



7th Toronto Regiment, Royal Canadian Artillery

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

REGIMENTAL SENATE MEETING, 25 January, 2016

Present:

- HCol Ernest Beno (Chair)
- LCol Ryan Smid, Commanding Officer, 7th Toronto Regiment
- MWO Mardie Reyes, RSM 7th Toronto Regiment
- Col Bill Kalogerakis
- Col (Retd) Colin Jim Hubel
- LCol Mike Gomes
- LCol (Retd) Jim Brazill
- LCol (Retd) Barry Downs
- LCol (Retd) Don MacGillivray (By Phone)
- LCol (Retd) Bryan Sherman (By Phone)
- Major John Stewart, Regimental Major
- Lt Nick Arrigo, 7th Tor Band and PMC Officers Mess
- Capt (Retd) David Burnett – Toronto Gunners (TG)
- Maj (Retd) Ron Paterson – Limber Gunners (LG)
- Lt (Retd) Paul Kernohan – Toronto Artillery Foundation (TAF)
- Capt Garry Hendel, CO 818 Air Cadet Squadron
- Mrs Patricia Geoffrey, IODE
- Tony Keenan (Honorary Trustee of the Foundation – Observer)

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

1. **Welcome Remarks** – Chairman, Hon Col Beno gave welcoming remarks and updated the Senate on issues of interest. He thanked the Regimental Family for their continuous support to the soldiers of 7th Toronto Regiment. Hon Col welcomed the IODE (Imperial Order of Daughters of the Empire) UBIQUE Chapter to the Regimental Family. He welcomed those on the phone on conference call – something we’ll use more in the future. He reminded all that he wishes to keep discussions at the higher (Regimental strategic) level, but it is equally important that we share information and collaborate. So, the aim is not just to share info, but it is to coordinate and collaborate, and make decisions on those matters of significant importance to the Regimental Family as a whole. Communicate, Facilitate, Collaborate and Celebrate.

He reminded all of the purpose of the Senate (See PPT Deck, attached):

- Act as an advisory body to the Commanding Officer;
- Assist the Commanding Officer in all matters concerning the welfare of 7th Toronto;



- Advance the welfare 7th Toronto;
 - Assist with the sponsorship of the Cadet Corps, if so requested by the Commanding Officer;
 - To deal with such matters as may be referred to it from time to time by the Commanding Officer; and,
 - Help nurture the Royal Regiment of Canadian Artillery, and as a family to connect with Canadians, safeguard our artillery and foster interest in the military history of 7th Toronto.
- Hon Col gave an overview of the Toronto Artillery website www.torontogunners.ca.

Hon Col reminded all 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.

Hon Col then gave a review of the Regimental Family and the governance of the Regimental Family, making special note of the importance of respecting the chain of command and separating operational issues from Regimental Family (non-public) issues. He discussed the recent initiatives with the Foundation and membership and activities of the Fundraising Committee. See slides, attached.

2. **Review of Previous Minutes** – Members had reviewed the previous minutes and there were no comments.
3. **Command Team Briefing** – LCol Smid provided an overview of recent and upcoming activities of the Regiment, as follows:
 - **Regimental Overview**
 - **Regimental state:** Strength – 208, 12 at Battle School, 9 Op Provision (Syria Refugees Assistance), Maj Scott Graham deployed, 5 or 6 on Class B. Approximately 40 away at any time. Regiment is in good shape with five Majors and a nearly complete complement of officer, qualified Captains, and a strong NCO cadre.



- **Training Schedule**
 - 8 Feb IODE Bestowal Ceremony at MPA
 - 19-21 Feb Battery Live Fire ex
 - 18-20 March Regimental Ex with 56 Field Regt (Including CFLC Executrek)
 - 8-10 April Territorial Battle Group Exercise
 - 23 May Victoria Day – Salute, followed by Family Day and Regimental Stand-down for the Summer. IODE will support, and employers welcomed. Also an opportunity for Friend Raising.

