

# THE STRATHCONIAN



Lord Strathcona's Horse  
(Royal Canadians)

CANADA'S TANK REGIMENT  
2023

With pride, Spruce Meadows  
remembers and honours the  
brave men and women of  
Canada who serve.

We salute and thank you.



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'Masters'

September 04-08, 2024



## **The Strathconian**

Is the annual journal of Lord Strathcona's Horse (Royal Canadians)  
and is a LdSH(RC) Regimental Society publication published by permission of

**Lieutenant-Colonel D.M. Gray, CD**  
**Commanding Officer**

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**Lord Strathcona's Horse (Royal Canadians)  
Battle Honours**

*South Africa*

**South Africa, 1900 - 1901**

*First World War*

**Festubert 1915, Somme 1916, '18; Brazentin, Pozières, Flers-Courcelette,**

**Cambrai 1917, '18; St. Quentin, Amiens, Hindenberg Line,**

**St. Quentin Canal, Beaurevoir, Pursuit to Mons,**

**France and Flanders 1915 - 1918**

*Second World War*

**Liri Valley, Melfa Crossing, Torrice Crossroads, Gothic Line,**

**Pozzo Alto Ridge, Coriano, Lamone Crossing, Misano Ridge, Casale,**

**Naviglio Canal, Fosso Munio, Italy 1944-1945, Ijsselmeer**

**North-West Europe 1945**

*Korea*

**Korea 1951-1953**

**Afghanistan**

*(Battle Honours approved for emblazonment are in heavy type)*





## Colonel of the Regiment

*Colonel (Retired) Jamie Cade*



I consider myself very fortunate to be able to return to the Regiment and witness firsthand that we remain a tight, organized and spirited Family. Although much has evolved through the years, in other ways nothing has changed. If those who served under Sir Sam Steele could return, at first glance they would find their contemporary Regiment completely different (not unlike those of us retired from military service). However they would quickly feel at home - our shared heritage, traditions and respect for each other would be very familiar to them. A couple of hours with the Strathconas of today and they would realise they were with family.

As always, our Regiment is hard at work - transitioning to a tank regiment and preparing for a serious operational mission in Latvia. All the challenges that come with both have “turbo-

charged” the focus of the Regiment. Although there are many long, hectic days with managing three squadrons at different levels of operational readiness, the Regiment continues to honour and practice our traditions, embrace our Regimental ethos and pay respect to our collective history. What I have come to realize is our Regiment is timeless - despite constant changes to vehicles, equipment, people and missions, who we are as a Regiment and Regimental Family is enduring.

In this edition of the “Strathconian” you will read about accomplishments of which we can be proud, our indestructible Regimental spirit, and recent additions to a long list of our achievements as Strathconas.

Perseverance,





# Senior Serving Strathcona

*Lieutenant-General Steve Kelsey*

A true gift of the *Strathconian* is the ability to look back and remember where we have been. A continuing record of achievement. Like many I enjoy re-reading them if only to be reminded of younger, fitter versions of ourselves... Consistently, past Editions begin with how busy the year had been. This edition of the *Strathconian* is no different.



*SSS participates in Multi-National Corps  
South-East FOC ceremony, Sibiu, Romania*

Europe and the Middle East remains a dynamic setting. The most extensive war in Europe in seven decades; the highest number of coups across the Maghreb in six decades; the most significant conflict in the Levant in five decades; and, the most fragile migration and energy security implications for Europe in four decades. This before we even consider the complexity of the Asia-Pacific, the accelerating competition and of course North Korea. This backdrop forges a renewed focus for us all. As these pages show, Strathconas are once again prominently implicated in the CAF response to it all.

Assuredly, the deployment of Strathconas to the Middle East, Poland and Latvia, as well as an impressive drum beat of training all reflect an imposing tempo in Edmonton. So too the Society, Foundation and local Branches & Chapters have sustained notable pursuits and ambition. Few Regiments

undertake, let alone sustain such a bold spectrum activity. An enviable position as a Regimental family. If you're like me, I am dependent on a number of Society tools and products outside the *Strathconian* just to keep pace. A worthy reason to offer tribute to not only the activities we read about here but the individuals that work tirelessly to keep us connected.

The *Society Newsletter* forms an intermittent cadence of updates between *Strathconians* but with the war stories, pictures and anecdotes that are always a favorite. We have long been blessed with exceptional volunteers and Editors, but the team of **Colonel Spike Hazleton, OMM, MSM, CD (Retired)** and ever-present **Kathy Batty** have sustained our *Newsletter* with particular flare this year! Perhaps the most powerful way we keep pace with the changes is through *Strathcona Enews*. Our Colonel of the Regiment, **Colonel J. (Jamie) Cade, OMM, MSM, CD (Retired)**, Commanding Officer **Lieutenant-Colonel Darryn Gray, CD** and Regimental Sergeant-Major **Chief Warrant Officer Nathan Mills, MMM, CD** are particularly devoted to these updates but we recognize there are many contributors. It takes deliberate effort (and time) to not just create that content but manage the sites, for which we are grateful. Then there is the impressive volume of volunteer activity for which our Society and Foundation Boards; Branches and Chapters; Special Project leaders and entities give so selflessly of their time. To our Colonel of the Regiment as Chair, the Directors, Chapter and Branch Presidents and Executives and of course the Society Secretary, **Major Kelly Callens, CD, (Retired)**, **Major Nathan Hevenor, CD**, and **Kathy Batty** we owe a debt of gratitude.

2023 was yet another notable year. A year of loss of close Regimental friends and inspirational leaders but also a year of individual achievement and triumph, as successive pages show. Happy reflections to all.

Perseverance,



*SSS certifies NATO Response Force element  
with the famed Netherlands tanker and friend  
LGen Niko Tak, Baumholder, Germany*



## Commanding Officer

*Lieutenant-Colonel Darryn Gray*



*CO & RSM following completion of Ex Mountain Ram*

This past summer it was an honour and a privilege to return to the Regiment after several years away in Ottawa. While outside the unit focussing on the future force and managing the Canadian Army's equipment and resources, I was extremely proud to see and hear of all the things that our Strathcona's were doing across Canada and the World. It was evident that in times of crisis and uncertainty, Strathcona's were there to contribute to whatever was required.

Continuously supporting domestic emergencies as part of Op LENTUS, international deployments abroad as part of Op IMPACT in Iraq, Basic Soldier Training to Ukrainians in the UK and Tank Training to Ukrainians in Poland as part of Op UNIFIER... all while continuously setting the conditions for the deployment of a Tank Sqn (-) to Op REASSURANCE in Latvia; it was evident that the Regiment was carrying a heavy load.

With everything happening in the world and across the CAF, it is comforting to know that many things here in Edmonton remain the same. The Regiment remains capable and poised to perform whatever the Army requires, and the collective strength of the unit is founded on the professionalism and remarkable skill sets of the personnel within it. The team remains operationally focussed in preparing vehicles for exercises and deployments while mutually supporting each other to achieve the collective goals.

Amongst all the operational tasks, as directed by the Canadian Army, the Armoured Corps has embarked on what will be a historic change across the country. This comes in the form of Tank Centralization which will see all Leopard MBTs positioned in Edmonton within our Regiment Lines. With this initiative coming into effect this past summer, D Squadron (Recce) was converted to C Sqn (Tanks) and conducted a massive PCF cycle to qualify personnel across the whole Sqn. We saw the arrival of Leopard equipment and resources from Gagetown, the reinvigoration of C/S 60, but sadly the divestment of the Coyotes.

This past November also marked another significant period in our Regimental and Armoured Corps history with the deployment of a Tank Sqn (-) to Latvia by B Sqn. Canadian Army has deployed Tanks to a theatre of operations a handful of times and this task marks the initiation of the Canadian Army's robust commitment to NATO as part of Op REASSURANCE. Operationally focussed the Strathcona's, as Canada's Tank Regiment will see continuous deployments to Latvia every six months similar to our times in Afghanistan. Our Soldiers, Sr NCOs, and Officers alike are proud and enthusiastic about the challenges on the horizon.

I would also like to take the opportunity to give a shout out to the editing team of this year's Strathconian. Having been the OPI in the past, I truly appreciate all of the thankless hours that go into the review and compilation of the Strathconian. My personal thanks to the Editor-in-Chief **Maj Blake Tapp**, Editor **Capt Ali Mansour** and the tremendous creativity of **Mrs. Kathy Batty**. The tradition of the Strathconian is something that sets us apart from other units, and we are very excited to release this edition!

Perseverance,



*RSM, MWO Conway Eady & CO  
at the RCACS Mess Dinner, Gagetown*





## Regimental Sergeant-Major

*Chief Warrant Officer Nathan Mills*

Let me begin by saying, I am extremely honoured to have been appointed as the Regimental Sergeant Major of Canada's Tank Regiment. I take great pride in being able to serve the soldiers of this Regiment.

It has been yet another busy year for LdSH(RC). We have had Strathconas from across Canada deployed to Poland, the UK, Ukraine, Latvia, and across the Middle East. Strathconas were also deployed this summer domestically fighting fires. Thanks to the hard work and perseverance of the members of all trades of the Regiment, we saw B Sqn deploy with 15 tanks in support of OP REASSURANCE, the first tank squadron deployed to Latvia. We saw Recce Sqn become D Sqn as a light CAV sqn, and then become C Sqn, the Regiments 3rd tank sqn. We saw tank centralization come to fruition.

Change, change, and more change. There has been significant change in the CAF and all the way down to the Regiment in a short amount of time. This includes changes to deployments, to the training system, to the Armour Corps structure, Regimental structure, and the performance evaluation system (PACE). This change comes with challenges, and then to that change we add on the parts and support contract issues that slows or even halts our ability to have functioning vehicles. I commend and thank our members from across the country who have stepped up and sought creative solutions to problems, including ensuring we had tanks and support vehicle for C Sqn training and validation.

I thank those who were able create opportunities to ensure our members are still trained and qualified to be promoted to the next rank. I thank those who envisioned and executed plans to integrate reservists into our training. I thank those who sought opportunities for events within the messes and the Regiment to help increase morale and community.

The only reason we have had success this year is because we had and continue to have good Strathconas, of all trades and ranks, doing great work.

The passion and creativity of our members makes me proud to be a Strathcona.

Perseverance,



*LCol Mallette presenting the  
RSM's Pace Stick to CWO Mills*

*LCol Darryn Gray & CWO Nathan Mills with riders Cpl Brown, Cpl Blanco and Cpl Barrett of SMT, Spruce Meadows*



## Editor-in-Chief

*Major Blake Tapp*

The Strathconian, our way of keeping our extended yet tight Regimental family informed of key events and milestones, has reached its 109th edition. To speak on it personally, during my first posting away from the Regiment I was one who would mock the “outdated” tradition in front of peers, or join in whenever someone would poke fun at how few people actually cared about the Strathconian. Despite all my talking in public, every year around publication time I’d make sure I got my hands on a copy and check out every article, looking for the usual points of interest. What was my old Squadron up to? What mission was the Regiment deploying to now? Whereabouts is **Dave Williams**? Like most, I was deeply disappointed by **Tim McHugh**’s article last year.

Taking up the torch as Editor-in-Chief has been another great experience on returning to the Regiment. It has allowed me to accomplish one thing I’ve done for most of my career, follow in the well-established footsteps of my brother **Maj Ryan Lee**. Being part of putting another chapter in our great Regiment’s history along with getting a first glance at the Regimental family’s stories over this past year has been humbling. Sharing the experience with my right-hand man, **Capt Ali Mansour**, talking article points and deadlines between runs on Range 25 in Wainwright, has added to the list of good times we’ve had together. The tireless work of **Lt Chelsea Stephen** in gathering and editing the excellent article submissions, while completing the long to do lists that inevitably come up, has been another key to success for this year’s publication. When Ali and myself tried to take some of the work from her she refused, saying she “really enjoys editing” ....which either shows great commitment to the task or great ability to hide the truth from us.

Wherever you happen to be when you get your hands on this edition of the Strathconian, I hope you get a chance to kick back for a brief time and have a few laughs or share in a good memory. Keep up the great work and take care of yourselves!

Perseverance,

*Lt Lauterbacher, Lt Olson, Maj Tapp, Sgt Paquette, Capt Hedgegaard, Lt Dorjee, Lt Stephen, Capt Mansour*





# Year in Review

## January – March

**14 Dec 22 – 12 Jun 23** – Op REASSURANCE LTF 23-01 – D Sqn  
**3 Feb – 31 Jul** – Op UNIFIER – Leopard Training Element – Poland – A Sqn  
**28 Feb - 23 Mar** - Ex STEELE LANCE – Wainwright - B Sqn  
**26 Mar – 11 Apr** – Ex STEELE BEAST – Texas – A & D Sqn

## April – June

**24 Apr – 2 May** – Ex REFLEXE RAPIDE – Wainwright – B Sqn  
**2-22 May** - Ex MAPLE RESOLVE – Wainwright - B Sqn  
**29 May – 13 June** – Op LENTUS – Fox Creek – A & D Sqn  
**29 Jun** - Change of Command and Change of Appointment of CoTR and RSM  
**29 Jun** - D Squadron becomes C Squadron  
**29 Jun** - All Ranks Dinner and Dance - Edmonton

## July – September

**7 July** – Calgary Stampede – B Sqn and SMT  
**17 – 25 Aug** - Ex STEELE CARBINE – Wainwright - A Sqn  
**30 Aug** – MOUNTAIN RAM – Edmonton  
**25 – 28 Sep** - Ex STEELE ADVENTURE – Rocky Mountain Cadet Camp - A Sqn  
**27 Sep – 20 Oct** – Ex STEELE SABRE – Wainwright – C Sqn

## October – December

**12 Oct** - Ex COLLABORATIVE SPIRIT – CFB Edmonton - A Sqn & RHQ  
**27 Nov – 1 Dec** - Blackhat week – Edmonton - All Officers & Sr NCOs  
**Nov – Dec** – Tank Squadron to Op REASSURANCE 23-02 – B Sqn  
**4 – 8 Dec** - Ex STEELE RESILIENCE – Edmonton - All Sqs









## Births and Marriages

MCpl Raweson's daughter, Ivy, was born on 10 January.

Capt Carter-Wright's daughter, Maeve Elizabeth, was born on 25 February.

Lt Stephen married 2Lt Caday on 5 March.

Sgt Scott's daughter, Maddison Victoria, was born on 10 March.

Lt Kwok's daughter, Miliko Ren, was born on 21 March.

Sgt Nancarrow's daughter, Shyloh Amber Elora, was born on 18 April.

Sgt Andrews daughter, Veronica, was born on 18 August.

Capt Tsui's daughter, Calithea, was born on 12 October.

Capt Tompsett's daughter, Adeline Charlotte, was born on 29 September.

Cpl Breustedt's son, Max Bruce, was born on 28 November.

LCol Day's daughter, Lilian Elizabeth, was born on 12 December.

Tpr Becklund married Minla Sadasiwan on 21 December.

Lt Olson married Veronika Glesc on 28 December.

## Honours, Awards and Promotions

### Meritorious Service Medal (USA)

LCol Connolly

Maj Boates

Maj Dunn

### General Campaign Star - Expedition

Cpl Legage

### Special Service Medal - Expedition

Capt German

Lt Misner

WO Davidson

WO Bolzan

Sgt Stevenson

Sgt Weir

Sgt Young

MCpl George

MCpl Marshall

Cpl Aberle

Cpl Craig

Cpl Demeulenaere III

Cpl deRuiter

Cpl Fitzpatrick

Cpl Genge

Cpl Gibson

Cpl Graystone

Cpl Headrick

Cpl Kleemaier

Cpl Lagarde

Cpl Lockhart

Cpl Loisselle

Cpl Lutz

Cpl Marcelli

Cpl Nobes

Cpl Raynor-Thomas

Cpl Redcalf

Cpl Ruiz

Cpl A. Smith

Cpl A. Smith

Cpl M.R. Smith

Cpl Tong

Cpl Weekes

Cpl Westecott

### Queen's Platinum Jubilee Medal

Capt Webster

Sgt Dempster

Sgt Giberson

Cpl Blanco

Cpl Irving

Cpl Parratt

Cpl Riley

Cpl Rutledge

### CD

Capt Lewis

Capt MacLean

Sgt Comeau

Sgt Cross

Sgt Goodwin

Sgt McNair

MCpl Lapid

MCpl Lavoie

MCpl Meena

MCpl Ottevanger

MCpl Palmateer  
Cpl Senff  
Cpl Cyr  
Cpl Maendel  
Cpl Kozack  
Cpl Morin

**CD First Clasp**

Sgt Sarraino  
MCpl Buaga

**CD Second Clasp**

MWO Turnell

**National Defence Medal, Silver Echelon  
(French Republic)**

MGen Macaulay

**CDS Commendation**

LCol Quinlan

**Commander 3 Canadian Division  
Commendation**

Maj Elliott  
MCpl Borne

**Joint Task Force - IMPACT  
Commendation**

Capt MacLean

**United States Joint Service Commendation**

Maj Elliott

**Commander Land Forces Mechanized  
Infantry Brigade Commendation**

WO Balfour

**Commander CJOC Coin**

Cpl deRuiter

**Commander 1 CMBG Coin**

MCpl Allard  
MCpl Moore  
MCpl Wiggan  
Cpl Berube  
Cpl Briere  
Cpl Duhaine-Auclair  
Cpl Fortin  
Cpl Lamarre  
Cpl Olaes  
Cpl Purc  
Cpl Purkiss  
Cpl Sylvester  
Cpl Waugh  
Cpl Wesloski

Cpl Yang

**Commander 2 CMBG Coin**

Cpl Frizzell

**Commander 5e GBMC Coin**

MCpl Allard

**Hessin Sword**

Capt Clare

**Macaulay Sword**

Capt Gélinas

**Neatby Pace Stick**

WO Coupal

**Milroy Cross Belt**

Sgt Stevenson

**Ross Gear**

MCpl Palmateer

**Olympic Torch**

MCpl Vanthournout

**Willoughby Memorial Award**

Sgt (Ret) Kruhlak

**Prince of Wales Squadron**

HQ Squadron



*Cpl Vince deRuiter receiving Comd CJOC's coin.*





### Commanding Officer's Coin

PO2 Vivona  
MCpl McGee  
MCpl McKenzie  
MCpl Moore  
MCpl Palmateer  
Cpl Senff  
Mr Stauffer

### Commanding Officer 12 RBC Coin

Cpl Lamarre  
Cpl Purkiss

### Regimental Sergeant Major's Coin

Cpl Aberle  
Cpl Erickson  
Cpl Van Lune  
Tpr Kaufman

### Promotions

Capt Ahenekew  
Capt Mahdi  
Lt Bear  
Lt Dennis  
Lt Gill  
Lt Lee  
Lt Meldrum  
Lt Sellers  
Lt Stephen  
Lt Weisenfeld  
MWO Murdoch  
WO Adby  
WO Young  
Sgt Armstrong  
Sgt Fettes  
Sgt Dobson  
MCpl Chauhan  
MCpl Graystone  
MCpl Lockhart  
MCpl Loiselle  
Cpl Bériau Landry  
Cpl Duncan  
Cpl Friesen  
Cpl Hoveland  
Cpl McLean  
Cpl Palfrey  
Cpl Shortt  
Cpl Sterritt  
Cpl Wesloski  
Tpr(T) Wiest



*LCol Gray and CWO Mills presenting Special Service Medal-Expedition to WO Davidson and Cpl Genge (above).*









# Regimental Roll

## Colonel-in-Chief

His Majesty King Charles III

## Colonel-of-the-Regiment

Col (Ret'd) Cade

## Commanding Officer

LCol Gray

## Regimental Second-in-Command

Maj Hevenor

## Regimental Sergeant Major

CWO Mills

## Adjutant

Capt Danyi

## Commanding Officer's Secretary

Kathy Batty

## Operations Officer

Capt Lewis

## Regimental Headquarters

### Command/Operations Cell

Lt Lee  
Lt Gill  
Lt Meldrum  
WO Churchill  
Sgt McNair  
MCpl St-Onge  
Cpl Barry  
Cpl Gillis  
Cpl Wesley  
Cpl Burton  
Cpl Macquarrie  
Cpl Rayment

### Regimental Orderly Room

WO Coupal  
PO2 Smallwood  
Mcpl Cooper  
Cpl deRuiter  
Cpl Paes  
Cpl Saeed  
Cpl Eckert  
MS Trent

### 60 Troop

Capt Johnson  
WO Talty  
Lt Barton  
MCpl Chauhan  
MCpl Reymers  
MCpl Hamilton  
Cpl Crouse  
Cpl Long  
Cpl Harding

Cpl Deslauriers  
Cpl Dykuizen  
Cpl Solberg-wells  
Cpl Jones  
Cpl Van Dyjk  
Cpl Amorso  
Cpl Fordham  
Cpl Maher  
Cpl Mayer  
Cpl Vienneau  
Tpr Murphy  
Tpr Swan

### Training Cell

Capt Loun  
WO Bell  
WO Davidson  
Sgt Meaney  
Cpl Mancini

### Signals Troop

Capt Stang  
WO Macdonald  
Sgt Owen  
MCpl Liebe  
Cpl Despres  
Cpl Peacher  
Cpl Smith  
Cpl Crozier  
Cpl Toth  
Cpl Westcott  
Pte Tonon

## A Squadron

### Officer Commanding

Maj Lee

### Squadron Sergeant Major

MWO Murphy

### SHQ

Capt Patt  
Sgt Andrews  
MCpl Frew  
Cpl Beck  
Cpl Craig  
Cpl Jankowitz  
Cpl Marcelli  
Cpl Smith  
Cpl Weekes  
Tpr Avison  
Tpr Hunter

### 1st Troop

Lt Snetzko  
WO Bolzan  
MCpl George  
MCpl Tong  
Cpl Lagarde  
Cpl McLeod  
Cpl Nobes  
Tpr Herron-Sampson  
Tpr Shortt  
Tpr March  
Tpr Mendoza  
Tpr Morellato  
Tpr Occleston  
Tpr Rathwell  
Tpr Sutcliffe



## 2nd Troop

Lt Misner  
Sgt Young  
MCpl Dauphinee  
Cpl Demeulenaere III  
Cpl Nolet  
Cpl Sylvester  
Cpl Young  
Tpr Buchanan  
Tpr Dougherty  
Tpr Gibbons  
Tpr Gordon  
Tpr McLeod  
Tpr Nixon  
Tpr Paha Sapa  
Tpr Sugarman

## 3rd Troop

Lt Suresh  
Sgt Comeau  
MCpl Lockhart  
MCpl Meena  
Cpl Bellamy  
Cpl Kelly  
Cpl Smith  
Cpl Sterritt  
Tpr Binegas  
Tpr Heinemann  
Tpr Kojori  
Tpr Nelson  
Tpr Pasternak  
Tpr Sellman  
Tpr Thiessen

## Admin Troop

Capt MacLean  
Lt Bear  
WO Chuback  
MCpl Armstrong  
MCpl Graystone  
MCpl Loiselle  
Cpl Fitzpatrick  
Cpl Headrick  
Cpl Losier  
Cpl Genge  
Cpl Lutz  
Cpl Redcalf  
Cpl Raynor-Thomas  
Cpl Gibson  
Cpl Janzen-White  
Tpr Adams  
Tpr Bergen  
Tpr Fytopoulos  
Tpr Stein  
Tpr Young  
Tpr Baceda  
Tpr Chumak  
Tpr Dandy  
Tpr Thomson  
Tpr Townshed  
Tpr Argiropoulos  
Tpr Bunnett

## B Squadron

### Officer Commanding

Major Shumka

### Squadron Sergeant Major

MWO Hamilton

### SHQ

Capt Hu  
Capt Hmaidan  
Sgt Gross  
Cpl Park  
Cpl Forster

### 1st Troop

Lt Dragatakis  
WO Crowe  
Sgt Grubber  
MCpl Ned  
Cpl Gedge  
Cpl Oliverio  
Cpl Knutsson  
Cpl Van Lune  
MCpl Clauson  
Cpl Trenholm  
Cpl McBroom  
Cpl Wilson  
Pte(B) Leblanc  
Cpl Parsons  
Tpr Janke  
Tpr Januszewski

### 2nd Troop

Lt Ahenakew  
WO Collier  
Sgt Pecarskie  
MCpl McKenzie MJ  
Cpl McDonald  
Cpl Vitone Mossman  
Cpl Rodrigues  
Cpl Cameron  
Tpr Warburton  
Cpl Alegro  
Cpl Erickson  
Cpl Semwal  
Cpl Finch  
Cpl Spence  
Pte(B) Ellis-Hopewell  
Cpl Miller

