



7th Toronto Regiment, Royal Canadian Artillery

Moss Park Armoury
130 Queen Street East
Toronto, Ontario M5A 1R9

27 October, 2014

REGIMENTAL SENATE MEETING, 27 OCTOBER, 2014

Present:

- HCol Ernest Beno (Chair)
- HLCol Tom Bitove
- LCol Paul Szabunio, Commanding Officer
- Col Bill Kalogerakis
- LCol (retd) Barry Downs
- LCol (retd) George Haylock
- LCol (retd) Jim Brazill
- LCol Mike Gomes
- LCol (retd) Colin Mouatt
- Maj (retd) Zurbrigg
- Capt (retd) David Burnett – Toronto Gunners Association (TGA)
- Maj (retd) Ron Paterson – Limber Gunners Association (LGA)
- Lt (retd) Paul Kernohan – Toronto Artillery Foundation (TAF)
- Lt (retd) Keenan
- Capt Paul Thompson - TGA LO & PMC
- Colonel (Retd) John Selkirk, Reserves 2000
- Major Donna Murakami-Fujimoto, Branch 165 Royal Canadian Legion
- Capt Eric Edelward (Army Cadets)
- Capt Garry Hendel (Air Cadets)
- Capt Eric Laxton

NOTE: These are not intended to be “Minutes” per se, this is more a reflection of issues discussed.

1. Opening Remarks – Commanding Officer LCol Szabunio

The Senate Chair offered the Commanding Officer the opportunity to address Senate. He reviewed the Regimental Family Line of Operation and its implications to and impact on the Regimental Family. He updated Senate on upcoming events with 7th Toronto Regiment and the Regimental Family.

2. Opening Remarks, Hon Col Beno, Chair Senate

Hon Col Beno stressed the importance of all members and all arms of the Regimental Family working together in a collaborative manner. With limited resources we need to share, support each other and work together.

Specific points covered by the Chair:

- **Brigadier HE (Ted) Brown Funeral:** The Senate Chair thanked all for their support to Brigadier Brown's funeral. The family was pleased.
- **Constitution:** Chair intends to refresh the Senate Constitution.
- **Regimental Family Strategy:** Based on the RCA Family Strategy, being developed at this time, the Regiment will develop a Family Strategy (by 2015)

3. Opening Remarks, Honorary Lieutenant Colonel Tom Bitove

Hon LCol Bitove expressed his active engagement in the leadership of the Regimental Family and his support to the many activities and initiatives. He will be playing a role in supporting fundraising for the Garrison Ball.

4. Toronto Gunners, Capt (Retd) David Burnett

- **Mission:**
 - Support the CO and Regiment financially and with attendance
 - Support the national gunner family through the RCAA
 - Support community awareness through its operational arm, the Limber gunners
 - Provide the place for retiring serving members to stay connected to the gunner family
- **Issues:** Awareness, Recruiting Members, Succession:
Recruiting of new members and succession planning remain the two main hurdles for the organization. A larger membership will provide larger financial support and provide a greater base upon which to draw for the next successions. Whenever a name is provided to the TG for a potential new member, the TG attempts to contact and get them onto our distribution lists with the hope that they will start financially supporting the Regiment.
- **Future Recommendations and Intentions to Deal with Issues:** Short-term, Long-term :
The main recommendation is to figure out the simplest way to connect with persons leaving the Regiment and this takes coordination with RHQ and/or the people who are in the best position to know that a member is leaving the Regiment. Question, and who would these persons be in the best position to give the TG the contact info?

5. 7 Toronto Regiment Band, Lt Nick Arrigo

Nick gave an overview of the Band and numerous events. Note: The Band is planning a Christmas Concert for St Clements Church, details to follow.

6. Limber Gunners, Major (Retired) Ron Paterson

Ron Paterson gave an overview of the numerous activities involving the Limber Gunners. Very impressive.

- **Mission -** The Limber Gunners mission is to displaying and maintaining the F.A.T. , Limber and the two 25pdr's and assist both the current and future acquisitions of equipment for the Toronto Artillery Foundation and support the 7th Toronto Regiment events as require.

- **Issues**
 - **Awareness** – The LG is aware that our active members are declining through personnel moving away from the GTA, health issues and involvement in other activities. This puts a greater strain on the current active members.
 - **Recruiting Members** – When the Limber Gunners are attending various events we are always approaching interested people to get involved with our organization. We have recruited some members in this manner.
 - When personnel are leaving the Regiment Ron Paterson would like to see the Regiment point the personnel in the LG's direction.
 - **Succession.** The LG does not have anyone in the wings to take over the job of Chairman, Secretary or Treasurer.
 - **Financial.** The Limber Gunners are in good shape financially
 - **Uniforms.** More and better uniforms are required. Anyone who has contacts, contact Ron.
 - **Fundraising Initiative.** The Limber Gunners raise funds to support the equipment maintenance, fuel and insurance and to purchase uniforms. The LG raises funds from membership fees, receiving fees for attending various events, and the selling of Artillery Ball Caps and Golf Shirts. The LG will be looking into ordering spring /fall jackets.
- **Future Recommendations** – The Limber Gunners must deal with two issues ;
 - **Recruiting** – Short Term – encourage the Regiment to initiate a procedure when personnel leave the unit they are encouraged to join the Limber Gunners
 - **Long Term** – run ads in the Legion Magazine for members.
 - **Succession** – Short Term/Long term – the present membership must take on some of the responsibilities of treasurer, secretary and chairman.

