

7th Toronto Regiment Regimental Family Leadership Meeting, 18 June 2015

A meeting of the 7th Toronto Regiment Regimental Family Leadership was held on Thursday, 18 June, 2015. The following were in attendance:

- Honorary Colonel EB Beno
- Hon LCol Tom Bitove
- LCol (Retd) Barry Downs
- Maj John Stewart, Regimental Major

The following were not available: LCol Szabunio, Major Smid, MWO Reyes, Capt David Burnett

Aim: The aim of the meeting was to review, discuss and give direction to a number of issues within the 7th Tor Regimental Family.

Discussion Points:

1. **Regimental Family Strategy.** The Family Strategy was reviewed. It was agreed that it should be reproduced in booklet form and distributed to all Officers, WOs and Sr NCOs in the Regiment. David Burnett and Paul Kernohan will look into publication/dissemination.
2. **Toronto Garrison Officers Ball.**
 - a. An After Action Review was conducted. All matters have been put to bed. The TGOB was deemed a great success.
 - b. The Regiment ensured that the next unit to run the TGOB (Signals Squadron) had \$5,000 in the account – but apparently it was tradition to leave \$10K in the account – but GGHG only left \$5K. We need to discuss.
 - c. Approximately \$20,000 was earned for the Toronto Artillery Foundation (some yet to be collected). Distribution of funds to the Foundation and to the Regiment to be determined.
 - d. Donors are to be provided the pewter replica 25 Ponders as a symbol of thanks and appreciation – Maj Stewart and Paul Kernohan to confirm the status. Maj Stewart and Hon LCol Bitove to manage presentations to donors.
 - e. There was some discussion re wine and beer donations/subsidization, however it was agreed that this issue would not be pursued further.
3. **Two Centuries of Firepower.**
 - a. Maj Stewart gave an AAR and Lessons Learned. Approximately 1,300 people attended. The Regiment, 2RCHA and Fort York did a great job. Two “salutes” were fired, supported by a trumpet call and music from the band. The day was deemed to be a great success.
 - b. It was agreed that the Regiment would continue the relationship with Fort York, conduct such an event annually and explore ways to ensure exposure of 7th Toronto Gunners to the wealth of artillery history. At a cost of \$250.00 per year, "Patron" status is granted.

It is recommended that the Regiment itself and each of the Honoraries be Patrons of the Fort.

- c. Our aim, in the future, is to attract a lot more positive attention and support from the CTA community.
4. **150th Anniversary 7th Toronto Regiment, RCA.** It was agreed that the Regiment capitalize on the upcoming 150th anniversary of 7th Toronto Regiment (and its predecessors) throughout 2016. The following issues were discussed.
- a. Leadership and 150th Committee. Major Stewart and CO to select a leader and committee to coordinate events. Seeking volunteers! Hon Col will mentor the Committee.
 - b. Events might include: Kick-off in January, Two Centuries of Firepower in May, Freedom of City of Toronto in Spring, Family/Employer Day in September, Saint Barbara's Day.
 - c. Postage stamp, Regimental beer or wine, other commemorative initiatives were discussed. Great Lakes Brewery is know to the HLCol and should be approached on this.
 - d. Communications – internally in DND, the Brigade and the Regimental Family, and externally in the GTA, will be a paramount issue.
 - e. There has been some discussion that the current 7th Toronto Regiment, RCA, may be 75 in 2017 – if that is the case (to be confirmed by LCol Mouatt and Col Brian MacDonald), then in 2017 we'd mark that anniversary during a parade night or Mess Dinner, because the major 2017 event will be the 100th Anniversary of Vimy Ridge.
5. **Artillery Ball 2017.** LCol Mike Gomes will take the lead. More to follow.
6. **Website improvements.** Regimental Major to review the website and explore means to improve it. Also, we will ask LCol Gomes brother, who specializes in this field, to assist.
7. **Toronto Artillery Foundation.**
- a. We briefly discussed the TAF meeting of 11 June – minutes have been disseminated.
 - b. Three items of business outstanding were Business Plan development (Barry Downs to speak to LCol Colin Mouatt), an outline of duties and responsibilities (Hon Col top draft) and TAF website (LCol Gomes' brother to assist).
8. **Guns in front of Armoury, and 105 mm C1.** It is vital that our guns in front of MPA be sand-blasted and painted. These are our colours!!! Hon Col will see if Toronto Gunners/Limber Gunners can help. Adjt and RSM to see what Base can do. A C1 How will apparently be available in the fall. Capt David Burnett will get an estimate of costs, then we'll decide how to proceed.
9. **Woodbine Race Day.** Capt David Burnett has disseminated info on 8th Annual Toronto Gunners Exercise Homestretch, SATURDAY, JUNE 27, 2015.

