advertisers, Memory Clubs, and in limited numbers to our five affiliated Army Cadet Corps.
<b>West Nova History books</b>	The Regimental history, written by Thomas Raddall was reprinted in 2014, and there are a limited number of copies available. This large project will probably not be repeated in the next ten or even twenty years. If you wanted a copy of your Regimental history, <i>West Novas</i> , and you have not yet done it, now might be the right time to fix that. It's a hard cover 320 page book with 16 pages of pictures and maps about your Regiment for \$30. Get one at the kitshop in Aldershot or online.
<b>Major Thexton's "Times to Remember"</b>	Another book the Association has reprinted in the ongoing project to keep the history of our Regiment alive and well-known is Bill Thexton's "Times to Remember". This book is only available at the kitshop and costs \$20. It's a great way to learn about the history of your Regiment and to support the Regimental Association at the same time.

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## WNSR Delegation to Castel di Sangro

It has taken a few years and a good deal of planning, but we've finally arranged a trip to visit some West Nova historical sites in Italy. This is combined with a twinning Ceremony at Castle di Sangro between that city and the Town of Kentville. This is historically significant because Kentville is the home station of the WNSR and we were the only regiment awarded the battle honour "Castel di Sangro" for the action there on 22-24 Nov 1943. Check it out in your Regimental history or in the WNSR War Diary found online at [www.wnsr.ca](http://www.wnsr.ca) .

A group of nine will attend the Twinning Ceremonies including Mayor Sandra Snow of Kentville; Ron Stonier, WNSRRA President; Capt Mike Bobbitt, representing the Regiment; and three other RA members and their spouses. This is a very big event for the citizens of Castel di Sangro who are grateful to the Canadians who drove the Nazis out of their area 74 years ago.

Last year, the twinning organizer, Alessandro Teti was a special guest at our reunion, and Mike Conway, the nephew of Lieut JA Blanchard, the 22 year old platoon commander who was killed in that battle, was the guest speaker. So the groundwork has been laid for this historic visit. You can find information about the twinning here [kentville-twins-with-italian-town-castel-di-sangro.html](http://kentville-twins-with-italian-town-castel-di-sangro.html)

## WNSRRA Kitshop Online

Here's your chance to demonstrate your Regimental Pride by supporting the RA Kitshop and getting some kit emblazoned with the WNSR Crest. Have a look online, and maybe you could let us know the item and size you want. We'll have it reserved and ready for you at the Reunion. If you want it right away, we can mail it to you.



- The RA Kit shop is online at [wnsr.ca/catalog/24](http://wnsr.ca/catalog/24) and you can order kit at any time. Many members attend the Reunion in the proper RA Kit (Blue blazer with crest, white or light blue shirt with Regimental tie, and gray trousers with black shoes).
- We also have coffee cups, pens, golf shirts, brass cap badges, ball hats, licence plates, key chains, lapel pins, jackets, and more.



Go online and order your kit today.  
[wnsr.ca/catalog/24](http://wnsr.ca/catalog/24)



## Canada 150: West Novas in Peace and War - West Nova Museum Exhibit

Don't wait for the Reunion. If you're in Middleton, be sure to stop in to the Annapolis Valley Macdonald Museum at 21 School St. to see the WNSR Exhibit. On the right is a photo from the 7 May opening of Middleton Mayor Sylvester Atkinson sharing the duty of officially opening the Exhibit with two West Nova WWII veterans Ken Keddy and Ernest Doucette. (photo by Lawrence Powell)

This is our second public exhibit of West Nova history. We have expanded considerably, and if you saw and liked the first one, you'll really enjoy this one. In this exhibit, we have added significant displays to compliment the Scout-Sniper display from last year. A section on the West Novas in WWII has been added. We have also included our newly discovered connection to the 1<sup>st</sup>