### 3rd Troop

Lt Dennis  
Sgt Goodwin  
Cpl Vu  
Cpl Breustedt  
Cpl Gamman  
Cpl Taylor  
Cpl Morgan  
Tpr Lanouette

## Admin Troop

Capt Hume  
Lt Munger  
WO McMurtry  
Sgt Nancarrow  
MCpl Allard  
MCpl Crackle-Skulason  
Cpl Kuypers  
MCpl Hogan  
Cpl Lopez  
Cpl Guignard  
Cpl MacNeill  
Cpl Maddison  
Cpl Andrade-Meza  
Cpl Rice  
Cpl Wesloski  
Cpl Steeves  
Cpl West  
Pte(B) Banavage  
Pte(B) Bryson  
Pte(B) Desaulniers  
Pte(B) Frantz  
Pte(B) Jardon Fata  
Pte(B) Kaufman  
Cpl Frere  
S1 Robinson

## C Squadron

### Officer Commanding

Maj Tapp

### Squadron Sergeant Major

MWO Charette

### SHQ

Capt Hedegaard  
Sgt McQueen  
Sgt Dobson  
Cpl Morris  
Cpl Siemens  
Cpl Melnyk  
Tpr Becklund  
Cpl Currie  
Cpl Heath  
Cpl Hutchinson

### 1st Troop

Lt Lauterbacher  
WO McKenzie  
MCpl Wright  
MCpl Braconnier  
Cpl Bakos  
Cpl Plamondon  
Cpl Guilderson  
Cpl Wittman  
Tpr Dockery  
Tpr Wall  
Tpr Webster Varughese  
Tpr Braun  
Cpl Miguel



## 2nd Troop

Lt Olson  
WO Hayes  
MCpl Schemenauer  
Cpl Auvigne  
Cpl Baclayo  
Cpl Engelbrecht  
Cpl Kataquapit  
Cpl Miller  
Tpr Chudy  
Tpr Covacci  
Tpr LaRose  
Tpr Redhead

## 3rd Troop

Lt Dorjee  
WO Popoff  
MCpl Moceton Velasquez  
MCpl Blair  
Cpl Briggs  
Cpl Jackson  
Cpl McIntosh  
Cpl Nixdorf  
Cpl Kim  
Cpl Thomas  
Tpr Cho  
MCpl Cox

## 4th Troop

Capt Tompsett  
Sgt Adby  
Sgt Paquette  
MCpl Friel  
Cpl Mutia  
Cpl Ross  
Cpl Addison  
Cpl Wing  
Cpl Steele  
Cpl McIntyre  
Tpr de Boer  
Tpr Williamson

## Admin Troop

Capt Mansour  
Lt Stephen  
WO Kearns  
MCpl Houde  
MCpl Laperriere  
MCpl Tanner  
MCpl Thibault  
Cpl Corlay-Savard  
Cpl Henderson  
Cpl Johnson  
Cpl Kelcey  
Cpl Mathews  
Cpl Robinson  
Cpl Solverson

Cpl Wharton  
Tpr Bezanson  
Tpr Deagnon  
Tpr Eaton  
Tpr English  
Tpr Gakhar  
Tpr Johnson  
Tpr Kolenosky  
Tpr MacDonald  
Tpr Savard  
Tpr Sexsmith

## HQ Squadron

### Officer Commanding

Major Couture

### Squadron Sergeant Major

MWO Christopoulos

### SHQ/Admin

Capt German  
Capt Delaney  
WO Murdoch  
Sgt Weir  
MCpl Allman  
Cpl Lafond  
Cpl Otolorin  
Cpl Ruiz  
Cpl Li

### Maintenance Troop

Lt Munson  
MWO Turnell  
WO Montreuil  
WO Denvir  
Sgt Veltmeyer  
Sgt Gaudet  
Sgt Giberson  
Sgt Lussier  
Sgt Morning  
Sgt Sarraino  
Sgt Cross  
MCpl Lavoie  
MCpl Morin  
MCpl Buaga  
MCpl Bishop  
MCpl Ottevanger  
MCpl Moore  
MCpl Wiggan  
MCpl Hamilton  
MCpl Boyd  
MCpl Palmateer  
MCpl Parnell  
MCpl Lapid  
MCpl Micyk  
MCpl Bitcon

MCpl Borne  
MCpl Wilson  
MCpl Laurin  
MCpl Bedard  
MCpl Brousseau  
MCpl McGuire  
MCpl Page  
Cpl Smith  
Cpl Cantwell  
Cpl Panzica  
Cpl Irving  
Cpl Lee-Savoury  
Cpl Hoveland  
Cpl Chavez  
Cpl Palfrey  
Cpl Kozack  
Cpl To  
Cpl Fujita  
Cpl Kleemaier  
Cpl Savard  
Cpl Poitras  
Cpl Chaine  
Cpl McNeil  
Cpl Parratt  
Cpl Yoo  
Cpl Webber  
Cpl Fikkert  
Cpl Aberle  
Cpl Leprohon-Deblois  
Cpl Riley  
Cpl Brown  
Cpl Harris  
Cpl Lamarre  
Cpl Burke  
Cpl McLean  
Cpl Purkiss  
Cpl Allen  
Pte Tikkanen  
Tpr Wiest  
Tpr Forget  
Pte(B) Mylymuk

### QM Troop

Capt Lacroix  
MWO Bouillon  
MWO Gratto  
WO Butler  
PO 2 Vivona  
Sgt Dempster  
Sgt Lafleur  
MCpl Tremblay  
MCpl Samuel  
MCpl Ogden  
MCpl Trudel  
MCpl Marshall  
Cpl Bailey  
Cpl McGowan





Cpl Chapman  
Cpl Olaes  
Cpl Duchesne  
Cpl Dinh  
Cpl MacCrimmon  
Cpl Cruickshank  
Cpl Grillone  
Cpl Milwain  
Cpl Luhuang  
Cpl MacDonald  
Cpl Kok  
Cpl Steele  
Cpl Klassen  
Cpl Sullivan  
Pte Petherick  
Pte(B) Manuel

### Regt Support Troop

Capt Webster  
Capt Renouf  
Lt Sellers  
Sgt Giberson  
Sgt Wright  
Cpl Wysocki  
Cpl Clendennin  
Cpl Frizzell  
Cpl Parsons  
Cpl Rutledge  
Cpl Maendel  
Cpl Blanco

### Transport Troop

Lt Mahdi  
WO Patterson  
Sgt Williams  
Sgt Munroe  
Sgt Stephenson  
MCpl Kentfield  
MCpl Maw  
MCpl Kimmell  
Cpl Dickens  
Cpl Lang  
Cpl Edgson  
Cpl Charron  
Cpl Phypers  
Cpl Dykhuizen  
Cpl Schmidt  
Cpl Shulba  
Cpl Clarke  
Cpl Bosa  
Cpl Ducharme  
Cpl Cyr  
Cpl McGrogan  
Cpl Goralchuk  
Cpl Howes

### Strathcona Mounted Troop

Capt McBride  
WO Balfour  
Cpl Taylor  
Cpl Bériau Landry  
Cpl Choquette  
Cpl Annaert-van der Werf  
Cpl Cocker  
Cpl Senff  
Cpl Elliott  
Cpl English  
Cpl LaFleur  
Cpl Morin  
Cpl Gillies-Smith  
Cpl Hodgins  
Cpl Gauthier  
Cpl Byers  
Cpl Duncan  
Cpl Brown  
Cpl Salvador  
Cpl Barrett







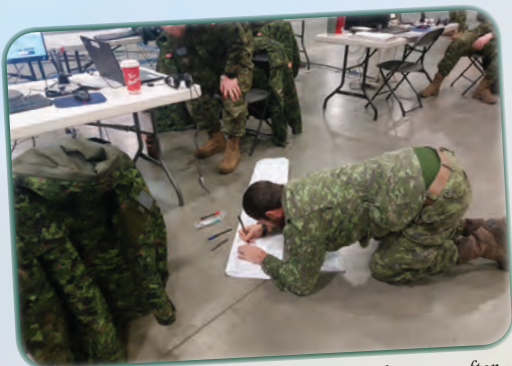
*Cpl "Sportsman" Guignard, Cpl Wilson, Cpl Semwal, Cpl "Knut" Knutsson, Cpl "Oli" Oliverio, punching a gun.*



*Tpr Williamson*







*Cpl Joshua McLeod scrambles to take the trace after receiving a nine-minute warning that they would act as the Troop Alpha on Ex STEELE VIRTUAL*



# The Squadrons



## Regimental Headquarters

*Captain Kai Yan Henry Loun*

Regimental Headquarters (RHQ) must be one of the most diverse squadrons of the Regiment in terms of trades, disciplines, and even branches. RHQ encompasses the Command Team, Training Cell, Operations Cell, Regimental Orderly Room (ROR), and Intelligence Cell; all of which work tirelessly to ensure all squadrons and operations are supported. During the year 2023, RHQ kept itself busy planning, coordinating, and participating in several exercises, operations, and events. RHQ was also met with various changes such as the Change of Command of the Regimental Commanding Officer (CO).

During the early stages of the year, RHQ supported the deployment and redeployment of the members from Op UNIFIER, providing training to Ukrainians on the Leopard 2 tanks in Poland. RHQ found itself busy with the facilitation of overseas deployments for B Squadron (Sqn). As Lord Strathcona's Horse (Royal Canadians) (LdSH(RC)) transitioned into the new Managed Readiness System (MRS), members of the Regiment continued to be tasked as a part of Op REASSURANCE and Op LENTUS. LdSH(RC) was called upon to provide a surge of Sqn minus tanks for Op REASSURANCE in Latvia. Members of the Regiment were also deployed in order to support local emergency services at the wildfires in Fox Creek. RHQ worked effectively from the planning and organization of these deployments to ensuring all members' administrative needs were valid and complete. RHQ worked at full efficiency to ensure each member had what they needed before deploying, and ensured all documents were in good order upon redeployment.



*Soft ball tournament at the unit.*



*Members of RHQ conducting Personal Weapon Test 3 for Individual Battle Task Standards.*

This year saw a huge change in key positions starting with the Change of Command Parade, seeing **LCol Darryn Gray** take over as the new CO of the LdSH(RC) from **LCol Michael Mallette**. Though he will be missed, it appears that **LCol Mallette** is successfully taking on the challenge of his new G3 position at Division Headquarters. This was followed by the change in Appointment of Regimental Sergeant Major from **CWO Robert Englehart** to **CWO Nathaniel Mills**, among other key positions: **Major Nathan Hevenor** as the incoming Regimental 2IC (R2IC), **Captain Sean Danyi** as Adjutant (Adjt), and **Captain Owen Lewis** as the Operations Officer (Ops O).

During the Fall, B Sqn took on the role of providing tanks to support Op REASSURANCE. An operation focused on deterrence and defensive aggression toward opposing forces. The RHQ heavily invested time and effort into all necessary elements for this deployment, including planning, support to all training requirements in order to complete validation, and ensuring all supporting documents (personal administration and work contracts) were completed. With the tank centralization occurring and the reconstitution of C Sqn, RHQ will work



*Capt Brian Talty & WO Liam Talty*





*Soldiers from RHQ practice their skills on the Small Arms Trainer.*

diligently to ensure the regiment remains combat-capable and poised for operations at home and abroad.

In a dynamic display of cooperation and versatility, members of 60, the Regimental Reconnaissance Troop, recently teamed up with 39 Canadian Brigade Group (CBG) for Ex COUGAR SEIGE, a combined arms exercise hosted at Joint Base Lewis-McChord. During this exercise, 60 played a pivotal role by providing invaluable support with Miniature Unmanned Aircraft System (MUAS), while also fulfilling the role of one of the armoured assault troops. In addition to their multifaceted contributions, 60 served as dedicated mentors throughout the exercise, sharing their expertise and enhancing the overall capabilities of the combined force.

Under the leadership of **WO Susan Coupal**, the ROR provided support to every Strathcona with any administrative issues, as well as rectified any outstanding administrative problems of the past. As for the Training Cell, this year they saw a transition from **Capt Richard Delaney** to their new Training Officer (Trg O), **Capt Henry Loun**. With the transformation of D Sqn into C Sqn, the Training Cell has been occupied with ensuring all members were able to complete the courses to get their necessary qualifications. Leading the team, **Capt Stang**, our ever-vigilant Signal Officer, has adeptly handled the influx of new faces. Under his watchful eye, every new member, from **WO MacDonald** to **Pte Tonon**, seamlessly meshed with the unit's ethos. **Sgt Owen**, taking on the role of Sig Tp Sgt, was the bridge between the leadership and the troops, ensuring that everyone, including our fresh members **Cpl Toth** and **Cpl Despres**, were onboarded. With an upcoming deployment to Latvia, the energy within the troop is palpable. Every member, from seasoned vets to the newest recruits, is excited about the opportunities and experiences that Latvia promises.

In conclusion, RHQ is continuing to work efficiently and effectively in planning, organization, and facilitation of Exercises, Operations, and Events. Throughout the year, all members of the team worked to the best of their ability to ensure all members in the Regiment were supported. Though experiencing lot of key positional changes, RHQ continues thrive in this often stressful environment.

*Birthday subbie shenanigans*





## A Squadron

*Lieutenant Mark Snetzko*

2023 gave A Squadron the chance to show its ability to react quickly on the international stage when called upon to lead the Leopard Training Element in Poland as part of Op UNIFIER. Deploying with as little as a week's notice, members of the Squadron had the opportunity to display their trade expertise and instructional aptitude, training several cadres of Ukrainian soldiers on the operation of the Leopard 2 MBT. Due to an operational slow down, A Sqn soldiers were then presented with the opportunity to conduct a truly unique RQ Master Corporal course during their down time led by **Lt Liam Misner**. Upon their return, the members demonstrated their adaptability during a staffing shuffle in the Regiment, displaying their continued ability to excel in a changing environment.

Back home in Edmonton, then AO **Lt Shawn Suresh** showed that the main body of the Squadron being deployed wouldn't hinder our progression here.

Alongside **WO Jesse Bolzan**, freshly returned from the first Op UNIFIER rotation himself, they put together an RQ Master Corporal course of their own, qualifying many eager Corporals from around the Regiment. While small, the CFB Edmonton training area provided excellent conditions to turn most of our Corporals into vehicle extraction experts thanks to rain and hidden mud pits.

Over the summer, the Squadron led the Regiment in the conduct of Individual Battle Task Standards Training under the supervision of **Lt Mark Snetzko** during Ex STEELE CARBINE 1.5. Undeterred by oppressive heat, torrential rain, swarms of insects, and fog restricting vision to under twenty five meters, the Squadron was able to send well over a hundred LdSH(RC) members through personal weapon tests one through three, the FORCE combat test, and all the small arms training simulations needed. **Tpr Ali Kojori** led the charge, receiving a perfect score on PWT 3. A bittersweet turn of events saw the cancellation of the coveted pistol PWT 3 due to the unforeseen distribution of the new C22 pistol.

Ex STEELE ADVENTURE saw the Squadron taking to the mountains to test their ability to thrive in the wilderness and have a little fun doing so. Through mountain biking, hiking, ATVing, rappelling, and paintballing, A Squadron took a much-needed opportunity to cut loose at the Rocky Mountain Cadet Training Centre and build some Squadron cohesion after a major staffing change.

The National Day for Truth and Reconciliation provided many members of A Squadron the opportunity to participate in ceremonies honouring Canada's commitment to repairing relationships with Indigenous peoples and CAF members. **MCpl Phoenix George** and **Cpl Isaac Redcalf** led a smudging ceremony attended by many high-level members of base leadership, doing an excellent job of representing the Defence Indigenous Advisory Group and A Squadron. **MCpl George** was also called upon to carry the Eagle Staff in the Netherlands for a ceremony to honour Indigenous CAF members who fell during the Second World War.



*Members of 1st Troop hop in a TCV en route to a training site in Poland.*



*Cpl Keenan Fitzpatrick gets creative heating up lunch during some down time in Poland*



**Lt Larissa Bear** jumped right into the deep end upon moving into the Squadron in August. With little notice and being brand new to the Regiment, she led the way for LdSH(RC) during Ex COLLABORATIVE SPIRIT, letting local and national business and political leaders get to experience a snapshot of life as a member of A Squadron.

The Fall brought a guarded anticipation as A Squadron was set as the Vanguard Company for IRU taskings. After learning how to kick off looky-loos from locking ORBATs for editing from other bases, the Squadron got their people ready and organized to mobilize in the event of catastrophic weather or other urgent RFAs. Members put in the work to ensure their kit was serviceable and ready on a moment's notice, prepared for the cold and the rain should anything occur in western Canada. Thankfully, the weather cooperated, and A Squadron was able to stay warm and dry throughout the Fall.

Always looking to generate meaningful training opportunities, A Squadron utilized Ex STEELE VIRTUAL to give new members of the Squadron a glimpse of what operations in the field looked like on tanks, and allowed the more experienced members of the Squadron to knock the dust off in preparation for upcoming field training. A lot of buy in from the Squadron got everyone in the right headspace to get maximum effect from the virtual battlespace and take some lessons learned through ones and zeroes in a warm, dry arena instead of the muck and mud of Wainwright.

November saw A Squadron switching gears in the highly anticipated reception of their Leopard 2A4s from the newly reformed C Squadron prior to preparing for winter PCFs and D&M courses. Troops began regular classroom sessions to get members ready to excel when the courses officially kick off.

It was an interesting year for A Squadron to say the least. Our members showed a constant desire to train, learn and assist where needed both at home and abroad. International affairs, ORBAT changes, and the rigors of the virtual battlespace provided constant opportunities for the Squadron to demonstrate its flexibility, adaptability, and, of course, Perseverance.



*MCpl Andrew Dauphinee demonstrates how to extract a stuck ATV.*

*A Squadron poses with Polish and Ukrainian soldiers after a successful course on Op UNIFIER*





## B Squadron (Boer) Big Adventure

*Lieutenant Patrick “the other” Munger*



*Sgt Patrick “History teacher” Grubber processing information.*

There are a couple reasons why 2023 was not a normal year for B Squadron (Sqn): firstly, it’s the first complete year at work since the beginning of COVID and, secondly, by the end of the year, the Sqn deployed to Latvia to become the first sub-unit to deploy tanks overseas since the end of the War in Afghanistan over a decade ago. It is a big honour for us to represent the Canadian Armed Forces, the Armoured Corps and the Regiment. But, in order to make it to Europe, we would need to work up to it, and work we did!

It all started with Exercise (Ex) STEELE LANCE in February, which for those who don’t know, is an extremely cold month in Wainwright, Alberta. For many Troopers like **Justin “J11” Januszewski**, **Dakota “Bubbles” Ellis-Hopewell** and **Xavier “Undercover Franco” Leblanc**, it was a harsh introduction to field time with the Strathcona’s. Though not what we would call an “Ideal Learning Environment”, if one even exists, for the troops to gain some experience and qualifications, but nonetheless, the soldiers persevered and completed the Ex with their fingers and toes mostly intact. With one Ex over, those who thought they were getting a break from field time were horribly wrong as Ex REFLEXE RAPIDE (Level 5 live) was about to start.

From March into April, we found ourselves back in Wainwright where the Sqn had the privilege of working with 5 Brigade during their BUILD. It would be an understatement to say that working in French over the radio was always easy, but despite linguistic challenges, the Sqn blasted through hundreds of tank rounds providing the perfect opportunity for Gunners like **Cpl Cole “Knuttty” Knutson** to show their skills. Yet, still not done with the field, the Sqn moved on to the “Last” iteration of Ex MAPLE RESOLVE in May.

In June, the Sqn headed out for their much-delayed Level 3 Live... yes, we did the Level 5 live first, which gave the opportunity to Troop Leaders like **Capt Ziad “afraid of the Nutty Putty” Hmaidan** to “roll heavy” one last time. This would also be our final moments with our tired, old, and much abused Leopard 2A4s before handing them over to C Sqn in “near pristine condition”. Weeks later, in early July, B Sqn was finally able to trade in Wainwright for Calgary for the Stampede Parade and Spruce Meadows activities.

After a well-deserved summer leave period, the Sqn returned to “THE NEWS”. It was not a rumour anymore; B Sqn would deploy with tanks to Latvia. As we shifted our entire focus to getting ready for it, which included briefings, small-arms ranges, departure administration, more briefings, combat FORCE tests, online courses, more briefings (there



*Freedom being delivered to Europe.*





*The Tpr Ellis-Hopewell method of pot hanging quickly became the standard. With WO Kevin "Big fan of baked goods" Crowe.*

was a lot of briefings), and of course Town Halls with every level of command that likes tanks and tank things. Did we mention there were briefings...

In the final weeks before our embarkation leave, a highly anticipated Sqn gunnery competition, put together by WO Matthew "Hands off my Shred box!!!" Collier, was at the top of everyone's mind. The competition was created to elect the best crew who would subsequently be given the honour of being the first crew to fire a Canadian tank in Europe. It consisted of 4 distinct challenges: a gunnery exam, a PT challenge, a crew skills challenge, and finally a few grueling (simulated) rounds in the Leopard Gunnery Simulation Trainer. Despite the hard work by all, including a crew completely comprised of our ambitious maintainers, callsign 22B was announced as the overall winner: Cpl Rendall Forster (Driver), Cpl Nitesh "Always nice!" Semwal (Gunner), Cpl Matthew "Subawooooo" Kuypers (Loader) and Sgt Matthew "Crewmandius" Pekarskie (Crew Commander).

The funny thing about our work-up to this deployment is that if the plans didn't change a thousand times, they didn't change at all! For example, the movement of tanks

and other support vehicles were delayed many times due to multiple factors including delays that "were not political" and being held at the Ontario-Quebec border for "a reason". Of note there was great concern as the strike for dock workers along the St. Lawrence seaway aligned perfectly while our tanks were being loaded. Fortunately, this had little impact as our local spy, MCpl Emma "Always in Montreal!" Crackle-Skulason and her team assured us that all would be okay. Finally, our departure date was delayed from September to early-October, then mid-October, then end-October, and finally, two-days after our flight was cancelled, we made it out on the 1st of November.

I know that everyone in this Sqn thought at some point that this deployment would be cancelled, but as I am writing these lines from my office on the Adazi Military Base in Latvia, our beloved tanks are here with B Sqn crews preparing them to Deter or Fight, if necessary. Perseverance!



*WO "Salty" Talty, Sgt "Henri Hill" Hank Hill" Gross, Cpl Gedge, Relaxing on Reflex Rapide.*



## C Squadron

### *Lieutenant Chelsea Stephen*



**Cpl Ian** "I'm having a midlife crisis at 22 years old"  
**Jackson** staring straight into an existential crisis.

From left to right: **Cpl Brody** "stop calling me a dragoon" **Auvigne**; **MCpl Dylan** "contact wait out" **Braconnier**; **Tpr Grant** "just because I was a cop doesn't mean I'm a nark" **Becklund**; **MCpl Mitchell** "I'm tired from doing the worm" **Blair**.

On 29 June 2023, C Squadron was once again stood up to revive its long-standing history as a tank squadron. The occasion was marked by a parade that saw now former D Squadron members turn in their pennant, to receive the C Squadron pennant in its place. This was a momentous occasion for all involved, noting that C Squadron had previously been removed from the regimental order of battle in 2012.

Since June, C Squadron has made quick work of transitioning from reconnaissance to a functioning tank squadron. C Squadron's PCF gun camp, held in September, qualified some forty plus students as Leopard 2 crew commanders, gunners, and loaders, with many of those same students going on to successfully complete Level 2 and Level 3 dry and live shoots, both by day and night. **Lt Woestal** "**Monterey Jack**" **Dorjee**

called the experience, "very cash money", while **Lt Jesse** "I don't know what 'wink, wink, nudge, nudge' means" **Olson** likened their live shooting to "the power of a lightsaber".

Wasting no time at all, newly Leopard 2 qualified crews embarked on Ex



**Cpl Aidan** "I have no idea how many rounds are left" **Henderson** protecting his delicate skin from the intense 15 degree Wainwright sun.

STEELE SABRE 23. The exercise provided a chance for troops to practice hide routines, defensive operations, and countermoves. Not only did the exercise introduce the squadron to new skills and knowledge, but it further strengthened the squadron's cohesion and morale. There were free-flowing smiles, cans of Monster, and impressive dance skills. With some additional training time, the squadron was even able to go on to complete some Level 4 training, serving as a good



**Lt Dorjee & Sgt Paquette**

precursor for Ex STEELE BEASTS 24. Our time in Wainwright culminated in an impromptu karaoke party that revealed several boy band hopefuls. The squadron's rendition of Katy Perry's "**Firework**" remains unmatched.

Following the squadron's redeployment to garrison post-Thanksgiving, the squadron shifted its focus to post-exercise drills, preparing the tanks for their handover to A Squadron, and refurbishing the hangar's mezzanine with the help of a LAV 6.0. Perhaps the squadron is so focussed on its forward charge, that we momentarily neglected to consider that, sometimes, we have to move backward and, sometimes, that backward movement also requires coordination.

