

REGIMENTAL NEWSLETTER

CAPE BRETON HIGHLANDERS ASSOCIATION

Perpetuating the 94th, 85th, 185th, CBH, 2NSH (CB)

Fall 2004/Spring 2005

35TH REUNION, SYDNEY, C.B. 17 & 18 SEPTEMBER 2004

This reunion was the extremely well attended. It was a beautiful sunny day and traffic was jammed along Kings Road. At the time Kings Road Expansion was in progress and it made the site look more like a war zone. Now that it has been completed it certainly has opened the area up and has made it much more assessable for people to get to and to view the memorial.

Ian Macintyre did the Master of ceremonies and the Color Party and Sentries was commanded by Captain G. F. Fraser, CD. The Flag Party and Honourary was presented by the CBH 2632 Cadet Corps.

The 3 sons of J.J. McGrath who was killed in Italy while serving with the CBH, laid the flowers. Woodrow and William McGrath, incidentally, are two of our newest members.

With this great turnout and weather it gave everyone an opportunity to mingle and chat with friends, family and comrades. We really appreciated everyone coming out and participating.



3 sons of JJ McGrath pose for photo after laying the flowers in honour of their father.



(l-r)Regular attenders Mac Giffin, Cyril Ralph, and Mrs. Giffin

36TH ANNUAL REUNION
SEPTEMBER 23 - 24, 2005
FRIDAY AFTERNOON AND
ALL DAY SATURDAY

HOPE TO SEE YOU THERE
TO CELEBRATE THE 60TH
ANNIVERSARY OF HOLLAND'S
LIBERATION.

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

This year is one of great significance to Canada's veterans and throughout 2005, numerous ceremonies have been, and will be, conducted in Canada and abroad, marking the end of World War II in Europe. The Government of Canada has designated it The Year of the Veteran, and an increased, and well deserved, focus has been given to the events of 1939-1945, and to the individuals who helped secure peace in Europe. At no place has Canada's role been more appreciated, and thankfulness more genuine and real, than in The Netherlands.

In conjunction with this year's ceremonies, a tour was organized, through the untiring efforts of Alex Morrison, here in Canada, and *our man in Delfzijl*, Franz Lenslink, who, incidentally, became an honorary member of The Cape Breton Highlanders Association, during the visit.

Franz' many contributions to the tour and perpetuation of the CBH's exploits will also be covered in the next issue. For the benefit of some of our newer members, the last action of the Cape Breton Highlanders (Apr-May 1945), was the liberation of the Dutch City of Delfzijl, on Holland's northeast coast. The story of the battle is well covered in Chapter 15, of the Regimental history: *The Breed of Manly Men: The History of The Cape Breton Highlanders*, suffice it to say that the unit faced a determined enemy and the topography and well constructed (over a 4-year German occupation) defended positions posed unique challenges for the attacker. The tour, 28 Apr-7 May, will be covered in greater detail in the next issue, as the highlights were far too numerous to list in a paragraph.

Participants were: John MacKay, Paul Wile (both of whom fought at Delfzijl with the CBH), Alex Morrison, Elizabeth McMichael, Paul's

wife, Pat, Alex MacInnis, Marie MacAulay, Liam Taylor (Cape Breton University student/member of 2NSHighrs(CB), Gerry and Louise MacNeil, Ted Slaney (who also fought at Delfzijl, with the anti-tank platoon) and his wife, Theresa. (Ted was a member of the Official Canadian Delegation, but he and Theresa managed to spend most of the early days with us), and Ian Macintyre.

The CBH successor unit, 2nd Battalion, The Nova Scotia Highlanders (Cape Breton), was also well represented: the CO, LCol George Troicuk; the RSM, CWO Andy Vallee; Pipers: Cpl Mike Campbell and Cpl James MacQueen, who provided their usual superb performances, much to the delight of the Delfzijl citizenry, and ourselves, as well. As another result of the tour, a plaque, commemorating the liberation of Delfzijl, by the CBH, was presented to the Lord Mayor of the city. The legendary gratitude, hospitality, and warmth of the Dutch citizens was very much in evidence and will also be covered in greater depth in our next issue.