- **Ceremonial Band Uniforms:** CO is confident that DND will pay for 25 Ceremonial Band uniforms. Staffing this issue continues. May not happen this Fiscal Year. CO continues to work with Brigade, Division and Army staff.

- **Annual Social Cycle.** CO would like us to have an Annual Social Cycle, coordinated with the Training Cycle. He explained what would be typical events/activities.

- **Exercising Freedom of City/150th Anniversary.** The Regiment will mark the 150th Anniversary of 9th Battery by exercising the Freedom of the City and dedicating a 105mm C1 How in September. The parade and dedication will be followed by a reception. Again, an opportunity for families and Friend Raising.

- **Honorary Recommendations.** CO explained his concept of Honoraries and how he would see succession planning in the future. He and the Hon Col have considered many names and options. He pointed out the desire for a balance of military/ Regimental experience and business community/networking capacity. Having considered many options he is recommending Mr Mark Clearihue as Honorary Lieutenant Colonel, and henceforth will consider him the “Hon LCol Designate.” He is recommending LCol (Retd) Barry Downs and the next Hon Col, to replace BGen (Retd) Beno in spring 2017. In the future he would see us continue a balance with military and business experience, noting the considerable talent of former Commanding Officers, several of whom could be future Honoraries.

- **Social Events.** Commanding Officer stated his preference for a social event every three months or so. He and Hon Col proposed a Regimental Dance (not a formal “Ball”) for Saint Barbara’s Day, to be inclusive and for variety this year, instead of the traditional Officer-Sr NCO Dinner. And separately hold Officers’ Mess Dinners and Sr NCO Dinners. Much animated discussion followed, with some opting for a “Dance” in September tied to the Freedom of the City, and then the traditional St Barbara’s Day dinner. Commanding Officer and Hon Col will consider options. Hon Col asked that whatever the decision that all members of the Senate support the CO and encourage others to get on board, become engaged and participate – and enjoy themselves and Regimental life.

- **Conclusion.** CO thanked Regimental Senate for their enthusiasm and support.



4. Schedule of Major Events for Winter-Spring 2016

| REGIMENTAL CALENDAR | |
|----------------------------|--|
| 30 January | 7 th Toronto Regiment Band - 2:00pm concert. Copernicus Lodge, 66 Roncesvalles Ave, Toronto |
| 8 February | IODE Bestowal Parade |
| 15 February | 818 Squadron (Ontario Family Day) will be a "Pot Luck" dinner |
| 19 to 21 February | Exercise Cold Start, Meaford – Live Fire, Battery Level |
| 27 February | The Junior Ranks Dinner. It will be held at 6345 Dixie Rd., Mississauga. The cocktail hour is at 1800 and the dinner will begin at 1900. OPI Bdr Allen Noh |
| 18-20 March | Exercise Black Hand/Coop Gunner, Meaford, Regimental Live Fire with 56 Field Regt |
| 23 May | Victoria Day Salute |
| 23 May | Regimental Stand-Down for Summer, and Family Day |
| 28 May | Two Centuries of Firepower, Fort York |
| 28 May | Limber Gunners, Oshawa Military Equipment Demo |
| Late May | Artillery Day Activities/Mess Dinners, to be determined |
| 30 May | 818 Squadron Change of Command |
| 6 June | 818 Squadron Royal Canadian Air Force Cadets Annual Inspection |
| June to August | Summer Training |
| August | Exercise |
| September | Regimental BBQ, Welcome Back |
| September | Regiment exercises Freedom of the City of Toronto – Celebrate 150 th Anniversary of 9 th Battery, CFA |
| September | Gun Dedication and Family Day (Possible Regimental Dance) |
| Late Sep-Early Oct | John McDermott Concert with Toronto Artillery Foundation Concert Band |
| 6 November | Regimental Remembrance Church Service |
| 11 November | Remembrance Day |
| December | Saint Barbara's Day Activities and Events |
| | |

5. Regimental Family Reports:

Reports were provided by the following:

- a. **Toronto Gunners** – Capt (Retd) David Burnett
 - Will soon be sending out the Annual Call for Dues payment. It will go out electronically, followed up by hard copy reminder for those who have not responded.
 - TG and Limber Gunner monthly meetings are now combined.