On Remembrance Day, the squadron represented the Regiment at the Fort Saskatchewan cenotaph. It is





*Lt Stephen, Lt Lauterbacher, Lt Olson,  
Lt Dorjee, Capt Tompsett*

operator qualifications, but also with the ability to act as direct fire instructors on both the Leopard 2 and LAV 6.0 – all of which we know will be particularly useful in the new year as LdSH(RC) continues its focus on high readiness for overseas operations.

Now, for winter leave – a time to rest and recharge, so we can be quick out of the gates in the new year. There is buzzing excitement and anxious anticipation in the air as C Squadron is already preparing to begin our first OP REASSURANCE rotation in the new year.

*Cheez Whiz, Spread Out.*

always both an honour and a privilege to wear the uniform while paying our respects to those who have given their lives in service of Canada, even more so when given the opportunity to be on parade. **Major Blake** “*Big Cheese*” **Tapp** and **MWO Laurent** “*Someone came INSIDE my tent yelling ‘REVEILLE’ so now I’m cancelling it*” **Charette** represented the CAF during the wreath-laying portion of the ceremony. Following the ceremony, the squadron headed into the legion to meet with fellow soldiers, CAF veterans, and members of the local community keen to hear about military life. Afterward, some squadron members made their way to The Canadian Brewhouse to share a toast and celebrate camaraderie.

Through the month of November, the squadron delivered ICGS, LGST, and DFIG courses, granting several members from across the Regiment with not only their simulator



*Loading the Leo 2 for live fire static shoots  
Cpl Wing, Tpr Redhead, WO Adby*



## Headquarters Squadron

*Captain Catherine Lacroix*



*MCpl Lapid guides Cpl Aberle in the ARV to flip track during Ex Steele Sabre 23*

January 2023 saw HQ Sqn operating at full capacity. Major activities included support preparations for B Sqn's upcoming PCF cycle leading into Ex STEELE LANCE 23, ongoing coordination with the US for Ex STEELE BEASTS 23, and the Sqn's continued efforts with prepping the Leo A4Ms for their 'impending' shipment to Latvia for the enhanced Forward Presence (eFP) Battle Group (BG) on Op REASSURANCE. There were still so many unknowns at that time, but those of us in HQ Sqn were doing our best to stay ahead of the curve.

Just when we thought HQ Sqn was at peak support capacity, Canada pledged to donate Leo 2A4s for which 4 Cdn Div sent the initial four tanks out the door in February 2023 and then LdSH(RC) contributed to the second packet with the donations of three tanks in March 2023.

### **Tank Donations**

*Cpl Jamie Chapman*

The Tank Donation Op Order stated "potentially more tanks to follow" so we had prepared for this; we already had several tanks' kit checked for the early phases of shipping completed. What we hadn't prepared for was the continual change to direction, and the problem solving that ensued. No one had really done this before, there was no flowchart to follow, no plan to fall back on; we made it up as we went. That's okay though, we got it done, and we did it right. Seeing that first tank roll onto the plane was a relief, we were finally at plan execution! The next two tanks went without a hitch, if you don't consider 8-12 hour delays for the plane to land a "hitch." After a few long days at the Edmonton International Airport, we had done it!



*Cpl "FAR Master" Charron on EX STEELE LANCE fueling C Sqn's tanks*

It's funny to look back on all the small waves that rocked our ship during this task, such as shackles. 40 tonne shackles with a pin having a diameter of no more than 2 inches, became public enemy number one around QM Troop. MBTs require a much heavier shackle capacity when transported by air. Acquiring these shackles was no small feat, and when we thought we had finally anchored down a supplier, we were sadly wrong. The shackles had a protective rubber coating on their 2 inch pins that threw off the measurements by mere 2 millimetres! We



were so close, yet so far. With **Cpl Danika Duchesne** scouring the local area's shackle market, and **Cpl Robert Demeulenaere III** looting 1 CER's shackle stores, we found shackles! Shackles ultimately became a defining topic for both the TQMS and the QM this year and a shackle themed award could very well be in development for QM Tp/HQ Sqn award. More to follow.

### Maint Sect support to Ex REFLEXE RAPID/MAPLE RESOLVE 23 (Ex RR/MR 23)

*Sgt Paul Cross*

Fresh from March break, **Sgt Paul Cross**, along with his enforcers **MCpl Pierre-Olivier "Remain Flexible" Borne** and **MCpl Ernie "2 Coins" Moore**, deployed to Wainwright with a crew of Maintenance Misfits to support B Sqn and 5 CMBG assets during Ex RR/MR 23.

The techs worked day and night to ensure serviceability of the Leopard 2 MBT fleet as well as the remainder of the Sqn's support vehicles. Our ARV Crew also

donned their superhero capes and provided Repair and Recovery Request (RRR) support to 12 RBC and 5 Svc Bn assets on a few occasions... oddly enough the cry for help only seemed to come at O'Dark stupid!

Vehicle, EO and Weapons Techs worked side by side relentlessly on all tasks to keep up with the demands of the live fire ranges and the on-going training during the exercises. It was not all doom and gloom though, as most of the maintenance team were able to crawl into the turrets and send some rounds down range. Our Veh Techs also had the opportunity to hone their recovery skills with technicians from 5 CMBG as **Sgt Cross** and **MCpl Borne** spearheaded a PD session demonstrating the use of the AHSVS Tractor and Doll Trailer for MBT recovery.



### Calgary Stampede 2023

*Cpl Andrew Bailey*

**Some troops ride horses, others ride choppers!**



"Get to the choppa!" While other members of LdSH(RC) were enjoying the glitz and glam of showing off our armoured vehicles, supporters to their efforts were rewarded with helicopter flights over Calgary! The cooks were all thrilled to get a chance to go up in the air and see the city skyline from an angle that few get to enjoy. People don't have to go to the Stampede Grounds to enjoy the Calgary Stampede either, as many civilians stopped and watched as the CH-146 Griffon from 408 Squadron flew the Canadian flag overhead. The helicopter flew low along the Bow River before circling around the downtown area and over the Calgary Stampede grounds. The winds were high, but that didn't deter the rough riding crew or their eager passengers!

### Final Thoughts

HQ Sqn's continued contributions to LdSH(RC) are of paramount importance to the success of the unit; we were awarded the title of the Prince of Wales Sqn during Moreuil Wood 23.





*The Aftermath of a Ukrainian Collision*



*The Strathconas of Rotos 7 and 8 during their handover.  
L to R: MCpl Philippe Munger, Cpl Tony Spence,  
MCpl Shane Fettes, Capt Carsten MacLean, Sgt Steve Gross.*

# Operations



*BOER Sqn Maintenance*

*Background Photo: Op LENTUS MCpl Shemenauer directs soldiers in building a hose guard in front of advancing flames. Once established, the guard was successful in holding the fire until heavy equipment was able to move in to build a dozer guard, effectively halting the fire's advance.*



# Op LENTUS

## IRU Fox Creek Fires

*Lieutenant Tom Lauterbacher*



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Alberta has been hit particularly hard in 2023 with one of the worst fire seasons on record, causing thousands of civilians to be displaced from their homes, seeking shelter from a firestorm ranging across the province. On 29 May 23, D Sqn LdSH(RC), along with members of A sqn, answered the provincial request for aid. A Company of soldiers was dispatched to the Fox Creek Fires to relieve in place 1 CER and link up with incoming Australian Fire fighters. The early days on the fire saw most platoons recovering equipment such as hoses, water pumps and pump kits. The recovery of such equipment would prove invaluable in the coming weeks as the temperature in the region continued to climb. With the Company's feet firmly established on the ground, platoon leaders created ties with fire fighting units from Australia, BC, and Alberta. These units helped train the soldiers on calling in water drops from helicopters in the area, to setting hose guards, to calling in heavy equipment when times were dire.



*OC D Major Simpson and SSM D WO Murdoch present a painting from LdSH(RC) to the Australian contingent of firefighters. The painting will be displayed in the fire hall back in Australia.*

**Capt Dayne Johnson** and 1 platoon were quick to answer the call when helicopter rides were offered, taking the best opportunities for photo ops while dealing with hot spots on the flanks of the fire. Ground in most areas ranged from swamp to muskeg, to combinations of both, making it extremely difficult at times for crews to traverse the terrain in search of hot spots. Attention from the firefighting leadership changed from fire 23, a mostly contained fire, to fire 27 as fire activity on the lines intensified. Members of 2 platoon under **2Lt Tom Lauterbacher** conducted reces into the southwest corner of the fire, finding active flames not previously known, as well as access routes for fire crews to enter and work on the fire. This region became one of the most active portions of the fire seeing several air assets and heavy equipment moved in to deal with the fire, which had jumped a river to continue its move southwest. As the IRU neared the end of its second week, platoons were encompassed in main fire fighting tasks as the number of boots on the ground totaled almost 40% of the fighting force. Soldiers worked tirelessly to aid firefighters in their attempt to contain the fire, prevent flare ups from jumping fire guards and the fire continuing to grow out of control.

**Lt Mark Snetzko** and members of 3 platoon were dispatched to deal with a region of fire guard where the fire had jumped. Their efforts in the area prevented the fire from continuing a push towards key infrastructure in the area, and inevitably, the town of Fox Creek itself. The efforts of the soldiers on the ground gave firefighters in the area much needed assistance in continuing to contain the fire, making the area safe for civilian work and pattern of life to continue. With days closing in on a return to Edmonton, Soldiers were joined by members of the Australian Arduous Crew for a dinner and photo prior to repatriation home. Soldiers of LdSH(RC) played a crucial role in containing the fires in the Fox Creek area and their efforts were met with appreciation from several members of the local community. As the Company pulled out of the region, rain moved into further aid in keeping the fires at bay. After a much needed time off the soldiers of LdSH(RC) stand ready to once again assist the province if or when they are called.



*1 Platoon with the Australian "Arduous" Crew prior to helicopter insertion into the head of fire 027.*



# Op IMPACT

## Strathconas on Rotos 8, 9, and 10

*Captain Carsten MacLean*



*Majors Blake Tapp and Steve Couture enjoying the Iraqi sun.*

Operation IMPACT, Canada's mentoring, training, and capacity-building mission in the Middle East, includes elements in Kuwait, Iraq, Qatar, Bahrain, Jordan, and Lebanon. In November 2022, the Regiment handed over responsibility as the Lead Mounting Unit for Operation IMPACT to 1 Combat Engineer Regiment. Despite this, the Regiment continued to be well represented in the Middle East throughout 2023. Operation IMPACT Roto 8, which spanned from November 2022 to May 2023, featured members of the Regiment in Kuwait, Iraq, Jordan, and Lebanon, while Rotos 9 and 10, which span from May to November 2023 and November 2023 to May 2024 respectively, includes Strathconas in Iraq and Lebanon.

Members of the Regiment were employed in all manner of roles in the Middle East this year, ranging from **Capt Kai Keewatin's** jet-setting lifestyle as the Executive Assistant to the Task Force Commander, to **Captain Leon Van Heerden** and **Corporal Colby Smith**, who supported coalition air lift in the region by working with the 443d Air Expeditionary Squadron (US). During Roto 8, **Majors Blake Tapp** and **Steve Couture** represented Canada as planners embedded in

Operation INHERENT RESOLVE, supporting the ongoing fight against Daesh. For Rotos 9 and 10, **Col Errol MacEachern** served as the Director of Strategic Communications for that mission.

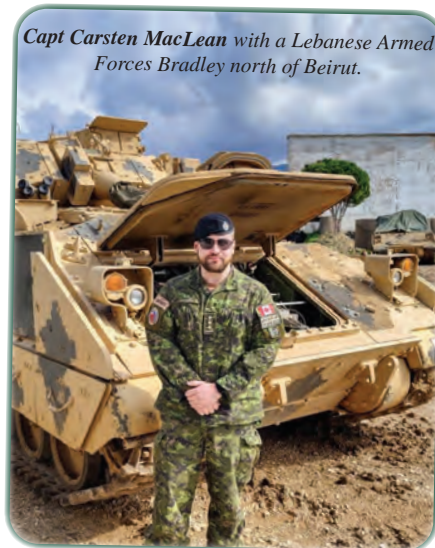
Canada maintains capacity building teams in both Jordan and Lebanon, focussing on mentoring, developing, and professionally developing the host nation militaries. The Regiment was well-represented in each of these teams this year. On Roto 8, **MWO Michael Gratto** served directly with the Canadian Training and Assistance Team (CTAT) – Jordan capacity building section, focussing largely on mentoring students at the Jordanian NCO Academy, supporting the Female Engagement Team in their goal to provide basic skills to female Jordanian soldiers, and developing the capabilities of the Jordanian Quick Reaction Force Battalions. In Lebanon, **Capt Carsten MacLean** acted as the Roto 8 Deputy Commanding Officer/Operations Officer and **MWO Ben Holmes** as the Roto 9 and 10 Sergeant-Major. Both were focused on supporting the CTAT – Lebanon Mentoring and Training Teams – which provided surge capability to deliver training on winter conditions, mountainous terrain, sustainment, civil-military

cooperation, combat first aid, and explosive ordnance disposal skills.



*Cpl Addison (Right) and Cpl Steele (Left) learn how to work the Fire-Truck from an American Fire-Fighter (Kuwait)*

*Capt Carsten MacLean with a Lebanese Armed Forces Bradley north of Beirut.*



While this year may have only seen a small team of Strathconas deployed to the Middle East, their tireless work upholds the standard expected of members of the Regiment while contributing to Canada's ability to support and develop its allies in the region. **Col MacEachern** and **MWO Holmes** hold the banner for the Regiment in the Middle East as we move into 2024. Perseverance.



# Op UNIFIER

*Captain Phil German*



*Cpl Gibson celebrates his birthday in Poland.*

Entering 2023, the Strathcona commitment to Op UNIFIER consisted of **Capt Ekam** “3VP OC” **Uppal**, one FIN Clerk, and a troop of demo staff augmenting the basic training of Ukrainian soldiers Canada led in the United Kingdom. That commitment changed on 26 January, when Canada announced it would be donating four Leopard 2 A4 main battle tanks to Ukraine, which would be followed by four more in February. In order for the Ukrainians to use the tanks effectively, someone was going to have to teach them; that task fell to LdSH(RC) forming the first Leopard Training Element (LTE).

Between 4-12 February, over twenty Strathconas made their way to Poland, settling into the “scenic” town of Świętoszów, in which the Leopard Training Center of Polish Armed Forces is located. Alongside the Norwegian training contingent, the three partner nations set to work simultaneously planning and executing a 30-day Leopard 2 zero-to-

hero course. Led into battle by **Capt Brittney** “Tank Stuff” **Shki-Giizis** and **WO Colin** “Chicken Whisperer” **Davidson**, the LTE took the lead in developing the plan for entire training mission.

With the overall motto of “iz fine”, the LTE directly trained over 14 crews on the Leopard 2 platform between two serials, provided instruction to all Ukrainian crews in specialized areas, translated aid-memoires, and much more. Key contributions were provided by **WO Jesse** “These Guys are Studs” **Bolzan**, **Sgt Jeff** “Iz NOT Fine” **Stevenson**, and **MCpl Sean** “I Flew with Protein Powder” **Armstrong**. Working ten hours a day, six days a week, R&R was taken on the margins and included trips to Prague and Berlin.

Other than a few personnel, the LTE rotated all instructors by 24 April. With the Ukrainians sensing the LTE was now under the leadership of **Capt Philip** “Prague Driver” **German**, no new crews were sent to be trained. Necessitating a quick pivot, **Lt Liam** “Three Knife Minimum” **Misner**, **Sgt Dave Young**, and **Sgt Mark** “The Standard is the Standard” **Weir** instructed a RQ MCpl course overseas using Polish tanks.

Of course, the mission would have been impossible without the supporters attached to the training team. CAF and civilian linguists, members of RCACS, Op UNIFIER HQ in Warsaw, and all other support personnel were critical to mission success.

All in all, Op UNIFIER Rotos 14/15 proved that no matter the obstacles, Strathconas will always perform when it matters most. With the world watching, LdSH(RC) was able to influence international events through a combination of flexibility, professionalism, and perseverance.



*WO Davidson being  
WO Davidson in Poland.*

*The CDS, Gen Eyre addressing the LTE. Seated  
Front Row: R to L Cpl Fitzpatrick, Cpl Brown, Sgt Stevenson, MCpl Marshall, MCpl Moceton-Velasquez  
Standing middle: Capt German*





## Op REASSURANCE

### A Tour of Firsts

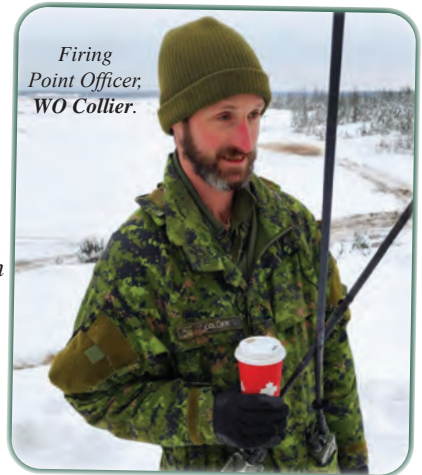
*Captain Tom “here for a good (third) time” Hume*

After what felt like an eternity of being “flexible”, B Squadron finally made it to Latvia. Initially sans Tanks, the squadron arrived with a new name, “BOER”, as well as reasonable lodgings in the section of Adazi Military Base (AMB) where they keep the “riff raff”.

The first week was relatively easy and included the zeroing of personal weapons under unsullied Range Safety Officer **Lt Nik “poppintrackis” Dragatakis**, multiple “recces” to Mario’s Pizza, and saw final preparations of our “stables”. All the while, under **MWO James “just an observation” Hamilton** and, some would say, despite **Sgt Steve “forget everything the Sergeant-Major just said” Gross** making public yet oblivious attempts at subversion.

In the early morning of 10 November 2023, the Dutch cargo ship “Oranjeborg” commanded by **Captain Jan-Willem DE VRIES**, docked at the Baltic Container Terminal (BCT) in Riga, Latvia. At that moment, BOER Squadron finally had vehicles and blossomed back into “Tankers”. We were no longer just an “admin burden” to the current Roto... we were now an admin burden with a huge logistical “pull”! To facilitate the contracted transportation of our 54 vehicles and 69 sea cans of kit, we split into two teams with elements of First and Admin Troops conducting the offload from the ship and subsequent loading onto trucks at BCT, while elements of Second and the other half of Admin Troop offloaded the trucks on arrival at AMB. With the BCT alive with reflective vests and hard hats, many of which were external “support”, the first monstrosity, whoops... up-armoured ARV (CFR 72326), driven by **Cpl Chase “ARVin’s easy” Brown**, rolled off the ship marking the beginning of a long day. Minutes later, **WO Kevin “what’s a sock dog” Crowe** called for a Tank Driver, but before any of the Drivers could react, a Gunner, **Cpl Raymond “if yer not first yer last” Gedge** dashed to the front to mount and drive the first Canadian Leopard (CFR 72296) to set track on Latvian soil. As the remainder of the tanks and support vehicles rolled off the ship, some were already loaded on tractor trailers and slowly began making their way through Riga’s rush hour traffic to AMB. Patiently waiting for their arrival was a cargo van full of smuggled troops under the watchful eye of **WO Matthew “Matty” Collier** with **Cpl Ryan “Matty in training” Macdonald**, who became the first to drive a Canadian Leopard (CFR 72324) off a truck to its new home in the motor pool. 22-hours straight later, and well ahead of schedule, fueled largely by the mass consumption of Circle K “sock dogs”, BOER Squadron was finally “home”.

*Cpl Macdonald off-loading the first tank in AMB*







*Snow Peri  
Cpl Hoveland*

With working conditions that brought back memories of Ex STEELE LANCE, BOER Squadron soldiers were once again bonded through the trauma of filling tanks with jerry cans in the rain and snow while they conducted initial inspections on their new callsigns. **WO Billy** “*conflict resolution*” **Montreuil** and Maintenance Troop tackled F2 inspections while simultaneously irritating theatre support elements with constant requests for... well... “support”. For SHQ, Squadron Ops fought a daily battle of DeJa’Vu in making requests for light stands and renegotiating range bookings. Despite what seemed like a fight for every inch of progress, to include Admin Troop helping unpack and count off of those sea cans, in just three-short-weeks the squadron had resurrected two ARVs and eight out of 15 tanks, and were ready

for zeroing. One week out from the range we even had two “confirmed” range days. As the cap stone event for our brief, but very busy deploy/TAV-ment, **Capt Ziad** “*Teslik*” **Hmaidan** and **WO Matthew** “*smokes and coffee*” **Collier** prepared for the zeroing range that only weeks ago seemed impossible.

On the chilly morning of 7 December 2023, BOER Squadron rumbled out of the AMB gates through the forest lined tracks in the Adazi Training Area (ATA) to Range C2 where a small crowd gathered with anticipation for the historic moment. The first two Leopards bombed up and took up positions on the firing line. As they had brand new barrels, it would be Maintenance Troop who would get to fire (remote) the first round. With the RCEME flag flying and after one brief dance party, spirits were high as **Cpl Aaron** “*Happy Face*” **Hoveland** pressed the button and sent the first Canadian 120mm round downrange. Hot off their win of our squadron’s gunnery competition prior to deploying, now it was callsign 22B’s turn to be the first crew to fire. Commanded by **Sgt Matthew** “*Monsters for breakfast*” **Pecarskie**, the crew of 22B mounted CFR 72327 to become the first Canadian crew to fire a round in Latvia. Over the next two days, BOER Squadron zeroed seven more tanks and ensured that every crew had a chance to take part in the fun.

As this first chapter of the Regiment’s new persistent presence in Latvia ended, we look back at what became a deployment of many “Firsts”. From the first soldiers to drive, the first to shoot, and the first to command a Canadian Tank in Latvia, to our first “sock dogs”, and the first to smash a fume extractor off a power pole... (thanks **Capt Leah** “*did I do that?*” **Ahenakew**), the hard work and perseverance of **BOER Squadron** will surely be remembered for a long time to come.

*L to R: Top Row: Tpr J-II, Cpl Gedge, Cpl Mc Broom.*

*Bottom Row: Capt Hume, MCpl Ned, Tpr LeBlanc, Cpl Janke, Cpl West, Cpl Trenholm, Cpl Van Lune, Cpl MacNeil, Cpl Kuypers, Cpl Parsons, WO Crowe.*





## The Story of Delays, The Boat Edition

*“The Boat People” Corporals Gavin Erickson, Tim Miller,  
and Master Corporal Emma Crackle-Skulason.*

The orders came down, Canadian tanks were going to Latvia. After months in quarantine under A Squadron (Sqn), in the summer the Leopard 2A4M's and support vehicles began being shipped to Montreal. While the tanks took a quick month-long vacation at the Herb Vankleek Truck Stop waiting for permits to enter Quebec, in August the tanks finally arrived in Montreal and the ocean preservation work began. With the help of B and Headquarters Sqn personnel that work was all wrapped up by the middle of September just as B Sqn started to conduct final pre-deployment preparations. Then... once again, delays! This time the big questions were: when do the tanks leave to go on the ship, and has the ship even been contracted?

After weeks of being on- and off-the-boat (literally), the tank escort crew departed for Montreal mid-October. There we met up with a two-person maintenance team from 1 Service Battalion (1 Svc Bn) and we were finally ready to send all the vehicles to the Port of Becancour (Trois-Riviere, QC). There we loaded the ship with 15 Leopard 2A4Ms, two Leopard 2 Armoured Recovery Vehicles and 37 total support vehicles and trailers. The first day started with great success as **MCpl Blake Wills** (1 Svc Bn) and **Cpl Gavin “Globetrotter” Erickson** had some navigation issues which took them sighting seeing for 40-minutes past the port, but on the way back they were able to conducted a Route Recce to Quebec City, with their total round-trip time being four-hours instead of two. Overall, the rest of the task went well, despite vehicles that didn't want to start, putting trailers on trailers, swapping hotels mid-task, and putting tanks onto trailers with only a third of the inside track pads holding on.

A little over a week later came loading day, 25 October, and in true Strathcona fashion, it rained. We started by backing in all of the wheeled vehicles and ended by the backing in all of the tanks; we had a system... **MCpl Ben Dulong** (1 Svc Bn) would boost the tanks and **MCpl Blake Wills** and **Cpl Tim “Think About IT” Miller** would drive the tanks while **Cpl Gavin Erickson** and **MCpl Emma “I swear it is impossible for me to frown” Crackle-Skulason** would guide them onto the ship. This was delicate work, with some tanks being only centimeters apart, but by 20:00 hours that night, the cargo was loaded, and we were ready to depart.

