



With Colours Flying

By Rose Kelly



The Flag Party carries the colours for the Remembrance Day Parade, Nov 9th. (L-R) From left to right: Jim Kelly, Heather Janke and Rose Kelly. Missing, Bob Blenkhorn and Lynda Buller.

As many of you know, Jimmy and Associates consists of retired members of the Communication and Electronics Branch. As part of their participation with 709

(Toronto) Communication Regiment, Jimmy and Associates formed a flag party in the early 1980's.

The flag party carries the Canadian flag and

other flags appropriate to its position in the chain of command. Typically these include a Branch flag and the Coat of Arms. In addition to the flag bearers, who are positioned in the center of the colour guard, there may be two individuals who carry rifles. Each unit has its own set of colours it carries during parades such as unit name, badges, achievements and battle honours.

Colours represent the pride of a regimental unit, whether in the army, navy or air force. The concept of colours originated from the Middle Ages when lords and barons would lead their men to battle. In large-scale military encounters the need arose to establish a rallying point, therefore commanders used coloured flags to denote rallying points, hence the term "Colours". The concept was carried over into the British Army, where regimental colours were done in the same hue and shade as the "facing colour" (the colour in which uniform jackets were lined, which differed from regiment to regiment) to aid in recognition. In Kingston, Ontario an excellent example of this practice is performed by the Fort Henry Guards.

Members of the Flag Party must be members of Jimmy and Associates. The current Flag Party Commander is Sgt Jim Kelly. Other flag party members are Staff

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Deadline for submissions for the June edition is May 1, 2009



HONORARY COLONEL'S COMMENTS

Hon Col Sally Horsfall SSSStJ CD RN

As 2008 draws to a close it is interesting to ponder the effect of Army "transformation" and the Communications Reserves rejoining the Army. While the Commanding Officer explained in this edition the future of Reserve "transformation" as it affects 709 and LFCA, at a National level challenges also exist.

Major General Dennis Tabbernor, Chief Reserves and Cadets, explains that a big issue facing reserves is the need for the army reserve to change to meet new tasks. As well, the challenge of rationalizing outdated policies with today's reality, e.g., working with Chief of Military personnel a

number of the recommendations from the Ombudsmen's Reserve Health Care report (Spring 2008) are being addressed or have been implemented. Happily, reservists wounded or injured in Afghanistan will now receive the same treatment and benefits as a wounded or injured regular force soldier. Challenges also face the cadets corps as the plan is to expand nationally from the current 54,000 to 70,000. So we all need to be out recruiting.

Meanwhile, back at the armoury, our main effort is focusing on completing the Individual Battle task standards that the "Land Force" completes every year. This includes items such as personal weapons test 1, 2 and in some cases 3 levels of shooting qualifications with different weapons. The Battle Fitness test which includes a 13 km march with pack and rifle and other very challenging physical requirements. As well, there are various standards for which requalification is needed – first aid, field craft law, ethics, harassment, etc...a very busy time.

It is with much pride that 709 celebrates the extension for one year of Major Greg Stasyna as our stalwart C.O. We are also all so proud of the commitment and enthusiasm of everyone involved with 709 – soldiers, cadets, senior NCO's, officers, the band and of course editors and publishers of *the Communicator*. A special thanks to everyone for participating and being "on duty".

In closing, a reminder that at this time of year we ask that you consider making a donation to assist the Regiment with the various activities that are not covered in the budget. Large or small, every bit helps with the *esprit de corps*. Please send your tax deductible gift to Council Treasurer Capt Joe Plut, P.O. Box 383, Orangeville, Ontario L9W 2Z7 or by using the form on the back page of this edition of *The 709 Communicator*.

Best wishes for a safe and happy holiday.

Spiritus Manet





Commanding Officer's Comments



Maj. Greg Stasyna CD
Commanding Officer

Well, the year has flown by very quickly and there have been many events to mark the passing of 2008. Firstly as many you remember, we have after many decades rejoined the Land Force (Army). This “transition” officially took place on April 1, 2008. 709 along with the other twenty-two Communication Reserve units now fall under the various Land Force Areas. For the moment our formation within LFCA still remains under 70 Communication Group.

We now have finished with the “transition” portion and enter into “transformation”. This is a bigger process that is not just exclusive to the Signals trade but to the entire army. For 70 Comm Group and all of our sister units it means some change. At the time of my writing this message, details have not been finalized. However, I can tell you that on April 1, 2009, 70 Comm Group headquarters will change and form the background of a new formation, Command Support Group (CSG). This new formation will consist of Communications, Intelligence, Psyops, Canadian Rangers, CIMIC and other elements. CSG will be equivalent to a reserve brigade and will be headed by a Class A full Colonel, a Class A Lt Colonel as the Deputy Commander, a full time Chief of Staff.