This issue also includes another item with a Delfzijl connection. Reg Roy, a Platoon Commander at the liberation of Delfzijl, was recently honoured by the University of Victoria (see item below).

May this Newsletter also serve as a friendly Warning Order (WngO) on this year's Reunion, to be held 23-24 September 2005, and which will also be covered in more detail in a subsequent issue.

Siol Na Fear Fearail,
Ian Macintyre
President, CBHA

FLOWERS OF THE FOREST

The Last Post, Lament and Reveille at the next and subsequent reunions and remembrances will include these comrades.

*So let us strive, in the moment we have,
For peace and good will;
'cause time is yet our master
And time will not be still.*

*From Time
by Joseph Oldford*

Campbell, Charlie 'Pudge', Port Colbourne, ON
Day, Lawrence, 80, Sydney Mines, NS
DeWolf, Aubrey Gordon 'Bud', 82, Pictou, NS
Duncan, Matthew Thomas, 82, New Ross, NS
(MID Oak Leaf) ORTONA
Duguid, Douglas, 83, Sydney, NS
Henry, Harold Joseph, 83, North Sydney, NS
Jones, Wilfred, 85, Bras d'Or/ NS - Dawson Creek
Kavanagh, Dan Archie, 91, Glace Bay, NS
MacDonald, Michael B, DCM, Iona, NS
MacIntyre, Philip, 89, Point Aconi, NS
McNeil, James 'Greg', Waterloo, ON
Snow, William Lewis, 91, Toronto, ON
Spidle, Merlin, 84, Barrs Corner, NS

Charlie
'Pudge'
Campbell



COMFORT FOR THE BEREAVED

*In my father's house there are many mansions:
If it were not so, I would have told you.
I go to prepare a place for you.
John 14:2*

HEARD FROM

Most news comes around the time of the Reunion or when a Newsletter has been sent out. With some problems of late in getting out the newsletter there has been a little drop off but not to much. With us now sending out Christmas and New Years cards, we can usually count on receiving news back from comrades through their cards. There is usually regular mail from Ted Slaney and Reg Roy. As well we heard from the following this past year -- usually with dues and often with a donation for the monument or scholarship fund:

Stanley Watts of Moncton
Cpl Mike Campbell of Pipes & Drums, 2NSH
Mrs. Irene Duncan (Notice re 'Dunc')
Robert C. Dickson of Trenton, NS
Mrs. Margaret K. Spidle (Notice re Merlin)
Charlie Campbell saying there will be a Memorial Service for dad 'Pudge' in CB in August

Al McNeil on dad Greg
Emery Mahe from Hamilton, ON
Joseph Terrio from Timberly, NS
John A MacLeod of London, ON
Jim and Carol Michaud of Aspen, NS
Rita Kuchurean of Halifax on behalf of husband Ted
Reginald Higgins of Bedford, NS
Archie A MacKay of Langley, BC
Joe and Dorothy Kendall of Westville, NS
Patrick and Doris Gillis of Willowdale, ON

SITREP..... 2ND BATTALION, THE NOVA SCOTIA HIGHLANDERS (CAPE BRETON)

The Battalion continues to forge ahead with interesting training and increases in personnel. In the words of the CO, LCol George Troicuk: “the Unit is in an *up cycle*...strength has steadily grown over the past few months to a point where we see 187 personnel on the nominal roll,” (the current estb strength is 196). The Pipes and Drums has also prospered and at 11 of 13 established positions, is filled with *new blood* and is an integral part of the Battalion’s affairs as well as supporting other Garrison and social functions.

The new accommodation on the Northside was officially occupied by a 30-person platoon, April 2005, a result of a 2003 Land Force Reserve Restructure increase, which the Unit sought and was granted. A very successful Open House was organized and well attended to commemorate the *standing-up* of the new organization. The return to an area of historical and active recruitment is much appreciated by the Battalion and the Cape Breton Highlanders Association as well.