On departure day, we arrived at the contracted ship called **Oranjeborg** and the crew quickly showed us our rooms, gave a safety demonstration, and then it was lunch time. Moving out to the deck we decided it was time to say goodbye to Canada for a few months, or so we thought as we quickly realized that it takes five-days to hit the open ocean. Bets were placed on who would get seasick first, but surprisingly our intestinal *perseverance* defended us from the rocking and rolling of the waves. Time passed... slowly, but entertainment was to be had with the ship's crew touring the tanks and providing us with a tour of the ship's engine room in return (we can confirm the ships engine is bigger). After 15-days at sea we finally saw the Riga port with some members of the Sqn there to greet us. It was nice to be on land again, and don't worry, there's no chance of a transfer to the navy anytime soon.







*Photos*

*Cpl Miller and Cpl Erickson waiting to load the first leopard onto the boat.*

*Cpl Miller, MCpl Crackle-Skulason, Cpl Erickson receiving a tour of the boat engine room from 2nd Engineer Michaud.*

*Boat is fully loaded*

*Pictured top row left to right: Cpl Gavin Erickson, Cpl Tim Miller, MCpl Blake Wills, MCpl Ben DuLong, MCpl Emma Crackle-Skulason*

*Bottom row: from Left to Right: Cpl William Gingras, Capt Emma Owen, Cpl Danny Vandal, MCpl Renaud Fortin, Sgt Jean-Sebastien Lapalme-Robitaille.*

*Cpl Erickson, Cpl Miller, MCpl Crackle-Skulason 10 minutes before the departure in Montreal.*







## Op CALUMET IN THE SERVICE OF PEACE

*Corporals Tyler Wesley, Trent Burton and Master Corporal John Williams*

Soldiers from the Sqn formerly known as D Sqn were deployed for 7 months to the Sinai Desert in Egypt as part of Task Force El Gorah, working with other trades of the CAF. The Multinational Force & Observers (MFO) is a diverse organization located in the city of Sharm El- Sheikh for the past 43 years. The base has 13 nations which include the US, Fiji, Japan, Italy, Columbia, and other commonwealth nations.



**Cpls Trent “Slime” Burton and Tyler “Pat Tate” Wesley** were deployed as Raid Camera Operators. They were tasked with the observation of three different camera sites to observe, verify and report any suspicious activities or vehicles in the AO. This was to ensure that the treaty between Israel and Egypt was kept. They also took part in Canadian ranges as well as participating weekly in the multinational ball hockey league and duty tours to Cairo and Mount Sinai.



**MCpl John “Liquor Gremlin” Williams** was deployed as the Raid Camera Operator IC. He responsible for the day-to-day activities and scheduling for the CamOps section. He also helped run ranges for the Canadian Contingent and was also the team leader for the fitness competition in which the Canadian team placed 3rd.





*Lt Woestal "Big Texas" Dorjee,  
Capt Patrick "Too Slow" Braszak, and  
Lt Liam "Space Drip" Misner adorned in their  
NASA drip and ranger attire.*



*Tpr D'andre "Sauga Mans" Webster Varughese  
and Tpr Jaxon "I Only Listen To Country" Williamson  
leading officers into the Gulf of Mexico.*



# Training





## Ex STEELE BEASTS

*Captain Patrick Braszak & Lieutenant Woestal Dorjee*

After a three-year break, members from Lord Strathcona's Horse (Royal Canadians) embraced a welcome escape from Edmonton's chilly February climate, returning to Texas for Exercise STEELE BEASTS (Ex SB) 23. There, Troop Leaders **Lt Liam "Space Drip" Misner**, **Capt Patrick "Too Slow" Braszak**, and **Lt Ryan "On Duty" Tompsett** valiantly led their troops against the virtual enemy hordes, marking their return to action. But, before their traces, crews needed to acquaint themselves with new platforms.

A Squadron swiftly adapted to the Abrams, while D Squadron eagerly seized the chance to maneuver Bradleys. Impressively, despite over half the crews being filled by unqualified armoured members and supporters, each crew earned readiness for tactical training in just two days of virtual ranges, accredited by 49, **Capt Bryce "Righteous Cowboy Lightning" Simpson**.



*Tpr Joseph "Where's My Dad?" Mendoza forms a crawfish-eating squat circle*



*Cpl Colten "Iron Gut" Siemens enjoying a cigar in the midst of his Oyster hunt.*

However, not everything proceeded flawlessly; troops encountered impassable bridges, tricky terrain, and technical challenges. Yet, 49B, **Capt Ali "Hot Mike" Mansour**, orchestrated order amid chaos, successfully validating all troops despite the hurdles.

Each troop showcased their skills in enabling, offensive, and defence operations against the enemy. However, one crew outshined the rest by receiving the Top Gun award which recognized the exceptional performance of **WO Curtis "Beer O'clock" Romkey**, **MCpl Joshua "Hydro Homie" Rourke**, **MCpl Willem "Toronto Time" Evers**, and **Cpl Riley "High Speed" Reynolds-Tack**. After the validation of the squadron, the command team took advantage of their time with the simulators

*Members of the Regiment proudly wave the Strathcona flag at the NASA Space Center Houston.*







by putting the crews through more dynamic scenarios. Dividing the squadron in half the two factions engaged in force-on-force combat. The opportunity was also taken to allow members of the crew to act in each other's positions, providing them with an understanding of the struggles each crew member faces.

Beyond the training, the Strathconas explored and supported local communities, enjoying the winding river and inviting patios of San Antonio, indulging in a state-wide barbecue festival in Austin, and visiting NASA in Houston while diving into the warm Gulf of

Mexico waters. During these cultural experiences, the members of the Regiment were able to bond and learn from each other. However, some lessons we could have done without, such as **Cpl Colten "Iron Gut" Siemens** teaching us how to improperly consume raw oysters from the rivers of Texas.

Overall, Ex SB '23 unfolded seamlessly, with credit due to the leadership of **Capt Mike "Ops Life" Forestell**, the logistical magic of **Capt Catherine "Undercover Armoured Soldier" Lacroix**, and the rest of the EXCON team. Gratitude extends to all the Close Combat Tactical Trainer (CCTT) staff and 4th "Longknife" Squadron, 3rd Cavalry Regiment. Until next time, here's to Perseverance and the Spirit of the West!



*Capt Bryce "Righteous Cowboy Lightning" Simpson  
baffled by the size of  
WO Derrick "I Hate Bodypillows" Murdoch's choice of drink*

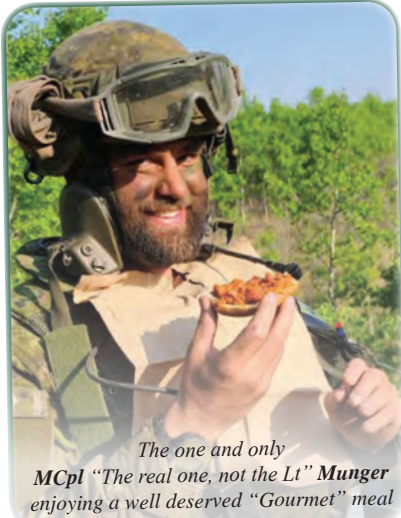
*Officers and NCMs alike enjoy the authentic Mexican cuisine in the San Antonio Historic Market Square*





## Ex REFLEX RAPIDE/MAPLE RESOLVE

*Captain Ziad Hmaidan & Sergeant Steven Gross*

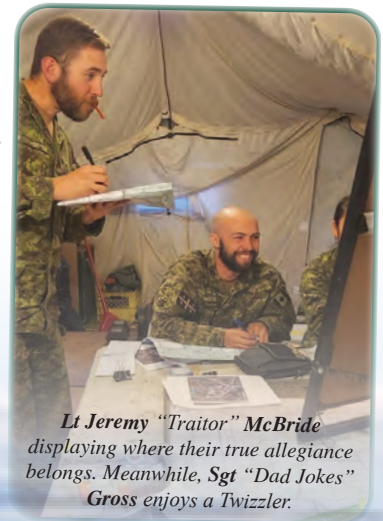


*The one and only  
MCpl "The real one, not the Lt" Munger  
enjoying a well deserved "Gourmet" meal*

Fresh off the heels of Exercise (Ex) STEELE LANCE, B Squadron (Sqn) barely had time for the diesel to evaporate off their coveralls before redeploying to Wainwright for Ex REFLEX RAPIDE and MAPLE RESOLVE.

After operating in -30 degree weather and living out of arctic tents for (what seemed like) months, the warmer weather and thawing of the ground was a welcome sight. Everyone was excited to finally discover what temperature the new sleeping bags were rated to and turns out, it is +30. Upon returning to their favorite home-away-from-home, B Sqn set-up the finest encampment fit for a Strathcona in a perfect cellular dead zone just outside of Rocky Ford. **MCpl Mitch** "I don't know what an echelon is, but it makes the Sergeant Major very angry" **McKenzie** would lead raiding parties to the 5 Brigade camp located at P-12, under the guise of "signing for more camp supplies". Soldiers returning from these raids told tales of the Utopia that was P-12: ample Starlink internet, multiple toasters, and POUTINE TRUCKS! B Sqn's Tankers who ventured across Red Route to the 12e Régiment Blindé du Canada (12 RBC) camp in Rocky Ford for link-ups

would frequently get funny looks from their counterparts, who would look down their freshly showered noses with disdain at the filthy Tankers. Despite unbalanced living conditions, the *perseverance* of the B Sqn soldiers day in and day out, ensured the effective operation of the never-ending rotation of Combat Teams. As we provided support from fire bases and rained down 120mm rounds onto multiple objectives, the Sqn once provided 28-minutes of persistent direct fire support as the explosive breaches failed, then failed again, adding what felt like an eternity of delays in a single attack. Tank serviceability issues were ever present, but that did not stop the Sqn from constantly improvising, adapting, and overcoming by enacting everyone's favourite concept: REMAINING FLEXIBLE. Regardless of all the hiccups, B Sqn ended Ex REFLEX RAPIDE having gained valuable experience working within a combined arms context in multiple languages.

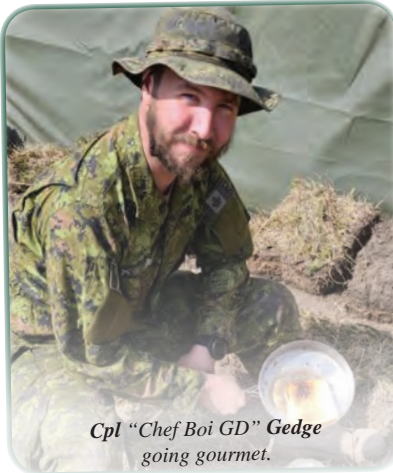


*Lt Jeremy "Traitor" McBride  
displaying where their true allegiance  
belongs. Meanwhile, Sgt "Dad Jokes"  
Gross enjoys a Twizzler.*



*"Windwright"  
Strikes again.*





*Cpl “Chef Boi GD” Gedge  
going gourmet.*

Transitioning to Ex MAPLE RESOLVE meant the focus was shifted towards a deliberate maintenance surge. Our soldiers were in a state of culture shock as they adjusted to the big city life at P-12 with **Lt Nicholas “Poutine Connoisseur” Dragatakis** – “DRAAAAAAGGGGGGAAATTTAAAKIIIIIS” for short – frequently reminding of us what a “real” Quebec poutine entails. Our 1 CMBG brains could barely comprehend a world of ample mozzies, poutine, chicken wings and no limit-beer canteens... 5 CMBG style. **Cpl Mark “Fish-Flops” Parsons** and friends offered to show some curious Americans a Leopard 2 in exchange for a Stinger, increasing the Sqn’s Air Defence capabilities by 100%. It wasn’t all fun and games though as the Sqn’s tempo slowly ramped up in preparation for the impending war. Soldiers were camouflaging their vehicles, ensuring their Weapons Effects System (WES – i.e. expensive laser tag) gear was functioning, and cramming mozzies anywhere they’d fit inside a turret. Before we knew it, alarms

were sounding across the camp to signal the arrival of the fearsome Donovan Army and to signal the Sqn’s turn to...wait. Visions of poutine tents quickly faded to a distant memory as the Sqn embraced the Tanker lifestyle and set up to DELAY the advancing enemy, surviving on nothing but hate, caffeine, and nicotine. Long days turned to nights full of harassment from enemy air assets and special forces which amplified the experience and gave soldiers a brief glimpse of the chaos of war. Vehicle identification was a challenge as smoke filled the Wainwright air, at points with less than 100m visibility, from nearby Alberta wildfires making it even more difficult to identify friendly forces from the enemy. Even some of the Sqn’s most dedicated AFV nerds had difficulty differentiating between a Coyote covered in burlap (enemy) and a Coyote covered in a different kind of burlap (friendly). **Cpl Cole “Knatty” Knutsson** may or may not be the Sqn’s first Gunner with a sort-of confirmed kill on an annoying helicopter-ish thing dropping off SOF in the dead of night, but as the Gunner for callsign 29 it is unlikely. Impromptu barbecues occurred courtesy of Sqn canteen, including everyone’s favourite “Glizzy Slingers”: **Cpls Ben Hogan** and **Josh Dingman** who kept Sqn morale level. After what seemed like an eternity of DELAY, the Sqn moved into COUNTER-MOVES in the Brigade’s Main Defensive Area where the greater threat shifted to the sun and its unrelenting heat. **WO Kevin “Drone Spotter” Crowe** and **Lt Jeremy “Headlights” McBride** fought a glorious battle, but sadly were no match for the minefields, invisible tank ditches, and endless respawning waves of enemy. After some rather curious “Tactical Pauses” for “reasons other than the Brigade’s total destruction”, the Sqn ADVANCED TO CONTACT, which lead to a tank knife fight in the woods and not getting lost in the bad lands. At END-EX the smoke was now so thick no one could see a thing.

In the end, B Sqn proved we are ready and capable of thriving in all conditions from -127 to +72 degrees Celsius and we can proudly say we survived the “last” MAPLE RESOLVE.



## Ex STEELE LANCE

*Captain Leah Ahenakew*

Beginning in late February, with a Leopard 2 gun camp for both Gunner and Crew Commander Courses there was a small issue, we only had two working tanks! Squadron (Sqn) Gunnery Warrant Officer, **Sgt Andrew “Frostbilly” Goodwin** struggled against the wind and snow to keep candidates sending 120mm rounds downrange, but with the help of his trusty skidoo he managed to “get er done”. With newly qualified turret crews ready, the next step was to finish the field portion of the Leopard 2 Driver’s Course. The 24/7 efforts of **Sgt Barry “Bad News” Gaudet** and his team paid off and we now had 2-3 working tanks, allowing drivers to get their required driving time in only twice as much time as originally planned (with the help of some creative “night driving”). Although soaked in diesel from many, many, jerry cans and no thanks to the many dead Forward Area Refuelers in the Sqn graveyard (maintenance area) all the new drivers were now fully qualified. With the “easy” portion of the exercise complete it was time for a transition from shack life to our new home at Range 25.

*Cpl Oliverio enjoying their day in the snow. With the former Squadron Quartermaster WO Kentfield looking on.*



*Cpl Steeves starting a fire during winter survival training.*

It’s said that cold shock therapy is good for you... but tell that to the troops after their first night out in arctic tents with the new issued sleeping bags. On F(Freeze)-Day, the impact was realized with some soldiers relaying outer-body experiences and others attempting to blend in with the duffle bags in the heated kit tent. All that said, if you ask **Sgt Steve “forgot to exchange my sleeping bags” Gross**, everything was fine, so with frosty toes we kicked off the level 2 (crew) day and night live ranges. Concurrent to the distant but sporadic booms of our Leopard 2s, the remainder of the squadron received winter survival training under the direction of **MCpl Chris “that’s not a knife” Allard** with some soldiers showing more aptitude for living outside than others.

With the live fire portion complete, it was time for the 3 formed Troops as well as the ad hoc 4th Troop to shake out and practice Offensive and Defensive operations. The already irritated Alphas in their temporary tanks chasing the worst enemy element ever on small skidoos in -30 weather was a sight to see.

Other than fighting with vehicles to do vehicle things, there were moments when morale peaked, like when **MCpl Mitch “Chaz” McKenzie** established a hot new local café: “The Next Tent Over” just in time for us to exfiltrate from the training area before range control could find all the spilled diesel.

Special shout out to the issued parkas for lifting us up when the newly issued sleeping bags violently let us down.





# Ex STEELE SABRE

*Lieutenant Jesse Olson*



*Cpl Kim and Tpr Cho supporting the field kitchen on Ex STEELE SABRE*

Ex STEELE SABRE 2023 was the inaugural C Squadron Troop and Squadron minus training exercise following the titanic switch from D Sqn. Beginning the 5th of September until the 23rd of October the exercise began following the early September gun camp and consisted of both day and night, dry and live fire level 1, 2, and 3 ranges. With an additional 72-hour troop defensive exercise immediately following the level 3s having the intent to perform countermoves on a Donovanian offensive and send them fleeing back across the International Boundary.

The leadership of C Sqn intended to expertly train their troops in preparation for Ex STEELE BEASTS 2024 in Texas and, most importantly, qualify them for their deployment to Latvia in June 2024.

As a direct consequence of expert planning and time management by **Captain Nicolas “Happy-Days” Hedegaard** and **2IC Captain Ali “Back in my day we went 500 metres into the wood line for a hide” Mansour** the Sqn found themselves with extra time to kill before the actual, planned, END EX. CO LdSH(RC), **LCol Darryn “I sprinted the entire 55 km Mountain Ram Race in 4 hours” Gray**, strongly suggested to Major **Blake “I’m taller and therefore better than you” Tapp** to run the Sqn through several level 4 traces.

By the end of Ex STEELE SABRE, the C Sqn leadership had qualified a total of 49 gunners, loaders, and crew commanders up to level 3 live night and day, level 4 dry, and a 72-hour troop exercise “in the box”. Many of us had never crew commanded in a tank before this Ex, especially at night.

To state, “C sqn developed their troops from zeros to heros” during Ex STEELE SABRE is an understatement. Every trooper, driver, gunner, loader, commander and troop leader became an exponentially better soldier, and infinitely better at their job.



*32 Following a successful Ex. STEELE SABRE. Honourable mention to Jared, “guys is my helmet on straight?” Wharton.*





The deployment to CFB Wainwright, immediately following a relaxing Labour Day long weekend, began with a very sweaty bus ride due to the heater in the bus being broken and stuck on full blast despite being turned off. Little did I know of the foreshadowing this steam-room, sauna bus ride was to be of the 57-degree diesel heaters that would pump fire into our troop tents at night. However, when we arrived at Range 16, Admin Troop had wonderfully set up camp a short 2-minute walk down the hill from the MKT which overlooked the firing pad and range. Our Range 16 set up, according to **Sgt Rory** *"my back hurts do I have to do this?"*

**Adby** was infinitely better than the previous year's range when "austerity" had been the squadron's focus and the camp was set up several kilometres away in Centurion Field. Crews were, immediately, tasked with retrieving tanks from the railhead at CFB Wainwright and preparing them to begin static level one day shoots.

Firing the main armament for the first time was incredible. The consequences of fire you do not feel, hear, see, smell, or taste while practicing in the simulator are indescribable. Everything began to feel real the first-time rounds were being loaded.

Watching **WO Robert** *"if you guys' break one more head-set I have no problem going to jail for beating you"* **Kearns** scream at the soldiers for carrying rounds incorrectly was definitely a highlight of the gun-camp/Ex STEELE SABRE.

Level 1 Stab Run Shoots at night was the first time that the majority of us crew commanded a tank at night, so driving in a straight-line blowing stuff up was overly exciting. Using the monacle night vision goggle to crew command was terrible – only – if you did not know how to use the luminosity intensity knob. Once you had that dialed in crew commanding at night became extremely rewarding; if anything, more exciting and challenging than during the day. Of course, the targets were barely "targets" after a few runs because everyone shot out the fires illuminating them. By the time I did my run, my gunner **Cpl Bryce** *"NOT OBSERVED"* **Addison** could hardly make out any targets through the gunners' sights and we barely got our rounds off before the end of the run.

Level 2 day and night shoots at Range 25 consisted of 3-tank troops moving in line, engaging targets up to the Line of Exploitation, then engaging targets in the distance. My crew was lucky and got an extra run because our left track exploded as we crossed the Line of Departure. Fixing the exploded track until 0530 in the morning was a blast. We made it to our hide by 0600 and were awake for 0700 to hand the tanks over to the next troop. Level 3 and 4 traces were exhilarating. There was so much going on. It was, in a way, organized chaos.



*Our latest and greatest generation of C Sqn tank drivers when a Charizard appears in Wainwright on Pokemon Go. The turret is at the 6 o'clock because they stopped halfway through their 7 daily's.*



*A classic sentry dual. **Cpl Matthaus** "I save all my farts for inside the tank" **Engelbrecht** about to lay out **Tpr Patrick** "I gave our hide location away because I'm always on SnapChat" **Covacci***



*One of these crewmen gave away our hide position during Ex. STEELE SABRE can you guess which one?*





# Regimental Events







## Regimental ‘Resurgence’ Sports

*Lieutenant Shankeerth Suresh*

In the past year, the Regimental sports scene has witnessed a remarkable revival, showcasing unwavering fitness levels, competitive spirit, and esprit-de-corps within the Regiment. The resumption of sporting events to their near pre-pandemic norms marked a new era of rejuvenation, epitomized by the success stories and enthusiastic participation of our soldiers.

Kicking off the sporting calendar with a bang, Ex STRONG CONTENDER 23 saw the Regiment clinch Gold in volleyball and indoor soccer, accompanied by a Silver in ice hockey. The competitive flame continued to burn brightly throughout the following weeks with intramural leagues and Regimental sports afternoons becoming the epicenter of physical prowess and camaraderie. Soldiers engaged in a variety of sports, including dodgeball, ball hockey, European handball, soccer, and ultimate frisbee, unleashing their competitive spirits and embracing their inner beasts while blowing off some steam.

Spring brought about the fourth Annual Melfa River sporting tournament, a spectacle where Squadrons battled for bragging rights in a variety of Highland games. Orchestrated by **Capt Robert “Torn Pants” Haddow**, the event showcased evenly matched Squadrons, but it was B Squadron’s Tug-O-War team, led by **Capt Thomas “foosball” Hume**, that dominated, securing victory for their Squadron.

The Regiment’s annual softball tournament just before the summer block leave was a testament to the diverse skills within the unit. New soldiers had the opportunity to play alongside or against seasoned Strathcona peers, resulting in an obvious tournament domination by the team captained by **WO Wallace “Best Athlete” Churchill** and **Sgt David “Also Best Athlete” McNair**, who clinched victory without a single loss.

Post summer leave, the Regiment saw 25 soldiers participating in the annual 1 CMBG Ex MOUNTAIN RAM in the Edmonton River Valley. Under the leadership of **Capt Ali “5 on, 5 off” Mansour**, team cohesion and camaraderie reached new heights. Most noteworthy was Chief Clerk **WO Susan “almost at the finish line” Coupal**, completing her sixth finish in Ex MOUNTAIN RAM, showcasing an impressive dedication to personal fitness. **Maj Stephen “Army Guy” Couture** was the first to finish for the Strathconas with the 19th overall placement, with a time of 6 hours and 4 minutes.

Despite the persistent challenges of the COVID pandemic, initiatives from individuals like **Cpl Matthaus Engelbrecht** and **Tpr Rachel Occleston** played a pivotal role in reintroducing curling to the unit, showcasing resilience and adaptability. As the year progressed, the anticipation built for the Regimental Sports Day and the Mess vs Mess clashes. The influx of young subalterns injected new energy, leading to a thrilling matchup between the Officers’ vs SNCOs’ mess.

This year served as a warm-up for Regimental Sports. It has set the stage for the highly anticipated return of Ex STRONG CONTENDER 24 with more of the traditional sports returning. The year ahead promises to be even more exciting, proving that the best is undoubtedly yet to come for the Regiment.

*A Heartwarming Farewell Kickoff*

*Regiment unites for a spirited game of soccer bidding farewell to our beloved Padre,  
Capt Christoph Deutschmann, in his final week with the Regiment.*





## Community Relations

*Captain Phil German*

Lord Strathcona's Horse (Royal Canadians) had another busy year between the various exercises, deployments, and the re-organization of D Squadron into a reformed C Squadron. Despite a busy operational tempo, soldiers still found time to attend community events in Edmonton, Calgary, and the surrounding communities. Major events for the Strathcona's included the Calgary Stampede, Spruce Meadows, No Stone Left Alone, CAN PRAXIS, and The Summer Skirmish.

