

THE STRATHCONIAN



Lord Strathcona's Horse
(Royal Canadians)

1900 ~ 2011

EXCELLENCE DEFINED



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'Masters'

September 5-9

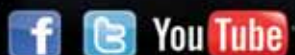
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Lord Strathcona's Horse (Royal Canadians)

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

(Battle Honours approved for emblazonment are in heavy type)

Allied With

The Queen's Royal Lancers
10 (Polish) Armour Cavalry Brigade

Affiliated Cadet Corps

1292 Cadet Corps - Calgary

1813 Cadet Corps - Cranbrook

2716 Cadet Corps - Mayerthorpe

2860 Cadet Corps - Fort Simpson

3066 Cadet Corps - Golden

3070 Cadet Corps - Evansburg





The Strathconian

Is the annual journal of Lord Strathcona's Horse (Royal Canadians)
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Lieutenant-Colonel T.J. Cadieu, MSM, CD
Commanding Officer

Table of Contents

Colonel in Chief Foreward	4	Sports and Fitness	
Message From the Colonel of the Regiment	6	Ex STRONG CONTENDER 2011	86
A Word From the Senior Serving Strathcona	7	Ex STRONG CONTENDER 2012	87
Commanding Officer's Message	8	The Canadian Death Race	90
Regimental Sergeant-Major's Observations	9	Strathcona's join the "Carwin Army"	92
Editor-in-Chief's Foreward	10	Mounting Kilimanjaro	93
Year in Review		Op NIJMEGEN	94
Births and Marriages	13	Ex MOUNTAIN MAN	98
Honours and Awards	15	Strathcona's Martial Arts Team	100
Promotions	17	Key Events	
Regimental Roll 2011	18	Royal Departure and Spruce Meadows 2011	103
The Year in Review	24	Calgary Stampede Parade	104
Operations		St. Albert Freedom of the City	105
Task Force Freedom	30	Leopard 2A4M CAN Commissioning	106
OP ATTENTION	32	FORTISSIMO 2011	108
Mission Transition Task Force	34	Community Relations	109
On the Golan	35	Command Team Challenges	110
Op LUSTRE	36	Canadian Pacific Partnership	111
Squadron Articles		The Society	
Recce Squadron	39	Strathcona Mounted Troop	113
Regimental Headquarters	43	Historical Vehicles Troop	114
A Squadron	46	Big Changes in the Museum	115
B Squadron	49	Strathcona Regimental Association	
Headquarters Squadron	53	(Alberta Branch)	116
Strathcona Family Support Troop	55	Extra Regimentally Employed	
Training		Strathconas in LFWA/JTFW HQ	119
Ex Maple Guardian	57	1 CMBG Strathconas	120
Combat Team Commander's Course 2011	58	Strathconas in Wainwright	121
Canadian Forces Small Arms Concentration	60	The Strategic Strathconas (Kingston)	123
Cambrian Patrol 2011	62	Strathconas in the National Capital Region	124
Adventure Training 2011	65	IN-GAGE – Strathconas in Gagetown	126
Ex MAPLE DEFENDER	66	Extra Regimentally Employed	128
Ex STEELE SABRE 2011	68	Mess Life	
Ex Maple Resolve	70	The Mariner Room	134
A Squadron - Chile SUE	72	The Sarcee Room	136
Ex SKYLINE	74	The Green Point Lounge	138
Ex PATRICIA ACES	76	Track Pad	139
Annual Events		Subbies' Corner	140
Moreuil Wood	78	Strathcona Ladies	142
Family Day	80	Allied and Affiliated Units	
Remembrance Day	82	The Queen's Royal Lancers	146
Kids' Christmas Party	83	10 (Polish) Armour Cavalry Brigade	148
Christmas Celebrations	84	Strathconian Advertisers	154



CLARENCE HOUSE

In my thirty-fifth year as your Colonel-in-Chief, I can only extend my warmest best wishes to all Strathconas. This year saw the end of Canada's combat mission in Afghanistan, where the Regiment so ably provided eight consecutive tank squadrons to the operational requirements in Kandahar. In the transition from combat to mentoring, it is heartening to see the Strathcona's continuing to play a leading role, with over fifty soldiers and leaders from the Regiment directly influencing the capacity of the Afghan Security Forces. We look forward to their safe return to Canada this coming month.

Historically, your achievements in combat and peace-keeping operations have been regularly recognized, but this year was particularly notable. Master Warrant Officer Richard Stacey was awarded the Star of Military Valour for his courage during a particularly intense battle in the Summer of 2009, and a number of other meritorious service decorations were bestowed upon deserving leaders. Particularly laudable is the fact that a number of decorations bestowed on your leaders have been from foreign governments, demonstrating the esteem in which you are held by our closest allies.

I would like to take this opportunity to say how very pleased my wife and I are to be visiting Canada this coming May, in the year of Her Majesty's Diamond Jubilee. We certainly hope to meet some of you during this tour.

I congratulate all Strathconas, serving and retired, on your outstanding service in Afghanistan over the past four years and your continued, valuable contribution as part of an international effort to bring security and stability to the region. Finally, I want to highlight the vitally important role of your remarkable families – theirs is the most difficult job during any deployment. We owe them an immense debt of gratitude.

Perseverance.





Message From the Colonel of the Regiment

Major-General Cam Ross

Our Regiment has a rich history and tradition of excelling in the face of tremendous challenges. Remember that we are, in reality, a relatively small unit that is about the equivalent in numbers to an infantry battalion. Yet this small unit has consistently punched well above its weight. Our battle record whether at Moreuil Wood, Melfa, Korea, or Afghanistan has been nothing short of tremendous. Socially and ceremonially, we have matched that combat record to the extent that we have been the envy of the Forces in the way that we have so successfully engaged Canadians and their communities.

Not too long ago, there was a Canadian Forces recruiting saying ... “Be all that you can be”. A bit of a cliché but it does ring true today. We have always prided ourselves in being a decentralized organization in which soldiers of all ranks are given the necessary training, equipment, and leadership but are relied upon to use their personal initiative. The ‘error of commission’ is always better than the ‘error of omission’. In other words, it is better to decide and to act than wait for someone else to fill the void. In that sense, ‘be all that you can be’ puts a lot of responsibility on the individual.

In 1732, French Marshall Maurice de Saxe said: “It is not the big armies that win battles; it is the good ones.” With uncertainty being today’s norm, such a quote provides guidance for us to continue to pursue excellence, and to be the best that we can be. This will ensure that we are one of ‘the good ones’.

“Excellence is striving for quality or merit in all that we do. Excellence lets us take pride in our accomplishments. Excellence must be tempered by balance, because when we seek excellence in one area, we risk neglecting our other values and priorities. It doesn’t mean being perfect; it means using our abilities and opportunities to their fullest.” (author unknown)

How fitting a description of Strathconas past and present!

Our 111th year as a Regiment could be described as a year of excellence. **MWO Richard Stacey’s** award of the Star of Valour, **MCpl Felix Charette** winning the Mountain Man competition, the Cambrian Patrol’s silver medal finish, and the Regiment’s exciting victory as the top unit at the Brigade Sports Competition are but a few of the many examples of our pursuit of excellence. Well done Strathconas!

*CoR presents a print to Kirby Court,
accepting on behalf of Spruce Meadows.*





A Word From the Senior Serving Strathcona

Brigadier-General Craig Hilton



As this edition of The Strathconian goes to press the Regiment is closing the chapter on Afghanistan with the return of our training teams, while a new chapter opens with the arrival of the first of the Leopard 2A4Ms into regimental lines. In a very real way this describes the situation faced by the wider Army as we end a decade of war and enter a period of transition toward a complex and uncertain future. Certainly the lessons learnt in recent years have been many and have come at a heavy cost. We owe it to ourselves as professionals to ensure we have done the complete after action analysis and committed the results into our evolving way of war. Equally, we owe it to ourselves as Strathcona's to honour our fallen and care for our ill, injured and our families. All of this is consistent with the finest traditions of our Regiment, established by our predecessors on those many occasions in our history when we have concluded one conflict and begun the process of preparing for the next.

While visiting the Regiment deployed in Wainwright this past Fall, it was inspiring to see how quickly the Squadrons were moving to recover their level of expertise with many of the features of armoured and armoured reconnaissance operations that, by necessity, had been put aside due to the particular demands of the Afghan campaign. It was likewise reassuring to see our NCOs, many with whom I have served, coaching our soldiers in tactics, techniques and procedures that for the majority were an entirely new experience. What I witnessed was a thoroughly professional organization, unique in its configuration and role in the Army, resetting its skill sets and depth in order to achieve a wide balance of capability in short order. This is no easy feat. Yet the calibre and energy that our soldiers have displayed this year with such challenging missions as Mountain Man, Cambrian Patrol, Spruce Meadows and Strong Contender, as illustrated in the pages that follow, leave me no doubt that our Regiment is more than ready to lead the Army through this critical transition period ahead.

It is indeed wonderful how some things never change.





Commanding Officer's Message

Lieutenant-Colonel Trevor Cadieu

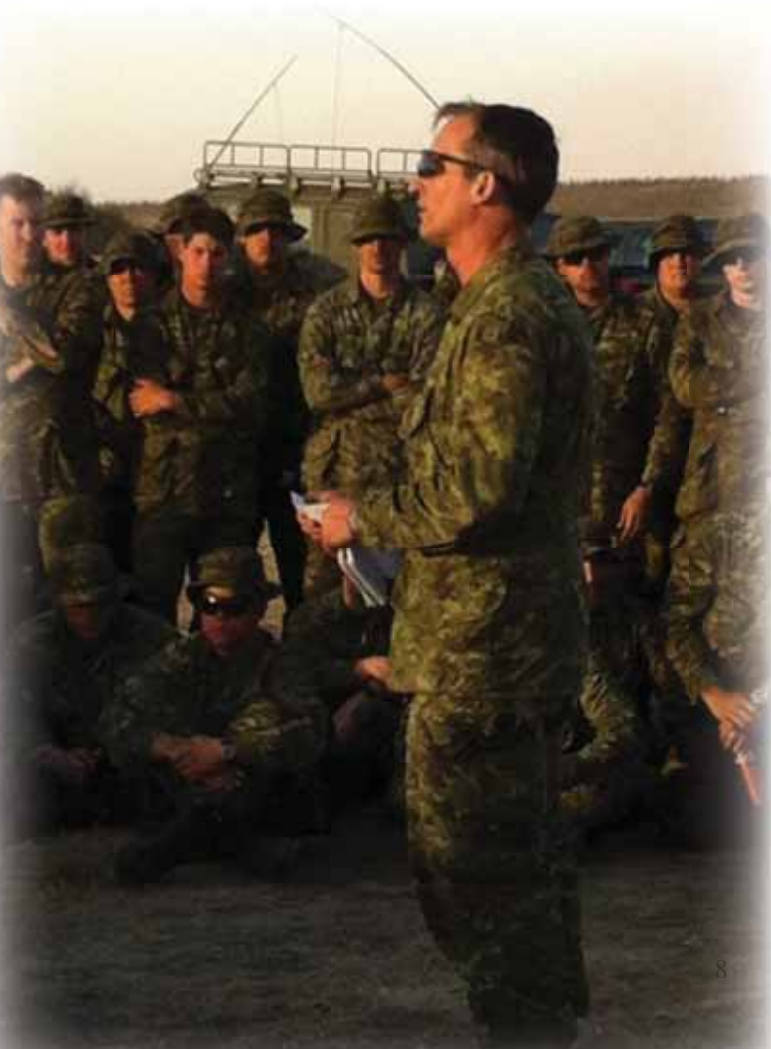
Unless someone asks me to write the 'Strathconas in Ottawa' article from my 8' x 8' cell (I mean, cubicle) at NDHQ, this will be the last chance I get to contribute to this publication. Knowing that most readers (me included) will cut past the CO's article to get to the glossy photos of troops doing the business, I will keep my remarks as succinct as possible to communicate my thanks to the Strathcona team.

These past two years have reinforced for me what most of you probably already know: that Strathcona soldiers and their families truly are inspirational and, together – like a well trained Leopard tank or Coyote reconnaissance crew – they are capable of achieving almost anything. I am not going to summarize the many accomplishments of this team in my article, as I think **Major Mike Onieu, Captain Dave Cronk, Kathy Batty** and all contributors have done a remarkable job of capturing a "Year in the Life of the Strathcona's" in the pages that follow. You will note Mike and his team have taken The Strathconian to a new level this year by including significantly more and larger photos, and keeping the focus where it should be: on the soldiers and their families.

Strathcona soldiers and leaders, including those serving at the Regiment and those employed external to the unit, continued to serve Canada with the 'quiet pride' that our team has always been known for. They were backed on the home front by incredibly understanding and patient families, and our activities

were focussed by the advice of some great leaders and members of the Old Guard. Moreover, when it came time to help care for our loved ones or celebrate together the collective successes of the team, our many Friends of the Regiment stepped forward to enable and resource our activities through the Regimental Society. A simple word of 'thanks' from me to all of these people simply doesn't cut it. I am truly grateful to have been along for the ride these past few years and to have learned each and every day from our remarkable troops.

Paul Peyton – a terrific leader, family man and great choice for command - will have no difficulty finding material for the 2012 edition of this publication. Our new Leopard 2 main battle tanks are now at the Regiment and will soon be incorporated into training, the Regiment has received orders to prepare another tank squadron for potential high readiness operations as of the Fall 2012 timeframe, and our team once again is poised to conduct training in a half dozen countries this coming year. I look forward to reading about the exploits of the Strathcona's from the East flank!





Regimental Sergeant-Major's Observations

Chief Warrant Officer Bill Crabb

It's hard to believe it is already time for another Strathconian article; the year has really flown by! Last year kicked off on a high note with the best all ranks party in anyone's memory, attended by over 1000 Strathconas and their families at Northlands Park. These numbers were realized because for the first time in five years we didn't have a squadron deployed in combat. That reprieve was short lived though, as we generated dozens of soldiers and three squadron's worth of leaders for three different missions in Afghanistan. As I write this article all of the soldiers we had deployed on the Mission Transition Task Force in Kandahar preparing our equipment for return to Canada are safely home. C Squadron soldiers are still in Afghanistan until March, wrapping up a highly successful training mission with the Afghan National Army.

Strathcona soldiers yet again served Canada proudly on operations through 2011, deploying nearly 80 troops on the aforementioned tours to Afghanistan and responding on no-notice with great professionalism to assist fellow Canadians affected by the Manitoba floods. The team was just as busy and effective in training: the Regiment formed a battle group known as Task Force Steele for collective training in Wainwright, all squadrons achieved sub-unit level fire proficiency and our troops dominated nearly every brigade competition, generating winning teams for the Canadian Forces Small arms competition, Mountain Man, Cambrian Patrol and Strong Contender. These amazing accomplishments are a testament to the initiative, hard work, dedication, morale, and feeling of pride possessed by all ranks of your Regiment.

With the end of our involvement in Afghanistan many of our younger members feeling that their chance to deploy is gone are contemplating different career paths. To them I say: our leaders have seen what a truly professional army can accomplish and how it benefits us as a country on the world stage. There is no doubt we will be asked to answer the call again, the question is only when.





Editor-in-Chief's Foreward

Major Mike Onieu



Families, friends of the Regiment, operations, training, sports, adventure, fun, and major accomplishments both at team and individual level have all featured prominently in 2011. If indeed there was a theme, it would be “A Busy Year” or “In Strathcona Fashion” based on the number of times these phrases appeared in the submitted works. But you can open any year of the Strathconian and find that the Regiment was decisively engaged across a spectrum of activities, and that we tackled them with élan and spirit as only the Strathcona’s can muster.

Knowing the Regiment never takes a knee in any particular year, we have dispensed with a theme and instead tried to deliver a selection of writings that captures the true breadth and depth of our engagement in.... everything. I wish to draw your attention to an article written by **Cpl Lucas Mullens**. He wrote it after he and **Cpl Mark Fuchko** climbed Mount Kilimanjaro. Read it carefully and perhaps twice, their story embodies the challenges and accomplishments of Strathcona’s in 2011, or indeed any year.

There are at least three occasions to read this book. First, a quick scan of the photos to see who is in them (hopefully you, doing something interesting rather than embarrassing). Second, when tasked to write an article for a future edition, to see how the subject was tackled before. And finally, years from now, a fond (or embarrassing) look at yourself and your peers, as you were.

As all previous Strathconian staff will attest, this doesn’t come together easily, and it is entirely a team effort. All credit goes to these people:

The Subalterns. Led by Advertising coordinator **Lt Anthony Kenny**, they ably pounded pavement and keyboards to attract the quality advertisers herein. We don’t thank the Subbies often, except for putting money on the bar, but this year they were exceptionally diligent at raising the money necessary to deliver the Strathconian.

The writers and photographers. Everyone likes to read the book, but no one appreciates another imposition on their schedule. You’ve outdone yourselves. This may be the first year where more articles were submitted than requested.

The Layout artist, CO’s Secretary **Kathy Batty**. No one puts more time into the construction of the Strathconian than her. Once again she surpassed her own previous standard, as she has done for 9 years running.








The Editor, **Capt Dave “Meatless Vegan” Cronk**. The editor fights a daily battle with the layout artist, who wants everything yesterday, the Senior Editor wants more pictures, more soldiers’ names, perfect copy editing, standardization, and finally with the writers, from whose forgetful paws articles must often be wrestled.


The errors are all mine. I hope you enjoy.

All old comrades and friends of the Regiment are cordially invited to increase our circulation by forwarding the names of other old comrades or prospective subscribers.


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Year in Review





Births and Marriages

- Birth – Cpl Reid’s daughter Ella Nicole born 3 January 2011
- Marriage – MCpl Deschambault and Ashley married on 12 February 2011
- Marriage – Tpr Wheat and April married on 14 February 2011
- Birth – Cpl Korenowski’s son Felix Raphael born 9 March 2011
- Birth – Cpl Pasuta’s twins Aidan and Andrew born 19 April 2011
- Birth – Cpl Wood’s son Kendrick William born 19 April 2011
- Birth – Capt Cooper’s daughter Addison Marie born 19 April 2011
- Birth – Cpl Wade’s son Trystan born on 21 April 2011
- Marriage – Cpl Burke and Emer married on 23 April 2011
- Birth – Sgt Englehart’s son Rylan born 29 April 2011
- Birth – Cpl Pernitsch’s son Abel born 11 May 2011
- Marriage – Cpl Brough and Jessica married on 14 May 2011
- Birth – Maj Chenette’s daughter Emily born on 26 May 2011
- Birth – Capt Anderson’s son Michael born on 25 June 2011
- Birth – Tpr Dunsford’s daughter Annabelle born on 1 July 2011
- Birth – Capt Bugg’s son Lain born on 13 July 2011
- Marriage – Sgt Morley and Victoria married on 23 July 2011
- Birth – Sgt Koestlmaier’s son Ryker born on 25 July 2011
- Marriage – Cpl Foster and Ashley married on 29 July 2011
- Marriage – Cpl Pegler and Christine married on 30 July 2011
- Marriage – Cpl Andrew Burris and MCpl Frances Burris married on 31 July 2011
- Birth – Maj Gardner’s daughter Charlotte born on 2 August 2011
- Birth – Capt Beitz’s son Benjamin born on 3 August 2011
- Marriage – Cpl Slade and Meghan married on 13 August 2011
- Marriage – Tpr Crozier and Heidi married on 14 August 2011
- Birth – Sgt Encinas’ son Titian born on 15 August 2011
- Birth – MCpl Delisle’s son Brody born on 22 August 2011
- Marriage – Cpl Walker and Heidi married on 24 August 2011
- Birth – Cpl Estabrooks’ daughter Penny born on 31 August 2011
- Birth – Cpls Hughes and Riopelle daughter Nell born on 7 September 2011
- Marriage – Capt Hansen and Kristen married on 10 September 2011
- Marriage – Capt Reiten and Jillian married on 10 September 2011
- Birth – Tpr Nicola’s daughter Charlee Bella born on 12 September 2011
- Birth – Tpr Koke’s daughter Claire born in 15 September 2011
- Marriage – MCpl Hamilton and Jillian married on 21 September 2011
- Birth – MCpl Hurlburt’s son Logan born on 5 October 2011
- Birth – MCpl Miller’s daughter Iliaana Joppe born on 22 October 2011
- Birth – MCpl Svensrud’s daughter Anna Lillie born on 2 November 2011
- Birth – Cpl Priddle’s daughter Mackenzie Lynn-Marie born on 5 November 2011
- Birth – Tpr Green’s daughter Isabelle born on 23 November 2011
- Birth – Cpl Gushue’s daughter Scarlett Margaret Kay born on 24 November 2011
- Marriage – Tpr Rollins and Laura married on 4 December 2011
- Marriage – MCpl Gordon and Elisa married on 30 December 2011
- Marriage – Cpl Gironne and Katharine on 31 December 2011



Honours and Awards



Honours and Awards

Star of Military Valour

MWO Stacey

Meritorious Service Medal

Col Forestell

LCol Cadieu

LCol Senft

Mention in Dispatches

Maj Hume

Cpl Geernaert

Canadian Forces Decoration

Capt Gray

Capt McGowan

Capt Cooper

Capt England

Sgt Willcott

MCpl Williams

MCpl Hamilton

MCpl Whittall

MCpl Marcheterre

MCpl Dunker

MCpl Nicholas

Cpl Mathieu

Cpl Hogan

Canadian Forces Decoration

First Clasp

Maj Cochrane

WO King

WO Chenier

Sgt Kopp

Cpl Clemetson

Sacrifice Medal

Capt Timms

WO Connauton

Sgt Trenholm

MCpl Doucette

MCpl McDougal

Cpl Ouellet

Cpl Murdoch

Cpl Geernaert

General Campaign Star

Sgt Spencer

Cpl Levesque

Cpl White

Tpr Hays

Tpr Wallis

Operational Service Medal (Haiti)

Sgt Parrill

Chief of Defence Staff Commendation

LCol Demers

LCol Gifford

Maj Cochrane

Capt Ross

Commander CEFCEM Commendation

Capt Gray

WO Hardy

Commander CANADACOM Commendation

MCpl Hamilton

LFWA Command Team Commendation

MCpl Deschambault

CFB Wainwright Base Comd Commendation

Sgt Cimon

US Legion of Merit -Degree of Officer

BGen Hilton

US Bronze Star

LCol Long

US Meritorious Service Medal

LCol Kelsey

Prince of Wales Trophy

Recce Sqn

Fox Bugle

MCpl Chmara

Colonel of the Regiment Silver Stick

Sgt Morley

The Milroy Crossbelt

Sgt Likely

The Neatby Pacestick

WO Taylor

The Hessin Sword

Lt Elliott

Olympic Torch Trophy

Cpl Thoren

Colonel-in-Chief Commendations

HCol Milner

Mr. H. Owen

Colonel Commandant Certificate of Recognition

Capt Ross

MCpl Charette

Cpl Geernaert

Cpl Rogers

The Colonel of the Regiment Commendation

Capt (Retired) Beiner

Promotions





Promotions

Maj Elkorazati
Capt Warlow
Capt Buckingham
Capt Thompson
Capt Vahal
Capt Kerek
Capt Daley
Capt MacInnis
Capt Webster
Capt Van Muyen
Lt Webster
Lt Shumka
Lt McLean
Lt King
Lt Lewis
Lt Readman
Lt Hewer
Lt McHugh
Lt Tapp
Lt Lee
Lt Smith
Lt McGuinness
MWO Clarke
MWO Taylor
WO Shiells
Sgt Biller

Sgt Hicks
Sgt McDougall
Sgt McLoughlin
Sgt Petca
Sgt Parrill
Sgt Schell
Sgt Rodger
Sgt Weatherbee
MCpl Deschambault
MCpl Di Cesare
MCpl Dixon
MCpl Gunton
MCpl Gushue
MCpl Hass
MCpl Jarratt
MCpl Jesse
MCpl Kouri
MCpl Lewis
MCpl Rasmussen
Cpl Aube
Cpl Bowers
Cpl Brough
Cpl Cheng
Cpl Courneyea
Cpl Dyk
Cpl Esau

Cpl Gagne
Cpl Harris
Cpl Hays
Cpl Kearns
Cpl Kipot
Cpl Koke
Cpl Lawrence
Cpl Lee
Cpl Lonegren
Cpl Maw
Cpl McMaster
Cpl McNarland
Cpl Morgan
Cpl Norman
Cpl Salazar
Cpl Scheltgen
Cpl Schijns
Cpl Sephton
Cpl Stewart
Cpl Steele
Cpl Trainor
Cpl Tremblay
Cpl Van Den Born
Cpl Weir
Cpl Young
Cpl York



Regimental Roll 2011

As of 16 December 2011

Colonel-in-Chief

His Royal Highness The Prince of Wales

Colonel of the Regiment

MGen Ross

Commanding Officer

LCol Cadieu

Regimental Second-in-Command

Maj McKenzie

Regimental Sergeant Major

CWO Crabb

Commanding Officer's Secretary

Kathy Batty

Adjutant

Capt Cooper

Operations Officer

Capt Gray

Regimental Headquarters

Operations Cell

Capt MacInnis
Capt Rieten
Capt Ross
Lt McGuinness
Lt Smith
WO King
Sgt Graf
MCpl Pickell
Cpl Murdoch
Cpl Lucas
Tpr Blacklock

Training Cell

Capt Daley
Sgt Churchill
MCpl Williams
MCpl Marcheterre
Cpl Graves
Tpr Dixon

Intelligence Cell

Lt Stachow
Cpl Aube
Cpl Budgell
Cpl Collins

Regimental Signals Troop

Capt Niedzielski
WO Hardy
Sgt Willcott
MCpl Bergeron
MCpl Deschambault
Cpl Lloyd
Cpl Maclean
Sig Burke
Sig Hewison
Sig Knopf
Sig Lahti
Sig Melanson
Sig Smith
Sig Willet

Regimental Orderly Room

WO Litwin
Sgt Ellis
MCpl Kennedy
MCpl Di Cesare
Pte Kozlik-Harding

Regimental Police

MCpl Doucette
Cpl Burton
Cpl Edwards
Cpl Whiteley
Cpl Romkey
Cpl Tonn

Prince of Wales Squadron (Recce Sqn)

Officer Commanding

Maj Lubiniecki

Squadron Sergeant Major

MWO Clarke

Squadron Headquarters

Capt Nitu
Sgt Mills
MCpl Delisle
Cpl Esau
Cpl Hatter
Cpl Hume
Cpl Johnson
Cpl Kenny

Cpl Lawrence
Cpl Tremblay
Cpl Van Heerden
Tpr Hall
Tpr Howarth-Harrison
Tpr Whipple

1st Troop

Lt Shumka
Sgt Sherren
MCpl Baker
MCpl Headrick
MCpl Hurlburt
MCpl Nicholas
MCpl Wright
Cpl Beatty
Cpl Crowe
Cpl Maw
Cpl Maxwell
Cpl Norman
Cpl Schijns
Cpl St Germain
Tpr Bondy
Tpr Bulfone
Tpr Dobson
Tpr Hall
Tpr Maendel
Tpr Malone
Tpr Senff
Tpr Stewart
Tpr Visaya
Tpr Woodcock

2nd Troop

2Lt Hewer
WO Brown
Sgt Holmes
MCpl Bustard
MCpl Carnevale
MCpl Chmara
MCpl Dixon
MCpl Johnston
Cpl Hammermeister
Cpl Keller
Cpl Lazo
Cpl Mijares
Cpl Morgan
Cpl Peachey
Cpl Zwicker
Tpr Belanger
Tpr Campbell
Tpr Clackson

Tpr Downey
Tpr Germann
Tpr McTaggart
Tpr Skaarup
Tpr Snoek

3rd Troop

Lt Readman
Sgt Webb
MCpl Barsotta
MCpl Dugdale
MCpl Goobie
MCpl Walsh
Cpl Hayes
Cpl Koolman
Cpl Lee
Cpl McCollum
Cpl McNarland
Cpl Murray
Cpl Partridge
Cpl Priddle
Cpl Van den Born
Cpl Young
Tpr Aguila
Tpr Boskic
Tpr Deacon
Tpr Fraser
Tpr Gnabs
Tpr Guay
Tpr Kirkwood
Tpr Van Nieuwenhuyze
Tpr Taborowski

4th Troop

Sgt Encinas
MCpl Charette
MCpl Ribert
MCpl Vigar
Cpl Aymont
Cpl Brisebois-Bergeron
Cpl Charlton
Cpl Cheng
Cpl Gagne
Cpl Harris
Cpl Herbert
Cpl Lonegren
Cpl Martin
Cpl McMaster
Cpl Olaes
Cpl Scheltgen
Cpl Stewart
Cpl Underwood

Tpr Barten
Tpr Calvano
Tpr Dewolff
Tpr Ebaghetti
Tpr Molloy
Tpr Muirhead
Tpr Smith
Tpr Symington
Tpr Trainor

Administration Troop

Lt Wawrzyn
WO Wallis
WO Young
Sgt Lang
MCpl Hunt
MCpl Miller
MCpl Noskey
MCpl Sullivan
MCpl West
Cpl Allman
Cpl Booth
Cpl Ford
Cpl Hays
Cpl Hedge
Cpl Hogan
Cpl Jacobs
Cpl Lavoie
Cpl Morin
Cpl Morrison
Cpl Nickerson
Cpl Pasuta
Cpl Pernitch
Cpl Pole
Cpl Steele
Cpl Taylor
Cpl Unrau
Tpr Buffitt
Tpr Nicola
Tpr Ramdeen
Tpr Spencer
Tpr Tiahnybok

A Squadron

Officer Commanding

Maj MacIntyre

Squadron Sergeant Major

MWO Taylor

Squadron Headquarters

Capt Boates
Capt Van Muyen
Sgt Zubkowski
MCpl Acorn
Cpl Cameron
Cpl Davidson
Cpl Foster
Cpl Graham
Cpl Hogemann
Tpr Glennie
Tpr Langlands
Tpr Serben
Tpr Townsend

1st Troop

Lt McLean
WO MacNeill
Sgt Morley
Sgt Spencer
MCpl Paterson
Cpl Arsenaault
Cpl Banman
Cpl Barrett
Cpl Burris
Cpl Butler
Cpl Elms
Cpl Koke
Cpl McKenzie
Cpl Sykes
Cpl Young
Tpr MacDonald
Tpr Phelan

2nd Troop

Lt McHugh
WO Baglole
Sgt Flannigan
MCpl Brister
MCpl Gushue
Cpl Campbell B
Cpl Droogers
Cpl Dyk
Cpl Kent
Cpl Korenowski
Cpl Levesques
Cpl Woodland
Tpr Biener
Tpr Cummings
Tpr Foss
Tpr Hillman
Tpr Rae
Tpr Richardson

3rd Troop

Lt King
WO Allen
MCpl Gordon
MCpl Hamilton
MCpl Murphy
MCpl Fedyshyn
Cpl Baker
Cpl Brown
Cpl Nancarrow
Cpl Walker
Cpl Thompson
Tpr Bishop
Tpr Croxall
Tpr Dunford
Tpr Hamm
Tpr Hogan
Tpr Freeman
Tpr Gerrior
Tpr Finch
Tpr Hayes
Tpr Kozack
Tpr Potter
Tpr Wagner

Administration Troop

Capt McMurachy
WO Boland
Sgt Dance
Sgt Trenholm
MCpl McDougal
MCpl Hasson
MCpl Jahjefendic
MCpl McMurtry
MCpl Reid
Cpl Albrechtson
Cpl Bakker
Cpl Bellegarde
Cpl Burton
Cpl Churchill
Cpl Davidson
Cpl Estabrooks
Cpl Frost
Cpl Jacques
Cpl Lajoie
Cpl Livingstone
Cpl McQueen
Cpl Mullin
Cpl Ramiro
Cpl Riopelle
Cpl Schenher
Cpl York

Tpr Hauck
Tpr Hurley
Tpr Gaona

B Squadron

Officer Commanding

Maj Onieu

Squadron Sergeant Major

MWO Mayfield

Squadron Headquarters

Capt Cronk
Capt Vahal
Sgt Craig
MCpl Thomas
Cpl Clegg
Cpl Frenette
Cpl Kearns
Cpl Kisch
Cpl Folkerts
Tpr Monge
Tpr Rollins
Tpr Shepard
Tpr Sherlock-Hubbard

1st Troop

Lt Tapp
WO Shiells
Sgt Clark
MCpl Eady
Cpl Kroker
Cpl Chase
Cpl Sebo
Cpl Levesque
Tpr Brown
Tpr Doyle
Tpr Fleming
Tpr Crozier
Tpr Pitcher
Tpr Larcher Pelland
Tpr Shepherd
Tpr Smith
Tpr Watson

2nd Troop

Lt Lewis
Sgt Biener
Sgt McDougall
MCpl Jesse

MCpl Kruhlak
MCpl Osborne
Cpl Fitch
Tpr Bannister
Tpr Clare
Tpr Edwards
Tpr Green
Tpr Haywood
Tpr Smith
Tpr Duxbury
Tpr Wahl

3rd Troop

2Lt Lee
WO Connauton
Sgt McLoughlin
MCpl Dube
MCpl Lister
Cpl Collier
Cpl Gironne
Cpl Roselle
Tpr Chen
Tpr Broad
Tpr Doty
Tpr Lorge
Tpr Nicholson
Tpr Sullivan
Tpr Novak