As for the five existing communication units within the current formation including 709 and 763 Comm Regt, 700 and 705 Comm Sqn and 772 EW Sqn, there will be changes

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Regimental Sergeant Major's Comments

We closed last year with an excellent parade commemorating our transition to the Army and we are starting the 2008-09 training year focusing on the Individual Battle Task Standards training and preparing for the Battle Fitness Test, which is in addition to supporting 32 Bde Units. Needless to say, we are extremely busy and need to find a new word for ‘busy’ that more accurately reflects our working tempo. In the 20+ years I’ve been in the Reserves, we have never been busier nor have we had the immense opportunities for deployment on operations or to participate in major exercises. Opportunity abounds, now and in the future, for Signallers who are willing and able to participate. We have seen several of our NCO’s take advantage of the opportunity to go on a tour and some have gone on more than one before the rank of MCpl. So NCO’s, start thinking about your future and what you’d like to accomplish and start planning to make it happen. I strongly encourage



MWO April White CD
RSM with daughter Carley

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CO's Comments (Continued from page 3)

as well. Again, I must reiterate, that details are not finalized, but there will be amalgamations of units. As it stands right now two full Signals Regiments and one EW Squadron will serve CSG. Currently there are a number of options, however it may pan out that there is a western Ontario signals Regiment and an eastern Ontario signals Regiment along with an EW Squadron in Kingston to serve LFCA.

The new regiments will maintain presence of squadrons in Hamilton and the Borden areas. There may be increased growth in outlying areas such as Aurora, Barrie and London as well as the potential for the reinstatement of command ranks of LCol and the re-establishment of the CWO ranks. The squadron command ranks of Major will most likely be retained.

This is new to most of the serving soldiers within our units. We should embrace the potential advances with this transformation process. I believe that it will be good for our trade.

I would also like to mention that I have accepted the position of Acting Com-

manding Officer of 700 (Borden) Communication Squadron. With the departure of Major J P Leblanc last August, the unit did not have a CO. So I accepted the proposition from the Group Commander. I am now in my fourth year (extension period) as CO of 709. I must admit that it is challenging to serve as CO of two units simultaneously. However, I view this as an important opportunity to help steer the transformation so as to benefit both units. I look for synergies to strengthen our Signals family.

I wish to thank all serving members, my three Honorary Colonels, associates, and friends for the great support that they have given me both at 709 and 700. Technically, my extension as CO expires next April 1, 2009. However, we shall see what the future brings.

May you all have a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year.

Maj. Greg Stasyna
Commanding Officer
709 Toronto Comms Regt and
700 Borden Comms Sqn

RSM (Continued from page 3)

you to attend as many exercises as you can to hone your trade knowledge and skills. Solid practical experience and expertise will serve you well in whatever military endeavor you choose. For upcoming Afghanistan rotations, you need to identify yourself via the LFCA Website if you have any inclination of doing a tour in the next 2-4 years. Opportunity is knocking!

Congratulations again to those who successfully completed their training courses this summer. You have successfully advanced your career and should be proud of your accomplishment. This is particularly true for those that were promoted to the next rank level. Well done and well

deserved! To the instructors, thank-you for stepping up and making the training schools a success.

As most of you know, I took maternity leave from May – Sept to have and care for my baby daughter, Carley May Anne, born May 21st. She's a very inquisitive and busy baby who keeps us on our toes. My thanks to WO Carter, who covered for me while I was off and to the Regimental family for their support and kindness.

As always, I am very proud of the Regiment and look forward to another successful training year.

MWO A. White, CD
RSM



**709 (Toronto)
 Communication Regiment**

- Maj. G.I. Stasyna CD
 Commanding Officer
 Capt. H. Buller CD
 Adjutant
 MWO April White CD
 Regimental Sergeant Major
 Col. S. Horsfall SSSJ CD RN
 Honorary Colonel
 and Chair Regimental Advisory Council
 LCol. J. Lee CD
 Honorary Lieutenant Colonel
 and Unit Historian
 Capt (Rev) F. Butler-Caughie CD Gr.
 COSJ
 Padre and Unit Welfare Officer
 Maj. Alex Moseanu SBStJ, CD, ADC
 Museum and Archives

709 Communicator

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The editor reserves the right to modify or reformat material received, within reason, in order to make best use of available space, appearance and layout.

This is a limited production, domestic publication produced with the permission of the CO for the purpose of recording the activities within the Regiment and the Regimental family. It is intended to provide a wide variety of material relating to military communications and military affairs, both at home and abroad. Comments or submissions can be sent to editor709@yahoo.ca

EDITORIAL

by Capt. Steven Brickenden CD

***IT'S THE JOURNEY,
 NOT THE DESTINATION***



Most of the readers of this publication know by now that I finally relinquished my drill cane and accepted my commission to the rank of Captain.

