

More "Thanks to:"

Bob Bertuzzi: " Peter Van Gestel came to the Guards Band in 1961, via the Phillips Factory Band in Holland. He was enrolled there as an apprentice musician and played alongside his father. In November, 1968, Peter was transferred to the Vimy Band, (Air Transport Command Band) in Kingston, Ontario, and remained there until 1994. With the Vimy Band he had the opportunity to perform in Europe on four different occasions. A highlight of his career came in 1967 as the Guards Band traveled across Canada to every Provincial Capital where they, and The Regiment, performed a "Trooping the Colours Ceremony". In Halifax, Peter remembers, the Major in charge (no names, no pack drill) remembered the colours but forgot the (Canadian) flag.

The band performed at the Seattle World's Fair in 1962. There, two bands were asked to play 'O Canada' at the beginning and 'The Queen' at the end. At the beginning, however, one band played 'O Canada' and the other 'The Queen'.... Talk about dissonance! Stan Kenton's (jazz) band was also playing at the Fair and Director of Music Charlie Adams was listening backstage and afterwards talked with Stan. Apparently he asked him, " How do you trade-test your musicians?"

After 33 years in the Military, Peter retired and now lives with his wife and family in Erinville, Ontario, where he plays in a Dixieland band called "The Sounds of Jazz". He likes to keep in touch with with former Guard's Band members Fred Leadston and Doug Brookes."

Roger Rowley: Many thanks for passing on your father's papers. He was an integral part of The Regiment and he handled the "demise" with the graciousness and good humour for which he was famous. We all learned great lessons from him especially, " We are all Guardsmen in the finest company of soldiers in the world." *And he was the finest of us all.*

Jim Milne: Jim is a former Director of Music and, with the likes of Bob Bertuzzi, keeps us up to date with things musical. Did you know that one of the band members, a certain BSSgt "Art" Very, had composed music and lyrics for a song entitled "Guardsmen of Canada"? No? Well, Jim did and he was writing to correct the Guards History (page 98, para 4) in which the composer is incorrectly identified as Bsgt "Yogi" Russell.

Perhaps we could persuade Jim to send a copy to the webmaster so we all could see it?

Connie Rogers: Connie is the widow of Les Rogers, long-time QM of the 1st Battalion. She lives quietly near Stouffville, Ontario, and keeps up with her Guards Family through this newsletter. *And you are indeed, Connie, a full member of the Guards Family. We send you our warmest regards and wish you many more years and many more issues of this newsletter.*

....*And more "Thanks to"*.

Vic Tweedy and Roger St. Jean: You are both commended for your comments and suggestions regarding a 'final hurrah' and/or the 50th Anniversary of the first Guard Mount. All suggestions from members were well considered at both the Director's meeting and the AGM. However, a big "last hurrah!" or restaging the Mounting of the Guard with original cast is not in the cards. In the summer of 2009, we hope to make the most of 50th Anniversary in conjunction with the Ceremonial Guard, including, perhaps, recognition that 2009 is also the 40th Anniversary year for the Association itself. This is all in the planning stage at the moment, there are no stone tablets coming down from the mountain and nothing is as yet cast in concrete. (to coin a couple of phrases.) Some great philosopher once opined that, " Patience is a virtue", and so we ask all members to exercise that 'virtue' regarding events in 2009. *But don't stop suggesting stuff!*

John Bishop: Thanks for the Birthday wishes and the reminiscences. It must have been a huge culture shock to go from war-torn Korea to the boonies of Camp Petawawa and to be re-badged from PPCLI (the Presidential Citation battalion) to the newly-formed Guards. But you not only survived the transition, you thrived in your new Regiment. The reverse transition, in a bunker in Vietnam, must have been a bit of rude 'homecoming' as well. Thanks for letting us use the Korean Veteran's Monument piece and good luck with your trip to "OZ" in 2008.

Marion Reid: It was great to hear your voice and know that you are bearing up well after Bill's demise. Your donation to St. Michael's Wall at the Museum in Petawawa will provide a reminder of Bill and you, for all your many acts of kindness to so many Guardsmen when they first arrived in Petawawa for their first stint in the Army. Your Regimental Family remembers and wishes you well.

Steve Brodsky: Thanks for the updates on the Perodeaus, Bren Keech, Sam and Marjorie Meckbach, Marion Reid, Shirley Meyer and the irrepressible Fred Connors and his "Newfie Stompers" in Langford. Thanks also for your missive, co-authored with Andy Maxwell, regarding the 50th Anniversary of the Guard Mount. *As noted above, all suggestions are welcome.*

EDITOR'S RANT

This Association is blessed with a vast majority of members who pay their dues both by engaging in the operations and programs of the Association and by the maintenance of their financial obligations. There are some, however, who take the "free ride" route. To those "riders" who read this newsletter, either in print or electronically, who have not yet paid their membership dues, I say;
"GET WITH THE PROGRAM"

MEMBERSHIP STATISTICS

The membership statistics printed below are based on the 'Master Membership Nominal Roll' with input from Bill MacIver and Al Johnston, and have been arranged by JAS Haley in an 'easy-to-read' format.