Administration Troop

Capt Pett
Lt Kenny
WO Romanuik
Sgt Green
Sgt McGean
MCpl Burris
MCpl Dickison
MCpl Moores
MCpl Thompson
Cpl Anderson
Cpl Clarke
Cpl Dixon
Cpl Drake
Cpl Drew
Cpl Graham
Cpl Hughes
Cpl Klages
Cpl Loff
Cpl Mulyk
Cpl Partington
Cpl Popoff
Cpl Salazar

Cpl Skinner
Cpl Silcox
Cpl Rabesca
Cpl Wry
Tpr Blair
Tpr Bourdon
Tpr Dunn
Tpr Duxbury
Tpr Harder
Tpr Macmillan
Tpr Sandhu
Tpr Smith
Tpr Taylor
Tpr Wallis

Headquarters Squadron

Officer Commanding

Maj Kirstein

Squadron Sergeant Major

MWO Batty

Squadron Headquarters

Capt Wong
Sgt Bowden
Sgt Denson
MCpl Mooney
Cpl Berkshire
Cpl Costello
Cpl DeJong
Cpl Drummond
Cpl Dunbar
Cpl Girling
Cpl Guy
Cpl Harvey de Roy
Cpl MacPherson
Cpl Patterson
Cpl Pegler
Cpl Preston
Cpl Weir
Tpr Alm
Tpr Greenaway
Tpr Long
Tpr Mosher
Tpr Younger

Transport Troop

Capt McGowan
WO Falls
Sgt Kopp
MCpl Baird
MCpl Ellis
MCpl Lahay
MCpl Painchaud
MCpl Woods
Cpl Chevalier
Cpl LaFontaine
Cpl Marion
Cpl McKinnon
Cpl Miller
Cpl Mullens
Cpl O'Dell
Cpl Ouellet
Cpl Penny
Cpl Pugh
Cpl Ross
Cpl Winchester
Tpr Albers
Tpr Allard
Tpr Baron
Tpr Brouwer
Tpr Brown
Tpr Charles
Tpr Dupuis
Tpr Elston
Tpr Gibbons
Tpr Gordon
Tpr Gray
Tpr Jung
Tpr Kesler
Tpr Koukal
Tpr MacLean
Tpr Magdalin
Tpr Martin
Tpr Mooy
Tpr Radford
Tpr Ranchuk
Tpr Richerivezeau
Tpr Southern
Tpr Stratford
Tpr Tomayer
Tpr Turner
Tpr Warren
Tpr Wolfe

Strathcona Mounted Troop

Capt Buckingham
WO Clarke
Sgt McGean
MCpl Balfour
MCpl Bernardo
MCpl Brookson
MCpl Broome
Cpl Paskuski
Cpl Ram
Cpl Roberts
Cpl Rogers
Cpl Sears
Cpl Slade
Cpl Slyford
Cpl Thiffault-Dumont
Tpr Essex
Tpr Fischer
Tpr Kearns
Tpr Vachon
Tpr Van der Mewre

Regimental Accounts

Capt Webster
Sgt Jones
Cpl White

Family Support Troop

Capt Schapansky
Sgt Petersen
MCpl Lamothe
MCpl Murphy
Cpl Boorman
Cpl Dube
Cpl Reid
Tpr McCulloch
Tpr Sephton
Tpr St Jean
Tpr Wareham
Tpr Wheat

Regimental Quarter Master Stores

Capt Hansen
MWO Clayson
MWO Pudar
Sgt Brake
MCpl Haas
MCpl Sebo
Cpl Brown
Cpl Gallant

Cpl Heroux
Cpl Johnson
Cpl Lanthier
Cpl Lewis
Cpl Paradis
Cpl Sephton
Cpl Veilleux
Tpr Lachance-Webster
Tpr Wood

Cooks

WO Doucet
Sgt Flannigan
MCpl Bechard
MCpl Page
MCpl Sinnett
LS Brassard
Cpl Coxall
Cpl Wade
Pte Chang

Maintenance Troop

Capt Bazinet
MWO Hawkins
WO Hughes
WO Lapointe
Sgt Cimon
Sgt Stoyko
MCpl Broadfoot
MCpl Doiron
MCpl Greenlaw
MCpl Leslie
MCpl McCracken
MCpl Noskey
MCpl Okimawininew
MCpl Phillips
MCpl Piatkowski
MCpl Sikorski
MCpl Svensrud
MCpl Underhill
MCpl Voisin
MCpl Walsh
MCpl Williams
Cpl Courneyea
Cpl Deng
Cpl Eveleigh
Cpl Gourlay
Cpl Gray
Cpl Hogan
Cpl Houle
Cpl Hunt
Cpl Kipot

Cpl Lee
Cpl Lefort
Cpl Levesque
Cpl Lussier
Cpl Mathieu
Cpl McConnell
Cpl Phillips
Cpl Pole
Cpl Reid
Cpl Rundle
Cpl Russell
Cpl Thompson
Cpl Wood
Tpr Carson
Pte Rimpilainen
Pte Wilson

Stables

MCpl Peddle
MCpl Ramage

Administration Troop

Capt England
WO Chenier
WO MacLeod
Sgt Giberson
MCpl Gibson
Cpl Bergen
Cpl Burke
Cpl Hagerty
Cpl Hoth
Cpl McKinley
Cpl Seders



Deployed Personnel (Op Attention)

Maj Chenette
Capt Douglas
Capt Dullege
Capt Kerek
Capt Leonard
Capt McEwen
Capt Prince
Capt Salter
Capt Warlow

Capt Whalley
Capt Wiome
Lt Elliott
Lt Lund
MWO Riley
WO Dufour
WO Paquette
WO Bolger
WO Stanistreet
Sgt Koestlmaier
Sgt Thomas
Sgt Flanagan

Sgt Scheller
MCpl Usher
MCpl Hodgson
Cpl Handrahan
Cpl Scott
Cpl Goodall
Cpl Brown
Cpl Brown
Cpl Fisher
Cpl Jordan
Cpl Vallerand





The Year in Review

January

- 17-21** Ex STRONG CONTENDER Brigade Inter-Unit Sports Competition
- 17-27** Ex WINGED WARRIOR - Regt support to 408 Tactical Helicopter Sqn Exercise
- 20** 1 Canadian Mechanized Brigade Group Officers' Mess Dinner held at the Edmonton Garrison Officers' Mess
- 24 Jan- 2 Feb** Regimentally controlled Primary Leadership Qualification course, theory portion for Afghanistan training mission, Operation ATTENTION
- 31 Jan- 4 Mar** 25mm Turret Operator Course

February

- 5** Task Force 1-10 (A Sqn) Welcome Home and All Ranks Dinner and Dance held at Northlands, over 1000 soldiers and significant others were in attendance.
- 14-16** Ex STEELE WINTER – Downhill Skiing Adventure Training Serial 1 with 75 soldiers participating
- 22-23** Counter Terrorism Driving Course at United States Training Centre - Moyock, North Carolina for Mission Transition Task Force Commander's tactical vehicle crew
- 22-24** Ex STEELE WINTER – Downhill Skiing Adventure Training Serial 2 with 75 soldiers participating

March

- 408 Tactical Helicopter Squadron deployment to Afghanistan with LdSH(RC) Door Gunners
- 7-10** Regiment support to Museum of Regiments' Afghanistan Exhibit Dedication

- 7-11** Ex STEELE READY – A Sqn Leopard C2 gunner course range
- 9-15** Bison Armoured Personnel Carrier Driver and Maintenance Conversion Course
- 18** Moreuil Wood Parade
- 26 Mar- 3 Apr** Regimental Block Leave

April

- 4-21** 1 Canadian Mechanized Brigade Group Ex DESERT RAM – Suffield. Regimental pers supported Convoy Range, ran a Refresher Range and supported the Battle Inoculation Range
- 9-10** LdSH(RC) affiliated Cadet Corps concentration weekend held within Regimental lines
- 27 Apr- 19 May** B Sqn Support to Combat Team Commander's Course in Gagetown

May

- Afghanistan Training Mission Op ATTENTION Deployments – Phase 1
- 1-10** LdSH(RC) Battle Group in support of Canadian Mechanized Training Centre's Ex MAPLE GUARDIAN. Battle Group was made up of Regimental Headquarters, Recce Squadron, Light Infantry Company, Parachute Company, Artillery Battery, Engineer Troop, Forward Observation Officers with Headquarters Squadron support.
- 12-23** Immediate Reaction Unit – Deployment of Recce and A Squadrons to support Shilo based units with the Manitoba Floods
- 21-24** Ex STEELE BOAT – B Sqn Professional Development on Canadian Navy ships in Halifax



24 May- 105mm Leo C2 Gunner & Crew
20 Jun Commander Course

June

3 Strathcona Hosted Edmonton Garrison Officers' Mess Business Luncheon
3-12 4 Canadian Ranger Patrol Group Ex RIVER RUN Adventure Training
5 Loops for Troops 10km Run - Edmonton
6 Jun- Primary Reserve Basic Military
13 Jul Qualification Course run by LdSH(RC) in Edmonton
6-21 Bison Driver and Maintenance Course
11 St. Albert Freedom of the City
19 Loops for Troops 10km Run - Calgary
21-28 105mm Leopard C2 Gunners Course Guncamp in Wainwright – B Sqn

8-10 Support to Spruce Meadows North American with 100 man Honour Guard from Recce Sqn
11-15 Ex STEELE BEAR – B Sqn Adventure Training Canoe Trip on the North Saskatchewan River
14 Command Team Challenge and Regimental BBQ – run by C Sqn
16 Recce Sqn participation in Sourdough Raft Race



19-22 Op NIJMEGAN, 4 day – 160km march
23 Jul– Regimental Summer Leave
7 Aug
28 Jul– Primary Reserve Basic Military
26 Aug Qualification (Land) Course run by LdSH(RC) in Edmonton
30-31 Ex SUMMIT RAM – 125km Death Race in Grande Cache
21-24 Capital Ex and Edmonton Indy support with Vehicle Static Displays

July

4 Jul- Primary Reserve Basic Military
2 Aug Qualification Course run by LdSH(RC) in Edmonton
8-17 Support to Calgary Stampede Parade with 100man guard from B Sqn and Static Vehicle Displays
8 Support to Royal Couple, Departure Parade with 100 man Honour Guard by Recce Sqn - Calgary

August

Afghanistan Training Mission Op ATTENTION Deployments – Phase 2
3-31 Primary Reserve Basic Military Qualification (Land) Course run by LdSH(RC) in Edmonton



- 8-13** Regimental Guidon Party Support to FORTISSIMO parades on Parliament Hill
- 8 Aug– 2 Sep** Leopard C2 Driver and Maintenance Course
- 8 Aug– 2 Sep** 25mm Turret Operator Course
- 10-12** Ex STEELE BOAT REDUX - A Sqn Adventure Training Canoe Trip on the North Saskatchewan River
- 13 Aug– 17 Sep** Leopard 2 Commissioning Phase 2 Germany
- 16** LdSH(RC) Mini Mountain Man held in the Edmonton River Valley
- 16-17** Ex STEELE SUMMER Regt Adventure Training Serial 1 – Consisting of White Water Rafting, Paintball and Hiking in Grande Cache
- 18-19** Ultimate Fighting Championship's Shane Carwin - Professional Development / Training in the Regimental Lines
- 22-26** Primary Reserve Ex MAPLE DEFENDER Firepower Demonstration by A Sqn, Infantry Platoon, Engineers, Artillery and Alpha Jets in Wainwright
- 23-24** Ex STEELE SUMMER Regt Adventure Training Serial 2 Grande Cache

- 23-25** Cambrian Team Elevation Training – Skyline Trail, Jasper
- 25** MCpls Golf Tournament
- 27** Regimental Family Day



Tpr Larcher-Pelland going toe to toe with one of our friends from the Queen's Royal Lancers during the Ex STEELE SABRE Smoker

September

- 1** 1 Canadian Mechanized Brigade Group Ex MOUNTAIN MAN competition in the Edmonton River Valley
- 4-17** Canadian Forces Small Arms Concentration - Ottawa
- 6-7** Comd Team luncheon at the Horton Legion and Professional Development in Calgary
- 9-29** Ex STEELE SABRE - Troop Live fire for A, B and Recce Sqns, 25mm TOC Guncamp and Sqn live fire for A and B Sqns
- 16-19** ½ Marathon Army Run – Ottawa
- 19-24** Leopard Tactical Mobility Implement Trials – Wainwright
- 27** Canadian Pacific Key Leadership Visit to Ex STEELE SABRE





October

- 3 Oct–** Leopard 2 Technicians Conversion
- 18 Nov** Training Course - Germany
- 8 Oct–** Leopard 2 Commissioning Phase 2
- 12 Nov** Germany
- 11-29** B Sqn's support to 2 Canadian Mechanized Brigade Group Ex MAPLE RESOLVE - Wainwright
- 14** Unveiling of Canadian Pacific Locomotive with LdSH(RC) Society Crest
- 18-19** Society Casino - Yellowhead Casino
- 20-28** MLVW Driver and Maintenance Course
- 21-30** Cambrian Patrol Competition – Wales, UK
- 24 Oct–** Close Quarter Combat -
- 4 Nov** Basic Course
- 24 Oct–** Coyote Surveillance
- 18 Nov** Operator Course
- 30** Ex SEMPER FI RAM - USMC Marathon Washington, USA
- 31 Oct–** Recce Patrol support to 1
- 22 Nov** PPCLI Ex PATRICIA ACES at the United States National Training Centre Ft Irwin, California

- 5 Nov–** Close Quarter Combat - Instructor
- 7 Dec** Course
- 7-8** Armour Lessons Learned from Operations in Afghanistan Visit
- 11** No Stone Left Alone - Poppy Laying Initiative
- 14-28** MSVS Driver and Maintenance Course
- 21-22** Soldier for a Day Experiences for deserving members of the community and friends of the Regiment
- 21-25** Visit to Chilean Armour School - Chile



November

- Afghanistan Training
- Mission Op
- ATTENTION Deployments Phase 3
- 408 Tactical Helicopter Squadron redeployment from Afghanistan with LdSH(RC) Door Gunners
- Mission Transition Task Force Redeployments
- 3 Nov–** Leopard C2 Driver and Maintenance
- 5 Dec** Course
- 3 Nov–** Leopard C2 Gunner Course
- 6 Dec**
- 23 Nov–** Tracked Light Armoured Vehicle
- 12 Dec** Driver and Maintenance Course
- 23 Nov–** Bison Driver and Maintenance Course
- 13 Dec**
- 28 Nov–** Career Manager Visit and Black Hat
- 2 Dec** Professional Development
- 28 Nov–** Ex PATRICIA JUDGEMENT - 1
- 2 Dec** PPCLI Battle Group Simulation Exercise
- 29 Nov–** Armoured Vehicle Crew Commander
- 9 Dec** Course
- 29 Nov–** HLVW Conversion Course
- 12 Dec**



December

Mission Transition Task Force
Redeployments

- 1 Black Hat Mess Dinner at Edmonton Garrison Officers Mess
- 2-5 4 Canadian Ranger Patrol Group Cold Weather Wilderness Survival Training
- 3 Regimental Childrens' Christmas Party
- 8 Command Team Challenge and Regimental BBQ – run by Recce Sqn
- 14 Regimental Sports Day
- 15 Regimental Christmas Parade, Soldier's Christmas Dinner, and At Home hosted by Officers
- 17 Dec– Regimental Christmas Leave
- 9 Jan

Cpl Edwards, Cpl Aubé and Cpl Tonn

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Operations





Task Force Freedom Strathcona's Grow Wings

Sgt Jason Clark

The 10th of March saw six Strathcona door gunners deploy with 408 Tactical Helicopter Squadron (THS) as part of Task Force Freedom Roto 11. For seven months these soldiers conducted several courses including the M134 Dillon minigun, GUA 21 (.50 cal) and Close Combat Support Course and were lucky enough to travel throughout North America to complete this training. We deployed to such places as Scottsdale and Yuma Arizona, CFB Cold Lake and exotic CFB Wainwright.

Once deployed, we Strathconas found ourselves employed in TF Freedom's two Flights (Flt), **Cpls Ron Butler, Sean Clarke and Ian Folkerts** were part of CH146 Flt, employing Griffon helicopters which primarily provided escort to the Chinooks and armed over watch for ground troops. The other was CH147 Flt made up of Chinooks, providing lifting capacity for personnel and equipment with **Sgt Jason Clark, Cpls Kyle Camren and Dan Graham** attached as door gunners. Meanwhile, **WO Tod Hopkin** kept an eye on all Strathconas as the Operations Warrant Officer.



Cpl Dan Graham up to no good

Fortunately, the early deployment allowed the soldiers to acclimatize to Afghanistan long before the upcoming summer months. It also enabled the Squadron to conduct its relief in place before the usual "fighting season". The initial training in theatre saw Forward Operating Base (FOB) familiarization, confirmation ranges, Chinook airframe training, intelligence updates, and reading up on lessons learned. Once the ride along flights were completed and several missions flown with the previous Squadron (403 THS), TF Freedom was ready to take over.

After the first month, the Squadron had a chance to have some fun and raise money for disabled soldiers. The "Dash for Cash" pitted **Cpl Dan Graham** against **MCpl Shaun Kirby** (2 PPCLI) in a race. Dressed in full flight gear, carrying all their emergency equipment, they had to conduct an emergency egress out of the helicopter and reach the awaiting bongo truck. **Cpl Graham** won the day and represented the Regiment by making it to the truck first, displaying a stellar burst of speed and determination.

The majority of operations saw the Squadron supporting the FOBs with resupplies of food, water, mail, and transporting troops. This helped reduce the number of personnel exposed to Improvised Explosive Devices common throughout the roads of Afghanistan. The Chinooks also saw extensive employment providing Coalition forces with lift capacity during air assaults throughout the Panjawi and Dand districts. The Griffons provided armed over watch for ground operations as an extensive effort was made before the Canadian pullout to neutralize weapons caches and reduce the number of insurgents making the trek into Afghanistan for the fighting season.



Cpl Clarke and his Vader mask



As the month of July approached, the efforts of TF Freedom shifted to supporting the draw down of Canadian Forces operating in Southern Afghanistan. Troops from the battle group returned to Kandahar, to begin the exodus back to Canada, while American replacements began the process of taking over the FOBs. CH147 Flt was tasked with moving all these personnel and equipment, while CH 146 Flt provided air support for the many Combat Logistic Patrols returning to Kandahar Air Field with items too large to be airlifted.

As quickly as the tour started, the end had arrived. Three days after the final combat mission, the Strathcona's aircrew of TF Freedom began their trip to Cyprus for some decompression leave and return to Regimental duty.





OP ATTENTION

Building from the Ground Up

*Capt Marshall Douglas, Capt Mike Dullege, Capt Warren Kerek,
Lt Gord Elliott and Lt Richard Lund*

As the Leopards make the long journey back to Canada, officers and soldiers of Lord Strathcona's Horse (Royal Canadians) continue to make an impact in Afghanistan. Deploying as mentors to several Afghan National Army (ANA) training institutions and the central ANA fielding centre, Strathcona's are now charged with a most challenging task: building the ANA into a trained and viable force that is ready and capable to assume responsibility for the security of their own country.

Camp ALAMO is located on the eastern edge of KABUL and is home to fourteen Strathcona officers and soldiers who mentor Afghan Officers and Senior Non-Commissioned Officers (NCOs) in a number of different roles at the Kabul Military Training Centre (KMTC). **Capt Warren Kerek**, working in the S3 Cell, has continuously applied his empire-building skills in order to consolidate all Coalition force movement assets under his direct control. Advising within the Soldier Training Brigade (STB), **Cpl Damien Brown** has been working to improve overall instructor quality on the Basic Warrior Training Course. **Cpl Paul Jordan** has been managing a training stock of 1400 weapons for his training Kandak and has been working hard to get his Afghan partners to adopt the same measures of accountability as we do. **WO Mike Bolger**, **Sgt Mike Koestlmaier** and **Cpl Guillaume Vallerand** work daily with the weapons instructors within STB to ensure the ANA's drills on the M249, M240 and M16 are actually put into practice for the thousands of basic

training candidates that flow through KMTC each month. Meanwhile, **Cpl Frank Brown** has been responding to emergency calls within camp, driving the camp's ambulance to and from helicopter landing sites in order to ensure the safe evacuation of Coalition soldiers, to follow-on care.

Mentoring at the Regional Military Training Center – Central (RMTC-C) are **Maj John McEwen** and **Capt Mike Dullege**, filling the roles of the Company Second-in-Command (2IC) and RMTC Executive Officer (XO) advisor, and the S4 advisor respectively. RMTC-C runs training for NCOs, medics, MPs and puts hundreds of others through much needed literacy training. Originally deployed as the 2IC in the Second Kandak, **Capt Dullege** quickly shifted roles, assuming control of a team of four and learning the endless complexities of the ANA logistics system. **Maj McEwen** began taking steps down the tedious road of making an Executive Officer really an Executive Officer.



Sgt Keith Hodgson reacts to being posted to Gagetown



Sgt Shane Flanagan mentors soldiers of the RBWT during urban ops training at Camp Shaheen



*Tom Selleck on the set of the new Magnum PI movie...
no wait it's just*

Lt Gord Elliott at the Camp Alamo Christmas party

At Regional Military Training Center – North (RMTC-N), located west of Mazar-e Sharif in Northern Afghanistan, nine Strathconas operate under the command team of **LCol Derek Chenette** and **MWO Mark Riley**. RMTC-N conducts training for basic recruits, NCOs, drivers, medics, instructors and literacy education, training a total of nearly 12,000 soldiers every year. **WO Tim Stanistreet**, **Sgts Shane Flanagan, Keith Hodgson, Ryan Thomas** and **Cpl Jen Scott** work daily with the students and instructors of the Regional Basic Warrior Training (RBWT) Kandak, advising the ANA on how to conduct training and improve instructional techniques. **Cpts Andrew Warlow** and **Chris Whalley** and **Lt Richard Lund** advise the XO, S1 and S3 respectively, working with their ANA counterparts to ensure proper planning, coordination and administration is carried out at both RMTC-N and the RBWT.

The Consolidated Fielding Center (CFC) is located in the Pol-e-Charki garrison and is home to the smallest group of Strathcona's in the Canadian Contribution Training Mission – Afghanistan. The CFC is the ANA's force builder. The mission of the institution is to man, equip, train, validate and deploy every new unit that the ANA will receive. From May 2011 to February 2012, the CFC will have introduced almost 12,000 new soldiers, \$400 million (US) worth of military hardware in 41 new ANA units to the ANA field force. **Maj Paul Leonard**, the CFC Plans officer, was responsible for finding inventive ways of fielding and training units that do not yet exist in the ANA. Capt Marshall Douglas, contrary to popular belief, was not 'kind of a big deal around here,' unless it was related to coordinating the deployments of newly fielded ANA units. **WO Douglas Paquette**, thanklessly employed as the CFC Ops WO (otherwise known as the doer of everything), diplomatically coordinates with OMLTs from several different NATO and Coalition nations to make sure their training is conducted smoothly and that their living and parking arrangements are satisfactory. **Cpl Erik Goodall**, far away from the familiarity of the 19mm socket wrench, works as a mentor to an ANA training team who provide newly formed ANA units with the collective training they require prior to their deployment on operations. **Sgt Jesse Scheller** is an integral part of CFC's "Main Effort" of equipping the ANA. **Sgt Scheller**, part of the three-man fielding team, has personally equipped 41 ANA units with approximately \$400 million (US) worth of equipment.

Success during this deployment has, for those in mentorship roles, been measured in inches. As we all approach the conclusion of our time in Afghanistan, most of us are able to take stock of where we started with our Afghan partners, compare it to where we are now and note the tremendous change that we have helped affect. For some, this means the conduct of a safe range practice, while for others, it is the conduct of a successful period of instruction. These small achievements, routine in our army, are milestones towards the ANA becoming the professional force that Afghanistan needs and deserves. The Strathconas deployed on Op ATTENTION are proud to have served in this capacity.



The Strathconas at Camp Alamo in Kabul



Mission Transition Task Force Strathcona's deploy for greatest extended line sweep since Korea

MCpl Sean Ellis

In February, many of us received the bad news that our chance to go on the final mission to Afghanistan had been scrubbed, as the Mission Transition Task Force (MTTF) had cut 300 positions. However, by March, there was a light at the end of the tunnel. It was determined that soldiers were required to be sent to Kandahar Airfield (KAF) to remove the add-on-armour and enhanced crew protection that had been added to fighting vehicles over the course of the deployment. This would prove to be a daunting task to say the least, with over 270 A vehicles and some 300 support Vehicles (MLVW's, LSVWs and HLVWs). The MTTF allotted four and a half months to do this task with six sections of soldiers working in nine hour shifts, in up to 60 degree Celsius heat, and they accomplished the job in three.



MCpl Sean Ellis with Bubbles at KAF Beer Call

Not only were we responsible for removing the armour but also the mammoth task of pressure washing and packaging the armour fell to us as well. **Cpls Mike Jacques and Derek Popoff** and **Tpr Cody Wallis**, accomplished the task in record time working outside in the often blistering heat, the occasional sandstorm, and the ever present rocket attacks (104 of them in total). At the end of this task, they filled over 1200 crates and loaded them into 300 sea containers for shipment back to Canada.

It was not all work and no play, as Add on Armour Platoon fielded the best hockey team in the Kandahar Hockey League, right up to the point where they were kicked out of the league for playing too aggressively.

I guess the other teams couldn't handle the pressure of playing combat arms soldiers.



American's protesting our departure

To break up the boredom and improve troop morale, the MTTF planned beer calls and BBQs. Even though the slice of steak served to us would rival the track pad steaks from the mess hall back home, it was still greatly appreciated. Some soldiers took advantage of their time off to pursue some pretty heavy physical training, **Cpl Cam Davidson**, who served as the 2IC of 3 Section, hit the gym with a serious mission and entered a number of runs to include: the 10th Mountain Division Ruck Run, the Terry Fox Run, The Run For a Cure (Breast Cancer); the Australian Legacy Run; The Army Run; and the Role 3 memorial Run. On top of these, he also completed the MTTF Commanders Challenge every month.

All the members of the Strathcona's worked exceptionally hard and showed the Task Force that The Strats are second to none.

On the Golan (Operation GLADIUS)

Maj Islam Elkorazati

Since 7 September, I have been deployed on Op GLADIUS, Canada's current contribution to the United Nations Disengagement and Observer Force in the Golan (UNDOF) as the Liaison Officer to the Bravo Side (Syria). This position is the primary link with the Senior Syrian Arab Delegate (SSAD). The SSAD in turn is UNDOF's link to the Syrian Authorities for operational issues and all requirements from one of our two host nations on the Golan who are still in a state of ceasefire.

Of special importance to the Regiment, during 1998-2000, the Colonel of the Regiment, **MGen Cam Ross** headed this mission, when it was named Op DANICA. There are still strong signs and memories of the approximately 12,000 Canadian troops who have served on that mission from 1974 to 2006. As I look at the date, I am shocked, as it feels as if a year has already passed. When I was presented with this opportunity last year, the Arab Spring had not yet sprung and even as each country after another had succumbed to the tide of events, Syria had seemed quiet and possibly immune to the changes. I thought that Damascus, where my position is based from, would be a great place to contribute to the ongoing efforts of the UN, learn new skills in differing operations and witness the events in the region up close. As a fluent speaker of Arabic this seemed like a flawless plan.

As with every plan, first contact changes everything. UN forces and Military Observers in specific in the area, as fate would have it, operate very close to the area of Deraa where the first signs of Syrian demonstrations and discontent began in late March. The southern area of limitation of forces on the Syrian side heated up and restrictions of movement began in earnest for UN forces in that area for varying reasons. By the time I arrived, the situation was in full swing and has continued to develop. Needless to say, this has involved a bit of work to ensure that we all are maintaining our directed mandate by the Security Council.

The UN is a very interesting organization to work with, when considering the dynamics associated with the various nations involved in the operation. UNDOF has six core military contingents from all over the world. Austria, Croatia, India, the Philippines, Japan and of course Canada (three staff officers) all contribute military personnel for a total of 1,047 operating in the Area of Separation. In addition, Observer Group Golan (OGG) from the United Nations Truce Supervision Organization has another 87 officers from various nations to observe and report on the Areas of Limitations. Additionally, civilians from 42 nations are represented in the mission. This immediately reminded me of living in a major Canadian city such as Toronto or Vancouver – COMPLICATED. This deployment has turned out to be much more interesting and challenging with all that is occurring in the region and it seems like the remainder of the year will not disappoint.



*The Canadian contingent to UNDOF at Canada's memorial in Camp Zouani.
From left to right, LCdr Peter Rohe, Maj Islam Elkorazati, Maj Chris Catry*

Op LUSTRE

The Manitoba Floods of 2011

Capt Steve Van Muyen & Lt Corey McLean

On 9 May, the Regiment deployed over 100 personnel, consisting of the majority of A Squadron along with elements from Recce Squadron and RHQ, as part of 1 CMBG's Immediate Reaction Unit (IRU) to assist with the flood relief efforts in Manitoba. The deployment, termed Op LUSTRE, was executed to provide assistance in protecting homes throughout Manitoba. The majority of the IRU was actually in Wainwright participating in Ex MAPLE GUARDIAN at the time of the callout. Thus, the Regiment had to quickly change focus and prepare the IRU for a 14 hour road move to Portage la Prairie, Manitoba. The drive down was anything but enjoyable. The closer the IRU moved to Portage la Prairie the worst the weather became. Many drivers and crew commanders were forced to drive hours in the pouring rain hatches up in order to clearly see the road ahead. Quartered in Southport, the IRU spent little time there because of work days that lasted between 16-18 hours. Despite the lack of sleep and a heavy workload, the soldiers, many who were natives of Manitoba, remained in good spirits knowing that this was their opportunity to provide assistance to fellow Manitobans.

The IRU arrived in the city and immediately began efforts to set up Tiger Tubes and Aqua Dams, equipment designed to contain the surging flood waters, to maintain flood protection in the municipality. In some cases, soldiers literally put their blood sweat and tears in the effort. Like **Cpl Joshua Schenner**, who in a misguided effort to load a transport truck with tiger tubes and equipment in record time, split his hand open and needed to be rushed to the medics. Fortunately, he was not seriously injured and his minor injury provided the ammunition for a series of good hearted jokes, solely at his expense, that continued to keep spirits high.



Soldiers worked simultaneously in the north protecting houses in the vicinity of the Portage Diversion and in the south, where an intentional breach was planned in the Hoop and Holler bend segments of the Assiniboine River. The breach would control and divert flood waters from the more populated areas of the region. Heavy machinery began scraping away a layer of rock on a closed section of Provincial Road 331 at the Hoop and Holler Bend to allow water to flow out of a slow-moving Assiniboine oxbow. The aim of this controlled breach was to move the water to the east and south so that it could be both stored on fields and directed into the Elm River, which eventually emptied into the Red River. This effort ultimately succeeded and flood damage was kept to a minimum in the area.

Throughout Op LUSTRE, soldiers worked side by side with politicians, civilian volunteers, and individual home owners. The people of Portage la Prairie packed sandbags alongside members of the IRU, all the while taking the time to demonstrate their gratitude by providing a steady supply of hot coffee and much appreciated snacks. In one exceptional display of generosity, **Tpr Brad Foss** was treated to a complete ham dinner with all the fixings. Day in and day out, the hospitality given to our soldiers by Manitobans was a testament to the values and morals we hold strong as Canadians.

By 21 May, members of the IRU had managed to provide protection to over 130 houses and had established themselves in the eyes of those they helped as honest, hardworking and professional soldiers. The operation provided the opportunity for our soldiers to work with our fellow Canadians under demanding conditions. Op LUSTRE will remain a highlight for everyone who participated.



Squadron Articles



Prince of Wales Squadron





Recce Squadron

“Always a Way”

Maj Mark Lubiniecki & SSM Robert Clarke

As a Recce soldier, there is “always a way” to accomplish the mission. Routinely viewed by the remainder of the Regiment as a sounding board to measure their own skills against, (Armoured Fist vs. Recce Wrist), this competitive rivalry strengthens esprit-de-corps and afford us an opportunity to set ourselves apart based upon unique skill sets, training opportunities, and the overall role of a Brigade Recce Squadron.

2010 was witness to the return to the basic fundamentals required of a Recce crewman, building upon dismounted operations, mounted patrol drills, and culminating in Troop level live fire training. 2011 saw a shift to Squadron level operations (mounted and dismounted) with a secondary focus on unique and rare individual soldier courses and qualifications. The majority of these opportunities have not been afforded to the Regiment in the past and it is fully acknowledged and appreciated that the Commanding Officer, Regimental Sergeant-Major and the Regimental Operations Staff have ‘sold’ our soldiers capabilities to the Brigade and were able to secure the following training opportunities for our soldiers.