Many will wonder how I could have taken this step after holding the rank of MWO since 1984. My answer is simple. I was never going to be CWO and after doing just about everything that a Sgt Major could do, I felt I had reached my destination. When I decided to put my experience to use in the Cadet movement I discovered a whole new world. One that had new horizons, new destinations and new challenges and it is only as a commissioned officer that I could fully be a part of that world.

I now have a fresh goal to work towards and I face the future with enthusiasm for the journey ahead. I will parade with 2754 Army Cadet Corps (affiliated with 25 Svc Bn) to expand my experience within the Cadet organization. I expect to return to 709 Cadets in a few years, prepared to take on the duties of CO. I will not be gone entirely. I plan to continue as editor of this publication, so you are not rid of me completely.

In the last year there have been many changes within the Regiment and the C&E Branch. 709 has returned to the army as part of 32 Brigade and the role of the Regiment has changed to fit the times we live in. We have difficult challenges to overcome and goals to achieve. And as I looked at where I was and what I'd done in my career, I realized that I too could seek out a new destination for myself. One that would have a far-reaching affect on the youths of this country who will one day lead Canada to horizons not yet dreamed of.

Here's to that journey.

Spiritus Manet



SACRIFICE MEDAL DELAY

The Sacrifice Medal was created to recognize a member of the Canadian Forces, a member of an allied force, or a Canadian civilian under the authority of the Canadian Forces who, as of October 7, 2001, died or was wounded under honourable circumstances as a direct result of hostile action.

The first award of this medal was to have taken place November 14th, but the Department of National Defence is reviewing the criteria for awarding this medal after a backlash of complaints from the families of UN Peacekeepers and soldiers injured in operations prior to October 7 and those who were injured in Afghanistan, as a result of friendly fire accidents. The Medal shall be worn following the Royal Victorian Medal (R.V.M.), in the order of precedence in the Canadian Honours System.

More information is available at



Obverse-Avers



Reverse-Revers

http://www.forces.gc.ca/hr/dhr-ddhr/eng/home_e.asp

Former DCO, Maj. Peggy Downes UPDATE.

The RSM and myself conducted a conference call to Peggy Downes. She has been released from Toronto East General Hospital following lung surgery last July and is now at home. She does have home care assistance, and utilizes a walker to move about and requires oxygen periodically. By no means is she completely out of the woods; however, she has progressed well in her recovery. Both the RSM and I agree that her voice sounds much stronger during our telephone conversation.

Peggy has indicated that she will be unable to continue "performing her acts on the stage anymore". However she looks forward to eventually coming down and visiting the Regiment in the future. She invites you all to give her a call at home. I have passed on the warmest regards from the Regimental Family.

Greg Stasyna, Major, CO
709 (Toronto) Communication Regiment
& 700 (Borden) Communication Squadron



Jimmy and Associates Annual BBQ

On July 26th, 2008, forty-five members of the association braved the uncertain weather to attend our annual BBQ. The steaks and other dishes prepared by members were marvellous. Comradeship got even closer when we had to shelter under the canvas the Regiment supplied for the occasion. Thunder, lightning and big downpours did not deter us from having a good time, and thankfully, the weather let up when the steaks were ready. A hearty thanks to WO Rob Carter, Cpl Guy Hamel, and Rob's brother Peter who brought the canvas and erected it in time to keep us all dry. Rose Kelly demonstrated that she has not lost her touch in erecting canvas either. Bill Catlender, our usual chef, did a fantastic job of cooking over the BBQ. Many thanks guys for making it all happen.



Our next event will be the Christmas gathering in the WO & Sgt's Mess, 709 (Toronto) Comms Regt on the afternoon of Sunday December 7. The Association supplies the meat and members bring the other food increments. Everyone is welcome, but you need to RSVP John Speirs by December 1st, 2008 . (905) 469-9337 or John.speirs@sympatico.ca
MEMBERSHIP IN JIMMY AND ASSOCIATES

Jimmy and Associates was started in 1973 by a small group of former members of 2nd & 8th Signal Regt. The majority were veterans who wanted to keep the "Spirit of Signals"

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709 HAMS TAKE TO THE AIR

by Steve Brickenden VE3EVU

It had the air of military proficiency, but was laid out to be attractive to the eye and inviting. You approach what looks like a normal military style tent. A BBQ stands off to the right, waiting. There is a small fridge -- typical army setup except this one wasn't full of beer -- and in the distance was the constant purring of a diesel generator. There are green army trucks parked out front and the grassy space behind the tent is a taped-off forest of radio antenna. Inside the tent, arrayed along 3 of the

4 sides, are tables with radio transmitters each turned on and tuned to a specific segment of the radio bandwidth. The fourth side has a notice board with the schedule pinned to it along with a copy of the operations orders. The operators from the regiment and a civilian or two are each humped over microphones and the sound is something directly out of a Hollywood movie.

