



7th Toronto Regiment, Royal Canadian Artillery

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

REGIMENTAL SENATE MEETING, 08 SEPTEMBER, 2015

Present:

- HCol Ernest Beno (Chair)
- HLCol Tom Bitove
- Major Ryan Smid, representing Command Team
- Col Bill Kalogerakis
- LCol Mike Gomes
- LCol (Retd) Jim Brazill
- LCol (retd) Barry Downs
- LCol (Retd) Don MacGillivray
- LCol (Retd) Colin Mouatt
- Capt Eric Laxton - Toronto Artillery Foundation (TAF)
- Capt Paul Thompson – 7th Toronto Regiment 150th
- Lt Nick Arrigo, 7th Tor Band and PMC Officers Mess
- Capt (retd) David Burnett – Toronto Gunners Association (TGA)
- Maj (retd) Ron Paterson – Limber Gunners Association (LGA)
- Lt (retd) Paul Kernohan – Toronto Artillery Foundation (TAF)
- Mr. Chris Gomes (IT Expert)

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

1. **Welcome Remarks** - Hon Col and Hon LCol gave welcoming remarks and updated the Senate on issues of interest. He thanked the Association and Limber Gunners for the BBQ, held to welcome the Regiment back after the summer activities.
2. **Review of Previous Minutes** – Members reviewed the previous minutes and there were no comments.
3. **Command Team Briefing** – Major Smid provided an overview of recent and upcoming activities of the Regiment.
 - Ultra Niagara Marathon. Outstanding performance on the part of 7th Toronto Regiment (Article in Take Post, Edition 6)



- Meaford, 48 Depot Battery. 7th Tor held many of the key positions for the Training Battery at Meaford, led by Maj Smid. Over 100 Arty candidates graduated, with two more courses than the previous year. Half of the Firing Troop came from 7th Tor, as did many course officers, instructors, course programmers and staff.
- Petawawa Ex STALWART GUARDIAN. 12 RCA (two Batteries of four guns each) was formed under the leadership of Major John Stewart. MWO Reyes was RSM. 7th Tor had the highest turnout of any Regiment in 4th Div, including four Majors, several Captains and Lts. Training included live firing, digging in gun positions, dismounted mortars, assault water operations and airmobile operations. 2 RCHA provided outstanding support.
- Weekend exercises throughout September and October, with a live firing exercise the first weekend of October.
- Iron Man – Petawawa, 21-23 Sep. The Regiment will enter a team.
- Saint Barbara’s Day Dinner 28 November and Change of Command Parade from LCol Szabunio to Maj/LCol Smid 29 November.

4. Regimental Family Leadership Meetings

The Hon Col explained that the leadership of the Regiment has been conducting “Regimental Family Leadership” meetings with a view to sharing information and coordinating the many activities of the Regimental Family. Sort of like having an “executive body” of Regimental Senate. This helps fill the gaps between Senate meetings, permitting executive decisions and direction. Minutes are shared with Senate, again with the aim of communications, situation awareness, inclusiveness and coordination. Meeting have been held monthly, face-to-face when possible and/or by conference call. Those who attend are Hon Col, Hon LCol, CO, Regt Maj, Pres Toronto Gunners, RSM and Adjt (for SA)

5. Regimental Family Strategy

Hon Col handed out hard copies of the Regimental Family Strategy of 15 March 2015. He touched on highlights. He asked that copies be passed to all officers, Warrant Officers and Senior NCOs in the Regiment and to all members of Regimental Senate.

He pointed out the purpose of the Strategy: *to provide focus, cohesion, clarity and momentum to the non-operational, non-public initiatives and activities of the regimental Family of 7th Toronto Regiment.*

He emphasized that the Mission of the Regimental Family (led by Senate) is: *to foster a credible, relevant, cohesive and valued 7th Toronto Regiment. The Centre of Gravity is: People – the right numbers of the right people doing the right things for 7th Toronto.*



He also emphasized the typical annual cycle or “battle rhythm” of the Regimental Family, on page 44.

6. Schedule of Major Events for Winter-Spring 2015 – Chair reviewed key dates and activities.

REGIMENTAL CALENDAR	
11 Sep - Articles for Take Post	
11-12 Sep RCAA Ottawa	RCAA Hon Col and others attending
11-12 Sep 56 th Field Regt	CO and RSM attending
11 Sep – Col Hobbs Retirement Dinner	CO attending
19 Sep 15	IBTS Range Day: First Strike - Winona
19-20 Sep 15 - Polish Festival	Participation TBC
21-23 Sep 15 - Ironman Competition	Petawawa
25 Sep CO’s Dinner	Venue to be determined. Guests: Commanding Officer to select
2-4 Oct 15 - Ex Cougar Spirit 1	- Meaford
October – Toronto Artillery Foundation	Date to be Confirmed
23-25 Oct 15 - IBTS Weekend	-Kingston
27 Oct – Canada Company Job Event	Employment Opportunities for our members
4-6 Nov 15 - 32 CBG CAX	
8 Nov – Remembrance Service	Similar format to 2014
11 Nov - Salute, Queen’s Park	
11 Nov - Weston GCC in support of Juno Beach Centre	Volunteers?
11 Nov John McDermott	7 th Toronto Regiment Band
28 Nov (Saturday) CO’s Dine-out/Saint Barbara’s Day Dinner	Format, guests, venue to be decided
29 Nov (Sunday) Change of Command	MPA
4-6 Dec 15	32 CBG CAX
7 December – Band Christmas Party	
12 Dec 15 - Soldiers Christmas Dinner	
19 Dec 15 - Kids Christmas Party	