*Cpl Leon VanHeerden & Cpl Darren Beatty
discuss paintball tactics.*

**.50 Cal Heavy Machine Gun Course – Cpl Evan Stewart, Cpl Mike St. Germain,
MCpl Rob Chmara, Cpl Leon Van Heerden, Cpl Jamie Jacobs**

Basic Parachute Course – Tpr Lyle Spencer, Tpr Evan Barten

Parachute Refresher – Cpl James Booth

**Winter Wilderness Survival (Basic) – Lt Matt Shumka, Sgt Rich Sherren, MCpl Glen Baker,
Cpl Andrew Lonegren, Cpl Robert McCollum, Cpl Joseph Schijns, Cpl Gord Carnevale,
Tpr Seamus Bondy, Cpl Michael McNarland, Tpr Maxime Guay, Tpr Ed Snoek,
Tpr Borislav Boskic**

Urban Operations Instructor – Sgt Nathan Mills

Basic Mountain Operations – Tpr Maxium Guay, Tpr Brent McTaggart

Basic Helicopter Operations – MCpl Joel Ribert, Tpr Justin Woodcock

Conduct After Capture Instructor – MCpl Gord Carnevale

Close Quarter Combat Instructor – Cpl Cain Zwicker



Canadian Forces Small Arms Competition (CFSAC) –
**Cpl Rob Kenny, Tpr Tom Clackson,
Tpr Tyler Stewart**

US Army Ranger Course – **Lt Ty Hewer**

Ottawa Sentry Program (Remembrance Day) –
Cpl Richard Morrison

CBRN Defence NCO– **Sgt Jason Lang**

In addition, through the efforts of the Regiment, the Squadron was able to provide the following soldiers with the opportunity to deploy to Afghanistan as part of Operation ATTENTION, the training mission focused on the training and development of the Afghanistan National Security Forces. (**Capt Paul Leonard, Capt Sam Thompson, Capt Andrew Warlow, Lt Richard Lund, Lt Gord Elliott, Cpl Damien Brown and Cpl Paul Jordan**).

Squadron collective training was first conducted as part of the LdSH(RC) Battle Group (BG) during Exercise MAPLE GUARDIAN 1101 (Ex MG 1101) where Recce Sqn operated in the traditional role of executing Route, Area, Point, and Zone (RAPZ) and screen operations throughout the BG's Area or Operations (AO) in support of the BG Headquarters and the two attached infantry companies (airborne and airmobile). Within 24 hours of re-deployment from Ex MG 1101, the Squadron found itself re-tasked as a dismounted company attached to 2 PPCLI as part of the Immediate Reaction Unit (IRU) in support of the Manitoba floods (Operation LUSTRE).

Highlights from the summer included placing first in the annual Edmonton Sourdough River Raft Race (the Sqn finished first overall and the team donated the prize money to a local charity), individual taskings and courses, and the planning and execution of several Basic Military Qualification courses (BMQ). However, perhaps the most memorable would be the task to Calgary. On 8 July 2011, the Squadron was responsible for manning and commanding the 100-man Royal Departure Guard for His and Her Royal Highness, the Duke and Duchess of Cambridge. On 9-10 July 2011, the Squadron executed the 100-man guard of honour to Spruce Meadows (feu-de-joie) which included VVIPs such as the Governor General of Canada, the Prime Minister of Canada, the Chief of Defense Staff, and Commander Land Forces Western Area.

Perhaps one of the characteristics most exemplified within the Squadron is the overall level of physical fitness maintained by the soldiers.

Regimental Mountain Man Team. 55 of 70 soldiers who participated were from Recce Squadron with **MCpl Felix Charette** finishing first overall within 1 Canadian Mechanized Brigade Group (over 400 participants). In addition, **Tpr Landon Hall** placed 8th, **Tpr Mike Whipple** placed 22nd and **Cpl Jeremy Charlton** placed 27th.

Ottawa Army Run. **Cpl Eli Lee, Cpl Leeland Cheng, Tpr Jeffrey Gnabbs, Tpr Lyle Spencer**

Canadian Forces Base Edmonton Energy Challenge. **MCpl Nick West, Cpl Eli Lee, Tpr Cameron Kirkwood.**

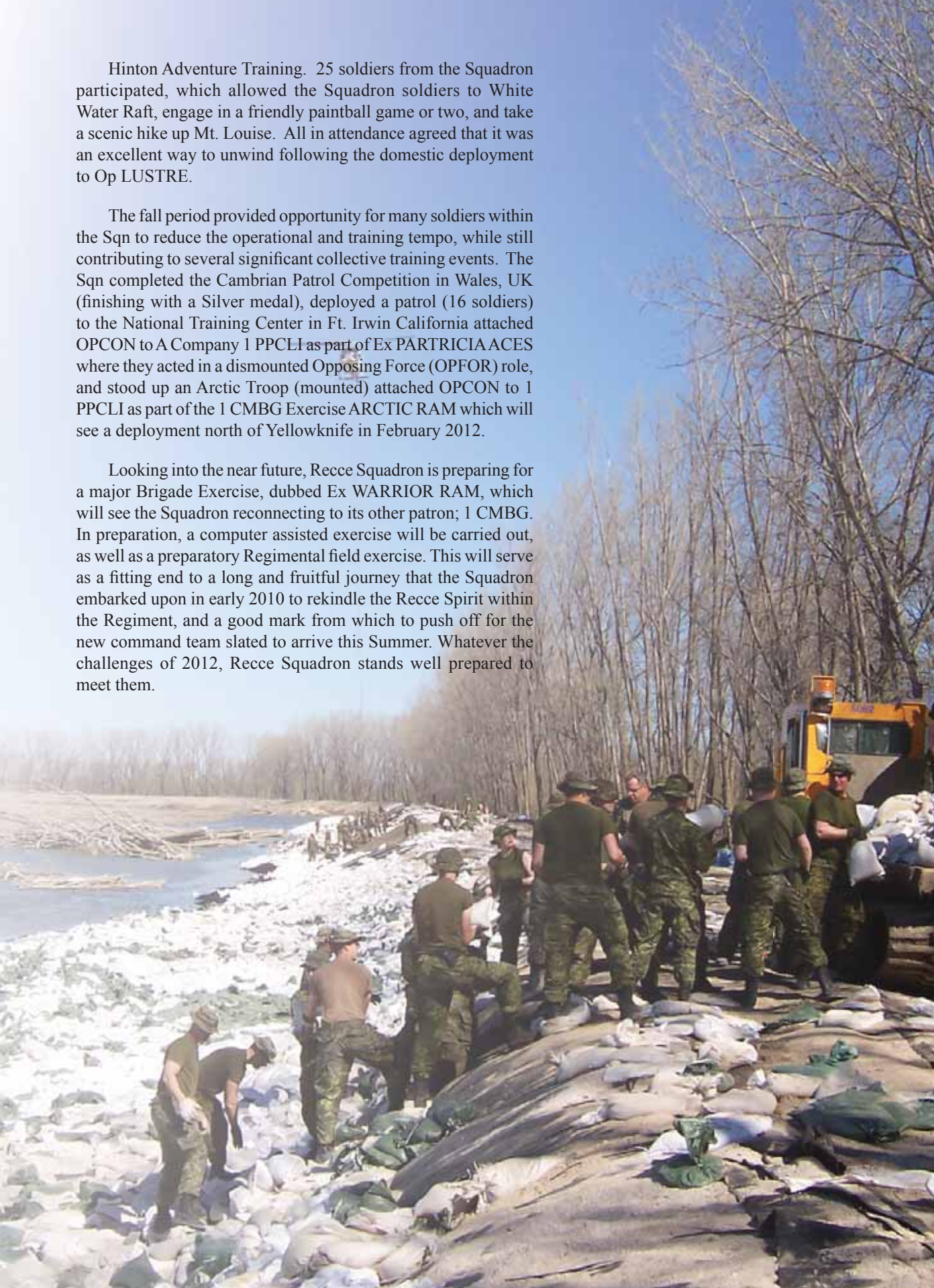


Cpl Booth prepares for a jump

Hinton Adventure Training. 25 soldiers from the Squadron participated, which allowed the Squadron soldiers to White Water Raft, engage in a friendly paintball game or two, and take a scenic hike up Mt. Louise. All in attendance agreed that it was an excellent way to unwind following the domestic deployment to Op LUSTRE.

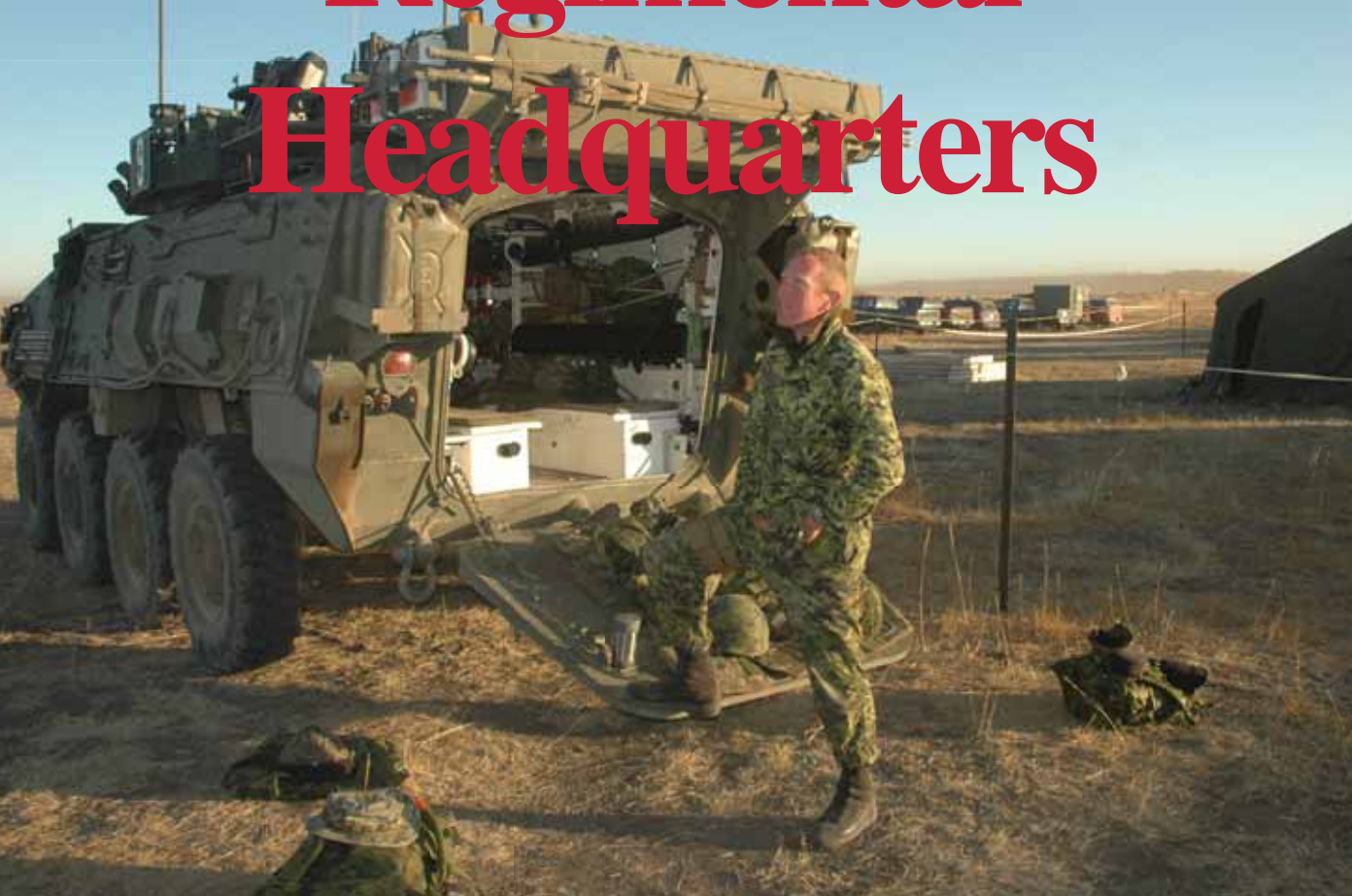
The fall period provided opportunity for many soldiers within the Sqn to reduce the operational and training tempo, while still contributing to several significant collective training events. The Sqn completed the Cambrian Patrol Competition in Wales, UK (finishing with a Silver medal), deployed a patrol (16 soldiers) to the National Training Center in Ft. Irwin California attached OPCON to A Company 1 PPCLI as part of Ex PARTRICIAACES where they acted in a dismounted Opposing Force (OPFOR) role, and stood up an Arctic Troop (mounted) attached OPCON to 1 PPCLI as part of the 1 CMBG Exercise ARCTIC RAM which will see a deployment north of Yellowknife in February 2012.

Looking into the near future, Recce Squadron is preparing for a major Brigade Exercise, dubbed Ex WARRIOR RAM, which will see the Squadron reconnecting to its other patron; 1 CMBG. In preparation, a computer assisted exercise will be carried out, as well as a preparatory Regimental field exercise. This will serve as a fitting end to a long and fruitful journey that the Squadron embarked upon in early 2010 to rekindle the Recce Spirit within the Regiment, and a good mark from which to push off for the new command team slated to arrive this Summer. Whatever the challenges of 2012, Recce Squadron stands well prepared to meet them.





Regimental Headquarters





Regimental Headquarters

Capt Phil Webster

My first taste of Regimental life this year was a brief hello to the Harvey Building before being thrown out the door in the vague direction of Wainwright for firsthand experience with Ex MAPLE GUARDIAN. The idea was for me and my generation of brand new subbies to find out what the Regiment does firsthand (and maybe find out what the difference between HQ and RHQ was)! However RHQ had been busy and active well before I arrived with support, training and planning being in full swing.

The year started with support to Ex DESERT RAM and Ex MAPLE GUARDIAN, both of them high level and intense exercises, with RHQ providing command and control over squadron activities. Apparently Suffield still hasn't completely physically recovered from having the Strathcona's visit... which almost sounds like a point of pride.

Ex MAPLE GUARDIAN was my first introduction to the internal functions of RHQ, and my first ever time inside a Tactical Operations Centre (TOC). Under the watchful eye of **WO Kevin King** and the Ops O, **Capt Darryn Gray** (who never sleeps) several new officers and augmentees experienced first hand what it means to have a bird's eye view of the battlefield. Due to the recent commitment to Afghanistan, this exercise was also the first time in ten years that the Regiment operated as a Battle Group: with two Companies (Light Inf and Para), Artillery Battery with FOO/FAC teams, and Engineer Troop, all of whom were supported by the US 1-189 General Support Aviation Brigade. The exercise saw airmobile insertions of infantry in an exciting daylight raid of an insurgent held town which resulted in a victory for the good guys.



WO King does not approve - Sgt Graf approves slightly less

As the summer progressed, RHQ led the planning for Ex MOUNTAIN MAN, the annual Brigade physical challenge. With Regimental 2IC **Major Robert McKenzie's** attention to detail and **Sgt Byron Willcott's** expert hand and loud voice whipping various command posts into shape, we delivered (and won!) the best Mountain Man yet.

The summer ended and autumn began with Ex STEELE SABRE where once again RHQ effected command and control as the Regiment proceeded to destroy various parts of the training area in a most effective way. A special shout out to **Capt Radek Niedzielski** for taking the night shifts and not going (any more) crazy!

The Intelligence Cell had an exciting year as well, with the new Int O, **Lt Paul Stachow**, taking over the reigns and getting trained up (and almost losing both his lungs to the Black Death) to keep the CO in the know. EX MAPLE GUARDIAN saw **Cpl Lucas Budgell** take the daunting task of briefing the CO and his staff multiple times a day on the ever changing battlespace situation, and doing a truly fantastic job of it.

The year saw the re-introduction of a few positions which have gone empty over the past few years. The new Information Management Officer, **Lt Shaun McGuinness** will watch over and keep track of the



*Capt Pano, providing his
unique contribution to Regt'l Ops*

information we have in the computers (don't forget, Shaun – the files are IN the computer) and a Regimental Lieutenant, **Lt Callum Smith** is under the watchful eye of **Capt Doug Ross**, Regimental Liaison Officer, as he spends his time liaising.

The Training Cell was always buzzing with activity as **Capt Jeff Daley** and **Sgt Steve Churchill** attempted to wrangle, bribe and beg for the best courses for our soldiers. Everything from Safety Management to TIOC (Tactical Intelligence Operator Course) crossed their desks and was organized through them. Through the efforts of these two, the Regiment even secured a spot for **Lt Ty Hewer** on the US Ranger course in January 2012, as well as sexy courses such as Basic Parachute Course, Urban Operations Instructor, Basic Mountain Operations, Basic Helicopter Operations, Close Quarter Combat Instructor and Conduct After Capture Instructor to name just a few. In a year where 'Train to Excite' was the Army's goal, RHQ delivered.

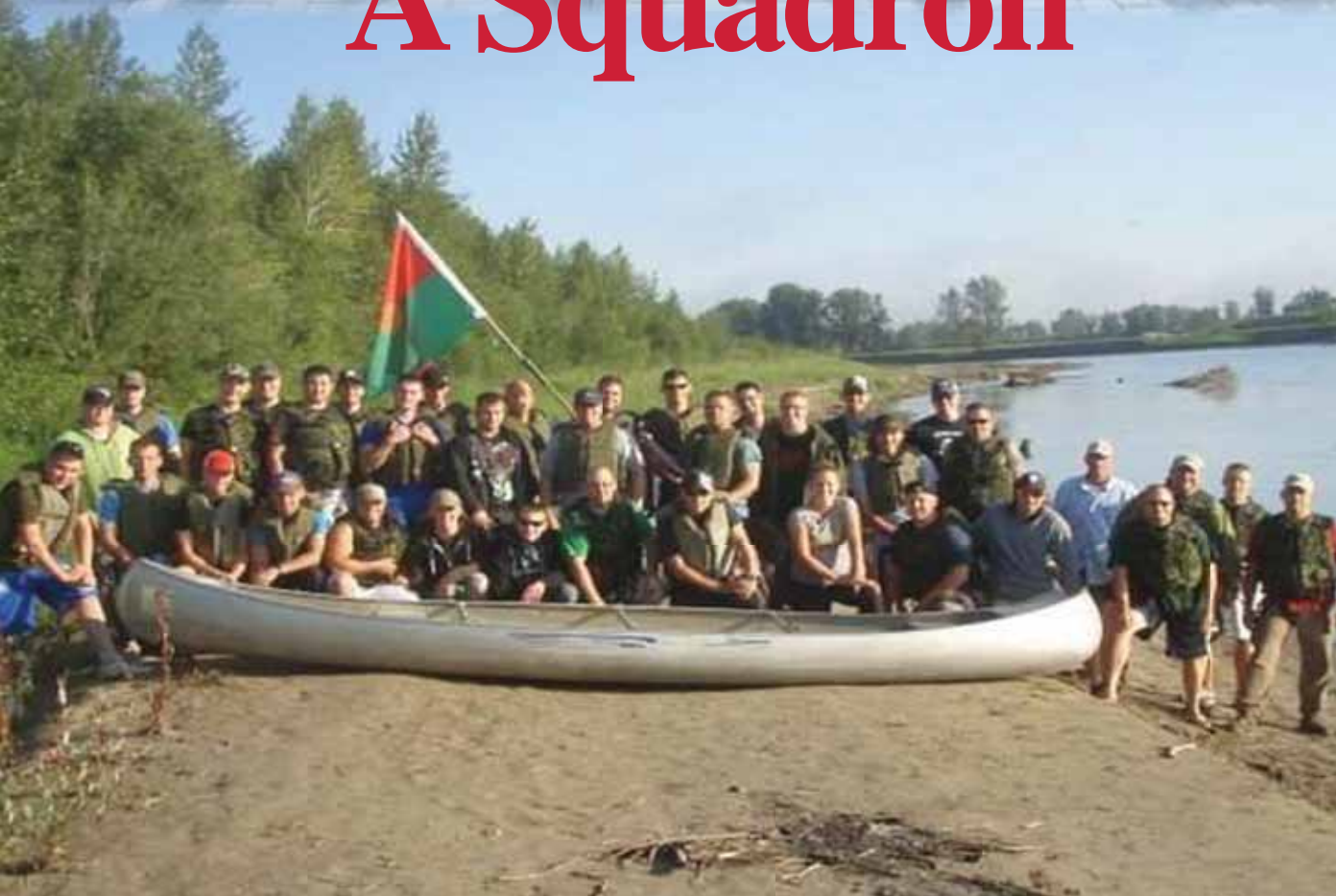
The Signallers certainly had their hands full this year, between crossfit, cell phones, Blackberries, setting up CPs and answering the constant cry: "What the hell is wrong with my computer?!" Somehow they found time to send their new and impressionable Signallers off to learn to drive that most beautiful of vehicles: the Bison. Holding it all together was the always, "intense" wisdom of **WO Leighton Hardy** who kept the Sig O honest and kept everyone else running for cover.

Regimental Headquarters can be a mysterious entity to the outsider looking in, with locked doors with highly secretive passcodes, and an Ops WO who can shoot the eye out of an eagle at fifty paces (or so he claims). However on the inside you find just another group of high-tempo soldiers and officers forcing out plans and procedures, lists and notes, suggestions and rejections without which, very little would get done. At least with the addition of **Capt Bob Reiten** to the mix, maybe the Ops O will be able to catch a nap here and there, eh?





A Squadron



A Squadron A Year to Remember

Capt Alastair McMurachy

Highlights of 2011 for A Squadron included several field deployments, a domestic operation to the floods in Manitoba and an exchange visit to Chile. Although a demanding year, the Squadron has persevered through difficult tasks and adverse conditions to become a unified team ready for all challenges.

Braving the delightful dry Alberta cold, the Squadron managed to cheer on the Regimental teams during Ex STRONG CONTENDER in January. While in February enjoyed a reduced tempo, as the Squadron focused on Primary Combat Function (PCF) courses and in attending the Regimental Ski School in Jasper National Park. From April to May, the Squadron ramped up and completed Ex DESERT RAM in Suffield, reaffirming our tanker skills while trying to stay dry on the water logged prairie. From Suffield, we were mobilized, as part of the Regimental commitment to the 1 Canadian Mechanized Brigade Group's (1 CMBG) Immediate Reaction Unit (IRU), and deployed to Manitoba to take part in Op LUSTRE, to aid the residents on Manitoba affected by the flooding occurring there. On arrival in Portage la Prairie, we immediately went to work damming off houses close to the Assiniboine River with aqua dams and sandbags. A truly rewarding experience, we meet many appreciative and fantastic Manitobans who went out of their way to bring us a steady flow of Tim Horten's coffee. Given the 18-20 hour work days, this flow of coffee was a god send. Without a doubt for the entire Squadron, the ability to assist our fellow Canadians was something never to be forgotten and filled



WO Allen's crew being recognized as the Top Crew in the Regiment

us with a significant amount of pride, as we saw the tangible benefits of our work with every home saved from the flood waters. Of special mention, **MCpl James Hamilton** received a Commanding Officer's Coin for his exceptional work, while **Cpl Joshua Schenher's** slashed thumb got him the attention of a local medic.



SSM Taylor taking a moment to smell the flowers in Chile

In August, we supported the Primary Reserves Brigade Exercise, Ex MAPLE DEFENDER, in Wainwright by providing a firepower demonstration for the soldier's of the Reserves and special guests from the Senate Committee on National Defence and the Officer of the Auditor General. After a few days of set-up, we commenced with the firepower demonstration with 2nd Troop grouped with 3 Platoon, A Company 3 PPCLI and a Forward Observation Officer/Forward Air Controller team from 1 RCHA. A memorable moment occurred when **Lt Corey McLean** learned that Range 16 and



25 had predetermined target locations – after spending countless hours designing a range to impress **Senator Pamela Wallin**. The term crestfallen could easily be used when the Squadron Gunnery Warrant Officer, **WO Cordell Boland**, chuckled and held up the already templated range. While outside, an unnamed Recce Squadron soldier (cough... **Tpr Ed Snoek**) panicked upon realizing that he dumped gasoline into a diesel LAV III fuel tank, earning him the nickname “Dieseline.”

The remaining days in August saw the Squadron participating in adventure training that took place over three days on the North Saskatchewan River. The Squadron canoed down river, stopping to camp out each night. However, for some the challenge was not just getting to the destination but rather the art of

actually entering the canoe. Memorable moments included **Tpr Russell Glennie** mesmerizing campers with his outlandish stories, while **Tpr Jillian Rae** became awfully concerned with the proximity of a band of nomadic campers. **Tpr Richard Wagner** morphed into a lobster due to being shirt adverse and **Tpr Tyler Hogan** became lost during a midnight bathroom run, forcing the Squadron to spend three hours line abreast looking for him.

In September, the Squadron participated on Ex STEELE SABRE. Although challenged at times with maintenance issues, the Squadron completed very important dry and live fire training. During the first three days, troop level training was the focus in order to integrate newly posted in soldiers. The Squadron then worked as a unified team during both offensive and defensive operations. Every troop completed a troop live fire attack and the Squadron completed the exercise with its own live fire quick attack. At the Regimental Smoker, **WO Rick Allen's** crew was awarded best gunnery crew and 2nd Troop, under **Lt Steve Van Muyen** and **WO Rob Baglole**, was awarded best gunnery troop of the exercise.

Upon return to Edmonton at the end of Ex STEELE SABRE, the Regiment generated teams for intramural sports. Most notably, the “A” and “B” hockey teams were flushed out quickly with Squadron soldiers. However, it seemed that **MCpl Luke “Jar-Jar” Jahjefendic** could not resist both hockey and soccer and it can be assumed he wanted every “good-go” the Army had available. Nevertheless, he and **Cpls Wallace Churchill** and **Joseph Levesque** played exceptionally well on the Regimental “A” Team, while **Capt Alastair McMurachy**, **Sgt Jason Trenholm**, **Cpls James “Jimmmy” Arsenault** and **Andrew Foster** and **Tprs Richard “Crosby Man Crush” Wagner** and **Brydon Townsend** laced up for the “B” Team. Of note, despite significant encouragement, practice and even a rain dance, **Tpr Wagner**, at the moment of this publication, still has not scored a goal.

November saw a small contingent of soldiers head to Iquique, Chile for a Small Unit Exchange to review the Chilean's implementation of the Leopard 2. **SSM Leigh Taylor** enjoyed the desert conditions and the powdered dust while **Maj Dave MacIntyre's** secondary goal of restocking his wine cellar was achieved. December saw IBTS training in which the Squadron refreshed its skills on the C8 rifle, C6 and C9 machine guns, M203, Browning Pistol, grenades, M-72 and the Karl Gustav.

The tempo was high for the Squadron because of the number of tasks and exercises, but without a doubt it was a rewarding year and with the arrival of the Leopard 2 in 2012, the Squadron has much to look forward to. 2011 was good but 2012 will be better.



B Squadron

B Squadron

durus in labore, durior in lusu

Capt Dave Cronk

Work hard, play hard, suitably translated into fancy Latin would make a great B Squadron motto. Early in 2011 we visited the Regimental Museum in Calgary to ensure that everyone in the Squadron had a proper grounding in Regimental history. The old hands were impressed by the numerous improvements made under the guidance of **WO Ted MacLeod** and **Sgt Todd Giberson**. The young Troopers gained a new perspective on our small place in the vast history of the Regiment. This visit, dubbed Ex STEEL BATTLE, marked perhaps the only “away” trip of the year in which B Sqn did not consume copious amounts of drink, and it also marked the first in a series of unfortunate mishaps involving contracted cruiser buses. On this occasion one of our buses was sideswiped by a delirious truck driver (probably an AWOL A Squadron soldier), causing enough damage to result in a side trip to a local Red Deer mechanic.

In March a slice of the Squadron deployed to Wainwright to execute the gun camp portion of a Leopard Gunner course. The rest of the Squadron continued preparations for our main effort of Spring 2011, the Combat Team Commander Course in Gagetown. Prior to deploying East, we brushed up on combat team tactics, paying particular attention to complex obstacle breaching procedures. We confirmed crew commanding skills in a computer based exercise. Fortunately no bus ride was necessary to accomplish this at the gymnasium beside Regimental lines. And then we were ready.

In early April we lowbedded our tanks to Gagetown and our crews soon followed. This occupied our days through the end of May. Our bus trip to Halifax at the end of the course resulted in only minor injuries- to the bus.

Returning from our month in the Lawfield corridor, we moved into summer task season, starting with the deployment of about half the Squadron to Wainwright to support the tactical portion of the Leopard Crew Commander course. No bus dramas this time.

June was also marked the departure of **Tprs Meredith Essex** and **Lucas Slyford**, both of them transferred to Mounted Troop. While B Squadron gained and lost several personnel throughout the year, this occasion was notable. The Squadron habitually marked the departure of soldiers on Squadron parades, with genuine appreciation but minimal pomp and circumstance. An exception was made for **Tpr Essex**, who was rumoured to have personally demanded of the OC that her transfer to Mounted Troop be marked by a ceremony similar in size and scope to that of the CO's change of command. Duly tasked, the OC and SSM



arranged a Squadron parade for her and **Tpr Slyford** in the hollow square of the Harvey Building, and Mounted Troop was present to carry them away on horseback.*

* some liberties taken with the exact content of the conversation with OC.

July saw most of the Regiment deploying to Calgary. While Recce Squadron hobnobbed with the Royals, B Squadron marched in the Calgary Stampede Parade on 8 July. The lengthy wait in the attack position prior to H Hr was made less onerous by the presence of Stampede Queens past and present, mounted on horseback beside us. Calgary has always been a Strathcona-friendly environment but the overwhelming cheers from the crowds (heavily swelled by Royal watchers) for the troops was both deafening and gratifying.

Relaxing for a weekend in Edmonton on return from Calgary, we then we combined hard work and hard play again in our Squadron adventure training, a canoe trip on the North Saskatchewan River. We paddled hard. 2IC **Capt Tom Pett's** ability to conduct map recces was called into question on the first day when his forecast of a 25km trip turned into 78km. We fought mosquitoes, attempted some fishing, and returned unscathed, although **WO Kenny Shiells** tasted more of the river than most by flipping his canoe. The next morning we mustered, from unknown depths, the skills and cohesion necessary to win the CO's Command Team Challenge.



*Cpl Dave Hughes does his best **Brian Talty** impression on the water.*



SSM Tony Mayfield teaching WO Ernie Romanuik the finer points of navigation.

Summer leave was broken only by a requirement to run a Basic Military Qualification course in (again) Wainwright, which pulled away **Lt Anthony Kenny**, **Sgts Mike Craig**, **Stu McLoughlin** and **MCpl Mark Thomas** from B Squadron. **MCpl McLoughlin** narrowly avoided immolation by trip flare, and **MCpl Thomas**, either by virtue of his background or personality, was rumoured by students to be a SAS soldier on exchange to Canada. Hence, the Colour Sergeant Ferguson moniker.

Those staff and students engaged in the BMQ were conveniently unavailable when B Sqn was tasked to organize the Regimental Family Day held on 27 August. On the heels of Family Day, those in B Squadron not competing in Ex Mountain Man spent the week preparing the boat launch section of that race. **MCpl Conway Eady** was the Squadron OPI for this event, and with a team of B Squadron troops it was executed quite smoothly.



Cpl Heather Dixon at the Squadron Christmas party.

A week later the Squadron was back in Wainwright for Regimental Ex STEEL SABRE, which ate up the month of September. **MCpl Chuck McDougall** and **Capt Dave Cronk** fortuitously arrived in B Squadron as the Gunnery Warrant Officer and Battle Captain respectively, just in time to plan the Squadron's live fire training on this exercise. There was nothing wrong with the night arc markers they established on the Buffalo Hill- No Name Hill- Crude Hill range, but that did not prevent 1st Troop from becoming a wee bit disoriented at night. It was epic, and A Squadron must have learned from our mistakes as they had the arcs lit up like a Christmas tree the following night. Hey, we've all been lost.

We haven't all attempted to drive over our OCs and SSMs in a Leopard, but on another memorable night two of the three Troop Leaders tried to do just that while leaving a Squadron hide. Suffice to say, it's not a mistake that will ever be repeated, and one that makes a first exercise unforgettable. Funny now, not funny at the time. Despite some interesting moments, B Squadron had a great exercise that culminated in a fine evening of roast pig and beer. **Sgt Rob Biener** and his crew, **Cpl Reggie Fitch**, **Tpr Leighton Smith** and **Tpr Christian Wahl** earned the top crew in gunnery award for the Squadron, with theirs also being the top troop (2 Troop) in the Squadron.

By this point in the year, the height of and amount of product in **Cpl Anthony Frenette's** hair had become a useful touchstone for gauging Squadron morale.

We took a few days of rest after the exercise before returning to Wainwright three weeks in October, this time as part of the RCD Battle Group on Ex MAPLE RESOLVE.

On return to Edmonton, 1st Troop took the lead on a Leo C2 gunnery course. The rest of the Squadron launched into a much needed F3 maintenance cycle on the tanks and caught up on secondary administration. Squadron level activities were capped off in December with a Squadron party at the Base Curling Club, which was marked by a strong effort from the WOs (at least on the drinking side) but a strong performance was seen only by the our members of the Regimental Curling team, **Cpls David Hughes** and **Corinna Skinner**. Aside from great training, our extensive field time in 2011 netted us significant canteen profits, which in turn resulted in a great Squadron party and a plethora of prizes.

The Squadron's efforts during the year put us in a great position to conquer anything in 2012.



Tprs Jesse Bolzan, Jonathan Duxbury and Andrew Sherlock-Hubbard on the Keith's Brewery Tour in Halifax.



Headquarters Squadron



Headquarters Squadron

Cpl Nick Patterson and Cpl Eric Harvey De Roy

Another demanding year has come and gone. We kicked off 2011 with a bang as the whole Squadron deployed to Marmot Basin to learn or improve our winter mobility skills. For some of us it was a first on skis or snowboard, for others it was an excuse to dust off the old skis and hit the slopes. Sadly the last day was cancelled because at minus 43 degrees Celsius, the ski lifts were shut down. Luckily, this gave soldiers the chance to enjoy the “comfort” of the chalet for the day!