An operation that deserves special note is the Regiment's involvement in fighting the fires in Fox Creek, Alberta. C Squadron deployed to Fox Creek for two weeks and aided the surrounding communities greatly. The hard work on display throughout the operation reflected well on not only the Regiment, but the CAF.

Community relations take place everywhere, not just at big events. Any time a soldier is in uniform they are representing the CAF, whether it be grocery shopping, volunteering, or taking part in Regimental sports. Notably, several Strathconas gave back to the community by volunteering with the 19th Alberta Dragoon's Cadets.

Planned public outreach events are regularly completed by the Strathcona Mounted Troop (SMT) as well as the Historic Vehicle Troop (HVT). The two troops work together at events such as the family weekend with CAN PRAXIS, which involve first responders and veterans who are affected by PTSD. These tasks provide Strathconas' a chance interact with the public as well as other soldiers they would no otherwise meet. SMT also helps to maintain the Regiment's relationship with CPKC Rail in Calgary, attending their Remembrance Day Ceremony in Calgary as Vedettes.

Lord Strathcona's Horse (Royal Canadians) continues to not only fill its operational mandate, but also seeks to maintain its strong historical relationships with its partners in Western Canada. The soldiers of the Regiment consistently go above and beyond as they interact and stay involved with the communities around them.

*Cpl Salvador and Sabre speaking with members of the public at Spruce Meadows in 2023.*





## Moreuil Wood

### *Captain Mohamad Mahdi*

**Lt Flowerdew's** last recorded words, "It's a charge boys, it's a charge!"

A charge requires a commander's instinct and battlefield awareness to align to be successful.

For the Strathconas, or any tanker worth their salt, the spirit of the charge lives on in our forefront way of conducting battle - controlled and brute force applied to break through the enemy front. Lt Flowerdew's last words at Moreuil Wood embody this spirit - bravery bordering on absurdity, and the willingness to make the ultimate sacrifice.

A new award was introduced to the Regiment this year: Trooper JJ Willoughby Memorial Award. The idea of this award came from Teresa and Guy Willoughby, the niece and nephew of Trooper J.J. Willoughby. The award is to be presented to the **Mounted Troop Soldier** that best displays the qualities of a Canadian Cavalry Soldier, measured by proficiency in the skills-at-arms, dress & deportment, teamwork, dedication, and overall horsemanship.

This year's commemoration of the Battle of Moreuil Wood was led by Commanding Officer **LCol Mike Mallette** and Regimental Sergeant Major **CWO Rob Englehart**. Despite forgoing the mess dinner due to operational demands, the annual sports day more than compensated for the loss. It is per the Regiment tradition on Moreuil Wood Parade to present awards to the most deserving soldiers. These included:

The Prince of Wales Squadron: **HQ Sqn**

The Hessin Sword: **Capt C.D. Clare**

The Macaulay Sword: **Capt F.J.H. Gelinas**

The Neatby Pace-Stick: **WO S.Y. Coupal**

The Milroy Cross-Belt: **Sgt J.P. Stevenson**

The Colonel of the Regiment Silver Stick: **MCpl J.J. Landry**

The Fox Bugle: **Cpl R.O. Reynolds-Tack**

The Ross Maintainer Award: **MCpl K.D. Palmateer**

The Olympic Torch Trophy: **MCpl C.J. Vanthournout**

Top Candidate 120mm Gunnery Course: **Tpr K.A. Parker**

The Trooper JJ Willoughby Memorial Award: **Sgt P.E. Kruhlak**

*Trooper JJ Willoughby Award to Sgt Kruhlak*





## Change-of-Command

*Lieutenant David Sellers*



The year of 2023 was eventful for the Strathconas. An internal reorganization occurred when D Squadron (and the remnants of Recce) were reorganized to C Squadron, a proper tank sub-unit. Outside of the lines, the Regiment deployed tanks to Latvia, supported the donation of tanks to Ukraine, and fought fires over the summer. Just to make things interesting, LdSH(RC) conducted a full fledged Change-of-Command in the middle of the year. With the changeover looming large, the Regiment worked tirelessly to prepare an appropriately splendid parade while maintaining a high operational tempo.

On 29 June 2023, **LCol Mike Mallette** relinquished command to the incoming CO **LCol Darryn Gray**. The role of RSM was simultaneously transferred from **CWO Rob Englehart** to **CWO Nathan Mills**. Not stopping there, **Maj Mike Selberg** handed the keys to the Society to **Maj Nathan Hevenor** as the new R2IC. Finally, the ceremonies were concluded when **BGen (ret.) Craig Hilton** delivered his duties as Colonel of the Regiment to **Col (ret.) Jamie Cade**.

Notable personnel in attendance included: **MGen Derek Macauley**, 3 Div Commander **BGen Stephen Graham**, 1 CMBG Commander **Col Phil Borque**, and **Col Mark Lubiniecki**. Additionally, friends and family of current Strathconas, retired members, and dignitaries were out in force to provide an outpouring of support during the handover. Hosted by **Lt Woestal** “*We’ll Do it Live!*” **Dorjee**, only *minor* mistakes were made on the MC front in what was a successful ceremony.

The event was a testament to the perseverance of the soldiers, who, despite the heat kept their legs straight and heads high...mostly. The number of fainting soldiers was only slightly exceeded by the number of speeches. Nonetheless, the soldiers’ perseverance on and off the parade square made the day possible.

We wish the best to our outgoing command team and look forward to tackling challenges at home and abroad with our new command team.





## Calgary Stampede & Spruce Meadows

*Lieutenant Nikolas “DRAGAATAAAKUUUUS” Dragatakis*



*SSM Hamilton, Maj Shumka & Capt Hume  
after the final Spruce Meadows Parade.*

As is tradition, the Strathconas descended upon Calgary to participate in the Calgary Stampede and Spruce Meadows Parades. Comfortably hosted at Mount Royal University, troops had the opportunity after hours to explore the old Regimental stomping grounds and sample the city’s nightlife. Our time in Calgary also featured a visit to the Regimental Museum and its attached exhibits, including several historic vehicles and the Cold War Aviation display.

The morning after our arrival, we mounted a bus at 0500hrs and headed into the heart of Calgary without delay, despite **Cpl Andy “Iron Spine” Vu** immediately dumping crypto. By 0600hrs the streets of the parade route were already bristling with people placing their chairs and claiming viewing spots. Just before noon we formed up next to the steps of the Calgary Public Library, accompanied by a few drowsy onlookers when our medics sprung into action to assist a possible fainter. To everyone’s relief, the individual was roused and stated they were merely “praying”. As we began to march and

wheeled onto the parade route right behind the Navy tour bus, giving those of us who skipped breakfast an unwelcomed feast on its delicious exhaust for the duration of the parade. The crowd was intensely welcoming and there was hand waving and shaking a-plenty. Even **Cpl Ethan “Gimli” Schmidt’s** beard managed to charm a few 18th Century-wear clad ladies. Having completed the parade, we mounted up onto the bus and headed over to Spruce Meadows for our first rehearsal.

The military parade conducted during the “North American” at Spruce Meadows was presided over by the Lieutenant Governor of Alberta, the Honourable **Salma Lakhani**, and featured attendance by the Chief of Defense Staff, **General Wayne Eyre** and the Commander 3rd Canadian Division, **Brigadier General Steve Graham**. Equestrian fans were treated to performances of the “Feu de Joie” by the 50-soldier guard composed almost entirely of B Squadron members over a three-day period. The weather progressively warmed with each performance, culminating in a cool 30°C on the final day. The heat along with the on and off duty activities took a visible toll on the Guard Commanders, **Lt Nikolas “Shakes” Dragatakis** and soon to-be **Capt Leah “Wobbles” Ahenakew**, as their sabres began to take on a life of their own. Despite the Strathcona horses mining our manoeuvre box, the Spruce Meadows parade was a complete success and proved that after more than three months of collective field training, B Squadron soldiers still had drill worthy of a performance.

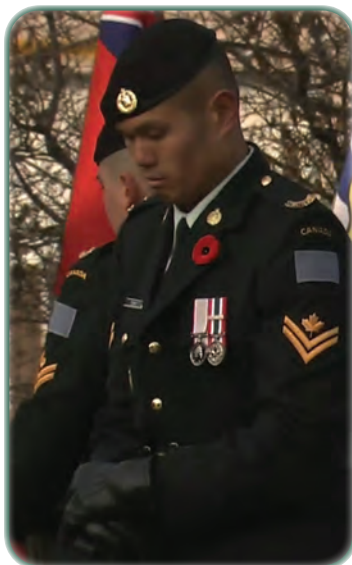


*MWO Hamilton stands  
beside Guard 1 as they  
Present Arms before  
taking to the field.*



## No Stone Left Alone

*Lieutenant Liam Misner*



*MCpl Sean Tong stands vigil during the moment of silence.*

From late October until Remembrance Day, members of A Squadron attended multiple ceremonies and events in support of the No Stone Left Alone (NSLA) Memorial Foundation. NSLA is a not-for-profit organization dedicated to promoting the remembrance of our country's veterans, and educating Canadian youth on our veterans' sacrifices. Detachments from A Sqn were sent to small ceremonies throughout the greater Edmonton area. They showed support for the initiative by attending, placing poppies on graves, and by interacting with the civilians, veterans, and youth within the community. The largest of these ceremonies was held at the Beechmount Cemetery in Edmonton, the birthplace of the NSLA Memorial Foundation. A Sqn sent a complete vigil party and honour guard to the event, which was livestreamed across Canada. The event hosted many VIPs, such as Her Honour, the Lieutenant Governor of Alberta, **Salma Lakhani**, and the Commander of 3rd Can Div, **BGen Steve Graham**. Members of the Strathcona's were invited to the NSLA Charity Gala where soldiers from across the CAF were given the opportunity to wine and dine with executives and benefactors from across Canada. The Strathcona's were proud to once again be invited out to support this great cause. We hope that the NSLA Memorial Foundation continues to preserve the legacy of our fallen for generations to come.



*Capt Jennifer Renouf giving words of remembrance.*



*MCpl Phoenix George gave the land acknowledgement*



*Members of A Sqn*



*Cpl Robert Demeulenaere III and Tpr Joeb Paha Sapa at a satellite ceremony in Edmonton.*



## Ex BLACK HAT & Ex STEELE RESILIENCE

*Lieutenant Shawn Meldrum*

During the week of 27 November – 1 December the LdSH(RC) Officers and Senior Non-Commissioned Officers (NCO) participated in their annual Professional Development (PD) during Ex BLACK HAT. The Officers received presentations on Orders, Emergency Management, Regimental History, Alternative Career Paths, and Ukraine Counter Offensive and the Lessons Learned. The Senior NCOs received some of the same presentations, as well as presentations from the Transition Center and the Strathcona Mounted Troop. The VIP for Ex BLACK HAT was LdSH(RC) very own Colonel of the Regiment (CotR) **Col. Jamie Cade, OMM, MSM, CD (Retired)** who also provided a presentation on the Regimental Society.

The final day of Ex BLACK HAT kicked off with the dedication parade for building 418. Building 418 was then renamed the **Warrant Officer (WO) Trevor “Trapper” Allen Building**. WO Allen was an essential member of LdSH(RC) and the renaming was well deserved. All members of LdSH(RC) took part in the Parade and WO Allen’s family were the guests of honor for the dedication. WO Allen’s family was also presented with a framed photo of WO Allen, complete with a picture of the “Recovery Under Fire” painting and a plaque to commemorate the dedication.

Following the PD sessions was the annual Black Hat Mess Dinner held at the Edmonton Garrison Officers Mess (EGOM). Officers donned their mess kit and enjoyed an evening of food and drinks with Black Hatters from across Canada. The amazing dinner was going great until it was interrupted by the sound of bagpipes and the storming of the EGOM by the Senior NCOs led by the Regimental Sergeant Major (RSM) **Chief Warrant Officer Nathan Mills**. It was an unexpected, but great surprise. The Officers and Senior NCO’s came together to celebrate the ending of Ex BLACK HAT and the evening was enjoyed by all.

With the completion of Ex BLACK HAT, the following week lead right into EX STEELE RESILIENCE. This is another annual PD exercise that all Strathconas take part in as part of their IBTS. Strathconas gathered in their squadrons to learn about various topics, such as sexual harassment, OPSEC, transition centre and what is available to them and Veterans affairs. The aim of this exercise is to enable Regimental members to acquaint themselves with their responsibilities as part of the CAF, understand the resources accessible to them, and know the appropriate steps to take in the event of injuries, releases, and the benefits at their disposal. Ex STEELE RESILIENCE is an essential part of member’s combat readiness. Officers from each squadron covered a range of topics in presentations for their respective Non-Commissioned Members (NCMs) and Senior NCOs, addressing any queries members raised. As a result of this exercise, all participants gained a more comprehensive understanding of their expectations and the benefits accessible to them.

*Building 418 Dedication Ceremony, dedicated to the legacy of WO Trevor “Trapper” Allen of the RCME, in honour of his 18 hour recovery under fire as the ARV Crew Commander with C Sqn LdSH(RC) in Korea, May 1952.*





# Regimental Society &



# CMT Foundation





## Strathcona Mounted Troop

*Corporal Michael Salvador*

This Article is dedicated to **Sgt Paul “The Krippler” Kruhlak**, for his 10 years at the Strathcona Mounted Troop as the Ride Master, teaching many courses, and new batches of riders.

The Strathcona Mounted Troop ride season of 2023 began with the Basic Equine Riders Course. We welcomed several new riders to the herd: **Cpl Hayden “Duncaccino” Duncan**, **Cpl Crawford “Crawdaddy” Farell**, **Cpl Jakob “bro I wouldn’t do that to you” Brown**, **Cpl Chloe “TAAQUILLAAAA” Landry-Beriau**, **Cpl Landen “Ploomless” Taylor**, **Cpl Bryce “Chucky” Goralchuk**, and **Cpl Brayden “Glizzie” Gillies-Smith**.

The season was kicked off with a VIP ride for friends and family of the current riders to warm up for the upcoming season. This was also **Cpl Gillies-Smiths** first time performing as the Master of Ceremonies. The Troop stayed in Alberta this year and had the privilege of leading a parade, performing our full musical ride at Onaway and demonstrating our skill at arms segment called “tent pegging” at Holy Trinity Academy Highschool. During down time the troop was kept on their toes by **Cpl Gillies-Smith** and **Cpl Goralchuk’s** shenanigans, from putting sticks in people’s fridges, to stringing up peoples’ unsecured kit to the flagpole.

SMT remained busy supporting Spruce Meadows as their official Colour Guard for every major tournament that was held. Spruce Meadows also built an arena outside of the West Meadows Stables specifically for the troop to perform and show the public our musical ride.

Once again, we were joined by the British Royal Honour Guard and King’s Troop Royal Horse Artillery for the Master’s Tournament. After making fun of them for falling off their horses, beers were had, saddles exchanged, and excellency was achieved. The troop was happy to celebrate the end of the season and a year well done!





# Family Support Troop

## EX STEELE DINGERS SOFTBALL TOURNAMENT

*Sergeant Kyle Meaney*

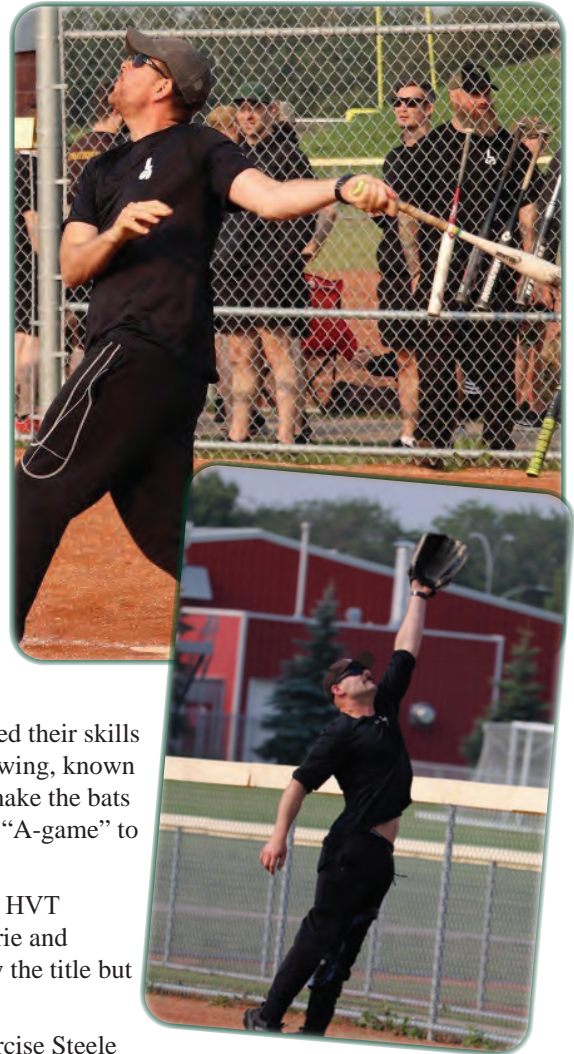
In a whirlwind of hilarious team names and good-spirited competition, the Exercise Steele Dingers Softball Tournament brought together eight enthusiastic teams for a day of dinger hitting fun. With names like “The Bay Sweepers,” “Sultans of Swing,” and “The A Team,” it was clear from the start that this was not your average sports day.

The much-anticipated showdown took place at the Base Twin Park, where the smell of freshly mowed grass mixed with the tantalizing aroma of smoked hot dogs cooked **Cpl Giani “Pit Boss” Mancini**. Spirits were high, and the sun was shining down on the teams as they eagerly took to the diamond.

One team, “HVT”, quickly became the talk of the tournament. “HVT” might sound like something from before our time, but these guys were no old guard. Their name was, in fact, a nickname bestowed upon them by **Cpl Bryce “Bunt Force” Addison**, standing for “Historical Vehicle Troop.” Yes, you guessed it—these were the seasoned players, the wise “elders” of the Regiment, and they were ready to show the young troops a thing or two.

The Bay Sweepers were no slouches, as their name suggested their skills in Friday Cleanups and swatting softballs. The Sultans of Swing, known for their questionable musical talents, were determined to make the bats sing. And who could forget The A Team, who brought their “A-game” to the tournament with fierce determination.

As the final inning wrapped up and the scoreboard declared HVT as the champions, the cheering was fading. Their camaraderie and sportsmanship throughout the day had earned them not only the title but also the bragging rights.



Exercise Steele Dingers Softball Tournament wasn’t just about winning; it was about bringing the Regiment together, having fun, and raising money for a good cause. Each team, with their quirky names and diverse backgrounds, added a unique flavor to the event, creating memories that will be cherished for years to come.

So, here’s to all the teams who participated, to the laughs, and the remarkable display of sportsmanship. And, of course, a hearty congratulations to HVT for claiming the title and showing everyone that age is just a number.

Perseverance, and may the dingers continue to fly!



## Historical Vehicle Troop

*Lieutenant Liam Misner*

The Historical Vehicle Troop (HVT) has had another year of maintaining and repairing our special little collection of legacy vehicles. This year started off with **Lt Shawn “Hat Magnet” Suresh** getting the honour of commanding HVT for the first half of the year, as the current Troop Leader had rudely left for deployment. Luckily, the HVT leader can always lean on the vast experience of **Cpl Billy “The Sherman Shaman” Clendennin** to keep things on the straight and narrow. During this period, the troop worked away on maintenance and prepared for the annual Can-Praxis Veterans and First Responders Family Weekend in Bowden, AB. As always, we were thrilled to work with **WO (Ret’d) Steve Critchley** and the rest of the team at Can-Praxis.

With continued work, we have seen steady progress on our current projects. The Harley received an engine rebuild last year and work has moved on to the assembly and wiring. If work continues as scheduled, we should have a painted bike by the New Year! The Ferret Armoured Cars have been kept in good condition thanks primarily to the dedication of **Cpl Josh “The Ferret Father” McLeod**. Progress has continued on the ‘Hollow Square Museum,’ with the Cougar, Lynx, and M113 all being placed in their respective positions out behind the Regiment.

*Two of our Ferret Scout Cars, Dictator and Dagger, rest in their new home in the White Whale.*



Work on Catherine, our Sherman, has been halted as we continue to search for new track. Following her showing at the dedication ceremony of the Trapper Allen Building, Catherine was moved to her new home in the White Whale along with all the other HVT vehicles. A very special thanks to **Capt Harry “Antique Arms Dealer” Delaney** for all his efforts coordinating deals both within the base and across Canada. Due to his hard work and the work of the Regimental Society, we are looking at some exciting opportunities in the New Year to reduce the holdings of the troop. This will allow us to focus on maintaining what we want to keep, and divesting what we cannot. HVT is continuing to look to the future, to ensure that we do not forget our past.



*The Lynx and M113 newly placed in the Hollow Square.*



*Work continues on the organizing and cataloguing all of HVT’s holdings.*



## Pipes and Drums

### *Master Corporal Adam Davies, Pipe Major*

Over the Past year the band has worked on expanding their training of new members and expanding their musical repertoire in preparation for the 125th in 2025.

The Regimental Pipes and Drums have continued to support both the brigade and community by participating in many events. Pipe Major, **MCpl Adam** *"this will get me out of maintenance"* **Davies** lead members of the band in the first Veterans Night following COVID and was joined by K Division RCMP Pipes and Drums as well as Leduc Fire Services Pipes and Drums and EMS.

The massed band was extremely well received and made for a memorable evening. **Cpl Justus** *"my drum is out of tune?"* **Janzen-White** took the opportunity to learn from the RCMPs "seasoned" drum corps, while **Sgt Dave** *"Which pipe major should I look at?"* **Young** hosted a cut-off clinic for the same RCMP drum corps.

Additionally, Pipe Major Davies lead members of the band in cooperation with Alberta Sheriffs/ Conservation and Peace Officer Services to form Troop 7 Pipes and Drums on two separate occasions for the Service Funerals of Constables Travis Jordan and Brett Ryan (Edmonton Police Service) as well as Constable Harvinder Dhani (RCMP). The Band also participated in the Edmonton and Area Fallen Fire Fighter Memorial in downtown Edmonton on the 9/11 anniversary.

The band saw the return of **MCpl Alex** *"Am I too tall, or is the kilt too short?"* **Lepage**, **Lt Dino** *"Drum harnesses aren't needed"* **Visaya** and **WO Colin** *"No I haven't been practicing, I was in Poland"* **Davidson** following deployment, extra-regimental employment, and postings. The band has been happy to welcome new members into the fold as well which include; **Major John** *"Are you sure its not the reed?"* **McNabb**, **WO Lance** *"CFTPO"* **McFadzen** and **Cpl Matt** *"Bass is easier"* **Smith**.

The Regimental Pipes and Drums said farewell to **MWO Cordell** *"Billy"* **Boland** and saw the old guard joined with the new for his funeral. **Pipe Major Davies** and **WO MacNeil** performed several pieces in his honour at the celebration of life hosted at Kingsway Legion.

The Regimental pipes and drums continues to grow and learn as a group and seeks more playing opportunities in the future. A significant amount of support has been generated from the relatively small number of pipers and drummers but will continue to support parades, mess dinners, citizenship ceremonies and other military events.





## Regimental Museum and Archives

### *Captain Phil “The Doctor” Webster*

Two-thousand and twenty-three. Is it over already? While I’m sure that sentiment isn’t exactly unique to us down here in Calgary, it’s certainly one that seems sudden and shocking. Where did the year go? With museum closures hopefully a thing of the past we were able to deeply lean into something in The Museum I’ve wanted to do for a long while, and we found ourselves flushed with success. More than just a building of brick and old stone, I’ve wanted to turn our museum into an academic institution. Not only in service to the Regiment and its historical and training needs but to the public-at-large, and future generations of museum curators and managers.

Of course, this has required me to recruit a team to go along with my bizarre, often unrelenting nonsense. A team of elite museum personnel capable of acts of great bravery, wit and absurdity to rival even my own! Through our partnership with The Military Museums Foundation, that not-for-profit tasked with providing educational tours and programs for The Military Museums as a whole, we’ve been able to tap into the various museum and academic programs available in Calgary. Gone are the days of two soldiers in a small office furiously looking up articles and delving through manuals for answers to obscure uniform questions! Now we have a full team of professional volunteers and students furiously looking up articles and through manuals to answer obscure uniform questions, in a small office!

