

Cape Breton Highlanders Association & Regimental Newsletter



Fall 2001

The 94th, 85th, 185th, CBH, 2NSH (CB)

32nd Annual Reunion, Sydney, C.B.



Under sunny skies, members of the Association and family, friends and regimental affiliates formally remember and honour CBH wartime and peacetime fallen comrades.

Peter Murphy escorts Sister Ginny MacInnis following the placement of the flowers on behalf of fallen comrades.

Membership Amendment Passed

The association passed unanimously the motion on membership, notice of which was published in the spring issue of the newsletter. The approval of this motion paves the way for a prudent intake of new members to ensure that the original objectives of the CBHA regarding care and maintenance of "The Monument" and "The Memory" are achieved. New categories of membership include Charter, Regimental, Family and Honourary.

33rd
Annual Reunion
September 13-14,
2002
See you there
for Friday the 13th!

President's Report

- Bob Kipping

APPRECIATION

The first thing I want to do as your new president is to thank Sharkey MacDonald for his service to the CBHA and Regimental Association. The same thanks and appreciation is extended to Theresa. More to follow in another newsletter on this.

ASSOCIATION NEW SLATE OF OFFICERS

Those of you attending the annual reunion voted in the following slate of officers of the association: PRESIDENT, Bob Kipping; VICE Ian MacIntrye; SECRETRES. Steve Kavanagh; Museum curator, John Clarke; and PAST PRESIDENT, Sharkey MacDonald. Members-at-large will be designated during the year. Volunteers are accepted and welcomed. Gerry McNeil will administer the Monument Fund.

FINANCIAL AFFAIRS

The Association is in reasonably good shape with an average current account of \$3300.00, and a GIC of \$3000.00. There is \$6000.00 in the monument fund administered for us by the Senate of 2NSH (Cape Breton). Both your dues and contributions are very important.

NEWSLETTER AND ASSOCIATION AFFAIRS

We are improving in this area and count on your support and patience. Some of you have asked us to issue the Newsletter three times a year instead of the current two times. We are considering this and some other ideas. Your suggestions will be greatly appreciated.

YOUR CONCERNS

The executive generally meets the last Sunday of the month at Coriano Building, Victoria Park at 2:00 PM [1400 hrs]. Anybody in the area is welcome to attend and those out of the area can write the Association with any points of information or concerns.

NEWSLETTER DISTRIBUTION

We are going to try to mail the Newsletter to all CBH'ers whether or not they are paid members. We feel that communication is the most important thing - at least until we run out of money!



Sharky MacDonald (l) and Bob Kipping make presentation to Drum Major Wells.

DRUM-MAJOR VANESSA WELLS MOVES ON

Drum-Major Wells has constantly supported the Association and on the occasion of her move to the Regular Force, the Association on your behalf presented her with a Certificate of Appreciation and an Honorarium. Good Luck Drum-Major Wells.

2NSH CAPE BRETON

Many of the day to day and reunion activities of the Association would not be possible without the support of all members of the successor battalion to the CBH. As your President I would like to thank LCOL. Alteen and his soldiers.

MEMBERSHIP AMENDMENT

The motion on expanding membership was passed unanimously at the 32nd Reunion. Comrades can be assured that we will move cautiously and prudently to insure that both the original and revised CBH charter objectives are maintained.

NOVA SCOTIA HIGHLANDERS PIPES AND DRUMS

I would like to offer a special thanks to Pipe Major MacLean and those members of 1NSH (North) who always help 2NSH (Cape Breton) in support of our events. Well done!

REGRETS

Honourary L Col. Alex Morrison was out of the country and was not able to attend this year. See you next year Alex.

FLOWERS OF THE FOREST

From far and wide the news reaches us of the death of a member, from comrades, wives and family. While such news saddens all of us, it is important that this news be passed on to the membership so that we may remember them as they were and as they lived their lives. Our condolences and sympathy go out to the family, friends and comrades of:

- Beaton, James Harold - New Waterford, C.B.
- Burchell, Alexander "Alex" - Glace Bay, C.B.
- Burchell, Harold Fred - Glace Bay, C.B.
- Campbell, Redvers "Ray" - Courtenay, B.C.
- Corkery, Joseph - Sydney Mines, C.B.
- Forbes, Robert G. Lt. - Tatamogouche, N.S.
- Gagnier, Sylino - Truro, N.S.
- Green, Jefferson "Pinky" - Port Morien, C.B.
- How, Doug - St. Andrew's, N.B.
- Mazerolle, Raymond - Shediac, N.B.
- O'Handley, Joseph - Ironville, C.B.
- Sautiere, Leon - Saint John, N.B.
- Slattery, "Slatts" Gilbert - Catalone Gut, C.B.
- Sullivan, Eugene "Hap" - North Sydney, C.B.
- Tibert, Everett - Halifax, N.S.
- Tompson, Ralph - Chalk River, Ont.
- Van Donick, Frank - Forestburg, Alta.
- Viva, Anthony - Florence, C.B.
- White, Gordon P. - Fernice, B.C.
- White, Joseph - Ingersoll, Ont.