10. **Supporters of the Regiment.** Several names came up as potential supporters of the Regiment, such as: Mr. Mark Clearihue, Richard Currie, Arthur Lee, Bill Blair, others. All members of the Regimental Family should be continuously scouting for and recruiting supporters. LCol Downs to explore attracting specific groups such as Professional Engineers who have St. Barbara as their patron saint.
11. **Potential Honoraries.** To be discussed at the next Regimental Senate meeting. We need to plan for succession. Attracting trustees who are able to provide meaningful support to the Foundation and also become part of a potential Honorary pool to be explored.
12. **Order of Saint Barbara.** It was proposed that it would be a great initiative for 7th Toronto Regiment to create an "Order of Saint Barbara," to be awarded to a select group of members of the Regimental Family. The "Order" could only be worn at 7th Tor Regimental functions. We will reflect on the proposal for a few weeks and then decide. Hon Col will discuss with the Colonel Commandant.
13. **Fund Raising.** We briefly discussed fundraising initiatives and strategy. More to follow. But, there is no doubt that a deliberate strategy is essential. Hon LCol Tom Bitove to take the lead. Foundation membership to be a considered element.
14. **Regimental Opinion Survey.** Honorary Colonel will initiate a survey of Regimental Family matters in the fall, perhaps utilizing "Survey Monkey."
15. **Vimy 2017.**
 - a. This will be a major RCA-wide initiative for approximately 100 people to do battlefield tours and participate in the Vimy Ridge 100th Anniversary events in 2017. The Regiment intends to sponsor five members of the Regiment, at approximately \$4,000 each. Total \$20,000. Hon Col will develop this initiative within 7th Tor.
 - b. It has been suggested that the Regimental Family (Officers Mess and WO/Sgts Mess) collectively raise funds for this event.
 - c. It will be expected that individuals be prepared to cover a proportion of their trip (for example – 20 per cent)
16. **McCrae Statue Unveiling, Guelph.**
 - a. To take place in Guelph on 25 June.
 - b. Hon Col and Major Stewart will investigate if 7th Toronto Regimental Family warrant a McCrae statuette.
17. **Bronze Figures.** Major Stewart will explore the procurement of bronze figurines from a UK company. Figures are approximately 15 inches tall and cost \$200-\$225. More to follow.