A solid click sounds as the press-to-talk button is pushed and the general call goes out over the airwaves. "CQ field day, CQ field day, CQ field day, this is victor al-

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Colonel John Catto, CD



Col John Catto comes from a family active in Canada's Reserves for over 100 years. John joined the COTC in 1953 and

upon graduation from the University of Toronto in 1955, joined the 2nd Signal Regiment (later the Toronto Signal Regiment). He became 2IC in 1964 and took command in 1966. After retiring in 1968 he was called back to service in 1978 to become SSO Communications at Toronto Militia District. In 1982 he advanced to the same position with Central Militia Area. He was promoted to Colonel in 1984 and appointed Senior Reserve Advi-

sor to the Commander Communication Command and to the Chief of Reserves. John retired from service once again in 1987, although he continued to serve as President of the Canadian Forces Communication and Electronics Association from 1968 to 1990. In 1993 he was appointed Honorary Lieutenant Colonel and in 1996, Honorary Colonel of 709 (Toronto) Communication Regiment until September 2003. In civilian life Colonel Catto was President and owner of the Clifton Company Limited, cosmetic manufacturers, a company started by his father 66 years ago in 1937. He is an active member of many associations, serving as President on the St. Andrew's Society of Toronto; Chairman of the Pharmaceutical and Toilet Preparations Traffic Conference and has also serviced as Chairman of the Canadian Cosmetic, Toiletry and Fragrance Association. John and his wife, Margaret, also enjoy Scottish dancing and ornithology.

Biography of Joseph W. Cummings
 (from 709 Communicator December 2003)

Joe Cummings was born in Newburgh Ontario in 1924. After leaving school he was employed in various occupations all the while he was in the Army Cadets. He enlisted 1942 as a gunner with the RCA and subsequently transferred to Signals in Kingston where he completed training as a wireless operator.

Although primary traded as a wireless operator, Joe's varied trade were a motor cycle dispatch rider, Tank crew member serving with the 4th Armoured Brigade which seen service in France, Belgium, Holland and Germany. On his return to Canada he was employed with the CNR in 1947 and obtained specialist training in areas including scuba diving. Joe was employed on many major projects and the CNR fully utilized his unique diving and technical capabilities,



as many of the bridge building maintenance operations.

Mr. Cummings retirement from the CNR and continued with an active lifestyle in the Royal Canadian Legion. Also Joe joined Jimmy and Associates and was subsequently appointed Flag Party Commander where is continued until ill health

found it necessary to relinquish that post due to his physical limitations. There were many functions in which he and his wife Phyllis

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709 Remembers

On the 90th Anniversary of the Armistice that ended the war to end all wars.



*They shall not grow old as we
 that are left grow old
 Age shall not weary them nor the
 years condemn
 At the going down of the sun and
 in the morning
 We will remember them*



Rev. Dr. Nicholas Athanasiadis with Hon Col Sally Horsfall and Hon Lcol Jack Lee, take the salute during the march past after the Remembrance Day Service on Sunday November 9th



The Remembrance Day Church Parade included all segments of the Regimental Family. The Band lead the parade along Eglinton Ave, with the Regiment, the Jimmy & Associates Flag Party, the 709 Cadets, and the Hong Kong veterans. Joining the Family this year was a colour party from the American Legion post (Los Angeles) who have opened a branch in Toronto.



Ring the Bell! AWARDS, ACHEIVEMENTS AND PROMOTIONS



New Corporals included Cpl Yang, Cpl Szczesniak, Cpl Ng, Cpl Ngo, Cpl Quintanna-Escalona & Cpl Percival



MCpl Galarza (above) receives her stripes from Hon Colonel Horsfall.



Hon Col Horsfall congratulates 2Lt. Petres.



2Lt Andrew Milligan 709 Cadet Corps receives his CD - and the Maple Leafs did not have to win the Stanley Cup first.

Photos Not Available for: MCpl Lloyd, Sgt Lo, Cadet MWO V. Deneault,
 Congratulations from the editor.

Oh! I forgot! Your humble editor, Capt. Steve Brickenden



Congratulations to Sgt Carrie Moran who completed the Army Run in Ottawa, last September. Photo of Sgt Moran, MCpl Paul Franklin who did the 5 km in 30 minutes, and Capt Hobson (12 RDR Bagotville).