Special Service Force (1SSF) also known as the Devil's Brigade. That's right the one from the movie; some of those soldiers were West Novas, and to date we have found 18 West Novas who served in that famous first special ops unit. We have included information on all of them in our display as well as artifacts from their service. Another group of West Novas that we feature in our exhibit are those who served in Afghanistan. There were over 30 soldiers on those battlefields wearing the West Nova hat badge as well as a large number who started out as West Novas who transferred to careers in Regular Force units such as the Royal Canadian Regiment and the Princess Patricia's Canadian Light Infantry, like Colonel Ian Hope who loaned us some of his kit for the display. The final section we added to this year's display is what we called Notable Novas. This features a selection of people who started out as West Novas and went on to excel in their careers.

Our opening was an obvious success. We had 138 people there; I think that might be a record for the Macdonald Museum. As well, another interesting feature was that we had people at the opening who were featured in the museum exhibits. These people included Ken Keddy who was in the 1st SSF; Ernest Doucette who fought in WWII; BGen (Retd) Gregg Matte, first a West Nova, then a fighter pilot; and Chief Superintendent (Retd) Craig Gibson, first a West Nova, later a high ranking RCMP officer. Also on hand was Sergeant Aaron Miller, an Afghanistan veteran who helped to earn our latest Battle Honour and loaned us one of his uniforms to display. Oh yes, the exhibit opening day was another great day for our Regiment.

See the article with the complimentary title "Always Faithful: West Novas have had your back for more than 100 years" in the Annapolis County Spectator: [west-novas-have-had-your-back-for-more-than-100.html](http://west-novas-have-had-your-back-for-more-than-100.html) There



are about 30 pictures which will give you an idea of what you'll see when you visit the museum in person, during the Reunion or at another time. Please note: the exhibit will show all summer until 30 September 2017.

### Photos from WNSRRA Reunion 2016



## Regimental Memorial Coin Order Completed

The third and final order of West Nova Memorial Coins has been submitted, and they will arrive by Reunion Weekend. This means we have made a coin for each of the 359 West Nova War Dead. It is very satisfying to complete this project honouring the West Novas who made the supreme sacrifice in WWII.

Every member of the Regimental Association receives a Regimental Coin as part of his or her membership. However, you can also purchase coins for friends and family for \$25 each without joining the Regimental Association.

If there is a special soldier whom you wish to honour by the purchase of his Memorial coin, you can send a request by email to [stonier@live.ca](mailto:stonier@live.ca). Memorial coins will each be unique; a soldier's name will only be used once. Any member may purchase additional coins.

Of course, all former West Novas are encouraged to join the Regimental Association to support soldiers who have served or are serving. To join, go to [www.wnsr.ca/ra/docs](http://www.wnsr.ca/ra/docs), complete and send the application.



Actual size 1 3/4 inches

## Looking for WNSR History Items

In an effort to better tell the story of our Regiment, we are looking for documents, photos, recordings and artifacts that would help to preserve memories of those who have worn the uniform of the West Novas before us. Most of the veterans of WWII have passed on, making it more difficult to preserve their stories.

If you have items you think would help us preserve the history of our Regiment, we'd be pleased to hear about them. We are interested in documents, letters, postcards, newspaper and magazine clippings, books, pictures, stories, items of uniform, badges, etc. We are particularly interested in the medal groupings of West Novas who served in WWII. The medals would be displayed with the name of the soldier who earned them. It would help us educate the public and to give a nod to the achievements of those who have gone before us.

The Regimental Association welcomes the contribution of any WWII artifacts and stories the public may have, but we're also becoming interested in items since the War as well. We need to put some focus on the post-war history of the West Novas. We invite you to [contact us](#) if you have any artifacts to donate.



## Join the WNSR Regimental Association

The Regimental Association is more active than ever before as we attempt to preserve the past, support the present, and prepare for the future. We can do this together, and the task will be easier with greater numbers.