7. **Toronto Artillery Foundation, Lt (Retd) Paul Kernohan**

- **Mission.** "The primary purpose of the Foundation is the welfare and support of the 7th Toronto Regiment, RCA." Some of the additional purposes allowed under the Letters Patent are:
 1. Equipping and maintaining the band(s) of the Regiment
 2. Establishing and maintaining a Regimental Museum
 3. Holding property for the use of the Regiment
- **Future.** As regards membership in the Foundation, we would ask you to go to www.torontoartilleryfoundation.ca to ascertain the requirements. The membership is open to all members of the Gunner community, active or retired. As we go forward, in conjunction with the Toronto Gunners, Limber Gunners and the Senate, we will continue to serve the Regiment as called for in our mandate as stated above.

8. **105 Royal Canadian Army Cadet Corps, (Streetsville), Capt Eric Edelward on behalf of Maj Lorraine Van Ooyen**

- **Mission.** WRT this committee, our mission at **105 Royal Canadian Army Cadets** is to foster a strong and proud relationship with our sponsoring unit and all its' affiliated associations and to bring the needs of the cadet program to the

forefront in an effort to allow the sponsoring unit to assist us best while fostering an interest in the Regiment and the affiliated associations.

- **Issues:**
 - Transportation of cadets between the Reg't and Corps continue to be a barrier due to costs. We have rec'd funding for Oct 27th from the Regt with thanks! Going fwd, maybe the 2 units could look at sharing the benefits of a bus contract to lower costs??
 - Looking to secure the Armoury for our Annual Ceremonial Parade (in May or June) as we usually do, but due to PanAm Games, wonder what would be the best date?
 - Recruiting is ongoing as we begin our cadet trg year in Sept. We have enrolled approx 20 new cadets and lost approx 6 senior cadets to University studies. We have a full slate of officers.
 - Succession plan has been on "hold" due to personal issues of incoming officer. CO is on a 1 yr extension while he sorts it out. Possibly may look for an alternate officer to take over. There is a shortage of officers able to take over command in our area. Possibility of recruiting P Res officers to the COATS program?
 - Financial needs continue to challenge us; Tagging is our primary event which was held Sept 27-28 but we only had a 70% turnout overall. We raised \$6,000.00 but fell short of our goal of \$8,000.00. We continue to look at other fundraising opportunities to replace tagging as tagging is not popular among the cadets or staff.
 - Band Officer continues to require music instructor for our Brass Band. Band membership is at 17 cadets.
 - Succession planning an issue.

9. 818 Squadron, Air Cadets, Capt GM Hendel, CD

Captain Hendel provided a thorough overview of 818 Toronto Falcon Squadron, Royal Canadian Air Cadets

- **Mission**
- The aims of the air cadet movement are:
 1. To develop in youth the attributes of good citizenship and leadership;
 2. To promote physical fitness; and
 3. To stimulate an interest in aviation and the air element of the Canadian Forces.

818 Sqn is one of a dozen in Toronto that offer the same mandatory training in citizenship, leadership, athletics and aviation subjects.

- **Strength:** Cadets: 55; Attendance averages 75%. **Staff:** 6 paid slate positions (5 CIC officers & 1 Civilian Instructor); 3 civilian volunteers (used as instructors)
- **Issues:** Recruiting Members; Succession (staff and senior cadets); inconsistent standard of dress and deportment & sense of commitment to activities; cadet demographics such that we experienced a sudden loss of several senior cadets late last year and very capable juniors not technically eligible for promotion; loss of cadet focus on aviation aspect.
- **Intentions to Deal with Issues:** Recent purge of cadets with chronic low attendance; Promising crop of junior cadets being given increased responsibilities. Promoting as fast

as system allows. Increased aviation focus through airport & air traffic control tours, model airplane club, familiarization flying in private aircraft. Maximize staff training opportunities.

10. Major Donna Murakami-Fujimoto, Branch 165 Royal Canadian Legion.

Donna Murakami-Fujimoto gave an overview of Royal Canadian Legion Branch 165. She specifically wished to attract support and membership from 7th Toronto regiment.