The next big event for HQ Squadron was Ex DESERT RAM in Suffield, which, for those who have never been, is lovely in the springtime! Half of the Squadron deployed to support the Regiment in what might as well have been called Op MUD PIT. Not only was HQ Squadron busy supporting the Regiment with bullets, rations, and fuel but we also spent the majority of the time recovering a never-ending queue of mud bogged vehicles. The tent lines were constantly flooding from the melting snow and Admin Troop was kept busy with various “public works projects” digging a maze of canals through the murky tents. Not only were troops in the field busy, but so were the troops at the Regiment who were building a constant supply of floor boards to support those who were in dire need.

After departing Suffield on a road move to sunny and much drier Wainwright, the Squadron took a short break before kicking off Ex MAPLE GUARDIAN in support of the Mission Transition Task Force (MTTF). The Squadron was once again busy as we not only manned the regular jobs of Call Sign 8, Maintenance, Transport, and cooking for the Regiment, but we also stood up a Force Protection Troop to provide convoy escorts to supply Infantry and Engineer units in forward observation posts and to provide protection for Maintenance recovery calls.

Before the words “End Ex” could be uttered, the Immediate Response Unit assets of the Squadron received the call to deploy on Op LUSTRE with A Squadron to battle the floods in Portage La Prairie, Manitoba. With early mornings and late nights, the troops worked hard to fill sandbags and build dams around more than 300 houses in the affected area. The troops had the pleasure of enjoying the much appreciated hospitality of the local residents, who routinely stopped by with meals to feed the soldiers of the Squadron as fast as they could work. After two weeks of hard work, the troops were given a well-deserved day off in Winnipeg to relax and get a much needed hair cut, Tim Horton’s fix and a dose of dry civilization.

After Op LUSTRE and a few days off, HQ Squadron began preparations for summer taskings. Reviving old traditions, the Squadron contributed to the 100-man honour guard for the St. Albert Freedom of the City parade along with the Strathcona Mounted Troop and Historical Vehicle Troop. Continuing with tradition, HQ Squadron also provided soldiers for the Calgary Stampede and Spruce Meadows parades. The summer Individual Training taskings also continued with tradition, as HQ Squadron contributed instructors and supporting staff for the various Reserve Force Basic Military Qualification courses that were run out of the CFB Edmonton Lecture Training Facility.



SMT escort Governor General to the Spruce Meadows podium



After summer leave, HQ Squadron returned back to another period of high operational tempo leading up to Ex MOUNTAIN MAN. As the Brigade lead for the annual Ex MOUNTAIN MAN competition, the Regiment was determined to put on a good show and HQ Squadron supported with both personnel and equipment that included finding over 300 canoes from across Western Canada. Those who were not competing were busy behind the scenes, ensuring that the race route was safe and that the water stations were well stocked.

After the last canoes were returned and the competitors had recovered, HQ Squadron had only a short time to prepare for Ex STEELE SABRE in Wainwright. Bringing back the Regiment's close historical connections with the Canadian Pacific Railway, the CEO and other members of the company came out to see the Leopard C2s and Coyotes in action. As luck would have it, members of our affiliated Regiment, The Queen's Royal Lancers, were in Canada on a training exercise in Suffield, so they drove up to Wainwright to partake in the Regimental smoker at the end of the exercise. The Chief Cook, **WO Alain Doucet**, outdid himself and laid on an impressive pig roast with all the trimmings. Having demolished 2 pigs and a few cases of refreshing beverages, the Regiment took part in a friendly inter-squadron games night where **Cpl Brennan "Mouth Breather" Dunbar** drove the Transport Officer, **Capt Ed McGowan**, to drink with his incessant oral respiration.

It was a hectic but outstanding year for HQ Squadron, filled with a lot of training and learning. Bringing the Squadron back to basics, OC **Maj Vince Kirstein** and SSM **Tony Batty** ensured that the Squadron adhered to the old adage "work hard and play hard."

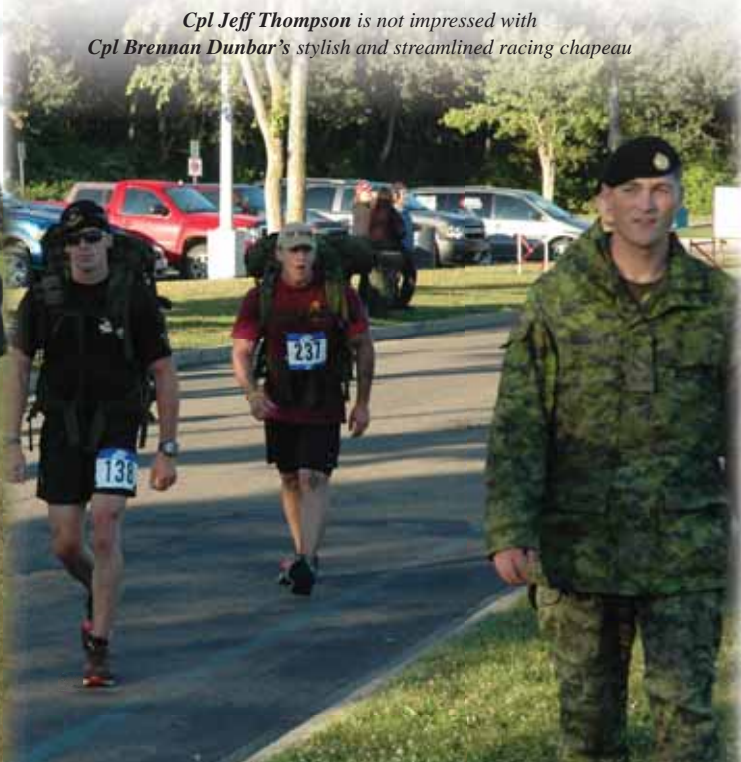


Cpl Matt Seders warms up for Loops for the Troops

Appreciating the Budwiser Girls



Cpl Jeff Thompson is not impressed with Cpl Brennan Dunbar's stylish and streamlined racing chapeau





Strathcona Family Support Troop

Tpr Allison McCulloch



Maj Islam Elkorazati's family at Prairie Gardens

This past year has been a real reprieve as it was the first time in five years that the Regiment has not deployed a tank squadron overseas. The tempo has none the less remained high as there are still almost a squadron's worth of Strathcona soldiers deployed on various operations, which is keeping our team busy. We are continuing to make monthly phone calls to the families of deployed soldiers and we assist in any way that we can, facilitating open lines of communication and providing a receptive environment.

Our team has worked hard to maintain a positive support system within the Regiment and we are looking forward to more great events in the upcoming year.

This year, we introduced a few new additions to the Strathcona's Family Support Troop and said farewell to others. Our new Troop Leader, Capt Phil Webster arrived in November, replacing Capt Joe Boates who moved to A Sqn, and Capt Nathan Bugg who was posted away. Throughout the year, we welcomed three new additions: Cpls Jason Reid and Andy Boorman, and Tpr Allison McCulloch. The pillars of the Troop, Sgt Eric Peterson and MCpl Jean Lamothe, have kept the place running smoothly throughout the year. It will be sad to see them go as their careers in the Canadian Forces draw to a close in 2012.

We've had great attendance at our events this past year which included a monthly movie night for the families of deployed soldiers and family outings to interesting venues in the Edmonton area. Everyone had a great time during the Strathcona Family Day, the trip to Prairie Gardens with the MFRC and the massive feast at the MFRC pot luck Thanksgiving dinner. It was good to see such strong participation and to keep in touch with great friends in the Strathcona family.



Cpl Ryan Pasuta and family at the Regimental Family Day

Training





Ex Maple Guardian Recce Sqn

Tpr Thomas Clackson & MCpl Gordon Carnevale

The weeks leading up to Ex MAPLE GUARDIAN 2011 could easily be described as chaotic. The soldiers of Reconnaissance Squadron (Recce) were preparing for a relatively convoluted task, piecing together rumours and any bits of information we could get our hands on about the upcoming exercise. No stranger to maintaining readiness, Recce was nonetheless packed and ready to kick out the door at the drop of a hat. When the orders did come down, we breathed a sigh of relief and got down to business, making sure that every pre-deployment detail was attended to. What followed was the employment of Recce as a full-on, brigade level asset; an opportunity that we could really sink our teeth into.

The Squadron was consistently on assignment with normal framework operations at regular intervals, intertwined with small and large scale operations. The Squadron snapped to it, and was likely to be seen at any random moment conducting Vehicle Check Points (VCPs) at important intersections, rolling down the road with Explosive Ordinance Disposal (EOD) assets and an Mobile Recovery Vehicle (MRV) as the Brigade's Quick Reaction Force (QRF), or establishing Observation Posts (OPs) anywhere in the area (if you could find us). Within a few days, Recce had captured and detained several individuals, confiscated potential bomb components and intelligence, provided security in many Improvised Explosive Device (IED) situations, and successfully engaged enemy forces in various scenarios. The exercise as a whole was immense in resources, equipment and manpower. The acting Battle Captain, **Lt Gord Elliott**, and Squadron Signaller, **MCpl Calvin Delisle** were in communication with a CP-140 Aurora which carried Recce's own **Sgt Lee Encinas** as an observer/reporter. The Aurora provided the Squadron as well as the Brigade with valuable information with its eyes in the sky. The QRF also had the opportunity to act as an airmobile force when 1st Troop, accompanied by a section from Admin Troop, took to the skies in a CH-47 Chinook helicopter provided by the United States National Guard. For many of the Troopers it was their first ride in a helicopter.

It wasn't all work and no play for Recce though, with impromptu FOB football tournaments, an improvised field gym for those who couldn't get enough physical training, and one night of UFC in the mess tent that even the highest ranking officers couldn't resist. Card games, pranks, and our Strathcona cooks (naturally, the best) was a welcome reprieve after days and nights of patrolling.



Combat Team Commander's Course 2011

B Squadron: We Bring the Fight

Lt Anthony Kenny

B Squadron has conquered Wainwright. It has toiled the earth in Saville Farm and slaughtered at the abattoir. It has made the puppies yelp at Coyote Hill and marched through Centurion Field. It is fitting then, that the Squadron, under **Maj Mike Onieu** and **MWO Tony Mayfield** were asked to project B Squadron's force into CFB Gagetown for the Combat Team Commander's Course (CTCC) Serial 1101. In order to bring the Squadron up to doctrinal strength of four troops, we welcomed a troop from the Royal Canadian Armour School, led by **Capt Adam Brown** and **WO Neil Miller**. With a full Squadron formed, India and Juliet Companies of Second Battalion, The Royal Canadian Regiment joined the mix to generate the two combat teams required to give prospective Armoured Squadron and Infantry Company Commanders the tools they needed to prepare themselves for eventual command.

Before B Squadron could assert its dominance over the training area, 2nd Troop was cut loose to provide a live firepower demonstration for **RAdm A. Smith**, the Vice Chief of Defence Staff (VCDS), illustrating the complex operations facing Army commanders at even the lowest levels. While accompanied by a platoon of infantry firing on the advance, Second Troop's Troop Leader, **Lt Anthony Kenny**, assisted by **Tpr Henry Chen's** "gunners determination", **Cpl Dave Hughes'** lethal accuracy and a well placed HESH added an explosive lift to a Ford Tempo, causing the VCDS to think what we all know: the 25mm, at the heart of it, is just another machinegun.



The good, the bad, and the ugly - Adm Tp at the Armour School



As Second Troop rolled track to re-unite with the Squadron and commence the CTCC in earnest, Range Control set the weather controls to Extra Suck and ensured that a constant supply of rain and sleet laden clouds dumped on the training area for the entirety of the course. B Squadron squared its shoulders and advanced, knowing that if a mailman can deal with a little snow or sleet or LAV eating puddles, then so could the soldiers who strike fear into the Second Horseman. With rain levels better measured in metres-per-hour, the Squadron found Tango Punch changed to Tango Stick Around and Tow LAVs. Never one to leave comrades behind on the battlefield, the Squadron eagerly



2nd Troop after Tp HESH on a sherman

assisted the infantry recovery their muck mired vehicles, with one rule: if you got it stuck you jump into the mud yourself and attach the tow cables.

End Ex called, B Squadron imposed its presence in Halifax for some Navy orientated professional development. There, the Squadron was treated to a tour of one of the Navy's many fine boats, the HMCS St. John's. Closing the loop on over a hundred years' history, as it was from Halifax the Regiment left Canada to fight in the Boer War, **Tpr Roger Larcher-Pelland** was given his first hook.





Canadian Forces Small Arms Concentration 10 000 Rounds and Counting

Tpr Thomas Clackson



*Tpr Clackson preparing to
fire the C3 Sniper rifle*

Each year, Connaught Range and Primary Training Centre (CRPTC), located just outside Ottawa, hosts the Canadian Forces Small Arms Concentration. Competitors from the Navy, Army, Air Force, both Regular and Primary Reserve compete to test their mettle in team and individual events with the service rifle and combat pistol.

For Armour crewman, range time with the C-7 service rifle and 9 mm pistol is less than the gunnery training we receive on 25 mm Coyote/LAV and Leopard. Most soldiers of the Strathcona's fire their personal weapons once or twice annually, as a part of a yearly skill. Naturally, when tryouts for the Brigade shooting team were announced, the author was hungry for action, and five eager Strathconas were sent to represent the Regiment. One rainy day at the base small arms range and we proved ourselves worthy and became 1/5th of the 25 man Land Force Western Area CFSAC Team. What followed was the transformation of regular soldiers into capable marksman.

The summer was defined by the smell of cordite, and the tell-tale neck tan of five days a week on the firing range, worn by the team like a badge of honour. Days were divided between combat pistol and rifle ranges, with shooters expending up to 600 rounds of ammunition per day. After a week of the basics, things began to get interesting. We learned to shoot the rifle accurately out to distances of 500 meters. A few of us would later push that to 800 meters with the help of our resident team sniper, **MCpl Cary Baker** from 3 PPCLI. Morning warm-ups on the pistol range were tightened up from shooting three inch dot targets, to literally putting a bullet through another bullet hole. Our goal: to maximize points and hit the coveted "V-bull" (A cigarette pack sized target) with every shot. Speed, accuracy, breathing, grip, sights... the most minute of bodily twitches became the difference between a perfect match score and buying the team drinks that weekend.

Five weeks, and countless boxes of ammo later the team caught a flight out to Ottawa, and settled into our new campground-esque homes at the range. The event schedule was extensive indeed, with rundown scenarios, timed target exposures, casualty evacuation, live fire section attacks, and close quarters room clearance, the team had a handful of challenges to sink our teeth into. Performing well in all events, and cultivating a highly memorable personality on the ranges, LFWA's team became a large source of comedy, morale, and proficiency for all competitors to draw from. Members of the Regiment could be spotted off the firing line engaged in a variety of activities; **Cpl Levyn Ramiro** keeping in shape with a nightly workout at the gym, **Tpr Tyler Stewart** showcasing his artistic abilities by sketching various shooting (and gambling) inspired pictures, **Cpl Tony Burton** knee-deep in reloaded ammunition with his coveted Timberwolf close at hand, and of course, **Cpl Rob Kenny** (vocals) with **Tpr Tom Clackson** (rhythm/lead guitar) covering Bon Jovi's "Wanted Dead Or Alive" over, and over again.



Overall, LFWA performed well in all facets of the competition. The four man combat pistol team (two of whom were Strathcona's) placed second in the regular force, with members of the team individually placing within the top ten overall aggregate. Service rifle saw the same trend, with LFWA's ten man team showing up for 6th place for both the Dextraze Trophy, and the Letson Trophy. Not bad, for a rag tag group of maintainers, combat arms soldiers, and support trades, 95% of whom had never shot competitively in their lives. And although our highly inflated egos took a bit of a hit, we laughed it off pretty quickly. In the end, the most valuable thing we brought home to the regiment was the knowledge we had gained over the summer. So that when someone asks, "Can you hit that from here?" we can answer, "no problem."

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Cambrian Patrol 2011

Cpl Tom Hume

Early in the morning of 27 October, our team awoke, in a dark dusty farm house in Wales...

We loaded ourselves into our van destined for the start point of the British Army's premier international competition, the Cambrian Patrol. Patrol Commander **MCpl Felix "Fireball" Charette** led call sign Foxtrot Two Three Bravo for initial kit checks and orders. **Cpls Jason "BB" Brisebois-Bergeron** and **Jeremy "Jear-Bear" Charlton** along with **Tprs Landon "Cerebral" Hall** and **Scott "Moose/Smearhead" Muirhead** went straight to work on preparing a map model of the dreaded Brecon Beacon Mountains of Wales. Patrol 2IC **MCpl Ryan "M-Drive" Vigar** received instructions and passed out ammo while navigators **Cpl Evan "Stewie" Stewart** and me **Cpl Tom "Kit-bomb" Hume** planned our route.



I think MCpl Ryan Vigar has something to say

"HENCHMEN... Orders!" **MCpl Charette** laid out the next 24 hours of the 48 hour patrol. A close target reconnaissance (CTR) followed by a link up (LUP) with friendly forces were our assigned tasks. We hoisted our 90 pound rucksacks onto our backs and stepped off.

Our first three kilometres were up hill through the water logged Welsh countryside and it seemed we were expected to carry out the remaining 45 hours not only soaked by the rain but with wet feet.

After 15 kilometres, we found ourselves racing the Indian Gurkha team and passing another team that had sustained a real casualty. However, before long we arrived at our objective, a vantage point was established, sketches drawn and information was gathered. Night brought the cold but we carried on, narrowly avoiding search

teams with dogs and following a winding trail to a LUP with friendly forces. This provided us an opportunity to rest and recharge with some food and water. Some of us caught a few moments of sleep, while others prepared patrol reports and conducted battle procedure for our next move to a LUP with another group of friendly forces.

It was **MCpl Ryan Vigar's** turn to lead. We were given orders to exfiltrate from our current location and move, via truck, to meet with more friendly forces who directed us to conduct a tactical river crossing. Upon arrival at the river, we stripped to nothing but rain gear, prepared our rucks and rifles for the task and quickly tackled the 75 meter gap. Moving with speed, at 1200 hours the following day we found ourselves 500 metres from our next objective, a village, with more than 2 hours to spare. Catching our breath, we watched as other teams, arriving late, all cursed us relaxed Canadians.

We met our intelligence source who produced a stockpile of enemy weapons for us to identify. He then told **MCpl Charette** of High Value Targets close by and the best route to our helicopter ride out. After a long hard march, a partisan welcomed us, told us to drop our rucks and he would call the chopper for our extraction. Only a minute later we heard a loud explosion. We quickly moved, grabbing our stretcher and medical kit to the scene of the downed helicopter. Securing the site, we located six dead casualties and one who lost his leg. **Tprs Brisebois-Bergeron** and **Muirhead** went to work triaging the casualties and providing first aid while **Cpl Charlton** radioed to HQ the details of the scene. Once the situation was under control, the partisan informed us that our new extraction was six kilometres away.



We waited in the dark then moved towards the next rendezvous point. We were led to a truck that took the team into the Sennybridge training area and we assisted some friendly forces with a prisoner of war situation where we took control and informed them on the proper way to handle prisoners.

“Just five kilometres more” we heard as we grabbed our rucks and continued on.



*Cpl Jeremy Charlton
keeping an eye in the countryside*

Arriving at the next rendezvous, a quick set of orders were issued to attack an enemy location. Illumination rounds lit up the sky as we ran into a position with live machine gun fire cracking over our heads and mortars exploding close by. **MCpl Charette** leading, we suppressed and cleared the enemy positions. Suddenly, **MCpl Charette** was told he was injured and unable to continue leading the battle. We evacuated him a kilometre and a half to the casualty collection point where dark figures rushed us inside a building. Chaos ensued, one demanded we show him our kit, two more wanted a debriefing on the patrol and one announced to us that we had another ten kilometres to go. Collectively the team said “let’s do it” and prepared to move out, when suddenly the commander told us that we were really done.

After 55 kilometres and 48 hours we had crossed the “finish line” and we were met by **WO Duane Wallis**, **Cpls Jessie “Old Man” Maw** and **Andrew “Ginger” Lonegren** and **Tprs Mike “Big Whipsy” Whipple** and **Chris Lawrence**. Two hours anxious hours passed until the medal ceremony, then came the announcement, “From Canada, awarded the silver standard; Lord Strathcona’s Horse!” It was an extremely proud moment for us.

Cambrian Patrol was an amazing and rewarding experience. It tested our physical and mental conditioning, it was the most difficult thing any one of us has ever done and in turn made us better soldiers. We would like to thank the entire Regimental Family and the Regimental Chain of Command for making this possible. Also, without the support of our friends and families through the countless training exercises and the Cambrian Patrol, we couldn’t have accomplished this amazing feat. To all, thank you.



2011 LdSH(RC) Cambrian Patrol Team

MCpl Felix Charette
Cpl Jeremy Charlton
Cpl Evan Stewart
Tpr Scott Muirhead

MCpl Ryan Vigar
Cpl Tom Hume
Tpr Landon Hall
Tpr Mike Whipple

Cpl Jason Brisebois-Bergeron
Cpl Andrew Lonegren
Tpr Chris Lawrence
WO Daune Wallis (support staff)
Cpl Jesse Maw (support staff)



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Adventure Training 2011

Capt Jeff Daley



A Motley Crew on their way to Paintball

It all started in February, when the Regiment identified a requirement to conduct Basic Winter Warfare Training in anticipation of taskings to support ongoing and future operations. In order to take full advantage of this training opportunity, the Regiment chose to pursue training that taught soldiers to operate efficiently and safely in a mountainous backcountry environment. Because really, how can you call yourself Canadian when you do not have the ability to downhill ski?

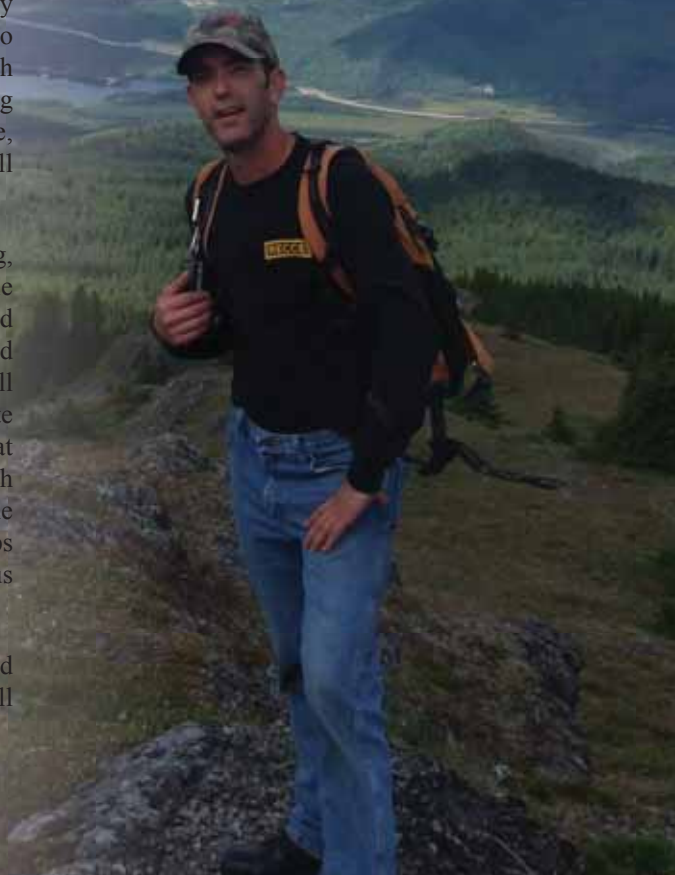
Due to the shortfall of qualified avalanche awareness and ski/snowboard instructors in the military, the Regiment outsourced the avalanche safety and ski/snowboard instruction portion of the training to a civilian contractor. The entire package consisted of refreshing the skills gained on Basic Winter Warfare and supplementing them

with avalanche and ski/snowboard training at Marmot Basin. The avalanche rescue team training was top notch and taught our soldiers vital skills, including how to find a beacon hidden by another person in just over three minutes. Given the circumstances and terrain, this was quite impressive.

A total of two groups of soldiers attended the training but unfortunately, the second serial was met by some extreme weather and had to cut the training by two days while staying warm within the ski lodge (warmth may or may not have been provided by various warming beverages). Despite the second serial's misfortune, everybody was extremely happy to participate and all are looking forward to doing it again next year.

Due to the success of the winter adventure training, the Regiment initiated a second block during the summer months. This training was again contracted out to and hosted by Wild Blue Yonder, and consisted of white water rafting down the Sulphur River, paintball and hiking in the area of Grande Cache. The white water rafting was not without pirates. While in flat calm water the river guides produced water guns which started a water fight of epic proportions, leaving no one unscathed. Following their day on the river, the troops either played paintball or hiked in the mountainous terrain around Grande Cache.

Overall, this year's adventure training reinforced Regimental cohesion and morale and next year... we'll get those pirates.





Ex MAPLE DEFENDER

WO Marvin MacNeill



Capt McMurachy attempting to secure a cushy job with the Senate Committee

On 22 August, soldiers from A Squadron deployed to CFB Wainwright to support Ex MAPLE DEFENDER by providing a mini combat team firepower demo. Like any event, we brought a few friends along to watch; the Senate Committee on National Defence and the Office of the Auditor General. In attendance from the Senate Committee on National defence were **Mr James Bezan**, **Senator Pamela Wallin**, and **Senator Don Plett**. From the Office of the Auditor General attendees were **Mr John Reed**, **Mr Craig Millar**, **Mr Eric Provencher** and **Mr Benjamin Janzen**.

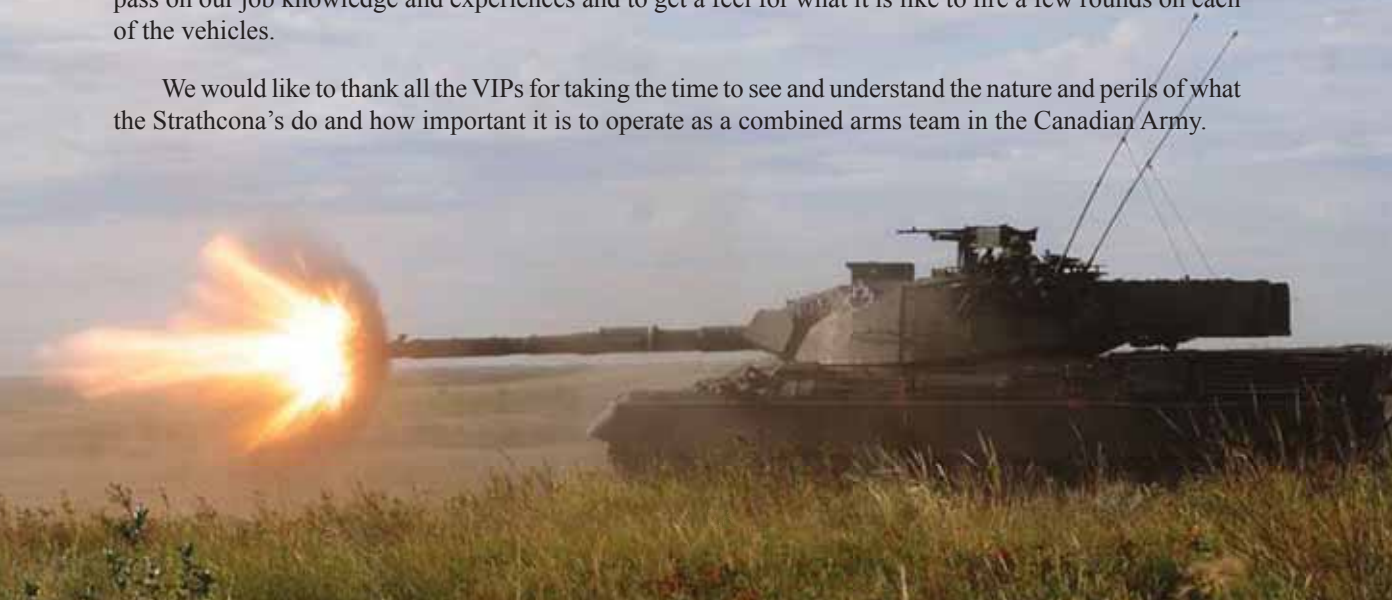
Crews from across the Squadron and HQ Squadron were mustered under the leadership of **Lt Steven “Smoke Shoot” Van Muyen**. The remainder of the combat team was drawn from 3 Platoon - A Company - 1 Princess Patricia’s Canadian Light Infantry, 1 Royal Canadian

Horse Artillery, and a field section, including a Badger, from 1 Combat Engineer Regiment. The troops setting up the range had the seemingly endless task of building mock buildings, setting up targets and filling sand bags under the lead of **WO Billy “Bob the Builder” Boland** and **Lt Corey “I can draw a map” McLean**. After three days of hard work, the construction was finished and ready to be blown up.

After a shaky first attempt, everyone settled into the task and by the second dry run the pieces started to fall into place as the mini combat team began operating effectively. All members from the different arms once again recognized the need for combined arms training and how vital it is to conduct this type of training at all rank levels.

With H-Hour set at 0900 hours, the combat team began its move forward to the tactical assembly area. Close Air Support (CAS) was provided by two Alpha jets as the combat team began its aggressive move forward through the first obstacle, a three metre wide anti-tank ditch. Once the demonstration was complete and the guns fell silent, it was our chance to let the VIPs engage with the soldiers one-on-one to pass on our job knowledge and experiences and to get a feel for what it is like to fire a few rounds on each of the vehicles.

We would like to thank all the VIPs for taking the time to see and understand the nature and perils of what the Strathcona’s do and how important it is to operate as a combined arms team in the Canadian Army.





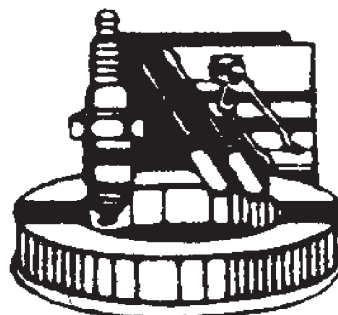
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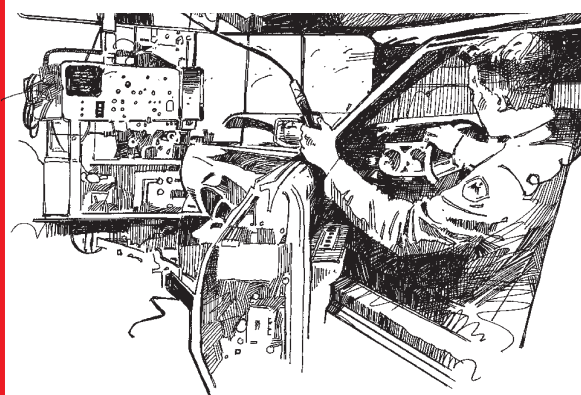
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Ex STEELE SABRE 2011

Capt Mark MacInnis



*Our Friends from Canadian Pacific Railway
at the A Squadron Range*

Once again the Regiment deployed to the beautiful Wainwright training area to put the squadrons through their paces during Ex STEELE SABRE. The goal for this year's exercise was to give the squadrons the ability to conduct aggressive troop and squadron training that would be tested during a culminating squadron live fire attack.

As A and B Squadrons focused on the tried and true armoured battle tasks of the advance to contact, squadron quick attacks and the defence, Recce Squadron focused on some more unconventional training to include a cold and frigid dismounted river crossing, lumberjack/chainsaw training and some unsanctioned Ultimate Fighting Championship try-outs. During this dry training, the Regiment was fortunate to have a Forward Observation Observer/Forward Air Controller (FOO/FAC) team, **MCpl Mike MacIntyre** and **Capt Melissa Marshall**, from Z Battery 1 Royal Canadian Horse Artillery, who also brought along two Alpha jets to provide some real time combat enablers for the squadrons to play with.

During the ranges, Recce Squadron validated the students of the 25mm Turret Operator Course and both A and B Squadron proceeded to destroy the training area by igniting some rather large fires that grew rapidly under the dry and windy conditions of the exercise. Fortunately, the fires contained themselves to the permanent danger areas and did not affect training, other than causing the training area to smell like a giant camp fire. This caused a run an ADREPS for marshmallows and graham crackers, mmmmm 'smores. For A, B and Recce, the squadron ranges culminated in troop level live fire that was validated by the Commanding Officer. During these runs the Commanding Officer must have made a few enemies, as one devious troop appeared to orient three of their four call/signs to have 9er in their sights. Luckily with some coaxing, the Squadron Commander was able to get 9er back into their good books and the troop re-orientated itself down range: no harm, no foul. On the flip side, for their strong showing, 2nd Troop from A Squadron, commanded by **Lt Steve Van Muyen** and **WO Rob Baglole**, was named the best gunnery troop in the Regiment for the exercise.

Squadron ranges and dry training complete, the Regiment culminated the exercise with combat team live fire attacks from both A and B Squadrons augmented by elements of Recce Squadron, a FOO/FAC team and Alpha Jets. The template of Range 25 put the combat teams deep in the badlands, which made the attacks more challenging due to the varying terrain and the craftiness of **WO Kevin “The Milk Man” King’s** placement of the targets. Even with this craftiness, both combat teams were able to lay an incredible beat down on the enemy objective and kick the crap out of it. The highlight of the attacks could easily have been when an overly ambitious troop leader, **Lt Stu King** from A Squadron, attempted to take control of the squadron firebase and was unceremoniously told over the combat team radio net “Get the *expletive* out of my way, this is my *expletive* fire base” by his fiery Battle Captain/Squadron 2IC, **Capt Alastair McMurachy**.