Sgt Moran wants to take a team from the Regiment next year! Anyone up for a challenge? Let her know.



Canadian Victoria Cross

Since being approved in 1854, the Victoria Cross has been awarded 1,351 times. 96 of these have gone to Canadians. In 1993, a Canadian version of this, the highest award for gallantry in the Commonwealth, was approved following similar moves by Australia and New Zealand.

Originally, to be eligible for this award, required an extraordinary act of bravery in the face of the enemy during wartime. The Canadian version makes use of a much broader definition of the term “enemy” to include armed mutineers, pirates and other similar forces without a formal declaration of war being required. To distinguish the Canadian medal from the original British, the words “FOR VALOR” on the front face have been replaced with “PRO VALORE” As of this writing it has not been awarded. In the order of precedence, the VC is still the highest award that a Canadian Service person may receive.

The medal still contains a small portion of the bronze from guns captured during the Crimean War.



If you have a Canadian \$10 bill, look at the back right side of the bill. You will see a veteran standing at attention near the Ottawa war memorial. His name is Robert Metcalfe and he died last month at the age of 90.

That he managed to live to that age is rather remarkable, given what happened in the Second World War. Born in England, he was one of the 400,000 members of the British Expeditionary Force sent to the mainland where they found themselves facing the new German warfare technique - the Blitzkrieg.

He was treating a wounded comrade when he was hit in the legs by shrapnel. En route to hospital, his ambulance came under fire from a German tank, which then miraculously ceased fire. Evacuated from Dunkirk on HMS Grenade, two of the sister ships with them were sunk. Recovered, he was sent to allied campaigns in north Africa and Italy. En route his ship was chased by the German battleship Bismarck. In North Africa he served under General Montgomery against the Desert Fox, Rommel.

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Flag Party (Continued from page 1)

Sergeant Bob Blenkhorn (WW II veteran), WO Heather Janke, Lynda Buller and Capt Rose Kelly. From time to time, the flag party has asked MCpl Dave Spessot to take part as he owns his own patrols. You may notice that the flag party wears a uniform we refer to as “patrols” – blue tunic and blue trousers with a scarlet stripe and worn with a forage cap. This uniform dates back to post-WW II. Many of the uniforms currently being used today are on loan from the C & E Museum in Kingston. Some have been donated by past unit members.

The first flag party commander was Bert Sidders. Other past flag party commanders include LCol Jack Lee, former CO and present Hon LCol and former RSM CWO Leo Sansone. For many years, the flag party commander was Joe Cummings who sadly passed away in December 2007. Bob Day and Jim Curtis just retired and we are waiting for the return of John Spiteri. The Flag Party is currently composed of Jim Kelly, Bob Blenkhorn, Heather Janke, Lynda Buller and Rose Kelly.

From time to time, the flag party has been invited to participate in community events such as Asian Heritage month. The flag party also participated at the March of Dimes event which was attended by the Princess Royal and on the occasion of the unit was presented the Key to the City of Toronto.

There is no greater honour than to be



Flag Party under LCol Jack Lee, 1998



Flag Party 1986 Under Bert Sidders *Photo Contributed*

asked to carry our flags. We are carrying on a tradition that has been part of our unit for many years. Anyone who is interested in joining the flag party should contact Jim Kelly at 416-431-6694.

- Rose Kelly -

Ten Dollar Bill (Continued from page 11)

Sent into the Italian campaign, he met his future wife, a lieutenant and physiotherapist in a Canadian hospital. They were married one morning by the mayor of the Italian town, and again in the afternoon by a British padre.

One day out of the blue he received a call from a government official asking him to go downtown for a photo op. He wasn't told what the photo was for or why they chose him.

"He had no idea he would be on the bill," his daughter said.

And now you know the rest of the story of the veteran on the \$10 bill.



Group Commander has a new RSM (Residential Sergeant Major)

Wedding of the Group Commander, LCol Durwin McLellan to Marie Liliane Maxine Martel held on Sept 20 in Quebec City at La Citadelle de Quebec which is the historic fort overlooking old Quebec City. An honour guard was provided by a number of senior officers including Majors Blair, Lloyd and Stasyna along with LCol Hugh Janssen (DComd of 70 Comm Gp). Capt Fred Butler-Cauchie presided as he minister for the wedding. Congratulations from the editor and staff.

Maj Stasyna to Wear Two Hats

I would like to thank the Group Commander of 70 Communication Group HQ for his confidence in me with the recent appointment to Acting CO of 700 Comm Sqn. Replacing the departing CO, Major J.P. Leblanc will prove to be a challenging task. I wish him well in his move out to the Maritimes.