18. **Painting of Captain General, with Diamond Jubilee Brooch.** Major Stewart will explore the development of a painting of Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II, Captain General RCA, wearing the RCA Diamond Jubilee brooch, produced in Toronto. More to follow.
19. **Prominent Toronto Gunners** – LCol Downs has developed a list of prominent Toronto Gunners. Major Stewart will assign Junior Officers or Sr NCOs the responsibility to research these Gunners and develop storylines to place on our website.
20. **Employers/Sponsors Event.** Perhaps invite employers and sponsors to the Regimental Family Day in Meaford annually.
21. **Feedback from Arty Senate** – John Stewart gave an overview of key discussion points at the RCA Arty Senate, 16 June.
22. **July 1st Salute. Canada Day/Dominion Day Salute on 1 July.** Limber Gunners to participate.
23. **Visit to Meaford.** Hon Col, Hon LCol and Regt Maj to explore dates to visit this summer.
24. **Relationship with RCMI.**
 - a. Hon Col discussed the need to introduce Junior Officers to the RCMI, particularly at the annual “Reserves Night” dinner. They will be the leaders of the RCMI in 20 years! They need to be associated now.
 - b. Capt David Burnett to review past practices and see if it is possible to have a “unit membership” which would cover Junior Officers. He will discuss with Pres RCMI and Past Pres.
25. **Commanding Officers Dining In.** The CO wishes to have a CO’s Dining-in for Regimental Officers/WOs/Sr NCOs, and it was suggested that such might be appropriate at Fort York, in the early fall.
26. **Round Table** – We discussed: How’s It Going? How can it be improved?
 - a. **The Regiment** – Ops, Training, Equipment, Strength – The Regiment is reaching a “culmination point” and we may need to re-set the tempo in the coming months-year.
 - b. **Our Soldiers and families.** They are tremendously busy, but doing well.
 - c. **Junior Officers.** We discussed how they can become more engaged. They are great from an operational perspective and Regimental Family perspective – and they are the future of our TG, LG and TAF, etc. A senior Subaltern role must be developed and one must be appointed by September.
 - d. **Regimental outreach.** Continue expanding our Regimental Family – i.e., bring back former members and attract new members. Reach out to employers.
 - e. **Band.** We discussed concepts for generating funds for ceremonial uniforms.
 - f. **TAF.** Discussed above.

- g. **TG.** We need to continue recruiting from within and outside the Regiment.
 - h. **Limber Gunners.** We discussed activities, Battle Dress Uniforms, Limber. Also the need to continue to recruit new members. Regt Maj will appoint a subaltern as the LG Liaison Officer (much as we have a Cadet LO).
 - i. **Army Cadets.** TAF should consider a bursary program
 - j. **Air Cadets.** We need to confirm our official responsibilities to 818 Squadron and re-confirm our support to the Cadets. We need to learn what the RCAF Association does and does not do for 818 Sqn, and support them within our means.
27. **Take Post** – Feedback. Next Edition in early July. Articles from CO/RSM, Maj Ryan Smid re Meaford, WO Morningstar, Bdr Tenzin re Nepal deployment. Others? Articles due 10 July 2015.
28. **Next Senate Meeting** – Proposed for early September (14th Sep?)

ADDITIONAL ISSUES

1. **Remembrance Day Church Parade.** The Regiment will consider a new format and venue. Suggestions were: a location closer to MPA, an outdoor memorial event (in addition to service), invite not just the Regiment, but the regimental Family and general public, multi-denominational. Maj Stewart to investigate and develop a plan, with CO's concurrence.
2. **UK Affiliated Regiment.** Hon Col to investigate and develop a plan.
3. **US Affiliated Regiment.** Hon Col, LCol Downs and Maj Stewart to investigate and develop a plan.
4. **Bursaries for Army and Air Cadets.** Maj Stewart to review the potential of such.
5. **Affiliation with Professional Associations.** LCol Downs to explore possible relationships with major professional associations, such as mining, engineering, exploration – who incidentally would share Saint Barbara as the patron Saint.
6. **Display Cases in Officers Mess.** The Officers Mess needs new and improved display cases to house our memorabilia. We need to investigate ways of designing and paying for such display cases. Any volunteers to design or donate???
7. **Itemizing and Control of Non Public Property.** The Regiments NPP needs to be itemized, recorded and properly cared for. We need a plan to do this. Any volunteers? Can we pay someone (some folks) to do this?
8. **Annual Meeting of the Regimental Family.** Perhaps a "Town Hall" meeting, perhaps tied in with Family Day. Concept to be developed by Maj Stewart, for consideration.