Last year, at this time, 8 soldiers from *the Highlanders* trained at Fort Pickett, Virginia, along with fellow troops of 36 Canadian Bde Gp and their American counterparts. Training included Airmobile Ops and Fighting in Built-up Areas (FIBUA). This year, in early spring, 26 soldiers participated in this training, “capably led by the team of Lt. Russell Gallant and WO Jody Merriam”, and again, the Highlanders took part in some interesting training and performed admirably.

Local courses have been both challenging and rewarding, as well: 8 pers qualified as Master Corporals in the past few months, and during the past year, 160 course vacancies were filled

(all pers were successful) and over 170 taskings were covered by Battalion soldiers. A three-week 2A Machine Gun course (run locally, with a qualification shoot at CFB Gagetown) was recently conducted at Coriano Bldg, and 17 Unit pers were successful. In addition to 2Bn pers, soldiers from 1NSHighrs (N), Princess Louise Fusiliers and West Nova Scotia Regiment personnel also took part.

Last October, LCol Troicuk, accompanied by CBHA Vice-President, Steve Kavanagh, and Bob Campbell (a Ret’d RCR Capt), paid visits to several battle sites in Northwest Europe and Italy. While in Italy, they met up with CBHA stalwart (and former Honourary Colonel) Ted Slaney, his wife, Theresa and the Bn Pipe Major, Mike Campbell. This included visits to Coriano Ridge, Coriano Cemetery, Graveyard Hill and the church at Montescudo. All agreed it was an awe-inspiring experience.

The Battalion recently (24-28 May 05) hosted the Canadian Infantry Association Conference, and it was by all accounts, a roaring success. It should also be mentioned that it was last held in this Province, in 1977, at Halifax, NS; this was the first time the conference was held in Cape Breton.

LCol Troicuk is also pleased to announce that RSM Vallee “has been duly recognized and will be awarded the Member of Military Merit (MMM) by Her Excellency, the Governor General, at a time to be announced.

We at CBHA appreciate the SITREP from the CO and are pleased that 2nd Battalion, The Nova Scotia Highlanders (Cape Breton) is carrying on the exemplary performance of its predecessors. *Siol Na Fear Fearail*.

35TH ANNUAL REUNION, 17-18 SEPT. 2004

REUNION DINNER



The annual dinner was another highlight of the ceremonies and, as usual, was well attended by older and newer members and with a hearty sprinkling of family and friends of the Association. To mark the special significance of the previously mentioned anniversaries, we heard an excellent speech, delivered by the President of the Cape Breton University, Mr. John Harker, who spoke on the strategic importance of the Italian Campaign, to the War's end, and on the equally important role of the military in society. Again this year, the dinner was attended by a mix of original CBH members, family and more recent members, personnel from the successor unit, 2nd Battalion, The Nova Scotia Highlanders (Cape Breton), and other guests. During the dinner, we received greetings from Her Honour, Mrs. Myra Freeman, Lieutenant-Governor of Nova Scotia, who is also the Association's first Honourary Member; Her Honour also offered regrets on being unable to attend, due to personal commitments. Certificates and 35th Anniversary coffee mugs were also provided registrants, commemorating the Association's beginning in 1969.



ITALIAN CAMPAIGN PILGRIMAGE FALL 2004

Ted Slaney and wife Theresa, as well as Larry Mullins and his wife participated in the Veteran's Affairs Pilgrimage to Italy. Ted and Larry were able to visit all of the key cemeteries and battle sites especially Coriano and Ortono. Unfortunately, on the last day of the event, Larry tripped and fractured his skull in Rimini. All will be happy to hear that Larry is recovering well. In the photos above we see Ted and Larry at CSM Dan's Frasers's headstone. In the other photo shows Ted and Theresa and Steve Kavanagh and LCol George Troicuk at the hotel in Rimini. Also, shown in a photo with Ted is new association member Bob Campbell who served under Ted in the RCR. Bob earned his stripes on this trip by doing most of the 16 hour drive from Amsterdam to Coriano.

