



WEST NOVA SCOTIA REGIMENT REGIMENTAL ASSOCIATION NEWSLETTER

Perpetuating the 69th and the 75th Regiments
and the 112th and 219th Battalions CEF

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We only have 634 "Likes", but you can change that.
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WNSRRA 69th Annual Reunion Report 14-16 Sep 2018

The 69th Annual WRSRRA Reunion was held in Kentville and Aldershot, and we've settled into a routine format which appears to work for us. Our use of Camp Aldershot facilities with the support of the Camp Staff of 5th Can Div Support Group Training Centre Det Aldershot and our own invaluable unit support, plus the excellent support that we receive from Kentville's RCL Br. No. 006 makes for a good weekend.

We add something different every year to make things interesting. For example, last year; we had a Regimental Camp Flag for a raffle prize; and we presented 18 RA Executive Commendations to members who showed great support for RA initiatives, like our support to reunions, museum exhibit, book printing, Regimental Coin project, etc. We also had WNSRRA water bottles and newly designed RA decals for everyone who registered.

Last year's reunion was quite special because of the week-long visit of our visitors from Castel di Sangro, Italy. Alessandro Teti and Nicola Buzzelli were two of the Italians who hosted the RA Delegation when we visited Italy in 2017 for the Twinning of Kentville and Castel di Sangro. They were terrific hosts because our Regiment had liberated their town in late Nov 1943. We wanted to demonstrate Nova Scotian hospitality to them, so we provided tours of the Citadel and Army Museum and Pier 21 in Halifax. Nicola got to fire the Noon Gun at the Citadel. Kentville's Mayor Snow hosted a breakfast at her home. We toured the West Nova Exhibit at Macdonald Museum where Alessandro presented me with a piece of shrapnel he had found at Point 1009 where six West Novas were KIA. One of those soldiers was Pte Wm Benjamin, whose nephew was at the museum that morning, and I had the privilege of introducing Alessandro to him. We also hosted a lobster dinner for our Italian friends at The King's Arms, and we took them to the grave of Major Hugh Burns of Kentville who was the Company Commander who led the attack to liberate Castel di Sangro.

This was also the first reunion for our new Honorary Colonel Don Downe who enjoys his new appointment and is working hard to advance the interests and profile of the West Novas whenever and wherever he can.



**Now's the time to plan to join us in Camp Aldershot,
Home of the West Novas, for our
70th WNSRRA Annual Reunion, 13-15 Sep 2019.**

Commanding Officer's Address



If you've not already done so, come visit your soldiers while they train. We're located in Windsor, Aldershot, Middleton, and Bridgewater and train every Thursday evening. Maj Mike Bobbitt is the push behind this initiative, using social media to invite everyone to see the Novas

in action. And the initiative is starting to pay dividends – we now have 36 new soldiers and two new officers joining our Regiment. All will proceed on Full Time Summer Employment (we prefer to call it Engagement) and soon be badged by our Honorary Colonel Don Downe. Sgt Dave Morse, our Recruiting NCO, is currently hot on the trail with 18 files open and expects to have these soldiers commence training this summer.

It's great to see so many new soldiers, but we also have many that have completed component transfers to the regular force. Just recently MCpl Baltzer was re-badged to the Royal Canadian Regiment and joined 2 RCR. This is the exact path that our Regimental Sergeant Major, CWO Brad Rogers, did -- several years in our Regiment, component transfer to 2 RCR, and return home to be appointed the RSM. I hope that I'll be able to welcome Cpl Baltzer, RCR back home when he retires and transfers back to his home Regiment. We also welcomed Captain Ed Ormond from the RCR and SOF community when he completed a component transfer to our Regiment. Ed will lead our efforts in creating a dismounted Recce Platoon as part of the Army "Strengthen the Army Reserve (StAR)" initiative. This is a new task that will be implemented in 2021.

If you think the soldiers of the Regiment are busy, you should take a look at the schedule of both HCol Downe and HLCol Gibson. When they're not busy attending Regimental training, 36 Canadian Brigade Group, or 5th Division programmed events, they're in front of local municipal councils, connecting with political leaders and our Aboriginal community. One initiative they have spearheaded is the re-naming of the Highway 10 corridor that links Middleton to Bridgewater the "West Nova Scotia Regiment Way". It was MWO (Ret'd) Richard Stonier who first made this

suggestion, and the Regimental Association and our HCol and HLCol have done the heavy lifting. We are planning a formal event for the highway naming during our Regimental Association Reunion. Another reason for you to attend!