As he moves ever slowly towards his retirement **Sgt. Todd** “*Sir, the ghost got out again*” **Giberson** has been mentoring both **Cpl. Miguel** “*Fired from a cannon*” **Blanco** and our master’s student **Dani** “*California*” **Sanchez** on the finer points of both collections management, and fish taco recipes. He has managed to do this while keeping both out of the haunted portion of the museum’s basement, at least for now. Meanwhile, in archives **Michelle** “*Nickname not Found*” **Walz** has been diligently going through our picture and media collection, ensuring to let us know exactly what she thinks of the (admittedly old) cataloguing design. **Megan** “*Betty*” **Garrett** will often take a break from her busy schedule helping run the front end of the Museum to join us in whatever archival or curatorial adventure we happen to be having any given week. Finally, we have **Jackie Jansen** “*von Doom*” **van Doorn** who moonlights as our photographer, ensuring we have at least one person who knows what she’s doing when it comes to media. All the above personnel happily go above and beyond to help run our small museum, despite being consistently confused about the strange conversation topics we come up in service to the Regiment. One day we’ll be discussing the finer points of sheet music, the next it’ll be a heated discussion on tie knots and cufflinks as they relate to the latest Chupacabra sightings in the archives.

This year has, however, had its lows to go with its highs, as we had to say goodbye to **WO. (Retired) Ted MacLeod**, who passed away this year. He put his heart and soul into the museum during his many years working down here, teaching me most of what I know about museums. He will be sorely missed.





## Regimental National Association

*Brad Norman*

The association is doing well, our numbers have dropped but we are working on getting them increased again. Thanks to Slider and Mary for always being on top of things and keeping us in line. I have to say thanks to our Executive for their assistance throughout the year, Vice President – **Jason Moran**, Secretary- **Shaun Fullerton**, Treasure – **Clair Lane**, Edmonton Rep. **Tom Falls** and Membership **Slider and Mary**.

We are now back on track with our meetings the first Tuesday of every other month at the Horton Legion and our attending numbers continue to grow and improve. With that said, please pass the word that all Strathcona's and friends of the Regiment are welcome, and we look forward to seeing you.



As spring and summer approached exciting news was given at the meetings that the annual Calgary Branch family golf tournament would once again take place on June 3 with **Jason Moran** as the OPI. Jason secured the Murfield Golf Course as the outstanding prizes. A special thanks to those members

who donated money to assist in making the day a success, your funds were used for special hole prizes. The Regiment did send a team down to enjoy the day with us. Fun was had by all sharing stories, a meal and a brew afterwards with the winners of this year's tournament being **Tony Mayfield, Derek Trask, John Pudar**.

In July the myself and my wife Jennifer accompanied **Mr. Bob Hall**, a veteran of Calgary Police Service Member and a Korean War Veteran who served as a member of the Regiment to Spruce Meadows for a day of fun and to meet the Mounted Troop. Spruce Meadows rolled out the red carpet for Mr. Hall where he had the opportunity to have lunch and meet the Mounted Troop. Mr. Hall then took the salute prior to the musical ride where upon completion he took a photo with the troop. Mr. Hall was surprised and honored to receive a gift from the members of the troop for him and his best friend Mr. Henry (Hank) Jackson, who is 102 years old.



During the summer months we take a break from our regular meetings however with the access to social media and emails we sadly received news and we were informed of members who had passed away, and this took an emotional toll on us all.

On August 28, I organized a gathering at my house where our members shared stories and had someone to talk to if needed. We gathered around a small memorial table and had a toast and shot of Drambuie to our fallen members. **Dave Munroe, Todd Kellough and Brad Young** attended from Ontario and stayed at my house for the weekend. The Strathcona Mounted troop was in town at the museum and an invite was extended to them and it was a pleasant surprise to have them attend and chat with the Old Guard.



In mid September I was contacted by the Colonel of The Regiment, and he advised that he would be in Calgary on October 25, 2023 and would like to meet members of the association. I booked space at Hudson's in Shawnessy and was very pleased to see a good turn out.

Discussion has been ongoing regarding our Green Jackets and the lack of availability to obtain one as the stores do not carry the material anymore. I have been in discussion with the Colonel of the Regiment, and I am following up with alternatives and hopefully I will have an answer soon, WAIT OUT.

Once again if you know anyone that has served with the Regiment, please have them reach out to me and I will send them an application to become a member. Let's get our numbers back up.

## Edmonton Chapter

### *Tom Falls*



The past year has certainly had its highs and lows for the retired Strathconas in the Edmonton area. It seemed that the only time we gathered in large numbers was for the celebration of life for lost comrades. Now, finally, with COVID on a tactical pause, we are beginning to see more events held. We continue to gather for a meeting or a meal about once a month, and the Regiment has kindly extended invitations to a parade and some mess dinners. These events are important, as social media can only connect us so far. Real communication can only be done face to face.

We consider any gathering of retired Strathconas at one place and time for any event to be a victory. We have been scattered to the wind by new jobs in new places, faraway vacation spots, family commitments, cruise ships, and safari packages. At any given time we have members golfing, curling, shooting, fishing, hunting, skiing, hiking, boating, running, sledding, canoeing, and running motorcycle tours. Our garages are full of half finished projects waiting for us when we do finally get home.

Clearly, the key to keeping in contact is to have many events so that even the busiest of us will eventually be in town for at least one gathering.

The weekly wing night started eight years ago by **Alex Graf** has been named after him since his passing. Alex believed in a "big tent" approach in which anyone was welcome to attend and bring a friend. This event continues to draw more and more attendees thanks to the organizational skills of **Phil Friday**.

Our dining in nights have sparked up again. **Mike Hogan** suggested an Austrian restaurant - which we all went to when he was away (twice!) - and **Dave Proctor** is checking out a Greek restaurant for us to grace with our presence.

**Allan Luomala** continues to meticulously carve Strathcona merch out of exotic wood using only a pair of sunglasses and a rusty beer can opener. We all are in awe of his skills. Those of us as well looking for guidance on online tact and diplomacy need look no further than Al.

**Steve Januszewski** has hosted several events at his ranch, and these have been a magnet for Strathconas that we have not seen in ages. One will not find a more gracious and generous host along the banks of the North Saskatchewan River.

Concurrent with all of this retirement fun stuff - and our medical appointments - is the background planning for the Strathcona Big Week Reunion BBQ on Saturday, 26 July, 2025. If your triple bypass surgery is booked on this date, change it. You're coming to the party instead. The rest of us need to see you.



## Left Coast Lancers

*David Scandrett*



Situation no change as we await mobilisation orders from higher. The next event is the Battle of Leliefontein Luncheon at the SNSYC on 16 November 2023. This is the epic fall gathering of the various armoured folk of the west coast, lower mainland and on occasion those from Alberta and the Yukon.

We of course cater to all regiments and those who have served in those regiments in various capacities regardless of rank.

The big event of course is the Battle of Moreuil Wood Luncheon in March 2024 again at the SNSYC as that works for those attending from The Island and The Main Land. More details to follow.

A modest but eclectic gathering of Dragoons, Strathcona, 12RBC, 8CH, the Lone Fort Garry. A good traditional repast which we host periodically at the Union Club.



## Kingston Chapter

*Kevin Mulhern*



Greetings fellow Strathcona's. It has been a successful year for your Chapter. Your Committee, **Spike, John Roderick, Tom Martineau** and myself, continue to maintain social links between all generations of serving and retired members of the Regimental Family so we stay connected and learn from each others' experiences, both past and present. Encouraging a fun social environment and good fellowship. This is based primarily on, Moreuil Wood, and the Melfa River BBQ.

As I mentioned above we have had another, post COVID, successful year. We started the year with the Moreuil Wood commemoration with a beer call at a local pub. It was well attended, and it was good to see old friends.

We pushed Melfa River into early June and again it was a complete success. The BBQ was held at Spike's farm and a huge shout out to **Katherine and Spike**, and to **John Russel** for working the BBQ.

2023 was also a sad year. We said farewell to **Colonel Greg Hug**. He will be missed. His funeral was well attended by members of the

Kingston Chapter of the Regimental Association.

We would like to thank **Brigadier-General (Ret'd) Craig Hilton** for his service as the Colonel of the Regiment. It was a pleasure to have him as part of the Kingston Chapter. We would also like to congratulate **Colonel (Ret'd) Jamie Cade** on his appointment as Colonel of the Regiment.

Your Chapter is looking forward to 2024. Your committee is already in the planning phase for Moreuil Wood and the Melfa River BBQ.



# Extra Regimentally Employed

*Maj Lund showing students where the PV canteen is*



*Sgt Townsend, Capt Deutschmann and Sgt Mijares*



*R2IC, Maj Hevenor, supervising the recovery activities during Ex SILVER ARROW in the Latvia Training Area.*



*Sgt Mijares, Sgt Townsend, LCol Mallette, MWO Lefebvre, Donnie Taylor, Wilf Lowenberg*



*LCol Cooper and CWO Englehart enjoying dinner with friends.*



## Strathconas in Gagetown

*Master Warrant Officer Cory Bulmer*

Another year has come and gone in the beautiful east coast of Canada. As usual, Strathconas are well represented here, doing the good work to keep armoured soldiers trained, equipped, and supplied.

The largest group of Strathconas are of course located in the Royal Canadian Armoured Corps School (RCACS) providing excellent guidance and training to staff and students. Strathconas are well represented in the higher headquarters of the RCACS with **Maj Joe “Airborne Bateau” Boates** as the Chief Instructor, **Maj Richard Lund** and **Maj Justin Salter** as OCs of A and B Squadron, **Capt Andrew Tardiff** the Operations Officer and **MWO Conway Eady** as the DSM. Standards Squadron has a plethora of Strathconas with **Capt Martin “I used to like Marks 3 boots” Lewis** as the Tactics Troop leader, and the Instructor Gunnery team gunnery masters, **Sgts Henry “I love TAPV” Chen**, **Chris “I love LAV 6” Talmage** and **Chris “Thank God I have Leopard 2” Clegg** providing the Corps with expert guidance on direct fire platforms. In the trenches providing instruction to students is **Captains Scott Veale**, **Brittney Shki-Giizis**, **Sheldon Smith**, and newly rebadged from the 12eRBC **Tony Parisi**, **WOs Sean Collins**, **Mitch Croxall**, **MCpls Theodore Ellis** and **Justin Matchett**. Production is high at the RCACS with three armoured troop leader, six DP 1 Armoured Trooper, three Sergeant and WO courses completed despite a deficiency in serviceable vehicles. Finally, longtime Regimental Orderly Sgt, **Sgt Ronnie Rushton** retired with over 35 years of service. Bravo Zulu to you and your retirement.

Over at the Tactics School, **Maj Michael “I run this school” Kaye** and **Capt Neil “I actually run this school” Miller** provide expert instruction to future Rommels. **MWO Greg “Maple Leafs Forever” Moon** is keeping discipline at 5th Canadian Division Training Centre as the Sergeant Major of the Training Company and the areas chief Toronto Maple Leaf’s booster. **Sgt Richard Wagner** is shaping the great minds our future junior leaders at the same FCoE. Flanking CAF Transition Unit operations is in great hand due to **Captain Darrin Walters**. Former Strathcona CWO’s **Captain (ret’d) Chris Kitching**, **Captain Leigh Taylor** and CWO **Thomas Holland** are keeping the slightly older and younger generation of soldiers on the right track IVO J7 and CTC at large.

Over at the Canadian Army Trials and Evaluation Unit (CATEU), **Maj Ali “It will be just a 10-minute meeting” Raju** commands the motley group of aged but wise Trial Officers and Master Gunners including **MWO Cory “Mark 3 boots forever” Bulmer** conducting trials on direct fire platforms to include TAPV, Leopard 2 and the new ACSV. **Cpl Chris Kipot** works at the QM attempting to please all the requests for trials.

Atlantic Branch of the Strathcona Association chaired by **Maj (ret’d) Dan Hone** is actively engaged organizing events to mark all notable occasion by bringing together all retired and serving Strathconas. Ultimately, all the Strathconas here enjoy their time doing the necessary work to keep the big green machine going, dreaming of their past or future time in the Regiment.

*Captain Veale trying to figure out why the Coyote is blowing green exhaust*





## Strathcona's in the National Capital Region

*Captain Alexandria Schofield*

It would be challenging for even the most talented writer to capture the significant impact our Regiment is having in the Capital or collate all the jobs and tasks completed by all of our fellow soldiers here; any struggle to complete such an enormous task is probably hindered by the fact that most delete emails from random junior captains.

Strathcona's have been active in securing the future of the RCAC. **Col Dave Macintyre** continued to lead the charge as the Director Land Requirements (DLR) to oversee the procurement of future equipment for the Canadian Army (CA). It is certain that the ongoing projects such as General Purpose UAS, LAV Recce, ACSV, Mobile Camouflage, and Leo 2 enhancements will increase the effectiveness of the Corps. **Maj Dave Jung** served another year as the Project Director of LAV Specialist Variant Enhancements project, delivering new and upgraded capabilities such as the Target Independent Viewer hunter-killer suite for the LAV OPV fleet. **Maj Varun Vahal** was posted to DLR in APS 23 to undertake the Project Director role for the Light Utility Vehicle project, which will deliver replacement vehicles for the outgoing LUVW fleet. **Capt Miles "Tech Staff's Golden Child" Smith** was also posted to DLR in APS 23 and got his feet wet as the Deputy Project Director of ACSV project where he was involved in training delivery and acceptance testing activities.



As one may expect, responses from our colleagues in their super secret positions at JTF-X, JTF-2, and CSOR were non-existent. **MCpl Cole** "I only flew the MUAS into one person one time!" **Foster** keeps the CAF in the 21st century by proposing and testing new TTPs for drone employment, while XXXXX from JTF- 2 deployed to [REDACTED] to [REDACTED] (names, locations, dates have been redacted).

Located at Carling Campus, Chief of Programme (CPROG) has had a busy year with their primary tasks of providing analyses on resource allocation and delivering performance reports on the execution of the defence mission, especially in the wake of major budget cuts and international conflicts.

However, no task is too large for **Col Mark Lubinecki** and **LCol Alex Nitu**. Unfortunately for these two senior officers, the largest thorn in their side has been the prodding emails from **Capt Alexandria Schofield**, who has spent the majority of her time in the DVCDS office playing soccer.

**MGen Paul Peyton** continued in his second year as CO Chief of Force Development, balancing the need to "integrate activities to boost military forces" (Vice Chief of Defence Staff, 2020), a definition requiring recce pull tasks to discover exactly what that means. Hover tanks have yet to be addressed since the Strathconian article in 2022.





## Strathconas in Kingston

*Captain Joshua Horlings*

The Strathconas of Kingston think often of their home in western Canada. However, when watching the national weather forecast we find ourselves breathing a sigh of relief to be free from weeks of sub-zero temperatures and the accompanying feeling that you may not physically survive the month of February for fear of hypothermia during the brisk walk into the Harvey Bldg.

Aside from enjoying balmy winters, the Strathconas of Kingston have been hard at work supporting CAF operations and functions.

Although many may think of the Canadian Army Command and Staff College (CACSC) as a place of leisure, decorum, and polite disagreements about doctrine, this year saw it as a hotbed of deployment activity AND disagreements about doctrine. **LCol Matt Johns** and **Cpl Daniel Wynen** carried the Strathcona flag to NATO's eastern flank as members of Op UNIFIER's Leadership Development Training Element. Meanwhile, **Maj Clayton Fifield** and **Maj Islam Elkorazati** fought a valiant rearguard action against the hordes of AOC students.

Also enjoying Kingston's premier waterfront patio at CACSC, **Maj John Rickard** and **Maj Phillip Buckingham** have been working diligently on the Commander Canadian Army Reading List and Line of Sight, the Professional Military Education hub for the Army.

Kingston based Strathconas contributed to a number of CAF operations including **Sgt Aly Alwani** who deployed on Op SAVANNE from 1 Cdn Div HQ and **WO Aaron Hodgkin** who departed his Ops desk at 6th Canadian Combat Support Brigade for a deployment on Op UNION.

Holding the fort at 6 CCSB, **LCol Tim Day** continues his Info Ops campaign to remind the rest of the Canadian Army that there is, in fact, a fourth brigade in the order of battle.



*(L to R) Cpl Daniel Wynen, LCol Matt Johns, Col Vincent Kirstein, and Capt Andre Berube in Latvia*

Speaking of Info Ops, **Sgt Ed Snoek** and **MCpl Jason Hall** continue to contribute to unique CAF functions at the Peace Support Training Center.

**LCol Mark Connolly** survived the roll out of PaCE and now in his second year as G1 of CADTC is attempting to tame the administration process (but not always successful). **Capt Moses Pano** had the privilege of working in the G3 branch and HQ cell of CADTC alongside other dedicated staff officers and NCOs in providing the horse power (no pun intended) in support of Force Generation, while simultaneously trying to break 115 on the golf course.



## Strathconas in Wainwright

*Captain Colin Peterson*

Canadian Forces Base (C.F.B.) Wainwright is the hidden gem of the Alberta prairies. It is home to, among other things, the Canadian Manoeuvre Training Centre (CMTC) and the 3rd Canadian Division Training Centre (3 CDTC). Not surprisingly, the base and these two organizations are full of Strathconas who work in a myriad of positions, supporting training and day-to-day operations both at home and abroad.



*Capt Peterson, MWO Vigar, and MWO Christopoulos conducting ATV recovery in the Latvia Training Area.*

At CMTC, Strathconas under the watchful eye of the Chief of Staff **LCol Eric Angell** and Formation Sargeant Major **CWO Robert Englehart** have remained busy supporting National and International collective training activities. These activities included supporting the annual Primary Reserve (PRes) training event, Exercise GRIZZLEY DEFENDER 2023 (Ex GD 23). Soldiers from both the King's Own Calgary Regiment (KOCR) and the South Alberta Light Horse (SALH) converged on C.F.B. Wainwright for a week of training. Supported by the Armoured Observer Controller Trainer (OCT) Team, and a robust Opposition Force (OPFOR) guided by **Lt. Keary McAtasney** and **MWO Ed Pickell**, the KOCR and SALH were able to hone their armoured skills. This past year also saw CMTC support two serials of Combat Readiness Evaluation (CREVAL) validation in Latvia through Exercises CRYSTAL ARROW and SILVER ARROW. These exercises saw Strathconas supporting the validation of the Enhanced Forward Presence Battle Group (eFP BG) in Latvia. They were involved at many levels, observing and mentoring both Canadian and Foreign Nation elements. The CMTC OCTs were very fortunate to be augmented at various stages throughout the year by such excellent Strathcona's as **Maj Nathan Hevenor**, **MWO Laki Christopoulos**, **Capt Andrew Tardiff**, and **WO Ayerton Balfour**. Aside from short-term augmentation, CMTC has been able to grow through other means. We were able to rebadge one of the newest Strathconas, **Cpl Jamil Ingimundson**, during a gathering of Wainwright Strathconas on 8 November.

3 CDTC remained very busy over the last year conducting individual training serials, molding and guiding the soldiers and leader of tomorrow. Strathconas are a key element of this training. **Capt Chuck McDougall**, **WO Stew McLoughlin**, and **WO Nick Norman** are just a few of the Strathconas who have been instrumental in supporting the individual training over the last year.

It is also important to mention the vital work being done by Strathconas through supporting C.F.B. Wainwright base operations. Whether it is at Range Control (**Cpl Colby Smith** and **Tpr Dillan Giersch**) or Clothing Stores (**Cpl Fabricio Castillo**), Strathconas have been vital in ensuring that this gem of a base continues to run smoothly and is able to support training both at home and abroad.





## Strathconas in 5<sup>th</sup> Canadian Division (The Mighty Maroon Machine)

*Lieutenant-Colonel Chris Nolan*

The Strathconas of the Mighty Maroon Machine HQ continue to make our presence felt despite our small numbers and geographic separation. While we miss our time away from the West, be rest assured we provide a certain calvary flair and élan to the Army Centred in the Atlantic.

**CWO Bill Crabb** continued serving as the Division's Deputy Sergeant-Major from his Prince Edward Island assembly area. His unrelenting dedication, wisdom, and guidance will be sorely missed when he finally hangs up his spurs for good in June 2024. After 43 years service, Bill will have earned some much-deserved time off.

Ensnconced in his New Brunswick fire base, **Maj Clyde Penny** supported the HQ as the G5 Force Development. Toiling away with efforts to make sense of an uncertain future, Clyde's positive attitude and infectious personality made positive contributions on many important issues which will see growth and modernization for the personnel and capabilities resident throughout the Division.

After three-years enduring the Operations Branch grind, yours truly has finally cast-off the shackles of being the G3. Not wanting to leave the excellent fishing prospects of Nova Scotia, the Army decided this is the perfect time in my career to do my first Personnel Administration job as the Division G1. For some strange reason, my tempo doesn't seem to have lessened!

Perseverance.



*LCol Nolan.*

*BGen Masson presents CWO Crabb with the QPJM.*





## Strathconas in 1 CMBG HQ

### *Captain Darren Carter-Wright*



As always, Strathcona's held a firm foothold in 1 Canadian Mechanized Brigade Group Headquarters (1 CMBG HQ) over the past year. 2023 presented many challenges and opportunities for the 1 CMBG HQ seeing changes to the Army Managed Readiness Plan (AMRP), an increasing number of domestic operations and fluidity in the requirements of expeditionary operations. Through it all, there was a Strathcona influencing the employment of 1 CMBG units and ensuring that the Armoured Corps was well represented.



As the sole Armoured NCM in 1 CMBG HQ, **Corporal Alexander Purc** joined Commander 1 CMBG's TAC in July 2023 where he has taken the opportunities to learn from unit command teams and better understand the higher-level tactics and strategy. On Ex APOLLO FOUNDATION, he solidified his trade selection in the Armoured Corps as he watched 3 PPCLI conduct trench warfare.

Although the 1 CMBG G1 position was held unanimously by Strathconas during 2023, in an effort to avoid creating a handover for **Major Shaun Rogozinski**, **Major Blake Tapp** managed to put his staff acumen to work on Op INHERENT RESOLVE where he was employed as a planner with the Americans in KUWAIT from November 2022 to July 2023. His replacement, **Major Rogozinski**, arrived at 1 CMBG HQ in late July after a year-long United Nations swan in the South Sudan on Op SOPRANO. **Major Rogozinski** happily accepted his new role as the G1 without handover and has since taken great pleasure in reviewing administrative policies for the Brigade.

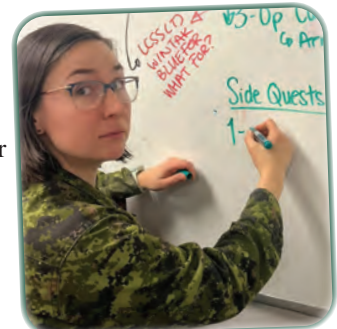


Following APS 2023 and posting of **Major Mike Timms** to Army HQ as EA to COS Army Operations, **Major Mike Selberg** arrived in 1 CMBG HQ as the G3. He was immediately put to work coordinating the deployment of Brigade units on five distinct iterations of Op LENTUS in Western Canada. Alongside ensuring the efficient employment of Brigade units over multiple training exercises and expeditionary operations, he has also had the pleasure of mentoring newly minted Strathcona officer, **Lieutenant Bradley Wiesenfeld**. **Lieutenant Wiesenfeld** arrived in late August 2023 where he instantly avoided his Special Projects duties by deploying on a Leopard gun camp with the Regiment. Upon return to the HQ, he quickly volunteered to be the OPI for Ex STRONG CONTENDER, the annual 1 CMBG sports competition. Unknowing to most, he accepted this role solely to shirk his actual responsibilities and worked on his big three lifts and joined the 1000lbs club.

Our current Regimental OC HQ Sqn, **Major Steve Couture** deftly found his way out of the Brigade lead planner position as the G5 and into a key planning role alongside **Major Tapp** on Op INHERENT RESOLVE. In this role he was able to influence American policy and SOPs. Similarly, without handover, **Captain Stephanie "Haiku" Clubine** was posted into the 1 CMBG HQ G5 team well after **Major Couture** had departed ensuring that Op LENTUS was well under wraps before confirming her Report for Duty date.

Strathconas will continue to fill key positions within 1 CMBG and influence the Army of the West into 2024.

Perseverance.





## Strathconas at 3rd Canadian Division

*Captain Kevin King*

2023 seemed very much like a “Changing of the Guard” here within the 3 Cdn Div HQ. We saw the departure of **Maj James** *“I like to lift heavy things”* **Anderson**, and newly promoted **Cpts Henry Loun** and **Jonathon Vickers**. It was sad to see them move on, but fortunately for the Regiment, they have moved on to bigger and better things. The early departures left only three Strathconas in the HQ, **Sgt Brydon Townsend**, **Maj Tom** *“Ash pit badger”* **LaCroix**, and **Capt Kevin** *“I am from Nova Scotia, so I talk a lot”* **King** to hold down the fort until the reinforcements arrived during APS. When three fresh faced and extremely talented officers and one heck of a Sgt joined the team. **LCol Mike** *“I miss my parking spot”* **Mallette** moved across the street and jumped directly into the role of G3. **Capt Matt** *“Where’s my rifle”* **Hoffart** joined us after his return from Op REASSURANCE and slide directly into the role of G33-2. **Capt Rob** *“What does the Assistant Adjt do”* **Haddow** joined us after completing his Troop Leading time and is enjoying his new role.... **Sgt now WO Herald** *“Call me Lou”* **Mijares** joined the JTFW Watchkeeper team and is enjoying his family time after 3 years of IR, promoted to WO in Dec 2023.