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

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

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



Above photo from the Service at the Annual Reunion and below are photos from the Remembrance Day Service. Photos by John Clarke and Carl Arnold. Flowers are in bloom for September but not for November. Still some leaves on trees though.



ANNUAL REUNION AND SERVICE

Just a brief account for those who couldn't attend. 2NSH (Cape Breton) had a parade and full honour guard, pipes and drums and colour party. Affiliated CBH cadet corps participated. MWO **Blaise Bourgeois**, nephew of **Earl Bourgeois** sang O'Canada and The Queen. **Rev. Fr. John MacKinnon** and **Rev. Eric Lynk** did the opening prayer and closing prayer [including a prayer for the September 11 Terrorism victims]. **Ted Slaney** and **Bob Kipping** read the Honour Roll while **Merv Stagg** played 'Last Post' and 'Reveille' while the pipers' 2NSH [Cape Breton] did the 'Lament.' **Sr. Elizabeth MacInnis**, sister of **Ginny MacInnis** laid the flowers, escorted by **Peter Murphy**. At the conclusion of the formal ceremony family members laid family wreaths. **Joe Burke** chaired the service and certainly passed muster as a signaller in his Master of Ceremony role.

At Victoria Park at various venues a number of people were observed chatting with comrades and making new acquaintances, including **Cyril Ralph**, **Vern Fraser**, **Duncan MacDonald**, **Murdock Morrison**, **John MacLeod** and **John MacKay**. **Danny Matheson** entertained some of the participants with his stories but seemed to enjoy educating **Ted Slaney** and **Carl Arnold** on the "fine points of everything." Carl, by the way helped us again by taking a number of excellent photos. He is training **John Clarke**. With **C.R. MacKinnon** not being able to attend this year, the biggest "family" clan group at the dinner award goes to **Norman MacIntyre** and his family. The rest of you guys should try for that award next year. Hats off to the Michaud Family, **Father David** couldn't attend this year but son Jim and daughter-in-law Carol came instead and brought **Cyril Ralph**. **George Burke** was in attendance and at the monument escorted **Susan Slattery** to lay a wreath for Slatts. Also seen were **Mike Alward**, **Oscar Giffin**, **Dan Townsend** and their wives. Evening singles included **Art Boutilier**, **Ian MacIntyre**, **Bob Rose**, and the RSM of 2ND Battalion, **Gary Collins**. Also saw from the 2ND Battalion and talked to **George Fraser**, **George Troituk**, **Ernie LaJeunesse**, **Charlie Reid**, **Jim Ferguson** and their wives... little women... better halves - no, since they are still serving soldiers, it should be 'and their career managers'. Also talked to **John Clarke** and wife **Fonnie**, **Theresa Slaney**, and **Priscilla Metcalfe**.

Think I saw **Mary Dolomont** and dancing partners. Some presentations of note included Certificate of Appreciation to **Piper Archie MacKay** [who was there with family], welcoming remarks from CO, 2NSH (CB) **Mike Alteen** who was there with his career manager **Margie**, and a thank you plaque to 2NSH (CB) for their important support. Appreciate the participation of **Robert MacLellan** who has one of the finest collections of CBH photographs in existence and those computer guys from UCCB, **Dennis Hodder**, **Bill Jessome**, and **Brian Marks** who continue to work on the CBH/NSH (CB) web site. In closing, I would like to personally apologize to **Theresa MacDonald** and **Afra Kavanagh** in that they didn't get to see Elvis; to report that we know the pretty woman who **Mike MacIsaac** had the last dance with; and - sorry if I missed any of you who attended - but more sorry that we didn't see those who couldn't attend this year. And last but not least to Reunion Chair **Bob Kipping** and wife **Tamara** in support, for a job well done!



Above photo shows some members at the Annual Reunion and the one below shows CBH Cadets at the Service.



HEARD FROM...

Walter Pate, Delta, BC. Walter penned the brief profile of Slats Slattery and also put a little bug in my ear about recognizing our surviving band members. A move long overdue.

Joseph Van Donick of New Waterford with the news that brother Frank Van Donick had passed away in Forestburg, Alta., this past summer.

Leo Deveaux and daughter **Julie A. Newton** of Scarborough, Ontario.

Also **George D. Hall** of Lunenburg who says that these days he is sometimes [but only sometimes] like the “cat’s rear, always behind” but when he eventually catches up wonders “what the hell he was chasing and why?”

Emery Mahé of Hamilton, Ontario, who has taken to the new technology like a duck to water.