- **The mission** of the Royal Canadian Legion is “to serve veterans and their dependants, to promote Remembrance, and to act in the service of Canada and its communities.” In essence, the purposes and objectives of the Legion were born of the need to further the spirit of comradeship and mutual assistance and to never forget the deeds of the fallen. In addition to disabilities caused by war-time service, all armed forces and RCMP members may be eligible for disability pensions or disability awards for disabilities resulting from their service duties at home and abroad. The Legion not only helps claimants through the sometimes daunting maze of legislation and documentation, but represent them at all levels of the process.
- **Advocacy.** The mission of the Royal Canadian Legion is “to serve veterans and their dependants, to promote Remembrance, and to act in the service of Canada and its communities.” In essence, the purposes and objectives of the Legion were born of the need to further the spirit of comradeship and mutual assistance and to never forget the deeds of the fallen. In addition to disabilities caused by war-time service, all armed forces and RCMP members may be eligible for disability pensions or disability awards for disabilities resulting from their service duties at home and abroad. The Legion not only helps claimants through the sometimes daunting maze of legislation and documentation, but represent them at all levels of the process.
- **Benefits.** The Royal Canadian Legion has established, and continues to do so, links with national companies whose products and services meet the needs and interests of RCL members. Every firm selected offers a special or unique benefits that is not normally available to the general public.
- Copies of **membership application forms** were distributed.

11. Reserves 2000, Colonel, Retired, John Selkirk.

Col Selkirk gave an overview of Reserves 2000, their mission and their efforts to support Canada’s Reserve Forces. He was asked about the potential for conflict of interest if a serving Reservist were also a member of Reserves 2000. Chair opined that joining this organization/association is no different than joining a Regimental association, such as the RCAA. Col Selkirk will speak at the next Senate meeting.

12. Round Table:

- **Inventory of Messes.** All were reminded of the need to inventory all items in the Regimental Messes. The volunteer who began the inventory is no longer capable of performing this vital task and new volunteers are sought.
- **LCol (Retd) Jim Brazill.** Jim Brazill was asked to provide an update on the Royal Canadian Artillery Association and more specifically the AGM which was held at St Jean Quebec, 26 to 28 Sep. Details may be found in the next “Take Post.”

- **David Burnett, Garrison Ball.** Proceeding well.
- **LCol (Retd) Colin Mouatt.** LCol Mouatt gave a brief overview on his review of the Regimental Family – particularly “Mission,” communications, perceived roles and responsibilities, and collaborative efforts. The overall observation is that their needs to be greater unity of thought, purpose, intent and effort. To achieve this requires improved communications, cooperation and collaboration. The highest and most urgent priority is a 7th Toronto Website, and improvements to the TG, LG and TAF websites.

13. Concluding Remarks, Hon Col Beno, Chair 7 Tor Senate

The Chair concluded by thanking all for their participation and their support in building a stronger Toronto Artillery Family. He thanked the Regiment and TG, LG and Foundation for support to Brigadier Brown’s funeral. Issues discussed:

- **Take Post.** Next edition to be published 14 November. Articles to be submitted by 7 November.
- **Succession Planning.** Senate members to consider nominations for future Hon Col and Hon LCol.
- **Nominations for Senate Membership.** Two names will be submitted for the next Senate meeting.

14. Follow-Up Issues for Chair 7 Tor Regt Senate

Chair intends to follow up on the following:

- Update and revise the Senate constitution
- Develop a Regimental Family Strategy
- With Hon LCol, look into potential fundraising opportunities
- Improve Regimental Family communications (for example, develop a Regimental Website, tied into the LG, TG and TAF websites)
- Encourage TG, LG and TAF to develop business plans (there will obviously be overlap)
- Get the Regimental Family to post a coordinated-consolidated event calendar
- Reach out to a few potential influential “Friends of the Regiment” in the GTA.
- Look into potential affiliated Regiments in the UK and US, and perhaps Australia.

15. Important Dates

- 09 Nov - Toronto Garrison Gunners Remembrance Sunday Yonge Street March/Church Parade
- 10 Nov - 7 Tor Regt Family Dinner prepared by 7 Tor Band
- 11 Nov - Remembrance Day Salute at Queens Park.
- 21-23 Nov - Ex Cougar Spirit 1. Gun/Mortar Ex at 4 Cdn Div TC Meaford
- 5 Dec - Saint Barbara's Day Dinner
- 8 Dec - 7 Tor Regt Band Christmas Dinner. Sgt and WO's Mess
- 13 Dec - Soldiers Christmas Dinner at MPA
- 21 Dec - 7 Tor Regt Kids Christmas Party
- December - Possible Christmas Concert

- 01 Jan - New Year's Levee/ Breakfast at MPA
- 05 March (TBC) Regimental Wine and Cheese Party
- 28 March Garrison Ball
- TBC – Regimental Officers Function
- On or about 22 May – Artillery Day Dinner

16. Next Senate Meeting: Proposed for December 2014. Agenda to follow. All participants will be asked to provide a brief report.



E.B. Beno, OMM, CD
Brigadier-General, retired
Honorary Colonel, 7 Toronto Regiment, RCA
Chair, 7th Toronto Regiment Senate