Throughout the training, HQ Squadron excelled ensuring that the sabre squadrons received the support that was required to get the job done. As is always the case, Maintenance Troop was working all hours of the day fixing downed Coyote’s and Leopards, doing their best to get every possible vehicle rolling. Not to be outdone, Transport Troop conducted the necessary runs to ensure supplies were making it into camp, when not taking 2IC HQ, **Capt Al Wong**, into camp for his thrice a day shower runs. Tell a guy once he smells like chicken soup and he gets a complex. Most importantly, the cooks of the Regiment truly worked miracles to provide first class meals throughout the exercise. (Even though as the exercise concluded, OC B Squadron, **Maj Mike Onieu**, would rampage about the unacceptable quantity of maple syrup available for his waffles. I guess you can’t please them all.)

Always keen to strengthen our bonds with the civilian sector, the Regiment hosted key leadership from the Canadian Pacific Railway (CPR) during the final days of training. The contingent led by **Mr Fred Green**, Chief Executive Officer of CPR, was given the opportunity to observe the Regiment in action during training and also participate in a Leopard Range conducted by A Squadron. During the visit, **Mr Green** announced a deepening commitment of CPR to the military, specifically the launch of a programme that would aid soldiers wishing to transition from the military to the civilian sector.

This nearly caused a stampede of Sr NCO’s, as an overly eager **MWO Tony Mayfield** and **WO Kevin King** had to be reigned in by the Colonel of the Regiment, **MGen Cam Ross**.

With training complete, the Squadrons stood down and prepared for the much anticipated Regimental Smoker. The cooks, **WO Alain Doucet**, **Sgt Patrick Flannigan**, **MCpls Percy Bechard**, **Sandra Page**, and **Jason Sinnett**, **LS Marie-Eve Brassard**, **Cpls Matt Coxall** and **Matt Wade** and **Pte Herim Chang**, laid on a feast of epic proportions with not one but two roast pigs (there may have also been a few refreshing beverages available as well). After a long night of soldiers from respective squadrons regaling each other with who was more awesome than who, and who was inarguably the better squadron, the Regiment awoke the next morning, slightly dazed and confused, and broke land speed records to break camp and get the Regiment redeployed to Edmonton as fast as humanely possible.

At the end of it all, Ex STEELE SABRE again demonstrated the professionalism of the Regiment and the skills and determination of its soldiers to perfect their war fighting abilities. Each and every soldier of the Regiment was able to proudly look back on the Exercise and justly know that they were now better soldiers than before.





Ex Maple Resolve (B Squadron Defects to the Dragoons....briefly)

Lt Anthony Kenny

Following on the heels of Regimental exercise STEELE SABRE in September, B Squadron took a brief break before returning to Wainwright, this time as part of the Royal Canadian Dragoons Battle Group for Exercise MAPLE RESOLVE. 2 Canadian Mechanized Brigade Group deployed with two Battle Groups based on 3rd Battalion, The Royal Canadian Regiment (3 RCR) and the Royal Canadian Dragoons (RCD), to culminate their high readiness training. The RCD Battle Group included B Squadron LdSH(RC), Y Company, 1 Royal Regiment of Fusiliers (UK) and 23 Field Squadron from 2 Combat Engineer Regiment. The tanks (including two on loan from A Squadron, along with **MCpls Jerry Peddle** and **Dave Brister**) were fully instrumented to register hits using the uber-high speed Weapons Effects System (WES). This allowed us to track both hits for and against, and we definitely had plenty of both.



Tpr Henry Chen and Cpl Colin Roselle in a Troop Hide

Prior to the start of force on force training, we spent a very long day with 23 Field Squadron breaching a series of increasingly complex obstacles ranging from anti-tank ditches embedded within minefields up to the Maginot Line- the engineers' Piece Of Resistance, tetrahedrons, hedgehogs and an AT ditch, in which live explosive breaching was conducted with the tanks as near as we could safely get to the blast, + 20 meters.

Once the force against force portion of the exercise began, T23, **Lt Anthony Kenny** was so eager to get into "West Isle" that he bypassed several BG elements in the order of march and raced across the border (Red Route) before being reined in by the now mildly pissed off Squadron Commander. B Squadron quickly established a blocking position, ostensibly to prevent the elite Port-Au-Prince Guard from interfering with Battle Group humanitarian assistance efforts in the north. Almost immediately upon entering the blocking position, T22A, **Sgt Rob Biener**, barely into his hull down was engaged (ineffectively) by some rat with a rifle. Resulting in an overly keen **Lt Owen Lewis** to launch his entire troop to hunt down that lone insurgent before being reeled in. (This was one of two great lessons he learned on this exercise- the other was that fine bone china is unsuitable in the field). It was also from this blocking position that the Squadron identified the main CMTC OPFOR camp, hunkered in beside Highway 41, and recommended launching



Tpr Paul Nicholson conducting T&E on one of the ploughs



a Battle Group offensive against it. The destruction of that camp would have ended the entire exercise on the first day, which is perhaps why the recommendation gained no traction.

Next, 1 Tp was attached to D Squadron RCD to conduct “recce in force”.... and forced the rest of us to listen to their exploits in reconnaissance by tank. It must have been fun but it wasn’t long before they hinted that they would like to be cut back to B Squadron. And they were- just in time for a deliberate attack on a reinforced platoon-sized position at the infamous Lazy J ranch.

This attack was great fun. The move to the attack position, now as B Squadron Combat Team, did not start off well. In an attempt to avoid CMTC’s anticipated mines and IEDs enroute to the attack position, the OC decided to plough all the way there. In the WES battlespace, this meant that any mines or IEDs were digitally (turned off) along our intended route. It would have worked too, if we had followed the right route. Instead we missed a key turn, ran into a known minefield and lost two plough tanks and the Battle Captain within a minute. A hasty digital reset was done, and the attack was executed quite handily, with no losses at all to the Squadron.

The final complex conventional deliberate attack, against a determined PPCLI company dug into stage 3 trenches and a battalion’s worth of anti-tank ditches and minefields proved to a formidable obstacle, particularly as indirect support was cut away five minutes before we reached the objective. At this point, we had a sizeable B Squadron Combat Team, comprised of Y Company, and four field engineer sections including two Badgers. It wasn’t enough though, and we sustained heavy losses getting through the antitank ditch and minefields. As the assault force rolled through the enemy position, a real life farm fence prevented us from escaping the objective to conduct exploitation (at least not without serious grief from range control) and so the remnants of the assault force were destroyed, including the OC, who died slowly beside the portable toilets, managing to gasp out a few last bits of guidance to T22 before bleeding out. T22 valiantly contacted CO RCD, identified himself as “the most senior officer remaining alive in B Squadron” and consolidated the remaining five tanks to reinforce 3 RCR Battle Group, who were suffering as badly on their own objective. In the end, we lost two tank troops and Y Company lost 90% of their personnel, and we lost half of the engineers. Had there been live HEAT and HESH rounds involved instead of laser beams, the results would have been quite different, but within the constraints of the instrumentation available, we were slaughtered.

While the Squadron arrived for this exercise tired from having just completed Ex STEELE SABRE, we also arrived ready, and by the end of the exercise we honed our complex obstacle breaching skills, combined arms ability, and tanker skills by a great leap. We learned a few lessons, and reinforced the success of the previous month’s exercise. Safe to say no one was sorry to see Wainwright in the rear-view mirror.

It must be mentioned that it was truly enjoyable to work with comrades and old friends from the RCD- we were well treated, generously supported and welcomed nicely. It is heartening to note that we have more in common with the RCD than differences. It was also a great pleasure to work with a very checked out British mechanized infantry company and see that our procedures align nicely with those of the British Army.





A Squadron - Chile SUE

Small Unit Exchange in Iquique, Chile

MCpl Jesse Paterson

Sometimes in the military there are “tough go’s” and “good go’s” and for the 13 members of A Squadron that got to experience a Small Unit Exchange (SUE) in Iquique, Chile, it was certainly a Good Go! The trip got off to an uncertain start as the flight from Edmonton to Toronto was delayed for four hours, putting us at risk of missing our connecting flight. However, luck was on our side and we landed in Toronto and had enough time to gulp down one last Tim Horton’s coffee before departing on the overnight flight to Santiago. After one more connecting flight into Iquique, we were finally at our destination. The desolate landscape was eerily similar to Afghanistan and I think more than one person wondered if they had been duped to going back overseas. The Chilean hospitality was evident from the very beginning, with **Lt Bravo** being kind enough to pick us up on a Sunday and take us to our quarters. Quarters may be an inadequate word as it was more like a hotel with a pool and a bar in the lobby. After getting settled into our rooms, we were treated to one of many delicious and authentic Chilean dishes at the hotel restaurant.



Lt Lizana and Lt Bravo speaking with the Squadron

The next day we met another one of our Liaison Officers, **Lt Lizana**, who along with **Lt Bravo**, acted as our translators when needed. We were treated to a tour of the school including displays of all the tanks the Chilean Army has used. It was clear to all of us that the Chilean Army is extremely well organized and takes their training very seriously. At the school, they expect the very best from soldiers and if they are not up to standard there is no hesitation to release them from the course. We were able to participate in their simulator training and much to the relief of the Commander, **MCpl Jesse Paterson**, and Gunner, **Cpl Mike Korenowski**, they met the standard set by the school. The Chilean Armoured Corps invested a lot of money into their simulator training from a turret simulator, such as the one used in Germany, to a hydraulically driven driver simulator that moved the driver according to the terrain he or she was on. If the





SSM Taylor up to his ankles in moon dust

crew passed the simulator phase, which included the firing of over a hundred rounds, they then moved to the range where they used a laser system much similar to our WES gear. The laser targets are able to tell the operator in the tower where the gunner is hitting and if he is doing the proper corrections. Only after the crew passes all these tests are they permitted to go live on the fully automated range. We were able to view the range after a short ride in the back of some Warrior Armoured Fighting Vehicles. Needless to say, we were blown away by the intricacy of their training and by their advanced equipment that they employ to the fullest extent.

After numerous briefs, tours, and dinners it was regrettably time to go, but with one more stop in Santiago. We spent the night in the amazing Radisson hotel, lost somewhere in the 5 million plus inhabitants of the city. While some of us took the opportunity to see the sights, others were afflicted by the local cuisine and had to stay close to the hotel. After a busy five days we were back on the plane and luckily we made it back to Edmonton without problems. The experience was something that none of us will soon forget and we hope to see some familiar faces if the Chileans are able to come visit us.

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Ex SKYLINE “WE WERE TEN MEN”

Tpr Michael Whipple

We were ten men, with an esoteric silent pride, who embarked on what would prove to be a testament to our training. The ominous Skyline trail was a sleeping giant, and we were about to test our mettle. Ten overburdened rucksacks beckoned us and, naturally, we obliged. We are 4th Troop, Recce Squadron.

Our mission was simple. We were to travel, by foot, up to fifty kilometres northwest along one of Jasper’s most prolific trails with upwards of eighty pounds of kit per man. We were also told it would prove to be the most unforgiving terrain we had yet to endure. There were designated campsites for each night, allotted rations for each team member, and suitable water features for replenishing our camelbaks. Time was of the essence however, and we were well aware that being late would not be acceptable.

We left on the morning of the 24th of August in high spirits. The weather looked promising and we all felt confident in each other’s physical and mental endurance. A lot of pressure was placed on the shoulders of our two navigators, **Cpls Tom Hume** and **Evan Stewart**, to guide us to our destination in the most efficient manner possible. We covered 21 kilometres the first day, with an elevation gain of five-hundred-fifty metres. The first campsite, Curator, could not possibly have been more appreciated by the time we were there. Once we had arrived, we were given specific tasks appropriate for a recce soldier. Some of us drew range cards, while others were tasked with constructing an impromptu map model of the surrounding area. We welcomed these less physically demanding tasks as a relief and subsequently prepared for sleep.

The following day would prove more difficult than the first. At 0800 hrs we were immediately faced with a trail that would lead to the notorious Notch. The trail to the Notch was infamous for unforgiving winds, and an unrelenting incline. One man at the Curator campsite even insisted we were “insane” for attempting

Definitely NOT tank country





it with eighty pounds of gear, as some hikers (with lighter loads) were forced to turn back halfway during the trek due to the severe conditions. However, we were determined to conquer it. After one-and-a-half-hours of intense hiking, sometimes using all four limbs to traverse certain points of the trail, we were there. We knew we still had a long way to go before our next rest-stop, but the photo opportunities were worth the climb. With masochistic smiles on our faces, we continued towards Tekarra, our next objective.

MCpl Felix Charette was commanding the patrol, and we all had unrelenting faith in him, as well as in **Patrol 21C, MCpl Ryan Vigar**, to ensure we received the best possible training. We were bombarded with scenarios to test our teamwork. At one point during the day, our team was tested with a gas attack and had to conduct appropriate First Aid on one of our team members. It was midday, and we had already come a considerable distance. Nonetheless, we were prepared for the challenges such a scenario would provide and we proceeded to Signal Mountain after enjoying a long-anticipated lunch at Tekarra.

When we arrived, it was still early in the afternoon and the remaining nine kilometres intended for the next day were taunting us. Our destination seemed so close. After deliberating on Signal Mountain, which was a popular lookout point from which we could see the town of Jasper, we made a somewhat brash decision. Notions of beer and pizza were occupying our thoughts and we unanimously opted to finish the expedition that very night.

We left Signal Mountain and proceeded towards our finish point at a record pace. In a mere hour-and-a-half, we covered nine kilometres down a harsh decline, bringing our total distance for the exercise just shy of fifty kilometres. The sense of accomplishment for completing the Skyline trail was evident. The night was one of celebration.

It is expected for us to be called “crazy” or even “cocky” for simply doing what we consider to be part of our normal routine. At these remarks we simply maintain our esoteric silent pride. Believe me; we have bigger things to worry about. We are 4th Troop, Recce Squadron.



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Ex PATRICIA ACES Strathconas in the California Desert

Tpr Peter Smith and Tpr Michael Van Nieuwenhuyze

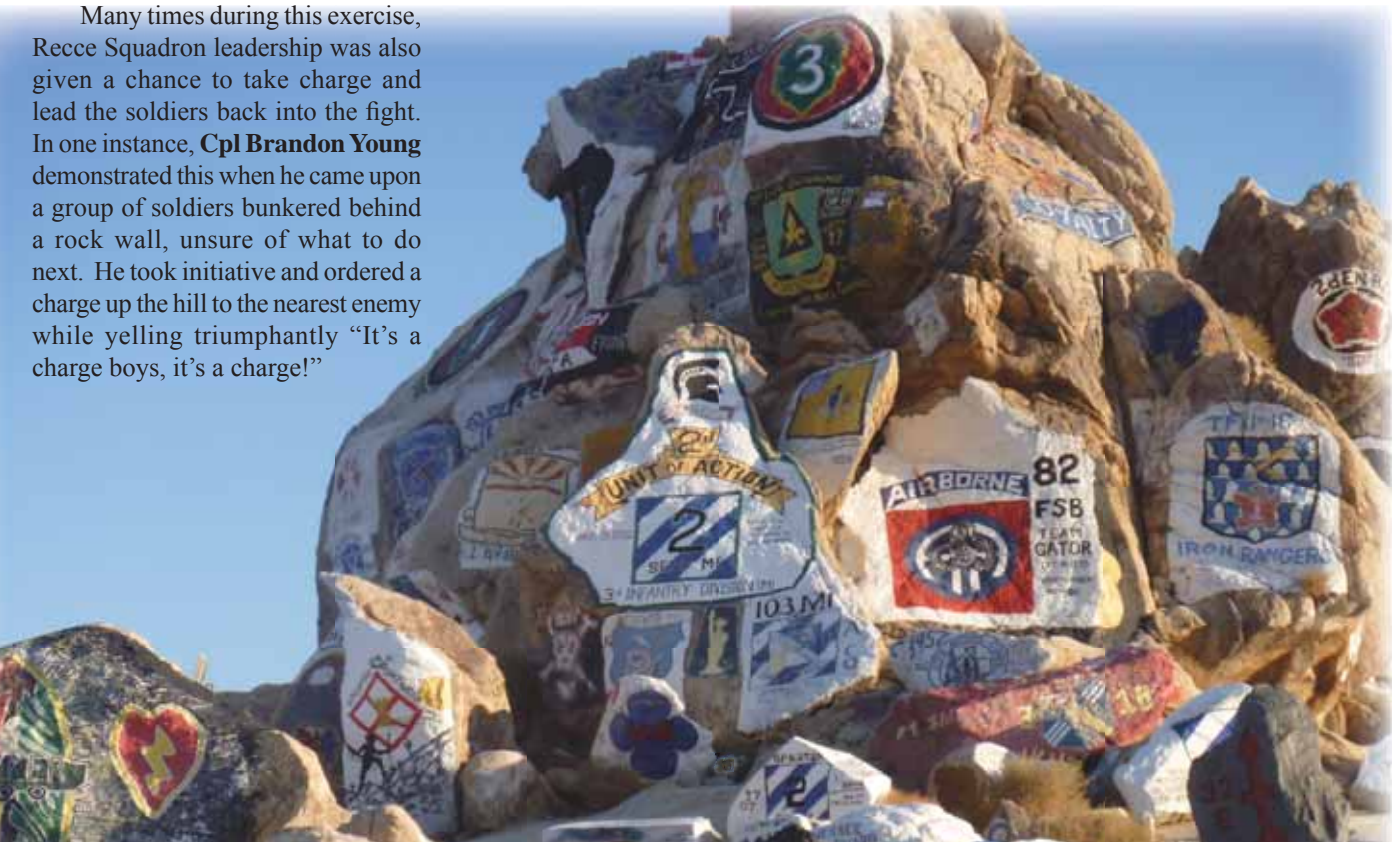


*Cpl Cheng getting ready to attack
an American Outpost*

In early October, soldiers from Recce Squadron received the task to augment A Company, 1 PPCLI, as it prepared to deploy to the United States Army National Training Centre (NTC) in Fort Irwin, California on Ex PATRICIA ACES. Prior to the deployment, recce crewmen joined the Company and commenced aggressive training, both in Edmonton and Wainwright, in preparation for the exercise. During pre-deployment, the Company conducted weapon ranges, live fire sections attack and close quarter combat training.

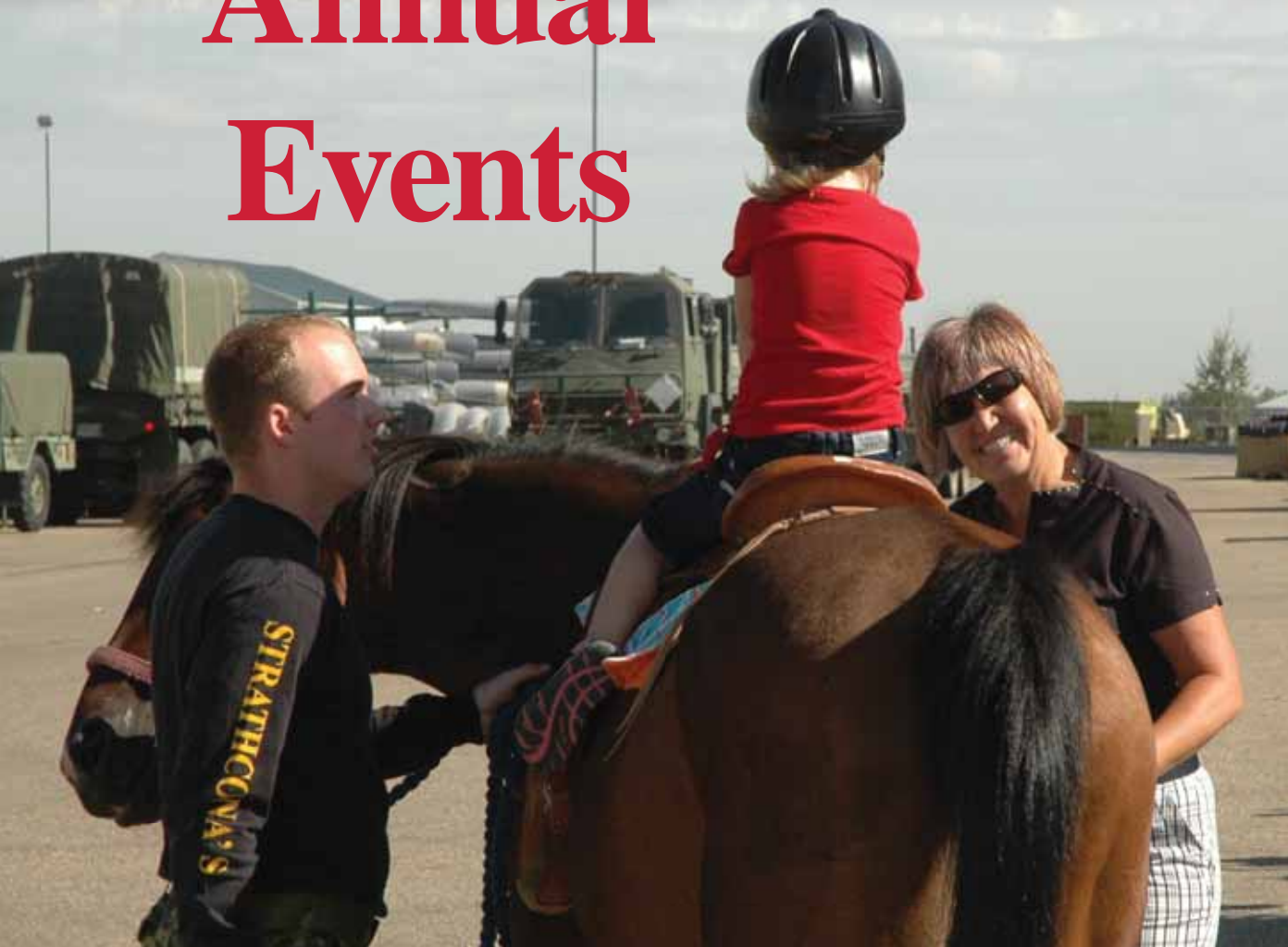
In California, A Company was further augmented with soldiers from the United States 11th Armoured Cavalry Regiment. Once grouped together, this collection of American and Canadian soldiers formed Demon Company and it was our task to act as the opposing forces (OPFOR) for the exercise. Very early on, Strathcona soldiers had the opportunity to demonstrate their skills in a variety of settings. On one such occasion, we were sent to assault a heavily fortified American combat outpost, and despite being largely outnumbered, we managed to overrun the majority of the base, rendering the American force combat ineffective. On the second attack, Strathcona recce soldiers made the only two helicopter kills of the exercise, as well as the first stealth knife kill at NTC. This was in addition to the other mayhem we caused, mainly due to the expert application of Canadian firepower and skilfully placed Improvised Explosive Devices.

Many times during this exercise, Recce Squadron leadership was also given a chance to take charge and lead the soldiers back into the fight. In one instance, **Cpl Brandon Young** demonstrated this when he came upon a group of soldiers bunkered behind a rock wall, unsure of what to do next. He took initiative and ordered a charge up the hill to the nearest enemy while yelling triumphantly "It's a charge boys, it's a charge!"





Annual Events





Moreuil Wood

Capt Mark MacInnis



The Regiment commemorated the 93rd Anniversary of the battle of Moreuil Wood this year as is tradition, on the weekend closest to the 30th of March. As in years past, the parade was preceded with a Regimental Sports Day in which the messes competed against one another for what some would argue was honour, others bragging rights with a notable preference on the latter. This year saw a return to the traditional rivalries of the Track Pad pitted against the Green Point Lounge and a continuance of the bitter competition between experience and youth, as demonstrated by the Sarcee Room and the Mariner Room. Despite the competitive nature (physical violence) and the excellent warrior spirit (low blows) conveyed by the Regiment during this event there were very few physical injuries but...a plethora of hurt feelings. These hurt feelings were illustrated numerous times throughout the day, usually following losses by the Green Point Lounge or the Sarcee Room. The largest upset of the day however had to have been when the Sarcee Room allowed the Mariner Room to creep within a single point of

victory during broomball, a sport which was usually considered a forgone conclusion for the Senior NCOs (note: this was the best finishing for the officers in sometime).

The highlight of every Moreuil Wood is the opportunity to recognize deserving individuals in the Regiment. For 2011, the following individuals and Squadron were recognized for the professionalism throughout the year:

Prince of Wales Trophy:

Olympic Torch:

Fox Bugle:

Colonel of the Regiment Silver Stick:

The Milroy Crossbelt:

The Neatby Pacestick:

The Hessin Sword:

Recce Sqn

Cpl Jory Thoren

MCpl Rob Chmara

Sgt Ed Morley

Sgt Rob Likely

MWO Leigh Taylor

Lt Gord Elliott







Family Day

Capt Tom Pett and Mrs Kim Mills

Not every child can say that when they visit their mom or dad at work they get to ride a tank or shoot paintball guns. However, the children of LdSH(RC), had these bragging rights on 27 August 2011. They spent the day making balloon animals, seeing a magician, visiting a petting zoo, having their face painted and enjoying a pony ride. After all this fun, they tamed their hunger on a feast of pizza and BBQ'd hamburgers and hot dogs. If burgers and hot dogs were too healthy, there were also mountains of cotton candy, skilfully prepared by a candy covered **Cpl Corina Skinner**, as well as snow-cones and popcorn.



Incorporated into the Family Day for the first time, an Auto Show and Shine was held to capture the attention of the older crowd and those without children. The Show and Shine saw cars like **Capt Alex Nitu's** Deleorean DMC 12, **MCpl Shaun Sullivan's** 1940 Plymouth (which he built), and **Cpl Chris Sykes' 2011** Chevy Silverado 4x4 that was selected as the children's favourite and winner. There were also a bevy of carnival games that gave the kids a chance to win prizes and arcade games to keep them busy while mom and dad talked to old friends and new acquaintances. The few brave (kids of all ages) also had a chance to test their pitching arms with a shot to see **LCol Trevor Cadieu** and **RSM Bill Crabb** get soaked by water balloons with a new twist on the old dunk tank. In all, there was not a bored kid (or parent) in the Harvey building that day.

For many families the hectic tempo of the Regiment has meant they haven't had much time together. Strathcona Family Day was a gesture of appreciation from the Regiment to the families. Events such as these are impossible to have without support and funding from the Regimental Society and the efforts of those who put it together, B Squadron in this instance. The smiling faces of the young and old, as well as the laughter of children were a clear indication that it was tremendously appreciated by all who came out.







Remembrance Day

Capt Dave Cronk

*But the freedom that they fought for, and the country grand they wrought for,
Is their monument to-day, and for aye.Thomas Dunn English*

For the Regiment, Remembrance Day 2011 was the first time in many years that a Squadron was not deployed to Afghanistan, committed to combat operations in Kandahar Province. However, it must not be forgotten that over a hundred Strathconas remained in Afghanistan directly supporting Op Attention, the mission to professionalize the Afghan National Army, and the Mission Transition Task Force, the mission to move Canadian military personnel north to Kabul and home to Canada. With these thoughts in mind and in tribute to those who served before us and continue to serve in areas of conflict, the Regiment marked Remembrance Day attending vigils throughout Greater Edmonton.

In total, Strathcona soldiers paid their respects to fallen brothers and sisters in arms at thirteen different locations in and around Edmonton. The largest ceremonies saw fifty man honour guards from A Squadron, B Squadron, and Headquarters Squadron attend vigils at the Butcherdome in downtown Edmonton, the Fort Saskatchewan Legion and Sherwood Park respectively. With a strength of 140 plus soldiers, Recce Squadron provided two fifty man honour guards, one in Mayerthorpe and the other in St. Albert.

Of special note, a contingent of soldiers from across the Regiment attended the No Stone Left Alone Ceremony at the Beechmount Cemetery in Edmonton. The No Stone Left Alone Memorial Foundation is a non-profit organization working directly with the Royal Canadian Legion's Greater Edmonton Poppy Fund to help raise funds for the veterans of Canada and their families. With the participation of the Edmonton Public School Board and the Edmonton Catholic School District, this ceremony was marked by students and Strathcona soldiers placing poppies on the gravesites of soldiers interned at the Beechmount Cemetery. For those soldiers who attended, the ability to share remembrance ceremonies was heartfelt and it was encouraging to see such a dedicated involvement by the country's youngest generation.

In addition to the larger ceremonies, the Regiment marked Remembrance Day with more intimate vigils in honour of our most recent fallen. Composed of soldiers with a connection to **Cpl Francisco Gomez, Tpr Michael Hayakaze and Cpl Nathan Hornburg**, Strathconas attended ceremonies to honour the sacrifice of these fallen comrades.

As the parades concluded at all venues, soldiers of the Regiment took the opportunity to raise a glass and share stories with veterans, taking a moment to reflect and give their thanks to those who have paid the ultimate sacrifice and to those currently serving in harms way.

*Cpl Mark Weir on vigil at
Beechmount Cemetery*

We Shall Remember Them.



Kids' Christmas Party

Cpl Jason Reid

With snowflakes in the air and another year coming to a close, the Regiment welcomed the holiday season with the annual Kids' Christmas Party. A Squadron put on an excellent show and played host to over 100 families who took part in all kinds of fun and games.

As kids entered the Harvey Building, they came face to face with a larger than life inflatable bouncy castle and obstacle course, only one of the many activities available for them this year. There were a handful of mini games such as ring-toss and basketball, complete with prizes to amuse the little ones while the more adventurous waited patiently to see the assortment of animals in the petting zoo. This year featured all kinds of cute and cuddly animals including bunny rabbits and a little wallaby! To top it off, Santa brought two of his reindeer for little eyes to behold as they waited in line to see the jolly man himself.



Cpl Lajoie and Tpr Potter challenge the kids to shooting hoops

With tummies filled with cotton candy and popcorn, children lined up to get their picture taken with Santa and each little one left with their very own gift from the big guy himself. To keep the momentum going, a pizza lunch was provided with desserts and drinks as everyone soaked up the Christmas spirit. Freshly energized, families returned to the festivities for face painting and sports challenges. This year's party was timed perfectly; the weather turned frosty and the snow fell just in time to make the horse-drawn carriage ride a decidedly festive event.

The afternoon of fun and games were topped off with a draw for a plethora of outstanding door prizes ranging from spa days to game consoles and a T.V. There were gifts on hand for everyone to enjoy. After the last prize was awarded and Santa went back home to the North Pole, the celebrations drew to a close and the kids went home all tuckered out, full of Christmas cheer.





Christmas Celebrations

Lt Owen Lewis



Sgt Willcott the most popular Sgt at the Men's Christmas Dinner

As is tradition, as the middle of December rolled in this year we traded in the headaches of a long and eventful year of hard work for the headaches that come from long and eventful Christmas celebrations. The season was marked by the traditional festivities; various Squadron Christmas parties, inter-mess sports, the CO hosting his Officers and Sr NCOs for drinks, and senior officers warmly welcoming Subbie carollers into their homes. Many of these events are discussed in rich detail elsewhere in this year's Strathconian, some events will hopefully be politely forgotten and perhaps even forgiven *cough*subbie's carolling*cough*.

The highlight, of course, of the year's Christmas celebrations came on December 15th with the Men's Christmas Dinner. The morning began with a parade where we were able to recognize the outstanding work of many soldiers in our Regiment through various awards and promotions. As the parade dismissed, the Sr NCOs and Officers headed to the mess to set up for the Men's Christmas Dinner, while the soldiers returned briefly to their barracks; undoubtedly to participate in entirely wholesome and respectable activities. Once the soldiers had completed their entirely wholesome activities, and the Sr NCOs and Officers had finished setting up for the dinner, the soldiers of the Regiment were served a traditional Christmas Dinner by the Sr NCOs and Officers. During the dinner, the ceremonial exchanging of the tunics saw **Tpr Jeremy Gray** assume command of the Regiment as CO and **Cpl Karen Lewis** assumed the appointment of RSM.

After the meal, the men were dismissed to continue their celebrations and the Sr NCOs were welcomed to the Officer's mess to be entertained for the evening at the Officer's At-Home. The festivities went well into the evening, but there was, thankfully, little damage to both person and property with the exception of some unfortunate incidents involving a cavalry sabre, tai-kwon-do helmet, a cargo dolly, some frozen cabbages, and one unfortunate Squadron 2IC's leg.

Of special note, over Christmas break countless members carried on the background work of the Regiment to make sure that we did not fall apart during Christmas leave. Thanks must be given to those who volunteered to keep the Duty Centre running, members of Strathcona Mounted Troop who tended to the horses and to the members of Family Support Troop who continued to assist the families of those deployed. Of course, most of all, thanks to those Strathconas who due to duty and deployment spent their Christmas far away from their loved ones.



Sports and Fitness





Ex STRONG CONTENDER 2011

Capt Liz England

We're back! After a rough 2010 showing, the Strathcona's put up solid representation at this year's Ex STRONG CONTENDER challenge and showed the Brigade that we are a budding force to be reckoned with for the 2012 competition. With a Silver medal from the Curling Team, and Bronzes from the Volleyball and CrossFit Teams, we may not have dominated like we know we can, but we most certainly put up tough competition in each event.

Demonstrating that curling is far more than a test of one's balance on thin ice and a belly full of beer, **MCpl Bryson Murphy** skipped his team's way to the finals (in the most macho sense of the term) where he drove 3 PPCLI to pull out every dirty move in their repertoire to sneak out a win in the final end.