Maj Jeremy Wigmore has recently returned from an operational deployment to Iraq. He was one of a handful of Canadians who worked in the US headquarters with the responsibility to plan the unscheduled US withdraw from Syria and several training initiatives in Iraq. Jeremy is also one of the few serving officers to be awarded the Afghanistan Campaign Star (from a previous tour) and the Iraq Campaign Star. LCol Todd Harris is another officer with both medals – rare to find two from the same regiment with both decorations. Jeremy was also awarded a US Army meritorious decoration. Maj Wigmore will now serve as the Regiment's Deputy Commanding Officer.

By now, you would have heard the great news about Colonel George Thomson who will be promoted to Brigadier General and appointed the Deputy Commander 5th Division sometime this summer. He's our first peace time Reserve General officer and our Senior Serving West Nova.

Now for the big news, Regimental Headquarters has been busy working on the production of new Regimental and Queen's Colours. I am delighted to report that our Regimental Colour has received Royal Assent and has been gazetted. Our Queen's Colour is in the final stages of approval. We will soon dispatch a team to approve the production and set the timeline for receiving new Colours. The Regimental Advisory Committee will meet to strike a committee across the Regimental Family to work on the protocol of receiving new colours and the laying-up of our current colours. It is the responsibility of your command team to raise the strength of the Regiment and to do this with both honour and dignity. I am asking for your help in assisting with the recruitment of new soldiers! Come visit your Regiment and take along a few friends.

Lieutenant Colonel K.F. Butterworth, OMM, MSM, CD



2688 Bridgewater Kinsmen RCACC

This has been a busy and exciting training year for 2688 RCACC. There has been the normal fast pace of training evenings, weekend FTXs and activities as well as special competitions and events. Here is a short synopsis of some of these. Capt Heather Wharton had been the Commanding Officer for almost seven years

when she left last fall for an undetermined time with family in Ontario. Capt Bruce Barteaux took over as CO and brings with him a wealth of experience. He first joined the Canadian Cadet Movement with the West Nova Scotia Regiment at 1714 RCACC in Annapolis Royal. After a fantastic opportunity for five

years, his last summer was in Argonaut as a CIL Platoon Comd before enrolment in the Reg F. Forty-two years of full-time service as an army officer (Royal Canadian Electrical and Mechanical Engineer) saw him back in uniform as a CIC officer to give back to a great youth organization and to mentor youth. On a happy note, Heather returned to the area and Corps in March and is now the Adm O, working along with the other dedicated staff.



Pictured above is the official signing ceremony from the 15 Jan 2019 Change of Command Parade for 2688 Bridgewater Kinsmen RCACC, showing (L-R) the Reviewing Officer LCdr Finney, Capt Barteaux, and Capt Wheaton (via Skype on the laptop).

The unit had the benefit of some joint training during during the first weekend of March break. After bowling,

movie and a sleep over on Sat night, we were met by five enthusiastic and professional soldiers from 4 Platoon West NSR, led by MCpl Adam Doggett. There was a lot of interest shown by the cadets as they learned more about Regimental history, experienced army personal clothing and equipment, used cam paint, saw a rudimentary bivouac site, and viewed demos of some urban ops actions. The good-natured crew from 4 PI also agreed to act as the judge panel for the Greatest Chef creations using Meals Ready to Eat (MRE) components, i.e. hard rations.

While all the cadets have their own stories of challenge and success, the CSM has had a particularly exciting March. WO Sara Greenough was selected from among the top Army Cadets in Atlantic Canada to participate in the Regional Winter Expedition held in 14 Wing, Goose Bay. They had the experience of trekking on snowshoes, carrying rucksacks with personal gear and helping drag the cargo toboggan laden with team gear while camping out for the 4-day event. Another exciting opportunity was her recent notification that she had been picked as one of the few cadets chosen to be members of the Regional Cadet Support Unit Chief Warrant Officer's Cadet Advisory Council. This group will have the chance to consider programs and shape the future for this important youth program. Well deserved, CSM, and good luck!

Captain BB Barteaux, CD - CO 2688 RCACC



Regimental Association supports Rally Point Retreat

Rally Point Retreat held a 15 km rucksack march from the Yarmouth Legion to the War Memorial at the Maple Grove Education Centre and back on a rainy Saturday morning, 13 April 2019. There were 53 marchers and a number of support staff making the event happen. Organizers were quite successful in bringing the existence of Rally Point Retreat to the attention of the public in this 2nd Annual Rucksack March.