7th Toronto Regiment Regimental Family Leadership Meeting , 05 May 2015

1. Regimental Calendar and Op Tempo update – CO
2. Toronto Garrison Officers Ball – After Action Feedback – Regt Maj and Pres TG
3. Two Centuries of Firepower, 23 May – Regt Maj
 - a. Concept
 - b. Format
 - c. Guest of Honour
 - d. Special Invitations (Brigade, Div, Senior Gunners, Businesses/sponsors)
 - e. Advertising/marketing
 - f. How the Regt benefits?
4. Artillery Day Mess Dinner, 30 May – Pres TG
 - a. Format
 - b. Guest of Honour – Hon Col of Army, Blake Goldring
 - c. Invitations
5. Take Post Edition 5 – Hon Col
 - a. Article from CO re Ex Black Hand
 - b. Article from Maj Smid re Liberation of NL
 - c. BGen Turner article
 - d. Band, Cadets, TG, TAFD, LG, etc
 - e. Part 2 Orders and Calendar (Adjt)
 - f. Others?
6. Hyena Road
7. Operational Pause/Slowdown – Fall 2015
8. 150th Anniversary of 7th Toronto Regiment
 - a. Concept
 - b. Scope
 - c. Planning Committee
9. Vimy 2017
10. Next Senate Meeting – Hon Col
11. Next Foundation Meeting – Hon Col
 - a. Duties/Responsibilities
 - b. Business Plan for 2016
 - c. Fundraising Committee – Hon LCol
12. Lt Col John McCrae Statue unveiling, 2 and 3 May – Hon Col
13. Honours and Awards – All
14. Sergeant of the Year Submission - CO
15. Other Business

7th Toronto Regiment Regimental Family Leadership Meeting , 15 May 2015

- **Garrison Ball Sponsor Letters of Gratitude:** ADJT – please coord with Maj Stewart for draft text. Please prepare as demi-official letter (same template as for Garrison Ball letters to families);
- **Upcoming Social/Representational Events:** ADJT – in concert with the R/Maj, 2IC, and the list of letters/emails I gave you on Mon night, please develop an event matrix and who is representing us for the next 4-6 months of events that we know are coming up. i.e. who is the OPI and/or Unit Rep, etc. It needs to include the SNCOs. E.g.
 - Cadet Summer Stand-down Parades
 - McRae Statue Unveiling in Guelph in June
 - Arty Day Mess Dinner
 - Two Centuries of Firepower
 - Etc. etc.
- **Sept Gun Dedication /Employer Recognition /Garrison Ball Sponsor Recognition – Maj Stewart plan?**
- **Garrison Ball Post-Mortem:** Maj Stewart with CO and Honoraries, including cost-impact of Hockey for Heroes
- **Two Centuries of Firepower:** AdjT- please reach out direct to Maj Stewart for supplemental details:
 - Maj Stewart is reaching out to CO 2 RCHA but we need to close loops from our side;
 - AdjT- Can we gain support form 32 CBG PAO?
- **Arty Day Dinner 2015, Saturday 30 May:**
 - HLCol and 2IC will BPT represent the HCol and CO in the absence of the latter two. CO's attendance will be a last-minute call;
 - Event is being run/organised by TGA/LGA
- **150th Anniversary of 7 TOR in May 2016:**
 - OPS/ADJT - STAFFCHECK Freedom of the City in May 2016?
 - Lt Nick Arrigo as OPI (trial balloon) to lead the planning committee (under guidance/support of Unit Ops and others)?
- **VIMY 2017:**
 - Would like to send 5x soldiers (sponsored) to go. Will need to devise fundraising ideas
- **Next Senate Meeting – Later in Summer**
- **High Readiness Fanout List – ADJT/OPS:** Needs to be dusted off in anticipation of PANAM Games. As Bdr Tenzin proved, this list needs to be kept current.
- **Band Uniform Project – Sponsorships for one person to buy one uniform for one specific person (connect donor to recipient)**