*Capt King, Maj Peeling, Capt Hoffart, Capt Haddow*



During the early stages of the year, the headquarters found itself busy managing the deployment and return of the 3 Div members from operations around the world. In early spring, the dry conditions and lightning strikes in Western Canada caused us to jump into multiple Op LENTUS deployments in AB, BC, NWT, and again in BC. While we also tried to keep the other alligators at bay throughout the year. I would like a moment to emphasize, having received an excellent baseline from the Regiment and the 100 plus years of combined experience of the Strathconas within the Division Headquarters, we still employ the characteristics of Armour. We may no longer have the armour protection afforded by the Leopard Main Battle Tank, but we are each protected by individual cubicles and the volume of staff work that we produce everyday.

I would be it rude of me not mention the team of former Strathconas and supporters floating around the 3 Cdn Div HQ hallways. **MWO Kevin Bonnetta**, **WO Mary (MEG) Kennedy**, **Major David Peeling**, **Major Bill Hawes**, **Capt Christoph Deutschmann**, **Capt Mike Vollick**, **MWO Trevor McQuhae**, **MWO (Retd) Brian Speck**, **MWO Tim Pawson**, **MWO Gerald Lefebvre**, **MWO (Retd) Wilf Lowenberg**, **MWO Chiu Tsang**, **Sgt Matt Grieves** and finally **Sgt (Retd) Donnie Taylor**.





## Strathconas in 3 CDSG

*Captain Thomas Underwood*



*From Left to Right: Lt Droogers, LCol Cooper, Maj Douglas, Capt Keewatin, Capt Underwood, Maj MacKillop*

Battalion is going to split by a strange and asymmetrical mitosis shedding its institution support wings to the base. Entities like base clothing and the base kitchen will intuitively become base assets again – essentially turning Base Edmonton back into an ASU.

Leading this Change, **Capt Stephen “Steve” Churchill**, the 3 CDSG G33, is angrily deleting emails in the Formation HQ. In Operations Services, our Adjutant, **Lt Adrian Droogers’** military writing has dramatically improved since his commissioning which also coincided with the launch of ChatGPT. **Capt Thomas “Tom” Underwood** is doing his best to ensure the base gates are open on time for another late night Strathcona trip to Wainwright – he does not always succeed.

**Sgt Tyler Baldwin**, after 10 years at Range Control has permanently become part of the furniture and shows no sign of letting anyone else have one of the gucciest jobs on base. **Cpl Matthew Jesse** and **Cpl Michael Maxwell** join him there with a combined 6 years. **Cpl Paul Nicholson** Once again retrained rifle range participants on the new C7 drills that are not so new anymore.

3 CDSB Personnel Services must have needed an overhaul because **LCol Robert “Sandy” Cooper** was appointed as the Commanding Officer and was joined by the powerhouses **Maj Marshall Douglas** and **Capt Akaiyan “Kai” Keewatin**. Their team has done everything from providing quarters for evacuated Yellowknife families during Op Lentus 23-07 to researching the viability and legalities of having an ice cream truck on base and towels in the French Grey Inn.



*LCol Cronk Change of Command CFB Shilo*

**LCol Dave Cronk** returned to Canada in the summer of 2023 after a hardship posting to NATO Multinational Division Northeast in Elblag, Poland. He assumed command of CFB Shilo on 26 June 2023, and is thrilled to be following a distinguished line of Strathconas (**LCol John Schneiderbanger**, **LCol John Cochrane**, and **Col Dave Macintyre**) who bravely attempt to tame the feral Patricia’s of 2 PPCLI and the rowdy Gunners of 1 RCHA. The transition to Manitoba has gone relatively smooth, but he has not yet faced the full brunt of a never-ending Shilo winter.

We Enable Success.

In the heart of Canadas Wild West, where the North Saskatchewan River meanders without a sense of purpose, the 3 Canadian Division Support Group (3 CDSG) stands tall, a testament to the unwavering spirit of the 3rd Canadian Division. 3 CDSG is an integrated team of Regular, Reserve, and civilian members focused on the provision of institutional support across an AOR half of Canada’s land mass.

From the inside, it is a hideous and constantly transforming chimera of badly bolted on appendages and vestigial organs from a long-forgotten Area Support Unit (ASU). But don’t lose hope. As history continues to repeat itself, 3 CDSG is now going through the “ARA Trial” Authorities Responsibilities and Accountability. 1 Service



*LCol Cooper Change of Command 3 CDSB Edmonton  
Personnel Services from LCol Hayward*



# Strathconas in 4th Canadian Division

*Major Dan Gray*

Greetings from the centre of the universe... Toronto. This is what is likely the first ever Strathconian article about Strathconas in 4 Cdn Div and the GTA (as far as I can tell). Although it is normal to have a revolving door of Strathconas rotating through the Canadian Forces College on the Joint Command and Staff Program (JCSP) and National Security Program, there is also the occasional Strathcona that gets sent to 4 Cdn Div HQ and this year, that number has doubled to an all-time high of two!

Led by **BGen Josh Major**, 4 Cdn Div HQ is busy with the Canadian Army's pivot to another new Managed Readiness Plan and a significant scale up of the Op REASSURANCE mission in Latvia. Force generation is top of mind being led by **Maj Dan Gray** as the division pulls together a plan to deploy more soldiers than any time in the last decade.

Not only are there more Strathconas within 4 Cdn Div HQ, there is also an ever-growing number of Strathconas throughout the 4 Cdn Div team with **WO Matt Williams** posted to the 1st Hussars in Sarnia, **WO Ed Morley** posted to the Ontario Regiment in Oshawa, and **MCpl Travis Gibbons** at the Windsor Regiment ensuring the division has much needed support from the Army Reserve. At the 4 Cdn Div Training Centre in Meaford, **Sgt Noel Reid** and **MCpl Quinton Stender** are hard at work ensuring the division has well trained soldiers to support its numerous deployments.



*L to R: Maj Justin Salter, LCol John Cochrane  
Canadian Forces College*

Elsewhere in Toronto, the Canadian Forces College continues to provide world class academics and professional military education for CAF officers with a heavy emphasis on networking and social activities. This past year has been no different with Strathconas leading the way, as expected, in the social activities portion at the officers' mess. This year's graduating JCSP cohort included **Maj David Williams**, **Maj Tyler Collings**, **Maj Dan Gray**, and **Maj Charles Prince**. **Maj Justin Salter** is now the sole Strathcona on JCSP in what is sure to be the best year of his life. I would be remiss not to mention the permanent staff of the College who keep things organized behind the scenes with **Cpl Neil Pearson** in the Ops cell and **LCol John Cochrane** in curriculum development.



*L to R: WO Matt Williams, BGen Josh Major, Maj Dan Gray, WO Ed Morley*

Although often out of sight of the Regiment, 4 Cdn Div and the GTA remains home to many Strathconas supporting both 4 Cdn Div and CAF efforts. Despite the cuts to the Post Living Differential, crippling housing prices, continual disappointment from our local sports teams, and physical distance from the Army of the West, Toronto is a great place to work and an even better place to catch up with Strathconas if you're passing through.



## Strathconas in Egypt

*Lieutenant-Colonel Fred Hayward & Chief Warrant Officer Rob Clarke*



Greetings to our fellow Strathconas from the Sinai Peninsula in Egypt! We are proud to share that **LCol Fred Hayward** and **CWO Rob Clarke** are currently serving as part of the Multinational Force & Observers (MFO) in the region.

An independent peacekeeping operation, the MFO's roots can be traced back to the 1979 Treaty of Peace between Egypt and Israel. The treaty parties initially sought the United Nations' assistance in providing a force and observers to oversee the treaty's implementation, however, due to difficulties in obtaining Security Council approval for a UN peacekeeping force, a Protocol was negotiated in 1981. This Protocol established the MFO as an alternative to the envisioned UN force – the reason why Force members wear a terracotta/orange headdress and not the typical blue

associated with Peacekeeping. The Force is comprised of 15 troop contributing nations, and totals over 1400 soldiers and civilians from places such as Australia, New Zealand, Fiji, Colombia, and the US to name a few.

Operation CALUMET represents Canada's contribution to the Force. Task Force El Gorah, led by a Colonel who doubles as the Force Chief Liaison Officer, consists of senior leaders and experts in logistics, training, and engineering. The small (39 pers) Canadian contingent provides critical support by keeping track of positions, providing essential information on traffic, weather, and flight plans, and ensuring the smooth operation of helicopters and small fixed-wing aircraft used by the MFO. As for your Strathconas; **LCol** "*which way to the golf course?*" **Hayward** leads the Force Training Team (FTT) under the watchful eye of **CWO** "*cat herder*" **Clarke** who holds the position of Force Sergeant Major (FSM).

The current mission has not been without its challenges and the outbreak of the 2023 war between Hamas and Israel has heightened tensions in the region. The MFO, including the Canadian contingent, has faced an increased threat with incidental rocket landings near their positions and frequent radar locks impeding air travel between north and south camps. However, despite these risks, the Canadians have carried out their duty with utmost professionalism during this intense period.

While the war has brought an element of risk to the mission, it has also presented unique opportunities for the Canadian team to travel for work. From Cairo to Tel Aviv, Rome to Bogota, and even the United States, these experiences have enriched the CAF members' understanding of diverse cultures and further highlighted the professionalism and adaptability of Strathconas in any organization.







## Extra Regimentally Employed

LGen S.R. Kelsey	JFC Naples	Maj C.E.J. Prince	41 CBG
LGen D.A. Macaulay	CENTCOM CCI3 (CAN)	Maj A.A. Raju	CATEU
MGen P.J. Peyton	Chief Force Development / VCDS	Maj J.N. Rickard	CACSC
BGen J.J. Major	4 Cdn Div HQ	Maj S.J. Rogozinski	1 CMBG
BGen D.R. Parsons	CDLS (London)	Maj J. Salter	CFC
Col V.G. Kirstein	TF Latvia	Maj M.E. Selberg	1 CMBG
Col M. Lubiniecki	VCDS C Prg	Maj B.R. Simpson	ATL
Col E.G. MacEachern	Op IMPACT-Baghdad	Maj C.T. Smith	CFD
Col A.D. MacIntyre	CA HQ	Maj K.D. Tams	CMTC
Col C.J. Quinlan	CDLS(L)	Maj M.D. Timms	CA
LCol C.R. Adams	Directorate Ind-Pacific, ADM POL	Maj V. Vahal	C Army/DLR
LCol E.D. Angell	CMTC	Maj D.P. Williams	1 Cdn Div
LCol J.W. Brown	CA HQ	Maj E.J. Wiome	3 CDTC
LCol R.P. Chiasson	CA HQ	Capt J.F. Agius	CFRC Fredericton
LCol J.L. Cochrane	CFC	Capt R.J. Baglole	SALH
LCol M.A. Connolly	CADTC	Capt C.W. Bennie	CAF TC Cgy
LCol R.A. Cooper	3 CDSG Pers Sp Svcs	Capt A.P. Bérubé	LdSH(RC)-TF Latvia
LCol D.R. Cronk	CFB Shilo	Capt C.P. Bond	Hal Rif
LCol T.W.F. Day	6 CCSB	Capt E.M. Bouvier	12 RBC
LCol A.C. Dwyer	CA	Capt P. Braszak	QY Rang
LCol V.F. Hayward	TF El Gorah	Capt T.R. Carroll	RMC
LCol M.D.C. Johns	CACSC	Capt S.T. Casey	JTF-X
LCol P.E. Leonard	JTFN	Capt S.R. Churchill	3 CDSG
LCol M.J.D. Mallette	3 Cdn Div	Capt C.D. Clare	CFB Borden
LCol M.A. McMurachy	UNC Korea	Capt S.K. Clubine	1 CMBG
LCol J.P. Nguyen	British Army Headquarters	Capt C.A. Coxhead	CFLRS
LCol A. Nitu	VCDS C Prg	Capt G.R. Elliott	3 CDSB Edm Kamloops
LCol C.O. Nolan	5 Cdn Div	Capt M.J. Forestell	ATL Edm
LCol R.T. Steward	PACOM	Capt L.A. Frizzell	TC Cgy
LCol A.S.H. Wong	CAF TU AB/North	Capt E.R.J.M. Giajnorio	CMTC
Maj J.A. Anderson	CANSOFCOM	Capt R.S. Haddow	3 Cdn Div HQ
Maj J.S. Boates	RCACS	Capt M. Hoffart	3 Cdn Div
Maj P.A. Buckingham	CADTC	Capt J. Horlings	JTF-X
Maj N.B. Bugg	CMTC	Capt A.M. Keewatin	3 CDSB Pers Sp Svcs
Maj T.L. Collings	SHAPE	Capt K.E. King	3 Cdn Div
Maj W.S. Deatcher	JCBRN Def COE	Capt L.J. Kirkham	JTF Pacific
Maj M.R.N. Douglas	3 CDSB Pers Sp Svcs	Capt I.A. Koolman	5 Cdn Div TC
Maj L.A. Dunn	5 CRPG	Capt J.F. Lee	FGH
Maj I. M. Elkorazati	CACSC	Capt R.M. Levis	RCACS
Maj C.S. Fifield	CACSC	Capt C.W. McDougall	3 Cdn Div TC
Maj D.A. Gray	4 Cdn Div	Capt S.J.P. McGlone	CANSOFCOM
Maj S.W. Holmes	SJS	Capt C.D. McLean	36 CBG
Maj B.S. Johnson	CAF TU NCR	Capt M.A. McTavish	39 CBG HQ
Maj H. Jung	DLR	Capt N.C. Miller	Tactics School
Maj M.A. Kaye	Tactics School	Capt J.L.E.E. Miller	Sask D
Maj J.M.J. Kim	PCO	Capt A.C.R. Neshcov	RCACS
Maj S.A. King	4 CDTC	Capt M.G. Pano	CADTC
Maj M. Labrecque	Cyber Ops Force Development, ADM(IM)	Capt A.F. Parisi	RCACS
Maj T.A. LaCroix	3 Cdn Div	Capt E.G. Perry	QY Rang
Maj R.I. Lund	RCACS	Capt C.D. Peterson	CMTC
Maj J.R.F. McEwen	CADTC	Capt A.K.L. Schofield	VCDS
Maj T.R. McHugh	1 CRPG	Capt S.K.E. Smith	RCACS
Maj C.W. Meikle	6 CCSB HQ	Capt M.T.H. Smith	DLR
Maj C.S. Penney	5 Cdn Div	Capt A.D. Tardiff	RCACS
Maj T.D. Pett	CADTC HQ Det Edm	Capt L.M. Taylor	CTC



Capt T.A. Underwood	3 CDSB	Sgt B.K. Campbell	RCAF Academy
Capt E. Uppal	BCR	Sgt H.C. Chen	RCACS
Capt M.D. Uusoue	BCD	Sgt C.K. Clegg	RCACS
Capt L.W. van Heerden	KOCR	Sgt C.J. Collier	1 Svc Bn
Capt S.C.J. Veale	RCACS	Sgt C.J. Davidson	3 Cdn Div TC
Capt J.D.N. Vickars	Int Regt Det Kingston	Sgt N.B. Deringer	RCACS
Capt D.M. Wright	CFSU(E)	Sgt J.E. Desjardins	CAF TC Gagetown
Capt A.J. Young	JTF- X	Sgt L.M. Doan	CMTC
Lt A.E.R. Droogers	3 CDSB	Sgt J.A. Dunford	CAF TC Edm
Lt K. Kwok	RCACS	Sgt A.J. Elms	3 Cdn Div TC
Lt K.R. McAtasney	CMTC	Sgt R.L. Ferguson	CRFC Cgy-Det Edm
Lt C.A. McCloy	RCACS	Sgt I.G. Harding	RCACS
Lt E.L. Okada	CAF TC Edm	Sgt J.D. Hayes	RCACS
Lt G.M.D. Roberts	RCACS	Sgt A.L. Icala	RCACS
Lt B.J.W. Wiesenfeld	LdSH(RC)-Att'd to 1 CMBG	Sgt K.A. Job	CFLRS
CWO R.J. Clarke	Op CALUMET	Sgt J.A. Johnson	1 CRPG
CWO R.A. Englehart	CMTC	Sgt J.C. Loykowski	1 CRPG
MWO H. Babin	CFSMI	Sgt M.M. MacLeod	CAF TC Gagetown
MWO J.C. Clarke	MND(N) Adazi	Sgt J.A. Monge	RCACS
MWO C.B. Eady	RCACS	Sgt K.J.T. Nieuwhof	CAF TC Edm
MWO L.R. Hill	CANSOFCOM	Sgt A.W. Pawliuk	RCACS
MWO B.E. Holmes	Op JTF IMPACT	Sgt R.B.S. Perron	41 CBG HQ
MWO N.C. Johnston	RCACS	Sgt N.A. Reid	4 Cdn Div TC
MWO G.C. Moon	5 CDTC	Sgt S.J. Richardson	RCACS
MWO J.D. Paterson	C Sqn Det Gagetown, RCD	Sgt C.R. Schafer	RCACS
MWO K.A. Shiells	CAF TC Edm	Sgt J.O. Schijns	RCACS
MWO R.T. Vigar	CMTC	Sgt A.B. Sherlock-Hubbard	3 Cdn Div TC
MWO C.P. Zubkowski	3 CDTC	Sgt T.G.C. Silcox	3 Cdn Div TC
WO D. Brister	CFB Kingston	Sgt G.H.L. Skaarup	CAF TC Edm
WO F.L. Brown	CAF TC Ottawa	Sgt E.T. Snoek	PSTC-CFB Kingston
WO C.J. Bulmer	CATEU	Sgt D.E. Stephenson	1 Svc Bn
WO A.D. Burris	38 CBG	Sgt J.P. Stevenson	CAF TC Edm
WO S.P. Collins	CTC HQ	Sgt K.M.J. Stratford	CFLRS
WO M.R. Croxall	RCACS	Sgt D.E. Symington	1 CRPG
WO G. Davidson	BCR	Sgt S.T. Taborowski	RCACS
WO T.C. Dickey	BCD	Sgt C.J.W. Talmage	RCACS
WO J.A. Doherty	CMTC	Sgt B.W. Townsend	JTFW-JOC
WO R.N. Ford	RCACS	Sgt K.N.N. Watson	KOCR
WO J.M. Helliwell	CAF TC Gagetown	Sgt B.S. Young	RCACS
WO A.D. Hodgins	6 CCSB HQ	MCpl P.B. Breau	RCACS
WO K.E. Hodgson	408 THS	MCpl K.A. Cena	RCACS
WO K. Jesse	KOCR	MCpl S.M. Coughlan	RCACS
WO C.A. Kentfield	CFB Comox	MCpl J.W. Crockett	RCACS
WO B.R. Loft	RCACS	MCpl S.M.-L. Doan	CMTC
WO S.P. McLoughlin	3 Cdn Div TC	MCpl T.W. Ellis	CFB Suffield
WO H.L. Mijares	3 Cdn Div	MCpl W.J. Evers	Hal Rif
WO E.R.G. Morley	The Ont Regt	MCpl T.R. Farquharson	CFLRS
WO N.D. Norman	3 Cdn Div TC	MCpl S.D. Fettes	3 CDSB
WO M.J. Peachey	Sask D	MCpl C.B. Foster	CANSOFCOM HQ
WO E.J. Pickell	CMTC	MCpl E.J. Fulljames	CFPSU
WO C.D.E. Romkey	SALH	MCpl T.C. Gibbons	The Windsor Regiment
WO S.G. Thomas	RCACS	MCpl M.S. Grewal	3 Cdn Div TC
WO L.J. Troop	FGH	MCpl N.J.C. Guay	RCACS
WO M.R. Williams	1st Hussars	MCpl J.S.M. Hall	PSTC
Sgt A.A. Alwani	1 Cdn Div	MCpl D.W. Lahay	3 Cdn Div TC
Sgt T. Baldwin	3 CDSG	MCpl J.J. Landry	CFLRS
Sgt L.T. Banman	CANSOFCOM HQ	MCpl R.J.P.J. Larcher Pelland	Sask D





MCpl L.C. MacKenzie	CAF TC Edm	Cpl C.A.S. Jones	RCACS
MCpl C.B. Maisonneuve	CANSOFCOM HQ	Cpl R.T.A. King	CFB Suffield
MCpl A.L. Maisonneuve	SJS	Cpl R.I.J. King	CMTC
MCpl C.K. Martin	CMTC	Cpl C.M. Kipot	RCACS
MCpl J.N. Matchett	RCACS	Cpl L.M. Kroeker	RCACS
MCpl S.A. Mireault	RCACS	Cpl L.M. Lastowski	CMTC
MCpl P. Munger	CFLRS	Cpl K.J. Leis	CMTC
MCpl J.P. Munro	FGH	Cpl J.P. MacFadyen	RCACS
MCpl M.D. New	CMTC	Cpl J.D. Martin	RCACS
MCpl A.P.J. Normandeau	RCACS	Cpl M.C. Maxwell	3 CDSB
MCpl M. Ouellet	CFLRS	Cpl W.M. McGrogan	3 CDSB
MCpl R.B. Partridge	5 CDTC	Cpl W.J. Mitchell	RCACS
MCpl A.B. Radford	BCD	Cpl A.A. Moreau	RCACS
MCpl R.S.R. Rawson	Sask D	Cpl L.N. Mullens	CAF TC Edm
MCpl J.A. Rourke	CANSOFCOM HQ	Cpl J.R.R. Munro	RCACS
MCpl I.S. Sandhu	CAF TC Ver	Cpl R.W. Murray	RCACS
MCpl C.J.D. Shute	RCACS	Cpl P.M. Nicholson	3 CDSG
MCpl P.J. Smith	RCACS	Cpl K.A.P. Parker	CMTC
MCpl Q.J. Stender	4 Cdn Div TC	Cpl N.E. Pearson	CFC
MCpl E.J. Thibodeau	RCACS	Cpl R.W. Pietila	RCACS
MCpl C.J. Vanthourmont	BCR	Cpl A.N. Purc	1 CMBG
MCpl T.R. Villiers	CFRG	Cpl L.M. Renooy	RCACS
MCpl R.K. Wagner	5 CDTC	Cpl G.D. Ripley	RCACS
MCpl A.C.P. Warren	RCACS	Cpl C.B. Rundle	RCACS
MCpl M.L.P. Westelaken	RCACS	Cpl C.T. Service	RCACS
MCpl B.J. Wheeler	3 Cdn Div TC	Cpl M.M.R. Sirois	The Windsor Regiment
Cpl C.W.J. Andrews	RCACS	Cpl C.A. Smith	3 CDSB Edm Det Wx
Cpl C.D. Asprey	RCACS	Cpl C.J. Stamp	CFB Suffield
Cpl B.C. Baker	RCACS	Cpl J.A.T. Sutherland	LdSH(RC) Att Posted-408 Sqn
Cpl W.B. Balaneski	RCACS	Cpl S.T. Swanson	RCACS
Cpl W.M. Barkley	3 CDSB Ops Wx	Cpl L.C. Thompson	CMTC
Cpl D.A. Beukes	RCACS	Cpl C. Tracy	RCACS
Cpl S.J. Brown	RCACS	Cpl A.V. Turcotte	RCACS
Cpl D.G.E. Brown	RCACS	Cpl M.T.J. Vahey	LdSH(RC) Att Posted-408 Sqn
Cpl N.A.F. Bryk	RCACS	Cpl J.E.A. Valenzuela	CFB Suffield
Cpl T.B.D. Buell	RCACS	Cpl A.W. Waldner	RCACS
Cpl F.A. Castillo	3 CDSB Tech Svs Wx	Cpl B.A. Williston	CAF TC Edm
Cpl S.P. Charles	RCACS	Cpl K.R. Worden	LdSH(RC) Att Posted-408 Sqn
Cpl B.J. Dumouchelle	RCACS	Cpl J.A. Works	RCACS
Cpl N.F. Fabischek	RCACS	Cpl D.M. Wynen	CACSC
Cpl S. Fong	RCACS	Tpr D.T. Giersch	3 CDSBEdm, Det Wx
Cpl B.J. Ford	RCACS		
Cpl D.J. Foster	RCACS		
Cpl J.M. Gilbert	RCACS		
Cpl J.E. Gratto	RCACS		
Cpl J.P. Gray	CFB Suffield		
Cpl S.J.J. Grenier	RCACS		
Cpl M.J. Guay	RCACS		
Cpl J.H. Hachey	RCACS		
Cpl R.F. Hammel	CFB Suffield		
Cpl A.P. Hill	RCACS		
Cpl W.J.K. Hopper	RCACS		
Cpl C.B. Hornby	RCACS		
Cpl L.A. Houston	RCACS		
Cpl J.P.R. Ingimundson	CMTC		
Cpl K.A. Jaun	RCACS		
Cpl M.R. Jesse	3 CDSB		



*WO Cory Bulmer trying to figure out why the RWS is pointed up*



*Captain Smith explaining that there are more plastic tanks than real ones in Gagetown*



*Descending into the Abyss... The Mines of Endless Administration.  
Our 3 CDSB Adjutant, Lt. Adrian Droogers,*



*LCol Cronk & Col Dove Helo Recce of CFB Shilo*



*WO Cory Bulmer trying to figure how he got tasked with an Assault Boat Trial*





# Messing & Social





## Mariner Room

*Major Matt Shumka*

Alright let's do this... again. Yup, it is your trusty President of the Mess Committee (PMC) back for year two. As with, I imagine, most Strathconian articles, figuring out where to start is often to most difficult part. Unlike last year where I just stole a past article and modified it enough to be my own "original" submission this year will be a little different. To keep it simple let's start off where last year's article ended, the 1 Canadian Mechanized Brigade Group (1 CMBG) Mess Dinner.