- b. **Limber Gunners** – Maj (Retd) Ron Paterson
 - Would like to establish a date for Cadets to have a familiarization visit, perhaps in April.



- Will participate in a memorial service for John Bremner, Korea Vet, formerly 42nd Medium Regiment, 21 February
 - Police Service Ceremony, 1 May
 - Gun for Garrison Ball, to be confirmed
 - 23 May – Victoria Day Salute – two guns
 - 28 May – will have a gun at the Two Centuries of Firepower event (Fort York – coordinated with Maj John Stewart) and a gun, quad and limber at the Oshawa Military Museum combined arms demo
 - Would like to put on a “Black Powder Demo” for the Regiment with muskets and antique muzzle loaders.
- c. **7th Toronto Regiment Band** – Lt Nick Arrigo
- Provided an overview of major Band engagements over the coming months. The Band is in fine form!
 - Band Concert. 30 January. Copernicus Lodge, 66 Roncesvalles Ave, Toronto. 2:00pm concert.
- d. **Toronto Artillery Foundation** – Lt (Retd) Paul Kernohan
- Provided an overview of the re-invigoration and transformation of the Foundation.
 - Honorary Colonel Annual Appeal letter brought in over \$6,000. Thanks to all donors for their generosity.
 - There are more frequent meetings of the Trustees.
 - Fund Raising Committee has been formed and they have met twice.
 - Executive Committee of Chairman, Vice Chair, Secretary and Treasurer has been formed.
 - Captain Eric Laxton, Assistant Secretary, has been doing great work to bring the Foundation into the modern era and ensuring that all legal and regulatory requirements and obligations are being met.
- e. **Information Management Officer** – Not present. Hon Col covered these issues.
- f. **105 Royal Canadian Army Cadet Corps** – Not present
- g. **818 Royal Canadian Air Cadet Squadron** – Capt Garry Hendell
- The Squadron has 55 Cadets, of which 40-45 turn up regularly
 - They had successful Remembrance Day services (helping at Queen’s Park) and Christmas Dinner.
 - 15 February (Ontario Family Day) will be a “Pot Luck” dinner, with a variety of cultural meals. All are welcome.
 - Upcoming training will include winter training, Rifle Competition and hopefully familiarization flights with a civilian flying club



- Captain Hendel's Change of Command, after three years, will be 30 May
- Annual Inspection to be 6 June.

- h. **UBIQUE Chapter IODE** – Patricia Geoffrey
- Imperial Order of the Daughters of the Empire has only two Chapters affiliated to Regiments, the 48th Highlanders and 7th Toronto.
 - Raison d'être is community service – engaging with the community and letting the community know that they and 7th Tor exist. And, serving the Regimental Family.
 - Membership is growing and fund-raising activities have commenced.
 - "Bestowal Parade" will be 8th February. The Ontario and National Presidents will be participating. All are welcomed to attend and take part in the ceremony.
6. **150th Anniversary Initiative.** OPI will be Capt Paul Thompson. Essentially throughout 2016 the Regiment will follow its 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
7. **John McDermott Musical Concert.** Maj John Stewart, Regt Maj, gave an overview of the John McDermott proposed concert. To be conducted late September or early October (before Thanksgiving and leading up to the "Remembrance" period). The Foundation Band will play a central role, and there will be additional entertainment. Venue will probably be a famous Toronto Church. Revenues will be for the Foundation. OPI former Hon LCol Bitove, supported by Maj Stewart.
8. **7th Toronto and TG/LG/TAF Website www.torontogunners.ca** . Website format will be changed to an Umbrella website that will be owned by the FIF under guidance of the Senate acting through the IMO. Right now, it has been updated with "roughed in" pull downs. OPI is Capt Thompson, IMO.

The following Stakeholders from the Regimental Family should be included.