Marchers included a contingent from the local Sea Cadet Sqn Chebourg, the local Army Cadet Corps 110 RCACC, five firefighters from the Yarmouth Fire Department with the Chief following driving the fire engine, and seven marchers from the WNSRRA. RA participants all completed the march and were still smiling at the finish line. They included: (L-R) Gerry Hiscoe, Dave Blanchard, Willie Salsman, Garry Randall, Laurie Arnburg, and Ron Stonier. Missing from the photo is RA member Benoit Dugas. RA member John Doucette was on the organizing and support staff, and Brenda Morine was at the Royal Canadian Legion finish line to cook hotdogs for the wet and chilled marchers.



In the photo, we're at the halfway point at the Maple Grove Education Centre. The monument to all Canadian Afghan War Dead is behind us and was funded by a student group at the school. We were a little off-centre and couldn't get any wetter.

WNSRRA Kitshop Online 24/7

• Get WNSR kit online at wnsr.ca/catalog/24 and you can order at any time. Many members plan to attend some Reunion events in the RA Kit (Blue blazer with crest, white or light blue shirt with Regimental tie, gray trousers, and black shoes). **Go online and**



order your kit today. wnsr.ca/catalog/24

- We've sold all our copies of the Regimental history, *West Novas*, by Thomas Raddall; but we still have copies of *Times to Remember* by Bill Thexton.
- The Kitshop now operates online in a hassle-free, convenient way to get the kit you want without hiccups or snags. All items we have in stock are included with photos and descriptions. We have blazer crests, Regimental ties, genuine brass cap badges, crested ball caps, licence plates, and much more at wnsr.ca/catalog/24

If there's something you want to see in our Kitshop, email the editor, and we'll see if we can get it for you.

Better still, come to the Reunion, get all the kit you want, and save to postage.

Looking for WNSR History Items

Do you have letters, documents, news clippings, books, pictures, stories, items of uniform, badges, etc? Please consider donating to the West Nova Collection. We are interested in West Nova medal groupings from WWII to be displayed with the name of the soldier who earned them.

To better tell the story of our Regiment, we're looking for documents, photos, recordings and artifacts that would help to preserve memories of those who have worn the West Nova uniform before us. Most veterans of WWII have passed on, making it more difficult to preserve their stories. Also, we have to start preserving the memory of post-war West Novas.

If you have items you think would help us preserve the history of our Regiment, we'd be pleased to hear about them. It would help us educate the public and recognize 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.

WNSR Italy Day Ball 2019

**Lieutenant Colonel K.F. Butterworth, OMM, MSM, CD
and Chief Warrant Officer B.P. Rogers, CD**

request the pleasure of your company at the

West Nova Scotia Regiment Italy Day Ball

Saturday, 11 May 2019, 1700 hrs,

Bldg 222 Drill Hall, Camp Aldershot

Dress: DEU 2B / Mess Kit / Formal Civilian Attire

RSVP: Sgt G. Gallant, Pay Sgt at (902) 678-7930 ext 2106

E-mail: Graig.Gallant@forces.gc.ca

NLT 1 May 2019

\$15 per person



Editor's Note: Association blazer and tie is appropriate dress.

No need to reply if not attending. Please RSVP by 01 May if attending so we'll be ready when you arrive. There are great prizes, a meal, a bar, and a dance. Excellent opportunity to catch up on unit activities.

Dates to Remember for RA Members

We've made a note of Regimental Family events that we hope might interest you, and we'll list them here as a reminder that there are ways that you can show support for your Regiment. Come out to attend Unit events and Annual Cadet Review (ACR) to support our affiliated Cadet Corps.

MAY	11	WNSR Italy Day Ball – Saturday 11 May at Camp Aldershot Drill Hall 1700 hrs. <u>All RA</u> members are invited. Dress: Mess Kit/Formal or Business Civilian Attire/Blazer and Regimental Tie. \$15 per person. RSVP: by 01 May to Graig.Gallant@forces.gc.ca or call Sgt Gallant 902-678-7930 (2106)
	15	ACR for 1714 Annapolis Royal RCACC , at the RCL Br#21, Annapolis Royal. Wednesday evening, please be seated by 1840 for 1900 hrs. Reviewing Officer is Capt Eben Sabeau, CD
	25	ACR for 2444 Kings County RCACC , at Camp Aldershot Parade Square. Please be seated by 1345 for 1400 hrs. Reviewing Officer is TBA.
	26	ACR for 2688 Bridgewater RCACC , at the Lunenburg County Lifestyle Center (LCLC) in Bridgewater. Please be seated by 1345 for 1400 hrs. Reviewing Officer is LCol Butterworth, OMM, MSM, CD
JUN	08	ACR for 686 Passchendaele RCACC , at Bridgetown Arena, 30 Jeffery St, Bridgetown. Please be seated by 1330 for 1345 hrs. Reviewing Officer is TBA.
	08	Combined ACR and Change of Command for 603 Weymouth RCACC at the Havelock Community Center, 4628 Highway #340, Havelock, Digby Co. Please be seated by 1345 for 1400 hrs. Reviewing Officer is Capt Wm Wallace, CD
JUL		Watch for the WNSRRA July Newsletter
AUG		Visit the WNSR Exhibit <i>West Novas in Peace and War</i> at the Macdonald Museum, 21 School St., Middleton (15 Jun-31 Aug Mon-Sat 0900-1630) and (1 Sep-16 Dec Mon-Fri 1030-1630) Free admission. Let us know your opinion on the museum exhibit by signing the Guest Book in the exhibit room.
SEP	13-15	WNSRRA 70th Reunion in Camp Aldershot and Kentville: Friday evening BBQ, Saturday Banquet and Social at BHCM, Sunday AGM and Memorial Service in Camp. Registration Fri-Sun. Raffle and 50/50 draws. Food and Friends. It's the 70th! Come to Aldershot and <u>be back</u> in the Regiment.