In volleyball, the Strathcona's were identified as the favourites to take the top spot with Team Captain **Cpl Jeff "Loud Mouth" Thompson** in the lead. Coach **Cpl Mike "Never Too Busted To Play" Baker** built a strong team, but was nonetheless required to sub in for the finals despite a shoulder injury. The competition didn't stand a chance as **Cpl Matty "Killer" Houle** racked up the points one kill at a time.

He did, however, have the decency to apologize to the 1 Svc Bn competitor that he knocked unconscious with an unforgiving face smash.

MCpl Mark "Let's Do More Burpies" Fardy subjected his Team of the Willing to his intense training regime in preparation for three full days of power and endurance-based CrossFit pain. Demonstrating the true sense of the Strathcona's motto, the team persevered through injuries and exhaustion to bring home the Bronze.

As you will read in the next article our solid return to the sports field in 2011 was a precursor to dominating Ex STRONG CONTENDER 2012.



MCpl Broadfoot and Cpl Hughes throwing rocks



You can't stop shots with your eyes closed Capt Warlow



Ex STRONG CONTENDER 2012 Strathcona's Take Home GOLD

Capt Alex Nitu



Every year in the January timeframe, units of the Brigade and wider area gather to compete in a sports competition that is designed to foster the warrior spirit, develop camaraderie and stoke friendly rivalries. This competition, known as Exercise Strong Contender, allows the unit to “down-tools” on a rare occasion. In addition to competing in their year’s event, the Strathcona’s were given the task of organizing the exercise, slated for the week of 16-20 January 2012. While Recce Squadron was assigned as the lead from within the Regiment, all sub-units contributed support staff and command team oversight as sport “champions” of their respective sports.

Six sports were chosen for competition: Ice Hockey, Ball Hockey, Volleyball, Curling, Crossfit, and Indoor Soccer. Each sport was played at both the Major and Minor unit level,

with the Strathcona’s rightly in the major unit category. Further, the Brigade Commander ordered that a Winter Warfare Military Skills competition be added for the first time to this exercise.

Nearly the entire Regiment fanned out in an effort to flood the venues and show our troops unparalleled support for the troops who would be sacrificing their bodies for the Regiment.

The Ice Hockey team, lead by **Cpl Kevin Crowe** and coached by **WO Ernie Romanuik**, won Gold versus 1 Service Battalion. In a heated final game, with the entire Regiment watching (along with a sizable portion of the entire Brigade) the team managed to overcome a 5 to 1 deficit at the end of the first period to tie 6-6 at the end of regulation time. The tension was palpable as the game progressed to sudden-death overtime. As the Strathcona team scored the winning goal, the arena erupted into celebration, with both players and spectators revelling in the hard fought victory. For his remarkable performance through the playoffs, **Cpl Darryn Beatty** was designated the hockey MVP for Strong Contender.





The Military Skills team, lead by **Lt Connor Readman** and **MCpl Ryan Vigar**, competed against the other major units of the Brigade on the coldest day of the year. Teams began the competition on the morning of the 18th, with a wind-chill factor of minus 47 Celsius. The eight man patrol marched for eight kilometers in full winter marching order, pulling a toboggan group across the majority of the Edmonton training area. The team participated in a first aid stand assessed by 1 Field Ambulance, winter warfare stand assessed by 1 Combat Engineer Regiment, and a Range shoot facilitated by 1 PPCLI to include barricade shoots across the majority of small arms platforms. The Strathcona team bested their peers in almost every component of the competition earning them the Gold medal, with 1 RCHA silver and 2 PPLCI bronze. **MCpl Ryan Vigar** was announced as the Event MVP.

The Soccer team, headed by **Cpl David Brown**, won Gold as well in its match against 2 PPCLI. A testament to their skill, the Soccer team won every game played during the competition. **MCpl Luke Jahjefendic** performed exceptionally, scoring most of the team's goals, while **MCpl Jessie Patterson** was deservedly awarded the Soccer MVP for the tournament because of his superb defensive and play-making skills.

Strathcona curling was given an unexpected surprise, as a Major Unit withdrew before the competition began, allowing two teams from the Regiment to compete. The skips were **WO Leighton Hardy** and **Cpl Dave Hughes**. Both teams medaled, gaining both the Silver and Bronze medals.

Two other teams earned Bronze medals for their exceptional grit and performance. The Volleyball team, lead by **Capt Liz England**, placed a very respectable third against stiff opposition from 2 PPCLI and 1 CER, while the Ball Hockey team,





coached by **MWO Rob Clarke** and captained by **MCpl Calvin Delisle**, also walked away with the Bronze. Despite the fact that all ball hockey games were held off-base at the Griesbach Arena, Strathcona soldiers still filled the stands to cheer on their side in every match.

Even the Crossfit team, lead by **Cpl Shaun Hogan**, held their own against the other units of the Brigade, achieving a great fourth place finish in one of the most grueling events in the exercise.

Given the spectacular performance of Strathcona teams at this year's event, it should come as no surprise that we won overall aggregate champions at the major unit level. This was announced at the closing ceremonies, which occurred immediately after the Gold medal hockey game. The last time we won aggregate champion was 2001, making this accomplishment all the more poignant. The Brigade Commander thanked the Regiment for a smooth and well-run competition, and Strathcona soldiers celebrated their collective success well after the Brigade was dismissed for the week.





The Canadian Death Race

Cpl Brennan Dunbar

The Canadian Death Race. The name alone says so much, even to those who do not know that it is a grueling 125 kilometres cross-country run. Why anyone would choose to challenge the toughest race in Canada is a mystery. MCpl Gerri-Ann Davidson and I are two of those who volunteered for this grueling task, so I will attempt to convey the mystery in a thousand words or less.

The Canadian Death Race is held annually in Grande Cache Alberta over the August long weekend. What would you do with three days off? Camp? Hike? Party? How about you try all three, and add on a 125 kilometre run over three mountain peaks. Nobody would do that right? Wrong! About 500 people would and they all do it to prove something to themselves. They do it to discover what their physical and mental limits are and then push past them as far as they can. I had run marathons, completed a few Ex MOUNTAIN MAN races, I had even competed in submission grappling tournaments with the best in the city. But with each challenge, no matter how much effort I put into it, I was able to walk away from it unscathed and I was far from discovering where my limits were. The Canadian Death Race was my opportunity to find out.

Training for this test of self-discovery was a journey in itself. Some thought I just spent every day for months on end running mindlessly through trails until my legs gave out. Well, I only did that a few days a week. My daily schedule was to wake up in the morning, eat breakfast, run a marathon, eat lunch, lift weights, and then eat supper. It was the long hours, days, and weeks spent alone in both physical and mental isolation that began to wear on me. The training schedule, as intense as it was, nearly broke my sanity as I craved more social activities. Although I might harbour a small grudge against the CO for having convinced me to compete, I must extend a sincere thank you for allowing me the time required to complete the gruelling training. Thank you.

Race day. I woke up with my adrenaline pumping, my body not yet aware of the impending thrashing. In the early hours of the morning, I experienced total mind-body disconnect; my brain understood what my body was going to be subjected to, but my body was blissfully unaware. I had to shut off this sense of impending doom and I willed my brain to support me on this challenge or to be silent. I did not want to hear what it had to say. As I stood at the start line, the rugged mountain peaks loomed overhead and asked "what are you made of?" So I started my trek to find out. At the stroke of 0800 hours, I started to run, out of town, into the forest, and through the mud. The first 20 kilometre leg was finished in a comfortable 1 hour and 54 minutes. I changed my shoes, had a snack and set out for the next 27 kilometre double mountain summit grind. The morning sun was scorching and unforgiving as it broke through the dense forest canopy during the steep summit climb. The combination of sun and slope set my legs on fire. But they carried me through two summits and I covered the second leg and a total of 47 kilometres. I set out on the third leg, a 20 kilometre downhill run, feeling great. But the water and mud took its toll as I arrived hours later at the gateway to leg 4 with soaked feet and blood blisters, my skin barely hanging on.



*MCpl Davidson appreciating a fine view
and her camelback*



Cpl Dunbar knee deep in mud

I felt my limit approaching, but I knew that I could not quit. After an extensive fuel up, I set out on leg 4, which began with an arduous trek 10 kilometres up the side of Mt Hamel. It was all mud, rocks and more unforgiving terrain all the way to the summit. My feet were in so much pain that I could no longer feel them and my legs were barely keeping me upright, let alone propelling me forward. Only a small part of my mind was telling me to keep going. The rest of my entire being screamed out to stop doing this to myself. I was staring my limit in the face. I wanted to cry and scream in an attempt to release the pain I was going through but I carried on up the mountain to spite my brain's defeatist thoughts. As I came around the final corner, 2 kilometres below the summit, using my trekking poles as crutches, I ran headlong into the straw that would break this donkey's back. The summit had been made impassable by a white-out blizzard. In my thin jacket, track pants and decimated body, I faced death if I entered that vile tempest in my condition. The Canadian Death

Race spoke to me and said "this is your limit." I collapsed along the side of the old mining road amidst a group of fellow racers, some not conscious, some already suffering hypothermia. It was small consolation that some of them had successfully finished the race in previous years. I was shuttled back to the camp site to begin my recovery, both mental and physical. 75 kilometres and 15 hours of back country running had defeated me. I had faced my challenge, and had been unable to walk proudly away from it. Oh the irony; I had found exactly what I was looking for!

The toughest race in Canada earned its name. It was not, however, enough to keep me down. It taught me so much self-awareness, what I can do, and how I can do it better. The 2011 Canadian Death Race has turned into a limit that needs to be pushed further. I must challenge it again! There is no losing on a journey of self discovery.

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Strathcona's join the “Carwin Army”

MCpl Stephen Peddle

The CO challenged the soldiers of the Regiment to develop training initiatives that would benefit the Regiment. He followed it up with a promise to send the soldiers who put forth the most creative and implementable suggestion to the Ultimate Fighting Championship 131, featuring **Junior Dos Santos** fighting **Shane Carwin**. Even more unbelievable was the announcement one month later that the CO had secured one of those fighters to hold an exclusive seminar for the soldiers of the Regiment.

Although Shane lost the fight to Dos Santos, **LCol Trevor Cadieu** summed up his performance as “showing a never quit attitude and in short, he epitomized our motto, which is Perseverance.” In no small part due to the heart and determination that Shane showed during that fight, the Regiment decided that he was the ‘right’ fighter to conduct a mixed martial arts seminar for our soldiers. With the assistance of **Brad Foster** from Kamikaze Punishment, all of the pieces fell into place.

On the morning of 18 August, the first of three seminars began. Shane instructed soldiers in both boxing and wrestling techniques, while **Paulo** and **Vitor** (Brazilian Jiu-Jitsu specialists from Brazil) from Kamikaze Punishment instructed Brazilian Jiu Jitsu moves, including disarming an aggressor attacking with a knife or pistol. The highlight of the ground game was when soldiers grappled with the instructors or members of the Regiment's Martial Arts team (**Capt Alexandre Bazinet**, **Cpl Brennan Dunbar**, **Cpl Andrew Elms**, and **MCpl Deschambault**). The most watched bouts were when Paulo and Vitor challenged the team members to ‘roll’. **Cpl Brent Thompson** was able to submit Vitor while **Cpl Nick Norman** still wears the scars of his match.

What struck our soldiers the most was the realization that **Shane Carwin** was not just one of the most dangerous men on the planet, but also a family man and simply one of the nicest people you could ever hope to meet. In his own words, he was humbled by our soldiers and their willingness to put their lives on the line to ensure the freedom of their countrymen. “You are the true heroes” was a common theme in each of the three seminars lead by Shane and given to over 150 soldiers of the Regiment.

The Regiment looked to demonstrate our appreciation to Shane and the entire Kamikaze team, treating them to a ‘Soldier for a Day’ experience that would be etched into their memories forever. The highlight was when Shane was given the opportunity to drive a Leopard C2 tank. You would have needed a shovel to wipe the smile off his face.

LdSH(RC) was the first Canadian Forces unit to host a training session with a UFC fighter and without a doubt our soldiers benefited greatly from the experience. For those who attended, it was a once in a lifetime experience that they will never forget. A very sincere ‘thank-you’ goes out to all that were responsible for the arrangements, the planning and preparation, and the execution.





Mounting Kilimanjaro

Cpl Lucas Mullens

At 5,895 metres, Mount Kilimanjaro stands as the highest peak in Africa. **Cpl Mark Fuchko** and I joined an expedition to summit this peak to raise funds for the Orthopedic Surgery Centre of the Royal Alexandra Hospital Foundation. The main reason for this expedition was to help those who had helped us in our time of need. Both of us had been seriously injured by Improvised Explosive Device (IED) blasts while deployed in Afghanistan, **Cpl Fuchko** lost both his legs below the knees and I went through multiple surgeries to reconstruct mine. This was our way of giving back to those who had fixed us.

After months of training, we linked up with our group of fellow soldiers and mountain trekkers to depart for Tanzania, Africa. The anticipation was incredible. We were all wondering if we were prepared both mentally and physically for the exhaustion, potential hypothermia and altitude sickness that faced us. We found our resolve in **Ben Webster**, our expedition leader, in whom we had complete faith. We knew that his plan would push us hard, but allow our bodies to acclimatize.

We took the Marangu route, the seven day trail to reach Kibo peak. Although a seven day “day hike” implies a nice, gentle jaunt, this route has the lowest success rate of all trails leading to the peak. It was a gruelling trek. We slogged through, bantering back and forth amongst ourselves as motivation. At the slightest hint of defeatism, the team rallied and goaded any nay saying trekker into continuing in true military fashion. Once we reached Gilman’s Point on the rim of the summit’s crater, **Cpl Fuchko** realized, to his dismay, that the peak was still another 300 metres in elevation. All it took was one threat to carry him to the top for him to dig deep and lead the expedition the rest of the way. I am sure that it was pure spite that led him to take the most meandering switch-backs to the true summit.

There is no way to describe the sense of accomplishment on reaching the summit. With an overall failure rate of 10-20 percent, Mount Kilimanjaro has claimed its share of casualties. Not only did we prove to ourselves that we could accomplish this task, but in proving it to others, we raised \$814,588 for the Orthopedic Surgery Centre of the Royal Alexandra Hospital.

Op NIJMEGEN

Tpr Paul Nicholson

For those who are unaware, the Nijmegen March in Holland is a four day competition where soldiers march 40 kilometres per day, with a day bag weighted with 25-30 pounds of sand. The training to prepare the team for the competition lasted several months and grew in intensity as we approached the competition. Each day started at 0700 hours and we would march until about 1600 hours, with a rest for lunch. Rain or shine, we marched. Training in the city of Edmonton was always a good time as people would honk their horns and cheer us on as we marched by.

After about 700 training kilometres, our feet were ready for the competition and it was off to Europe! After nine hours of flying, which included a quick plane change in Germany, we landed in Holland. We were then taken to the staging base where we drove under a giant helmet balanced on some massive combat boots.

During our first day in Europe, we were driven by bus to Vimy Ridge in France, which was about a two hour drive from Holland. The Vimy monument was awe-inspiring and we formed up with 300 people in three ranks to pay our respects to the brave men and women who fought in both World Wars.

Our first day of the competition began at 0300 hours with a loud speaker blaring “This is your wake up call, get up ‘cause its time to start marching!” over and over again. The designated distance to march was 40 kilometres a day but no one ever mentioned that we would have to walk three kilometres to the start line and three kilometres back from the finish line. After a solid 10 hour day of marching, we would end the day (or for some begin) with a foot soak in a cold water bath and drink beers. There were huge parties in the streets with thousands of people celebrating. People would stop us as we marched and thank us whole heartedly for being Canadian. They would buy us free drinks, invite us into their homes and show us a level of hospitality I couldn’t have imagined.

Day in and day out, our blisters grew bigger and we found ourselves marching more like a penguin than a person. After four days, we completed the full route and the Canadian contingent was one of the few teams that started and finished together and were able to win the teamwork award. Even through all the pain, the experience of Nijmegen was well worth every second of it. Should you find yourself on the team, I recommend you take the opportunity: if you are up to the challenge. A word to the wise, bring a lot of Canadian souvenirs...LOTS!

Tpr Paul Nicholson in front of the Vimy Ridge Memorial





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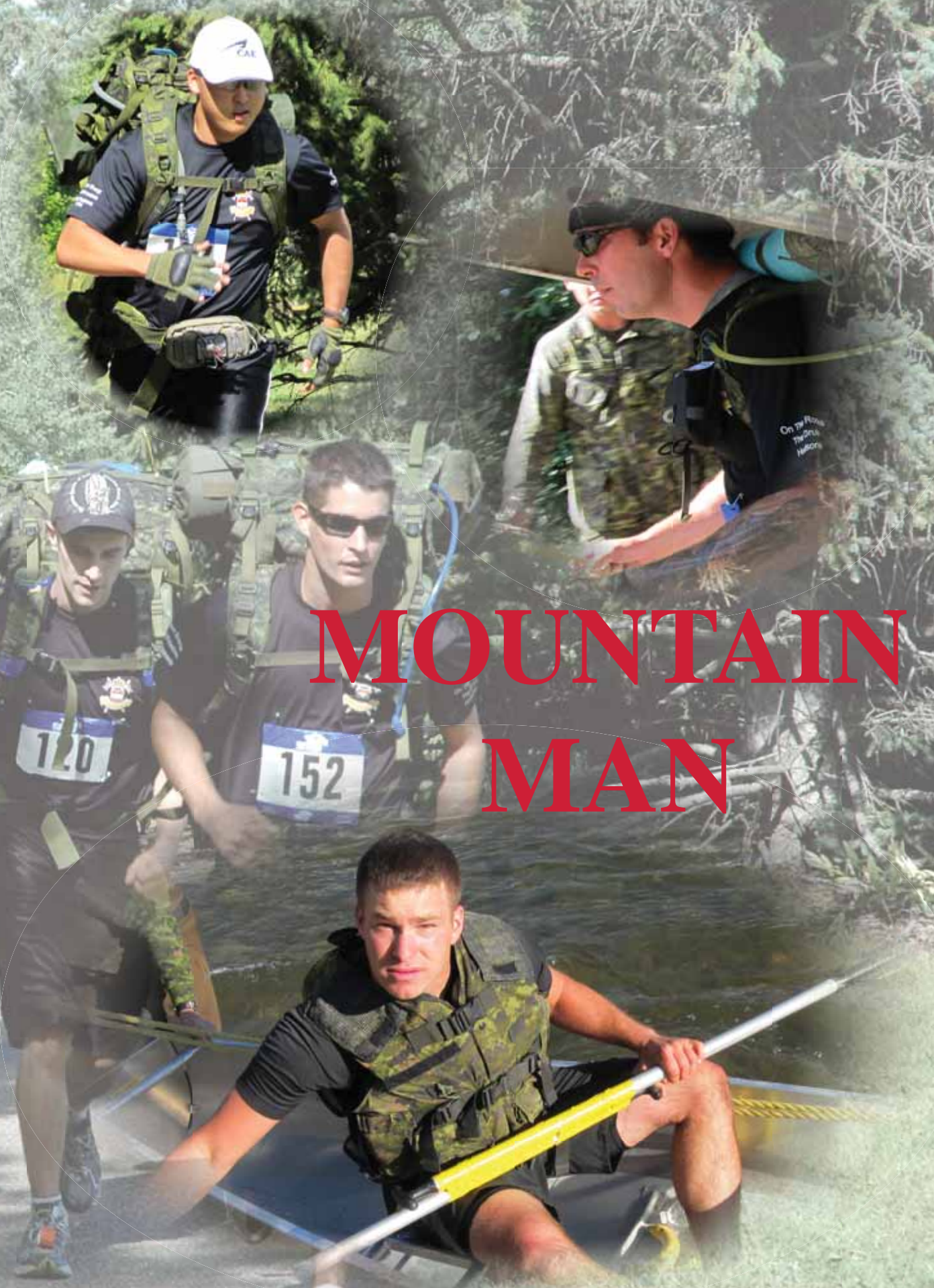
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MOUNTAIN MAN



Ex MOUNTAIN MAN

Lt Matt Shumka



*The Adjt, **Capt Cooper**, sporting the latest in high fashion athletic eyewear (and chicken legs)*

In 2011, the Regiment's success in Ex MOUNTAIN MAN 2011 was unprecedented. Never before in the competition had the Regiment contributed so many competitors (74 in total) and, most notably, never before had a Strathcona been the 1st place finisher. That was until **MCpl Felix Charette**, from Recce Squadron, dominated the competition with a race time of 5 hours 23 minutes and 19 seconds. This was a full 2 minutes faster than the closest challenger. The only thing that was a repetition of years past was that the Regimental Team placed third overall, again beating out two unnamed infantry battalions in the Brigade's premier sporting event.

The Strathcona Mountain Man Team commenced training on the 2nd of June, a full three months before the competition. A gruelling schedule of 38 training seasons spread out over this timeframe was designed to ensure that the team was more than ready to meet the challenge. With outstanding support from the Regiment, the team conducted training runs of 10-24 kilometre runs (with and without rucksacks) PSP led cross fit circuits, canoe and portage practices and strength training. A key element of the team's success was that a significant portion of the training was conducted in the Edmonton River Valley, the location of the actual event. Though considered an individual event with soldiers competing against each other, the second key to the team's success was the outstanding camaraderie and

MCpl Charette** receiving the first place trophy from the Bde Comd and SM, **Col Omer Lavoie** and **CWO Jerome Scheidl





MCpl Vigar chasing down his prey

teamwork that was always present during the training sessions. It was not uncommon to find soldiers lining the finish line of training runs waiting to encourage their teammates to give it all they had in preparation for the big event. It also became routine for the longer Friday training sessions to turn into a bit of party, as the morning work-out would lead into an afternoon BBQ along the shore of the River Valley. It was evident that the commitment and camaraderie of the large Strathcona Team was growing with every training session.

In addition to fielding a team of 74 competitors, the Regiment was also given the significant task of organizing and conducting the race. Under the watchful eye of the Regimental 2IC, **Maj Rob “Hogg” McKenzie**, it became a Regimental effort to ensure that the Strathcona's ran the best competition in

recent history. With multiple planning sessions and recces of the River Valley, the Regiment was prepared to execute the competition. On race day, every soldier of the Regiment was involved in some way with supporting Ex MOUNTAIN MAN. Either as a competitor or as support staff, Strathcona's put forth an incredible effort to make 2011 the best competition ever.

2011 Regimental Mountain Man Team

Cpl Allman	Tpr Harris	Tpr Norman
Capt Bazinet	Cpl Herbert	MCpl Osborne
Sgt Biener	Cpl Hogan	Cpl Partridge
Tpr Boskic	Cpl Hume	Cpl Priddle
Tpr Bulfone	Cpl Keelman	Lt Readman
LCol Cadieu	Lt Kenny	Capt Salter
Tpr Calvano	Tpr Kesler	Lt Shumka
MCpl Charette	Lt King	Tpr Smith
Cpl Charlton	Tpr Kirkwood	Pte Smith
Tpr Cheng	Tpr Lawrence	Tpr Snook
MWO Clarke	Tpr Lazo	Tpr Spencer
Capt Cooper	Tpr Lee	Cpl Stewart
Tpr Cui	Lt Lewis	Tpr Symington
MCpl Davidson	Tpr Lonegren	Capt Thompson
MCpl Dickson	Maj Lubiniecki	Tpr Tiathnybok
Tpr Dobson	Maj MacIntyre	Cpl Van den Born
Tpr Downey	Cpl Martin	Tpr Van Newuwkenhoyze
Cpl Dunbar	Cpl Maxwell	MCpl Vigar
Tpr Ebaghetti	Tpr McCollum	Tpr Ward
Lt Elliot	Tpr McMaster	Lt Wawszyn
Tpr Fraser	Tpr McTaggart	Tpr Whipple
Tpr Glennie	Tpr Molloy	Tpr Woodcock
Tpr Gnabs	Tpr Muirhead	Tpr York
Tpr Guay	Tpr Naw	Cpl Zwicker
Tpr Hall	Capt Niedzielski	





Strathcona's Martial Arts Team

MCpl Jerry Peddle

2011 was a very busy year for the Strathcona's Martial Arts Team and we have the hardware to prove it. The team competed in nine competitions, taking home more than 20 medals.

The Teams inaugural challenge was at the Cia Paulista Canada Brazilian Jiu Jitsu Open, held on the 5th of March at Legends Martial Arts Gym in Edmonton. This was the real test to see if our fighters were of a caliber to compete in civilian events. After **Cpl Travis Silcox** and **Cpl Brent Thompson** won three gold medals, that question had been answered and left many wondering who these new fighters were and where they came from.



Just two weeks later our fighters were tested again at the Capital City Championships held at the Edmonton Garrison on 19 March. This event attracted competitors as far south as the Calgary area and as far North as Fort MacMurray. **Cpl Mike Partington** showed the fighting spirit inherent in all who call themselves a Strathcona by winning gold decisively in the Modified Muay Thai division. Even in the face of the high caliber of grapplers that this event attracted, **Cpl Travis Silcox** was able to walk out with a third place trophy.

The Edmonton International Judo Championships held in the Ice Palace of West Edmonton Mall on the 1st, 2nd, and 3rd of April was a real test for our Judo Black belt. However, **Cpl Brent Thompson** was able

to rise to the challenge and bring a Gold medal back to the Regiment. The Alberta Provincial Judo Championships were held shortly after in Fort Saskatchewan. Once again the Strathcona's were well represented by **Cpl Brent Thompson** who medaled at this event as well.



The Mind Body Soul Grappling and Kickboxing Tournament was held at the Edmonton Garrison on 25 June and attracted the same numbers and level of competitor as the previous event held there. At the end of the competition, everyone knew that the Strathcona's were in the house. **Cpl Andrew Elms**, **Cpl Brent Thompson**, and **Cpl Nick Norman** stood on the podium four times, collecting gold, two silver, and a bronze.



The Submission Series was held at Arashido North Edmonton and consisted of 4 separate competitions rolled into one event. The first event held in May was well attended by Strathcona fighters with **Capt Alex Bazinet**, **Cpl Brent Thompson**, and **MCpl Antan Deschambeault** taking a silver and two bronze medals. July 2011 saw **Cpl Brennan Dunbar** and **Cpl Mike Partington** taking gold and silver medals. **Cpl Mike Partington** also competed in the STRIKER Series at Ashido South in May, winning Gold. Unfortunately due to injuries, exercises, courses, and taskings, we were unable to medal in the August or October events.

26 November 2011 was the date of the Kamikaze Punishment tournament refereed by none other than the UFC's own **Herb "The Best In The Business" Dean**. This was **Tpr Jake Dunn's** first

competition but as he had refined his skills and listened to his coach to took home the bronze medal.

The last competition for the team was held on 11 December at the St Albert Jiu Jitsu Dojo. The team ended the year well with **Cpl Brennen Dunbar** and **Cpl Jason Briesbois-Bergeron** distinguishing themselves and the Regiment by winning a gold, silver, and bronze medal.

2011 was a great start for the team. The Regiment has invested in enough martial arts gear that the team members are able to train in our own lines, increasing the exposure of the team to other members of the Regiment. Many thanks to the St Albert Judo Club for loaning us their spare mats.

2012 should be even better, with more competitors entering more events and perhaps even hosting our own tournament. The team will be well positioned to assist the Regiment with Martial Arts training for its soldiers and to assist in any seminars that may be coming up this year.





Key Events



Royal Departure and Spruce Meadows 2011

Lt Matt Shumka

On the morning of 7 July, Recce Squadron along with attachments from HQ and A Squadrons conducted final kit and uniform checks and loaded buses for Calgary. After a week of drill practice the day had arrived. There was excitement amongst the Squadron, perhaps based upon the fact that they would soon be standing in front of, and being inspected by, the Duke and Duchess of Cambridge. It may have also been because it was the start of the Calgary Stampede and all of their evenings were free for extra curricular activities.

Friday, 8 July would mark a historic event in LdSH(RC) history. Tasked as the Departure Guard for the Duke and Duchess of Cambridge, Recce Squadron provided a 100 man Honour Guard along with Guidon Party. A battery of guns from 41 CBG fired a 21-Gun salute and the RCHA Band played the music for the event. The list of high profile guests in attendance was impressive. In addition to the Duke and Duchess, VIPs included the Prime Minister of Canada and his wife, the Governor General of Canada and Canada's top soldier, the Chief of Defence Staff, **Gen Walter Natynczyk**. During his inspection of the ranks, **Prince William**, guided by Guard Commander **Maj Mark Lubiniecki**, stopped to talk to several soldiers. He was genuinely interested in the soldiers, asking detailed and specific questions regarding our involvement in Afghanistan. After hours and hours of practice, the ceremony was completed in what seemed to be a fraction of time, less than 30 min. This was a momentous occasion for both Recce Squadron and the Regiment as the LdSH(RC) 100 Man Honour Guard was elevated to the world stage.

The pace continued as the remainder of the weekend would have the 100 Man Honour Guard completing a Feu de Joie at Spruce Meadows on both Saturday and Sunday. Saturday saw national coverage with honored guests, the Prime Minister of Canada, along with the Governor General of Canada, His Excellency the Right Honourable **David Johnston**. The Strathcona Mounted Troop was also on hand to provide a demonstration of the Regiment's history as a Calvary unit and join in the Family Day events. Military personnel from all elements along with their families were also on hand, their attendance having been sponsored by the ATCO Group, as a show of appreciation to Military personnel, their families and the sacrifice of those who did not return from battle. The crowd showed their respect and honoured all on hand with a standing ovation. Both days ended with a Feu de Joie and two march-pasts which once again kept those in attendance on their feet.

Although the weekend was full of excitement, the bus trip back to Edmonton on Sunday, the 10th of July, was a sigh of relief for the soldiers of Recce Squadron who could return to the high paced life back in garrison.





Calgary Stampede Parade

Capt Varun Vahal

Since 1912, the Stampede Parade has been the official kickoff to The Calgary Stampede, billed as the “Greatest Outdoor Show on Earth”. This year was no different, with approximately 170 floats in this wonderful Alberta tradition. What made the event even more special was the presence of the Duke and Duchess of Cambridge, who drew record setting crowds of an estimated 425,000 people. The Canadian Forces had significant representation at the parade with Royal Canadian Navy and Royal Canadian Air Force units representing their respective branches. The Canadian Army was represented in the parade by B Squadron, the Strathcona Mounted Troop, a Leopard C2, a Leopard ARV, and a Coyote. Although the attention was initially on the Royal Couple, it switched very quickly to B Squadron, as they proudly marched past behind the Canadian Army banner.



*I swear RSM, the entire squadron
was in bed by 9 o'clock*

B Squadron deployed to Calgary on 7 July, the day before the parade. The trip was marked by a breakdown of our buses and subsequent navigational challenges (B Squadron was hard on buses in 2011). But in the end, it was worth the wait! Arriving at the Mount Royal University campus, the travel weary tankers were greeted by their luxurious accommodations and their beautiful “surroundings” and all was forgotten. After the standard SSM brief from **MWO Tony Mayfield** was issued, the squadron broke clean for a night of partying in Calgary.

Despite a very memorable night of libations and entertainment in downtown Calgary, B Squadron was formed-up and ready to march at the crack of dawn. As we waited to cross the LD, several generations of Calgary Stampede Queens and all of the Stampede Girls were mounted on horses beside us. This made it easy for us to keep “eyes front.” At 0900 hours sharp the four and half kilometre km parade through downtown Calgary started with a flyover by a CF-18. As float after float moved past, the spectators on both sides of the road were clapping in approval. However, when B Squadron marched past, the spectators both young and old stood to their feet and their cheering and clapping turned to a loud roar. Cries of gratitude and approval could be heard emanating from the crowd and everyone seemed to forget about the other groups in the parade. Never in my life had I felt more proud to be a soldier than at that very moment and the moment lasted the entire length of the parade. In the end, Calgary was a great host to all Strathconas and an experience none of us will ever forget.





St. Albert Freedom of the City

WO Rob Baglole



The Guidon Leading the Way

On 15 June, the City of St Albert granted LdSH(RC) the Freedom of the City. This honour allowed the Regiment to parade on the streets of St. Albert with colours flying, drums beating and bayonets fixed.

Our tanks were diligently prepared for the parade and we were able to depart the tank barn with 13 Leopard C2 tanks and a police escort. Of the 13 Leopards that started the road move to St. Albert only one, commanded by **Lt Paul Stachow** and driven by **Tpr Curtis Serben**, broke down. This happened in the middle of an intersection on Sturgeon road of course.

Once in location, **Cpl Andrew Foster** and **Cpl Andrew Burris** were quickly able to find the nearest coffee shop to ensure their beverages were safe to drink by the other members of the Regiment. Arriving early, the soldiers had the excellent opportunity to interact with the citizens of St. Albert. People began to crowd around the Leopard C2s and soldiers welcomed them by giving them tours of the tank inside and out. The look on some of the children's faces was one of fascination, and represented the look of many future Strathcona recruits.

Prior to conducting our roll past, the commanders quickly conducted their preliminary walk around to ensure there were no apples, golf balls or toilet paper rolls in the tank barrels that would result in future embarrassing mess dinner stories. As the people cheered during the roll past, it was apparent that some commanders felt so much pride they couldn't hold back a smile while at attention. The return trip to the Harvey building was mostly uneventful, except for the hundreds of honks we received in appreciation while traveling on Sturgeon Road. Once the ceremony was complete and the Squadron arrived back to the Harvey Building, it was apparent that all ranks had enjoyed the excellent opportunity to interact with the community. The parade was an important event which allowed the soldiers from the Regiment the opportunity to connect with the surrounding communities in which they live.