- Active Regiment
- The Band
- The Toronto Gunners
- The Limber Gunners
- The Toronto Artillery Foundation
- 105 RCAC and 818 Sq RCAC
- IODE

Other pages will include:

- Regimental Senate: History, Charter, Membership, Achievements, Regimental Family Strategy
- History 7th Toronto and the Gunners of Toronto



- Regimental Family Calendar, and Notices
- Take Post – The Regimental Newsletter
- Distinguished Toronto Gunners
- Past Honoraries, Commanding Officers and RSMs

Each sub-organization of the regiment will need to produce its own content

- About (including leadership and organization details)
- Our Mission
- What we do.
- How to Join/Contacts
- Donation contacts (if applicable)
- Calendar of events
- Major past events
- Gallery of photos

All of these can be updated through the IMO if needed, at any time.

All other Assoc websites should be deemed obsolete after this is produced. Migrating old websites to the new one is not an option, and we need to start over in that regard. Senate will instruct all other websites using the 7 Tor pedigree to be shut down at a date TBD. Hosting/updating and accounts payable are still being sorted out. It is requested that feedback be returned to Capt Paul Thompson by 15 Feb 2016.

Chris Gomes has opened a Twitter and YouTube account that we will be able to access and will be linked to the website once we develop a "Links" tab on the site.

We have an active and fairly good unofficial Facebook page called the "Black Hand". All generations of 7 Tor and friends seem to be part of it, maybe younger guys are not fully engaged. Some Senate members follow and post on the page. It will be linked to the website as well. We need to monitor the website for appropriate content etc so making it public may not be reasonable.

- 9. "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 in March. Take Post does get wide distribution throughout the RCA.

10. Toronto Artillery Foundation – Hon Col reported on the following:

- a. Revitalization and transformation of the Foundation
- b. Trustees – 13 (five ex-officio) and a number of Honorary Trustees
- c. Business Plan
- d. Executive Committee
- e. Communications Committee
- f. Investment Committee
- g. Fundraising Committee
- h. Fundraising Cycle



- i. Near and long-term Budget
- j. Fundraising strategy and initiatives

11. Report from Hon Col. Hon Col spoke on the following:

- a. RCA / RCAA Newsletter – web connection reminder for all to join. Very important to the RCA as a whole.
- b. Band Uniforms/Ceremonial Uniforms – There was discussion about whether the “Foundation Band” should be a Foundation Concert Band, and wear “Blues and Greys” or the “Concert Band uniform” they currently have. The Band should set up a Foundation Concert Band bank account, separate from the 7th Toronto Regiment, RCA Band.
- c. Vimy 2017 – Gunners Return to Vimy, 1 to 10 April 2017. Trip will be Artillery focused: Normandy, Dieppe, Passchendale, Ypres, Artillery Memorial Thélus, Vimy, Beaumont Hamel and Hill 70. Cost about \$4,000/person. Deposit in October of \$500/person. We subsidize five from 7th Tor.
- d. Take Post – no issues. To continue “as is.”
- e. 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. Adjt, Trg WO, RSM and LG to coordinate.
- f. Notices to Legions, ANAF Clubs and Commissionaires. See the attached PPT. We are aiming to reach out to Legions and others in the GTA (audience of 30,000 to 40,000). Hon Col explained.

12. Round Table/New Business. Open discussion.

- a. LCol Retd Downs – mentioned that there were seven former Commanding Officers participating in this Senate meeting – a very important measure of the interest in and support to the regiment.
- b. LCol Gomes offered that Chris Gomes has established a Twitter account for the Regimental Family - @7torreg. Also is setting up a Youtube account. The Regiment has a Facebook account.
- c. LCol Gomes will continue developing a concept for a Spring Ball in 2017.
- d. LCol Gomes will explore opportunities for fundraising via crowd-funding.
- e. Col Hubel expressed his pleasure in being part of the Senate and able to participate.

13. Concluding Remarks – Hon Col provided concluding remarks. Mentioned the importance of having and employing modern technology to support Senate meetings, including the Conference Call capacity. He urged all to become engaged, even if they could not be present. He thanked all for their support and enthusiasm. The meeting concluded at 21:00 hrs.

Signed

Ernest B Beno

BGen Retired

Hon Col

26 January, 2016