As I enter my fourth year of command of 709 (Toronto) Comm Regt, I will endeavour to support both 709 and 700 in the duty of Commanding Officer respectively. This will be a challenging time for me in handling two units at the same time on a part time basis. However, I have confidence that the soldiers from both units will give me their full support. As indicated in the Group Commander's message, I am assigning Capt Alfred Lai as the Squadron OC. I looking forward to supporting 700 Communication Squadron and their Squadron family in the same way I enjoy supporting and the support from the 709 Communication Regimental family.

Greg Stasyna

Commanding Officer

709 (Toronto) Communication Regiment & 700 (Borden) Communication Squadron



Toronto Signals Band

2008 is almost finished and the Toronto Signals Band has been as active as ever, having participated in 30 parades, the Fort George Tattoo, the Scottish/Irish Tattoo and 6 other types of events. Some of the highlights are as follows: Winning two awards at the 2008 Toronto Warrior's Day Parade (Best Band and Best Overall Award); two awards at the 2008 London Warrior's Day Parade (Best Band Award and Best Colour Guard); 709 Communications Regiment CO's Parades as requested (7); Regiment Remembrance Day Parade; 709 Cadets Annual Review; Toronto Argonaut Football Game – opening and half time show; Tattoos Kingston Heritage Tattoo Canada Day (Fort George) and Scottish / Irish Tattoo (Trenton); Great Alliance of Seniors Reunion Mississauga; 8 Santa Claus Parades – covering area Bowmanville to Guelph; Children's Christmas Party; Toronto Parades - Greek Independence Day Parade, Beaches Easter Parade, Warrior's Day; Rural Ontario – Simcoe Charity, Stoney Creek Flag Day, Welland Rose Festival, Ancaster Heritage Day, Simcoe Friendship Festival, London Warrior's Day, Bobcaygeon Sesquicentennial, Bowmanville Sesquicentennial, Woodstock Victoria Day; Out of Country – Richmond Michigan Town Festival Days; and Socials – Dinner Dance and a Day at the Races

Displaying above the places and types of performances we do gives an appreciation of how active the Band is and where we appear keeping the Regiment and the Band foremost in the public eye. Wherever we perform we are proud to say Toronto Signals Band is part of the 709 Communications Regimental Family.

It has been another expensive year for us. Below are expenditures of twenty thou-

sand dollars (\$20,000) supported by funds earned by the Band and some generous donations to maintain our uniform and instrument needs.

- Purchased 10 new soprano trumpets, 3 Glockenspiels, new collar dogs, dress cords, white gloves and 8 new pairs of dress pants

- Repairs to uniforms and instruments

Toronto Signals Band Mission Statement: We passionately strive to preserve the heritage and traditions of Canada's oldest self-supporting volunteer military marching band. We are dedicated to sustaining a strong community presence, quality entertainment and a positive public identity while fostering friendships and personal pride.

What We Will Look Like In 2010!

We will maintain our affiliation with the 709 Communications Regiment. We have a team of committed members that strive for excellence in music, marching and drill and have a marching membership of 100. We have funding to purchase new equipment, uniforms and instruments. We have a supportive environment conducive to having fun and friendships and we have a selection of music that promotes audience participation.

“Tomorrow we will be bigger and better than today”

Strategies - For each of the above Vision items there is a list of actionable strategies developed by all to move us towards reaching our objectives. There is a great deal of hard work ahead of us, and each member must play their part and participate and assist in fulfilling these needs. This will be the most important project the Band has ever attempted but it is the future of the Toronto Signals Band, which is the resultant outcome.

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Resulting from the strategy actions we have added thirteen new members and many changes to the Band business and organizational processes. One historical addition is Ron Jordan who had retired from the Band has returned to march again at 85 years young.

AGM - On September 29, 2008 at the Annual General Meeting elections took place for the Board of Management of the Band and the following are the officers for the 2008/2009 fiscal year.

- | | |
|---------------------------|----------------|
| President: | Wilf Roblin |
| Vice-President: | Mike Wobowsk |
| Secretary | Brian Hodge |
| Treasurer | Ellie Cameron |
| Business Manager | Gail Roblin |
| Public Relations | Maude McHaffie |
| Member Without Port Folio | Dave Cameron |

Below—The Band marches down the Midway at the CNE Warriors Day Parade 2008



It is the Fall Season and Remembrance Day just passed and we reflect on those that are serving, have served and the ones who gave the ultimate sacrifice in giving of themselves so that we may live in a better Canada and World because of them. “Lest we Forget”. We remember also the fallen comrades of the Band namely John Longstreet and Bob Ritchie.

