

NEWSLETTER

**CAPE BRETON HIGHLANDERS
ASSOCIATION**

**2400 HIGHWAY 327
SYDNEY, N.S. B1L1G1**

JUNE 1996

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125TH ANNIVERSARY SPECIAL

On October 13, 1996 the battalion will be exactly 125 years old. The Association will take part in the celebrations on Sept. 14, during our 27th Annual Reunion. For any who will still be on hand on Sunday the 15th, the 2NSH(CB) will be receiving the *FREEDOM OF THE CITY*. It would be nice to attend the ceremonies.

Under the heading Active Militia, General Order 22 of 13 October 1871, our founding unit, The Victoria Provisional Battalion of Infantry was established with Head Quarters at Baddeck.

Just off the TransCanada highway about 4 km. west of Baddeck there is a little cove on the lake called Cow Bay. If any are familiar with the area, the KOA campground would put you in the vicinity of the bay. Off to the right a long neck of land projects out into the lake to a point called Cow Point, and divides Cow Bay from Indian Bay into which the Baddeck River flows.

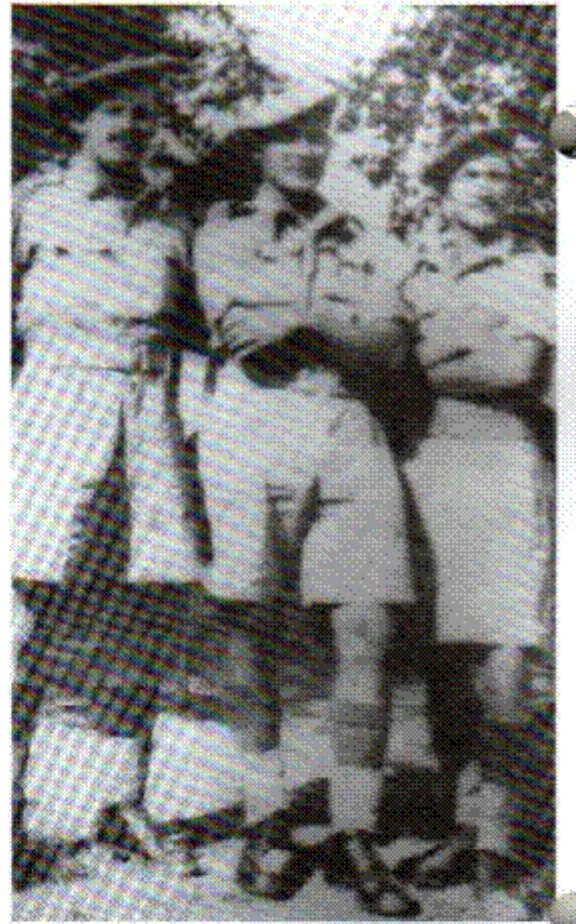
It was at Cow Bay where the man destined to be the first CO of the btn. was serving with the Cow Bay, CB. Infantry Company. It seems he had come up through the ranks - sergeant - captain - major - Lt. Colonel. He held the position of CO for some 22 years; a record that has not been equalled to date.



The photo is of a sign erected on the site of the new armoury under construction at Victoria Park, Sydney.

COMMENDATION

A word of commendation is in order for Dorothy (CSM John) MacQueen for her efforts in composing and compiling the excellent scrapbook of memories that we each received a free gratis copy of at our last reunion. We know it most certainly cost you a pretty penny in consideration of all the mail, paper, binders etc. that the job required. Whenever, from time to time, we have occasion to dip into the writings, with thankful hearts we will remember you.



Photos: Upper

Left, The smart set Circa 1939 Sydney, Huburt Moulard; Marion Robertson (Al's wife); E.C.(Al)Robertson. Upper right, The smart set Circa 1944 Italy, Wu (Stump) Campicelli, Cari Arnold, Bud Erickson. Bottom photo shows Pipers Archie A. MacKay and Danny Gillis speaking with one of the pipers at our last reunion. A question has been raised as to whether they are the last of the wartime pipers as stated in an earlier newsletter. Piper Boyd may still be alive. Archie had seen him some years back but a recent thorough search for him was unsuccessful.



"Now, look here now: You wouldn't happen to be Boyd would you?"

UPDATE NEWS

THE 27TH ANNUAL REUNION will be held Sept. 13 and 14, and Reunion Headquarters will be at Royal Canadian Legion Whitney Pier Branch 128, Sydney.

Friday: Registration beginning at 1300 hrs. continuing throughout the afternoon and evening. Free tea, coffee, donuts and sandwiches will be available all afternoon.

Registration fee has been held at \$25.00 per person for 1996. The mixed buffet will be held at 1900 hrs. and will be followed with music and songs by the Legion Singers.