Many former West Novas don't receive this newsletter and don't know what their Association is doing. If you know of someone, forward the newsletter and encourage him or her to join the Regimental Association.

Even if you're not able to attend the Annual Reunions, you can help support the projects of the RA to preserve the memory of soldiers of the WNSR by joining the WNSRRA and paying your annual dues of \$30. Go to [www.wnsr.ca/ra/docs](http://www.wnsr.ca/ra/docs), complete the application, and pay your dues online. New members receive a Regimental Memorial coin upon joining.

**Membership** is open to former and serving members of WNSR, attached personnel, serving or former members of the CIC in WNSR RCAC corps, or former cadets in WNSR RCAC corps. Associate membership is available to people related to serving or former members of the WNSR (see online application for details).

Looking forward to seeing you at the Reunion in Aldershot or on our next updated Nominal Roll.



## 2017 Reunion Schedule

### WNSRRA 68<sup>th</sup> Annual Reunion

Kentville and 5 Cdn Div TC Det Aldershot - 15-17 September 2017

**Registration**      Camp Drill Hall, Camp Aldershot      Fri 15 Sep 1900-2100  
 Royal Canadian Legion Br. 006      Sat 16 Sep 0930-1200 and 1300-1730  
 36 River St, Kentville - 678-8935      Bar will be open for general get-together  
 Camp Drill Hall, Camp Aldershot      Sun 17 Sep 0830-0930

**Fees**      Annual Dues .....\$30      These fees can be paid online at *Reunion 2017*  
 Registration for Members..... \$20      on [www.wnsr.ca](http://www.wnsr.ca) by Paypal, using a credit card,  
 Member's spouse or Guest.... \$20      or debit card.  
 WNSR Widows.....No Charge

\*\*\* **Please let us know you're coming by sending **RSVP** online** \*\*\*  
 Before 1 September -- <http://wnsr.ca/ra/2017/rsvp>

Have a good Reunion and Travel safe		Reunion Committee - Ron Stonier - Bert Fitzgerald - Peter Bailey - Garry Randall
Time	Activity	Place and Details
<b>Friday - 15 Sep</b>		
1900-2330	Barbeque and Social Hour Registration and prize draw	Camp Drill Hall, Aldershot (Open bar, food costs extra)
<b>Saturday - 16 Sep</b>		
0930-1200 1300-1730	Registration and general get-together	Kentville RCL Br. 006 Pick up nametags, membership cards, and Regimental Coins Check out the Regimental Kitshop Legion bar will be available for socialization
1730-1930	Reunion Banquet	Legion Main Hall – Roast Beef dinner with all the trimmings Bar will be available 1630-1930 Guest Speaker: Lt-Col (Retd) George McGrath, CD Former CO 1977-80
1930-2359	Social time	Camp Drill Hall or Legion Dance (State preference in RSVP no later than 1 September)
<b>Sunday - 17 Sep</b>		
0830-0930	Registration	Camp Drill Hall, Aldershot Kitshop open - Free coffee available
0930-1045	Annual General Meeting	Camp Drill Hall, Aldershot All members are encouraged to attend. Your chance to have a voice in the WNSRRA.
1100-1130	Memorial Service	WNSRRA Memorial – Aldershot All members are encouraged to attend. Your chance to honour your fallen comrades - West Novas who died in WWII and since. Colour Party available for the service, Wreaths laid at Memorial
1130-departure	Happy Hour and Farewell	Camp Drill Hall, Aldershot Sandwiches, sweets, tea/coffee available Bar will be open 1130-1330

**Please remember to RSVP at <http://wnsr.ca/ra/2016/rsvp> by 1 September (it helps us reduce costs)**

**You can also pay dues and registration in advance through PayPal.**

### Stay Overnight at Aldershot -

Limited accommodation may be available at Aldershot on a first-come first-served basis. To book a room, please call Garry Randall at 902-678-6899. Arrangements for payment can be made through Garry.