

COLONEL COMMANDANT'S APRIL 2016 MESSAGE

Dear friends

This has been a busy month, beginning with my investiture in the **Order of Saint-George**. Having been nominated by the Friends of the Regiment, the Royal Canadian Dragoons (RCD) my initial reaction was one of amazement, humility and circumspection for I have always believe that medals, titles, appointments and rank are to be earned. After reviewing the intent and vision of the Order (see below), I was reassured that this benevolent organization adequately responded to our Corps' ethos and accepted the appointment on your behalf. Moreover, I felt it was appropriate that the RCAC be represented in an Order whose patron is also the patron saint of the "cavalry".



Gareth J. Green, the Grand Master of the Order and I

*The objectives of the Order of Saint-George's Foundation are to maintain a Royal connection within the Order and support the Military and those personnel who serve within it and their families. The Order of St. George upholds the values of chivalry and being of service to those in need. Members of The Order give their time and resources to the community, providing leadership and support in many areas. The Order of St. George Canadian Corporation Charitable **Foundation** is a charity that reflects the values of The Order. One of **The Foundation's** key recipients of charitable funds is the Canadian Forces Personnel and Family Support Services which include the Military Family Resource Centres and The Military Families Fund. The Order also supports other worthy causes such as the Sunnybrook Health Sciences Centre (Veterans & Community), Royal Canadian Sea, Army and Air Cadet Corps, and Junior Rangers, as well as other charitable organizations.*

I attended "**Army Outlook 2016**". This full day exposé to the Army's capability requirements provided a broad look at the procurement initiatives being sought by the Canadian Army. Although primarily an engagement between the Director of Land Requirements and Canadian Defence industry, this session gave the Army Commander an opportunity to re-emphasize his vision and

intent. In his summary he stressed the following points: *The Army is a Medium-weight force complemented by light forces and armour capabilities; a soldier centric organisation based on a One Army Team well set on the evolutionary path developing its capabilities to conduct Adaptive Dispersed Operations; it must remain Scalable, Agile and Responsive.*



As stated in an earlier message, I am confident that our Corps is relevant and will continue to be instrumental in decisions the Army may seek in the future. My concern is that the wide ranging Defence Policy Review (DPR) may prove problematic for the “tank”, should the philosophical approach to future military engagements change from a multi-purpose to strictly “peace keeping” posture. One should keep in mind the statement from the Speech from the Throne, December 4, 2015 : *“To keep Canadians safe and be ready to respond when needed, the Government will launch an open and transparent process to review existing defence capabilities, and will invest in building a leaner, more agile, better-equipped military.”*

I am somewhat re-assured that our military leaders will provide evidence to the Government and public at large of the need to maintain a polyvalent force. This was enunciated by the CDS in February while setting the Strategic Context at the CDAI : *“ We need to be able to engage successfully at different points in the spectrum of conflict [...] I must be in a position to offer a range of options for the Government of Canada.”*



Sitting from left- CWO Mercer, MGen Macdonald, LCol Graham, Col Mialkowski , CWO Hebert

Also attended the Royal Canadian Dragoons **RSM change of appointment**. CWO Hebert was welcomed back to the regiment with much fanfare. CWO Mercer's sent off was conducted with great "panache". The Corps is proud that he has been appointed 2 Brigade RSM. Again our "black hats" are being sought for prestigious challenging posts. This event provided once again an excellent opportunity of mingling with the members (serving and retired) of a large constituent of our Corps.



Once again, I attended the Army Ball. This year's theme was "The Canadian Army — 150 Years of Service to Canada. Of the 10 units that were showcased for having been stood up in 1866, four were RCAC units. The Ontario Regiment, the Queens York Rangers, the Sherbrooke Hussars and the Elgins (now an engineer unit) were represented by a deserving trooper/corporal. It was indeed a proud moment to stand as witness for all those brave men and women who have served selflessly these Regiments and our Corps throughout the years.



I completed my month activities with a visit to the Sherbrooke Hussars. Having been their first RSSO in 1976-79, I was thrilled to return and take part in the opening ceremony for their 150th Anniversary. In addition to meeting a new generation of leaders, I was delighted to mingle with the

“old guard” many of which had a profound impact on me during that developmental stage of my career. The Sher H are as all our fine units well established in the fabric of their community. On your behalf I have wished them well and continued success during and beyond this historically important year.

I would certainly be remiss not to mention **the RCAC golf day to be held in Ottawa on the 29th of August**. This event is open to all (spouses, friends and acquaintances). Please check the information and registration on the association web page (www.rcaca.org).

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. Ontario Regiment BBQ 7th of May, 2016
- b. Visit with 1st Hussars, 3-4 June 2016 (TBC)
- c. RCD association gathering in Saint-Jean Quebec 24-25 June, 2016
- d. RCD Change of Command 27th of June. 2016
- e. RCAC School 12-15 July, 2016
- f. Henry Sampson Memorial golf tournament in Smith Falls 22 July 2016
- g. Corps BBQ in Perth 23 July 2016
- h. RCAC Golf Tournament at Highland Golf Club in Ottawa, 29 August 2016
- i. Visit with 12RBC/12RBC(M)/RCH in the Canadian Arctic August/September 2016 (TBC)
- j. Visit with the Windsor Regiment 21-22 October 2016
- k. Corps AGM in Kingston in 12-14 October 2016