The 'bottom line' tells the tale of "current" members -members who are "paid up"; paid for this year (2007) and beyond; or paid for two years before the current year. Members who have not renewed their memberships for over two years are considered 'in arrears'.

The Master Nominal Roll contains 1034 names of which 406 are 'Non-effectives', because they are "in arrears". That total number of names means that roughly 15% of the over 9,000 soldiers who passed through The Regimental Depot, or were otherwise members of The Regiment, are, or once were, members of the Canadian Guards Association. *(If these levels were applied to other Regimental Associations, they would have members in the tens of thousands.)*

It should also be noted that of the 405 e-mail addressees on "The Guards Net", 126 are not also current members of the Association. **See rant on page eight.** Mail your donation to: Canadian Guards Association, PO Box 972, Station 'B', Ottawa ON, K1P 5R1.

	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I	J	TOTAL
	Life	Paid Up	2011	2010	2009	2008	2007	2006	2005	
Western Provinces	1	59			2	2	14	2	1	81
Ontario includes	5	244	0	7	12	34	85	10	4	401
Barrow/Pembroke	1	36		1	2	4	20	3		67
Kingston/Picton	1	41		1	3	6	10	2		64
Barrow (NCR)	3	54			2	8	16	1	2	86
Toronto (GTA)		44		2	1	9	16	2	2	76
Other Ontario areas		69		3	4	7	23	2		108
Quebec		8					5	2	2	17
Atlantic Provinces		55		1	2	16	33	4	3	114
Outside Canada		12				1	2			15
TOTALS		378		8	16	53	139	18	10	628

For a Regiment that hasn't had a recruit for over 40 years -nor a Regiment for 37 - the Association is doing "Membership" very well!

A Mari Usque ad Mare

LAST WORDS

How time slips by. Summer has moved on, the Ottawa and Petawawa Annual General Meetings and the Atlantic Branch reunion have passed, Remembrance Day has come and gone.

As I stood at the Cenotaph here in downtown Brighton on Sunday the 11th, the weather was quite outstanding, the temperature was around 8 degrees and the sun shone brilliantly in an azure sky. As silence descended for the two minutes, a wind came up that sent an absolute blizzard of red and gold maple leaves cascading down amongst those of us on parade. It was a most touching moment as the falling leaves resonated with us all as being symbolic of the fallen whom we were remembering at that moment. There was a palpable reaction amongst the multitude and it indeed was the talk of the moment back at Legion Branch 100, where we retired for chili and refreshments afterward.

The 'National' AGM was a success with both the membership stats and the financial statement clearly illustrating that the Regimental Family is in good shape. Our numbers continue to grow, and we have enough money to look after ongoing Association and Museum expenses for the foreseeable future.

The main agenda item at the AGM was the Guards Help Program. I would like to thank Merv Olinik for his chairmanship of the Program over the past two years. Due to pressures of work Merv has tendered his resignation, and again we thank him for his efforts. Discussion of the 'Help Program' took up most of the rest of the meeting. It was accepted that it was time to analyze the mandate and consider whether changes or modifications were required. It was concluded that it should remain an **advocacy** program. We also considered how we might improve the education of our members as to their entitlements. It was agreed that it was the job of every member to "**pass the word**", both ways. In other words, to "talk up" the pension programs and benefits to any and all others, while ensuring that those who are working in the Program are aware of those who need help.

Percy Price has agreed to take over the chairmanship of the "Guards Help". Along with his colleague in the Atlantic area Chris Beattie, Percy intends to establish a program of education for the Newsletter, the Web Site and the Guardsnet. Working with our editor, the first efforts are to be found earlier in this edition. Watch for more. **I stress that we can only work on a problem if we know that a problem exists.**

Over the last week or so I have had correspondence with Lieutenant Colonel (retired) Milton Gregg. Milton is the "Honourary President" of the Atlantic Branch. At 87, he is the patron of the Branch and very much dedicated to the future of the organization. On behalf of all Association members I thanked Colonel Milton for his devotion to the Association, particularly the Atlantic Branch, and the leadership that he has provided to us all over the years.

Joan joins with me in wishing the entire Regimental Family a "Happy Christmas" and a prosperous and productive 2008.

Ian Douglas
President

A MARI USQUE AD MARE