Leopard 2A4M CAN Commissioning

WO Marvin MacNeill

From 14 October to 5 November, nine soldiers from the Regiment were sent to the Panzertruppenschule in Munster, Germany to conduct the last serial of the Leopard 2A4M CAN commissioning. The serial saw the last eight of the Leopard 2A4M CAN put through their paces in boresighting, zeroing and trials and evaluations for the new driver's thermal cameras. The first week was spent conducting gunnery refresher training and learning how to properly maintain the new fleet of tanks under the direction of **WO Chuck Moreau** from the Armour School.

After an intensive week of drills and maintenance, the first weekend was dedicated to cultural diversity training. Under the direction of **WO Marvin MacNeill**, **Cpls James Arsenault** and **Arthur Mckenzie** and **Tpr Corey Koke**, all members of 1 Troop A Squadron, set off to learn the finer points of German culture. The members of the troop ventured to southern Germany to visit the former home of 4 CMBG and gained an understanding of the Canadian Army during the Cold War. Next, it was off to Munich and to venture up to the infamous Eagles Nest in Bavaria.

The second week was spent at the ranges in Bergen-Hohne training area, approximately 20 kilometre from the base at Munster. Every precise detail was followed to ensure all the tanks were properly boresighted and zeroed with five rounds of 120mm ammunition to get the best possible shot on target. With skill and gunners determination, the zeroing was conducted and many tanks had a grouping you could put your fist through. On completion of the ranges, the tanks were driven back to Munster for testing of all systems to ensure everything was in working order.



*WO MacNeill and Cpl Mackenzie conducting
Trials and Evaluations on the Leopard 2A4M CAN*



Leo 2A4Ms on the Firing Pad

The second weekend saw the members of 1 Troop A Squadron continue on with their diversity training. Trips were conducted to Arnhem and the Canadian War Cemetery in Groesbeek, Holland. Another trip was also made to Berlin, Germany to understand the dynamics of the Cold War and the history of the capital city.

The trials and evaluations on the third week was a real test of the abilities of the Leopard 2A4M CAN. With **Sgt Alex Graf** and **WO Marv MacNeill** commanding the tanks, all systems were tested in the training area to ensure they were indeed functional. The troops spent the last few days making sure that all of the vehicles were cleaned and ready for shipping back to Canada. As a reward for a job well done, a Dog and Pony with the Royal Scots Dragoon Guards was arranged to have an in-depth look at the Challenger II, but not before a surprise visit by the Senior Serving Strathcona **BGen Craig Hilton**.

With our wallets empty and one final get together at the “Sunset”, it was time to say Auf Wiedersehn to our fellow German armoured soldiers and wait for the arrival of the Leopard 2A4M CAN to the Strathcona’s in the New Year.



Leo 2 Commissioning Crew - WO MacNeill, WO Moreau, Sgt Graf, MCpl Chubak, Cpl Arsenaull, Cpl Bannman, Cpl Barret, Cpl Füch, Cpl Koke, Cpl McKenzie, Cpl Roselle and Cpl Tonn



FORTISSIMO 2011

MWO John Pudar

FORTISSIMO. For those of you who are reading this article, the same question I recently had is probably going through your head right now. What is FORTISSIMO? Fortissimo is an annual Sunset Ceremony which takes place on Parliament Hill.

This military and musical spectacle took place 11 – 13 August, on the front lawn of Parliament in Ottawa. FORTISSIMO has been taking place in Ottawa since 1997, celebrating a different military milestone each year. This year it celebrated the 140th anniversary of the establishment of the permanent force and the formation of the Royal Canadian Artillery. The Guidon Parties from the three serving Armour Regiments were brought together along with the colours of the three serving infantry regiments and three from the Reserves. The show was referred to by many as a “mini tattoo”, but for the Guidon Parties, it was an incredible opportunity to display our most cherished artifact in front of the very people we serve to protect. If you find yourself in the Ottawa area in the 2nd week of August, I highly recommend you make the effort to go and experience what I can only describe as one heart pounding and spectacular show.



Members of the 2011 LdSH(RC) Guidon Party

MWO John Pudar
WO Marcel Chenier
WO Kevin King
Sgt Dave Jones

*The Three Regular Force Armour Guidon Parties
LdSH(RC) Left, RCD Center and 12 RBC Right*



Community Relations

Capt Phil J. Webster

I suppose it is inevitable that after choosing a military career you are going to learn many, many short-forms and acronyms, some of which you may not completely understand. Upon my arrival in RHQ this spring I learned, not without confusion, the acronym “COMREL” – which left me scratching my head more than most. I can’t remember who exactly took the time to explain what COMREL – or community relations – meant, but I remember sheepishly thinking afterwards that it should have been obvious.

One of the primary roles the Regiment plays in the summer timeframe is expanding our image with the public and encouraging the community at large to see what we do on a daily basis in the Strathcona’s. Of course an easy way to go about this is to take the large, green, metal machines out and show them off. Due to increased requests for Strathcona soldiers at public events during the summer timeframe, it was decided this year that a full time troop of people to do this was the best way to go. I was designated as the Troop Leader and before long I found myself standing in the turret of a Coyote for the Sherwood Park Canada Day Parade. It was a fantastic show of support for the CF from the people of that city. Of course, while they certainly cheered for **MCpl Matt Williams**, **Tpr Patrick Alm** and I as we drove the Coyote, the real showstopper was **Sgt Chris Hornby**, **Cpl Andrew Elms** and **Tpr Bill Rollins** in the Leopard (everyone loves a tank). Following the parade we can honestly say the overwhelming response from the public at the static display was fantastic.

The parades didn’t end there. The always popular Honda Indy, included **Sgt Alex Graf** in a Leopard (and out of the Leopard with some cheerleaders), the rest of the troop downtown at Rice Howard Way and at the Indy itself. A weekend of more cheerleaders, soul-crushing rain and exceptionally loud race cars was all in a day’s work for the COMREL Troop.

Later in the summer came support to the annual Sourdough Raft Race – and a wild ride down the highway in our Coyote, followed a few weeks later by **MCpl Matt Williams** and me eating ourselves silly at a pancake breakfast for the Autism society. As the summer came to a close, soldier’s appreciation day with the Edmonton Eskimos and later the Capitals all continued with the public showing us a great amount of support and generating a lot of excitement for our vehicles.

Showing off the toys wasn’t the only thing we did this year for COMREL – we also regularly hosted groups for Soldier For A Day experiences, showcasing life inside the walls of the Harvey Building. We did this by giving vehicle rides, demonstrating weapons displays and giving them an opportunity to enjoy field rations. **Mr. Shane Carwin** from UFC offered to teach the members of the Regiment some tricks in Mixed Martial Arts before seeing what the world looks like from the inside of a tank, bringing many of his retinue along for the ride. All and all an exciting opportunity for any civilian, no matter how exceptional their career might be.



*HMCS Nonsuch 0, LdSH(RC) 1
Capt Webster, MCpl Williams*

Command Team Challenges

Capt Alex Nitu

Command Team Challenges are unique opportunities when the Regiment can “Down-Tools” and compete at the squadron level to enhance camaraderie and esprit-de-corps by way of good old fashioned competition. This year, the Regiment held several competitions pitting the squadrons against each other to determine which squadron really had the greatest commitment, military skill and determination.

In July, C Squadron organized a summer Command Team Challenge where tested squadrons their skills against each other. Throughout the competition, the teams tackled stands such as the obstacle course, a knife throwing competition and a team relay where the entire team had to navigate through a leopard, entering through the driver’s escape hatch and exiting through the turret

In December, Recce Squadron organized a Winter Command Team Challenge. During this competition, teams completed a round robin that included a live-fire small arms range competition, first aid testing, a snowshoe race, a map symbols quiz, and arctic tent set up.

At the conclusion of each competition, the Regiment gathered for a BBQ graciously put on by HQ Squadron. After which, the CO and RSM gathered the Regiment for a muster parade to address the soldiers and announce the results. During the summer competition, B Squadron was victorious in earning first place and Recce Squadron placed first during the winter iteration.



Recce soldiers at the knife throwing competition



Troops Navigate the Obstacle Course

Canadian Pacific Partnership

This year the Regimental Society finalized a partnership with Canadian Pacific that rekindled a relationship which started over a hundred and eleven years ago. The underpinning of this partnership is our common ‘grandfather’ - **Donald Smith**.

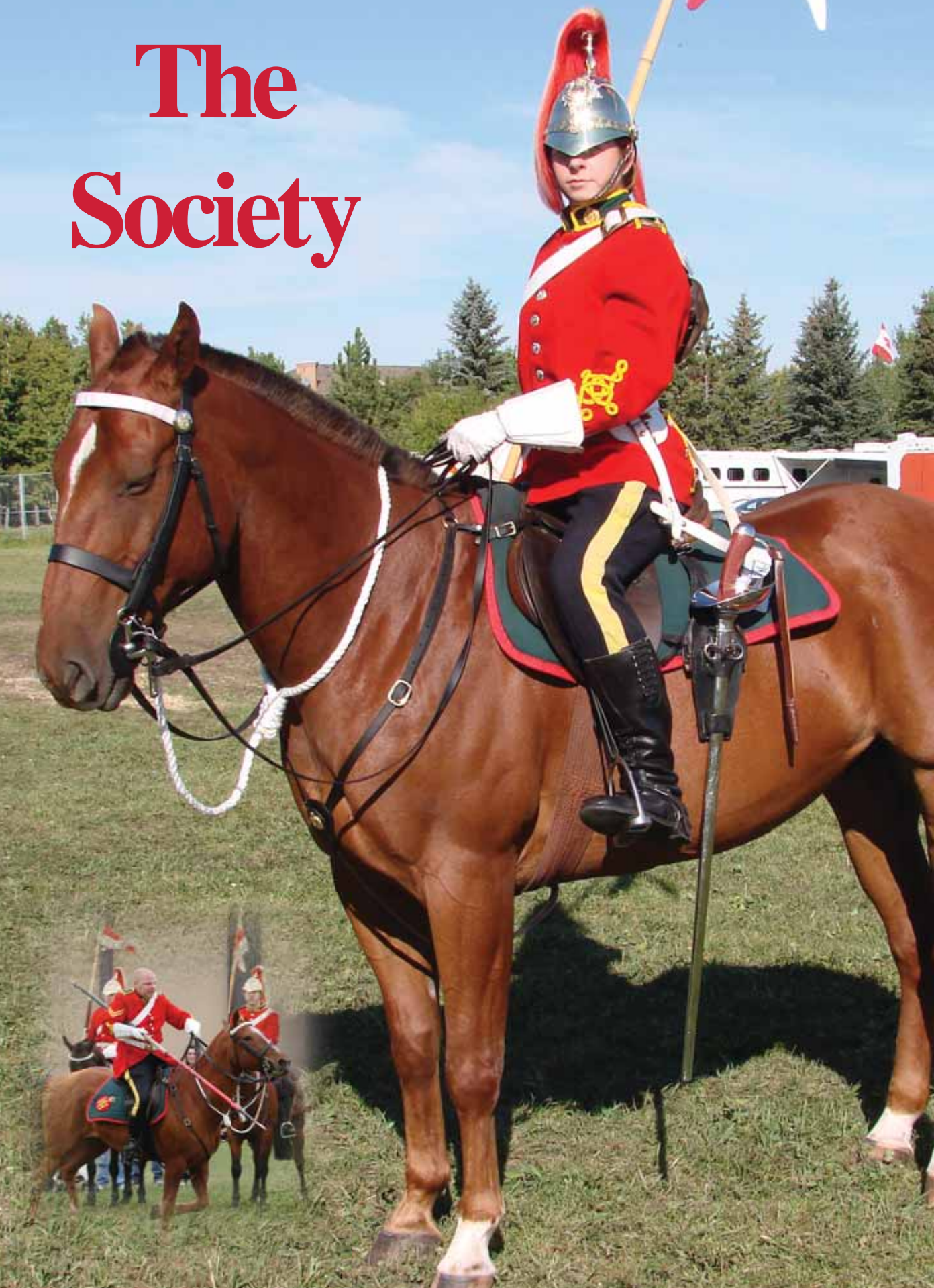
The news of this partnership was initially announced to the soldiers by **Mr. Fred Green**, CEO of Canadian Pacific and the Colonel of the Regiment, during a visit to the Regiment deployed in Wainwright in late September. Subsequently, a formal public announcement was made on October 14th at the Canadian Pacific rail yards in south Edmonton, where a new locomotive was unveiled with the crossed lances of the Regiment prominently displayed on the cab.

This event brought together soldiers of the Regiment with Canadian Pacific personnel. The immaculate locomotive served as the back drop for the ceremony, which included Mounted Troop, a Sherman from Historical Vehicle Troop, a piper and a Leopard C2, as well as soldiers from the Regiment. A small luncheon thereafter saw representation from all ranks of both the Regiment and Canadian Pacific and truly had a “family” air to it. It was a fitting culmination to what had been a great day.

The partnership includes post-secondary education scholarships for children of Strathconas, scholarships for soldiers transitioning out of the CF, post-release employment opportunities for soldiers transitioning to civilian life, technical exchanges, and an annual hockey tournament between railroaders and soldiers.



The Society





Strathcona Mounted Troop History, Heritage and Horses

Capt P.A. Buckingham

"It's always good to remember where you come from and celebrate it. To remember where you come from is part of where you're going." - Anthony Burgess

The Strathcona Mounted Troop (SMT) has proven, once again, what being a dashing young cavalryman is all about. During the 2011 Ride Season, SMT travelled throughout Alberta, even venturing into British Columbia, maintaining and promoting the cavalry heritage of the Regiment. In our perennial task as the Ceremonial Colour Guard for Spruce Meadows tournaments, the Troop provided representation throughout the season from the National tournament to the premier event, the Masters. Even with demanding tasks that required the highest level of professionalism, decorum and state of dress, the soldiers of SMT found time to enjoy the sunshine, experience local entertainment and the occasional duel to the death. (As a result, we are looking for new Riders).

The Calgary Stampede parade was definitely the highlight of the season, as the troop had the honour of saluting Royalty (Their Royal Highnesses, **Prince William** and **Duchess Catherine**). Coming a very close second was the Troop's participation in the National Tournament, where we had the pleasure of escorting the Governor General, His Excellency, the Right Honourable **David Johnston** and Prime Minister, The Right Honourable **Stephen Harper**, around the Spruce Meadows grounds. However, of all the performances this season, our favourite was a four day trip to Abbotsford, British Columbia, where the support staff at the Agriculture-Fair treated us like family and filled the stands for each and every ride.

With a few trials and tribulations, the end of a long ride season has finally arrived and with a heavy heart we say good-bye to some of our seasoned riders and prepare for the next year. We are proud to introduce our new addition to the herd, Shock, and we are eagerly anticipating the arrival of new riders as they prepare for the Equine Course this spring.



*Cpl Michael Partington and
Cpl Jason O'Dell duel over
who looks better in a Speedo.*

Historical Vehicles Troop

MCpl Andrew Baird and MCpl Shaun Sullivan

We have driven, dragged and dropped vehicles to events across Alberta. Catherine, our Sherman tank went as far as BC for the British Columbia Dragoons Centennial Parade, crewed by **MCpls Andrew Baird** and **Shaun Sullivan**, and **Cpl Mike Sephton**. We completed the restoration of several vehicles including a Centurion, our Leopard C1 and a Sherman. Most of the paint work was done by **Cpl Ryan Pasuta** who generously volunteered his time and effort.

HVT was involved in the St Albert Freedom of the City parade, Canada Day celebrations, CP Rail Commemoration, Stettler Dieppe veterans visit, Capital Ex Parade, Spruce Meadows, St Michaels Heath Care visit and a multitude of great community relations events across the province. We even managed to provide the Vohan Dance Group with a devastating Car Crush!



Catherine MCpl Shaun Sullivan and Cpl Mike Sephton in Kelowna BC

The highlight of the year was **Tpr Matt Wareham** and **Cpl Paul Morgan** took Catherine to Stettler, Alberta to visit the three remaining Dieppe veterans from 9th Troop, B Sqn, King's Own Calgary Regiment. Many thanks to in the completion of this historic task.



Sgt Eric Petersen, the driving force behind the Troop's success, will retire in March of 2012. He has been an outstanding leader and mentor to the Troop, bringing a diverse knowledge of both historical and mechanical information for all of the vehicles in the fleet. The Troop wishes him all the best in his retirement.



Big Changes in the Museum

WO Ted MacLeod



Lord Strathcona exhibit

Down here in Calgary the running of the Regimental Museum does a lot for a person, most notably causing a serious lack of sleep! Over the past year, frenzied rounds of project planning, grant writing, and the installation of gallery renovations moved ahead at full steam but the long days are proving to be fully worth it.

This year we completed the relocation of the Lord Strathcona, Recruiting, and Richardson displays as well as a complete redesign of the Harvey display. To top it all, we now have a professional grade, large format print shop with equipment to cut costs on future renovations.

We are currently looking to finish our Cold War area that will include a refurbished Ferret Scout Car! The background is finished, but we may have to wait for better weather before we can move the car inside. Also in the works are the new theatre and improvements to our storyboards, so that they have a more engaging, dynamic feel.

The future holds a series of exciting plans with a full scale reproduction of a Sherman Tank to compliment our new Second World War display, a brand new 3D Afghanistan section and touch ups here and there to make our existing work better.

Of course while all this happens, the normal work of preservation and conserving our artefacts and archives continues. **Sgt Todd Giberson** continues looking after the artefacts and **Cpl Mark Fuchko** is running the archives. The future looks bright and exciting for the Strathcona Museum, with many more ideas on the way!





Strathcona Regimental Association (Alberta Branch)

Mr. Howie Owen

I would like to begin by thanking the Editor-in-Chief and his staff for allowing the Regimental Association to be a part of this Annual Report/Magazine called “The Strathconian 1900-2011.

For those of us who are now referred to as “The Old Guard”, it serves as a way of staying in touch with those who are still serving, where they are and what has happened in the past year (2011) but most importantly, what does the future hold – good or bad. On the other hand, the presently serving members are kept informed of events that the Association may be involved in through personal contact at Black Hatter luncheons, dinners across the country, the website and Facebook.

2011 has come and gone and what follows is a brief description of the Association’s activities, concerns and what the future may bring. One of the concerns we in the Regimental Association are facing is the all too rapid decrease in the membership over the last few years and 2011 was no exception. The main reason is obviously AGEING and immobility due to poor health. The Executive decided to attempt to bring back some members who may have forgotten to renew their membership. Letters were sent out as friendly reminders and we were very pleased to welcome back 24 new (old) members. The Regiment is also helping by including information to the serving members who have decided to pursue a second career.

The encouraging news is we now have three Branches who have an Executive Committee and a Constitution-Bylaw. They are:

Strathcona’s Regimental Association (Alberta Branch) – Calgary

Strathcona’s Association – Edmonton Branch

Strathcona’s Ontario Association – Kingston, Ontario

All the information you need to contact those Branches is on the Regimental website.

There were a few activities and events in 2011 that the members in Calgary, and yes even Edmonton, were able to attend such as Spruce Meadows for the National, Continental, Canada One and The Masters. The Ceremonial Mounted Troop performed great as usual.

Undoubtedly, from the ladies’ perspective, the most exciting event was in July when (William and Kate) the Duke and Duchess of Cambridge attended the Stampede and a Ceremonial Parade just prior to their departure at Rotary Challenger Park in Calgary. The Regiment supplied a 100 man Honour Guard and luckily some members of the Association were able to get a very close-up look at the Royal Highnesses.





On Saturday 06 August 2011 at Buffalo Run Golf Course fifty six (56) highly skilled golfers, male and female, enjoyed a 9 hole Best Ball Tournament. Sorry, did I say “Highly Skilled” – so I stretched the truth a bit but a good time was had by all. The Regimental Team came out on top and the Owen Team (there is that name again Peter) were runners-up. The presentation of trophies and prizes and a luncheon at the Royal Canadian Legion #285 followed. A great day was had by all thanks to **Peter and Susan Wonderham** for all they did to make sure the event was an overwhelming success.

In early September the Kinsmen travelling Portraits of Honour truck was on display at Heritage Park and a fund raising dinner was held in Gasoline Alley Building to honour the 159 who gave the supreme sacrifice during the Afghanistan War. The main speaker was **Gen (Retired) Rick Hillier** past CDS. Again some members were able to attend and I must say the tributes by **Gen Hillier** were very moving and heartfelt.

The final event was a Reunion in September, 2011 at Penticton, B.C. There were 65-70 members in attendance for this 3 day event and on behalf of all who attended I want to thank **Bill Woods**, his wife and the volunteers who worked hard to make it a great fun filled weekend. During this dinner it was announced the 2012 Reunion will be held in Kelowna, B.C. under the guidance of **George Barr** and maybe **Jim Allard**.

In conclusion, on behalf of the members of the Regimental Association and especially in Calgary and surrounding area, we wish that all members of the Regimental Family have an exceptional year 2012. “Good Luck Everyone”





Extra Regimentally
Employed



Strathconas in LFWA/JTFW HQ

Capt Tom LaCroix

With LFWA/JTFW HQ supporting operations at home (LUSTRE, LYRE, and PALACI) and abroad (ATHENA Roto 11 and ATTENTION Roto 0), Strathcona's posted to LFWA/JTFW found themselves trying to stay one step ahead of the curve throughout 2011.

LCol Robin Steward is deployed to South Korea as a planner with the United Nations.

Majs Kevin Mead and **Craig Volstad** were posted into the HQ as the G7 and G34 respectively.

Maj Chris Nolan continued into a second year as the G3 Ops. He was also busy on the home front as he and **Carrol** welcomed the birth of their daughter, **Daniella**.

Maj Brian Roach is the foundation of the most dynamic branch of the HQ as the G9-3.

Capt Thomas LaCroix, the G3 Ops 2, is pretty sure that a unit silver fund is not far away with four senior officers on strength.

Capt Clyde Penney was posted to CTC HQ as part of an Area plan to share his "zesty brand of in-your-face humour" with the rest of the Army.

MWO Jim Catterall retired from the Canadian Forces after 35 years of service. We wish him well in his future.

MWO Brian Speck left the G37 section to take on the role of the HQ Sergeant-Major.

WO Dave Cartwright, in the Air Component Coordination Element, continues to be the bearer of bad news whenever the Commander requests helicopters for his travel.

Sgt Owen Knott joined the G37 branch of the HQ, ensuring that Black Hats are represented in every section of the G3 branch.



Maj Chris Nolan receives his C-in-C Commendation from BGen Wynnyk for service with TF ORION



1 CMBG Strathconas

Capt Mike Mallette

It has been another eventful year for the Strathconas posted away from the mother-ship across the soccer fields to the Brigade Headquarters. The HQ rung in 2011 with the departures of **Maj Eghtedar Manouchehri**, as he began work up with a US Army Stryker Brigade Combat Team, and **Capt Allan Dwyer** who left to join the Mission Transition Task Force; both slated for deployments to Afghanistan. **Capt Mike Mallette** narrowly escaped from the Regimental Ops O's desk but jumped from the frying pan into the fire and joined **Capt Mike Selberg** and **CWO Jim Dorrance** on the Brigade Current Ops team.

This spring, we welcomed another Blackhat to the fold when **Maj Brent Sobkowiak**, a tanker from the US Army was posted into the HQ and was quickly adopted by the HQ Strathconas just prior to our springtime whirlwind tour of Western Canada. Immediately following March Break, we packed our kit and headed out to the rainy and muddy Suffield prairie on Ex DESERT RAM, as everybody knows we need to deploy at least once to justify FOA. Back home in time for Easter, the team had time to do clean some muddy field kit before heading to Wainwright on Ex MAPLE GUARDIAN.

Conditions in Wainwright were much more forgiving and after a few days things settled down somewhat (although I'm sure those who deployed with the Strathcona's Battle Group would strongly disagree). As planning for the road move back to Edmonton got underway, we received word that the Brigade HQ would deploy on Op LUSTRE in Manitoba to stand up the Land Component Command Headquarters to support the Province of Manitoba flood relief effort. With only enough time to stow our gear we were off to the airport.

Our return from the floods led into summer posting season and the HQ bid farewell to **CWO Jim Dorrance** as he left the Brigade HQ to join RHQ at the Saskatchewan Dragoons. **MCpl Mark Thomas** returned to the Regiment with **MCpl Matt Williams** posted in to fill the left seat of 99's LAV. With both Brigade HQ deployments planned for the early New Year, the staff is busy planning and preparing for another year of high tempo training to support both domestic and international operations.



LdSH(RC)

ON BEHALF OF MY FAMILY, I WANT TO THANK THE ENTIRE REGIMENT FOR YOUR COMMITMENT, CAPABILITY, & PERSEVERANCE THROUGHOUT THESE PAST TWELVE MONTHS.

YOUR SUPPORT HAS BEEN GREATLY APPRECIATED.

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Strathconas in Wainwright

Maj Errol MacEachern and Capt Nathan Hevenor

At LFWA TC, **LCol Steve Kelsey** remained in command as the Training Centre continued to train the next generation of PPCLI Privates, deliver Primary Leadership Qualification training for Western Area, and manage and support Reserve individual training. He was ably assisted by **Capt Dave Cronk** as the Training Centre's Adjutant, until he managed to escape the pull of Wainwright and make it back to the Regiment. **Maj Errol MacEachern** arrived as the Training Support Company OC, and quickly got to work reducing the Personnel Awaiting Training (PAT) from squadron to troop strength and cracking the financial whip as the Training Centre's money manager. **LCol Kelsey** and **Maj MacEachern** did their utmost to shame the infantrymen surrounding them by taking on endurance events such as Mountain Man, the Canadian Deathrace, and the Army Run. **Sgts Gary Hewitt, Ben Holmes** and **Owen Knott** were all crushed to be posted back to Edmonton from Wainwright, but their loss to WATC was made up by the arrival of **WO Trent Hiscock, Sgt Tony Oake** and **MCpl Dave Royes**, joining **Sgt Ryan Torney** as instructors. **Sgt Scott Irwin** remained in the operations cell, while **WO Laki Christopoulos** moved from being a Course WO to the Training Centre's Standards Officer.



LCol Steve Kelsey tackling Mountain Man 2011



LCol Scott Long observing the live fire of Maple Defender 1101

CFB/ASU Wainwright Headquarters saw a major transition take place when **CWO Dave Lee** relinquished his appointment as RSM, and became **Capt Dave Lee** in the Base Operations Cell. Other Strathconas working diligently to support the base were **WO John Kasawan** as the Base Accommodations WO, **Sgts Mike McGarity** and **Ernie Lee** as Range Control patrolmen, and **MCpl Joel Mousseau** in Supply Company's Kitting Section.

In the spring, CMTC planned and executed exercises Maple Guardian 1101, Maple Defender 1101 and Maple Resolve 1101. Ex Maple Resolve was notable as it was the first post-Afghan scenario, with a shift from Afghanistan-specific operations to full spectrum and conventional operations. Thankfully, CMTC had an outstanding number of fine Strathconas in all organizations to ensure that a high standard of excellence was maintained. In



Cpl Walker CMTC GI Jane C7 Instruction

CMTC HQ, **LCol Scott Long** returned from a challenging year-long deployment at Regional Command (South) in Afghanistan to the position of Deputy Commander and **CWO Joe Ramsay** remained the CMTC RSM. **Maj Eric Angell** planned Maple Resolve and then promptly left, stating he needed to learn a more romantic language, and began a year long French course. **Maj Vince Kirstein**, who departed earlier in the year to return to the Regiment, must have had a hand in this. **WO Laney Hill** rounded out the Strathconas in the HQ as G3 Simulation, monitoring the Weapons Effects Simulation that is at the center of CMTC's delivery of realistic training.

The cornerstone of CMTC, the Observer Controller Trainers (OCTs), carried on business as usual with the Armoured Team leading the way. **Capt John Kim**, although continually trying to see everything the training audience didn't want him to, managed to make time to compete in the Military World Games where he represented the Canadian Forces in the Tae Kwon Do competition. **MWO Tony Batty** had a tight grip on the team until he apparently got drafted and returned to the Regiment in the spring. Saddened by his loss, **WO Marvin MacNeil** soon followed his path and also returned to the Regiment. Thankfully for the Armoured Team they soon gained more of the Regiment's finest, **Capt Nathan Hevenor** and **WO Brad Smith** arrived to continue the tradition of excellence established by their predecessors.

CMTC exercises would not be possible without the Contemporary Operating Environment Forces (COEFOR) to add an element of realism (and torture) for the training audience. **Capt James Anderson** and **Capt John Miller** were in the middle of things as Second in Command and Operations Officer for COEFOR. However, they were not alone in their struggle seeing COEFOR balanced out with a strong contingent of Strathconas including **MCpl Gerri-Ann Davidson**, **MCpl Ian MacDougall**, **MCpl Serge Poitras**, **MCpl Robert Smith**, **Cpl Lawrence Heiz**, **Cpl Aaron Hodgins**, **Cpl Andrei Icala**, **Cpl Matthew Jesse** and **Cpl Brady Walker**, who made life interesting for exercise participants by blowing them up at every opportunity.

In conclusion, while it is true that the Strathconas in Wainwright might wish they were in Edmonton, they are filling vital roles for the Army here through the delivery and support of training, and representing the Regiment to a very high standard.



MCpl Smith CMTC GI Jane Bayonet Course



The Strategic Strathconas (Kingston)

Capt John Rickard

The Strathconas fortunate enough to serve in Kingston have had a busy year guiding the army at the strategic level. **Maj Chris Quinlan** continues to nod as if he understands when complicated networking and simulation concepts are explained to him at the Directorate of Land Synthetic Environments, where he coordinates simulation support to Army command and staff training. After a quick deployment with Op Mobile's JTF MALTA, **LCol Ed Padvaiskas** was promoted. He is now paying his dues as the 1st Canadian Division Headquarters Joint Force Development Officer re-establishing the historic "Red Patch" as the Canadian Forces Combined Joint Inter-Agency capable deployable Headquarters of choice.



WO Bill Irving and LCol Ed Padvaiskas

After six and a half fantastic years at the Peace Support Training Centre, **Maj Michael Froess** was posted to the Royal Military College of Canada in July. As RMC's Chief Military Operations and Training Officer, he now spends his days toiling away in a damp, overheated, unlit, well-fertilized cubicle in the basement of the Mackenzie building. **Maj Gord Dyck** continues to work in 1 Division when not flying his ultra-light or playing paintball. **WO Bill Irving** is on his way back to the Regiment. **Capt Russ Ells** continues to fight the good fight over army physical fitness standards in DAT Professional Development. **Capt John Rickard** works in the same room in DAT Professional Development. Every morning **Capt Rickard** hears **Captain Ells** stomp into the office, check his e-mail and mutter unmentionable words. **Capt Rickard** travels far and wide (including a nice jaunt to Paris last June) to explain the army's concept of ethics to our allies.

CWO Kevin Mulhern in the DAT Armoured cell visits **Captain Ells** almost daily to discuss their latest war game scenario and Tamyia model building. **Maj Clayton Fifield**, who has been in LFDTS for a few years, is on his way to the Sudan. **LCol Trevor Gosselin** continues to provide expert armoured advice as a DS at Fort Frontenac and is also the new PMC of the Mess. Congratulations! **Maj Scott Shrubb** returned from his European Vacation and is now learning new lessons at the Army's Lessons Learned Center. When **Capt Rickard** ran into **Col Spike Hazelton** at the gym and asked him if wanted to say anything for this article he replied: 'CFL' – 'Colonel for Life.' Perseverance!



*LCol Dave MacLeod
prepares for retirement*

The Ontario Branch of the Regimental Association recently exploited 'volunteerism' and put together a new executive: **Capt Russ Ells** is the President; **Mr. John Stuckart** is the Vice-President and **CWO Mulhern** is the Secretary, Treasurer **Mr. Tom Martineau**; Membership **Capt Stewart MacLean**, when not desperately trying to conjugate être; and **Mr. Bill Logan** as Ottawa Retired Point of Contact. A host of events and projects are in the works for 2013; keep an eye out on the Regimental eNews.



Strathconas in the National Capital Region

Capt Michael Gough

Strathconas around the world will sleep soundly knowing that **Maj Rob Hume** is standing on guard as the Officer Commanding the Canadian Forces Integrated Centre for Operational Things at CEFCON HQ. **LCol Pascal Demers** continues to only work half-days for the VCDS (from 0600 to 2200), where his one day equals a full work-week for the rest of Ottawa.

Enjoying his newfound fame as CO designate, **LCol Paul Peyton** has been sighted frequenting the Brookfield Relocations desk trying to get his furniture and effects moved to Edmonton early. There are also rumours of a plot to pay a subbie to have the current CO suffer an “unfortunate and debilitating accident” before the snow melts.

Speaking of newfound fame, **MWO Rick Stacey** has been working the Rideau cocktail party circuit having been invited to attend a luncheon with the Duke and Duchess of Cambridge during their visit this past summer. For those who are unaware, he has been awarded a second valour award for his exceptional courage during a prolonged battle with his new ergonomic keyboard. Still strongly petitioning for a posting as soon as possible, **Maj Warren Deatcher** splits his time between RCMP and Canada COM headquarters.