Saturday: Service at CBH Monument will be held at 1000 hrs. followed by a short parade and placing of wreath at Branch 128's monument. The luncheon will commence as near noon as possible and will be followed immediately with the annual meeting. The Association will proceed to Victoria Park for ceremonies to be held at 1400 hrs. in the new Coriano building. On this occasion the building will be dedicated and we will have the promised cake cutting ceremony. The Banquet Supper will be held at 1900 hrs. and followed by an evening of dancing. Music by Alex MacIntosh Band.

Thanks to our V. President, Paul MacEachern for his ongoing efforts in lining up the necessities for the cake. It is to be 30 inches by 48 inches and will depict the evolution of the units cap badges through 125 years. The units colours scarlet and gold adjoined on the diagonal will form the base topping. Besides the badges there will be other decorations of interest on the cake.

Lt. Col. Mike Alteen of the Service Corps is having his chef prepare the cake. Our President Sharkey MacDonald and Lt. Col. Rick Parsons will share in the cake cutting ceremony. The knife used in the ceremony will be engraved and mounted on a wall plaque and will be presented at a later date to Lt. Col. Parsons to be mounted in the Highlanders Room in the new building.

In Stock

CBH Cap Badges	\$20.00 each
CBH Blazer Crests	23.00
CBH Association Button hole pins	2.00
Breed of Manly Men	25.00

DEATHS

Bonnar, Wilfred (Turk)	76	Sydney Mines, N.S.
Chisholm, Donald M.	80	Hampton, N.B.
Higgins, Thomas (Tommy)	75	Cambridge, Ont.
Jobe, James H.	72	New Victoria, N.S.
MacLeod, A (Archie)	73	Moncton, N.B.
MacNeil, G. J. (Gerry)	71	Sydney Forks, N.S.
Riggs, James W.	83	N. Sydney, N.S.
Rose, James A. (Jim)	79	Florence, N.S.
Smith, C.E. (Ernie)	84	Glace Bay, N.S.

*The soul that on Jesus hath leaned for repose,
He will not, He cannot desert to its foes;
That soul, though all hell should endeavour to shake,
He'll never, no never, no, never forsake.*

BUT I WOULD NOT HAVE YOU TO BE IGNORANT, BRETHREN, CONCERNING THEM WHICH ARE ASLEEP, THAT YE SORROW NOT. EVEN AS OTHERS WHICH HAVE NO HOPE. FOR IF WE BELIEVE THAT JESUS DIED AND ROSE AGAIN. EVEN SO THEM ALSO WHICH SLEEP IN JESUS WILL GOD BRING WITH HIM. FOR THE LORD HIMSELF SHALL DESCEND FROM HEAVEN WITH A SHOUT, WITH THE VOICE OF THE ARCHANGEL, AND WITH THE TRUMP OF GOD; AND THE DEAD IN CHRIST SHALL RISE FIRST: THEN WE WHICH ARE ALIVE AND REMAIN SHALL BE CAUGHT UP TOGETHER WITH THEM IN THE CLOUDS, TO MEET THE LORD IN THE AIR: AND SO SHALL WE EVER BE WITH THE LORD. WHEREFORE COMFORT ONE ANOTHER WITH THESE WORDS. I THESS. 4:13-18

FROM THE PARK



EIRDH SINN A RITHIS
(PHONITIC: AREE SHEEN AH REEIST)
WE'LL RISE AGAIN!

This photo was taken in February shortly after the iron workers had started erecting the structural steel. This is the first of three proposed buildings that are to replace all the Second World War structures at the Park.

This is a letter dated May 9, 1996, from Lt. Col. R. G. (Rick) Parsons CD, to our President C.R. (Sharkey) MacDonald.

Dear Sharkey,

The intent of this letter is two-fold. Firstly, to inform you of our intent to dedicate the new 2 NSH(CB) Sydney armoury as the Coriano Building in honour of the Cape Breton Highlanders' gallantry at Coriano, Italy on 15 September 1942. Secondly, to offer a special invitation, with VIP seating, to all members of the CBH Association and their spouses to attend the building opening and dedication ceremony on Saturday, 14 September 1996, tentatively scheduled for 1400 hrs. In addition, I ask that you take the platform as the representative for the CBH Association and say a few words with regards to this special occasion.