7. Regimental Family Reports:

Reports were provided by the following:

- a. **Toronto Gunners** – David Burnett provided an update on TG activities. He particularly emphasized the challenges of recruiting new members to the Association and Limber Gunners, however there have been a few new members joining. The TG and LG will hold their meetings together in the future. David also emphasized the need to keep in touch with those unable to attend meetings and events. LCol Don MacGillivray recommended that we maintain closer contact with our aging members.
- b. **Limber Gunners** – Ron Paterson gave an update on recent and proposed events, planned training and search for a Limber and Quad. The LG has been particularly active: 1 July Salute, Warriors Day Parade, Ontario Provincial Police Golf Tournament, Coe Hill



and the BBQ. In the near future: Remembrance Day Service and Salute. Ron also advised on the events of the 100th Anniversary of 9th Battery (1966 – see Take Post 5, page 21) and the 125th. He will relate these matters to Capt Paul Thompson, OPI 150th Anniversary.

- c. **7th Toronto Regiment Band.** Lt Nick Arrigo provided an overview of Band activities. He especially mentioned the significant participation in the Governor Generals band in Ottawa and the great showing of our musicians at courses at CFB Borden. The Band performed for one of the graduation parades at Meaford. In September they will participate in the Tin Hat Veterans Dinner, Oakville, and in November the Remembrance services and Change of Command. Also the John McDermott event, 11 November and the Band Christmas Party 7 December.
 - d. **Toronto Artillery Foundation** – Paul Kernohan provided an update of the TAF. He mentioned two new “Benefactors”: Brigadier Ted Brown and Hon Col of the Army Blake Goldring. Two permanent Members: Catherine Langley-Hope and Howard Ledger. Also, the TAF is awaiting the final numbers from the Toronto Garrison Officers Ball.
 - e. **Information Management Officer** – Not in attendance.
 - f. **105 Royal Canadian Army Cadet Corps** – Not in attendance.
 - g. **818 Royal Canadian Air Cadet Squadron.** Not in attendance.
8. **150th Anniversary Initiative.** OPI will be Capt Paul Thompson. Essentially throughout 2016 the Regiment will follow it’s annual cycle of events and activities with the exception that we may additionally conduct a parade to “Exercise” the Freedom of the City of Toronto. We will “brand” our activities **as our 150th Anniversary**
9. **John McDermott Musical Salute to Veterans – 11 November.** Hon LCol Tom Bitove gave an overview of this event. John McDermott (also sponsored by BMO) is holding a special event in Toronto on the evening of November 11th, 7:30 pm at Koerner Hall. Some of the proceeds going to the Toronto Artillery Foundation. Included will be: Gordon Pinsent • Ashley Macisaac • Louise Pitre • Hedgerow Singers • 7th Toronto Regiment Band • Canadian Children's Opera Company. 7th Toronto Band will play prior to the show and during intermission. OPI is Major John Stewart, assisted by Capt Stewart to arrange invitations, protocol, presentations, marketing, etc. Lt Nick Arrigo is in contact with McDermott’s organization. Hon Col Beno emphasized that the benefactor of proceeds is the Toronto Artillery Foundation, not the Regiment, not the soldiers, not the Band members.
10. **7th Toronto and TG/LG/TAF Website.** Chris Gomes graciously conducted a thorough review of the websites of 7th Toronto Regiment, revealing several shortcomings. He provided Regimental Senate with a report of his findings and gave recommendations. He has volunteered to support the Regimental Family in the websites and related social media initiatives. Adjt and IMO to take the lead to develop a plan. Major Smid will investigate and give direction, now that he is 2 I/C.



11. **“Take Post” Report** – Hon Col provided an overview of Take Post and the need to encourage all ranks and the wider Family to participate, send in articles and photos, and share activities and experiences. Articles due 11 Sep. Take Post does get wide distribution throughout the RCA. Maj Smid thanked all, and looks forward to future issues.

12. **Report from Hon Col.** Hon Col spoke on the following:
 - a. RCA / RCAA Newsletter – web connection Re
 - b. Regimental Family Survey
 - c. Band Uniforms/Ceremonial Uniforms
 - d. Recruiting initiatives – Discussed at Honorary Conference
 - e. Vimy 2017 – Gunners Return to Vimy, 1 to 10 April 2017. Trip will be Artillery focused: Normandy, Dieppe, Passchendale, Ypres, Artillery Memorial Thelus, Vimy, Beaumont Hamel and Hill 70. Cost about \$4,000/person. Deposit in October of \$500/person. We subsidize five from 7th Tor.
 - f. Toronto Garrison Officers Ball SITREP – The Regiment will benefit from sponsorships, details to follow.
 - g. C1 Howitzer as a monument – the howitzer is in excellent condition at MPA. Arrangements for placing it in front of the Armoury and dedication to follow. Limber Gunners to sand-blast and paint other guns on display. Adj, Trg WO, RSM and LG to coordinate.

13. **Round Table/New Business.** Open discussion. No major issues. Colin Mouatt writing the history of the Toronto Gunners in WWI. Barry Downs congratulated all on excellent turnout of former Commanding Officers.

14. **Concluding Remarks** – Hon Col and Hon LCol provided concluding remarks. The meeting concluded at 19:45 hrs.

Signed
Ernest B Beno
BGen Retired
Hon Col
9 Sep, 2015