Maj Chris Adams was posted to CEFCON last year, but strangely has not yet cleared in and nobody has heard from him, except for a Facebook post from Bermuda last week. On the other end of the spectrum, **Maj Sheldon Holmes** just celebrated his fourth anniversary at CEFCON now promoted to the lofty heights of Deputy J1.

Although not technically posted to National Defence Headquarters, honourable mention must go to **Capt Peter Beitz** who is proudly representing the Regiment at 2 CMBG HQ as the G3 Ops and trying to infuse 2 Brigade with some Army of the West panache.

LCol Mark Connolly is now the CO of Land Staff HQ and has passed the reins of NCR Strathcona Family Representative to **LCol Derek Macaulay**, who is frantically testing recipes to find the best possible gravy for poutine at the Canadian Forces French Cooking School in Gatineau.

Welcome to
Strathconas.Ca

The Official Website of the Lord Strathcona's Horse (Royal Canadians)



Western GMC Buick
was proud to support THEN
and is still Proud NOW!

MANY TANKS
for all you do for us!

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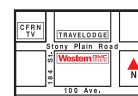
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IN-GAGE – Strathconas in Gagetown

Capt Cameron Meikle

If you cannot be posted to the Regiment, being posted to Gagetown provides Strathcona soldiers and officers with a rewarding opportunity to continue to contribute to the Regiment and the Armour Corps.

The highest concentration of Gagetown Strathconas are found at the Armour School, busy as ever, training the latest generation of crewman and future leaders of the Corps. The School has completed yet another training cycle, training roughly 100 reconnaissance crew commanders, 60 new officers, 30 warrant officers, 50 patrol commanders, and approximately 200 new crewmen. However, running courses has not been the School's only focus this year. The Royal Canadian Armour School celebrated its 75th birthday this past November, celebrating this milestone with a sports day, an all ranks dinner and dance at the newly constructed Fredericton Conference Center and a parade where all instructors serving at the school in 2011 received a commemorative coin. This past year also saw the construction of a Monument to the Fallen, which is placed at the student's entrance of the Armour School. This monument, constructed thanks in part to the charitable donations of School personnel, pays respect to all Armour Corps soldiers who lost their life in various United Nations and NATO missions since 1950.



WO Neil Miller receiving the Armour School's 75th coin

When not living with our Petersville "families" throughout the week, we have had the chance to get together with our 'actual' families on several highly successful Kids and Family Days hosted at the School. The highlight of this year's Family Day, was a raffle for the opportunity to crush a car with a Leopard C2. However, this raffle was not the only successful fund raising initiative. The Strathconas' own **Capt Tim**

"Hair of Steel" Day offered up his golden locks if his Squadron raised enough money for the United Way. Unfortunately for **Capt Day**, the Squadron reached their goal, causing him to spend his Christmas Vacation with a freshly shaved glimmering dome.



Cpl Gord Hoyt by the School Monument

This past year has kept all Gagetown Strathconas very busy, and there is no end in sight to the great work that is being completed here. The School is well into another training cycle, producing soldiers ready to meet the challenges of tomorrow. The School is also getting ready to receive, commission, and train soldiers on the incoming Leopard 2 tanks. In the end, no matter the challenge we face, we Gagetown Strathconas are ready and able to see them to their successful conclusion.



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Col	Fleury	P.J.	NATO IMS	Maj	Wright	S.R.	JTFN Yellowknife
Col	Hazleton	C.M.	CFB Kingston	Maj	Young	C.J.	CFB Kingston
Col	Rundle	D.A.	CDLS Washington	Capt	Anderson	J.A.	CFB Wainwright
LCol	Connolly	M.A.	NDHQ	Capt	Beitz	P.D.	CFB Petawawa
LCol	Demers	P.P.J.	NDHQ	Capt	Bentley	M.D.R.L.	CFB Borden
LCol	Gifford	S.W.	NDHQ	Capt	Brown	J.W.	CSOR
LCol	Gosselin	T.P.	CFB Kingston	Capt	Bugg	N.B.	FGH
LCol	Hauenstein	P.G.	41 CBG	Capt	Collings	T.L.	CFB Gagetown
LCol	Kelsey	S.R.	CFB Wainwright	Capt	Day	T.W.F.	CFB Gagetown
LCol	Long	S.G.	CFB Wainwright	Capt	Dunn	L.A.	NDHQ
LCol	Macaulay	D.A.	CFSU Ottawa	Capt	Dwyer	A.C.	1 CMBG
LCol	MacLeod	J.D.	CFB Kingston	Capt	Elkorazati	I. M.	Op Gladius - Syria
LCol	Malevich	J.J.	Fort Leavenworth	Capt	Ells	C.R.	CFB Kingston
LCol	McKinnon	D.B.	CFLO Estab	Capt	Gough	M.H.	NDHQ
LCol	Padvaikas	E.T.	CFB Kingston	Capt	Gray	D.A.	CFB Gagetown
LCol	Parsons	D.R.	CFB Gagetown	Capt	Hevenor	N.R.B.	CFB Wainwright
LCol	Peyton	P.J.	NDHQ	Capt	Johns	M.D.C.	CFB Suffield
LCol	Pickell	P.G.	CFB Gagetown	Capt	Johnson	B.S.	1 RCHA
LCol	Rankin	R.C.	CFB Kingston	Capt	Kallos	G.P.D.	CFRC Toronto
LCol	Senft	D.J.	CFB Esquimalt	Capt	Kaye	M.A.	CFB Gagetown
LCol	Steward	R.T.	LFWA	Capt	Kim	J.M.J.	CFB Wainwright
Maj	Adams	C.R.	NDHQ	Capt	Lacroix	T.A.	LFWA
Maj	Angell	E.D.	CFB Wainwright	Capt	Lee	D.A.	CFB Wainwright
Maj	Barnett	M.A.	CFC Toronto	Capt	MacKillop	S.D.	SALH
Maj	Batty	T.A.	CFB Gagetown	Capt	MacLean	S.C.	CFB Kingston
Maj	Bromley	D.R.	CFB Gagetown	Capt	Mallette	M.J.D.	1 CMBG
Maj	Callens	K.I.	CFB/ASU Edmonton	Capt	Meikle	C.W.	CFB Gagetown
Maj	Chiasson	R.P.	CFB Gagetown	Capt	Miller	J.L.E.E.	CFB Wainwright
Maj	Cochrane	J.L.	Staff College Toronto	Capt	Morison	D.G.	CFNRCC North Bay
Maj	Corbett	B.D.	ATDU	Capt	Nguyen	J.	CFB Gagetown
Maj	Deatcher	W.S.	NDHQ	Capt	Pano	M.G.	KOCR
Maj	Dyck	G.A.	CFB Kingston	Capt	Penney	C.S.	CFB Gagetown
Maj	Fifield	C.S.	CFB Kingston	Capt	Rickard	J.N.	CFB Kingston
Maj	Fournier	C.D.	NDHQ	Capt	Selberg	M.E.	1 CMBG
Maj	Froess	M.D.	CFB Kingston	Capt	Swainsbury	R.J.	1 MP Unit
Maj	Frost-Kell	E.J.S.	CFB Gagetown	Capt	Timms	M.D.	CFB/ASU Edmonton
Maj	Gardner	C.S.	LFWA	Capt	Walters	D.R.	CFB Gagetown
Maj	Grodzinski	J.R.	CFB Kingston	Capt	White	C.G.	38 CBG
Maj	Holmes	S.W.	NDHQ	Capt	Williams	D.P.	CFB Suffield
Maj	Hone	D.A.	CFB Gagetown	OCdt	Brittan	J.M.D.	CFB Kingston
Maj	Hume	R.M.	NDHQ	OCdt	Forestell	M.J.	CFB Kingston
Maj	Hunter	J.R.	CFB Gagetown	CWO	Laughlin	W.A.	CFB Gagetown
Maj	Jared	E.G.	NDHQ	CWO	Mulhern	A.B.K.	CFB Kingston
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Maj	Shrubb	S.J.	CFB Kingston	WO	Boulter	G.F.	CFB Gagetown
				WO	Christopoulos	L.B.	CFB Wainwright

WO	Delaney	R.H.	CFB Gagetown	MCpl	Kentfield	C.A.	CFB Gagetown
WO	Fox	I.R.	CFB Kingston	MCpl	Lamothe	J.R.W.	CFB/ASU Edmonton
WO	Hill	L.R.	CFB Wainwright	MCpl	Leaman	L.W.	CFB Gagetown
WO	Hiscock	T.	CFB Wainwright	MCpl	MacDougall	I.M.	CFB Wainwright
WO	Hopkin	T.W.	408 Sqn	MCpl	Macneill	B.	CFB Wainwright
WO	Irving	W.K.	CFB Kingston	MCpl	Mousseau	J.E.	CFB Wainwright
WO	Kasawan	J.F.	CFB Wainwright	MCpl	Ogston	R.J.A.	CFB Gagetown
WO	McGregor	J.I.	CFB Gagetown	MCpl	Oliver	C.R.J.	CFB Suffield
WO	Miller	N.C.	CFB Gagetown	MCpl	Orlesky	C.N.M.	CFB Gagetown
WO	Mosher	T.R.	Halifax Rifles	MCpl	Poitras	S.	CFB Wainwright
WO	Pociuk	A.A.	Sask D	MCpl	Riley	P.A.	CFB Gagetown
WO	Screen	S.R.	CFB Gagetown	MCpl	Royes	D.D.	CFB Wainwright
WO	Smith	B.M.	CFB Wainwright	MCpl	Scott	T.	CFB/ASU Edmonton
WO	Wheeler	M.J.	CFB Gagetown	MCpl	Smith	R.W.	CFB Wainwright
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Sgt	Thompson	S.D.	1 CRPG	Cpl	Laramée	R.	CFB Gagetown
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MCpl	Adby	R.	ELFRC St. Jean	Cpl	Martone		CFB Gagetown
MCpl	Carson	R.M.	CFB Gagetown	Cpl	McWaters	N.D.	CFB Gagetown
MCpl	Davidson	G.	CFB Wainwright	Cpl	Mountford	R.T.	CFB Gagetown
MCpl	Desjardins	J.E.	CFB Gagetown	Cpl	Murray	R.W.	CFB Gagetown
MCpl	Gray	C.	CFB Gagetown	Cpl	Myers	L.B.	CFB Gagetown
MCpl	Guilbeault	Y.D.	CFLRS St. Jean	Cpl	Parsons	A.N.	CFB Gagetown
MCpl	Hayes	H.A.	CFB Suffield	Cpl	Picardal	G.	CFB Gagetown



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Cpl	Ringuette L.L.	CFB Gagetown	Tpr	Danczak D.	CFB Gagetown
Cpl	Romkey D.C.E.	CFB Gagetown	Tpr	Davidson R.	CFB Gagetown
Cpl	Seppenwoolde J.W.	CFB Trenton	Tpr	Franklin J.	CFB Gagetown
Cpl	Shwetz S.H.D.	CFB Gagetown	Tpr	Gallo D.	CFB Gagetown
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Cpl	Tremblett M.	CFB Gagetown	Tpr	Seders L.	CFB Gagetown
Cpl	Vaillancourt B.L.	CFB Gagetown	Tpr	Shields B.	CFB Gagetown
Cpl	Vallee B.	St-Jean	Tpr	Veinot G.	CFB Gagetown
Cpl	Van Kleef C.L.	CFB Gagetown	Tpr	Wedge B.	CFB Gagetown
Cpl	Walker B.D.	CFB Wainwright	Tpr	Williams R.R.	CFB Wainwright
Tpr	Bacsu J.	CFB Gagetown	Tpr	Wilson J.	CFB Gagetown





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Mess Life





The Mariner Room

Capt Steven Van Muyen

The Mariner Room was active and healthy in 2011. Mess activities kicked off on 20 January with the Brigade's Ex Strong Contender mess dinner. **Capt Van Muyen** was selected to represent the Regiment in a competition of subalterns to explain why the Regiment is the Brigade's finest. Despite the tough and rambunctious crowd he managed to do just that.

The Moreuil Wood dinner was held 18 March at the Fairmont Hotel MacDonald in the exquisite ballroom, which we redecorated in early Strathcona décor. Catering Manager **Larissa Gonzales** looked after us handily, as always, and we feasted on tenderloin beef wrapped in bacon- just perfect. At the request of PMC **Maj Mike Onieu**, the RCA band surreptitiously included some hard rock tunes, repackaged in Muzak style so as to blend in seamlessly with the high decorum of the dinner.

On the first Friday in June the Regiment hosted a Business Lunch at the Officers' Mess. As in previous years, Mounted Troop put on a ride and our historical vehicles drew admiring fans. The Strathcona's Business Lunch has always been the best attended business lunch of the year, and 2011 was no exception. Within the mess, all lights were changed out for red and green ones, and the white wines were coloured red and green. There is no mistaking a Strathcona function for anything else.

Each Brigade unit is tasked annually to host a TGIF night. Traditionally the Regiment has hosted a Downhomer night, with a nautical flavour. This year, the PMC attempted to amend it to a Saskatchewan Roughrider themed event, but wiser heads prevailed and instead we ginned up a Beach Bash on 10 June. A beach bash implies the presence of a beach, so we trucked in the requisite sand and created one in the back yard of the mess. Despite the mental anguish this caused him, Mess Secretary **Capt Mark MacInnis** did a great job of making this happen. An ocean (actually a hot tub) pool was also present, of which **Capt Jeff Daley** took full advantage. The night proved to be a huge success as all the Officers involved participated in pool side games, dancing, and swimming.

When **Maj Dave MacIntyre** was posted in as OC A Sqn in July, the PMC wasted no time in handing over the PMC responsibilities to him, with the Mess Secretary position being turned over to **Capt Steve Van Muyen**. It is not widely known, but the handover of PMC duties comes with a gift- a "seat" which is in fact large orange pylon (think traffic cone) with mess activities delineated from easiest (the narrow top part of the cone) to most difficult (the wide bottom). This is one of those traditions deemed unlikely to make it into the Regimental history books, but there it is. At least the handover did not come with a negative bank balance for the Mariner Room.



On 15 November, the Mariner Room hosted the annual Officer's Spouse Meet n' Greet at the Red Piano Bar in the West Edmonton Mall. All Strathcona Officers had the opportunity to meet each others spouses in a relaxed and entertaining

Maj MacIntyre thinks to himself - Really this is what I have to work with



setting. The night began with some finger food and drinks and ended with everyone singing along to songs such as Piano Man by Billy Joel and Bohemian Rhapsody by Queen.

On 14 December, the Regiment held its annual Christmas Sports Day and the Mariner Room competed hard against the Sarcee Room. During the ice hockey game, a tough battle was fought with the game being sent to overtime. As neither team was able to score in overtime the game came down to a shoot out. Unfortunately, the Sarcee Room had a few bounces go their way and went away the victors. Up next, the Mariner Room faced off against the Sarcee Room in Broomball. Although a hard fought game, the Sarcee Room showed the officers what age and experience can really do, and won the game 8-0. In Indoor Soccer the Mariner Room defeated the Sarcee room 2-1, and then went on to lose during Ball Hockey 4-2. Although the Mariner Room did not leave the day as the victors, all the Officers enjoyed the day of competition.



The Mariner Room fighting the Good Fight against the Sarcee Room in Floor Hockey.

The year ended with the Officers at home to the Senior NCOs in the mess on 11 December. The Officers welcomed the Sr NCO's to the party with copious amounts of drink, and we quickly commenced competitions including Cabbage Pegging, Trivial Pursuit, Darts, Foosball, Poker, and MMA. At the end of the games the scores were tallied and the Sr NCOs again claimed victory over the Officers. The Mariner Room is now, for the second year in a row, the not-so-proud owner of the Horse's Ass trophy.

The Mariner Room has been busy this year, and through the hard work of all Strathcona Officers it has achieved a great deal. Most importantly, the Mariner Room had another successful year of bringing together Strathcona Officers through events and activities. The comraderie in which the Mariner Room holds is strong and will indefinitely be brought forward into 2012.





The Sarcee Room

WO Marcel Chenier

Where to begin? How about at the end and work my way backwards to the beginning? This year, the Sarcee Room put on a strong showing during the Regimental Sports day, defeating the Mariner Room in Hockey, Broomball and Floor hockey. But to give the Mariner Room its dues, they did beat us in soccer. That is fine by us, as we of the Sarcee Room don't recognize soccer as an actual sport (sorry **MWO Tony Batty**). The Senior NCOs carried their winning streak on during the "At Home" with the Officers. As the Masters of all things Gunnery, we dominated the darts challenge. It helped that we stacked our team with Brits and Newfies. I am still at a loss to explain how we lost the Trivial Pursuit challenge. Who would have thought that these kids knew more than **WO Tom Falls!** The final event involved an octagon, groin and facial protection, and brute strength as competitors pushed, shoved and threw their opponents out of the octagon. Wanting to demonstrate good sportsmanship, we sent in the lightest of our featherweights **Sgts Mark Densen and Jay Webb**. Needless to say, once **Sgt Jay Webb** bounced the final butt out of the ring, the Sarcee Room was declared victorious. The "Horses Ass" was once again ceremoniously awarded to the Mariner Room to proudly display in their mess for another year.



*MWO Mayfield, MWO Riley and MWO Pudar
at the Moreuil Wood Sr NCO Dinner.*



WO Wallis and his wife Christina

At the end of November, the wives were invited into the mess for a candlelight dinner. It was a time to show off dresses and gowns and a night to enjoy good food and even greater company. The last time this group assembled was in June, where we said goodbye to those posted out or who were retiring. I need to thank the various wives that I spoke with at length (**Seema, Kelly, Kim, Erin, Evelyn, Kathy, Christine, Trish, Krista, Lori, Patty & Victoria**) about how to improve the next function; your responses were much appreciated. At this time, like any other married man, let me offer "yes dear, you're right, I'm sorry."



This year we welcomed many new additions to the Sarcee Room and said farewell to as many. For those leaving, you will be missed at the lunch time table. For those coming in, welcome, there is a seat for you at the table.

Welcome to:

MWO Greg Hawkins

WO Allan Doucet

WO Scott Brown

WO Dale Lapointe

Sgt Yannick Cimon

Sgt Pat Flannigan

Sgt Chuck McDougall

Sgt Stew McLoughlin

Sgt Nathan Mills

Sgt Ed Morley

Farewell To:

CWO Jim Dorrance

MWO Jessome

WO Duane Wallis

Sgt Reg Kierstead

Sgt Adrien Petca

Sgt Eric Petersen

Sgt Jay Purell

Sgt Graham Rodgers

Sgt Gord Stringer





The Green Point Lounge

MCpl Matt Williams

This year the appointments of The Green Point Lounge Mess Committee have been like a hot potato and have changed hands once again. **MCpl Matt Williams** assumed responsibility as the President of the Mess Committee from **MCpl Ed Pickell** and **MCpl John Goobie** released the reigns of Vice-President of the Mess Committee to **MCpl Doug Headrick**. The only constant has been **MCpl Matthew "Freaking Amazing with Money" Painchaud** staying on as the Treasurer. The Mess Committee was rounded out with **MCpl John Dugdale** as Secretary and **MCpl Jon McDougal** as the Entertainment Rep.

The highlight of the year for the MCpls was the MCpl's Golf Tournament, which was no small feat to pull off. **MCpl's Jon McDougal, Doug Headrick** and **Graham Whittal** spearheaded the event this year, hosted at the Terra Pines Golf Club. The tireless efforts of these gentlemen ensured that at the end of the tournament the Greenpoint Lounge was able to provide a charitable donation of \$687.00 to the Edmonton Sunshine Foundation.



MCpls Doug Headrick and Jon McDougal presenting the donation cheque to the Children's Wish Foundation

The Pre-Christmas sports resulted in a tie for 1st place between the Green Point Lounge and the Sarcee Room. This hasn't happened in years and proves that despite their youth and greater numbers, the troopers and corporals can be defeated by skill and experience. The Green Point Lounge is poised for another great year in 2012.





Track Pad

Cpl Mike Baker

Much like the rest of the Regiment, the Track Pad saw significant change in 2011. A new Mess Committee was elected, with **Cpl Paul Fisher** now at the helm as the PMC, and a new Mess Constitution was drafted.

In addition to the changes to the Committee and the Constitution, the Track Pad itself has undergone several upgrades. A wall commemorating our fallen comrades was constructed and the committee procured a new television, foosball table and dart board. With these improvements, the Track Pas has given the Troopers and Corporals a great place to relax during break-time (or work time). Adding a touch of class, the Track Pad also received a new paint job with oak trim around the room, upgrading its previously bland atmosphere.



Sports have always been a huge part of the Track Pad's focus and this year was certainly no different. We strived to maintain our consistent reign over the Green Point Lounge in just about every sport. While continuing our dominance in ice hockey (as we have for quite some time), the Green Point Lounge managed an upset victory in soccer, a sport which the Troopers and Corporals have owned for many years now. We also fell short in Ball Hockey and Broomball, though we fought hard to the last minute with a disappointing tight loss of 2-1 in broomball to the Goons of the Green Point Lounge.

Overall, this has been a successful year and the Track Pad demonstrated that regardless of the situation we continue to make positive impacts on our surroundings to showcase our talents. The Troopers and Corporals have worked very hard and have come up with some tremendous team and individual accomplishments in 2011. With a new Constitution, you can bet the Track Pad and all its members will be up for a great year in 2012.





Subbies' Corner

Capt Steven Van Muyen

In past years the subbies have had a tradition of ensuring entertainment and even a little trouble among the Strathcona Officers; this year proved to be no different. A number of subbies deployed overseas, these were: **Capt Andrew Warlow, Capt Chris Whalley, Capt Sam Thompson, Capt Warren Kerek, Capt Charles Prince, Capt Justin Salter, Capt Evan Wiome, Capt Mike Dullege, Lt Gord Elliot, and Lt Dick Lund.** **Lt Gord Elliott** took over as Senior Subbie from **Capt Mike Dullege**, and he ensured the subbies had a memorable year.

Without exception, the subbies ensured they were present and entertaining at every TGIF at the Edmonton Garrison Officer's Mess (EGOM). The long tradition of Strathcona Officers making it known to the rest of the Brigade that the EGOM belongs to the Strathcona's was upheld in every sense of the word. **Lt Stefan "Bobby" Waryzyn** proclaimed our dominance on the top of the gazebo right before getting smacked in the face with a candle stick. He ended his proclamation with what he called a graceful tumble from gazebo heaven. The mess was more than just a gathering place for **Capt Warren "Sleepy" Kerek** when he decided the crawlspace beneath the mess provided adequate sleeping quarters for those looking for a 3 hour "nap" at around 7 pm on a Friday.

With the arrival of new subbies to the Regiment this year, the Adjutant decided to once again travel to Calgary in November for the Subbies PD Trip. The new subbies were lectured on everything that the



Capt Vahal and Lt Lewis attempting to add some class to the Regiment



*The Dingo Pack
Capt Van Muyen, Capt Salter,
Lt Wawryzn, Lt Lund,
Capt Whalley and Capt Webster*



Regiment does and participates in before heading off to Calgary. Once we reached Calgary, we spent two days visiting various places which included Spruce Meadows, Strathcona Museum and CP Rail. The only thing the trip could have gone without was the scene of **Lt Ty “I love Gel” Hewer** eating 13 Big Macs in one sitting while spilling Coke all over his brown Walmart leather jacket.

The subbies participated in a number of various events during the year. They helped raise funds and prizes for the Dinner and Dance party in February. They participated in Mountain Man and ensured Strathcona Officers were well represented. Correction, **Lt Conner “No Chin” Readman** participated in Mountain Man by packing his rucksack and almost getting it on his back at the start line. For him that actually took an incredible amount of effort.



Subbies re-enactment of the 2011 Vancouver Riots

The year ended with the annual Subbies Caroling night on 9 December. All the subbies met at the mess dressed in their best Christmas attire and sporting their finest singing voices. The Big Three: **Capt Sandy Cooper, Darryn Gray** and **Al Wong**, met the subbies with three vans and drove them to the Regiment's senior officer's houses. OC B had a surprise with some moose milk, OC Recce held up shenanigans with caesars, and OC A and OC HQ welcomed the subbies with a high amount of christmas cheer. The night ended with the subbies visiting the CO's house with many good stories and memories from the entire night. We also learned that moose milk makes **Lt Tim “Confused” McHugh** very angry as he decided to throw a subbie off a 7 foot high balcony onto a cement floor. **Lt Ty Hewer** hit the concrete like a rag doll and was only able to soldier on and continue the night due to a four litre gas can full of delicious caesars.

This year the subbies maintained the high calibre of all Strathcona Officers. With the prospective of more subbies joining the Regiment this year, it promises to be another filled year of fun and entertainment. Good job to all the subbies who helped make this year a memorable one.

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The Queen's Royal Lancers

Maj Joe Bigg, OC A Squadron QRL

As ever seems to be the case, the last twelve months have flown past in what has been a demanding training year for the Regiment based in Catterick packing in a series of exercises, inspections and preparations for operations. But that critical element of fun that makes us The Queens' Royal Lancers has of course been had too.

The start of the year heralded a change of command with **Lt Col Martin Todd MBE** handing over the reigns to **Lt Col Nigel Best** who will take the Regiment through its training for and next deployment to Afghanistan in 2012. Coupled with this, and with little time for recuperation after the Regiment returned from Afghanistan in late 2010, a full upgrade in hardware and training on our BOWMAN Communication and Information Systems took place in Catterick early in the year. This consumed over two and a half months of preparation for the first mounted and dismounted troop and squadron level training exercise on the well known Salisbury Plain in Wiltshire in March. This provided an excellent opportunity to get back to the very basics of armoured soldiering and a number of key lessons were re-learned. This solid grounding was consolidated with two further weeks training on synthetic trainers (CATT) in Warminster, where squadrons and the Recce Group Headquarters planned and executed a number of missions up to regimental level.

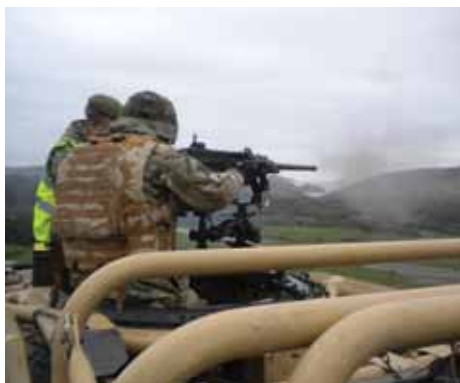


LCpl King briefing Cpl Smith during ranges

Soon after this, attention switched to preparations for deployment to BATUS. As well as the raft of normal annual tests, training for BATUS took the Regiment to Kirkcudbright in Scotland to conduct dismounted range packages. The quality of the training on offer was first class, with the Brigade Reconnaissance Force conducting up to company level live-fire manoeuvre. A and C Sqns also completed AFV ranges, spending two weeks in Lulworth on the Dorset Coast firing Scimitar and its variants.

But the year was focused on the deployment to Canada and training with the British Army Training Unit Suffield, in Alberta. This saw RHQ roll out a manoeuvre headquarters under command of the 4 Mechanised Brigade Intelligence, Surveillance, Target Acquisition and Reconnaissance Headquarters, known as

the ISTAR Group, with B (BRF) Sqn and C Sqn under command, and A Sqn providing the enemy. As ever the training value to be had in BATUS was immense. The exercises included both conventional war-fighting with the squadrons conducting the FIND function ahead of the Armoured Battlegroup and train in elements of generic COIN as part of the adaptive foundation concept in anticipation of current and future conflicts. A and C Squadrons remained in BATUS for Ex PRAIRIE THUNDER 5 until late October, swapping roles and completing further training only this time with 1st Battalion, The Scots Guards. But as ever, not all the time in Canada was spent on the prairies, and there was some respite to be had. As well as visits to the Rockies, Calgary and various other parts of Canada, there was also a visit by C Sqn to our closest affiliated Regiment; Lord Strathcona's Horse! This was an enormously successful visit, hosted on the ranges in Wainwright, it



B Sqn on HMG Ranges

was enjoyed immensely and much appreciated by those lucky few who attended. We were also fortunate to be able to reciprocate by hosting elements of Lord Strathcona's Horse in October, who joined us for training in Catterick before undertaking the internationally acclaimed Exercise Cambrian Patrol in Wales. Both QRL and LdSH(RC)'s teams acquitted themselves well, earning silver medals in this most arduous of events.

With the squadrons fully recovered to the UK in late October, the Regiment paraded on 4 November to formally mark the re-ORBAT for its deployment to Afghanistan in 2012. A and B Sqn will deploy as the Formation 'Recce' Squadron and as the Brigade Reconnaissance Force respectively, with C and D Sqn acting as mentors to the Afghan National Police and Highway Kandak. RHQ will again deploy as the ISTAR Group under command of

Col Best, whilst elements of HQ Sqn will constitute the Brigade Troops Echelon, predominantly in support of the manoeuvre sub-units under command of the ISTAR Gp. Training for Op HERRICK later in 2012 is well under way and will constitute in total eleven months of Mission Specific Training, for what will only be a six month deployment; many nights out of bed for the officers and soldiers but valuable training in every part.

The Regiment remains in good shape with Afghanistan now the clear focus. But in readying for the challenges this deployment will bring, the Regiment remains in good spirit retaining the critical element of fun in the Messes and on the sports pitch; despite the officers losing the annual rugby match against the WOs and Sgts' Mess in December. The Regiment are also fortunate to celebrate our Colonel-in-Chief, Her Majesty The Queen's Diamond Jubilee, in June this year.

Death or Glory.



Annual Crew Test, Lulworth Ranges





10 (Polish) Armour Cavalry Brigade Task Force WHITE EAGLE

10th Armoured Cavalry Brigade (10th ACavBde) from Świętoszów was ordered to serve as the 8th Rotation of the Polish Military Contingent (PMC) in Afghanistan. On 28 October 2011, in cooperation with Afghan National Security Forces (ANSF), 10th ACavBde commenced operations to ensure the safety and stabilization of Ghazni province. This was to be achieved by supporting Afghan authorities and improving local administration through reconstruction and development programs. Additionally, the 8th Rotation's soldiers conducted training programs for Afghan National Security Forces and provided local nationals with humanitarian aid.

PMC, commanded by **BGen Andrzej Reudowicz**, conducted 14 brigade level operations and 448 at the battle group and combat team level. During these operations, soldiers of the PMC conducted 5566 various combat tasks, the majority of which were conducted in partnership with ANSF:

- Over 4200 patrols,
- Over 260 tasks by Aviation Battle Group (total number of flight hours - 1650),
- 320 recce tasks,
- 230 QRF interventions,
- 140 convoys and 370 escorts.

During these missions, the PMC intercepted 30 grenades, 130 mortar grenades, 270 various types of other grenades, 42 mines and most importantly 15 tons of explosive materials used for the most dangerous insurgent weapon, the IED. Furthermore, soldiers of PMC 8th ROTO intercepted 200kg of drugs, detected 100 IEDs and due to counterinsurgent operations, killed 27 insurgents and took 268 detainees into custody.

Developing Programs

In addition to military activity, the 10th ACavBde faced an equally significant task – stability operations. This component of the mission was undertaken by the joint Polish/American Provincial Reconstruction Team (PRT) and United States Agribusiness Development Teams (ADT). The Polish element of the PRT successfully conducted 32 projects worth 5.2 million USD. The PRT's main effort was focused on education (schools, kindergartens, and re-socialization), infrastructure (electricity, water-supply, roads, and bridges), and health care (hospitals, education for medical personnel). The majority of infrastructure improvement projects were based on the "Ghazni 2013 Project", when Ghazni City is projected to become a World Capital of Islamic Culture.

Currently, the PRT is conducting 33 projects worth

over 6 million USD such as improvements of a water purification plant and a waste disposal site located in Ghazni City. Planned and ongoing projects conducted by PRT and ADT are dedicated to the entire Ghazni society and will stimulate social and economical growth in every district of the Task Force White Eagle Area of Operations.



BGen Reudowicz addressing the Contingent



ANSF Training

The next essential task of Task Force White Eagle was the conduct of training programs, combined actions and surveillance with 3rd Afghan Brigade of the 203rd Afghan National Army (ANA) and Afghan National Police.

Army Training Programs were implemented by Operational Mentoring Liaisons Teams (OMLT) and have had vital influence on operational, logistic and planning skills for Afghan capabilities to conduct independent operations. Simultaneously, Police Operational Mentoring Liaisons Teams (POMLT) trained and mentored Provincial and District Afghan National Police (ANP) Headquarters and ANP in the field. Due to

effective cooperation between the PMC and ANP, Afghan society obtains well trained policemen and ANP Headquarters that are more independent in planning and conducting field operations.

Management

The PMC also actively supported Afghan administrative development in Ghazni Province. The District Development Team of Task Force White Eagle, in close collaboration with CIMIC and the PRT, implemented projects to increase the sub-governor's participation, improve effectiveness of jurisdiction, health care, the education system, reintegration, cultural heritage and coordination of the "Ghazni 2013" project. **BGen Reudowicz** was the first Polish commander to organize a conference with all sub-governors (14) and the Ghazni Province Governor to strengthen links between local members of the Afghan Government and Coalition Forces acting in this part of Afghanistan.





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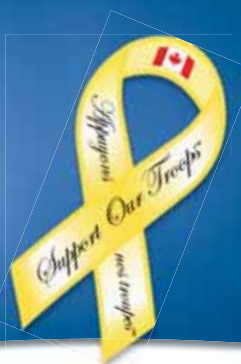
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