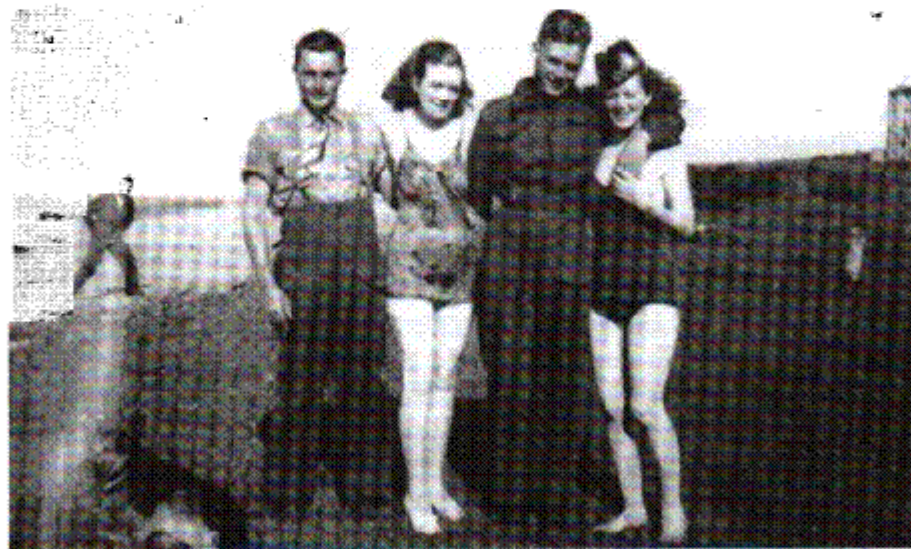
I have deliberately chosen the weekend of the annual CBH Association Reunion for this activity as the maximum number of Association members will be in the area. My unit will also assist you as required in your own reunion ceremony. On Sunday, 15 September, 2 NSH(CB) will also be conducting the Freedom of the Municipality of Cape Breton.

This letter is an initial warning order for you and the members so you can pencil us in on your calendar. Once more detailed planning has been completed, I will ensure that you receive a copy of the Op Instructions for this event.

I look forward to your participation in the ceremony and expect that it will be a monumental event in the history of 2 NSH(CB). If you have any questions, please feel free to call my Adjutant, Captain Kevin Cameron at 564-3794. Sincerely, Rick



The white stucco, flat roof building in the centre of the photo is all that remains of what was once Sydney's Langley Hotel. It was the officers quarters in the early days of the war. The brick vanier building adjoining it is the DVA centre for Cape Breton. The old church building used by HQ Coy and others was located where the parking lot is in the foreground directly across George Street from the hotel.



This photo was taken in 1940 at Low Point Beach, New Waterford when D Coy was on defence duty in the area. The two swains with the ladies in the foreground are Ptes Pat Ryan and Roy Payne. If you look closely you will see that Pat is wearing a necktie and, no doubt, Roy would be wearing one as well. In those days only commissioned officers were permitted to wear neckties and unlike Pat's loud one, they were solid khaki. If other ranks were found wearing neckties they would be placed on charge.

My First Reveille (?)

In the Spring of 1940, I was transferred from D Coy into the signal platoon in H.Q. Coy when it was billeted in an old church on George Street, Sydney. The building was also occupied by a large group from A Coy, plus a section from C Coy that recently came from duties at Petries Point. Of the men from C Coy, there are two whom I will never forget: one was Joe Petite from North Sydney, the other Tommy Higgins (see death notices) from Sydney Mines. He was cooking for the section while they were on outpost duty but when they came into Sydney he transferred into Sigs.

Tommy came from a musical family; much like the Barra MacNeils: they could sing, fiddle, and step dance and one of the girls was an excellent tap dancer as well. His specialty was the songs and styles of Sir Harry Lauder.

Having been on defence duty since I enlisted in September 1939, had made me an outpost hermit - I could not reason beyond a platoon. When our company was relieved of duties in the Glace Bay area in 1940 and we marched into Sydney - that was my first real sense of belonging to a Company. Until I went to H.Q. Coy I had never been subjected to bugle calls.

My first morning in H.Q. Coy I was awakened by the bugler (Foch Pickup) as he sounded reveille and then I heard the piper cranking up his pipes as he prepared to sound his rendition of the call. When the piper had finished I figured we could now get on with the day but then I heard a fiddle playing "The Happy Little Woodpeckers" song. Suddenly a group of the fellows fresh from their bunks, all in BVD's singing the lyrics "He wakes up every morning bright and early . . ." burst into our bunk area being lead by Tommy as he fiddled and sang along with them. They walked all over our bunks and we hastened to get out of the way as we joined in the frolic and singing with them. It was a barrel of fun for us when we were all so young.

I do not know where Tommy went after we left St. John in 1941, but many times after and in many places when we were having trouble getting some of the fellows up in the morning I would wish that Tommy was with us. For the mourners, I still wish that Tommy was with us.

Present Slate of Officers

President	C.R. (Sharkey) MacDonald
V. President	Paul MacEachern
Secretary/Treasurer	W.F. (Bill) Metcalfe

Area Representatives

Glace Bay	Robert H. (Bob) Kipping
New Waterford	Jack Ryan
Sydney	Ted H. Stanley
N. Sydney	Joseph (Joe) Corkery
P.E.I.	Mack MacKenzie
N.B.	Leon Sautiere

VICTORY 1945



The Cape Breton Highlanders baseball team of May 1944, at an Italian rest camp. Within days, these men would be going into action against the Hitler Line south of Rome, one of the Canadians' great victories in Italy.