MUSEUM MUSINGS

With the last Newsletter and the passing of the 2004 Reunion, things here at the Museum have returned to normal...well, almost...The time leading up to 11 November was active, as usual, with items going out for displays at the Veteran home and local businesses looking for items for storefront displays as well. Though not able to fill all requests, we were able to fill most. Also gratifying to see was the increase in young visitors to the Museum. One of the most satisfying events was a presentation made to over 500 Junior High students which dealt with the Italian Campaign and the part played by The Cape Breton Highlanders.

It is our custom to devote some time to 2NSHighrs(CB) recruits, and with an increased number of courses, this area saw increased activity as well. A number of inquiries concerning members of the CBH has remained constant and with this year having been designated The Year of the Veteran, we expect this to also expand, although the absence of nominal rolls make this task difficult. Another area, again, that has increased is requests for cap badges, buttons, glengarries, etc. however, in the absence of a kit shop (presently under consideration and development) this is quite difficult.

The number of people visiting the Museum doing research has dropped slightly, however, author, Jim MacDonald is currently working on a book on the 85th Battalion, Nova Scotia Highlanders (CEF), and a UCB student doing a paper, have both been recent visitors.

An area of concern is the need for safekeeping and proper display of medals. If there is sufficient interest in members wishing to display such items, I can arrange to have an appropriate display in a secure area here at Coriano Building. If you are interested, please let me know.

Contributions of material, photos and papers to the Museum have dropped slightly, and we take this opportunity to again advise that we are interested in anything of a CBH nature. Original material e.g. paper items, can be reproduced and returned without delay.

In closing, if anyone would like to place a photo or short story on the CBH website, it can be done by sending it through the Newsletter address.

Good health to you all,
John Clarke
Highlanders Museum

The paperback edition of the CBH Regimental History is now available at a cost of \$10 plus postage and handling and can be ordered from 16 Keefe Avenue, Sydney, NS, B1R 2C7

60TH ANNIVERSARY OVERSEAS



Plaque presented to the Lord Mayor of Delfzijl, Mrs. Maritje Apped-de Waart, on behalf of the Cape Breton Highlanders Association by Ted Slaney and Ian Macintyre on the 60th Anniversary of the city's liberation by the VBH. The plaque reads "In commemoration of the Liberation of Delfzijl May 19145—The Cape Breton Highlanders, 5th Canadian Armoured Division." The plaque was presented on a Monday, by the next day it had been affixed to the wall in a prominent place at City Hall.



John MacKay and Alex MacInnis with Russian officer.



Corporals Mike Campbell and James MacQueen at the Delfzijl War Monument.



