

## **COLONEL COMMANDANT'S OCTOBER 2016 MESSAGE**

Dear friends,

October was relatively quiet as far as Corps activities. Nonetheless, the leadership of the Corps met for its most important meetings of the year: Director of Armour's Board (AB) and the Association Annual General Meeting (AAGM).

This year's AB and AAGM were held in Kingston, ON. Although the D Armour will promulgate a summary of the proceedings in due course I would like to underline the excellent work orchestrated by the Armoured School and the Association in preparing/prosecuting these essential events. Kudos to LCol Christ Hutt for the excellent performance he displayed while standing in on short notice for D Armour (away on compassionate reason).

We were most fortunate to have with us LGen Steve Bowes (Comd CJOC and Sr Black Hat) who set the "strategic context" in which our Corps will be expected to operate. Additionally it was most appropriate to have at the discussion table MGen Jean-Marc Lanthier (Comd CADTC), BGen Steve Cadden (Comd 4<sup>th</sup> Div), BGen Derek MacAulay (COS Army Strategy) and BGen Marty Frank (C Prog). Unfortunately, many Regiments could not attend due to conflicting schedules, priorities and/or funding. D Armour will address this issue with a view to achieving full Corps representation at the next gathering.

Among the myriad of important subjects covered during this gathering the most critical in my mind was the intent to find resolution regarding the capability gaps undermining our reserve component. The analysis within the "RCAC dashboard" if fully implemented will resolve much of the issues concerning the recruiting, equipping, training, and retaining of our reserve brothers/sisters. Moreover, I am energized by the honest approach taken by all to gap the long standing "we, they" disparity within our Corps Family. Contextualizing our doctrine, providing realistic achievable missions, roles and tasks, distributing a common platform (TAPV) with commensurate funding will go a long way to achieve the aim. I look forward to seeing these initiatives implemented in the years to come. Notwithstanding, I continue to be alarmed by the maintainability challenges facing our existing vehicle fleets. These anomalies have a direct influence on our ability to achieve individual and collective training requirements. I hope that the addition of TAPV and LAV LRSS will not exacerbate this grave issue. Time will tell!

We completed the weekend with our AAGM. Beyond the usual "housekeeping" issues that require continual attention, the association bid farewell to a most deserving "President". LCol (ret) Bernie Ciarroni has held the lead appointment in our association since 2012. He has distinguished himself through his leadership and genuine passion for our Corps. A persuasive communicator, Bernie spoke on behalf of all when dealing with the various issues confronting our membership. Never intimidated and possessing a candor which is second to none, his support and counsel were well sought throughout the Corps leadership. On your behalf, I thanked him for his dedication and more so for putting up with both Darrell Dean and I.



**LCol (ret) Bernie Ciarroni**

The Windsor Regiment: On the weekend of the 21-23 October, I had the great privilege of attending as Guest of Honour the Windsor Regiment's 80<sup>th</sup> Anniversary.



This was a grand affair that truly reflected the important footprint the Regiment maintains within Windsor ON. As mentioned in my accepting the invitation, I was wholly honoured to take part in the celebration that marked the 80<sup>th</sup> anniversary of The Windsor Regiment (RCAC). From its beginning, when it introduced the black beret to the Canadian military, to the present day, the Windsor Regiment remains an important part of the Royal Canadian Armoured Corps. Throughout the years the Regiment has continuously provided essential well-trained men and women ready to serve Canada in times of peace and of conflict. Their history is unique in having been one of the initial six Canadian tank battalions established in 1936, but the only unit which was not created from the change in role of an existing infantry unit. Hence the Regiment began modestly with a cadre of officers and non-commissioned officers (NCOs) from The Essex Scottish. This new unit was named The Essex Regiment (Tank). It would be in 1949 that the Regiment was appropriately renamed, for its home city, as The Windsor Regiment.

I have had the great privilege of crossing paths with many members of the Regiment during my career and can attest that they have always impressed by demonstrating great professionalism, dedication and “*joi de vivre*”.

The weeklong celebration began with a Flag raising Ceremony at City Hall.



**LCol N. Maroukis (CO) and MWO J. Micallef (RSM)**

Upon my arrival, I was welcomed by the CO and given the opportunity to visit the Tilston Armory. This impressive building reflects a unique new concept in Reserve/community integration. The Windsor Regiment shares their armory with the municipal police force. This is win-win arrangement that should be modeled elsewhere.



**Myself and LCol Nick Maroukis**

My first official activity was participating in a well attended “meet and greet” at the Armory. Former members came from across the nation to witness this important milestone.



**Chief of Police John Leontowicz (incoming HLCol) enjoying the company of HCol Don Hearn and his wife Susan.**



**Young and not so young enjoyed the Reunion.**

Freedom of the city: The showpiece of the weekend was the “Freedom of the City” parade. In his proclamation Mayor Drew Dilkens expressed “the high esteem in which the Regiment is held by the citizens of Windsor. The freedom of the City, first granted in 1940, is hereby reaffirmed”.







**Regiment on parade**



**Regimental band greatly enhanced the “pomp and circumstances”**

While awaiting the Regiment at city hall, I had the distinct privilege of meeting several spectators who had gathered to witness this important community event. Of the many present, I was first drawn toward a handsome couple by the distinct “Armoured” lettering embroidered on the gentleman’s cap.

Unbeknownst to me, Paul and Jane Borg were attending this ceremony to mark the birthday and first anniversary of the death of their only child Corporal Paul Borg a former member of the Windsor Regiment and most recently, the Royal Canadian Dragoons. Paul a casualty of PTSD was remembered in a short ceremony in front of the War Memorial. He will be remembered!



**Paul and Jane Borg**

Following the parade at City Hall and the War Memorial, the Regiment marched through the town towards the municipal museum. Here they were greeted by the Curator who proudly welcomed them to visit the temporary exhibit depicting the Regiment's history. Once again the Regiment was honoured by the City with an impressive military history memorabilia display open to the public.



**Captain Pitre (Adjutant/RSO), 2Lt Wintemute (ADC) and Tpr Fowler (Drv)**

The weekend concluded with an all rank dinner. My sincere congratulations and thanks go out to all members of the Windsor Regiment. Well done!





**In Memoriam:** We have lost members of our family during this period.



**RADLEY-WALTERS, Mary Patricia** - Known as “Pat” to many, and affectionately as “Mom” and “Granny” to family, passed away peacefully in Kingston on September 4, 2016, at the age of 95. She was the loving wife of Brigadier General Sydney Valpy Radley-Walters (deceased) for 68 years. I was unable to attend Patricia’s celebration of life but our Corps Family was well represented by among others MGen Clive Milner former Colonel Commandant and his wife Shirley. She will be remembered!



**Michelle Levesque** – Loving daughter of Viola and Denis “Badger” Levesque. Michelle was well known in the Corps, the Regiment and Formations where Denis served, particularly for her fun loving personality, warmth and kindness. Maureen and I attended Michelle’s celebration of life amongst the large gathering of family, friends and colleagues. Regimental gatherings will no longer be the same without her. She will be remembered!

As always, I wish you all continued success in all your undertakings and hope that this message has found you well.

Best regards!

Worthy

Georges

Colonel (ret) G. Rousseau  
Colonel Commandant  
Royal Canadian Armoured Corps

**My future activities (not exhaustive):**

- a. Western Visit 1-10 November
- b. Preside the change of Appointment of Colonel of the Regiment 12 RBC , 3<sup>rd</sup> and the 10<sup>th</sup> of Dec 2016
- c. Visit the Saskatchewan Dragoons in April 2017
- d. Visit the Fort Gary Horse in April 2017