Thank you and God Bless,
 Orton (Ortie) Beaumont
 Regiment Liaison Officer
 Toronto Signals Band



CADETS LOOK TO A NEW VENUE WITH GREAT CONFIDENCE

*By R.C. (Rick) Leswick, CD, Commanding Officer,
709 Cadet Corps*



Starting on Sat 01 Nov 08, the 709 Toronto Communications Regiment Cadet Corps will be re-locating to a parade site that will provide the unit with a hinterland of com-

munity support.

The new parade location will be at the FAIRBANKS MIDDLE SCHOOL, located on Dufferin Street about one block south of Eglinton Ave.

“We have been invited to join up with a very successful community program that is supported by the Toronto Police Service, 13 Division,” said Capt. Leswick, corps CO.

The TPS has operated a basketball outreach at the school for several years and the cadets will now parade on Saturdays from 0930-1130, prior to the sports session.

Several weeks of preparation have gone into the move and it was not an easy decision to leave the armoury, which has been home to the corps, off and on during the past half century. The corps HQ and QM will remain at Fort York.

“This is a somewhat radical move as corps do not usually parade on Saturdays and we consulted with the cadets who felt that the day training would allow them to

better attend to their school work and other after school activities,” the CO continued.

The cadets will be encouraged to remain at the school after the cadet training to participate in the other activities that have been initiated by Police Constable Ojo TE-WOGBADE, who has been working with the cadets for the past three years. In addition to the basketball, the Toronto Emergency Measures Service (EMS) will be conducting a junior paramedic program and a local business will be providing a computer repair course.

Even before the move has commenced, the corps has been supported by a number of new recruits from the 13 division community program and other local schools will be canvassed for members.

The corps will not be strangers to the armoury for the unit will continue to fall in once a month for the regiment’s CO’s parade and will attend other of the sponsor’s events. An optional program will also be maintained at the armoury on Monday nights so the cadets will continue to be an important member of the regimental family.

The relocation is not seen as a move out of the armoury as it will be viewed as an expansion into a community that needs the services of a viable cadet corps.

Members of the regimental family are invited to visit the new location any Saturday between 0930 and 1130 hrs.

The cadet program is open to youth aged 12 to 18. Do you know of someone who might be interested? Contact the cadet office for more information or visit

www.cadets.ca

Cummings Bio (Continued from page 8)

took an active part. It is remarkable that Joe continued with so much as he underwent a triple heart bypass and had both knees replaced.

Joe Cummings died on the morning of December 6, 2007. Joe leaves a wife, Phyllis; two children, Jean and Linda; and three grandchildren.



Remembrance Day Dinner an Annual Event.



The Remembrance Dinner has become a tradition with 709. Each year the Saturday before the Remembrance Day Church Parade the unit and family gather and to remember those who has passed away during the year. This dinner paid tribute to LCol Pete Wilson, past commanding officer of 2nd Signals; Joe Cummings, a veteran of World War 2; and Bandsmen Bob Ritchie and John Longstreet. Colonel John Catto recalled the times and life of Pete Wilson during the war

and post years. RSM CWO April White remembered Joe Cummings during his years of the war and the enjoyable times when he was a member of Jimmy & Associates. The Drum Major, President of the Band, Wilf Roblin and his wife Gail honoured Bob Ritchie and John Longstreet with a poem they wrote in tribute to the Bandsmen (see page 19). Norma Longstreet and daughter Marilyn Sturino honoured our presence on this occasion. The dine-in was a tribute to those just passed away and to celebrate the time they were with us. They will be missed.



Jack Lee



(L-R) Then 2Lt Greg Stasyna with, Lt Heather McClory (now retired from the military and teaching school), the late 2Lt Marcia Chesborough, and Lt Paul Cowley (now retired from both military and Toronto Police).

The photo as taken on the patio behind the CFB Kingston Officer's Mess in the Summer of 1985. Students were on CELE Phase 6 training (now called BSOC).



Jimmy & Associates (Continued from page 7)

alive, and as interest grew, it was decided to include spouses/partners and all signals/communications personnel. The association has been honoured in being asked to furnish a Flag Party for the Regiment to parade with the troops on formal parades. (See pg 1)

Jimmy and Associates are a great group of people sharing a common interest in keeping alive the “Spirit of Signals” and helping to support 709 (Toronto) Communication Regiment. We invite you to become a member by contacting any of the following:

Rose Kelly, Membership Chairperson: rkelly823@rogers.com

John Speirs, President: john.speirs@sympatico.ca

David Spessot, Treasurer: dspessot@rogers.com

Annual memberships dues are a mere \$20/individual, or \$25/couple.

