

Minutes of the Atlantic Branch of the Regimental Association

30 August 2023, Oromocto Legion

Executive Committee Members:

President – Dan Hone (Present)
Vice President – Ali Raju (Present)
Secretary – Robert Stoney (Regrets)
Treasurer – Dave Blanchard (Present)
Social Secretary – Tom Holland (Present)
Executive Members At-Large – Maj Jamie Hunter (Regrets)

Also in attendance were Peggy and Alex Goss, the daughter and grandson of the late HCol of the Royal Canadian Armour Corps School (RCACS), the late HCol John Swanton). As a reminder, we do not collect membership dues. All Strathconas in the Atlantic region are considered members of the Atlantic Branch and any events we hold, are 'pay as you go'. As with some other branches, we are not rank conscious. We encourage the use of first names and strive to keep a casual social environment that celebrates what is great about our Regiment and its people.

SPECIAL ACTIVITY

Peggy Goss and her son Alex joined us at the Legion today. Peggy had reached out to Dan Hone in March 2023 to inquire about her father's miniature medals. She had been asked after her father's funeral if she would like to contribute to a display that was going to be set up, either at the Base Museum, or the Armour School. The display would include his dress uniform with medals among other items. She had already given John's full-size medals to her brother Ted (who lives in Alberta), but she offered to loan John's dress uniform to the Armour School, as well as his miniature medals. She wasn't sure if the display was to be at the Base Museum or the RCACS, but after a few e-mails back and forth, it was confirmed that it wasn't the Museum and the medals would likely be at the Armour School. Maj Ali Raju (current CO CATEU) conducted a search of the Armd Sch Archives and was able to find the miniatures, with the help of Sgt Rushton, and we presented the medals 'back' to Peggy at this meeting (photos embedded in the minutes below). As far as Maj Raju is aware, the RCACS still intends on creating a display for HCol Swanton, but there is a 5-year waiting period and other administration to work through. Now that the original medals are back with John's grandson, either the Armd School or the Atlantic Branch will ensure that a copy of the miniatures will be made for the future display. Peggy and Alex were very appreciative of the effort to find the miniature medals by all involved, and once the presentation was over, they departed and we carried on with the meeting.

CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 1835 hrs with 4 members of the Committee in attendance. Thanks were expressed for everyone's attendance and taking time out of their busy schedules.

TREASURER'S REPORT

Dave Blanchard (Treasurer) provided an Excel Spreadsheet from the Scotiabank Account. The first records go back to 28 March 2013 and on 2 April 2013, \$500.00 was deposited as seed money provided by the Regiment. Another \$700.00 was received from the Regiment in March 2014 for a Moreuil Wood activity. There have been two other donations of \$100.00 each from Rob Stoney and Dave Blanchard in 2016 and 2023 respectively. The account currently sits at \$115.06. The full spreadsheet was shared with] all members in attendance and is available for any other members to review.

RECURRING / OLD BUSINESS (none at this time)

NEW BUSINESS

Due to covid there was a long pause on these meetings, and this was the first meeting held in-person since prior to covid. In this association's earlier years, the main activity organized by the Atlantic Branch had been an annual Semi-Formal Mixed Dinner (jacket and tie) at Brewbakers, as well as attendance at the Armour School's Moreuil Wood day. Brewbaker's was the venue chosen by then LCol Dwayne Parsons as it was John Swanton's favourite restaurant. John would brag to anyone he could, how one of his grandson's was a trained 'Sommelier', and his other grandson was a member of the RCMP. He was obviously very proud of both. We also organized an annual Melfa River Golf Day, and photos can be found on the Atlantic Branch Facebook Page. The last time we had a golf day was in May 2019. It was a 2-day event with the first day being in PEI at Dundarave Golf Course and the second day was at the Gage in Oromocto (Base Golf Course). We do intend on revitalizing this tradition for May 2024.

The VP of the Committee had traditionally been the Sr Strathcona at the Armour School (usually the OC of one of the Sqns), but Maj Ali Raju has enthusiastically volunteered to join the Committee and has brought forward some very good ideas for events for the next year and a half to two years. We spent approx. 30 minutes talking about options for the near future and longer range activities, with a view to being able to send out invitations prior to Remembrance Day to the next social event. The options discussed ranged from informal BBQ / Games night / formal mixed dinner, and we touched on the 125th as well. Options discussed included holding an event on base with catering from the Base Kitchen to keep the cost down / to have the dinner catered by a local restaurant at one of the Base messes / to have a dinner in Fredericton at a restaurant or hotel. Long story short, the idea is in its infancy and there will be more to follow after the meeting in October. Our intent is to give everyone enough notice that they could mark their calendar many months in advance. Ali is going to reach out to the Armd Sch to discuss in the near future.

We also discussed Moreuil Wood and working on the connection between the Armd Sch and the Branch.

The Contact List was discussed and although many people are on Facebook, an e-mail contact list will be developed to ensure we are able to contact as many as possible. At the writing of these minutes, Kathy Batty and Heidi Mitton have already been contacted and sent the lists they had on hand, and Kathy offered to post the events, minutes etc, on the Strathconas.ca website, and to provide a Google e-mail, calendar and video-meeting account. (To be discussed) Note, the e-mail to use for future comms with Kathy, is ldsh@strathconas.ca, which will make Association e-mails easier to track. Heidi also sent the lists that she had on hand, so now we just need to get to work determining who is still in the Atlantic region, which includes NB, NS, PEI and NL/Labrador.

Meeting was adjourned at 1935 hrs

NEXT MEETING was set for the 18TH of October at 1500 hrs – Oromocto Legion