Gordon MacLean Logan of Vancouver who has probably despaired that I will ever find him a Glengarry or calculate his dues.

Lawrence Gibson of Sydney, N.S., as always, was prompt with his cheque.

In addition to comrades who responded to our call for missing Newsletters [thanked elsewhere]. A number of comrades submitted photos, some of which we have included in this issue. Special thanks to **James H. MacNutt** of Springhill, N.S. for photos from Italy, Belgium and Holland including an extremely touching photo of pre-burial preparations after the last battle in Holland. We should do something special with that photo and treat it with the respect and sensitivity it deserves.

Also received a cheerful note and photos from **Joseph C. MacNeil** of Vancouver. Joe sent earlier note indicating the he would not likely be attending this reunion. Many of the photos were taken with an old Brownie camera and Joe thinks that they were taken by **Bob Rose** who attended the Reunion this year from across the Pond.

Received a wonderful note and contribution from **Stanley C. Watts** of Moncton, N.B. and he would like a copy of the membership list and we are working on this. Stanley supported the membership amendment in his letter.

Also heard from **Edward L. Cormier** of Belle Cote.

Finally want to acknowledge a paper copy of an E-mail from **Fred** and **Mickey Small** from California which apparently got bounced from my server at UCCB. Fred,

I think that server just couldn’t deal with the moniker you and Mickey are using - come on now “Fritz and Muz at Earthlink Dot Net”!!! Only in California, eh!

If I’ve missed anybody, I’m sorry. I have to close as I just got a call from **Fred Mallette** from PEI saying, “Where the hell is the Newsletter?” He sure keeps late hours for an old soldier. Fred gave me an update on the presentation of Holland medals now being done in PEI. Will follow up on that one. Any other information will be appreciated.

Also heard from **Arnold Spence** from the west coast who said, “He really misses the reunions.” Arnold also had a nice contribution to the Association.

Susan Slattery sent a nice thank you letter for those who helped with her dad’s funeral.

Below we have some submitted material.

The card on the Gemeenfeschool in Haringhe (Belgium?) was submitted by Jim McNutt (Springhill) who said it was a kitchen or mess for the CBH at one point. The other photo send by Oscar Giffin (Fort Williams, N.S.) shows the eagle which is now at Sydney Garrison. He believes it is Murdoch Morrison in Bolsward, Holland.



TRIBUTE TO A VERY GOOD FRIEND



A young Gilbert Slattery (2nd left on top row).

I first met Gilbert L. Slattery at Camp Borden, Ontario July 1941, when we were both members of number one platoon (Signals) of the Cape Breton Highlanders. Slatts had shortly before that become a new member of the Battalion, and I was recuperating from a bad auto accident at Seven Mile Bridge, South of Sydney, Nova Scotia.

A short time later the Highlanders were transferred to Debert, Nova Scotia, where we prepared for our “Government-paid ocean cruise” to England.

Maida barracks at Aldershot, became our new home for the next few months, where we were kept very busy. Each day started by going through the assault course, before breakfast, daily route marches and/or river crossings in real cold water. One route march which is still hard to forget was a three day march from Aldershot to Bisley ranges. On arrival there Slatts and I were both detailed for guard duty, a short rest and the big shoot on the rifle ranges. Needless to say our shooting score on that trip did not make the record books. Next day we were again on the road developing new blisters, heading home to Aldershot.

Sheffield Park was our next place of residence in the English countryside. Slatts had a brother Vic, who was stationed at Wimbledon, and we spent several weekends visiting with Vic. The British rail platform tickets were used for these trips, and with our very low pay scale we appreciated this way of travel. Our biggest obstacle was evading the British “red caps” at the London train station, and hopefully they learned a few tricks on C.B.H. prowess.

While stationed at Sheffield Park the battalion added a few brand-new Harley motorcycles to the transport list,

and the two musketeers volunteered to take a short course, riding the Harleys. We successfully completed the course, and I was promoted shortly afterwards.

Eastbourne became our next home and there we prepared for the next big ocean cruise to Italy. Very early one morning Slatts awakened me with the statement, “I’ve got a big problem”. When I asked the nature of the problem Slatts told me when on his way to barracks, travelling at a very “moderate” rate of speed the Harley didn’t get around a very sharp corner, and was slightly damaged. When I asked how he felt he said his knee had a few scrapes. We then proceeded to go down and examine the Harley, and found the front fork badly warped, and it was not difficult to find several dents and scrapes. We moved the motor cycle to the MT garage, and with the aid of a good jack and chain, a sturdy crow bar and hammer the damage slowly disappeared. As dawn was breaking I left Slatts with a can of khaki paint and paint brush.

Except for a few dive bombers we enjoyed our Mediterranean cruise, and were shortly involved in active combat. Slatts was a very cool and dependable soldier in action, and very capably carried out his duties as a dispatch rider, or signaller, as the task demanded.