As is the norm with social events, Strathcona's attacked the 1 CMBG Mess Dinner in force maxing out our seat allotment and making up one what felt like a quarter of the overall attendance. Led by **LCol Mike** "*I swear they aren't with me*" **Mallette**, normal shenanigans ensued and <cough> "good, clean and professional fun" was had... by most. Feeling left out after not being able to attend the previous Black Hat Mess Dinner (BHMD), **Maj Matthew** "*I can B-better*" **Shumka** jumped all over assuming some unofficial PMC duties breaking out their own gavel (the same partially cleaned moose femur from the 2022 BHMD) part way through the night only to shatter it shortly after while attempting a take over. However, demonstrating that they did not learn from past experiences, the subbies failed to protect the now multiple gavels (the four largest pieces remaining of the femur) when **Lt Woestal** "*Was I not supposed to do that?*" **Dorjee** literally handed the largest bone fragments over to some smooth-talking Lt from 1 Royal Canadian Horse Artillery. In an attempt to recover from their overwhelming disappointment, and certainly not led by **Lt Jeremy** "*All talk no action*" **McBride**, the subbies groveled and bartered for its return but still as I write this, mission incomplete. Following this blunder, **2Lt** \_\_\_\_\_ "*under investigation*" \_\_\_\_\_ stood up for the annual subbie speeches. Unfortunately for the Strathcona's, and really all in attendance, our showing was... let's just say... less than desired. Long gone are the days of bribing the Brigade Commander with concert tickets or downing all of the drinks on the head table while all of the Commanding Officers watched in shock and amazement. With arguably the biggest let downs in years behind us, **Lt Woestal** "*I'll still die for any Strathcona*" **Dorjee** jumped on the proverbial grenade to get the party back on track. Fortunately, the night was not a complete loss as the Strathcona Subbies did get one big win over the Subbies from 1st Battalion Princess Patricia's Light Horse; over a month after "gaining access" to the Patricia's mug cabinet and "acquiring" some new mugs, which were used during the dinner, the Patricia's finally took notice and begged for their things back. A small win, but a win none the less. Luckily, for many I am sure, after that the night became a blur and for some reason no one can remember anything else happening.

Hot on the heels of the 1 CMBG Mess Dinner was the celebrated and always anticipated Mariner Room Annual General Meeting. Little did we know at the time, this historic moment would become infamous only a few short months later. For those in attendance two historical events took place. The first was a rare treat in that the Mariner Room was able to hold a meeting for the second straight year without a member enjoying too many beverages and taking their top off, I'm looking at you **Maj Shaun** "*I don't work here anymore but you still talk about me*" **Rogozinski**; I am sure if they were in the country at the time history may have repeated itself. The second was the start of what would soon become referred to as doughnut-gate following the membership voted to... brace yourself for this so make sure you are sitting down... change weekly doughnuts to TimBits©. Oh, the horror. If this wasn't enough the Mariner Room also saw a change to furniture placement which, in the months to come, would be too much for some to bare.

Although 2023 saw a lifting to almost all pandemic restrictions and the reintroduction of social events, the Regimental operations tempo reared its nasty head pulling soldiers and leadership in multiple directions. Great for an armoured unit, not so great for our social life; priorities. An unfortunate casualty was the 2023 Moreuil Wood Officer's Mess Dinner; with the Commanding Officer and A Squadron leadership deployed on a tactical reconnaissance to Poland and the PMC living his best tanker life in Wainwright with B Squadron, word officially came down that Moreuil Wood had to be reduced in scope.

While some other routine social events were held, for example the 2023 BHMD and Subbies Carolling, those things will be covered elsewhere. So, I will simply leave you all there and just say that... "we did a thing!"

As I sign off for my final PMC message to the wider audience, it has been an honour to serve the membership. As always, an open invitation is always on the table for all Strathcona Officers who hang their beret up or who are just passing by Edmonton; we always have some mediocre coffee on the burner.



# Sarcee Room

*Warrant Officer Kyle Chuback*



The 1 CMBG Mess Dinner kicked off an eventful 2023, serving as an excellent opportunity to reconnect with old friends while making new ones within the Brigade. A busy winter/spring saw Sarcee Room members deploy to Wainwright for Ex MAPLE RESOLVE, preparing Leopard 2A4s for donation to Ukraine, and travelling to Poland to provide training on the tanks to Ukrainian tankers.

Summer came quick and with it, we said goodbye to **CWO Rob Englehart** and welcomed **CWO Nathan Mills** as the 56th Regimental Sergeant Major. The Sarcee Room had a unique opportunity to host **MGen Macaulay** and **Fleet Master Chief (USN) Walters**. The informal lunch afforded our members a chance to discuss a variety of topics from the current global situation to professional standards with the CENTCOM leadership and a Navy SEAL with an impressive resume. In July we saw **WO Derek** *“four more years”*

**Murdoch** finally relinquish his control as PMC. He thought he was done but luckily for him I had a course to go on in the fall, so he wasn't quite done yet.

October saw a significant number of our members deploy to Latvia with B Sqn as the first tank sqn deployed since Afghanistan. This will be the first of many deployments going forward and we are looking forward to our friends returning home as it will be the last time we are all together for the foreseeable future.

The last week of November was the annual Black Hat professional development week which provided the SNCOs with an opportunity to hone and learn new skills. **Sgt Kyle** *“I thought we are supposed to ask questions”* **Meaney** took advantage of the opportunity and ensured no one went home with out all available info, even if it was something easily Googled. The week was capped off by the SNCO/MCpl Black Hat Professional Development Mess Dinner. The Regimental cooks led by **PO2 Tory Vivona** provided us with an outstanding meal which set the standard for future mess dinners.

The last bit of business for the Sarcee Room in 2023 was the ever popular “silly week” and I would be remise not to mention that the SNCOs handily beat the Mariner Room on Regimental Sports Day. Wisdom and old strength proved too much for the officers as we took 3 out of 4 events in dominating fashion. Next year the Mariner Room might prove to be better competition after the CO dictated remedial volleyball for the officers.





## Green Point Lounge

*Master Corporal Stephen Graystone*

### “Semper Gumby”

That is a phrase almost as synonymous as “Perseverance” if you ask a MCpl. This year has been a wild ride for the entire unit, and more specifically for the members of the Green Point Lounge. With A Sqn deployed on Op Unifier in 2 rotos, B Sqn on the never-ending spring exercise followed by Calgary events and now being the first Canadian tankers in Europe in decades, and D Sqn sorting their lives out after finally joining the esteemed ranks of the tankers to become C Sqn, 2023 has shaped up to being one for the books for our junior leadership. The “Semper Gumby” phrase was on full display as the unit faced many exciting, yet challenging demands and changes this year. As a result of the efforts of the members of the GPL, the Strathcona’s were able to conquer all of these tasks, conduct PCFs, and ensure the overall missions were completed. But I would be remiss if I didn’t mention the former PMC in all of this. Without his guidance, and hard work, I wouldn’t be able to present this article.

For almost 2 years, **MCpl Mitch** “*will my term ever end*” **McKenzie** has blessed this mess with his leadership. As a result, the mess has seen lighting upgrades, more detailed records kept, and a much better handover. Even while deployed to Latvia in the latter part of 2023, **MCpl McKenzie** continued to reach out with advice and information to assist. **MCpl McKenzie’s** friendship and assistance during the handover has been greatly appreciated.

This year saw an influx of new MCpl’s, me being one of them, to expand the farm for which the Senior NCO’s can pick the unfortunate souls to teach on courses, and to take the ROS and GDS spots. To any of the higher reading this article, you know the feeling, and to anyone below, you’ll be here soon enough. This position is filled with a lot of sacrifice and hard work, but the laughter and camaraderie amongst your peers are unlike any other. On behalf of the brand-new MCpl’s, we are thankful and excited to join the ranks of the junior leadership.

At the end of 2023 we conducted the Black Hat week briefs, “silly week”, and the much-anticipated winter block leave. With 2024 in full swing, with PCF’s and ranges, I would like to leave you with this. “Sometimes maybe good, sometimes maybe s\*\*\*!” But as members of the GPL, we will continue to strive to be the best we can for our soldiers and unit.

## Track Pad

*Corporal Dane Frizzell*

The Track Pad. A place of excitement for the Junior Ranks. While another year has come and gone, Membership has continued to grow and more interest has helped achieve so many exciting events.

With a new PMC also comes a new Trooper Funk Champion! **Tpr Ty LaRose** battled against his peers and won the belt! After a morning of tight and hard competition of a tank relay, a Mac-truck pull and a Force test style event, Tpr LaRose “LaRose to the Top.” Following the games, the Track Pad move to the Lamplighter Lounge for some Christmas cheer. All members were fed and well hydrated. It was a successful day of positivity and teamwork from our newest members of the Regiment.

The next calendar year is bright. With Oilers and Elks games on the horizon and lots of other giveaways for our members, it will prove to be another successful year.

This marks the end of tenure for myself as PMC. **Cpl Nick Sylvester** has been voted in as the new fearless leader of the Track Pad. I am extremely proud of the growth and prosperity of the mess. I have no doubts that Nick will continue to lead the charge.



## Subbies Corner

*Captain Jeremy McBride*

What has become of the beloved (mostly hated) Strathcona Subbies in the past year? Honestly, no one really knows. Coffee sometimes appears in the early hours of the mornings and is occasionally cleaned up by the end of the day. This is mainly due to the high turnover in Subbies, as 13 people chose to forsake magnificent Alberta. **Capt Ekam Uppal** decided that having a 6-month vacation in the UK meant that he would work for a living in Vancouver. **Capt Izaak “fancy-pants” Koolman** bravely decided that Gagetown needed an influx of Strathcona ideology and pulled several officers with him. Lastly, hipster turned Strathcona **Capt Cam “handsome squidward” Bond** decided that hunting in Halifax is preferable to Alberta.

Enough of those who decided that they didn’t truly appreciate their time at the Regiment, we should talk about those that really matter. **Capt Ziad “I hate everything” Hmaidan** decided that B Sqn should kick **Capt Jeremy “Andrew Tate” McBride** to the stables with the rest of the “animals” and take the remainder of the not-so-fantastic officers on a field trip to Latvia. This led to **Lt Leah Ahenakew**, **Lt Nik “Draag-ugh-taak-us” Dragatakis** and **Lt Patrick “no one speaks French in Alberta?” Munger** becoming the sacrificial lambs to take the Leopards back to their ancestral homelands of Europe.

For an incredibly lame excuse of operational requirements, there were no requirements for PLQ course officers in Wainwright this year. Although, after the exploits of our British compatriot **Capt Nico Hedegaard**, and his band of merry delinquents that mutinied and created C Sqn, maybe people were onto something. In the illustrious words of **Lt Woosal “I’d die for any Strathcona” Dorjee**, Wainwright was “kinda fun, probably wouldn’t do it again”.

The new influx of subbies ranged from **Lt Nic “Dee-nice” Dennis** that chose the life of the assistant to the assistant Admin Officer, to **Lt David “young and impressionable” Sellers** who can’t turn on a TV. **Capt Phil “I don’t believe in paperwork” German** graciously decided that he would attempt the mentorship of the new bloods, enlisting **Lt Shawn “I didn’t crash the ATV” Suresh** as the person to lead Professional Development for junior officers. Quite obviously, the future of the Regiment is in good hands, as there are several responsible and mature officers who are being molded for the years to come.

## Strathcona Spouses

*Kim Mills*

As always, despite the tempo of operations and the business of managing lives outside of the military, the Strathcona Spouses found time to connect over 2023 with social gatherings, crafts, and a lot of laughter!

June found the group meeting together for a Wine Tasting at the Sarcee Room, with Bottom’s Up Wine Parties coming in to show us some new-to-us favourites while we enjoyed some snacks and great company.

That event brought with it a bittersweet tinge, as it was the last brought to us by **Tristy Mallette** and **Michelle Englehart**. We were so fortunate to have their welcoming spirit and hard work over the last several years, with **Tristy** bringing the group through COVID and **Michelle** jumping in even for her short time with us, they will be missed! Thankfully neither is going too far and we look forward to seeing them at future events.

August saw us at The Shoe Company for a private shopping experience, planned by the newly returned to Edmonton, **Jennifer Gray**, with special thanks to **Jennifer Armstrong** for helping to coordinate our private access to the store. We enjoyed a variety of refreshments, and special discounts while we shopped for shoes for the whole family, and we are thrilled





to have **Jennifer Gray** back with us and appreciate the work she has put in to keep our group going.

Before we knew it, we were in October and had our own **Veronica Murdoch** teach us to make some macramé creations! A new experience for some of us, but Veronica was a patient teacher and we all left with happy hanging plants.

Throughout the year, baby baskets continued to be delivered to those in the Regiment who welcomed new additions to their families, as well as comfort baskets to those experiencing crisis. We have a phenomenal, generous group that continues to amaze with their willingness to offer support to our Regimental family.

We had the chance to connect twice in November, make some crafts that included a harder-than-it-looks beaded poppy taught by our talented instructor **Sarah Hall**, some welcome mats, a baking exchange that kept everyone we knew fed full of Christmas goodies, and of course, the continued tradition of



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Taste of Home packing, sending our love to all the deployed Strathconas around the globe. We were thrilled to see some photos of the treats sent being enjoyed, along with messages of appreciation for the support from the Strathcona family.

Studies show that a soldier's mental health and operational fortitude is greatly impacted by the knowledge that their family is supported at home. We continue to be grateful for another year that the Regiment facilitated this with funding and the use of the facilities to continue to offer this avenue for Spouses to connect and find that support.

Upcoming events are featured on the Strathcona Spouses Facebook page, and we look forward to connecting with everyone at our next opportunity!

## Holiday Celebrations

*Lieutenant Jonathan Barton*

### Kid's Holiday Party

On December 2nd, Lord Strathcona's Horse (Royal Canadians) hosted a vibrant holiday celebration, the Strathcona's Kid's Holiday Party. Families gathered for a festive day featuring diverse activities like temporary tattoos, Airsoft target shooting, and various games. The atmosphere buzzed with laughter and joy as children engaged in entertaining pursuits, from sports to cookie decorating. Santa Claus made a special appearance, delighting children who shared wishes and took photos. The event exemplified the tight-knit community within the military unit, fostering camaraderie. The party's success marked a memorable day of unity, laughter, and festive cheer, leaving a lasting impact on the attending families.







### Soldier's Appreciation Dinner

On December 14, 2023, the Strathcona Family assembled for the Soldier Appreciation Dinner, a poignant gathering orchestrated by the senior leadership to acknowledge the commitment of the junior ranks. The event featured a festive Turkey Dinner, during which the senior leadership personally served the remaining members of the Regiment. The Subalterns concluded the meal with a melodious performance of holiday songs. A treasured tradition unfolded during the event as the youngest Trooper, **Tpr Brayden Norman**, took on the role of CO for the event, while the oldest Corporal, **Cpl Serge Poitras**, assumed the position of Regimental Sergeant Major. Enhancing the festive ambiance, the Acting CO fulfilled the holiday wishes of the attendees by declaring the last day before the break a well-deserved stand-down.

### At Home

On December 14, 2023, the Snr NCO's and Officers convened for the At Home, a night of camaraderie at the Senior NCO Mess. This gathering afforded senior leadership the chance to unite for an evening of enjoyment, offering a well-deserved respite following the demanding cycle of fall training. The

event not only fostered a sense of unity but also provided a valuable opportunity for these leaders to unwind and strengthen their bonds, acknowledging the importance of relaxation amidst their hectic schedules and reinforcing the cohesion within their ranks.

### Sports Day

On December 11, 2023, the Lord Strathcona's Horse (Royal Canadian) witnessed spirited camaraderie during their Regimental Sports Day. The day showcased a diverse array of activities, encompassing Handball, Volleyball, Hockey, and indoor soccer. Notably, the Snr NCO's exhibited dominance over the officers in the majority of sports, conceding only in the Soccer game. Adding to the competitive atmosphere, the Green Point Lounge triumphed across all events against the formidable Track Pad, marking a day of both friendly rivalry and competition for the Regiment.





# The Royal Lancers' (Queen Elizabeths' Own)

*Captain G.E. Cox*

2023 has been an exceptional year for the Royal Lancers (Queen Elizabeths' Own).

The Regiment started the year with D Squadron deployed to Poland as part of NATO's Enhanced Forward Presence. This involved the conversion to JACKAL, or High Mobility Terrain Vehicle – a wheeled variant that is lightly armoured but very manoeuvrable. HQ Squadron deployed to the South Kent coastline to aid in the delivery of training to members of the Ukrainian Armed forces. This training formed part of a commitment by the UK Government to provide continued support to Ukraine. We were delighted to be joined by members of the Canadian Armed Forces and were even happier to spot a few Strathconas among their ranks.



In April C Squadron deployed to Poland to take over from D Squadron, and A Squadron deployed to Kosovo as part of the NATO contribution to safety and security in the country. On this tour, the Squadron Second-in-Command, **Captain Erik Giajnorio**, was awarded a Commendation by General Officer Commanding 3rd (United Kingdom) Division, **Major General James Martin DSO, OBE, MC**, for his excellent work.

Meanwhile B Squadron have had a hugely productive period, seizing the opportunity to demonstrate and test their capabilities on Salisbury Plain for Exercise SCORPION CYCLONE / IRON TITAN. Acting as one of the lead reconnaissance assets for 1st Deep Recce Strike Brigade Combat Team, the Squadron successfully deployed and operated on the WARRIOR armoured vehicle, fighting with innovation based on the lessons learned from the ongoing war in Ukraine. One area that was introduced successfully was the use of organic RPAS (Remote Piloted Air Systems) on individual WARRIORS. The advantage of using drones from armoured vehicles on a fast-moving and digitally focused battlefield allowed B Squadron to extend the reach of their target acquisition and reconnaissance, as well as feeding valuable data back towards the Battlegroup and to Brigade.

It has been an equally busy time for Home Headquarters as on 8th June, **Her Majesty Queen Camilla** was appointed our new Colonel-in-Chief. The appointment is splendid news since The Queen is a true 'daughter of the Regiment': Her Majesty's late father, **Major Bruce Shand MC and Bar, DL**, won the Military Cross twice whilst serving with the 12th Lancers during the Second World War. There was also a large contingent of Royal Lancers who were on parade during the coronation of **His Majesty King Charles**.

It has of course been a great pleasure for us to have **Captain Erik Giajnorio** provide his usual Canadian charm and warmth to the Officers' Mess. It was sad to see him leave but we were delighted to welcome his successor **Captain Emma Perry** in July. She has fitted in seamlessly and has picked up where Erik left off.

We wish everyone at Lord Strathcona's the very best for 2024, and we look forward to making our strong ties even stronger.

Death or Glory.





# 10th Armoured Cavalry Brigade

## Second Lieutenant Łukasz Poprawa



Brigade Commander Colonel Downar

One of the main tasks carried out in 10th ACB was the training and preparation of the Brigade's soldiers for international tasks. Accordingly, major part of the training was focused on cooperation with allied forces. In addition, the Polish Armed Forces were put to a great test. In support of the defense of the border area in the eastern part of the country, fraction of the unit's forces were assigned to the Military Task Group "Podlasie". As a part of this MTG, the soldiers took part in tactical exercise ZUBR-23. In order to synchronize subunits, which trained in the unrestricted area, often moving on public roads to previously recognized areas, where they performed various tasks.

Operational tasks, however did not stop the Brigade from performing ordinary training such as the one conducted at the Engineering Forces Day.

Explosives training is just a small part of the skills that Engineering Forces are able to perform. Training provides preparation for operations in combat situations, where every second and decision made can be crucial. Each of these activities requires focus, self-control and precision, as all of these traits contribute to the safety of the duty not only of those involved in the training, but also for the entire environment.

**Gen. Stanisław Maczek**, when liberating Breda in the Netherlands, among other places, ordered the soldiers to fight hard, but in a chivalrous manner, and they succeeded in this remarkable thing - they combined bravery and training with the general's great wisdom and concern for the fate of the city and its inhabitants. In the autumn of 1944. Traditionally, every year on the last weekend of October, the residents of Breda and numerous guests from around the world, including a delegation from the 10 ACB come together to celebrate the next anniversary of the liberation of the city by soldiers of the 1st Polish Armored Division (1PAD), who fought alongside Canadian forces, namely 4th Canadian Armoured Division. On October 29, 1944, the 1st Polish Armored Division, under the command



of **General Stanisław Maczek**, whose unit was assigned to the II Canadian Corps, liberated Breda. Both the city and its inhabitants did not suffer heavy losses, but during the liberation many Polish soldiers lost their lives, their footsteps are followed by the soldiers of the Black Division who, every year in the cemeteries at the soldiers' graves, as a sign of respect for their predecessors, bow the military banners.

The training carried out by the soldiers was intended to familiarize them with the realities of the mission and prepare them for the tasks they will face in Lebanon.

Under the guidance of a certification team, maneuvers were held to summarize the entire training and evaluate the various criteria necessary to function as part of the 8th change of the UN Contingent.

The core of the shift is the "Dragoons of Świętoszów" - the mechanized battalion of the 10th Armored Cavalry Brigade. The main purpose of the certification was to confirm the preparation for participation, along with testing the synchronization of the subunit.



Along with a comprehensive check of soldiers' knowledge of procedures during situations such as IED detection, mortar shelling or evacuation under MEDAVAC pickup, the soldiers also had to demonstrate comprehensive marksmanship training and first aid skills on the battlefield.

During the training of Ukrainian Forces in 10th ACB in Leopard Training Center in Świętoszów, supported by the instructors from Canada, a visitation of Commander of Canadian Joint Operations Command - **Vice Admiral J. Robert Auchterlonie** took place.

The aim of this visit was to inspect the training capabilities of the Leopard Training Center, in order to ensure best quality of training for our mutual allies. Moreover it was an opportunity to exchange experiences and training methods of tank crews.



Training of soldiers also means international cooperation. As part of this, some of the soldiers of the 10th Armored Cavalry Brigade had the opportunity to participate in a training course, which was organized by soldiers of the U.S. Army stationed in Świętoszów on a daily basis. Two intensive days of learning brought Polish drivers new experience, introducing innovative techniques and using American equipment. An extremely important aspect of the training was the exchange of experience between Polish and American soldier-drivers. Both sides shared their unique perspectives, which allowed them to understand the differences in their approaches to driving and the technologies they use.

On September 8, a transfer of command ceremony was held at the 10th Armored Cavalry Brigade. **Brig. Gen. Grzegorz Barabieda** finished his command of the Brigade, and **Colonel (now Brigadier General) Miroslaw Downar** was appointed to the position of Commander. The new Commander also received the symbol of the 11th Armored Cavalry Division - a black epaulet, which every soldier in our Division wears. It symbolizes the "Black Devils" - soldiers of **Gen. Stanislaw Maczek**, who fought in black berets and black leather jackets during World War II, and whose extraordinary courage and determination was standing out among other soldiers.





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We salute the Lord Strathcona's Horse (Royal Canadians)  
for their time-honoured values of integrity, leadership,  
and enduring perseverance.

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# PERSEVERANCE



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## **AFFILIATED CADET CORPS**

1292 CADET CORPS - CALGARY  
1813 CADET CORPS - CRANBROOK  
2716 CADET CORPS - MAYERTHORPE  
2756 CADET CORPS - INVEREMERE  
2860 CADET CORPS - FORT SIMPSON  
3066 CADET CORPS - GOLDEN  
3070 CADET CORPS - EVANSBURG