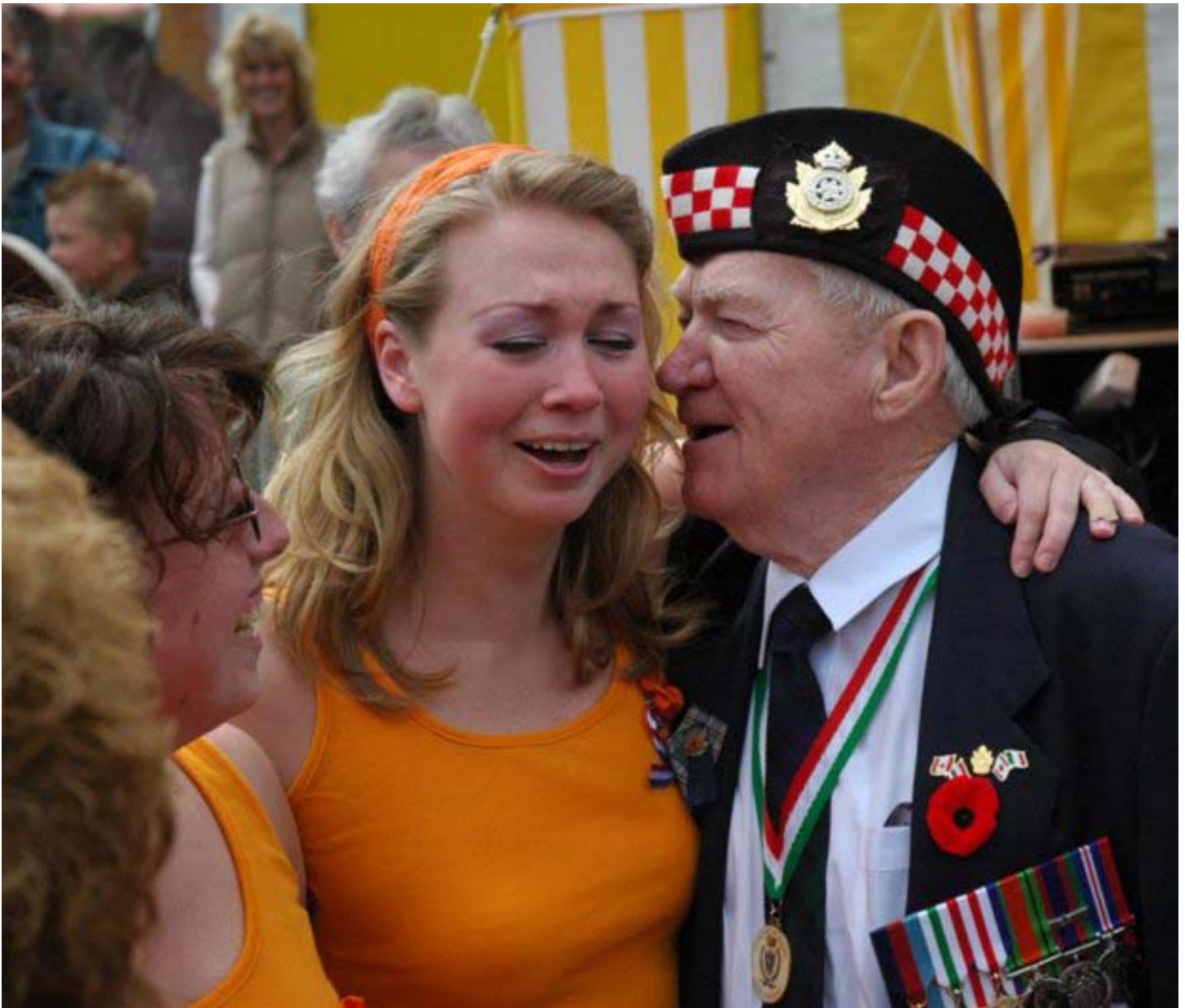
Wreath laid at the Delfzijl War Memorial by John MacKay and LCol GW Troicuk.



Alex Morrison, Tour Coordinator, and Gerry MacNeil (CBHA Secty and Hon LCol of 2NSH (CB)



Silent walk through Delfzijl commemorating war dead; this is the entire CBH tour class. Ted and Theresa Slaney went as part of the official Canadian Delegation.



This photo made the front page of Holland's largest daily newspaper, The Amsterdam Telegraph, with a caption that read something about old Canadian Veteran still had spunk to flirt with the Dutch Girls.

The Cape Breton Highlanders Memory Scholarship

The scholarship fund established in memory of all those who served with the Cape Breton Highlanders continues to grow. Your donations to this fund are really appreciated and we feel that more than bricks and mortar or books and paper, will truly perpetuate the memory of the Cape Breton Highlanders. We hope to have the first Scholarship recipients to attend our Reunion Dinner in September 2005.

Cape Breton Highlanders Association

**495 Westmount Road
Sydney, Cape Breton, NS
B1R 1A9**

**Steve Kavanagh (902) 567-1772 (h)
Fax: (902) 562-0793
Email: steve_kavanagh@capebretonu.ca**

**Ian Macintyre (902) 562-0635 (h)
email: iainbeag@syd.eastlink.ca**