Early in 1944 Slatts was badly wounded and spent sometime in hospital. While at the holding unit regaining his health, he was recruited to the First Special Service Force. This unit was a combined “Canadian/American task force,” and was formed to clear the Riviera area from Cannes to Menton. Several other members of the Cape Breton Highlanders also served with the First Special Service Force, and in December 1944, with their task completed were returned to their respective units. Slatts was very surprised on his return to the platoon to see so many new faces.

In January 1945 we boarded LST’s at Pisa, Italy and joined the Northwest Europe campaign. When this task was completed we returned home to become civilians.

With the outbreak of the Korean War in the early 1950’s, Slatts again answered the call to Arms, when he joined the Royal Canadian Artillery, and continued to serve until he retired as a career soldier.

At the end of July 2001, I received a phone call from George Burke, and was told that Slatts was very sick and had been admitted to hospital. The next morning I was very surprised and saddened to receive a call from Susan, telling me that her dad had passed away.

I guess our next meeting will take place at the Big Human Roundup, Ol’ Buddy; until then God bless.

~Walter J. Pate

FROM THE MUSEUM

The museum was very active placing military items in Schools, Veteran Hospitals and Businesses in our area. While we were unable to action all requests we do the best we can. Last year we filled 12 requests including a major contribution to the C.B. Center for Heritage and Science for their November 11 display. There is greater interest being shown in Remembrance Day, but fewer contributors. Demands can get a little difficult to meet, but we always try to do our best..

A major contribution was provided this past summer from Alex McInnis of Sydney.

Through the kindness of grandsons David and Louis MacNeil, the Medals of their Great grandfather Capt P.J. MacNeil who served in the old 94th Argyle Highlanders, his grandfather Maj Gordie M. MacNeil M.C. who served with the C.E.F. 25 Bn WW1 and C.B.H.(milita) after the war, and his Father Maj G.L. MacNeil, M.C. who served with Alex McInnis during WW2. These valuable Medals were done up by Alex in a attractive frame, and are on display here in our Building.

Any one wishing to loan, donate, or permit the copying of family photos or documents for the Museum's records, please contact me or the C.B.H. Executive.

Best Regards from the Museum.

John Clarke



Pity the poor pipers in the band, playing at the Annual Dinner, receiving such stares from Pipers Archie McKay and Francis MacKenzie!

FROM 2NSH

The unit participated in an exercise along the coast with other units of Sydney Garrison that involved an assault boat landing, putting in a Platoon attack with helicopter support.

The CO, RSM Designate MWO Vallee and 5-6 members (part of a Quarter Guard) participated in the Pilgrimage to Holland, Belgium and France as part of the Department of Veterans Affairs initiative for a Ceremonial Burial of two soldiers of the 2nd World War from the Lincoln and Wellington Regiment: Pte's George Robert Barritt and Charles Joseph Beaudry.

The unit members also participated in an Anniversary of the Daily Last Post Ceremony at the Menin Gate Memorial in Ypres (Oct. 31), the Rededication of the 85th Battalion Monument at Passchendaele and Remembrance Ceremonies at Vimy and Beaumont-hamel (Nov. 3).

A section from the unit will participate in training with the National Guard in Virginia, USA in February.

As well another section will participate in an exercise with 2RCR in the Arctic in the spring.

The unit participated in a number of Remembrance Day Services across Cape Breton in addition to supporting the CBH Service.



Presentation of a Certificate of Appreciation from all members of the CBH to Piper Archie McKay, the last surviving piper from WWII. As well, a Certificate was prepared for Melvin McLean, the last surviving Drummer.

Response to "Help for the Record!"

So many of you deserve the "first responder" award to our request to complete our central collection of newsletters and related materials! Actual first off the mark was **Joseph Kendall**, Westville, NS. He was followed by (not in order of receipt, but pretty quick...)

Merlin Spidle, Barss Corner, NS, **George D. Hall**, Lunenburg, NS, **Margaret Muise**, Brantford, ON, **Alexander (Sandy) C. Davis**, Geneva, NY, **Robert Rose**, Andover Hants, England, and **Malcolm MacIntosh**, Pointe Claire, PQ.

A special thanks for your inclusion of related memorabilia. Your contributions have helped us complete the record from the fall of 1978!

Now if anybody out there has anything from before the fall of 1978, send it in. The Association, Joe Burke and John Clarke will greatly appreciate receiving same.



Pictured above are Jim and Carol Michaud (on the left) who attended the reunion on behalf of Jim's dad, David of Sherbrooke, NS. They also brought along Cyril Patriquin Ralph (on the right) also of Sherbrooke, NS. Cyril enlisted in 1941 and served in England, Italy, France, Belgium, Germany and Holland.

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We're on the net.
Check us out.

www.faculty.uccb.ns.ca/capebretonhighlanders

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