Museum Update: West Novas in Peace and War

We are finishing our second year as one of the permanent displays exhibits at the Annapolis Valley Macdonald Museum at 21 School St. in Middleton. We've been told that our presence in the museum has attracted a number of visitors to the building to view this important part of the history of the Annapolis Valley. Of course, there are other factors which have contributed to the museum's attracting 20, 00 visitors over the past year, but we feel we are pulling our own weight, and so does the Executive Director and the Board of Directors. Step by step, we are making our exhibit better all the time. Here are a few examples:

- RA member Dave Gilhen from Halifax, who served in the Regiment '80-'86, has been diligent in his efforts to complete the list of West Novas who also served in the Devil's Brigade (1st SSF) during the Italian



Campaign. So far, he has identified and found details on 23 such soldiers who form a special display in our West Nova exhibit.

- We have also received donations from families of soldiers including: uniforms or parts of uniforms, medals, books, photo albums, and other artifacts. We try, whenever we can, to display what has been donated; sometimes this happens right away, or it may take some time to fit something into the display.

- Tom Stinson, Garry Randall, and Janice Slauenwhite, the museum's Executive Director, have been



working for several months on a project to arrange a loan of artifacts from the Canadian War Museum (CWM) in Ottawa. They have completed questionnaires and applications as well as humidity trials to see if we qualify to borrow artifacts, and we've been successful. Very soon (this summer), the CWM will release artifacts which belonged to a West Nova wartime padre, Captain Laurie Wilmot, MC, CD. This will include his helmet with a shrapnel hole, his Red Cross flag, and an armband used by the Padre from his action in battle. "His organization and personal leadership of the evacuation of wounded soldiers from a minefield at the Foglio River Crossing (on Italy's Adriatic coast) on 31 August 1944 resulted in his being awarded the Military

Cross." Obtaining artifacts from CWM is a giant leap forward for us in the world of museum operations, and we're hopeful that this won't be the last loan we'll arrange.

- If you haven't seen the exhibit, please do and leave a comment or two in the Guest Book for the Exhibit. If you've been and seen what we've put together, please let us have your comments or suggestions as to how we can improve our displays. Of course, if you have any materials or artifacts to contribute to our display of the activities of the West Novas right up until today, we'd be pleased to hear about it.

- Not only do we have a history in World War II, we also have done interesting and important things since then. These things should be documented and displayed for the public to know. We are the custodians of our current history; let's keep track and tell our Regimental story. We'd like to expand on the part our soldiers played in the Southwest Asia Theatre in places like Afghanistan, Iraq, or the peacekeeping missions in the Middle East or elsewhere in the world. Our history doesn't stop in 1945; help us record and save it for future generations.



Why not join the WNSR Regimental Association?

The Regimental Association is an active organization which attempts 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. Help strengthen your RA through membership.

Even if you can't attend the Annual Reunions, you can help support Association projects to preserve the memory of past and present soldiers of the WNSR by joining the WNSRRA and paying your annual dues of \$30. It's easy; just go to www.wnsr.ca/ra/docs, complete the application if you're not already a member, and pay your dues online with PayPal. You'll have joined the best Regimental Association in the Canadian Army Reserve.

- On *Facebook*, "Like" us at **West Nova Scotia Regiment** and join an excellent group of 807 members.

- You can also support us by liking **West Nova Scotia Regiment Regimental Association** page.

- There are still many former West Novas not receiving this newsletter. Please forward a copy to them and invite them to join their Regimental Association.

Semper Fidelis