HAMS on the air (Continued from page 7)

pha 3 tango sierra romeo, the call sign for the 709 Toronto Signals Regiment, over.” There is a few seconds pause while I waited for a response before starting again. At the other transmitters, operators on different bands were doing the same thing, each waiting for that sometimes very faint reply from a fellow HAM operator somewhere in the world. My hand pressed tighter on the earphones and my pencil started moving over the pad of paper marking down a call sign. It’s from San Diego California! My brief transmission on the 20 meter band had been heard and contact was made with another person several thousand kilometres away. We exchange call signs, our contest category (in our case 4 alpha) and our location (ON for Ontario Canada). I transferred the penciled notes onto the contest log, and then each of us moved off to find the next contact.

This was the National Association for Amateur Radio field day contest; a contest held each year on the last weekend in June. The specified aim of the contest is to make contact with as many operators as possible in a 24 hours period, anywhere in the world. The catch was that all participating stations had to make use of non-permanent structures, portable power supplies and antenna. “Sounds like a military exercise” you say?

W e l l
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Maj Stasyna VA3VAB at the mic.

contest are the same as what would exist under emergency conditions where buildings have been damaged, power supplies disrupted and existing antenna setups have to be replaced with more improvised resources.

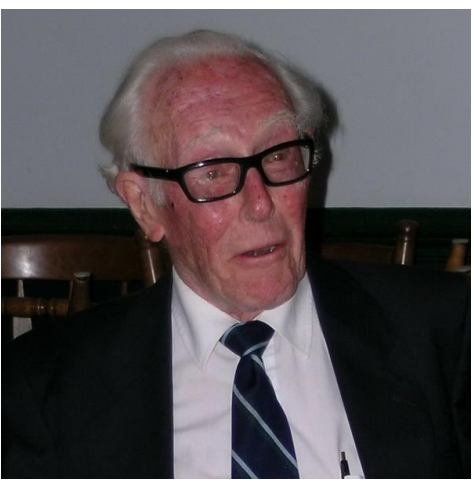
For the members of VA3TSR, this was our first field day exercise and we did quite well. From Saturday to Sunday, a total of 14 operators broadcast on the 20, 40 and 80 meter radio bands, recording contacts with 163 other amateur radio operators from all over Canada and the US. The furthest contact was from the US Virgin Islands in the Caribbean! And you didn’t even have to be a qualified HAM operator to do it! All you need is a willingness to learn and a four-hour time window in which to work the airwaves under the supervision of a licensed operator. Who knows, you might like it enough to be on the next HAM course. Until then, 73 (code for “best wishes”) to all.

*Steven Brickenden
VE3EVU*



OBITUARIES

Lt Colonel (Retd) Peter Wilson MBE CD
 Died September 25, 2008 at age 92, from injuries suffered in a fall at his house in Kingston. He survived three wives, Pamela, Audrey and Joan. He is the father of Peter Wilson of Manotick and the late Penelope Smith. He graduated from RMC in 1939, served overseas with the Canadian Signals Corps and at Staff College during World War II. He was a member of the Spitzbergen expedition. Following the war he was Commanding Officer of the Second Signals Regiment in Toronto from 1954 to 1957. He was in business in Toronto and Kingston and was executive director of the Kingston Construction Association. He will be missed by the members of his family, the families of his wives and his friends and associates in the military and business communities in Kingston. A memorial service is planned for October 6, 2008 between 14:00 to 16:00 hours, in the Vimy Officers Mess CFB Kingston. In lieu of flowers donations to either the MS Society of Canada or the Canadian Cancer Society would be appreciated. www.jamesreidfuneralhome.com



Published in the Ottawa Citizen on Oct 1/08

In Memory of John Longstreet and Bob Ritchie –
 Poem

<p>They are gone, but not forgotten Their memories still live on John Longstreet and Bob Ritchie They fulfilled our lives for so long.</p> <p>Laughter is how we remember you best Full of faith, sunshine, and happiness. We know you both are now, in God's place And we hope you are still watching the Drum Major's mace.</p>	<p>Family, friends, band and cheer These are the things that you held dear. Things will not be the same in Parades and Shows With you both missing from our rows.</p> <p>John was a kind and thoughtful man And always there for the band Bob's special soup is missed by all Now we keep warm by huddling near a wall.</p> <p>Our good times are now a memory As they have gone to rest Know that you are in our hearts We love you and God Bless.</p>
--	--

Gail and Wilf Roblin
 November 8, 2008



Capt Joseph A. Plut, CD
P.O. Box 383
Orangeville, Ontario
L9W 2Z7

Dear Joe:

Enclosed is my 2008 contribution to the 709 (Toronto) Communication
Regimental Advisory Council. Please send my receipt for income tax
purposes to:

\$25 ___ \$50 ___ \$100 ___ \$250 ___ \$500 ___ Other _____

Name: _____ Telephone: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ Postal Code: _____

email: _____